



**TRAINING WORKSHOP  
ON THE THEME :  
Climate Change, Biological Diversity and Poverty Alleviation  
In Central and West Africa : Status and Perspectives**

**1.) Background :**

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), “many parts of the world will become hotter ; droughts, floods and other forms of extreme meteorological phenomena shall become more frequent and will threaten food supplies ; plants and animals that will not be able to adjust will disappear ; sea levels are rising and continue to rise, forcing hundreds of thousands of people living in coastal areas to migrate”. In fact, the issue of climate change has become a major challenge for mankind as a whole. The latter is looking for lasting solutions to this rather serious environmental problem. One of the IPCC reports even showed that Africa, like other continents of the world, is exposed to the effects of climate change. In fact, there is a general observation that climate change has far-reaching implications for developing countries.

It is for this reason that a series of initiatives have been undertaken in collaboration with multiple institutional and technical partners. UNITAR for example provides small island developing States technical assistance through training workshops. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is not left behind and has for some time now been developing actions for adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change. Its Central and West Africa Programme (PACO) is carrying out innovative activities with some partners with the aim of building capacities, formulating policies and designing projects that are executed by regional institutions based in Africa.

Even though there are many African civil society initiatives underway in the region urging governments to adopt climate change and economic development policies, these actions are often not coordinated and as such they do not contribute in having them taken into consideration. Furthermore, it is necessary that the issues of climate change management be mainstreamed in the development of professionals and staff working in developing countries.

In order to provide a solution to the difficulties of coordinating the actions of civil society in Central and West Africa, and stimulate greater collaboration, IUCN has obtained from The **Climate Change Adaptation in Africa (CCAA) research and capacity development programme** of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, financial assistance to organize a workshop on sharing experiences on climate change actions of members of civil society and some partners of the Central and West African region.

## **2.) Objective of the workshop :**

The objective of the workshop is to raise awareness of IUCN-PACO members and build their capacities to foster synergy in formulating policies and strategies to fight climate change.

## **3.) Expected outputs :**

3.1. Civil society and representatives of governments are sensitive to problems of climate change and their effects on biodiversity conservation, and on poverty in Central and West Africa ;

3.2. Participants acquire new knowledge, share lessons learned, collaboration that have been developed and communicate information that they have on climate change.

## **4.) Themes of the workshop :**

The workshop shall cover the following themes :

- International policies on mitigation and adaptation to climate change ;
- Impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in the context of development in relation to poverty alleviation ;
- Adapt natural resource management to climate variations in Central and West Africa ;
- Methods and tools for planning and assessing the effects of climate change ;
- International funding and their implementation mechanisms with regards to climate change.

The workshop will adopt a participatory approach through oral and written presentation, questions and answers and group work that will discuss relevant issues that will be raised. This approach will make it possible to answer the following two questions :

- How is information on climate change to be shared with the various actors involved in environmental issues ?
- How can collaboration on climate change be strengthened between civil society in Central and West Africa?

## **5.) Participants:**

The workshop will be attended by IUCN members of the PACO zone. They will include: researchers, policy – makers, government agencies, national and international NGOs, etc. Their participation at this workshop will build their capacities and enable them intervene in climate change issues at local, national and regional levels in Central and West Africa.