

# The challenge of the new millennium

In terms of biological diversity, the Africa region is immensely wealthy, being richly endowed with species, habitats and landscapes. The continent harbours 20% of the world's tropical rainforests, covering an area of over two million square kilometres. In terms of the diversity of its larger animal species, Africa is rivalled only by South America and Southeast Asia, and is justly famous for its assemblage of hooved savanna mammals and their predators. The island of Madagascar, geographically isolated for millions of years, is a treasure house of unique plants and animals. Africa's marine, freshwater and terrestrial habitats have the potential to provide significant and – sustainably managed – inexhaustible benefits for its people, the vast majority of whom still rely directly on natural resources.

Devising a coherent conservation strategy for such a huge continent, containing such a diversity of peoples, cultures, traditions and political systems, is a challenge in itself. But the challenge becomes even greater when we consider the socio-economic problems that plague Africa. A great number of people still live in abject poverty and, in some countries, wars, civil unrest, and political instability continue to hinder economic progress. Despite popular perception, Africa is not for the most part an overcrowded place, but these factors – together with unfavourable trade and macro-economic policies – result in great pressures on Africa's forests, savannas, wetlands and marine habitats.

Successful conservation in Africa therefore faces enormous obstacles. Yet WWF can demonstrate real achievements in the face of sometimes almost overwhelming odds. This publication is to inform you of how and where WWF carries out its work in the Africa and Madagascar region. It can only provide a 'snapshot' of some of our 120 or so on-going field projects, but we hope that it illustrates the expertise, innovation, dedication and range of resources that WWF draws upon, in the effort to conserve and sustainably manage Africa's natural resources for the benefit of her people and the world at large.



*Dr Yaa Ntiemoa-Baidu  
Director, Africa & Madagascar  
Programme, WWF International.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Y. Ntiemoa-Baidu'.

# Meeting the challenge by helping protect natural areas

Protecting natural habitats for animals and plants is fundamental to conservation and Africans can be proud of their progress towards achieving this goal: almost 10% of Africa's land area is legally protected in the form of National Parks and Reserves. But effective management of these areas is a heavy financial burden that many countries with limited resources are struggling to bear. We feel strongly that Supporting Protected Areas is a global responsibility and one in which WWF can play a key role. WWF has provided long-term support for protected areas such as Mafia Island in Tanzania, Lake Nakuru in Kenya, Parc des Volcans in Rwanda, Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania, and Taï in Côte-d'Ivoire, to name but a few. WWF has also been instrumental in helping African governments ensure that their protected area networks cover representative samples of critical habitats, by enlarging existing reserves or by creating new ones. Our activities include helping to establish boundaries, undertaking biodiversity surveys, providing essential equipment and training protected area staff. We work with communities living in and around Parks and Reserves, to involve them in management decisions and to improve their standard of living.



**Tanzania's** Udzungwa Mountains National Park helps conserve an important link in the chain of isolated forests that occur on eastern Africa's mountains. The Park is home to several mammals, birds and plants found nowhere else, including the Iringa red colobus monkey and numerous species of African violet. WWF has assisted with boundary surveys, and has worked with local communities to set up tree nurseries to provide a long-term source of fuelwood.



WWF/CANONS MBANEFOBIAGO



WWF/BIOS/MICHEL GUNTHER

**Nigeria** The Gashaka Gumti National Park in Nigeria protects a diverse mosaic of habitats ranging in altitude from 450 m to 2,400 m. It supports one of West Africa's largest populations of chimpanzees. WWF and its Associate, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, are assisting the government to manage the protected area and promote tourism development.



WWF-CANON/MICHEL GUNTHER

**Gabon** The Gamba Protected Area Complex in southwest Gabon is the focus of an integrated conservation and development project. This huge (11,320 km<sup>2</sup>) area comprises a rich mix of habitats, from coastal dunes to humid evergreen tropical forest. A recent achievement is the creation of a new protected area, the *Réserve des Monts Doudou*, identified by WWF as a major site for conserving biodiversity.

**Madagascar** WWF advocacy work in Madagascar led to the recent declaration of the Marojejy and Andringitra Reserves as National Parks. Both areas harbour a great number of species that occur nowhere else. For its size, Andringitra may be one of the world's richest areas in terms of biodiversity and Madagascar's most representative protected area.



WWF-CANON/OLIVIER LANGRAND



■ Madagascar  
■ Gabon



WWF-CANON/OLIVIER LANGRAND

# Meeting the challenge by saving Species of Special Concern

Evocative images of majestic elephants, imposing rhinos, clouds of snowy white egrets, cute meerkats and vast herds of migrating wildebeest fill our television screens daily: there is no doubt that African wildlife has immense significance to many people all over the world. But habitat destruction and illegal hunting are still taking their toll across the continent, threatening some of its most charismatic animals. The plight of chimpanzees, gorillas, black and white rhinos and elephants, in particular, has met with a tremendous outpouring of sympathy and support. The survival of these 'flagship species' has always been a priority for WWF and great strides have been made to protect the habitats and remaining populations of these animals, but much remains to be done to assure their future. Other Species of Special Concern include the African wild dog, dugong, manatee, marine turtles, and plants like the pepper bark tree *Warburgia* and *Prunus africana* in Cameroon. These, and a number of other threatened species, are benefiting from WWF projects.



WWF/CANON/TIMOTHY GEER

**Mountain Gorilla** The mountain gorilla is one of the most critically endangered large mammals in the world. War and civil unrest plague its stronghold in the mountains of Rwanda, western Uganda and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Despite enormous problems posed by these regional conflicts, the International Gorilla Conservation Programme – a joint venture of WWF, African Wildlife Foundation and Fauna and Flora International – continues its work to save this magnificent animal and its habitat.



WWF/WEINER CARTUNG

**Elephants** A special focus for several WWF projects is managing human/elephant interactions in areas outside protected areas where people and elephants co-exist. Crop destruction by elephants is a major problem in some areas and ways of preventing this, for example by erecting electric fences, are being tested.



WWF/MARTIN HARVEY

**Rhinoceros** Black rhinos dwindled to about 2,400 individuals in the mid 1990s. Thanks to intensive protection measures, numbers in East Africa have stabilised, while in southern Africa populations are increasing. Although the two rhino species in South Africa are no longer threatened with extinction, WWF South Africa is continuing efforts to conserve them. In Zimbabwe's Save Valley Conservancy, WWF is supporting private landowners in a conservation programme that has allowed black rhino populations to breed successfully.





WWF-CANON/RICK WEYERHAEUSER

**New species** The ancient saying “There is always something new out of Africa” is being confirmed by WWF-funded biodiversity surveys. Recent findings include a new species of plant (*Commitheca sp.*) in the Gamba Protected Area Complex in Gabon, a new species of forest bird (Sangha forest robin – *Stiphornis sanghensis*) in the Dzanga-Sangha Reserve in Central African Republic, and the rediscovery of *Taktajania perrieri* – a plant dating back some 120 million years – in Madagascar.

