

Research Article

Aligning regional and international biodiversity conventions to benefit butterfly conservation in Africa. A review

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ABSTRACT

African butterflies are essential for ecosystems but face threats. To protect them, aligning biodiversity conventions with specific butterfly conservation goals is crucial. This review aimed to optimize the alignment of regional and international biodiversity conventions for enhancing African butterfly conservation. To achieve this, I systematically assessed relevant conventions, their provisions, some success stories, and implementation effectiveness in Africa. A comprehensive search of academic databases and official convention resources was conducted using rigorous selection criteria to identify high-quality information directly related to butterfly conservation and the role of these conventions. Thus, international and regional biodiversity conventions offer a multifaceted approach to African butterfly conservation. The CBD provides a framework for biodiversity conservation, including identifying, monitoring, and conserving butterfly populations. The ACCNNR indirectly supports butterflies through sustainable resource use and habitat protection. Climate change poses a significant threat, but the UNFCCC can mitigate its impacts. CITES regulates butterfly trade, and its effectiveness can be enhanced through expanded coverage, aligned strategies, and sustainable farming initiatives. The Ramsar Convention, focusing on wetlands, can significantly enhance butterfly conservation by recognizing them as bioindicators and integrating their conservation into wetland management plans. And the World Heritage Convention protects crucial butterfly habitats. These conventions collectively contribute to butterfly conservation by promoting habitat protection, sustainable practices, public awareness, and international cooperation. International conventions have demonstrated their effectiveness in advancing African species conservation through collaborative initiatives. The KAZA TFCA and MDTFCA exemplify successful trans-boundary cooperation, showcasing how these agreements facilitate large-scale habitat conservation, promote species movement, and enhance research. International conventions are crucial for African butterfly conservation. By fostering cooperation and promoting habitat protection, they significantly contribute to safeguarding butterfly populations. However, resource constraints and data gaps hinder progress. To maximize impact, aligning national plans with international goals, investing in research, and strengthening community engagement are essential.

Keywords: Africa, Butterfly, Conservation, Conservation efforts, Conventions, Framework

