

Pan African Network for the Conservation of Africa's Natural Resources (PANCANR)

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

The Pan African Network for the Conservation of Africa's Natural Resources (PANCANR) is a regional civil society, Non-governmental, Non-religious, Non-partisan, Non-political, Non-profit) organization uniting individuals, professionals, and institutions in Africa and the diaspora committed to conserving and ensuring the sustainable utilization of Africa's natural resources.

Recognizing the increasing mismanagement of natural resources, including deforestation, illegal mining, and wildlife trafficking, compounded (inter alia) by economic instability, Impact of food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty, climate security risk, unemployment, displacements, pollution, climate change, loss of biodiversity (the focus is human) etc. PANCANR seeks to bridge gaps in national, regional, and international efforts by fostering collaboration, advocacy, and impactful conservation initiatives.

This Constitution establishes the governance framework of PANCANR, ensuring inclusivity, efficiency, accountability, in its operations.

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Name

The organization shall be known as the Pan African Network for the Conservation of Africa's Natural Resources (PANCANR).

Article 2: Legal Status

PANCANR is a Non-governmental, Non-religious, Non-partisan, Non-political, Non-profit) organization uniting individuals, professionals , operating as a regional Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) dedicated to promoting good governance in natural resource management.

Article 3: Geographical Scope

PANCANR shall operate across all five African Union (AU) regions and (where PANCANR services are needed in the World) engage African diaspora communities worldwide) and promote those who share the same vision), with country-level chapters established where necessary.

Article 4: Thematic Focus

PANCANR shall focus on the following thematic areas:

- Forestry
- Wildlife and Wetland Conservation
- Fisheries and Marine Resources
- Mining and Environmental Sustainability
- Climate Change, Desertification, and Biodiversity
- Oil, Gas, and Extractive Industries

Article 5: Working Languages

The official working languages of PANCANR shall be (will be the official languages of the African Union) , with the possibility of (using other local languages).

Article 6: Headquarters and Registration

The Headquarters of PANCANR shall be in an African country and establish national chapters in various African countries in compliance with the respective national laws.

Article 7: Vision and Mission

Vision:

To build an Africa where natural resources are sustainably managed, allowing communities and nations to thrive while preserving resources for future generations.

Mission:

To collaborate with governments, civil society, local communities, indigenous groups, , and development partners for advocacy, strengthening of policies , and sustainable management of Africa's natural resources and environment.

Article 8: Core Principles

1. Collective decision-making and shared responsibility.
2. Transparency and accountability in governance and operations.
3. Inclusivity, diversity, and non-discrimination based on gender, nationality, religion, or background.
4. Independence and integrity of PANCANR as a civil society platform.

5. No personal or political agendas in PANCANR's activities.
6. Commitment to African ownership in natural resource governance,
7. Protection of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Environmental Defenders .
8. Promotion of traditional knowledge and indigenous practices (Protection of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities)

CHAPTER 2: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE Article 9: Organizational Structure

PANCANR's governance is structured into the following bodies:

1. General Assembly (GA) – Supreme decision-making body.
2. Board of Directors – 13 elected members providing governance oversight.
3. Executive Secretary (Executive Branch) – Leads daily operations, organizes meetings and communicates between members; partnership; resource mobilization of resources; Leading the day to day tasks; coordination of thematic groups).
4. Board of Working Groups – Thematic task forces in line with the PANCANRs thematic intervention areas
5. Steering Committee – Coordination body of PANCANR's leadership. 6. National Chapters – Country-level structures implementing PANCANR's mission locally.

Article 10: General Assembly

The General Assembly (GA) is composed of all registered members and serves as the highest decision-making body of PANCANR's.

There is a need to propose the rule of procedure for the General Assembly Key Responsibilities:

- Elects the Board of Directors.
- Approves PANCANR's strategic plan, policies, and financial reports. ● Amends the Constitution by a two-thirds majority vote.

Meetings:

- Ordinary GA meetings are held annually.
- Extraordinary GA meetings may be called when necessary.

Article 11: Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of 13 members elected for a renewable four-year term, from all the five AU regions with two representatives each; one male and one female and three members from the diaspora (America, Asia, and Europe). The chair of the board of directors should be a rotative position by the 5 regions of Africa.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provides strategic oversight and governance.
- Hires and supervises the coordinator.
- Approves budgets, policies, and programmatic direction.
- Represents PANCANR at high-level engagements.

Meetings:

- Ordinary board meetings occur twice per year.
- Emergency meetings may be convened as needed.