**Dugong** numbers in the western Indian Ocean have plummeted since the turn of the century due to hunting and accidental capture in fishing nets. A recent aerial survey undertaken by WWF in one of their last strongholds, Mozambique’s Bazaruto Archipelago, indicated that there, at least, the population appears to be stable.



WWF-CANON/JUERGEN FREUND



WWF-CANON/MICHEL GUNTHER



WWF/JAMES PERRIN/ROSS



WWF-CANON/ROGER LEGUEN

**Marine Turtles** WWF has sponsored a number of regional surveys of marine turtle populations along Africa’s coastline. These surveys have included discovery of the second largest leatherback turtle breeding areas along the beaches of Gabon. WWF has also supported many years of monitoring nesting populations of turtles in northern KwaZulu-Natal. As part of WWF’s Western Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Conservation Strategy, we are proposing new protected areas, training senior African marine turtle specialists, and working to conserve nesting beaches within protected areas in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar.



WWF/HENRY AUSLOOS

# Meeting the challenge by working with communities

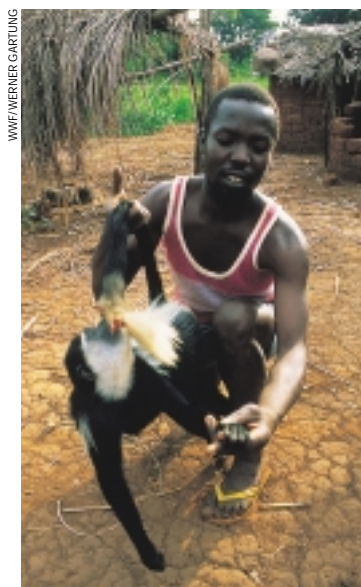


Working with local communities is a strong thread that runs right through WWF's field activities in Africa. The greatest challenge everywhere is to ensure that use of wild resources for fuel, building materials, medicines or food, is sustainable. In some places, especially around protected areas, we need to demonstrate that the presence of wildlife – even large destructive animals like elephants – can be an advantage rather than a threat to rural livelihoods. A number of WWF projects have successfully shown that if household economies are enhanced, whether from ecotourism or from more direct use of wild species, then local people become conservation's strongest supporters. An important aspect of this is to fully involve communities in day-to-day decisions about managing and benefiting from wild resources.



WWF-CANON/JOHN NEWBY

**Namibia** WWF's LIFE (Living in a Finite Environment) Programme in Namibia is working to improve the quality of life for rural peoples through sustainable natural resource management. Communities participating in LIFE have reaped substantial benefits from sale of thatching grass and crafts, tourist concessions, and revenues from trophy hunting.



WWF-WERNER GARTUNG

**Gabon** The bushmeat trade in the Congo Basin is widespread and commercialised, with quantities of meat from primates, forest antelopes and other animals entering city markets throughout the region. In Gabon, WWF is working not only to improve wildlife protection by government wildlife managers, but also to empower local communities to monitor, manage and derive benefits from wildlife use. The goal is to create a system of quotas open only to licensed hunters that will put the illegal hunting networks out of business.

**Namibia's** community-based wildlife conservation systems are so successful they may serve as a model for the rest of Africa. The key in the northern Kunene region is that benefits from ecotourism go directly to local people rather than being filtered through layers of bureaucracy. Communities provide their own network of game guards, and decisions about wildlife management are made at the village level with the involvement of all stakeholders – including the women. Involving Himba nomads in conservation has paid dividends in the Kunene district, where numbers of desert-adapted black rhinos have doubled over the past decade.

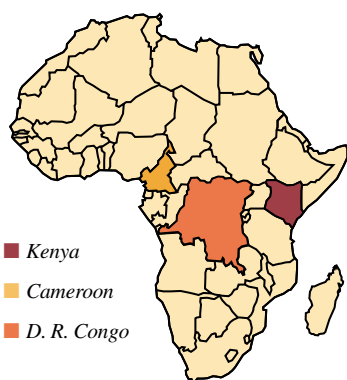


WWF-CANON/JOHN NEWBY





**Cameroon** Mount Kupe in Cameroon supports a number of rare and threatened species of birds, primates, reptiles and plants. The Mt. Kupe Forest Project is working to ensure that all people concerned with protection of the area, especially local communities, have a say in how this priceless montane habitat is managed.



**Kenya's** Lake Nakuru National Park is world famous for its flamingoes and other waterbirds and is a national sanctuary for black rhinos. The Park is under intense pressure from surrounding urbanisation and farming. Over the past decade, WWF has forged successful partnerships with local industries, women's groups and farmers that have resulted in reduction of pollutants entering the Lake and the introduction of improved agricultural practices in the surrounding watershed.



