FOR AN AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY

AT THE HEART OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

CROSS-CAPITALIZATION OF PROGRAMMES
PPI SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
AND PPI OSCAN NORTH AFRICA

SMALL-SCALE INITIATIVES PROGRAMME (PPI)
15 years of support for nature conservation (2006 - 2021)
For 15 years, Small-Scale Initiative Programmes (PPIs) have supported African civil society in conserving nature and improving local living conditions. Launched in 2006 by the FFEM, their approach is unique. Thanks to local support and grants worth 30,000 euros on average, PPIs contribute to strengthening the capacities of actors on the ground, increasing their legitimacy in the public sphere and innovating with them to support the environment and socio-economic development.

GLOSSARY

In this brochure, the following terms refer to:

"PPIs":
Small-Scale Initiatives Programme ("Programme de Petites Initiatives"), in its original concept.

"The PPI":
The PPI for civil society organisations in sub-Saharan Africa.

"PPI - OSCAN":
The PPI for civil society organisations in North Africa.

"CSO":
Civil society organisation (charity, NGO, foundation, etc.).

CREDITS:
Helping the preservation of biodiversity take root

In Africa, biodiversity is deteriorating rapidly. Public environmental policies, if they emerge, must be ambitious. To meet the continent’s major challenges, civil society has a role to play and is supported in this by Small-Scale Initiative Programmes (PPIs).

THE EROSION OF BIODIVERSITY IS GETTING WORSE IN AFRICA

Across the African continent, 62% of the rural population is directly dependent on natural goods and services. However, future scenarios all indicate that threats to biodiversity will intensify in the coming years and that they will lead to the acceleration of the disappearance of wildlife, both on land and in the oceans. There will be major consequences to this for humanity. It is therefore increasingly urgent to halt the erosion of biodiversity, which endangers the living conditions and development of populations.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES TO BE ENCOURAGED

Since the 2000s, environmental issues in Africa have become an increasingly important element of the public debate. Most African states have adopted public environmental policies and action strategies. Despite these steps, public instruments for protecting biodiversity remain ineffective in the face of the extinction of animal populations and the overexploitation of natural resources.

A DEVELOPING CIVIL SOCIETY

Thanks to growing awareness among African citizens of environmental issues, the number of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) has grown considerably in recent years and local initiatives from independent actors (NGOs, charities and other groups) have emerged. Young and inexperienced in wielding technical, financial and political influence, these CSOs require appropriate support to strengthen their actions on the ground and their collaboration with public services. This has been the purpose of PPIs for some fifteen years.

PPIs NURTURE THE BREEDING GROUND FOR AN INNOVATIVE CIVIL SOCIETY

In line with France’s commitments on the international stage, PPIs are the main tool of French cooperation, directly financing African CSOs for specific environmental protection actions. PPIs also support the professionalisation of players on the ground, which is essential for the sustainability of their projects.

COLLECTIVE EFFORTS THAT ARE BEARING FRUIT

After 15 years of existence, 8 out of 10 organisations supported by PPIs are still in operation. The programmes offer qualitative responses to the local priorities of the countries of intervention in terms of biodiversity conservation, skills consolidation and local economic development. The small-scale projects funded achieve satisfactory to very satisfactory results on the ground. This is despite multiple obstacles such as restrictive security or Covid-19 related health contexts. This is proof of the effectiveness of PPIs but also of the resilience of local organisations. In 2021, the PPI begins its 6th phase, and the PPI-OSCA begins its third.

EXPANDING SUPPORT SOLUTIONS

There are now two financing methods. A “small grants” desk is maintained to allow new emerging CSOs, the PPI’s core target, to launch. It is supplemented by a new “medium-sized subsidies” financing desk to continue supporting and expanding recognised CSOs. To meet major global challenges (climate change, food security, socio-economic development, etc.) while preserving biodiversity, PPIs are now focusing on nature-based Solutions.

500,000 hectares classified as protected areas or under improved management,

100 conservation projects for an iconic species have been completed.

50 sustainable economic sectors*.

* Sectors: non-timber forest products, cassava, coconut, cocoa, shea, beekeeping, medicinal plants, heliciculture, pig farming, bananas (wild and plant), market gardening, forestry.

SOME PPIs RESULTS

ECOSYSTEMS

SPECIES

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

200 strengthened governance structures.

120 projects have been completed.

More than 25 sustainable economic sectors*.
ATLAS OF PPIs

Over 15 years, PPIs have supported 331 projects in 32 countries across North and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Supported by 262 local organisations, the actions cover 11 biodiversity conservation themes. The total subsidy budget amounted to €19.7 million.

Organised by the PPI-OSCAN at the end of 2019, “The Casablanca Workshop”, to which the PPI was invited to share best practices, was a landmark in PPIs history. Through the immediate breaking down of barriers between programmes and the subsequent creation of inter-CSO alliances, this unifying event is still bearing fruit today and is at the origin of the launch of the cross-capitalization of PPIs.

