REQUEST FOR PROJECT

FUNDING FROM THE ADAPTATION FUND

The annexed form should be completed and transmitted to the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat by email or fax.

Please type in the responses using the template provided. The instructions attached to the form provide guidance to filling out the template.

Please note that a project/programme must be fully prepared (i.e., fully appraised for feasibility) when the request is submitted. The final project/programme document resulting from the appraisal process should be attached to this request for funding.

Complete documentation should be sent to:

The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

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PROJECT PROPOSAL TO THE ADAPTATION FUND

Table of contents

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: INCREASING THE ADAPTATION CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE OF RURAL COMMUNITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Countries: **Central African Republic**

Thematic Focal Area[1]: Food security

Type of Implementing Entity: Multilateral Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTRUAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

Executing Entities: **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development**

Amount of Financing Requested: 10,000,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letters of Endorsement (LOE) signed for all countries: Yes ☒ No ☐

NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: https://www.adaptation-fund.oMrg/apply-funding/designated-authorities

Stage of Submission:

☒This proposal has been submitted before including at a different stage (pre-concept, concept, fully-developed proposal)

☐ This is the first submission ever of the proposal at any stage

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: 2/10/2023

Please note that fully-developed proposal documents should not exceed 100 pages for the main document, and 100 pages for the annexes.

[1] Thematic areas are: Food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Transboundary water management; Innovation in adaptation finance.

A. PROJECT/PROGRAMME BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1.1. Geography and Environmental Context

1. The Central African Republic, herein CAR, is a landlocked country in Central Africa, located between 2° and 11° latitude north, and 13° and 27° longitude east. It has a total land area of 623,000 km2 and shares borders to the north with Chad, to the northeast with Sudan, to the east with South Sudan, in the south by the Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo, and to the west with Cameroon.[2] The country's terrain consists of a vast plain dominated by two mountain ranges at the eastern and western ends. These are joined by a central 'spine', which separates the two principal drainage sources for the country: the Chari-Longue Basin in the north, and Congo Basin in the south. Due to the country's location, CAR has a relatively favorable climate conditions that are primarily hot and humid, characterized by a dry and rainy season. CAR has a high degree of biological diversity and is composed of five large phytogeographic zones, each characterized by a specific fauna: the Guinean forest zone of dense humid forests in the south; the Sudano-Ubangian zone, sheltering dense semi-humid, as well as open and dry forests; the Sudano-Guinean and Sudano-Sahelian zones, composed of various types of savannahs; and the Sahelian zone, consisting of steppes in the north.[3] The country is endowed with rich agricultural lands and enormous natural resources, such as wood, gold, and diamonds, the exploitation of which remains rudimentary and artisanal,[4] however intense poverty, conflict, and a stagnated economy has resulted in CAR ranked 188 out of 189 countries on the UNDP's Human Development Index (2019).[5]

2. The ND-GAIN Index[6] ranks 182 countries using a score which calculates a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges as well as their readiness to improve resilience. This Index aims to help businesses and the public sector better identify vulnerability and readiness in order to better prioritize investment for more efficient responses to global challenges. Due to a combination of political, geographic, and social factors, Central African Republic is recognized as highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, ranked 181 out of 182 countries in the 2021 ND-GAIN Index. The more vulnerable a country is the lower their score, while the more ready a country is to improve its resilience the higher it will be.

3. CAR has a tropical, humid equatorial climate in the south and a Sahelo-Sudanian climate in the north. The country experiences hot, dry winters and mild to hot, wet summers (June to August). Only the northernmost part of the country, near the borders to Chad and Sudan, have a hot semi-arid climate. CAR is a relatively homogenous territory, which receives abundant rainfall. Across the country, annual average temperatures range from 23°C in the south to 26°C in the north. The country's altitude does play a role in temperature variation. Highest temperatures are typically observed in March and the lowest in July during the rainy season.[7] Two high pressure zones are responsible for the alternation between rainy and dry seasons in CAR. In winter (December to March) the Libyan anticyclone in the north brings dry air to the country together with the north-east wind (Harmattan). In the northern summer, the St. Helena high pressure zone pushes moist air from south-west to north-east across the country, bringing decreasing amounts of rainfall towards the north-east. The dry season is typically from November to February but is longer in the north, and with little to no rainfall from October to April. The rainy season varies in length from over 300 days in the south to about 125 days in the north-

[2] UNDP (2019). Central African Republic — Climate Change Adaptation Overview. URL: https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/ middle-africa/central-african-republic
[3] Central African Republic (2016). Nationally-Determined Contributions. URL: https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Central%20African%20Republic%20First/INDC_R%C3%A9publique%20Centrafricaine_EN.pdf
[4] UNDP (2019). Central African Republic — Climate Change Adaptation Overview. URL: https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/ middle-africa/central-african-republic
[5] UNDP (2020). Human Development Reports — Human Development Index. URL: http://hdr.undp.org/en/data
[6] University of Notre Dame (2020). Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative. URL: https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/
[7] Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Sustainable Development (2015). Second National Communication to the UNFCCC — Central African Republic. URL: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cafnc2.pdf

east.[8] CAR has five main regions, with differing climate characteristics. The Guinean forest zone is characterized in the western band, with nine months of rainy season and one dry season. In its eastern band total precipitation is almost everywhere higher than 1,600 mm. This area has the area of largest forest coverage. The Sudano-Ubangian zone occupies a narrow band between Bossembélé and Baboua and a small section of Bambari and Yalinga. The area has semi-humid forests with less coverage. The Sudano-Guinean zone is dominated by savannas and a noticeable deterioration of the rainy season. The Sudano-Sahelian zone extends from Paoua to Ouadda-Djallé, is characterized by relative humidity and more annual sunshine. It is dominated by the country's savanna. And the Sahel zone centers around Birao and is experiences longer dry seasons than rainy seasons, with rainfall less than 700 mm per year.[9] Climate variability and longer-term change are likely to exacerbate the country's existing vulnerabilities of high poverty rates, food insecurity, political instability, and conflict. Food security is of primary concern as the majority of the country's agriculture is rain-fed and produced by small-holder farmers.[10]

4. Climate change trends in CAR are expected to increase the risk and intensity of flooding, increase the amount of heavy rainfall received during heavy rainfall events as well as increase the likelihood of aridity water scarcity for some areas affecting agricultural production and productivity, particularly the country's northeast zones. Increased incidence of extreme rainfall may also result in soil erosion and water logging of crops, thus decreasing yields and increasing food insecurity. Increases in temperature is also likely to increase the periods of extreme heat in northern areas. Importantly, higher temperatures and aridity threatens to reduce water storage capacities. This may result in significant economic losses, damage to agricultural lands and infrastructure as well as human casualties.[11] Land degradation and soil erosion, exacerbated by recurrent flood adversely impacts agricultural production, disproportionately affecting the livelihoods of the rural poor. The country's underpinning political instability and poverty will further exacerbate these issues with potential to also exacerbate potential for violence and conflict.[12]

1.2. Economy, Population and Agriculture

5. The CAR's economy is one of the world's least developed[13] and the most fragile country in the World. This is mainly due by the country's history marked by several conflict cycles and disrupted peace building processes. State attempts to impose itself throughout the vast territory are limited by weak capacity and legitimacy, coupled with poor connectivity and lack of basic access, infrastructures deficit gender-based violence with more than one million people displaced. The estimated annual per capita income, measured in purchasing power parity, was only US$805 in 2019. Sparsely populated and landlocked, the nation is overwhelmingly agrarian. The vast bulk of the population engages in subsistence farming and more than 70 percent of the population living in outlying areas. Agriculture accounts for 55 percent of the country's GDP, employs 74 percent of the population (2013) and together with forestry, remains the backbone of the economy. The main food crops include cassava, peanuts, sorghum, millet, maize, sesame, and plantains. The principal cash crops for export include cotton, coffee, and tobacco. Timber accounts for about 16 percent of export earnings and the diamond industry, nearly 54 percent.

6. The importance of food crops over exported cash crops is illustrated by the fact that the total production of cassava, the staple food of most Central Africans, ranges between 200,000 and 300,000

[8] GERICS (2015). Climate-Fact-Sheet, Central African Republic
[9] Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Sustainable Development (2015). Second National Communication to the UNFCCC — Central African Republic. URL: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cafnc2.pdf
[10] Central African Republic (2016). Nationally-Determined Contributions. URL: https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Central%20African%20Republic%20First/INDC_R%C3%A9publique%20Centrafricaine_EN.pdf
[11] Serge, S.B. et al. (2017). Impacts of Climate change in Central African Republic. Journal of Science and Engineering Technology. 5, pp. 52–63. E-ISSN: 2311-8741/17
[12] IFRC (2019). Central African Republic. URL: https://www.ifrc.org/what-we-do/disaster-management/responding/ongoing-operations/ central-african-republic/
[13] https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ldcr2019_en.pdf

tons a year, while the production of cotton, the principal cash crop for export, ranges from 25,000 to 45,000 tons a year. Food crops are not exported in large quantities but do constitute the principal cash crops of the country because Central Africans derive far more income from the periodic sale of surplus food crops than from exported cash crops such as cotton or coffee. Many rural and urban women also transform some food crops into alcoholic drinks such as sorghum beer or hard liquor and derive considerable income from the sale of these drinks. Much of the income derived from the sale of foods and alcohol is not "on the books" and thus is not considered when calculating per capita income, which is one reason why official figures for per capita income for the CAR are not accurate. The per capita income in the country is often listed as being around US$400 a year, one of the lowest in the world, but this figure is based mostly on reported sales of exports and largely ignores the more important but unregistered sale of foods, locally produced alcohol, diamonds, ivory, bushmeat and traditional medicines, for example. The informal economy is more important than the formal economy for most Central Africans[14].

7. Poverty levels remain high, and estimates suggest that roughly 71 percent of the population lived below the international poverty line (US$1.90 per day, in terms of PPP) in 2018. Approximately 643,000 people remain internally displaced, while 575,000 Central African refugees sought shelter in neighbouring countries. It is expected that in 2019, 2.9 million Central Africans - more than half of the country's population - will need humanitarian assistance, with 1.6 million people in acute need. To meet humanitarian needs, on 7 January 2019, the Government of CAR, and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) officially launched the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan with a budget of US$430.7 million.

8. The Central African Republic remains one of the poorest countries in the world and is grappling with numerous human capital challenges that will have devastating consequences for future generations. It ranks near the very bottom of the UN Human Development Index (188 out of 189 countries in December 2018). While the most recent estimates show that poverty affects more than two-thirds of the population, there have been improvements in the provision of key public services in the country's south-western region. Maternal mortality is among the world's highest (882 per 100,000 live births); the extremely high mortality rate for children under five years of age (179 per 1,000) highlights the severity of the health situation.

Table 1: Central African Republic's HDI trends based on consistent time series data and new goalposts

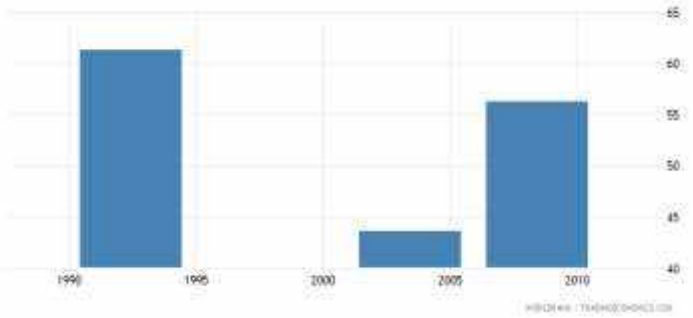
	Life expectancy at birth	Expected years of schooling	Mean years of schooling	GNI per capita (2011 PPP$)	HDI value
1990	49.1	5.2	2.1	968	0.320
1995	46.5	4.6	2.4	882	0.304
2000	44.2	5.3	2.9	839	0.307
2005	44.7	6.0	3.3	834	0.323
2010	47.3	6.8	3.6	987	0.355
2015	50.9	7.1	4.2	706	0.362
2016	51.6	7.6	4.3	732	0.372

[14] https://en.2016wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Central_African_Republic#Agriculture

2017	52.2	7.6	4.3	756	0.376
2018	52.8	7.6	4.3	777	0.381

9. The Central African Republic has some of the lowest education and gender equality indicators in the world. Poor quality primary education, the lack of secondary school education for girls and violence against women and girls remain pressing challenges for the country. Only 27% of women are educated against 50% of men; education gap between girls and boys is estimated at 26% in 2018 (UNESCO, 2018). There were 13,000 reported gender-based violence in 2019, victims are generally women and girls (92% in 2018, 94% in 2019 and 93% in 2020). Average life expectancy is 53 years. High levels of malnutrition exist, with 41 percent of the population suffering from chronic malnutrition (stunting). The fertility rate is high at 6.2 children per woman[15].

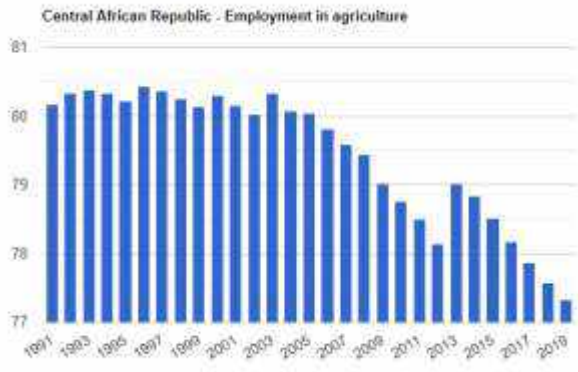
Figure 1: Central African Republic - GINI index



Source: Trading Economics, Central African Republic, World Bank, August 2020[16].