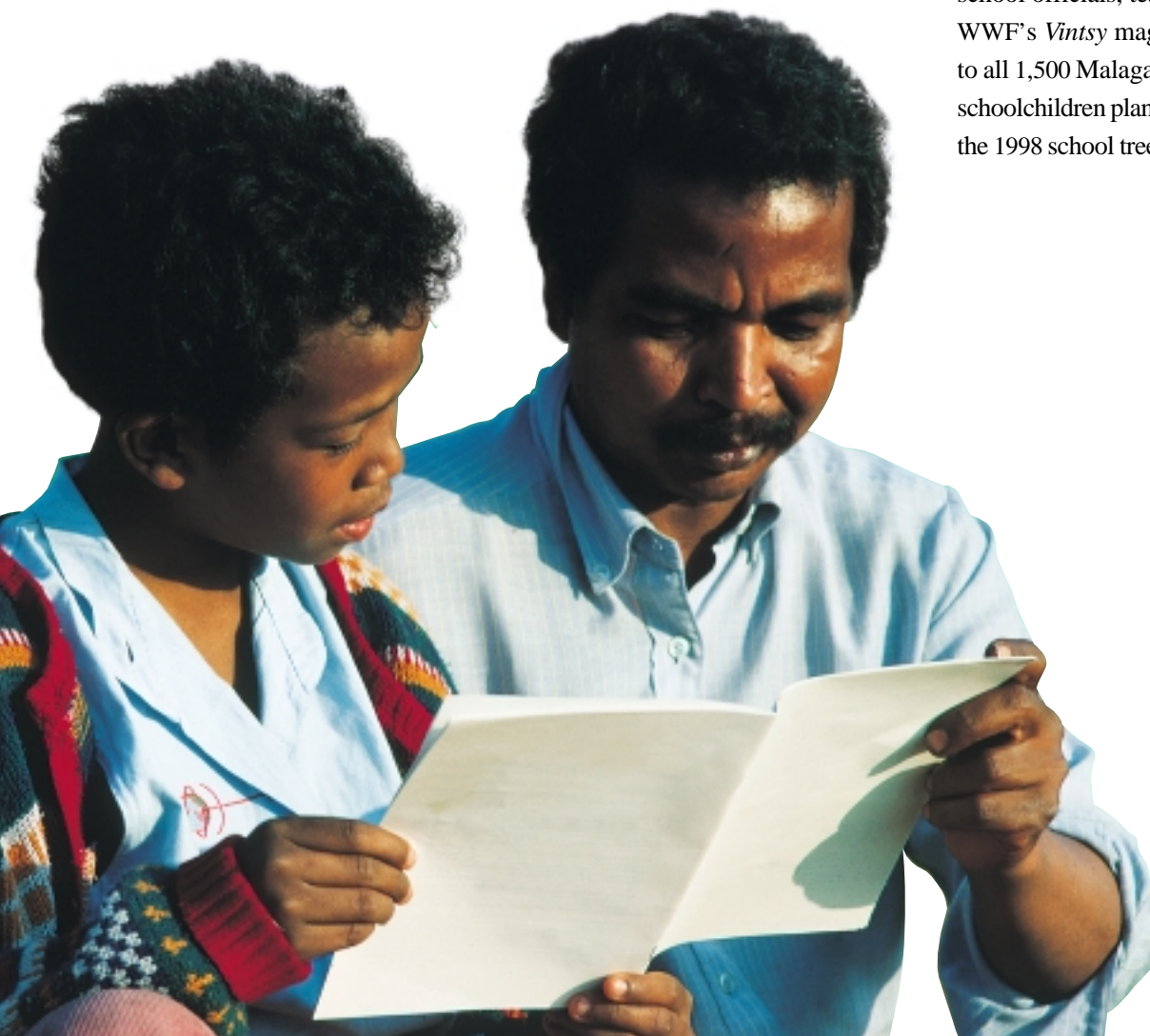
**Democratic Republic of Congo** The forests of Virunga National Park, in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, are not only home to about half of the remaining wild population of mountain gorillas, but also the setting of an Environmental Programme which has been supported by WWF for the last 10 years. The Congolese-run project works with the local community through more than 45 different grassroots groups – including associations for youth, women and elderly people – in raising conservation awareness and commitment, and promoting specific conservation activities aimed at protecting their unique natural heritage.

# Meeting the challenge by raising people's awareness of the importance of their environment



Shaping human attitudes and behaviour towards the environment is a global challenge. But where there is poverty it becomes particularly urgent, because people's immediate needs are often met in ways that harm the environment. The bottom line of Environmental Education, after all, is to provide the knowledge to use natural resources with an eye to the future. Planting trees for fuel and timber, preventing water-borne and other diseases, countering soil erosion and pollution, and tapping into indigenous knowledge to maintain a healthy environment, are all part and parcel of environmental education. In Madagascar, Cameroon, Gabon, Zambia and Tanzania WWF is assisting governments to include environmental issues in formal school curricula, while providing teachers with the necessary skills and materials. We also have a number of initiatives to raise public awareness about environmental problems and solutions, through the media and by conducting workshops in rural areas. Many of WWF's projects in and around protected areas include environmental awareness components.

**Madagascar** WWF sponsors four Environmental Education Centres in Madagascar, where people from all walks of life can attend courses: in 1998, students included military officers, school officials, teachers and schoolchildren. WWF's *Vintsy* magazine is freely distributed to all 1,500 Malagasy secondary schools. The schoolchildren planted close to 300,000 trees in the 1998 school tree-planting campaign.







**Gabon** The Environmental Education Programme in Gabon aims to increase public interest in environmental issues through newspapers and weekly broadcasts on radio and television. WWF is also supporting local environmental organisations, and helping the Ministry of Education develop environmental education in primary schools, where the publication *J'améliore mon environnement* ('Improving My Environment'), produced with the support of WWF and the German aid agency GTZ, is now a textbook.



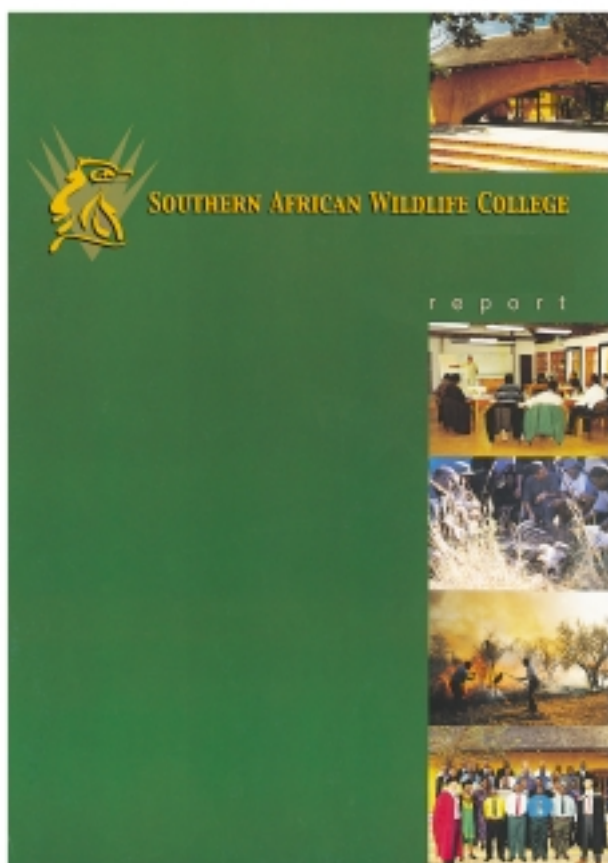
■ Gabon  
■ Zambia

**Zambia** More than 1,000 teachers have attended environmental education courses given by WWF's Zambia Education Project. The Project also contributes materials for primary, secondary and university education, and helps rural communities to develop skills to manage their natural resources.



# Meeting the challenge by helping people acquire skills

African countries now have a solid core of environmental professionals, and WWF is proud to have contributed over the years towards building expertise in conserving and managing natural resources. These days, environmental know-how is necessary for all sectors of society, from government policy-makers right down to the village level, and our Training and Capacity Building initiatives are designed to provide opportunities for technical instruction for people from all walks of life. For example, we are building expertise within our own organisation, and within local African non-governmental organisations (NGOs). WWF is continuing to provide financial help for wildlife managers attending the Garoua *Ecole de Faune* in Cameroon and the Mweka College of African Wildlife Management in Tanzania, and has been instrumental in setting up a new Wildlife College to meet the needs of students from the southern African region. Through the Prince Bernhard Scholarships and the Russell Train Scholarship programmes, WWF supports students in the environmental sciences up to post-graduate level. In South Africa, WWF and the Murray & Roberts Chair in Environmental Education at Rhodes University in Grahamstown also support a post-graduate certificate course in environmental education.



