



## **Integration of Biodiversity in Angola**

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## **1. Introduction**

Angola reported<sup>1</sup> on national, subregional and regional integration as well as international conventions.

## **2. National integration**

In Angola, the Ministry of Environment is the executive body of issues related biodiversity through the National Directorate. Taking into account the complexity of this area of study, the Ministry of Environment has developed partnership with the Ministry of Education, Agriculture, Fisheries, Petroleum, Geology and Mines, Sciences and Technology, Family and Women Promotion, National Defense, Home Affairs, Transports and Finances in a view to protect and preserve biodiversity.

With regard to scientific research, the Ministry of Environment is working and has agreements with various research institutions, such as Agostinho Neto University, the Department of Biology of Sciences Faculty, the Angolan Catholic University, through the Centre for Studies and Research in the framework of the Project for Protection of Palanca Negra Gigante, the National Institute for Fisheries Research, National Centre for Phytogenetic Resources, the National Museum for Natural History, and the National Centre for Scientific Research and the National Technological Centre.

These relations and conventions are effected through information exchange and/or implementation of joint projects.

Activities developed

1. With the assistance of Border Guard Police in Cabinda, a mobilization campaign against the hunting of gorilla and chimpanzees was conducted, which resulted in the increase of these primates' population.
2. In the scope of the fight against sea pollution by hydrocarbons, a contingency plan was developed and adopted by the Council of Ministers, whose Implementation Committee is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and includes the following bodies: Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Home Affairs, Fisheries, Transports and Finances as well as oil operators in Angola.
3. Inclusion of civil society in biodiversity protection and conservation activities.
4. Involvement of the Ministry of Environment through teaching and environmental education.

## **3. Sub-regional and regional integration**

The Government of Angola, through the Ministry of Environment is well integrated at sub-regional and regional level in respect to environment and biodiversity issues.

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<sup>1</sup> Angola (2009). Framework Report on Angola's Biodiversity, Luanda, 2009, 61 pp.

At SADC level, Angola acceded to various projects on Biodiversity Conservation and sharing of information with other member states, including:

- Integration of Sabonet Project
- Initiation of Project for the creation of Maiombe Transfrontier Area
- Integration of the Project for the establishment of Namibia Transfrontier Conservation Area (Iona/Skeleton Coast)
- Integration of Project aimed at creating Transfrontier Area with Zambia (LUIWAPLAIN)
- Integration of Project the establishment of a Transfrontier Area with Namibia, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe (Kaza-TFCA).
- Active participation in SADC Regional Network for the Conservation of Phylogenetic Resources (SADC Plant Genetic Resources Network, SPGRN)

The same efforts are made towards central Africa, where Angola is part of the CAECS (Central African Elephant Conservation Strategy), and shares the rich basin of Congo with the two Congos, but unfortunately it has not yet acceded to the Commission on Lower Congo Forests (COMIFAC). Despite this situation there are some efforts towards the accession to the Commission as well as the Convention on Gorillas (GRASP). It is noted that in this real of ideas, Angola was the first country of Congo Basin to start the project on the Establishment of a Maiombe Transfrontier Areas.

At sub-regional level, Angola has an agreement on the north with the Commission of Guinea Current. Angola assumes the coordination of issues relating to the management and fisheries research.

In the south, Angola is part of Benguela Current Commission. Within these programmes, a project on the management and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity is in course with a focus in the transfrontier area between Angola and Namibia (Iona/Skeleton Coast). The activities thereof include the development of a plan for the management of waters and how to identify land sources of marine pollution.

The will of integrating Angola lead the Government over the last years to facilitate the participation of delegates from the Ministry of environment in different meetings related to these issues.

Table 1 - Regional and Sub-regional Integration

Convention	Statues	
-	Date of signature	Date of ratification
Gorilla Agreement (GRASP)*	-	-
Abidjan Convention *	1981	-
Alger Convention *	-	-
Memorandum of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small African cetáceos e Manatim , and their	2008	-

habitats *		
Protocol on Fisheries (SADC)	14.08.2001	01.04.2003
Protocol on the Conservation of Fauna and Law enforcement (SADC) *	18.08.1999	-
Protocol on Forestry Activities *	03.10.2002	-
Revised Protocol on Shared Rivers (SADC)	07.08.2000	-
Protocol on Energy	24.08.1996	19.12.1997
Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Phytogenetic Resources	1989	-

\* Ratification or accession process underway.

#### 4. International conventions

Accession to International Conventions is part of the current Government Programme of Angola through the Ministry of Environment. The process of signing and ratification of international instruments includes the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly. This situation demonstrates the will of the Government of Angola to bring on board all stakeholders in the implementation of international conventions.

The ministry of Finance is equally associated to this process, as it is the one who pays the quotas of the different international conventions.

The Conventions to which Angola acceded or are in course are listed in table 7 indicating the status and the implementation body.

Table 2- Status of international Conventions.

Convention	Date of ratification	implementation unit
International Convention on the Conservation of Red Atlantic	29.07.1976	Ministry of Fisheries
Convention on the Combat against Desertification in the countries affected by serious droughts or desertification, particularly in Africa (CCD)	03.06.1997	Ministry of Agriculture
Convention on Biological Diversity	01.04.1998	Ministry of Environment
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Changes (UNFCCC)	17.05.2000	Ministry of Environment
Vienna Convention on Ozone Layer	17.05.2000	Ministry of Environment
Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) *	-	Ministry of Environment
Bonn Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Fauna(CMS)	15.04.2003	Ministry of Environment
Convention on the Law of the Sea	20.12.2001	Ministry of Petroleum
International Convention of 1973 for the prevention of pollution by Ships and the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL 73/78)	21.12.2001	Ministry of Petroleum
International Convention on civil responsibility and compensation from damages caused by pollution by novice and potentially dangerous in the sea. (HNS 96)	20.04.2001	Ministry of Petroleum
International Convention of the Establishment of an International Fund for the damages due to hydrocarbon pollutions (FUND 92)	20.04.2001	Ministry of Petroleum
International Convention on the Intervention onshore in case of accidents caused by Hydrocarbons. (INTERVENTION 92)	04.10.2001	Ministry of Petroleum
International convention on civil responsibility for damages caused by pollution of the sea by hydrocarbon (CLC PROT 92)	01.11.2001	Ministry of Petroleum
International Convention on Preparation, Fighting and Cooperation against Pollution of hydrocarbon (OPRC 90)	09.11.2001	Ministry of Petroleum
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	2005	Ministry of Environment
Stockholm Convention on Organic Persistent Pollutants (POPs)	2005	Ministry of Environment
International Treaty on Phytogenetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (TIRFAA)	2005	Ministry of Agriculture and

		Agostinho Neto University
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