10. **Women and youth are particularly prone to poverty.** A gender-based poverty analysis revealed that poverty is more prevalent among rural women above 15 years of age (67 percent) due to their limited access to assets (water, land, fertilizers, and equipment) and decent employment opportunities[17]. According to the African Development Bank (AfDB) Gender Equality Index, the CAR ranks 40th out of 52 African countries, which indicates that inequalities between men and women are pronounced.

Figure 2: Employment in Agriculture



Source: theGlobalEconomy.com website[18].

[15] https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/centralafricanrepublic/overview
[16] https://tradingeconomics.com/central-african-republic/gini-index-wb-data.html
[17] https://data.unwomen.org/country/central-african-republic
[18] https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Central-African-Republic/Employment_in_agriculture/

11. Food insecurity remains a major concern despite a reduction in the number of people in an emergency phase. According to the latest National Food Security Assessment (ENSA), published in December 2019, 44 percent of the population is severely or moderately food insecure (1,759,000 people). Some 300,000 people, or 6 percent of the population, is severely food insecure. Returnees (72 percent) and the displaced (64 percent) are the most affected by food insecurity.

12. Food insecurity is mainly caused by crop disease, heavy rain, and insecurity, which limits access to fields. The price of food staples such as manioc and rice increased by 30 percent and 10 percent respectively compared to last year. According to the Global Hunger Index 2019, the Central African Republic has the worst hunger index in the world[19].

13. According to FEWS NET, in January 2020, the crisis (IPC Phase 3) persists in areas affected by conflict and among households that are affected the most by flooding. The population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the local population in areas hosting high proportions of IDPs remain among the most food insecure. Despite above-average national crop production levels, food prices remained atypically high in the post-harvest period and humanitarian food assistance levels have declined significantly since November 2019. According to OCHA estimates, the population of IDPs increased by 15 percent from September to December 2019 due to an increase in armed conflict events since November of that year in Alindao (Basse-Kotto), Bria (Haute-Kotto) and Bangui and due to floods at the end of the rainy season. The IDP population increased from 30 to 120 percent in the prefectures of Bangui, Mbomou, Basse-Kotto, Ombella Mpoko and Lobaye.

14. In addition, Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Gribizi) hosted approximately 20,000 IDPs. In contrast, the IDP population in the Vakaga prefecture has declined by 19 percent due to negotiations among community leaders that has helped to re-establish calm conditions. Food access continues to be affected by conflict and insecurity. Violence perpetrated by armed groups continue to limit the movements of populations and their participation in markets in many areas of the country, while conflict between transhumants and farmers periodically occur in Baminui-Bangoran and Ouham. In addition, road checks and high illegal taxes prevent households from profiting from the sale of crops and forest and wildlife products. In the Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture, the closure of the border with Chad continues to limit the inflows of millet and sorghum.

15. Crop production losses due to floods has reduced supply in flood-affected areas and supply to major reference markets such as Bambari and Bangui. Household demand has also risen in areas previously receiving higher levels of food assistance. Reduced supply and increased demand, as well as the high cost of transporting commodities to market have contributed to the rise in staple food prices: the prices of cassava and corn were 60 percent above January 2019 levels in Bangui, Bangassou of Mbomou, Bambari of Ouaka, and Ndélé of Bamingui-Bangoran. In Bria, prices have doubled. The rise in prices is also linked to speculative behaviour by traders[20].

16. The Strategy for Rural Development, Agriculture and Food Security (SDRASA) was also adopted in April 2011. According to the vision set out by the SDRASA, by 2025, the country will have a productive, profitable agricultural sector that respects the environment, relies on local initiatives, and reduces the gender gap. By generating wealth, it will create the conditions required for the emergence of a dynamic agricultural sector, including employment opportunities, and will contribute to poverty reduction and the achievement of food security.

[19] https://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/central-african-republic-food-insecurity-dg-echo-ensa-echo-daily#:~:text=Food%20insecurity%20remains%20a%20major,people%20in%20an%20emergency%20phase.&text=Some%20300%2C000%20people%2C%20or%206,most%20affected%20by%20food%20insecurity.

[20] https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Central%20African%20Republic%20-%20Key%20Message%20Update_%20ven%2C%202020-01-31.pdf

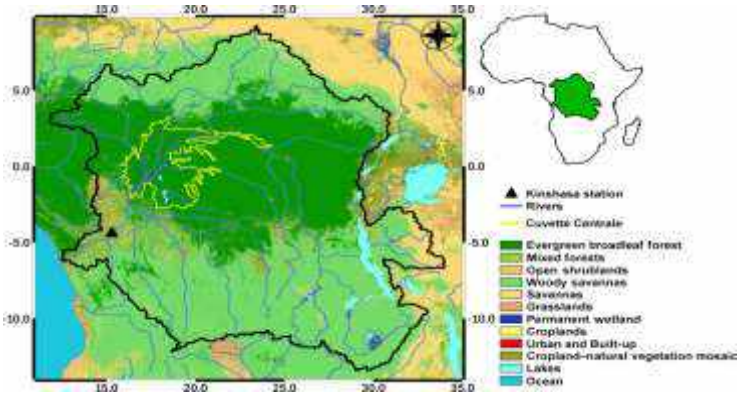
17. Developed and adopted in December 2015, the 2016-2018 Agricultural Recovery Roadmap has four strategic axes: (i) resilience, sustainable revival of agro-pastoral activities and economic development; (ii) agriculture as a factor of national reconciliation; (iii) professional integration of young people and promotion of their entrepreneurship for the modernization of agriculture, and (iv) agricultural governance and competitiveness of the sector at regional, continental and international level. This roadmap was finally translated into a 2016-2018 Agricultural Regional Development Programme, validated in 2016 and incorporated into the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan 2017-2021 (RCPCA).

1.3. Natural Resource Management (NRM)

18. CAR is endowed with rich and diverse ecosystem and natural resources (vast forests, minerals deposits, fisheries, rivers, etc.). Effective management of these resources could help to alleviate poverty. The Congo River's headwaters are a complex combination of small streams, swamps and lakes in the savannah highlands of the Shaba province in south-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), at altitudes of approximately 1500 m. Two-thirds of the country is within the Ubangi River basin (which flows into the Congo), while the remaining third lies in the basin of the Chari, which flows into Lake Chad and provide opportunities for irrigation. The Congo River drains a total watershed area of 3,690,750km^2, covering all of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as well as parts of Congo-Brazzaville, Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia and Angola.[21] Since the tributaries of the Congo River is largely distributed throughout CAR, a decrease or increase in precipitation will greatly impact food production at national level including the project selected areas.

19. The CAR is Chad's water tower thanks to the Logone and Chari Rivers, which originate in the CAR and flow into Lake Chad. Two large mountainous areas condition the network hydrographic survey of the CAR. The country is drained by two main basins: (i) to the south, the Ubangi River basin, a river formed by the junction of the Mbomou and Uélé Rivers with a series of tributaries on the right (Ouaka, Kémo, Ombelle, Mpoko, Lobaye, Nana, Mambéré and Kadéï) forming the Sangha River. Ubangi is the only tributary of the Congo River that is navigable to Bangui when water levels are high; and (ii) in the north, the watershed of the Chari-Logoneque cross the Bahr tributaries Aouk, Bamingui, Gribingui, Ouham, Pendé and Mbéré. The seasonal cycle in the basin is characterised by a bi-modal rainfall distribution, with precipitation maxima in the March-April and October-November seasons. The maxima are a consequence of the rainy season in the north coinciding with the dry season in the south and vice versa. The *Cuvette* receives rainfall nearly year-round; the water levels of the river channels that pass through it have two maxima and two minima each year. This pattern translates into a stable downstream flow throughout the year[22].

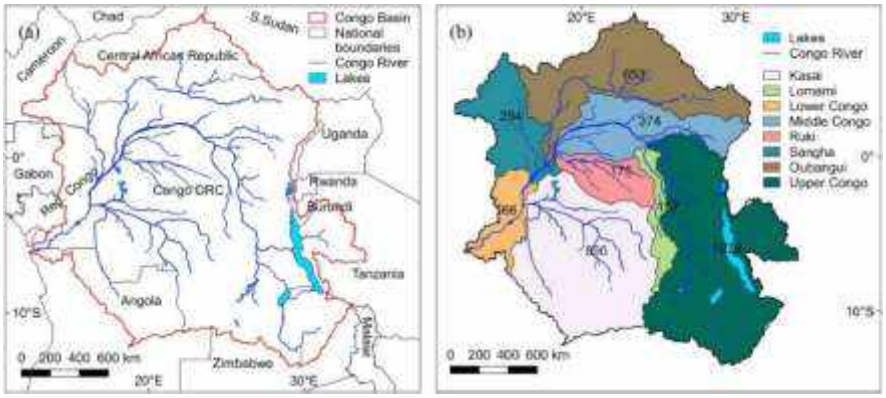
Figure 3: Geographic location of the Congo River basin



[21] https://www.wwf-congobasin.org/congo_basin_at_a_glance/area/ecosystems/rivers/
[22] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0341816219300803#bb0140

20. Note: The Map shows the Kinshasa gauging station, the fluvial system and land use based on data for 2001-2010. The boundaries of the Cuvette Centrale are contoured in yellow (adapted from Betbeder et al., 2014) Source: Broxton et al., 2014). It also shows the tributaries flowing in the southwest of the country.

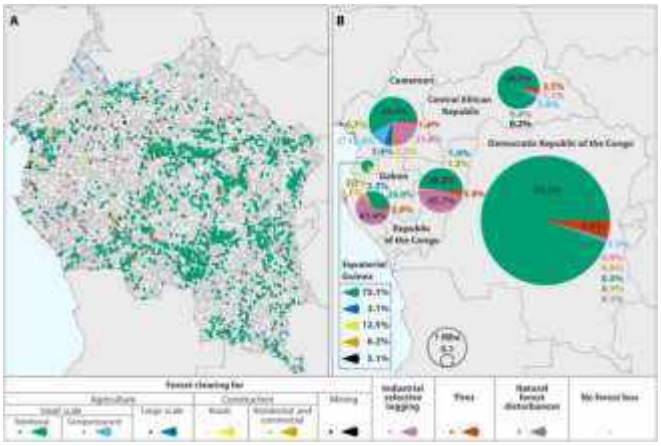
Figure 4. Hydrogeology of Central African Republic: (a) Extent of the Congo River Basin; (b) Basin divided into eight sub-basins based on major tributaries



Note: area displayed in 10^3 km^2. Fig. (b)

21. **Vegetation**: The great equatorial forest covers the south-western part of the CAR, which also has an important savannah area. The dense, humid equatorial forest strongly contrasts with the thorny bushes and shrub that cover the savannah, which too is an area of abundant fauna. The country is characterized by its very diverse flora and fauna, in particular a sizeable population of African forest elephants, which can be seen in herds made up of several dozen members, especially in Bayanga. Their situation remains very fragile due to poaching for ivory and the significant consumption of bush meat but represents a high potential for ecotourism. Tourism is still in the embryo phase, mainly due to the lack of hotel and transport infrastructure and the insecurity that reigns in the country.

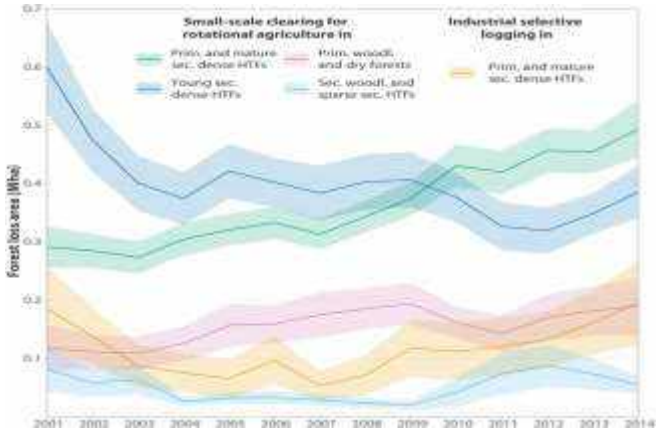
Figure 5. (A) Forest disturbance drivers; (B) National estimates of 2000 to 2014 forest area loss by disturbance driver



Note: (A) Shows the reference disturbance driver for each sampled pixel. Area estimates are presented in Figure 5A. Forest clearing for small-scale rotational agriculture includes clearing for charcoal production.

Source: Tyukavina, A. and others (2018), "Congo Basin Forest loss dominated by increasing smallholder clearing", *Science Advances*, vol. 4, no. 1 (7 November)[23].

Figure 6: Forest loss for major disturbance categories in the CAR



The graphical representation in figure 6 above shows the three-year moving average of annual loss of forest area for each of the major disturbance categories in the CAR compared to other Congo Bassin countries, which show an overall increase for the region, except for Gabon.