**South Africa** The new Southern African Wildlife College, near South Africa's renowned Kruger National Park, offers students residential and modular courses designed to provide the ecological, administrative and sociological skills to manage protected areas and wildlife populations.





**Madagascar** WWF's Ecology Training Programme in Madagascar is designed to create a pool of highly trained Malagasy conservation professionals. Long-term training is offered to a small selection of local university students, by providing library access, computer equipment and specialist supervisors. Many of the students gain valuable experience working in WWF field projects and some have gone on to fill important leadership positions in science and conservation in Madagascar.



WWF-CANDONATHANIEL QUANSAH



WWF/RUSSELL TAYLOR/WWF-ZW

**Zimbabwe** WWF's 'Support to CAMPFIRE' Project is training rural communities in Zimbabwe to use sound, scientifically based local knowledge about how and when their wild species can be utilised. CAMPFIRE has been successful in ensuring that rural people derive direct benefits from wildlife outside protected areas. By far the largest source of income for local communities comes from sport hunting.



WWF/RUSSELL TAYLOR/WWF-ZW



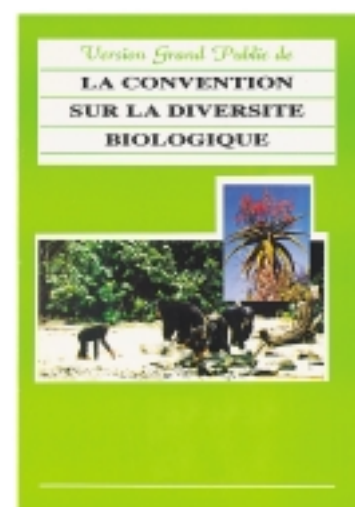
# Meeting the challenge by building strong partnerships

We cannot achieve success in conservation by working alone: we must collaborate with governments, institutions and other organisations in order to meet our goals. That is why Policy, Networking and Advocacy are such important tools. For example, international treaties such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), and the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) guide governmental action and provide public fora in which to highlight problems and solutions. WWF provides technical assistance to governments to enable them to implement these international agreements, including help to develop national legislation in relevant areas. Equally important is our collaboration with regional and local non-governmental organisations, which play a critical role in following up conservation initiatives in many parts of the region. In addition, WWF works to promote stronger links between the private sector and conservation, a new approach that holds great promise not only to secure greater financial resources for conservation in Africa, but also to address issues like over-exploitation of natural resources by logging companies and commercial fishery operations.



**World Bank** In 1997, WWF joined with the World Bank to form an alliance to help save the world's forests: one of the goals is to assist African countries achieve significant increases in forest protected areas, to improve management in others, and to bring six million hectares of forest under independent certification.

**Biodiversity Convention** WWF is assisting a number of African countries to translate the Convention on Biological Diversity into concrete actions. It is doing so by raising awareness, building technical capacity, facilitating networking among relevant government agencies and non-governmental organisations, and providing technical support in developing national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Kenya, Côte-d'Ivoire, Uganda and Cameroon have been focal countries for this project.





WWF-CANONIS MBANEO-OBIAKO

**Ecological labels** WWF is promoting ‘green labelling’ of forest products such as timber and woodcarvings in several African countries. By helping logging companies and wood carvers to conserve forests and by giving consumers the opportunity to buy products that come from sustainably managed sources, we hope to ease pressures on threatened habitats and species.

**TRAFFIC** is a joint Programme of WWF and IUCN – The World Conservation Union. It assists countries to implement CITES and to ensure that trade in wild species is legal and sustainable. TRAFFIC also monitors the impact of the international fishery and timber industries and the effects of the bushmeat trade in Africa. Recent TRAFFIC initiatives in Africa have focused on trade in medicinal plants, the effects of the woodcarving industry in Kenya, the impact of shark fisheries, and the development of an Elephant Trade Information System to track international trade in elephant products such as ivory and hides.



WWF/PMA SNYDER



WWF-CANON/MICHEL TERRETTAZ

# A new approach: Ecoregion-Based Conservation

What is 'Ecoregion-Based Conservation'? WWF's primary objective is to conserve globally important terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats and their plant and animal communities. However, conservation resources are limited, and we cannot hope to save everything, everywhere. So we must *set priorities* while trying to ensure that examples of all the world's diverse ecosystems are conserved. These examples include areas especially rich in overall species diversity, areas with species found nowhere else, and areas that contain unique assemblages of animals and plants.

WWF has identified around two hundred of these important regions around the world. They are called the 'Global 200 Ecoregions'. Ecologists consider that almost half of terrestrial ecoregions are endangered, some critically so, while a further 29% are vulnerable. More than 40 of the Global 200 ecoregions occur in Africa and around her shores.

The WWF Africa & Madagascar Programme (AMP) has for many years focused its attention on four broad habitat types: forests, savannas, freshwater wetlands, and coastal and marine habitats. As we enter the new millennium, the AMP is 'fine-tuning' its habitat conservation efforts to those ecoregions where action is most urgently needed. The ecoregions where WWF will be focusing attention in the next few years are shown on the Map as regions numbered 1-6. As resources become available, we will expand our Programme to cover additional priority ecoregions, shown in the Map as regions numbered 7-11.

## Focal ecoregions for ERBC implementation

- 1 Western Congo Basin Moist Forests
- 2 Central and Eastern Miombo Woodlands
- 3 Madagascar Dry Forest and Spiny Thicket
- 4 Fynbos
- 5 East African Marine
- 6 Sahelian Upwelling

