

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Descriptions of international agreements relevant to the protection and management of sites for nature conservation in the African region. The accompanying table shows ratification status in Africa, as of July 2001, for the global biodiversity-related conventions.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted in 1992, entered into force in 1993. It currently has 180 parties. The convention has three objectives:

- the conservation of biological diversity,
- the sustainable use of its components, and
- the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.

Covering almost every aspect of conservation and sustainable use, the CBD has become an important framework for conservation-related activities on the regional and national level.

For the conservation of biodiversity the primary approach is *in situ* conservation. Parties have to identify components of biodiversity important for its conservation and sustainable use (article 7); *inter alia* ecosystems and habitats with large numbers of threatened species or required by migratory species (Annex I). Clearly, national lists of IBAs should become part of these inventories, which should be included in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) required from the parties by article 6a.

Article 8 outlines a framework for the *in situ* conservation activities by the parties. They are asked to establish a system of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biodiversity (article 8a). Thus, in cases where strong protection might not be appropriate they should find alternative ways to ensure the ecological integrity of the sites in question. This should be done in a rational way, using guidelines that need to be developed (article 8b). As the lists of IBAs have been compiled following strict criteria on a scientific basis, they can serve well as part of a national system of protected and other areas with a focus on conservation.

Effective conservation of biological diversity needs plans and management strategies (article 8c, f) for the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and the recovery of threatened species. IBAs in many cases need to be managed to enhance their ability to support important bird populations in the long-term. To mitigate negative effects on IBAs these strategies also need to take into account the adjacent areas and to promote their environmentally sound and sustainable development (article 8e). The CBD also asks for the prevention of introduction and the control and eradication of alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats and species (article 8h) and urges parties to set up an effective system of environmental impact assessment. Impact assessment more generally is called for in article 14.

In many IBAs, the sustainable use of natural resources by local people is a main feature of safeguarding the site. The CBD supports the integrated approach of conservation and sustainable use and asks parties to protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation requirements (article 10c).

Overall, the CBD clearly sets a framework for ensuring that IBAs obtain sufficient attention to ensure their long-term ecological integrity. The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, which have recently been developed in the majority of African countries, should reflect the role of IBAs as scientifically based elements of the national implementation of the provisions of the convention.

Ramsar Convention: Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat

The Ramsar Convention is an inter-governmental treaty that provides the framework for international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. It was adopted in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran and entered into force in 1975.

The main undertakings accepted by the 122 contracting parties are to:

- designate suitable wetlands within their territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List) (article 2.1)
- formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List, and as far as possible, the wise use of wetlands in their territory (article 3.1)
- promote the conservation of wetlands and waterfowl by establishing nature reserves on wetlands whether they are included in the List or not, and provide adequately for their wardening (article 4.1).

Each contracting party must designate at least one site for inclusion in the List at the time it joins the convention (article 2.4). Specific criteria have been drawn up under the convention to aid the identification of sites of international importance. One of the objectives of the IBA inventory is to facilitate the designation of wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The criteria used to identify IBAs are consistent with the Ramsar criteria for waterbirds. Therefore wetland IBAs meeting these criteria should be considered for addition to the Ramsar List.

Also of relevance is the Montreux Record, a register of selected wetlands on the Ramsar List where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. This is a very important tool because it identifies specific sites for international conservation attention. Other site-conservation tools have been developed under the convention such as guidelines on management planning and on monitoring.

Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention, WHC)

The aim of the World Heritage Convention, which was adopted in 1972 and entered into force in 1975, is the protection of natural and cultural areas of outstanding universal value. Such sites and monuments are considered to be of such exceptional value that their protection is the concern of all mankind, and thus international cooperation in order to contribute effectively to their protection is sought. Each site nominated by the parties for inclusion in the World Heritage List is assessed by the World Heritage Committee, which in the case of natural sites, is advised by experts from the World Conservation Union (IUCN). Clearly, a number of IBAs qualify for inclusion in the World Heritage List.

The convention imposes a legal duty on each of the 164 parties to do its utmost to protect designated sites. Each party is required to contribute to the World Heritage Fund that may be used to secure the protection of World Heritage Sites.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention, CMS)

The Bonn Convention, which was adopted in 1979 in Bonn, Germany and entered into force in 1983, has 74 parties. The fundamental objective of the convention is to protect migratory species (birds, mammals, fish, invertebrates) in recognition of the fact that protection is needed throughout every part of their migratory ranges, and that this requires international cooperation and action. If a party to the convention is a range state of a migratory species listed in Appendix I or II, it accepts an obligation to provide strict protection for species in Appendix I and to endeavour to conclude agreements with other range states for the conservation and management of species in

Appendix 1 ... continued. Descriptions of international agreements relevant to the protection and management of sites for nature conservation in the African region.

Appendix II. Appendix I species are in danger of extinction throughout all, or a major part, of their range, and Appendix II species are those which would benefit from international cooperation in their conservation and management.

For Appendix I species, parties that are range states, are obliged to endeavour, amongst other things, to:

- conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore those habitats of the species, which are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction (article III 4a).