Table 2: Annual area of small-scale forest clearing for agriculture in primary and mature secondary dense HTFs and primary woodlands and dry forests (thousand hectares ± SE) by 5-year epochs

	2000–2005	**2005–2010**	**2010–2014**
DRC	321 ± 26	403 ± 27	462 ± 33
CAR	64 ± 17	88 ± 20	80 ± 12
CAM	28 ± 7	37 ± 7	69 ± 16
RoC	9 ± 3	24 ± 8	35 ± 9
GAB	17 ± 5	7 ± 3	4 ± 2

22. **Wildlife**: In the southwest, the Dzanga-Sangha National Park is located in a rain forest area. The country is known for its forest elephants and western lowland gorillas. In the north, the Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park is well-populated with wildlife, including leopards, lions, cheetahs and rhinos, and the Bamingui-Bangoran National Park is located in the northeast of CAR. The parks have been seriously affected by the activities of poachers, particularly those from Sudan, over the past two decades.

23. **Protected areas:** Up until 1989, the CAR had a network of 14 protected areas: one integral reserve, three national parks, seven wildlife reserves, two biosphere reserves and one presidential park with special status. Together, these areas covered a total of 72,230 km^2 or about 11 percent of the country. The creation of protected areas started only in 1930, with the creation of the first national park - the Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park - in 1933, followed by the Bamingui-Bangoran National Park in 1936.[24]

[23] https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/11/eaat2993
[24] http://www.umich.edu/~infosrn/PDF_FILES/ENGLISH_.PDF/SEC._4/NGATOUA.PDF

24. The creation of the Dzanga-Sangha Special Dense Forest Reserve and the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park in 1990 increased the number of protected areas to 16 and the total protected area to 76,610 km^2. This increase is testimony to the will of the CAR to preserve more natural ecosystems for the needs of present and future generations. In fact, by creating the Dzanga-Sangha Special Reserve, the CAR has opted for a new conservation strategy – one of integrated conservation and development. The primary objective of the Dzanga-Sangha Project is to protect the dense forest in the southwest of the CAR.

Table 3: Central Africa: Forest resources and management

Country/area	Land area	Forest area 2000					Area change 1990-2000 (total forest)		Volume and above-ground biomass (total forest)		Forest under management plan	
		Natural forest	Forest plantation	Total forest								
	000 ha	*000 ha*	*000 ha*	*000 ha*	*%*	*ha/ capita*	*000 ha/ year*	*%*	*m^3/ha*	*t/ha*	*000 ha*	*%*
Central African Republic	62 297	22 903	4	22 907	36.8	6.5	-30	-0.1	85	113	269*	n.ap

Source: FAO, "Central Africa", Global Forest Resources Assessment, 2000.[25]

Agro-ecological zones[26]

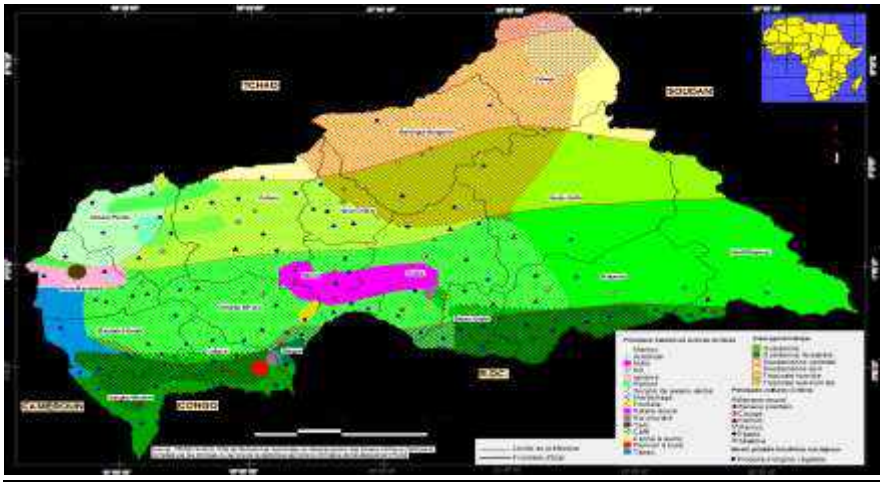
25. The country includes five agro-ecological zones: Forest or equatorial zone; Cereals and livestock or Guinean Zone; Sudano-Guinean zone; Hunting and Tourism zone.

Figure 7: Map of Agro-Ecological Zones in the CAR

Notes: *Zone forestière ou zone équatoriale* = Forest or equatorial zone; *Zone vivrier élevage ou zone guinéene* = Cereals and livestock or Guinean Zone ; *Zone coton-vivrier-élevage ou zone soudano-guinéene* = Cotton-cereals-livestock zone or Sudano-Guinean zone ; *Zone cynégétique et touristique* = Hunting and Tourism zone.

[25] http://www.fao.org/3/y1997e/y1997e0k.htm
[26] Ministère de l'Agriculture, Plan Quinquennal de développement de l'Agriculture, version finale, avril 2013

Figure 8: Staple food zones



Note: Manioc = manioc/cassava; arachide = peanut/groundnut; maïs = maize; mil = millet; igname = yams; haricot = bean; sorgho de saison sèche = dry-season sorghum; maraîchage = market gardening; fruitiers = fruit trees/orchards; patate douce = sweet potato; riz pluvial = rainfed rice; taro = taro; café = coffee; canne à sucre = sugarcane; palmier à huile = palm oil; tabac = tobacco; banane douce = sweet banana; banane plantain = plantain; courge = squash/gourds; patate = potato; sesame = sesame.

1.4. Climate Change

This section is from the World Bank Climate Risk Country Profile 2021[27].

26. **Observed trends**. Since the 1970s, mean annual temperature has significantly increased at a rate of 0.35°C per decade[28]. However, there has been no substantial observed increase in precipitation trends; moreover, the last 30 years precipitation has been observed to have increased approximately 8%[29]. Reduction in the number of consecutive days with 1 mm of precipitation has decreased and the number of days with precipitation of 10 mm has increased. This indicates not only an increase in precipitation received, but an increase of rainfall received through intense and extreme rainfall events[30].

27. Temperatures across CAR are expected to increase, and projections show a change in annual mean temperature from 3.1°C to 5.7°C by end of the century. An increase in the number of hot days, extreme temperatures are projected as well as a strong increase in the duration of heat waves; a significant decrease in cold spell length is projected.32 The projected change in the duration of long-lasting heat waves is expected to be an additional 7 to 81 days by 2085, with cold spells likely to decrease by 1 to as much as 13 days[31]**.**

[27] https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/15875-WB_Central%20Africa%20Republic%20Country%20Profile-WEB.pdf

[28] The World Bank Group. 2021. Climate Change Knowledge Portal: Cape Verde.
[29] GERICS (2015). Climate-Fact-Sheet, Central African Republic
[30] Sonwa, D. et al. (2014). Climate Change and Adaptation in Central Africa: Past, Scenarios and Options for the Future. URL: https:// www.researchgate.net/publication/268871188_Climate_change_and_Adaptation_in_Central_Africa_Past_Scenarios_and_Options_ for_the_Future
[31] GERICS (2015). Climate-Fact-Sheet, Central African Republic.

Figure 8: Projected Mean-Temperature CAR Source: World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal

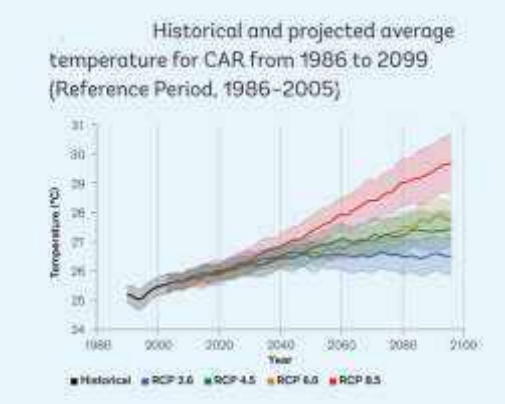
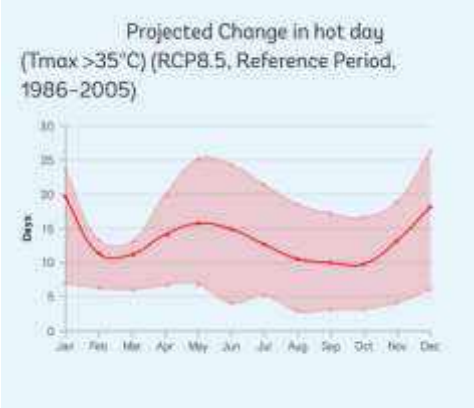


Figure 9: Projected Precipitation- CAR Source: World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal



Source: World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal

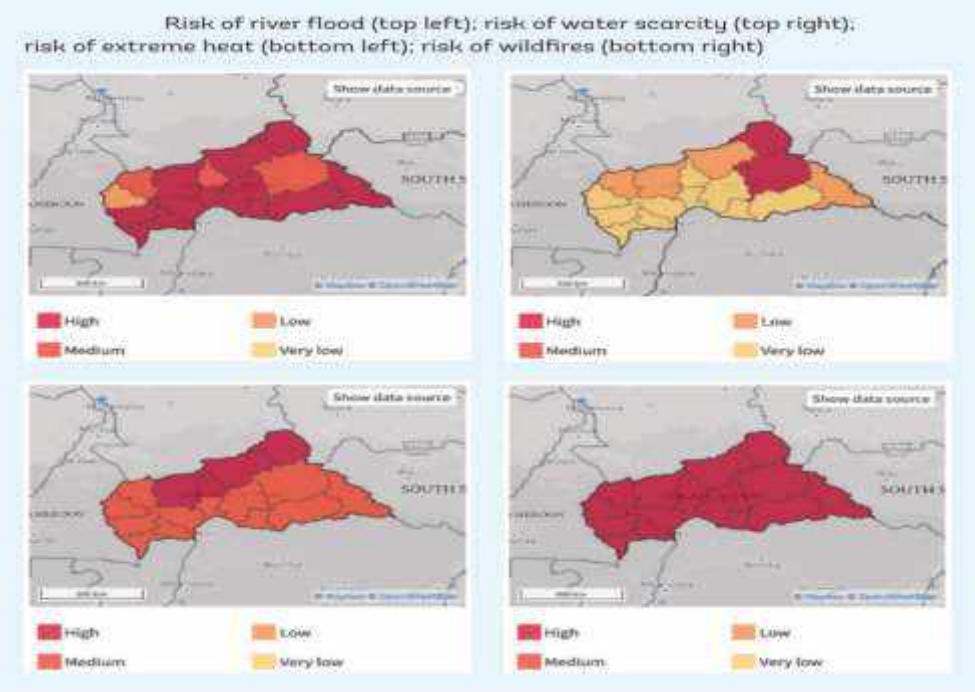
28. In terms of rainfall, while precipitation trends in CAR are highly variable, mean annual rainfall is expected increase across the country throughout the end of the century. More rainfall amounts are expected to be received through these intense and more frequent rainfall events. According to analysis from the German Climate Service Center (GERICS) of 32 Global Climate Models (GCMs), rainfall is expected to increase by 12% to as much as 19% by the end of the century. However, the projected change in precipitation throughout the year does not have a clear trend. Only for the dry months of November and December is a distinct increased tendency shown. There is also a likely increase in the intensity of heavy rain events, which are also likely to lead to increased flood events[32]

29. While precipitation is expected to increase across all scenarios, under the highest emissions scenario, RCP8.5, precipitation rates are projected to increase, but at a slower rate than lower emission scenarios.

30. **Climate shocks.** Climate change, deforestation, watershed degradation, land use, urbanization and poor management of settlements, and slash and burn agricultural techniques have exacerbated issues and impacts from flooding and droughts and increased the risk of wildfires[33]. Climate change trends in CAR are expected to increase the risk and intensity of flooding, increase the amount of heavy rainfall received during heavy rainfall events as well as increase the likelihood of aridity water scarcity for some areas, particularly the country's northeast zones. Increased incidence of extreme rainfall may also result in soil erosion and water logging of crops, thus decreasing yields and increasing food insecurity. Increases in temperature is also likely to increase the periods of extreme heat in northern areas. Importantly, higher temperatures and aridity threatens to reduce water storage capacities. This may result in significant economic losses, damage to agricultural lands and infrastructure as well as human casualties.[34] Land degradation and soil erosion, exacerbated by recurrent flood adversely impacts agricultural production, disproportionately affecting the livelihoods of the rural poor. The country's underpinning political instability and poverty will further exacerbate these issues with potential to also exacerbate potential for violence and conflict.[35]

[32] GERICS (2015). Climate-Fact-Sheet, Central African Republic
[33] https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/15875-WB_Central%20Africa%20Republic%20Country%20Profile-WEB.pdf
[34] Serge, S.B. et al. (2017). Impacts of Climate change in Central African Republic. Journal of Science and Engineering Technology. 5, pp. 52–63. E-ISSN: 2311-8741/17
[35] IFRC (2019). Central African Republic. URL: https://www.ifrc.org/what-we-do/disaster-management/responding/ongoing-operations/ central-african-republic/

Figure 10: Different risk ratings from river flooding, water scarcity, extreme heat, and wildfires



Source: World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal

Climate change vulnerability and impacts

31. **Agriculture**: The agricultural sector accounts for employment of approximately 72% of the country's population and is the primary source of income and food sourcing for most people. Agricultural activities are mainly rain fed and subsistence, combining farming, hunting/gathering/fishing and small animal husbandry. Crop production varies by region, with beans, maize and cassava considered major staples.[36] Of the approximately 15 million hectares of suitable agricultural land in the country, only an estimated 7,000 km2 are cultivated each year. The pastoral area of 160,000 km2 is recognized to be significantly underutilized. The country's primary agriculture zone is concentrated in the south-west due to the drier the north-east and central Savannah areas. Less than 5% of this area is occupied by smallholder farms, which average 1.7 hectares per household of 5 people. Food crops represent 75% of cultivated areas and are typically self-consumed[37]

32. Armed conflict remains a major driver for food insecurity in CAR and a major disruption to the country's agricultural potential. Basic services are dysfunctional or non-existent in many areas and the disruption of already limited services further hinders people's access to livelihood opportunities. Trans-human movements remain difficult, particularly in north-western areas, generating tensions between pastoralists and farmers. This has exacerbated existing intercommunal tensions, leading to armed conflict. As households and communities have been unable to engage in agricultural and livestock activities it has resulted in a depletion of food stocks, rising prices, the adoption of negative coping mechanisms by nearly half of the population and increased dependency on food aid.[38]

33. **Energy**: Access to electricity is one of the lowest in Africa. In CAR, the Department of Energy and Hydraulics administers the electricity sub-sector, as well as new and renewable energy opportunities.