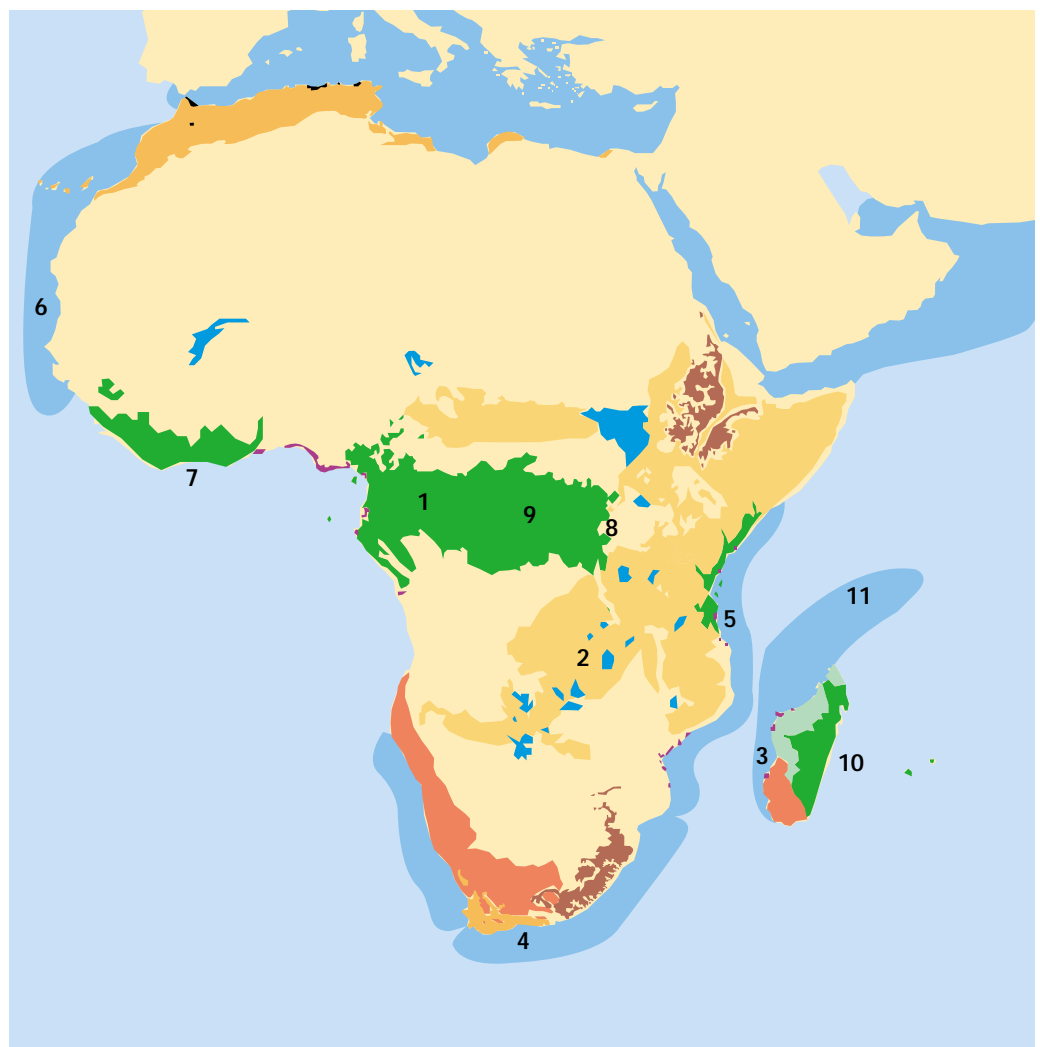
## Focal ecoregions for reconnaissance studies

- 7 Guinean Forest
- 8 Albertine Rift Montane Forests
- 9 Central and Northeastern Congo Basin Forests
- 10 Madagascar Lowland Forests
- 11 Indian Ocean Islands

## Terrestrial Global 200 Major Habitat Types

- Tropical & Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forests
- Tropical & Subtropical Dry Broadleaf Forests
- Temperate Coniferous Forests
- Tropical & Subtropical Grasslands, Savannas, & Shrublands
- Flooded Grasslands & Savannas
- Montane Grasslands & Shrublands
- Mediterranean Forests, Woodlands & Scrub
- Deserts & Xeric Shrublands
- Mangroves

■ Marine Global 200





**Western Congo Basin Moist Forests** Until recently relatively intact, the forests of the Congo Basin are now threatened with commercial logging on a vast scale. Many areas have become accessible by a network of logging roads, while forest animals such as forest elephant, mandrill, western lowland gorilla, chimpanzee and forest buffalo are increasingly vulnerable to poaching for the bushmeat trade. The Boumba-Bek, Lac Lobeke and Nki forests of Cameroon, Minkebe in Gabon and Dzanga Sangha in Central African Republic are some of the best preserved forests of the Basin. WWF is working to ensure that viable reserves are established in these biologically rich areas and that they are eventually inter-connected as part of a regional network of forest protected areas.

**Sahelian Upwelling** The Sahelian Upwelling, a cold current extending from Guinea-Bissau in the south to Mauritania in the north, supports one of the most productive (and one of the most threatened) fisheries in the world. It has been identified as a focal marine ecoregion by the WWF Africa & Madagascar Programme.

**Madagascar Dry Forest and Spiny Thickets** Strange but beautiful forests of endemic cactus-like plants dominate the deserts of south and southwest Madagascar. This unique ecoregion supports drought-adapted plants and animals found nowhere else on earth. Widespread clearance of spiny forests for fuel and agriculture is the main threat to this fragile Eden. WWF has been working to enhance the network of protected areas, in particular in Andohahelo National Park, Beza Mahafaly Special Reserve and at Lac Tsimanampetsotsa, working with traditional leaders to help communities develop sound natural resource management practices.

**Central and Eastern Miombo Woodlands** Covering more than 2.5 million ha. of Africa, south of the Equator, the woodlands of the Miombo ecoregion are of vital importance not only to wildlife but also to millions of urban and rural people, providing them with fuelwood, timber, edible plants, fungi and insects, and medicines. WWF's Miombo Ecoregion Programme will support a study of Miombo biodiversity and develop long-term strategies for its management and conservation.

**East African Marine** Stretching from Somalia in the north to Mozambique in the south, the warm waters of the East African Marine Ecoregion harbour a great diversity of tropical corals, reef and deep water fish communities, marine turtles, and mammals such as whales and dugongs. In addition to protecting the habitat by extending the network of protected areas, WWF is promoting sustainable fishing practices by coastal and offshore fleets.

**Fynbos** With an estimated 8,500 species of vascular plants, of which 70% are found nowhere else on earth, the Fynbos ecoregion of South Africa's south-western Cape has a richer flora than possibly any other area of comparable size in the world. Because of threats from agriculture, urban development, invasive weeds, and the commercial harvesting of some plants, WWF is investigating and addressing the conservation needs of the ecoregion through the Cape Action Plan for the Environment.

# Meeting the challenge in Africa's forests

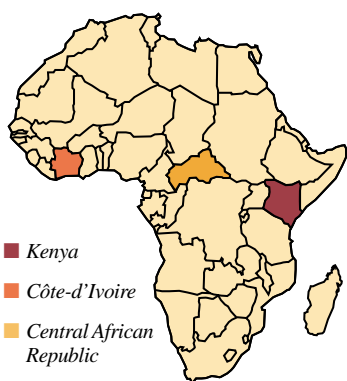
From Madagascar's dry spiny woodlands to the vast rainforests of the Congo Basin, Africa's forest ecoregions are both fascinating and diverse. They also play a significant role in the economic life of many countries and communities, but are currently being fragmented and destroyed at very high rates, with only relatively small forest areas remaining in West, East and Southern Africa and Madagascar. WWF plays a leading role in forest conservation on the continent and our activities include identifying possible new protected areas and encouraging good management for existing ones, promoting sustainable forest management and certification, and monitoring the activities of trans-national logging companies. WWF supports the African Forest Action Network, a coalition of African and international non-governmental organisations, which is particularly active in lobbying governments to embrace sustainable forest management.