Launched in 2006

Across 28 COUNTRIES in West and Central Africa including Cape Verde, Benin, Cameroon, etc.

Managed by the French Committee of the IUCN (Paris)

€14.5 million in subsidies, 60% of which is paid directly to CSOs

251 funded projects undertaken by 190 CSOs

€32,000 per project average grant

Launched in 2014

Across 4 COUNTRIES in North Africa: Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia

Managed by IUCN-MED (Malaga)

€5.2 million in subsidies, 60% of which is paid directly to CSOs

80 funded projects undertaken by 72 CSOs

€30,000 per project average grant

2 PROGRAMMES WORKING TOWARD THE SAME OBJECTIVE

PPI SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

THE PIONEER

20 MONTHS/PROJECT AVERAGE DURATION

PPI-OSCAN NORTH AFRICA

THE “LITTLE BROTHER”

TOPICS

Conservation of species and ecosystems

Co-management of land and marine protected areas

Ecotourism and sharing benefits of conservation

Resolution of conflicts between people and animals

Environmental education

Anti-poaching

Nature-based solutions and CC

Sustainable use of natural resources and socio-economic development

Conservation of endangered species

Creation and management of protected areas

Improving territorial governance

*number = number of projects related to the theme

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No. of projects

*the darker the colour, the more projects there are
A PROGRAMME AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE

BOOSTING POTENTIAL
Promoting the emergence of young groups full of energy and ideas for nature requires first of all that they have access to initial funding. For these organisations, this support is much more than a financial boost. Having their creativity and dynamism recognised in their country enhances their motivation and their confidence.

PROMOTING DIALOGUE
All these processes cannot succeed without high-quality synergy, whether between programme coordinators and CSOs or between PPIs and their partners, such as public authorities. Finally, exchanging best practices between peers and supporting the construction of networks of practitioners are also strong components of PPIs.

CULTIVATING GOODWILL
To help CSOs sustain their commitment, PPIs place people at the heart of the system. In each project, they establish a relationship of trust through regular meetings with partners. If necessary, the PPIs work with young leaders who build connections with local populations. Aware of the unsustainable nature of some of their practices, they often aspire to use more nature-friendly alternatives and want to contribute to solutions.

REFINING KNOWLEDGE
It is in this climate of transparency and proximity that organisations benefit from tailor-made support. This addresses both the implementation of the project and the development of the organisation itself. The “PPI label” is a guarantee of seriousness for CSOs and generally opens doors to other future sources of financing.

THE PPIs CREDO
THE UNIQUE STRENGTH OF PPIs REMAINS IN THEIR PRECISE AND SPECIFIC CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIONS AND IN THE PROGRESSIVE AND ADAPTATION SUPPORT FOR CSOs WITH A VIEW TO GUIDING THEM TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE IN THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE.

SCALABLE PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT THE RISE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

2006
Creation of the PPIs for financial support in Sub-Saharan Africa

2011
“Capacity building” component

2014
Creation of the PPI-OSCAN North Africa

2015
General training becomes tailored support

2017
Young CSO support €25,000 and advanced CSO support €50,000

2020
Launch of an emergency fund to deal with the Covid-19 crisis

2021
Launch of a call for proposals for Nature-based Solutions

THE SUPPORT ADAPTS TO THE UNIQUE NATURE OF EACH CSO

To help organisations succeed in their actions on the ground and in wielding political influence, PPIs provide financial, technical, organisational and strategic support. Based on a diagnostic review highlighting specific needs, a tailored learning plan and individualised coaching are deployed. At the end of the PPIs pathway, the connection is maintained and support continues in a more distant manner.

PROJECT CYCLE

Calls for proposals Selection Monitoring and evaluation

20 calls for projects in 15 years

4,000 applications

251 projects supported (6%)

2 calls for projects in 7 years

471 applications

80 projects supported (17%)

LEARNING PLAN

Call for proposals PPI-OSC third-party liability contract Validation of the CB* plan Mid-term review Final assessment and outlook

Training 1 Training 2, etc.

On-demand daily coaching and support for all CSO activities Average duration 18 months

Co-coordinator Presentation of approach and update on CSO progress in CB Organisational and strategic review and skills analysis Occasional informal advice Training 2, etc.

Participation in an international event

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PHILOSOPHY
The CSOs hold the keys to sustainable solutions

Building trust in civil society

With initial funding, CSOs can demonstrate their value to local communities and institutional partners. However, to ensure that ownership of projects by the majority of stakeholders is sustainable, organisations are encouraged throughout their PPI journey to free their thinking and express their unique potential. To this end, the coordinator’s support plays a fundamental role: they help CSOs identify issues, in the contexts they alone can understand, and develop appropriate responses. With limited budgets, the organizations must be resourceful to best meet the needs identified. This involvement rooted in local reality is essential to obtain the consent of the populations involved in the initiatives as soon as possible.