[36] USAID (2018). Climate Risks in the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) and Congo Basin. URL: https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/20180604_USAID-ATLAS_ClimateRiskProfile_CARPE.pdf
[37] Serge, S.B. et al. (2017). Impacts of Climate change in Central African Republic. Journal of Science and Engineering Technology. 5, pp. 52–63. E-ISSN: 2311-8741/17
[38] FAO (2019). Central African Republic — Situation Report, July 2019. URL: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/emergencies/ docs/FAOCARsitrep_July2019.pdf

In CAR, the majority of energy, more than 90% is sourced through wood energy, with 7% by imported petroleum and 2% by electricity. Only 14% of the population has access to electricity, mainly in the capital Bangui. As of 2015, 88% of electricity was generated by hydropower. The capital city of Bangui is supplied by two hydroelectric generators and one thermal plant. A new dam on the Mbali River (a joint project with the Democratic Republic of the Congo), which permits year-round hydroelectric generation, opened in late 1991. The country's low levels of energy generation and access are due to a number of reasons, notable slow sector growth, hindered by weak institutions, low population density, the country's large size and years of unrest[39]

34. **Water**: The CAR has a dense hydrological network spread throughout the country, which are distributed primarily between the two watersheds, the Eastern Logone basin to the west and the Chari in the center and east. The Central African Basin of Chari covers 202,351 km2. The Congolese watershed covers the southern two-thirds of the country and consists of two major sub-basins: Oubangui and Sangha. The main rivers in the Chari-Logone basin are, the Pendé, the Lim and the Ngou which, flow in to Mount Ngaoui. The Central African basin of Chari, which covers 202,351 km2 is subdivided into two parts, the Ouham and its tributaries, and the Aouk-Bamingui complex and their tributaries, with the western branch of the Chari consisting of the Ouham-Bahr Sara and the Eastern Chari from Gribingui Bamingui and Bahr Aouk. The Congolese hydrographic basin covers the southern two-thirds of the country on 404,004 km2. It is made up of two major sub-basins, those of the Ubangi and the Sangha. The basin of Ubangui occupies more than three quarters of the Congo Basin. It stretches from east to west over 350,684 km2, up to the DRC with Uélé which is the main contributor. The Ubangi is made up of the union of the Uélé and Mbomou downstream from the city of Ouango. Upstream to downstream, the Central African part of this basin includes major tributaries, such as the Mbomou, Kotto, Ouaka, Kémo, Ombella, M'Poko and Lobaye. However, despite the large availability of water resources, the country has little institutionalized water supply infrastructure, impacting urban and rural supply as well as water sanitation and hygiene for local populations.[40]

35. **Forestry**: CAR has significant amounts of forest coverage which is used not only for products extracted and used by humans (timber, fuel wood, palm oil, etc.), but also serves as habitat for wildlife and for the environmental services they provide, such as carbon sinks, controlling erosion and filtering water (and regulating water flow). The forest heritage in CAR consists of natural forest formations, trees outside forests and block plantations, which have undergone changes due to human activities.[41] Primary impacts to the country's forests are the conversion of forests and grasslands and the abandonment of exploited land and soils used for agriculture. Furthermore, increasing pressure is being placed on CAR's Forest lands due to socio-economic and agricultural pressures, most significantly in the south-western areas of the country[42].

36. **Public health**: COVID-19 has put the country's public health system and finances under enormous stress. While the relationship between climate change, biodiversity and infectious disease is complex, the loss and degradation of natural habitats clearly undermine the web of life and increase the risk of disease spillover from wildlife to people. The Central African Republic has a life expectancy of 52 years for men and 54 years for women. Multiple crises and worsening living conditions affect the health system, which suffers from ineffective health financing, insufficient supply of medicines, and limited access to essential health services.

[39] SEA4All (2016): Central African Republic. URL: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/20497/Energy_profile_CentralAfricanRep.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
[40] Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Sustainable Development (2015). Second National Communication to the UNFCCC — Central African Republic. URL: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cafnc2.pdf
[41] Junior, D. et al. (2016). Forest Management and Deforestation in Central African Republic. American Journal od Engineering Research. 5(4). pp. 79–90. URL: http://www.ajer.org/papers/v5(04)/I0504079090.pdf
[42] Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Sustainable Development (2015). Second National Communication to the UNFCCC — Central African Republic. URL: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cafnc2.pdf

37. **Financial resilience**: The ratio of public debt-to-GDP fell from 63% in 2014 to 47.8% in 2019, thanks to the progressive economic recovery, arrears clearance, and limited new borrowing. Domestic debt declined from 14.2% of GDP in 2017 to 10.6% in 2019 with domestic arrears' payment. External debt is also falling but at a slower pace. Debt is projected to remain sustainable over the medium term provided that the authorities continue implementing structural reforms once the COVID-19 crisis abates. The economy depends heavily on subsistence agriculture and the export of a few commodities (cotton, coffee, diamond, and timber), making the economy vulnerable to adverse shocks. Moreover, total exports and participation in the global value chain (GVC) have declined substantially since 2000. Diversifying CAR's economy is critical to achieving long-term sustainable development and strengthening resilience. Economic diversification can further reduce poverty and vulnerabilities by generating a wide array of employment opportunities throughout the economy.

Figure 18: Crop yield under various climatic scenarios- Central African Republic

Source: IFAD CARD, 2020

National climate change adaptation priorities

38. Adaptation solutions: Under the Paris Climate Agreement signed in 2015, CAR has committed to an unconditional 3.5% reduction in emissions by 2030 with a business-as-usual scenario and a 34.6% reduction by 2030 on the condition that it receives international support. Key optimum adaptation and mitigation measures suggested in National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

The INDC has synthesized CAR's priorities for adaptation to climate change by 2030 as shown in the table below:

Table 4: CAR priorities for adaptation to climate change

Adaptation objectives	Sectors of priority	Adaptation options
Strengthen agriculture and food security, health, basic infrastructure, and sustainable management of natural resources, with the aim of maintaining an annual rate of growth of agricultural activities of 6% and stabilize the rate of food insecurity at 15%. Vulnerability	Agriculture and food security, forestry, energy, public health, water resources and land-use planning.	Adjustment of the policy framework, improved knowledge of resilience to climate change, sustainable management of the agricultural, forestry and animal husbandry systems, land-use Intended Nationally Determined Contribution of the Central African Republic –INDC.

profile: Extreme hazards (torrential rains, floods and drought), most vulnerable areas (south, north and northeast) and most vulnerable populations (women, children, indigenous peoples and the aged, i.e., around 75%).		Planning, improvement, and development of basic infrastructures, guarantee of energy security, improvement of public health systems, improvement of waste management and sustainable management of water resources

Source: Central African Republic, Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, September 2015.[43]

Barriers and opportunities with the Adaptation Fund

39. The key barriers to strengthening smallholder farmers' resilience to potential risk elevation due to climate change are a combination of technical, financial, cultural, policy and regulatory obstacles which prevent rural communities' to better adopt adaptation practices at national and local level in the agricultural sector in CAR. The detailed summary is presented in the table below:

Box 1 Barriers to climate change adaptation

Key barriers
At Government level: • Limited capacity and coordination mechanisms in the government and local communities on implementing EbA and climate-resilient and low emission agriculture. Key sector ministries in charge of agriculture, energy and forestry have limited technical and institutional capacity to implement EbA and energy for adaptation and climate resilient agriculture. • Lack of technical capacities and resources at district level (knowledge and resources). • Lack of interconnectedness of climate interventions because of a project-based approach. • Slow or limited integration of climate information into national programmes and policies, due to limited capacity and resources. • Inadequate cross-sectoral coordination, with limited participation of women in relevant decision making. • The lack of investment in rural infrastructure, such as feeder roads and basic infrastructure for irrigation; much of what exists is unlikely to withstand climate change impacts.
At the community level: Lack of awareness and knowledge of climate change and its impact on livelihoods. • Mismanagement of natural resources and lack of awareness of unsustainable practices that result in widespread land/environmental degradation. • Lack of adaptation options and practices that reduce vulnerability and strengthen preparedness to climate related hazards. • Non-diversified livelihoods increase vulnerability to climate impact. • Lack of access to information and knowledge to better manage increased climate variability and recurrent climate shocks. • Cultural practices that limit the participation of women in decision making on adaptation options. • Unsustainable agricultural practices such as slash and burn agriculture, inefficient techniques for land preparation (including clearing of land) and inefficient water use, together with illegal logging, deforestation and unsustainable fishing in the rivers are causing the degradation of the country's natural resources. • Limited knowledge of climate change impacts on smallholder agricultural value chains and landscapes and effective adaptation interventions

[43] https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Central%20African%20Republic%20First/INDC_R%C3%A9publique%20Centrafricaine_EN.pdf

40. Combined, these key issues could lead to an increase in poverty, particularly for poor IDPs, and therefore greater vulnerability of smallholder farmer households to future climate change impacts. There is an urgent need to strengthen agricultural value chains and mobilize more concessional finance for risk management, especially for key strategic sectors such as rice, cassava, and livestock.

41. **Addressing climate change:** To address the impact of climate change facing smallholder farmers, there is a need for a paradigm shift in CAR particularly in the North West- and South West regions which have high potential for agricultural production. Moving from an economy driven by a recurrent cycle of climate-vulnerable subsistence livelihoods towards a sustainable green economy based on climate-resilient livelihoods requires better access to financial and non-financial services that support farmers in adopting and implementing best climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. This support should focus particularly on the use of the best irrigation options during dry and rainy seasons, such as SRI for rice cultivation, but also the best adaptation practices in cassava including sustainable land management and sustainable livestock production.

42. In light of the above, the project seeks to promote climate proofing and build rural communities' resilience to climate change in the Central African Republic. It addresses the multiple and combined impacts of climate change, especially anticipated changes in rainfall patterns, decreased water availability (mainly due to higher evapotranspiration) and temperature increases. The project will address the main barriers that negatively impact smallholder farmers' adaptive capacity and propose sustainable, climate resilient solutions.

43. The project intends to address the underlying constraints that further exacerbate the projected climate change impacts and that represent major barriers to adaptation and resilience in the agriculture sector in CAR. These barriers are preventing the country from achieving optimal cassava, rice, and livestock (staple crops) productivity and yields to generate surpluses to respond to food security and nutritional needs while improving household incomes. Low yields prevent farmers from generating surpluses and income, thus limiting their ability to acquire inputs such as drought resilient seeds or fertilizers. As a fragile country, it needs to upgrade and improve the resilience of its infrastructure, including roads along the agricultural chain. Over 90 percent of the rural road network remains unpaved, mostly gravelled. Upkeeping these roads to ensure all-weather access is becoming increasingly difficult, as gravel resources are being depleted and traffic and heavy rains are increasing. Poor road conditions prevent farmers' access to markets and reduces their incomes. There is also a need to rehabilitate existing dams and earth dams and adapt storage facilities and warehouses to make them climate resilience.

44. Another important constraint is smallholder farmers' limited capacity to access to climate knowledge and technical information to shift from unsustainable cultivation methods that provide short-term gains but deplete soil fertility and degrade the natural capital and environment to sustainable, climate resilient practices. Climate risks and their management are new and previous IFAD projects have shown that well-targeted support to smallholder farmers leads to increased yields in the crop and livestock sector. For instance, smallholder farmers supported by an IFAD climate-focused project in Sierra Leonne, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Cameroon have doubled and even tripled production by introducing NERICA rice, over the traditional paddy varieties, and thanks to the use of earth dams. However, more effort needs to be done to help farmers have access to timely and relevant agrometeorological information to better decide on cultivation practices and cropping calendars. Early warning systems are not well in place yet. Accelerated erosion and siltation of drainage, irrigation systems could lead to a very dire situation in rice producing areas where flooding is an issue.

PROJECT / PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

45. Climate change and climate variability are expected to affect rainfall and temperature patterns in the CAR and eventually lead to decreasing water availability (mainly due to higher evapotranspiration). The project will address key climate vulnerabilities in agriculture and water resources management in the rice, cassava, and maize value chains, and hence contribute to immediate and longer-term development and resilience needs of poor vulnerable smallholder farmers in CAR. The resilience of these value chains can only be achieved by : i) identifying and implementing a comprehensive set of climate resilient small holder agricultural practices and ii) agricultural diversification strategy through Income-generating activities focusing on climate resilient fish, farming & livestock in the project area, conservation, processing units and marketing iii) better access to markets with climate proofed roads i and water and sanitation infrastructures iii) capacity building.