**Yaounde Summit** In March 1999 WWF organised the Yaoundé Forest Summit: the first ever gathering of Central African Heads of State to discuss forest conservation. They approved the Yaoundé Declaration, which refers to the need to establish trans-boundary protected areas, to improve management of existing protected areas, to work with local communities to conserve forests, and to support sustainable forest management and wood certification.





WWF-CANON/JOHN NEWBY



■ Kenya  
■ Côte-d'Ivoire  
■ Central African Republic

**Côte-d'Ivoire** Taï National Park in Côte-d'Ivoire is a World Heritage Site and the largest tract of undisturbed rainforest in West Africa. It is threatened by the activities of slash-and-burn farmers, poachers, timber companies and illegal gold miners. WWF has been active in Taï since 1988 and is currently involved with several partners in implementing a long-term management plan for the Park in collaboration with local people.



WWF-CANON/ELISABETH OBEL-LANSON

**Kenya** The coastal forests of eastern Africa, rich in unique birds, mammals and plants, are being cleared rapidly for tourist developments, palm plantations and agriculture. In Kenya, all that is left are small patches that have been preserved by local elders as sacred groves or *kayas*. WWF is working with these communities and the National Museums of Kenya to keep the *kayas* out of the hands of developers and have them declared National Monuments.



WWF/STOFTEL-WILLAME

**Central African Republic** The Dzanga-Sangha Project in south-west Central African Republic involves protection, development and management of the Dzanga-Sangha Dense Forest Special Reserve and the Dzanga Ndoki National Park, while ensuring the cultural integrity of the BaAka pygmies of the region.



# Meeting the challenge in Africa's freshwater wetlands

Preserving the ecological integrity of lakes, rivers and swamps upon which millions of rural and urban African people depend for household and irrigation water, food and building materials is of paramount importance, because disturbing the natural balance of aquatic animals and plants can have far-reaching and sometimes irreversible consequences. African wetlands support a wide array of flora and fauna. They provide feeding and breeding grounds for both resident and migratory water birds, whilst mammals depending on wetlands include otters, sitatunga and lechwe antelope, and the West African manatee. The astonishing variety of cichlid fish in the Rift Valley Lakes is a further example of the richness of wetlands. As human populations grow, pollution from towns and cities, mining operations and large-scale agriculture is becoming a serious threat, and overfishing has become a problem in many places. The accidental or intentional introduction of alien species has resulted in various ecological catastrophes: for example, in Lake Victoria, the introduction of predatory Nile Perch caused mass extinctions of cichlids, and in a number of countries alien waterweeds now choke lakes and waterways.

WWF's freshwater programme in Africa aims to conserve selected freshwater ecoregions and maintain their productivity in a way that sustains local livelihoods and national economies.



WWF/PHILIPPE OBERLE

**Kenya's** Lake Bogoria Reserve, part of the Rift Valley Lakes ecoregion, lies in spectacular scenery and its hot springs and flamingoes make it a popular tourist destination. It also provides grazing, water and salt for pastoralists' livestock. WWF's project aims to get local people more involved with conserving the area while continuing to benefit from the Reserve's resources.



■ Kenya



WWF-CANON/MEG GAWLER



**Cameroon** WWF has supported the restoration of 1000 km<sup>2</sup> of wetlands in Cameroon's Waza-Logone floodplain that had dried up due to diversion of water for irrigation. The pilot re-flooding was successful, bringing back lost fisheries and plant resources for local people and restoring wildlife communities. WWF is advocating for Cameroon to ratify the Ramsar Convention, with Waza-Logone designated as its first Ramsar Site.



**Madagascar** WWF advocated hard for the Malagasy Government to join the Ramsar Convention, which it did in 1998. In support of its accession to the Convention, the Government designated a new protected area, the Manambolomaty complex of saline and freshwater lakes, which are critically important habitats for species found nowhere else, including the endangered Madagascar fish eagle, some twenty other species or subspecies of birds, and a species of freshwater turtle.



**Zambia** Kafue Flats in southern Zambia is a vast floodplain containing river channels, permanent lagoons and seasonally flooded grasslands. It is home to the Kafue lechwe, a subspecies of antelope unique to the area, and a wide variety of bird life, including the endangered wattled crane. The threats facing it include habitat loss due to hydropower development, colonisation by alien waterweeds, poaching, overfishing, pollution and agricultural expansion. WWF's 'Partners for Wetlands' initiative involves both the private and government sectors in a collaborative management scheme to ensure that the Kafue ecosystem survives to benefit both local communities and wildlife.



WWF-CANON/MS. MBANE/O. GIBAGO

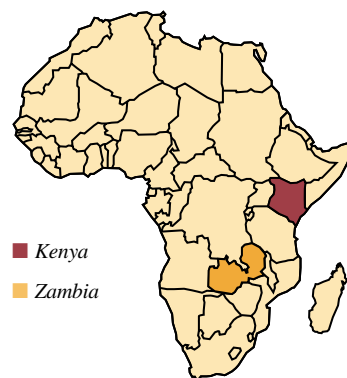


WWF-CANON/RICHARD C.V. JEFFERY



WWF-CANON/DONALD MILLER

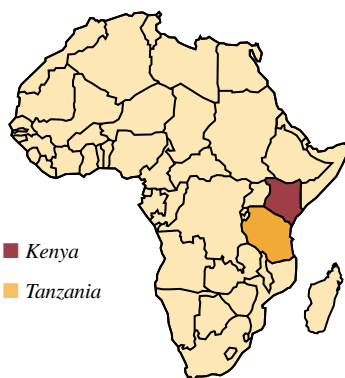
**Kenya** Preventing deforestation in catchment areas is a major part of WWF's strategy to conserve wetlands. For example, WWF has worked with communities living in the catchments of two of Kenya's Rift Valley Lakes, Nakuru and Bogoria, and also in the catchment of the Saiwa Swamp National Park, in tree planting and extension activities.



# Meeting the challenge in Africa's oceans and coasts

Africa's coastal habitats are incredibly varied: river deltas and estuaries, sand dunes, mangrove forests, intertidal mud flats and lagoons, rocky shores and sandy bays. On the East Coast, where warm currents prevail, coastal waters support extensive coral reefs with their diverse and colourful fish fauna, and seagrass pastures grazed by dugongs. The seas around Southern Africa harbour a great variety and number of whales, dolphins and porpoises. Relatively pristine until recently, many of Africa's coastal habitats are now threatened. In East Africa, for example, there is a proposal to clear mangroves in Tanzania's Rufiji Delta for large commercial shrimp farms, while elsewhere in the region coral reefs are being destroyed by dynamite fishing and beaches used by nesting turtles are being invaded by tourists.

