

OUAGADOUGOU DECLARATION - 19 November 2021

We, the representatives and supporting organisations of the West African LCCAs, meeting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 16 to 19 November 2021 at the Sub-Regional Assembly of LCCAs,

Considering the following references:

United Nations 2030 Strategy: "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1-Eradication of poverty; 2-Fighting hunger; 3-Health and well-being; 6-Clean water and sanitation; 13-Climate change; -Wildlife 14protection; 15-Ecosystem restoration and biodiversity; -Global 17partnership for the implementation of the SDGs (Sept 2015)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by the UN General Assembly: "International rights of local communities" (Dec 1966)

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (June 1981)

African custodian communities' declaration: "Recognition and protection of sacred natural sites and sacred territories and customary governance systems in Africa" (March 2015)

CBD and Post2020: Update of the initial draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (August 2020)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (May 1992)

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (June 1994)

Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region (March 1981)

IUCN Guidelines for the Application of Management Categories to Protected Areas: "Matrix of Governance Types and Community Conservation" (2008)

Having taken note of the holding of the APAC-Living Territories Assemblies at the national level in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Benin and the holding of various preparatory meetings in the other countries of the West African sub-region

Aware of the role of communities in the different issues and policies of these texts and conventions,

Concerned about our well-being and that of future generations,

Concerned with the preservation of natural and cultural values, both tangible and intangible, including respect for traditional rules; solidarity and pride in identity,

Aware of the various social, environmental and economic functions that ACPAs-living territories perform for the conservation of nature and the well-being of local communities,

Aware of the current threats to ACPAs-living territories, including the decline in respect for sacredness, modernism, over-exploitation and land grabbing, deforestation, poaching and corruption, population pressure and rapid urbanisation, and loss of biodiversity,

Concerned about the lack of consideration of APACs-living territories in most national legislation,

Determined to sustainably preserve our living territories that perpetuate our endogenous values for the benefit of the communities.

commit ourselves to encouraging the promotion of ACPAs - territories of life by :

- the mobilisation of all layers and actors of the local communities,
- the creation of national networks in all West African countries,
- the establishment of a West African sub-regional entity of the APAC-Living Territories,
- sharing of experiences between ACPAs and between networks through exchange visits, radio programmes, digital platforms, etc,
- the inclusion of APACs in the WCMC international register,
- the organisation of an "APAC-West Africa Living Territories" award, modelled on the "Equator Prize", which could be extended to the African region in the future,
- the establishment of a scholarship scheme for young custodians of ACPAs,
- the development of communication plans on the ACPAs - territories of life,

and call for

- legal recognition in each country,
- the appropriation by the custodians of APAC-territoires de vie of the strategy documents of each technical and financial partner (TFP),
- the inclusion of LCCAs in national policies and international conventions,
- the involvement of civil society organisations in the process of recognising APACs as territories of life,
- the relationship of trust, exchange and partnership with the TFPs,
- the relationship of trust, partnership and complementarity with government structures and decentralised authorities,
- the acquisition of observer status in sub-regional bodies.

Done at Ouagadougou, 19 November 2021

For the West African Sub-Regional Assembly of APAC-Living Territories

On behalf of APAC-West African Living Territories present

Yamba Issaka KABORE

President of the National Association of APACs of Burkina Faso



On behalf of the APAC Global Consortium

Alexis KABORE

Regional Coordinator of the APAC Global Consortium for the Sahel in
West Africa



Salatou SAMBOU

Regional Coordinator of the APAC Global Consortium for Marine and
Coastal Ecosystems in West Africa

C.C.A.
Pour les Ecosystèmes Marins
Côtiers de l'Ouest
Tel : (+221) 77 008 85 77

On behalf of the National Coordinators of the Global Environment
Facility Small Grants Programme
from West Africa present

Noël COMPAORE

National Coordinator for Burkina Faso



On behalf of the NGO Natural Justice
Thaddée A. Seck
Programme Officer at Natural Justice