Project Goal

46. The overall goal of the project is to reduce the direct effects of climate change on 20,000 direct and 119,000 indirect beneficiaries, of which 50 percent will be women and 30 percent youth in rural communities. This is based on the average Households size in Central African Republic expressed in the 2005 country's National population census which is 6 persons per household. Beneficiaries' number is determined in consideration of the integrating approach of PRAPAM project which aims in targeting all the stakeholders involved in the different portions of identified value chain (Rice, Cassava, Maize, beans, Horticulture, and livestock). These beneficiaries are (i) small producers and their farmers organisations; (ii) Marginalized and vulnerable groups and indigenous communities in the target areas; (iii) stakeholders in downstream part of value chains such as processors, traders and consumers; (iv) Others operating in various connected activities like inputs providers, spare parts and repairs services providers for agricultural materials and equipment, and transport operators; and (v) private sector.

Specific Objectives

47. The project's specific objectives are:

i. **Productivity**. The low productivity and income of smallholder farmers in the CAR is due to several reasons, including: (i) the lack of support infrastructure for production (such as irrigation schemes and adequate rural roads); (ii) insufficient and inadequate means of transportation; (iii) the lack of financial services to facilitate the mobilization of local savings, financing for activities and the modernization of agricultural structures (farms, groups, cooperatives, etc.); (iv) the virtual non-existence and inefficiency of the training system in rural areas; (v) weak organization of producer organizations; (vi) producers' difficulty in mastering new techniques and building the appropriate conservation and processing facilities; (vii) the lack of organized marketing channels (transport difficulties, establishing relationships between the different actors involved in value chains), (viii) . In addition, the continuous destruction of new fallows and forestland for agricultural production is a precursor of climate change in CAR.

   Therefore, the first objective of the proposed project is to enhance the productive and adaptive capacity, technical skills and knowledge base of 20,000 farmers in the targeted crop (Rice, Cassava and Maize) sectors and the nutritional intake for about 20 000 households (50 percent women, 30 percent youth).

ii. **Alternative livelihoods for youth and women**. According to the latest National Food Security Assessment (ENSA), published in December 2019, 44% of the population is severely or moderately food insecure (1,759,000 people). This means, that households end up consuming foods that are inadequate in quantity and quality. Furthermore, in 2020, the unemployment rate in the Central African Republic was around 4.33 percent (Statista 2021). Vocational training and apprenticeship opportunities are rare, and, as a result, the youth and women are vulnerable. This first objective is also to provide alternative

livelihoods for youth and women organizations such as livestock production and fish farming in the Congo/Zaire basin, as well as sustainable agroforestry practices.

iii. **Climate Resilient Rural transportation and water Infrastructures:** As post conflict country, CAR experience a significant infrastructure gap. Rural roads are in bad conditions or inexistent to connect productions basin to main markets. Water and Sanitation infrastructures are quasi-inexistent in rural areas and to improve rural livelihoods, the country is working to build climate resilient infrastructure. The second component aims at improving Resilient Rural transportation and water Infrastructures.

iv. **Regulatory environment and institutional capacity.** CAR institutional and regulatory environment is very weak and lack of human and financial resources to address climate change impacts. In such fragile country, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, and local councils would be targeted by the Project as potential receivers of support. The Ministry of Environment with the mandate of guiding CAR towards compliance with national and international environmental laws requires capacity building. This third objective is to strengthen the institutional capacities of government agencies to effectively carry out their respective mandates in support of smallholder farmers and cooperatives in coordination with other sector ministries, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment.

Project Area and Target Groups

48. The project will limit its interventions to four (4) prefectures: Nana Mambéré, Ouam Pende, Lobaye and Ombella Mpoko. These prefectures have been selected based on the following criterias: i) vulnerability to climate change (see figure below) and degradation of natural resources[44] ii) the high incidence of poverty and food and nutritional insecurity[45] iii) areas affected by the conflict and the Impact of COVID-19 [46]iv) potential to build on/ consolidate the achievements/experiences of other IFAD funded projects.

49. Within these prefectures, the project will concentrate its interventions in eleven (11) sub-prefectures/production basins: Bimbo, Boali, Bossembélé, Yaloké, Boda, Boganangone, Mbaïki, Bouar, Baboua, Bozoum and Bocaranga. The intervention area concentrates 33 percent of the general population, 39 percent of the farms registered in the whole country in 2013 and an estimated 38 percent of the 1,419,232 agricultural workers in the country. To build synergy and complementarity with the PADECAS and the PREPAS, this project will target production areas with high potential and reasonably sized production sub-basins whose exploitable/exploited sites are concentrated within a 30 km radius from the centre of the basin.

Figure 24: Map of the Central African Republic and IFAD targeted regions

[44] 5 ème rapport national Convention sur la Diversité Biologique, 2017
[45] Enquête Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire (ENSA), PAM , 2017
[46] Enquête Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire (ENSA), PAM , 2017

50. **Target group.** The intervention of this project will give priority to: (i) smallholder farmers engaged in subsistence production of crops and livestock in small areas of land and low livestock capital (; (ii) displaced persons and returnees that are highly vulnerable to climate change (iii) marginalised and vulnerable less advantaged groups include people living with HIV/AIDS, single mothers, people with disabilities, the elderly, widows and widowers, and indigenous peoples (M'bororo Fulani and the Aka Pygmies) without access to opportunities all of which are characterized by structural vulnerability, weak social integration and a lack of socioeconomic opportunities; and (iv) schooled and out-of-school youth, women heads of households and indigenous peoples (Pygmies and nomads M'bororos), all characterized by a pronounced weakness or absence of productive capital (agricultural land and livestock) and a lack of economic opportunities and jobs v) and government agencies.

51. **Targeting strategy.** The project will have a flexible, inclusive participatory targeting strategy, which will consider the internal dynamics in each targeted production basin, the expected outcomes for each project component, the needs and specificities of all beneficiaries and the challenges of food and nutrition security plaguing the whole country. It will be based on the use of geographic targeting of production basins to identify intervention areas and on socio-economic targeting to direct the envisaged support towards priority target groups and thus promote their empowerment. Beneficiary targeting will be based on established eligibility criteria in a participatory, transparent, and collaborative manner with PADECAS. Aligned with IFAD's targeting strategy, beneficiaries will be identified based on a rapid analysis of vulnerability to the impacts of COVID-19 including the following criteria: (i) smallholder farmers who cultivate up to two (2) ha of land; and (ii) are affected by decline in productivity/production, incomes, food shortages and nutritional deficits due to the COVID-19 crisis.

52. In relation to gender and youth, specific targets will be adopted to promote (i) greater access of women and young people to skills and knowledge, (ii) the economic empowerment of women and young people by facilitating their access to assets, resources and factors of production, their participation in income-generating activities and strengthening their control over resources; (iii) activities to improve women's well-being and reduce their workloads (small-scale irrigation systems, provision of ploughing services, processing equipment, multipurpose solar dryers and bioenergy), and (iv) activities strengthening the participation of women and young people and their roles in decision-making in groups and cooperatives.

53. Communities in the target areas are priority regions for the government's climate programme, as they are exposed to a number of climate-related risks, including drought, bush fires, floods, water scarcity, low agricultural productivity, delays in the rainy season and COVID-19.

54. The target areas were selected after face-to-face consultations with involved stakeholders (field mission, June 2020), and during a general consultation with the focal points of the sectors involved and the main stakeholders in 2019. Selection criteria include vulnerabilities affecting the regions, climatic variabilities, existing agricultural activities for adaptation, and the possibility of integrating women into economic activities. It should be emphasized that in addition to undertaking these consultations at both the national and local level, capacity-building in climate vulnerability, climate adaptation and climate finance was provided during the two missions. Details of the consultation process are provided in section H.

55. Beneficiaries depend heavily on natural resources and the farm which is sensitive to climate variability and the impacts of climate change. Agriculture is rain-fed and subject to variations in temperature and rainfall. In addition, livestock, forest resources, in a large part of the target areas, have been subjected to drought, rainfall pause or heavy rains. Climate variability, including unexpected droughts caused by unpredictable changes in precipitation and temperature, can have implications for the impacts, sustainability and return on investment of subprojects including infrastructure projects like rural roads and water supply. However, the project has the potential to integrate climate resilience measures without substantial additional costs through capacity building programs in climate-smart farming strategies and close collaboration with

extension and monitoring agencies. Meteorological and climatic to regularly receive agro-climatic information and to use the right cultivars or varieties, adaptation techniques, including the Adaptation Fund. Climate change adaptation interventions will help vulnerable communities, especially young people, and women, to moderate this risk and sustainably mitigate the effects of climate change in the area of intervention.

56. Against this backdrop, the project seeks to reduce vulnerability of rural communities in the project area to the impacts of climate change, such as climate variability at local and national levels, and halt the degradation of natural resources critical for sustaining agricultural production and increasing food security and nutrition of vulnerable poor communities.

57. The project will also promote policy dialogue on resilience building and the policy gap in the crop and livestock sectors with a view to developing strong policy on climate resilience to be replicated in the whole country and the Central Africa region.

58. Additionally, the project aims at improving the organisation and performance of the selected value chains, which include vamping up the resilience of rural infrastructure to climate change impacts through works to rehabilitate dams and feeder roads to connect producers to markets. Climate change could reduce crop yields, especially for rice and maize, and disrupt connections to markets.

59. The annual emissions of the Central African Republic, estimated at 116,285.49 kt eq-CO2 in 2010, or 26 tons eq-CO2/person, represent less than 0.002 percent of global emissions. It is equally important to note that CAR is categorized as a GHG sink when the LULUCF sector is considered. The project will contribute to reducing GHG emissions through better adaptation practices and reforestation and afforestation programmes.

60. Reflecting key development challenges and adaptation needs, the project will deliver on the stated objective through three components:

- **Component 1:** Climate resilient agricultural production and appropriate post-harvest measures combined with livelihood diversification.
- **Component 2:** Climate-resilient rural transportation and water infrastructure
  Component 3: Institutional capacity-building, policy engagement and knowledge management.

B. PROJECT COMPONENTS AND FINANCING

Table 5: Project Components and Financing

Project Components	Expected concrete outputs	Expected outcome	Amount
Component 1: Climate resilient agricultural production and post-harvest measures combined with livelihood diversification	Output 1.1. Best available technologies and integrated climate resilient farming systems for rice, maize, and cassava are implemented to foster the resilience of production and post-harvest practices	1.1 Established proven best practices in climate resilient value chains, drawing from local and international research leading to a sustainable increase in production	**US$4,115,900**
	Output 1.2: Income-generating activities focusing on climate resilient fish farming, livestock in the	1.2 Smallholder farmers' capacity and adaptation strategies improved because of	**US$1,102,000**

	project area, conservation, processing units and marketing are promoted as livelihood diversification measures	diversified sources of livelihood and increased income	
Component 2: Climate Resilient Rural transportation and water Infrastructures	Output 2.1. Rural transportation and storage infrastructures have been rehabilitated and upgraded to withstand extremes weather	2.Enhanced and secure access to potable water supply, postharvest losses reduced and improved access to market by beneficiary communities through climate-proofed rural road network	**US$ 1,858,014**
	Output 2.2: Water supply storage capacity increased and sanitation infrastructure built, accounting for current and future climate risks		**US$ 721,268**
Component 3: Institutional capacity-building, policy engagement and knowledge management	Output 3.1. Capacity of the government (esp. Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and local councils) to manage climate risks is strengthened	3. Environment for resilient crop and livestock value chain improved and policy and regulatory frameworks strengthened due to enhanced government and local authorities' capacities on climate adaptation in water and agriculture sectors.	**US$500,000**
	Output 3.2: Activities are adequately coordinated, monitored, and evaluated.		**US$316,454**
Project Activity Cost	**US$ 8,613,636**		
Project Execution Cost (7%)	**US$ 602,954**		
Total Project/Programme Cost	**US$9,216,590**		
Project Cycle Management Fees (8.5%)	**US$783,410**		
Amount of Financing Requested	**US$10,000,000**		

C. PROJECTED CALENDAR

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project Implementation	2024
Mid-term Review	2026
Project Closing	2028
Terminal Evaluation	2028

A. Describe the project / programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience. For the case of a programme, show how the combination of individual projects will contribute to the overall increase in resilience

61. The project proposes to implement a set of concrete adaptation measures in some of the most profitable agricultural value chains in the country: rice, cassava, and maize. Enabling actions designed to strengthen national capacities and institutions will be interlinked with concrete adaptation measures to build the resilience of the crop and livestock value chains in four target prefectures: Nana Mambéré, Ouam Pende, Lobaye and Ombella Mpoko. Within these prefectures, the project will concentrate its interventions in eleven sub-prefectures/production basins: Bimbo, Boali, Bossembélé, Yaloké, Boda, Boganangone, Mbaïki, Bouar, Baboua, Bozoum and Bocaranga. Concrete adaptation measures include the adoption of integrated, climate resilient farming, production, post-harvest, and marketing systems. New technologies will be introduced, as well as best practices aimed at promoting the paradigm shift and behavioural change in the crop and livestock value chains and increasing linkages to markets.

62. To project is structured around three components:

- **Component 1:** Climate-resilient agricultural production and appropriate post-harvest measures combined with livelihood diversification.
- **Component 2** Climate-resilient rural transportation and water infrastructure
- **Component 3:** Institutional capacity-building, policy engagement and knowledge management.