The oceanic habitats around Africa are also diverse in character. Off the south-west coast, for example, nutrient-rich upwellings of the cold Benguela Current support large populations of seabirds and pelagic fish such as tuna, mackerel and sardines. But thanks to the relentless global demand for seafood and fish products, 'distant water' multinational fishing fleets are plundering fish stocks in both the eastern Atlantic and western Indian Oceans, often with harmful effects on the livelihoods of small local fishing communities who cannot compete with the resources of industrial operators.



**Kenya** In Kenya's Kiunga Marine National Reserve, village committees represent the interests of all natural resource users. In collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service, we are assisting these community groups to develop a management plan for the reserve. The communities are already fully involved in conserving marine turtles and monitoring dugong populations, and have set aside breeding areas for fish.

**Tanzania** Community-based coastal resource management is an important tool for realising WWF's conservation goals in Africa. We are working closely with local residents in the Mafia Island Marine Park, Tanzania, to improve Park management practices. Thanks to their efforts, dynamite fishing has now ceased in the Park.





WWF-CANON/JOHN NEWBY



WWF-CANON/MARK EDWARDS



**Mauritania** WWF has supported the Banc d'Arguin National Park in Mauritania since 1976. This World Heritage Site is a globally important breeding and staging area for shore-birds and a rich spawning ground and nursery for fish, molluscs and crustacea. However, its immense marine wealth has made it a target for illegal fishing by international fishing fleets. Patrol boats donated by WWF have intercepted many illegal fishing boats and local Imraguen fishermen have agreed to protect coastal species of sharks and rays, whose populations are particularly vulnerable to overfishing.



**Mozambique** The Government of Mozambique is enlarging the Bazaruto Archipelago Marine National Park to include all five islands in the area. WWF is working to ensure that local people benefit from tourism and that tourist development is ecologically sound.



WWF/GILSON

WWF-CANON/V. J. REY-MILLET



**South Africa** WWF South Africa is funding research efforts to support conservation of a number of marine species including southern right whales, Heaviside's dolphin, Cape fur seals, petrels and albatrosses, jackass penguin and African black oystercatcher.



# Meeting the challenge in Africa's savannas



No grasslands elsewhere in the world can rival Africa's savannas for sheer diversity and numbers of large mammals. Perhaps the most famous are found in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania, where a million-strong herds of wildebeest, zebra and gazelles freely undertake their annual migration over the Serengeti-Masai Mara plains, and are hunted by lion, cheetah, leopard and hyena. Savannas cover vast areas of the continent where rainfall is seasonally lacking. They differ markedly from one another, perhaps being dotted with *Acacia* trees, or dominated by other types of bushes or trees. Where there is a lot of woody vegetation to browse on, animals such as elephant, kudu, sable antelope, and giraffe thrive. All savannas, however, have plenty of grass – and so are sought after by humans and their cattle. With the advent of veterinary medicines, tsetse fly control and better water distribution, savanna wildlife is often out-competed by livestock. Modern agricultural practices are also claiming huge swathes of savanna where traditionally there was little farming. Intact savanna wildlife communities – predators and prey – are now mostly confined to protected areas. WWF has had a long involvement with parks and reserves such as the Masai Mara in Kenya and the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania. We are now focusing our efforts in areas that protect key populations of elephants and black rhino, and looking at human-wildlife interactions outside protected areas.



WWF/BIOS/DENIS-HUOT

**Cameroon** The savannas of northern Cameroon are home to a rich variety of wildlife species that include wild dogs, hippos, giant elands, elephants and the critically endangered black rhino subspecies *Diceros bicornis longipes*, which is only found there. Fewer than twenty individuals remain scattered over a wide area. WWF's Northern Savanna Project is working together with local authorities and communities to strengthen conservation activities in three national parks and other selected sites, and for establishing mechanisms allowing local communities to participate in – and benefit from – the conservation and sustainable use of the area's natural resources.



WWF-CANON/MICHEL TERRETAZ

**Tanzania's** Tarangire National Park and its wetlands are a critical dry season refuge for wildlife, including many elephants. WWF is training Park staff in ecological mapping and monitoring techniques, to determine the population dynamics and movements of large mammals in the Tarangire ecosystem. This information will be vital in helping plan the long-term conservation of elephants and other savanna animals.



WWF-CANON/MARTIN HARVEY

# Making Gifts to the Earth

WWF's Living Planet Campaign aims to give future generations the chance to enjoy the benefits and wonders of the Earth. The Campaign seeks to encourage Governments, corporations and individuals to do this by pledging a Gift to the Earth – a highly visible and tangible commitment to preserving as much of the world's biodiversity as possible. Gifts to the Earth can take various forms – for example, the protection of habitats which harbour endangered species, or a change in the way resources are used in order to conserve them. Each pledge helps WWF to achieve the goal to *'leave our children a living planet'*.

A number of African governments have responded magnificently to WWF's appeal and some of their recent Gifts to the Earth are highlighted here.

- The Government of Cameroon has announced the official protection of 220,000 hectares of the Lac Lobeke forest, part of a virtually intact tri-national forest area that stretches across the border into Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo.
- Gabon's second Gift to the Earth is the protection of the 332,000-hectare Monts Doudou forest, part of the Gamba Protected Area Complex, which altogether covers 1,132,000 hectares.
- Namibia has gifted legislation enabling a nationwide Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programme, which opens the way for local communities to manage, protect and benefit from wildlife resources. So far, a total of one million hectares have been brought under Conservancy status.
- Three of South Africa's Gifts to the Earth have focused on the protection of the Cape Floral Kingdom (the Fynbos ecoregion). The first was a major donation of pristine land by the ABSA Corporation, which was later incorporated into the Cape Peninsula National Park. In 1998, President Nelson Mandela announced the creation of the Cape Peninsula NP as the second Gift to the Earth. In March 1999, the Government proclaimed the newly created Cape Agulhas National Park, at Africa's southernmost point, as South Africa's third Gift to the Earth. The fourth Gift to the Earth came from an individual, Mr Lesley Hill, who single-handedly made possible the creation of Namaqua National Park, by donating 45,698 hectares of land. This park protects the unique vegetation of the Succulent Karoo, one of the least protected ecoregions in South Africa and a globally important centre of plant biodiversity. This semi-desert shrubland with a unique diversity of succulent plant species is one of the Global 200 ecoregions identified by The Living Planet Campaign.
- Tanzania's first Gift to the Earth is the establishment of a 47,000-hectare marine conservation area in Menai Bay, Zanzibar.

# WWF presence in Africa and Madagascar

WWF has been working to save Africa's wildlife and habitats since the organisation was founded in 1961: in fact, the black rhino was featured as a species in danger of extinction in WWF's very first appeal for funds. Over four decades, our work in sub-Saharan Africa has expanded to cover almost every country in the region.

