

## **African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources**

This regional Convention concerns a great number of species, many of which are migratory. In addition to obliging Member States to take steps to protect a number of sectors of the physical environment (such as soil and water), the Convention also obliges them to ensure the conservation, wise use and development of fauna. The Convention calls for the scientific management of fauna, especially in the context of land-use planning and economic and social development. A distinction is made between wildlife which is exploitable and other wildlife. The former may be exploited (outside protected areas) so as to achieve an optimum sustainable yield compatible with and complimentary to other land uses. Inside protected areas, wildlife of all sorts is to be managed according to the objectives of those areas. The Convention calls for the maintenance of existing protected areas and the establishment of new ones to protect representative ecosystems or those typical of the area and to secure the conservation of species, especially those set out in the Annex to the Convention. The Convention imposes limits upon taking and upon methods of taking. It accords a special degree of protection to species listed in the Annex to the Convention. Those in Class A of the Annex are granted total protection and may only be taken in exceptional circumstances and in the national interest or for scientific purposes, while those in Class B may only be taken pursuant to a special authorisation procedure. The Convention also imposes controls on trade in specimens and trophies. The States Parties are obliged to encourage and promote research into the conservation, utilisation and management of natural resources, paying particular attention to ecological and sociological factors. The Convention requires that attention be paid to conservation education at all levels and calls for public awareness campaigns to this end. The Convention also calls upon State Parties to cooperate to achieve the objects of the Convention and in cases where national actions have a transfrontier effect.