Component 1: Climate resilient agricultural production and appropriate post-harvest techniques combined with livelihood diversification

63. This component focuses on household/village-level interventions to promote integrated climate resilient and sustainable agroforestry type of business models to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and climate variability, as well as to contribute to sustainable agricultural and rural livelihood development through income diversification. Along the agricultural and forestry value chains, key issues to be addressed through the adoption of more effective and resilient adaptation practices are the low productivity and high vulnerability of the agricultural sector, mainly rice, cassava, maize production. These value chains are highly dependent on rainwater, which is the sole water source for a large majority of small farms. Another urgent issue is the more frequent occurrence of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and climate-induced vegetable diseases and changes and variations in climate conditions from one year to the next, which reduce productivity levels. With regards to post-harvesting activities in the crop sector, the lack of adequate equipment for drying and processing to maintain a high-quality products is still a challenge to efforts to stabilize and increase farmers' income in the face of climate change. Fostering access to affordable labour-saving technologies and practices will relieve burden of farmers, especially women, reduce demand for labour, primarily child labour and address the low level of mechanization in the smallholder sector. Furthermore, measures will be taken to build stakeholder capacity and knowledge on occupational safety and health (e.g., human health of people who produce and process food and threats to their health related to climate change and environmental degradation) and topics related to social aspects such as the situation of vulnerable groups, gender inequality and the household distribution of tasks. To support the shift towards climate-resilient production and post-harvest systems and more

diversified livelihood options in the targeted areas, the project will focus on the following outputs and activities.

64. **Output 1.1: Best available technologies and integrated resilient crop varieties are implemented to enhance the resilience of crop production and post-harvest practices.** The activities for each of the key value chains are listed below.

65. **Rice value chain:**

By modifying management of rice plants, soil, water, and nutrients to improve growth environments, farmers can get higher yielding, more vigorous and resilient plants nurtured by larger root systems and greater diversity/abundance of beneficial soil organisms. More productive phenotypes from available genotypes enhance farmers' income and security while reducing their costs and water requirements. The Sustainable Rice Intensification (SRI) as a knowledge-based methodology increases the productivity and resilience of rice, and more recently also of other crops. Its simple changes of agronomic practices were assembled in close collaboration with farmers during the 1970s-80s in Madagascar. Since 2000, SRI has been spreading to other countries, and today we estimate that more than 10 million farmers are benefiting from the application of this methodology.

Conceptually and operationally, SRI is based on the principles that provide an adaptive foundation for its practice:

i. Encourage early and healthy plant establishment;
ii. Minimize competition among plants;
iii. Build up fertile soils that are well-endowed with organic matter and beneficial soil biota; and
iv. Manage water to avoid both flooding and water stress

SRI methods are being successfully used in all the main rice-growing climates around the world and in both irrigated as well as rainfed rice systems.

SRI plants thrive with 30-50% less irrigation water compared to always-flooded rice, so it is efficient for water management and helps grow both in the rainy and dry season depending on available rainfalls. Reduced competition among plants in combination with aerated and organic matter-enriched soils creates stronger plants above and belowground with larger, deeper, less-senescing root systems, which can resist drought and extreme temperatures better. Also, organic matter-enriched soils are able to store more water as well as nutrients. SRI management contributes to mitigation objectives by decreasing the emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) when continuous flooding of paddy soils is stopped, and other rice-growing practices are changed. Good training of extension staff is required when promoting SRI practices. Well-trained and motivated extension staff makes a huge difference in impact when working with farmers. Staff should focus on experimenting and learning together with farmers. In the context of this intervention, focus will be given on rice cooperatives or association facing substantial climatic adaptation challenges (e.g., poor access to stable irrigation system, rainfed rice, etc.). SRI could also benefit from the preliminary list of innovations identified in the formulation of this project such as on water, weed, pest, fertilizer, and compost management. Therefore, the SRI interventions will also benefit from the adoption of specific technologies from the innovation catalogue. In terms of implementation, the focus will primarily be targeted to rice cooperatives benefitting from sufficient planting surface and with sufficient labor forces to sustain the SRI methodology. Under this project, main activities will be:

i. Selection of pest-resistant varieties and cultural practices (distance between plants, irrigation management and weeding) in partnership with Africa Rice
ii. Expansion of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) on 8000 ha.

iii. Support for the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment to run integrated Farmer Field Schools (FFS) or business models and provide other technical support. FFS or model business farms will be identified to showcase specific approaches to facilitate the introduction and uptake of resilient practices for farmers
iv. Capacity-building on modern composting techniques to reduce/prevent movement of farmers to fallow land in secondary cropping years
v. Establishment or rehabilitation of boreholes and irrigation schemes to cope with the consequences of drought and heat extreme events
vi. Development of new inland valley swamps for rice production to increase the production of smallholder farmers and diversify and expand their revenue sources.
vii. Construction of dykes in the valley bottom to control water during rainy seasons and of micro-catchment water runoff control dykes
viii. Construction or consolidation of structures for gravity irrigation serving 8,000 producers
ix. Watershed rehabilitation and introduction of efficient water use and management methods
x. Extension and infrastructure rehabilitation and construction including drainage systems.

Maize value chains:

66. Monocropping of maize has led to soil degradation and decrease of production. The project will support these activities:

i. Assessment of the impact of the production of the specific crop (maize) on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy
ii. Selection of pest resistant varieties and growing practices (distance between plants, irrigation management and weeding)
iii. Community mobilization and organizing to promote the adoption of the selected crops as climate smart cash crops and the development of cooperatives
iv. Support for female farmers in engaging in commercial production of the selected crops (including training in sustainable production, negotiating access to farmland and equipment)
v. Conducting random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of crop production uptake on the resilience of female farmers and drought prone communities
vi. Support for cooperatives in the construction and climate proofing of processing units and local branding of selected crops
vii. Elaboration and dissemination of a user guide on sustainable production techniques best suited to the project area and good agroecological practices
viii. Strengthening of the capacity of the extension services to develop the field schools farmer approach to train farmers in soil fertility management, the use of organic manure and biopesticides and the adoption of good farming practices adapted to the effects of climate change; popularize soil restoration techniques; develop a sustainable mechanism for the production of organic manure and promote agroforestry (leguminous forest species or species of economic or nutritional interest)
ix. Set up an ICT platform for beneficiary cooperatives to exchange knowledge and experience with good agroecological practices and market information. The project will support 12,500 maize producers

Cassava value chains

67. Cassava is grown by smallholder farmers in more than 100 tropical and subtropical countries. Thanks to its efficient use of water and soil nutrients, and tolerance to drought and sporadic pest attacks, cassava can produce reasonable yields, using few if any inputs, in areas with poor soils and unpredictable rainfall. Among the world's staple food crops, cassava was long seen as the least suited to intensification. The Green Revolution approach to intensification – based on the use of genetically uniform crop varieties,

intensive tillage, irrigation, fertilizer and pesticide – has proven inappropriate for cassava in rainfed areas. But cassava's importance has changed dramatically. FAO estimates the global harvest in 2012 at more than 280 million tonnes, a 60 percent increase since 2000. Global average yields have increased by almost 1.8 percent a year over the past decade, to 12.8 tonnes per hectare. With better crop and soil management, and higher yielding varieties more resistant to drought, pests and diseases, cassava could produce average root yields estimated at 23.2 tonnes. The project will support these activities;

i. Assessment of the impact of the production of the specific crop (cassava) on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy
ii. Selection of pest resistant varieties and growing practices (distance between plants, irrigation management and weeding)
iii. Community mobilization and organizing to promote the adoption of the selected crops as climate smart cash crops and the development of cooperatives
iv. Support for female farmers in engaging in commercial production of the selected crops (including training in sustainable production, negotiating access to farmland and equipment)
v. Conducting random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of crop production uptake on the resilience of female farmers and dryer areas
vi. Support for cooperatives in the construction and climate proofing of processing units and local branding of selected crops
vii. Elaboration and dissemination of a user guide on sustainable production techniques best suited to the project area and good agroecological practices
viii. Strengthening of the capacity of the extension services to develop the field-schools farmer approach to train farmers in soil fertility management, the use of organic manure and biopesticides and the adoption of good farming practices adapted to the effects of climate change; popularize soil restoration techniques; develop a sustainable mechanism for the production of organic manure and promote agroforestry (leguminous forest species or species of economic or nutritional interest)
ix. Set up an ICT platform for beneficiary cooperatives to exchange knowledge and experience with good agroecological practices and market information. The project will support 12,500 cassava producers

68. Growth in cassava production is likely to accelerate over the current decade. Once seen as the "food of the poor", cassava has emerged as a multipurpose crop for the 21st century – one that responds to developing countries' priorities, to trends in the global economy and to the challenges of climate change. In brief:

- *Rural development.* Policymakers in tropical countries are recognizing the huge potential of cassava to spur rural industrial development and raise rural incomes.
- *Urban food security.* A major driver of production increases will be high cereal prices, which sparked global food price inflation in 2008.
- *Import substitution.* Domestically produced cassava flour can replace some of the wheat flour in bread.
- *Renewable energy.* Demand for cassava as a source of bio-ethanol is growing rapidly. Global output of bio-ethanol could reach 155 billion liters by 2020.
- *New industrial uses.* Cassava is second only to maize as a source of starch. Recent cassava mutations produce root starch that will be highly sought after by industry.
- *Adaptation to climate change.* Of the major staple crops in Africa, cassava is expected to be the least affected by climatic conditions predicted in 2030.

As the country become more and more stable, cassava is likely to see an increased monocropping on larger fields, the widespread adoption of higher-yielding genotypes, and higher rates of use of irrigation and agrochemicals. Intensive monocropping may simplify management and favour initially higher yields

in CAR. Experience has shown, however, that it also increases the prevalence of pests and diseases and accelerates the depletion of soil nutrient stocks.

69. Many smallholder cassava growers already practise three key "Save and Grow" recommendations: reduced or zero tillage, protecting the soil surface with organic cover, and crop diversification. FAO's "Save and Grow" farming model seeks to limit mechanical disturbance of the soil by minimizing the ploughing, harrowing, or hoeing of land. Cassava growers will be encouraged to adopt minimum tillage and, ideally, zero tillage, especially on well-aggregated, friable soils with adequate levels of organic matter. Even where conservation tillage produces lower yields, it offers farmers economic advantages: reduced spending on the fuel/labour and equipment needed for conventional tillage, and the opportunity to produce cassava more intensively and sustainably, without the need for high levels of external inputs.

    Reduced or zero tillage will also be important as an alternative to conventional tillage in cassava-growing areas affected by climate change. Where rainfall is reduced, it will help to conserve soil moisture; where rainfall increases, it will help reduce soil erosion and improve soil structure, allowing better internal drainage.

70. In "Save and Grow", farmers are encouraged to cultivate a wider range of plant species in associations, sequences and rotations that may include trees, shrubs, and pastures. Mixed cropping diversifies production, which helps farmers to reduce risk, respond to changes in market demand and adapt to external shocks, including climate change. Rotating or associating nutrient-demanding crops with soil-enriching legumes, and shallow-rooting crops with deep-rooting ones, maintains soil fertility and crop productivity and interrupts the transmission of crop-specific pests and diseases.

71. Higher-yielding varieties with resistance or tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses are available in CAR and are contributing to substantial increases in cassava yields. The availability and use of high-quality planting materials that maintain genetic purity and are free of diseases and pathogens are crucial to intensified cassava production and some development partners in CAR are well positioned to play an active role in this regard.

72. Low-input production systems incorporating key "Save and Grow" practices, such as reduced tillage, the use of cover crops and mulches, and mixed cropping is a production model that could be promoted. Extension services will be crucial in building on those practices by ensuring access to relevant knowledge from the innovation catalogue and linking it to the wealth of knowledge held by smallholders. Cassava growers may need incentives to manage ecosystem services such as soil conservation and protection of biodiversity as an integral part of the methodology.

73. Study also shows that mixing cassava with a diverse group of intercrops largely benefited ecosystem services – pest suppression, disease control, soil and water services, and land productivity – and these effects were detected across very different locations and farming systems.

    In this intervention, it is proposed to promote "Save and Grow" strategies in cassava with a particular attention to inter-cropping with other plants such as groundnuts, grass family, grain legumes, banana, or trees. Such approach is more suitable to small households since it will focus on low-inputs and inter-cropping making cassava a more cost-effective investment compared to other commodities. Particular attention will be given to farmer field schools as the recommended methodology to promote the "Save and Grow" approach. Relevant extension services and INGOs will be explored, including their training in the adoption of a "Save and Grow" approach. The project will support 12,500 cassava producers.

Output 1.2: Income-generating activities focusing on climate resilient fish farming, livestock in the project area conservation, processing units, and marketing are promoted as livelihood diversification measures.

74. The contribution of fish farming to food and nutrition security in the project area has been underplayed due to its low priority in the food production systems. However, assessments conducted by the Food Security Cluster co-led by FAO and WFP indicate an alarming deterioration of the food security situation over the past year. Compared with pre-crisis levels (2012), cereal production is down 70 percent; fisheries output, 40 percent, and cattle population, 46 percent. The production of cotton and coffee – two key cash crops – is estimated at 42 and 28 percent lower than pre-crisis levels, respectively.