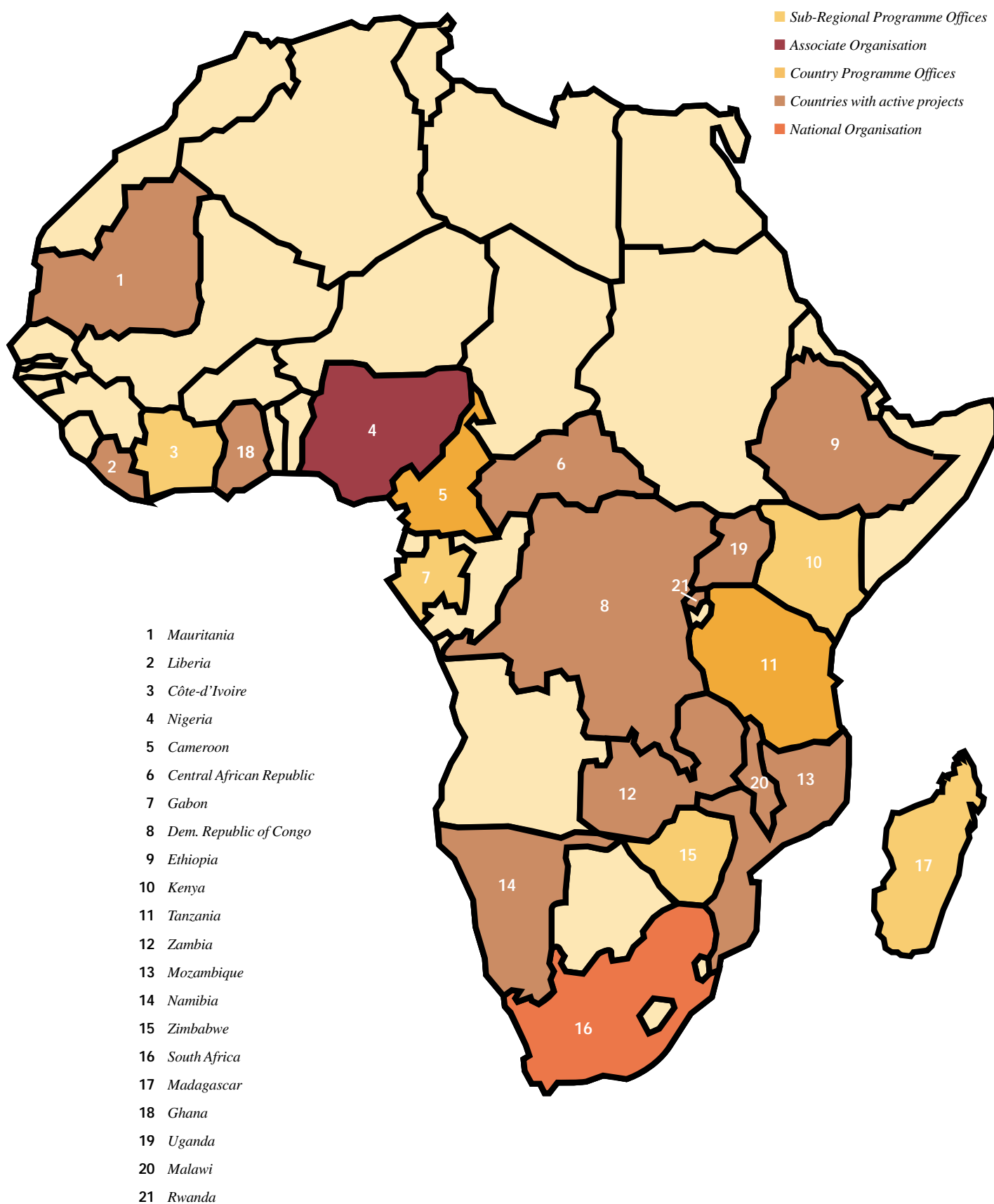
Meeting today's challenges of conservation in Africa requires a great deal of cooperation, coordination and teamwork. WWF's wonderful team, the great majority of them citizens of African countries, includes more than 500 scientists, extension workers, educators, communicators, managers and administrators who work hard to deliver our conservation goals.

WWF's activities in Africa are executed through five sub-regional programmes that have offices in Côte-d'Ivoire (for West Africa), Gabon (for Central Africa), Zimbabwe (for Southern Africa), Kenya (for Eastern Africa), and Madagascar (for Madagascar and the West Indian Ocean islands). We also have country programme offices in Cameroon and Tanzania, and active projects in 12 other countries. We have one National Organisation in Africa (WWF-South Africa), which develops and executes its own projects, and one Associate Organisation (the Nigerian Conservation Foundation), both of which work closely with the Programme.

The efficiency and impact of all of WWF's projects and programmes are of great concern to us, and we evaluate them on a regular basis to highlight problems and provide solutions. We receive technical support from many parts of the WWF network. Financial support comes from a number of sources: we acknowledge the generous support of all our friends and well-wishers who make it possible for WWF to continue to work for nature and people in Africa and Madagascar.



## Map of WWF's activities in Africa and Madagascar



# Help us continue meeting the challenge



*Malacochersus tornieri* African pancake tortoise, Kenya.

As we enter the twenty-first century, the continued survival in the wild of magnificent animals like the mountain gorilla, the African elephant, the black rhino, and African wild dog hangs in the balance. Also at risk are a myriad other species. Some – such as Grevy's zebra, Kafue lechwe, manatee, dugong, and hawksbill turtle – are well known. Other species in danger – for example, the Perrier's baobab and golden bamboo lemur of Madagascar, Tanzania's Usumbara partridge, Kenya's Sokoke scops owl and pancake tortoise, the giant chameleon of Zambia, or South Africa's Brenton Blue butterfly – may be less familiar, but are just as important in the intricate tapestry of life.

In order to save this spectacular biological diversity, we must first ensure that natural habitats – forests, savannas, wetlands and seas – also survive. Imagine a world where our grandchildren can only see Africa's wild areas on historical videotapes or old photographs in books. We must work especially hard to guarantee that Africa's children grow up to benefit from and enjoy their wild species and spaces – for these natural wonders are surely most important as Africa's own heritage.

We at WWF want to continue our successful conservation programme in Africa, and we have some exciting new projects we want to put into motion. For example, we want to develop our ecoregion-based strategy so that we can concentrate our efforts to conserve biodiversity in areas most highly at risk. We need to replenish our Small Grants Fund for Africa, which helps African non-governmental organisations to carry out important conservation actions in their own countries. We are very keen to survey and conserve unique and little-known forest areas in Mozambique and Gabon where we know that new species of plants and animals await discovery. For a full list and description of these and of on-going projects, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address on the inside back cover of this booklet.

*With your help we can continue to help conserve Africa and Madagascar's natural environment for the benefit of all.*



*Haplemur aureus* Golden bamboo lemur, Tsimbazaza Zoo, Madagascar.