Article 12: Executive Secretary (Executive Branch)

The Executive Secretary is hired by the Board. to manage PANCANR's daily operations organizes meetings and communicates between members; partnership; resource mobilization of resources; Leading the day to day tasks; coordination of thematic groups). He makes synergy with other organizations, is aware of what is decided at the international level in terms of natural resource management, Member of IUCN, UNFF and other related organizations.

Responsibilities:

- Leads PANCANR's programs, partnerships, and fundraising.
- Advocate for PANCANR vision
- Represents PANCANR in Continental, Regional and international engagements.
- Supports the Working Groups and Steering Committee.

Term: The Executive Secretary serves for a period of four years renewable once.

Article 13: Working Groups

Working Groups are specialized task forces that focus on key thematic areas. Structure:

- Working Group Lead – Oversees activities.

- Two Reporters – Document progress.
 - Members – Experts and stakeholders.
- Meetings:
- Monthly and ad-hoc meetings as needed.

Article 14: Steering Committee

The Steering Committee ensures coordination among PANCANR's structures. Composition:

- Coordinator (Chairperson)
- Leads of all Working Groups

Meetings:

- Held quarterly meetings to monitor progress.

CHAPTER 3: FINANCE AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Article 15: Sources of Funding

- Membership fees (be determined by the general assembly (GA) NB: This should allow the executive to run his activities).
- Project-based funding.
- Fundraising activities
- Grants, donations, and partnerships
- Income generative activities (Facilitation of Conferences; Management; Trainings; Consultancies; etc..)

Article 16: Financial Management

- PANCANR shall open a bank account in a reputable banking institution.
- Financial transactions shall require three signatories (Executive Secretary, Treasurer, and a).
- An annual audit shall be conducted.

CHAPTER 4: AMENDMENTS AND DISSOLUTION

Article 17: Amendments

- The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly.

Article 18: Dissolution

- In the event of dissolution, PANCANR's assets shall be transferred to a similar African non-profit organization in that country.

CHAPTER 5: NATIONAL CHAPTERS (Think about the sub regional Chapters (West Africa, SADC etc.); PANCAR Diaspora)

Article 19: Establishment of National Chapters

- Each African country may establish a National Chapter of PANCANR's to implement its vision, mission, and programs at the national level.
- National Chapters operate autonomously but must align with PANCANR's global strategy, governance principles, and values.
- A National Chapter must have at least 50 members before applying for official recognition.

Article 20: Recognition and Approval Process

- Application Process:
 - Prospective National Chapters must submit an application to the PANCANR's Board of Directors, detailing their membership, governance structure, and strategic plan.
 - The Board reviews and approves applications before forwarding them to the General Assembly for endorsement.
- Once approved, a National Chapter becomes an officially recognized branch of PANCANR.

Article 21: Governance Structure of National Chapters

Each National Chapter shall have:

1. General Assembly (at least 50 members) – Elects the National Board of Directors.
2. National Board of Directors – Provides governance oversight at the country level.
3. National Coordinator – Manages daily operations of the Chapter.
4. Working Groups – Thematic task forces aligned with PANCANR's focus areas.
5. National Steering Committee – Composed of the National Coordinator and Working Group Leads.

Article 22: Responsibilities of National Chapters

- Implement the mission of PANCANR at the national level through advocacy, research, and conservation programs and activities.

- Engage with local stakeholders and partners, including governments, civil society organizations, development partners at national level, and communities.
- Monitor and report on the status of natural resources in their country.
- Submit annual activity and financial reports to the PANCANR's Board of Directors.
- Represent PANCANR's in national and regional conservation forums.

Article 23: Coordination Between National and Global PANCANR

- National Chapters participate in global General Assembly meetings and contribute to PANCANR's strategic planning.
- While operating autonomously, National Chapters must adhere to PANCANR's Constitution, financial regulations, and governance framework.
- PANCANR's global leadership provides technical support, capacity-building, and networking opportunities to strengthen National Chapters.

Article 24: Financial Management of National Chapters

- National Chapters may raise funds independently, but they must comply with PANCANR's financial accountability standards.
- Chapters must open a dedicated bank account in a recognized institution in their respective country.
- National Boards must ensure transparent financial management and submit annual audits to PANCANR's global Board of Directors.

Article 25: Revocation of National Chapter Status

- A National Chapter's recognition may be revoked by the Board of Directors and General Assembly if it:
 - Violates PANCANR's core values, governance principles, or Constitution.
 - Engages in corruption, mismanagement, or activities that harm PANCANR's reputation.
 - Becomes inactive for more than two years without reporting on its status.
- In case of revocation, assets and resources of the Chapter shall be transferred to another recognized conservation entity in the same country.