75. The key activities for this output are:

i. Designing and Construction of 50 earth dams less than 15 m high for fish farming activities.
ii. Establishment of 50 fish farms and the creation of services for the entire value chain (fingerlings, etc.).
iii. Training for 300 smallholder farmers on Tilapia and Milkfish production
iv. Construction of modern ovens to improve women's living and working conditions
v. Purchase and distribution of fingerlings to farmers
vi. Establishment and capacity-building for fish farmers' cooperatives.
vii. An assessment of the impact of poultry farming and commercial livestock on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy
viii. Selection of local resistant poultry breeds and animal production practices (feed formulation, vaccination, housing, water management, and actions to reduce mortality rate)
ix. Support female farmers to engage in poultry farming and commercial livestock production (small ruminants) (including training in sustainable production of livestock and management practices)
x. Conduct random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of livestock production uptake on the resilience of female farmers and communities.

Component 2: Climate Resilient Rural transportation and water Infrastructures

Output 2.1 – Rural transportation infrastructure have been rehabilitated and upgraded to withstand weather extremes

76. Fostering productivity and production is not sufficient to ensure that smallholder farmers sustain and increase their revenues. Poor road and transportation infrastructure leads to a depreciation of the quality of the production and hence its value on the market therefore smallholders' revenues. The already observed and projected intensification of extreme weather events could lead to more value chain disruptions, affecting the capacity of smallholders to gain sufficient incomes from their production. As a consequence, two key activities will be undertaken by the project: (1) improving the usability of road infrastructure all-year round and for all-weather conditions; (2) in the same areas rehabilitating existing warehouses to withstand wetter climatic conditions will also support the development of the rice, cassava and maize value chains.

77. With regards to infrastructure, based on the lessons learned from PREVES and other project in the country, road construction has previously overlooked the construction of culverts that enable IVS drainage, resulting in water-logged fields during the rainy season. Depending on the ESIA outcome, this project will help finance culverts that will allow for natural drainage, and it will also support the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, and local councils in its supervision functions. Should the allocated budget permit, the project will support the reinforcing of bridges against increased peak fluvial discharges resulting from increased deforestation, increased surface water runoff and increased rainfall intensity.

78. Activities under this output are:

i. Warehouse rehabilitation to withstand wetter climatic conditions. With an increasing recurrence of extreme wet events, it is essential to ensure that existing warehouses (1) preserve low humidity level to preserve the produce and (2) are rehabilitated outside floodable areas and are not exposed to extreme flood events that could adversely affect the stored produce.
ii. Climate-proofing 120 km of feeder roads and farm tracks to ensure the year-round and all-weather usability. This includes the studies and surveys, the works, the construction of bridges and culverts where necessary, routine and periodic maintenance.
iii. To sustain the climate-proofed investment over a longer period of time, activities aiming at their maintenance by local public authorities and Farmer-based organizations will also include: (1) Support to districts for development of Feeder Roads Maintenance Plans and (2) Support to Farmer-based Organizations (Road gangs formation, distribution of maintenance tools, development of Farm Tracks Maintenance Plans) 3) empowered and autonomous farmers' organizations at all levels that build the communities' sense of ownership and their operation and maintenance capacity;

Output 2.2 – Water supply storage capacity increased and sanitation infrastructure built, accounting for current and future climate risks.

79. Agricultural and domestic water management in Central African Republic is becoming more complex due to climate change. Key barriers to agriculture production involve drought (acute and seasonal) and flooding of villages due to intense periods of rain. In the targeted areas, availability of water, in both quantity and quality, is being severely affected by climate variability and climate change.

80. Constraints identified at the local level include lack of water infrastructure both for agriculture and human consumption. The low productivity in agriculture and livestock is linked to water availability. Addressing the risks of current and future climate change to water supply and agricultural productivity is therefore critical in enhancing resilience. Frequent drought or erratic rainfall results in crop damage, loss of livestock and pastures, water shortage (for humans and livestock), malnutrition (due to lack of food), and migration of households and wild animals. The unsustainable management of water resources is the major factors aggravating the impacts of climate change in the targeted areas. Crop pests and water-borne diseases are common, often caused by poor farm management and the absence of water and sanitation infrastructures. Therefore, the following expected outputs are expected to improve the baseline scenario.

81. The project will also tender a contract for a capable NGO or institution to carryout water quality testing as part of the site selection process to ensure the water is suitable for agriculture. As poor sanitation leads to water borne diseases, which are responsible for all deaths of the labour force, the project will also build latrines in the villages. Activities include:

i. Climate-proofed construction and rehabilitation of drinking water supply and sanitation to withstand the consequences of extreme dry and wet events that could disrupt the quantity and quality of water available to the population and its economic activities.
ii. Capacity building for potable water management will complement the construction and rehabilitation. To sustain these infrastructures, the project will build the capacity of the water users organizations on sustainable and well-managed infrastructure by communities and Farmers Organizations with participation of women in decision making processes and clear operation and maintenance arrangements and responsibilities for large and complex infrastructure

Component 3: Institutional capacity development and policy engagement

82. To ensure the effective implementation of the project, further capacity development is required for the relevant government agencies in charge of climate change adaptation, from policy development to project

execution and oversight. Component 3 therefore focuses on strengthening the capacity of key government institutions to manage climate risks (Output 3.1) and ensuring adequate M&E of project activities and the recruitment and training of staff to facilitate the implementation of adaptation to climate change activities (Output 3.2).

83. **Output 3.1: Government capacity (especially the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture) to manage climate risks is strengthened.**

84. The activities for this output include:

i. Strengthening of capacities of the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment, and their partners, such as Africa Rice, in climate risk management, planning for climate adaptation transitions (e.g., introduction of new farming systems or livelihoods) and exploiting opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, where feasible as a co-benefit. This could include capacity-building on technological enhancement methods and measures to enhance institutional capacity on sustainable agricultural productivity, supporting equitable increases in farm incomes and food security and to adapting and building the resilience of the crop and livestock sectors to climate change at multiple levels. The details of the trainings will be decided in collaboration with the staff of the ministries at project start-up.
ii. Strengthening of the CAR Meteorological Department and local representatives.
iii. Building the capacities of technical agents by providing them with equipment, tools, and training on climate risk management so they can analyse and monitor the changes in the status of natural resources and the implementation of environmental and social safeguard measures on the field. In coordination with the PMU beneficiaries and other relevant project partners, to ensure a proper implementation and monitoring of the project's Environmental, Social and Climate Management Plan and the Adaptation Fund's 15 Principles in each target zone during the implementation of the best available technologies and integrated resilient crop varieties and livestock breeds (output 1.1), income-generating activities (output 1.2.), upgrading water infrastructure (output 2.2.) and rural transportation (output 2.1), which aim to contribute to improved overall agricultural productivity, climate resilience in the crop and livestock sectors and an effective adaptation strategy in the CAR for ensuring food security and improving livelihoods in the project area.
iv. Provision of technical assistance for improved policy frameworks to mainstream climate risks into sectoral strategies and policies.

85. **Activities are adequately coordinated, monitored, and evaluated.**

This final output intends to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the project as well as support the project team in accessing the necessary resources to plan and implement adaptation measures. This output supports the critically underfunded Meteorological Department and Environmental Protection Agency, the institutions in charge of climate change adaptation in the CAR. Activities to be undertaken here are:

i. Support for the development of a measurement reporting and verification system for climate response programmes.
ii. Support to improve monitoring & evaluation and knowledge management activities, which will include funds to cover additional baseline surveys (related to climate change adaptation) and terminal surveys (related to climate change adaptation).
iii. Project management and coordination, including the recruitment of a climate change adaptation specialist for the duration of the project and staff training on adaptation-related issues.
iv. As part of the activities to ensure that the project is efficiently monitored, a KM officer will be recruited in the PMU to enable the project to produce a knowledge management plan, knowledge transfer platform,

knowledge management products such as newsletters, TV and radio interviews and materials on success stories. These products will be disseminated via online and offline channels.

86. **Theory of Change:**

87. To achieve its objective, the project will support targeted investments in infrastructure, and the technical and organizational capacities of farmers' organizations, particularly youth and women and other stakeholders along the rice and cassava value chains. For these value chains, accessible markets exist domestically and regionally and productivity gains for food security and nutrition are achievable through the adoption of proven climate-smart technologies and practices and better access to markets. The AF project will scale-up achievements from IFAD past and ongoing projects PREPAS, PREVES, and PRAPAM while building synergies with other partners' work geared towards increasing climate change resilience and adapted value-chain development.

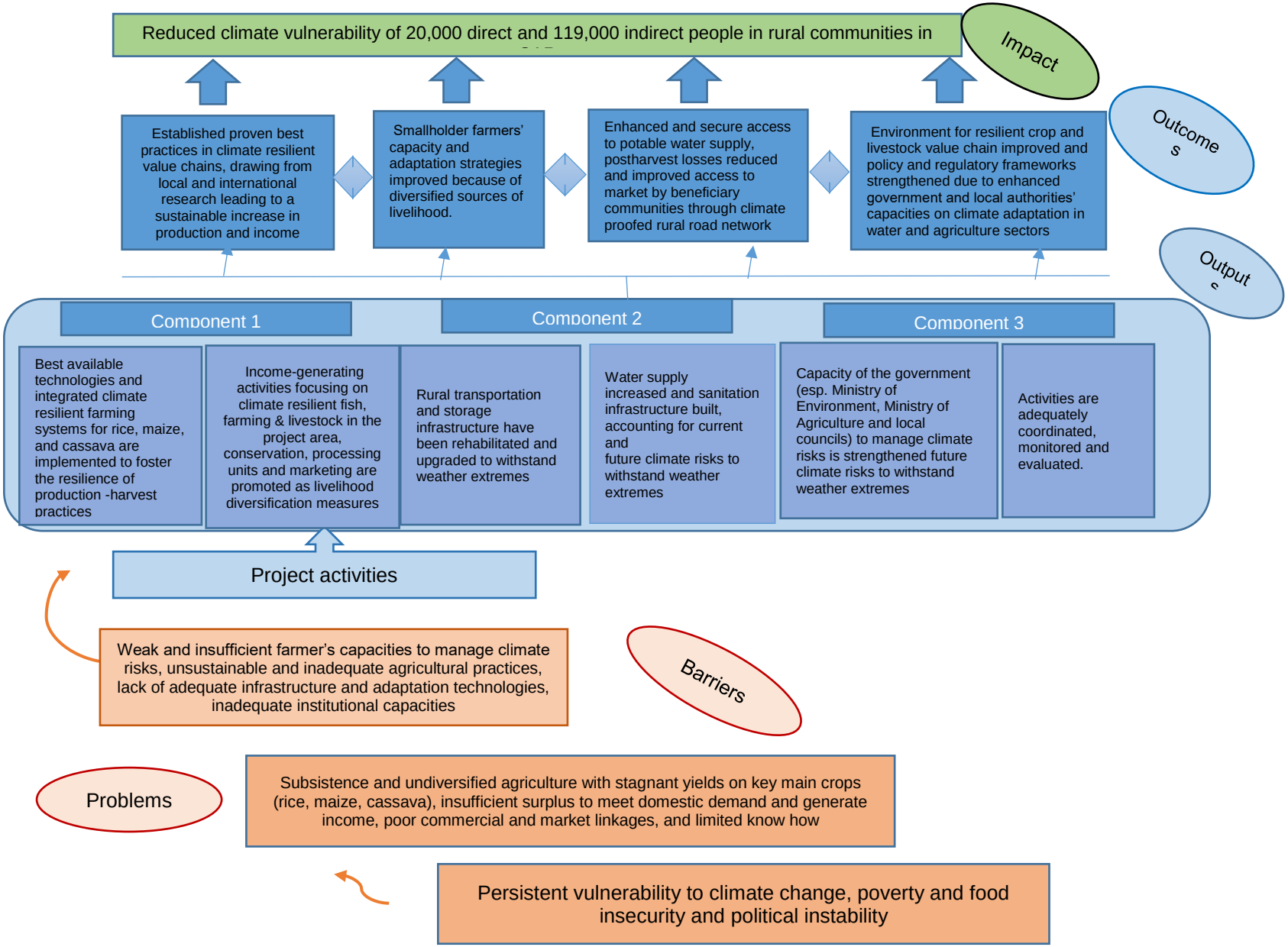
    Against the climate impacts, the Theory of Change (ToC) below summarizes how a combination of the proposed interventions described under Part II are expected to yield maximum benefits in terms of transforming the target communities into more climate resilient ones through the proposed components and activities. In the rural communities of the selected countries, to improve agricultural value chains particularly rice and cassava, there is a need to address climate change impacts. This requires to ii) improve agricultural productivity under a changing climate trough the adoption best agricultural and land use and forestry (LULUCF) practices, as well as livelihood climate diversification including climate resilient fishing ii) improve access to market with climate proofed infrastructures such as roads and other basic services (water and sanitation) in a post conflict recovery areas iii) build and strengthen the institutional and farmers capacity for the adoption best adaptation practices in the selected agricultural value chains and maintenance of climate proofed

88. The project aims to build strong synergies among the components to strengthen local and national administrations' capacities to mainstream climate change considerations into policies and actions for agricultural value chains. Interlinking intervention measures to improve infrastructure capacity (climate resilient agricultural practices and technologies, including post-harvest equipment), climate resilient infrastructures (roads, warehouses, storages systems), human capacity (capacity-building for farmers, government, cooperatives, etc., especially women and youth) and institutional capacity (climate risk management, M&E coordination, policy framework) is key to building a climate resilient agricultural sector and avoiding and/or minimizing climate-induced risks.

