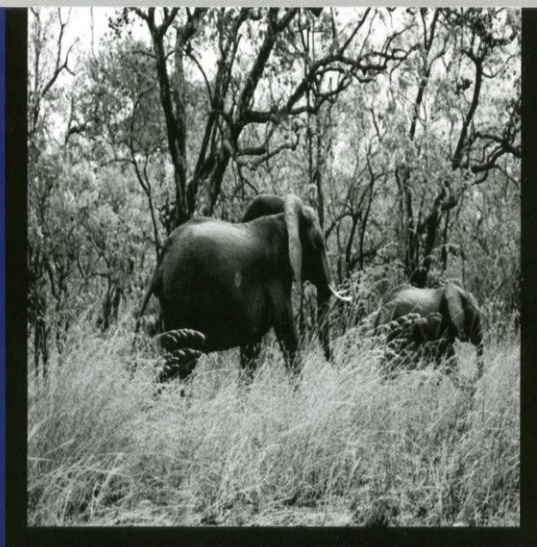


Management of National Parks and Biodiversity Conservation in Africa

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and
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Foreword

I am delighted to be part of this important publication on “*Management of National Parks and Biodiversity Conservation in Africa*” which contains very pertinent papers from four sub-regions of Africa and from America, Europe and Asia.

The book is a very relevant and timely document because it lends support to a number of important international fora that focused on this theme in recent times and which seek to significantly enhance the sustainable management of national parks and protected areas:

- IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas- Caracas, 1992
- Vth World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, 2003.
- The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) contains an important Africa’s Protected Areas Initiative (APAI)
- The G 8 Devos meeting on climate change
- The European Union’s meeting in Brussels and the decision to reduce CO₂ emissions by 20%

The management of national parks in Africa has become a critical biodiversity issue. National

parks are now recognized as one of the most viable tools for securing and conserving the environment. They serve as “sanctuary” for threatened species, ecotourism, and a sustainable management of natural resources.

Although Africa has successfully adopted the concept of national parks systems, and in some cases improved upon it, there is no doubt that the region’s national parks are under severe stress and are facing unprecedented management problems that are threatening ecosystems, habitats and species within their boundaries. Among the widely documented threats facing national parks are weak institutional and human capacity, conflicts with local communities, low public participation, poor infrastructure, lack of sustainable funding, increased human population densities in surrounding areas, lack of political will and environmental leadership. This book responds to these challenges and recommends strategies for promoting sustainable development of national parks in Africa. This is a significant contribution to sustainable development of Africa and the world.

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