Biodiversity advocacy

Thanks to their clear results on the ground, civil society actors are increasingly visible in their countries and, as far as the older ones are concerned, recognized as legitimate by the authorities. This is particularly true in North Africa, where their role in implementing national and local policies is increasingly accepted. A partnership between public institutions and “CSO PPI” has been established, with national coordinators once again playing the role of intermediaries and engaging in dialogue that is much appreciated by the public authorities. Sometimes things go further with political awareness that is a sign of promising institutional or legislative changes to come. Thus, civil society in the supported countries is slowly being structured and is increasingly influencing public debate around environmental issues of the African continent.

Connect the CSOs to build networks

By joining the PPIs, each organisation becomes part of a network of practitioners from its region or who are working on the same issue. Thanks to this membership, the CSOs can have discussions with other players about approaches, contacts, news, etc. This “peer capitalisation” on best practices helps enrich knowledge and skills.

Escalating demand to PPIs

These networks and communities are also a source of feedback useful for improving PPIs. To catalyse efforts to protect nature, programmes must work internally, between PPIs and with partners to promote increasingly transversal dialogues around methodologies, strategies and technologies that work.

The CSOs spread their ideas:

- The SIREN application: adapting this mobile application for interactive monitoring in Cameroon to work with gorillas in the DRC.
- Regional app project to collect and exchange information on North African wildlife, created jointly by the Tunisian CSO Akouda and the Libyan CSO Alhayat.
- AMPR GPS tracking database: Raptor tagging in Morocco by the Moroccan Falconry Association and raptor recovery, care and release network.

Renatoura Congo, an inspiring historical association

Created in Congo-Brazzaville in 2005, Renatoura Congo works to preserve sea turtles and their habitats. Among the first organizations supported by the PPI, the CSO now reflects the success of the programme: having received initial support of a few thousand euros, the structure now manages major projects financed by European funds. A leading national player in biodiversity conservation, the association is also committed to professionalising local CSOs.

The NGO Sekakoh, which works on the conservation of great apes in Cameroon, joined the Alliance for the Conservation of Great Apes in Central Africa (A-GSAC) created in 2015. The PPI was a driving force for us all as we built this platform.

Amira Sansa/LACT, Tunisia

Denis Nyugha/Sekakoh, Cameroon

PPI-OSCAN

Oversees remote presentations of initiatives to spread new ideas and build new bridges.

PPI

Organises virtual expert conferences to encourage reflection and e-learning for a more targeted and larger audience.

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Denis Nyugha/Sekakoh, Cameroon

With the PPI-OSCAN, we have built new perspectives and our environmental corridor project has been selected by the IUCN as an example of a nature-based solution. LACT continues its mission thanks to the new funds obtained.

Amira Sansa/LACT, Tunisia

Renatoura Congo, an inspiring historical association

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CSOs FREE UP THEIR RESOURCES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

TESTING A FIRST PROJECT
The vast majority of PPIs partner CSOs believe that the support meets their needs very well. Firstly because the programmes allow them to implement an initial project, despite their small size and sometimes lack of past projects. Then, the PPIs help them to consolidate in order to continue their action over the longer term.

WITH A TAILOR-MADE PROGRAMME
While the scale and duration of financing are among the primary limits of PPIs, the access conditions, simplified administrative procedures and technical support offered are seen as very positive.

FOR A SUCCESSFUL LONG-TERM EXPERIENCE
At the start of the process, the “PPI”-labelled CSOs are already preparing other applications for funding from other donors. They also say they have a long-term commitment to local conservation authorities, particularly in North Africa. Their work with PPIs thus contributes to changes in the regulatory framework for preserving biodiversity.

THE PPI-OSCAN WAS A DISCOVERY AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHARITY BECAUSE, DAY AFTER DAY, WE WERE SUPPORTED, WE LEARNED, SHARED AND SOLIDIFIED. TODAY, WE ARE STRONGER, MORE VISIBLE, MORE NUMEROUS AND, ABOVE ALL, MORE SUPPORTED AND BETTER-PREPARED TO EVOLVE.
Zahira SOUIDI/AVM, Algeria

PPIs COLLABORATE WITH OTHER PARTNERS
To increase the success of CSOs in promoting biodiversity conservation, the PPI, as part of its fifth phase (2017-2021), has developed a partnership with other donors (CEPF, IUCN NL, IUCN PACO). The collaboration has made it possible to increase the financial, thematic and geographical scope of the programme and to share approaches and tools. The PPI-OSCAN teams are working with a new donor (Sigrid Rausing Trust) and plan to expand partnerships with other Mediterranean sponsors.