With regard to the agreements which parties are encouraged to conclude for Appendix II species, each agreement should, where appropriate and feasible, provide for the maintenance of a network of suitable habitats appropriately disposed in relation to the migration routes. Three agreements are of relevance to African IBAs: the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (see below), the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*), and the proposed Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

AEWA is an agreement under the Bonn Convention, which entered into force in 1999. It can be signed and ratified by a range state,

irrespective of whether the state has signed or ratified the convention. AEWA aims to create the legal basis for a concerted conservation policy among the range states of all migratory waterbird species and populations, which migrate in the African-Eurasian flyway, irrespective of their current conservation status. The agreement, which currently has 29 parties and is accompanied by a comprehensive action plan, provides a framework for conservation action, monitoring, research and management of several globally important bird-migration systems. As such, it has close links to the IBA programme and to the Ramsar Convention.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

CITES, which was adopted in 1973 and entered into force in 1975, has 154 parties. It aims to protect threatened species from detrimental effects of international trade. The species of Annex I, due to their status as being threatened by extinction, are not allowed to be traded commercially, while those of Annex II are only allowed to enter the international trade under specific controlled circumstances. Many threatened African species, for which IBAs play a major role, are covered by the Annexes, including, *inter alia*, all raptors, owls and parrots. Notably, many African species that are heavily traded, internationally or domestically, are not included in the CITES annexes, this being particularly true for passerines.

Table. Ratification status in Africa, as of July 2001, for the global biodiversity-related conventions.

	CBD	Ramsar	WHC	CMS	AEWA	CITES	UNCCD	UNFCCC
Algeria	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Angola	✓		✓				✓	✓
Benin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Botswana	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Burkina Faso	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Burundi	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
Cameroon	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Cape Verde	✓		✓				✓	✓
Central African Republic	✓		✓	S		✓	✓	✓
Chad	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Comoros	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Congo	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Congo, DR	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Côte d'Ivoire	✓	✓	✓	S		✓	✓	✓
Djibouti	✓					✓	✓	✓
Egypt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Equatorial Guinea	✓					✓	✓	✓
Eritrea	✓					✓	✓	✓
Ethiopia	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
Gabon	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Gambia	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Ghana	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Guinea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Guinea-Bissau	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Kenya	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesotho	✓					S	✓	✓
Liberia	✓					✓	✓	S
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	S	✓	✓				✓	✓
Madagascar	✓	✓	✓	S		✓	✓	✓
Malawi	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Mali	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mauritania	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Mauritius	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Morocco	✓	✓	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Mozambique	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
Namibia	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Niger	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nigeria	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Rwanda	✓		✓				✓	✓
São Tomé and Príncipe	✓						✓	✓
Senegal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seychelles	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
Sierra Leone	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Somalia				✓		✓		
South Africa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sudan	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Swaziland	✓					✓	✓	✓
Tanzania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Togo	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tunisia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Uganda	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zambia	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Zimbabwe	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
No. of countries ratified/signed	52	33	43	26	16	49	52	52
✓ ratified S signed, but not ratified								
CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity Ramsar: Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat CMS: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) AEWA: Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora WHC: Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa. UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change								
Note: The legal position of overseas territories in the African region—Bouvetøya, French Southern Territories, Mayotte, La Réunion, and St Helena and its Dependencies—with respect to these conventions is complex, and no details are given here.								

Appendix 1 ... continued. Descriptions of international agreements relevant to the protection and management of sites for nature conservation in the African region.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD)

The Convention to Combat Desertification was adopted in 1994 and entered into force in 1996. It has 175 parties. Its objective is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. Desertification is defined as land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, resulting from factors such as climatic variations and human activities (article 1). The convention's main tools are regional and national action programmes. The convention pursues a bottom-up approach, which asks for effective participation at the local, national and regional levels of non-governmental organisations and local populations in policy planning and decision-making (article 10).

With its strong focus on Africa it is obvious that many measures to be undertaken for its implementation, will benefit IBAs and the wider environment in arid, semi-arid and dry-subhumid areas. *Vice versa*, activities to safeguard IBAs will support the implementation of National Action Programmes under the UNCCD. Article 8 of the regional implementation annex for Africa demands the National Action Programmes to include measures to conserve natural resources by ensuring integrated and sustainable management of natural resources, and training with regard to public awareness and environmental education campaigns. This clearly demands a close cooperation with the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The Climate Change Convention was adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1994. With 182 parties, it is one of the most widely accepted global conventions. Its ultimate objective is to stabilise greenhouse-gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change. The Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, adopted in 1997, but not yet in force, contains individual emission limitations and reductions commitments for a range of developed-country parties.

Climate change is one of the most serious long-term threats to ecosystems. A large number of IBAs is likely to face shifts in ecosystem composition with serious consequences—though hard to predict—for the majority of species. Thus, any advocacy strategy for IBAs cannot afford to neglect the implementation of the UNFCCC. Potential inclusion of existing forests and agricultural land as well as afforestation and deforestation measures in the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol will also to some extent affect the long-term strategies for IBAs.

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations's (UNESCO) Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) aims to develop a basis, within the natural and the social sciences, for the sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity, and for the improvement of the relationship between people and their environment globally.

The MAB Programme has a major physical presence globally through the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Biosphere Reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems promoting solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. They are nominated by national governments and internationally recognised. As of March 2001, the network consisted of 393 Biosphere Reserves in 94 countries. To qualify for designation as a Biosphere Reserve, an area should:

- be representative of a major biogeographic region, including a gradation of human intervention in these systems;
- contain landscapes, ecosystems or animal and plant species, or varieties which need to be conserved;
- provide an opportunity to explore and demonstrate approaches to sustainable development within the larger region where they are located;
- be of an appropriate size to serve the three functions of biosphere reserves mentioned above;
- have an appropriate zoning system, with a legally constituted core area, devoted to long-term protection; a clearly identified buffer zone and an outer transition area.

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