A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP, EVEN BEFORE SELECTION.
While each organisation may be supported by a coordinator during its PPIs journey, it may also be supported prior to its selection and upon its exit from the programme. Contributions to financial management, project development and strategic planning are particularly useful. By going above and beyond conservation objectives through this "organizational coaching", CSOs learn to function effectively and thrive through gradually acquired experience.

À LA CARTE TRAINING
Carefully developed support plans for each beneficiary are immediately used to improve the organisational, managerial and strategic capacities of the structure as well as the technical and administrative supervision of projects. The result is a much-appreciated maturation of qualitative and sustainable projects. Thus, the majority of CSOs believe that PPIs meet their needs in terms of organisational support. The implementation of strategic plans corresponds to their long-term vision.

À LA CARTE TRAINING

THE CSOs WORK WITH PPIs TOWARDS ACHIEVING FULL MATURITY
Learning is at the very heart of PPIs. This support concerns the project, but also the professionalisation of the structure. The goal is to help uncover the intrinsic vision of the CSO.

PPIs ARE INSPIRED BY THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CHANGE
PPIs support now also covers aspects relating to the psychology of change and the political positioning of CSOs in their specific contexts. The programme also seeks to help them better understand the psychological and contextual aspects of the beneficiaries of their projects, in order to more closely support these key actors of change within their local areas. These approaches that coordinators apply in their relationship with CSOs. According to Thomas Bacha, PPI regional coordinator in Central Africa, “since the start of our capacity building activities in 2011, my concern has always been to seek a position as a facilitator of our partners’ thinking, rather than an expert providing ready-made solutions, in particular technical solutions, to the problems in the field or the organizational functioning of our partners. No one is better placed than these players to identify the obstacles to their progress.”

I THINK THAT THE PPI IS VERY USEFUL IN THE SENSE THAT IT’S NOT JUST GOING TO GIVE MONEY TO FUND CONSERVATION PROJECTS, THEY ARE ALSO GOING TO HELP THE CHARITY GROW (...) AND THEIR HELP HAS BEEN VERY USEFUL FOR US TO RETHINK OUR IDEAS AND GET THE BEST OUT OF THEM.
Caleb OFORI BOATENG, HERP-GHANA
GOING FURTHER WITH SUSTAINABILITY

Ultimately, the objectives of support from PPIs are to sustain environmental protection actions through the consolidation of the CSOs that lead them. A challenge that is not always easy to meet, after support lasting 18 months on average. At the end of the programme, the efforts must come together to strengthen the sustainability of organisations.

SUSTAINING FUNDING BEYOND PPIs

PPIs encourage partners to plan and mobilise funds from other donors as soon as projects begin so that the action can continue.

DEVELOPING ALLIANCES BETWEEN CSOs

Connecting the CSOs together is also a factor in collaboration (often more so than competition) because opportunities can be shared and common strategies put in place. If this proves relevant, partnerships can also be made with the private sector for consulting, impact studies, the co-development of more eco-responsible sectors, etc.

SPEAKING UP FOR CITIZENS

Preserving biodiversity isn’t just based on financial resources and technical responses. Civil society organizations can act as go-betweens to mobilize citizens in changing their behaviour. They therefore have the opportunity to play the role of “local spokesperson” - sometimes on the national level - for the collective effort and see the appeal in cultivating this position permanently.

CONTINUE PROFESSIONALISATION

An organisation has every chance of succeeding in its launch, with the initial investment of a director or a solid core of committed and sometimes even visionary founders. However, they must quickly build a team with more organisational capabilities to ensure its sustainability in the event of a change in leadership. These people must be competent and properly paid to avoid turnover, which hinders the development of the organization.

OUTLOOK

SMALL-SCALE INITIATIVES PROGRAMME (PPI)
By funding these programmes, the MAVA foundation is betting on the future. We believe that support for these small organisations is essential, they have legitimacy and are effective when intervening at the local level in a way that other players may not be.

Simon MÉRIAUX, MAVA
www.mava-foundation.org

One of the strengths of small organisations is that they can offer solutions that are tailored to different contexts and address local environmental and social issues.

Nicolas SALAÜN, IUCN French Committee
www.uicn.fr

There is an awareness, and a trust, within local communities. This is what emerges from the successes of this programme, which is not top-down, but rather relies on the actors from an area, with the people who live there. There is no more legitimate way for things to spread.

Constance CORBIER-BARTHAUX, FFEM
www.ffem.fr

Having a charitable network with the necessary capacity, tools and means will greatly help countries to achieve conservation objectives and meet their commitments to international conventions and various environmental treaties.

Maher MAHJOUB, IUCN Mediterranean
www.iucn.org/fr/regions/mediterranee

To learn more, watch the film:
Capitalisation film - Directed by: Eric Mounier
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vc31-OexyQg