89. As the result, the project is expected to: (i) improve adaptation practices in smallholder agriculture, (ii) provide access to post-harvest technologies and climate resilient farming systems, (iii) diversify income-generating activities through the introduction of climate resilient fish farming and conservation (vi) strengthen project coordination, monitoring and evaluation and policymaking. These outputs are expected to enable rural communities to increase their climate-smart agricultural investments, which will translate into higher yields, assets and incomes that improves food security and livelihoods throughout the year. It is important to note that the proposed components and activities are fully aligned with the CAR's strategic goals and expected results and will contribute to its effort to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, and 15[47].

[47] https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/ (consulted in August 2023)

Figure 25: Theory of Change



B. Describe how the project/programme provides economic, social, and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project / programme will avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund

90. The focus of this project is to promote climate proofing and build the resilience of rural communities to climate change in the Central African Republic. As stated above, it addresses the multiple impacts of climate change, especially of the anticipated modification of rainfall patterns, decreased water availability, increases in temperatures and extreme climate events (floods and drought) on smallholder farmers in the project's target areas.

91. The project will contribute to the achievement of the CAR's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and its international commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement and to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), mainly SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 13 (climate action). This project will also contribute to IFAD's objectives on environment and climate described in its 2019-2025 Environment and Climate Strategy.

Economic and social benefits

92. ***Improved and diversified household incomes***: Use of selected varieties of staple crops of cassava, maize, and rice, that are tolerant to climate variability and change; Improvement of soil structure/quality, through soil amendment with compost, to reduce and prevent rapid encroachment over fallow land; Introduction of farming techniques to improve crop performance and yield production (example: Extension of the Rice Cultivation System over 8,000 ha); improved availability of water resources to cope with extreme drought and heat episodes (boreholes, gravity irrigation equipment for 8,000 producers), with training and technical assistance, lead to increase in yields for rice, cassava, and maize, and consequently to an improvement of small producers' incomes in the target areas, along the value chains.

    Average yields per hectare are expected to increase for cassava (1.3 T/ha to 1.7 T/ha), maize (0.85 T/ha to 1.8 T/ha), and rice (1.5 T /ha to 4 T/ha), resulting in increases in income by up to 94,400 XAF/ha/year; 112,100 XAF/ha/year; and 833,333 XAF/ha/year, for these respective crops. This change in crop yield and crop production will address the supply of food needs of smallholder farmer households, reduce their food expenditure, and support the payment of school fees for children throughout the year. Under the category of female-headed farm households, single mothers or widows engaged in subsistence production on small areas, the project will contribute significantly to poverty reduction[48] and poverty gaps between women and men (67% of rural women over the age of 15, are poor due to their limited access to assets according to UN Women).

    By defining and operationalizing an integrated climate resilient crop and livestock business model, the project will enable smallholder farmers to improve their practices, yields and incomes to the benefits of smallholder farmer households. The implementation or improvement of irrigation systems and the introduction of new productive activities, such as fish farming, will allow farmers (particularly youth and women) to diversify their income and help them to develop a more robust income source. This subsequently will reinforce the safety nets for smallholder farmers under daunting economic distress, helping them offset losses in income caused by weather shocks.

[48] Poverty line estimated at 722XAF per person per day or 263,530XAF per person per year, according to ICASESS (EHCVM, 2023)

93. ***Improved market opportunities***: Improved market opportunities: addressing the barriers of accessing market opportunities for CAR's smallholder farmers requires a holistic approach integrating market information systems (access to information on prices and markets dynamics) and improving investment in infrastructure. The project will play an instrumental role in this regard, through the rehabilitation of 120 km weather-proof roads/rural tracks (representing 2.6 % of the of the 4 regions' rural ways network estimated at 4567 km) and processing and storage facilities to withstand wetter climatic conditions. The establishment of an ICT platform for beneficiary cooperatives to exchange knowledge and experience with good agroecological practices and market information will benefit to 12,500 cassava and maize producers, and 8,000 rice producers. These hard and soft infrastructure assets have direct and indirect positive impacts on local economies and smallholder farmers, thanks to the market opportunities generated. These include: (i) the development of intra- and extra-regional trade, due to the reduction in the cost and time of transport: opportunity to expand trade flows of staple food, from regions with the most direct access, Lobaye and Ombella-Mpoko, towards Bangui; (ii) the increase in sales volumes due to better access of local production to markets: it is estimated that a drop of 10% in transport costs for landlocked African countries would increase the volume of their trade by as much as 25%[49] ; (iii) the reduction of post-harvest losses, thanks to the improvement of transport conditions and the expansion of food storage facilities: under the assumption of post-harvest losses of 5%[50], it is estimated that additional income generated per producer, in the absence of post-harvest losses, are for cassava (20,060 XAF/ ha/year), maize (10,620XAF/ha/year), and rice (66,667 XAF/ha/year); (iv) lower machineries operating costs (maintenance, repairs, fuel consumption), due to better track conditions; and (vi) improved access to health and education centres for young schoolchildren, which has a positive impact on the development of human capital.

    Because of the predominant and extensive involvement of women in agricultural processing and marketing activities in the country (3/4 of collection and retail activities are occupied by them according to WFP-2011), the creation of these opportunities, will contribute significantly to the improvement of their living conditions, particularly of rural women heads of households, single mothers, and widows.

94. ***Job creation:*** Adaptation options proposed by the project will reduce climate impacts, while generating important opportunities for economic activities and decent work. It is the case when expected investment are made for climate-proof infrastructure. Such investment will be connected with mobilization of local resource for optimized use of local human resources, with the objective of generating incomes distributed in the local economy, and enhancing local capacity for asset maintenance: rehabilitation and establishment of hydro-agricultural infrastructure for the mobilization of water resources (boreholes, irrigated perimeters, dykes at the bottom of the valley, gravity irrigation structures, drainage systems); building and consolidation of fish farming infrastructure (earth dams and fish farms) and energy efficient ovens, have a direct and indirect job creation potential estimated at 85,000. Such investment will enable new business opportunities for producers and fish farmers. Climate-proofed infrastructure will benefit the youth and displaced communities highly vulnerable, especially the M'bororo Fulani indigenous groups (Example: Vangue-Ombella Mpoko) known for limited financial resources and asset endowments (farmland and livestock) because of economic job opportunities. Emerging business opportunities will target female producers. Cooperatives are used as main engines of sustaining job creation, through skills development (including training in sustainable production, negotiating access to farmland and

[49] Limão, N. and Venables, A.J. (1999) 'Infrastructure, geographical disadvantage, and transport costs. Policy Research Working Paper Series 2257. Washington, DC: World Bank

[50] Mission FAO/PAM d'évaluation des récoltes et de la sécurité alimentaire. RCA. 2019.

equipment), with a view of supporting job created over the long term without being dependent on donor-based project.

95. ***Food and nutrition security***: The project's interventions will lead to improving the level of food security of the target communities, by improving food availability of 85% targeted farming households in project area, physical and economic access to food (weather-proof roads/rural tracks and prices), and utilization of food (sanitary).

    By increasing yields of cassava (+31%), maize (+112%), rice (+167%), the project improves the productive capacity of smallholders and households to feed their families, provide sufficient stocks to cover lean periods and during climatic shocks or marketing surplus production. This increase in production also has a positive impact on the four target areas' contribution to national production, and therefore to the reduction of the country's food insecurity: Indeed, the four project's intervention areas are considered in the IPC 2022 Classification phases of food insecurity such as in a state of crisis and/or emergency.

    In a context of rising prices of basic food products, following the successive crises of COVID19 and oil market disturbances, the war in Ukraine, and their negative impacts on vulnerable communities in the areas of intervention (increase in 2022 of the rice's price: +28% in Bocaranga and +10% in Bossembele; +17% of cassava's price: in Boali; +40% of beans' price in Bouar ; +40% of maize's price in Mbaiki[51]), the enhancement of communities' economic access to food by the project, through improved income, is therefore instrumental in supporting their resilience to shocks: the rural roads for market access in place, and the post-production infrastructures (warehouses to withstand wetter climatic conditions) enable small farmers and fish farmers to enhance incomes obtained from the local markets, and communities facing decapitalization (displaced persons and returnees) or characterized by structural vulnerability (widows, disabled people) to benefit from lower market prices, thanks to the reduction in the cost of production and improved post-harvest conditions (transport, conservation).

    The development and rehabilitation of boreholes will facilitate population's access to drinking water sources in areas where the access rate remains low (29% have access to basic services in rural areas-MICS-2022). Supporting the establishment of sanitation facilities-latrines and food reserves (6% have access to basic services in rural areas-MICS-2022), promoting species with high nutritional potential in agroforestry practices, and enhancing fish production (fish farming), are aspects that the project will bring to improve the nutritional security of young people in school and out of school, and their health in a context marked by a rate of chronic malnutrition exceeding on average 40% in the 4 regions covered (38.1% in Lobaye; 44.9% in Nana-Mambéré; 48.2% in Ouham-Péndé; 42.3% in Ombella-Mpoko) (PNSAN, 2017).

96. ***Gender and indigenous groups***: With seven out of ten people living below the national poverty line, CAR remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Poverty is more critical among smallholder farmers households (NDC, 2016), and more women than men. Among those, divorced or widowed women are more likely to be poor (EHCVM, 2021).

    The project will contribute to improving gender equality in the agriculture sector through provision of solutions to the adaptation needs of 17,000 smallholder farmers (of which 50% are women) engaged in subsistence production of crops and livestock in small areas of land and low livestock capital, and 3,000 marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups, including the minority groups and indigenous peoples (M'bororo Fulani and the Aka Pygmies). Youth represent 30% of the 20,000 total target (of which 50% are women).

[51] ICASESS, 2023.

Under *the smallholder farmers groups*, the project will take special measures to promote women's and youth access to skills and knowledge, assets/resources, and production assets, securing their partake in income-generating activities and strengthening their control over resources. In practice, the project will ensure that 50 percent and 30 percent of the beneficiaries of the adaptation solutions and technologies promoted by the project are respectively women and young people. Support will be provided specifically to women farmers to encourage and enable them to adopt selected crops (rice, maize, and cassava) and improve their access to climate goods and services (climate resilient seeds, inputs, technologies, equipment, supplies and infrastructure for fish farming, storage, and increased access to climate information for improved climate risk management). Furthermore, the project will introduce technologies such as solar-powered water pumps and ovens to reduce women's workload. Climate-smart agriculture techniques and technologies promoted in Component 1, and income generating activities (fishery and livestock for diversification) will foster social cohesion and generate direct economic benefit for the beneficiaries of each target area. To support empowerment of women and youth, capacity-building will be provided on sustainable farming practices in the key food value chains, and best climate resilience business models, while their participation in community decision-making processes will be promoted mainly at the project management committee and cooperatives levels. The establishment of criteria for organizing community project committees will include equal representation of both men and women. Youth sensitivity will be encouraged in targeting project beneficiaries and the project will ensure that implementing partners are knowledgeable about inclusiveness.

Careful considerations will be given to *marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups,* who represent 15% of the project total beneficiaries: *people living with HIV/AIDS, single mothers, people with disabilities, the elderly, widows, and widowers.* Based on the specific needs expressed by this group during the field consultations, tailored options will be availed such various product processing and marketing units (people with disabilities), as well as income-generating activities focusing on climate resilient fish, farming, and livestock.

The project contributes to the revision of the regulatory and legislative framework to further secure their assets, by supporting organizations of indigenous Pygmies AKA populations (Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in the Central African Republic, Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme Pygmées, etc.). This support will further advocate for the traditional rights on lands and natural resources, which is a first step in implementing sustainable practices towards climate change adaptation. Cassava, maize, and poultry farming have been identified by AKA populations, during the field consultation in the forest zone of the South-West (Lobaye), as adapted to their needs, traditions, and culture. The project will ensure that indigenous peoples are part of climate change adaptation design and implementation, without precluding the proposition of local and traditional varieties and breeds, to preserve the local genetic heritage and biodiversity.

As regards to the Fulani Mbororo ethnic minorities, a large proportion of them have lost most of their assets during the socio-political crisis. Thus, the project will support the group of women active in poultry, milk processing and marketing, with kits for replenishing/strengthening poultry breeding capital and small-scale milk processing units, in support to the development of economic initiatives, likely to enable them to generate profitable income for households, with a view to rebuild their productive assets.

Participatory decision-making and grievance redress mechanism create opportunities to bring the whole community into the process and create a culture of full participation through deliberate social

inclusion. These activities will improve the social status and livelihood of marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged, including indigenous groups and minorities; thus, increasing their adaptive capacity.

Environmental benefits

Improving soil quality and preserving the forest: It is estimated that more than 800,000 ha of land and 4,000 ha of forests are degraded each year in the country, during the 2000-2010 decade (NDT-RCA, 2018). This is attributable to the conversion of forests into savannas and agricultural areas. Shifting agriculture by slash and burn is the main cause of this conversion (55%), followed by deforestation, including the practice of animal husbandry. Each year, a farm reuse between 1/4 and 1/3 of its cultivated area. The rapid soil fertility loss due to excessive use of fires and farming practices, and the almost marginal use of agricultural inputs lead to low yields, hence the continuous encroachment of new lands and the displacement of farmers towards fallow land. It is estimated that dense humid forests lose 2% of their total area each year, to the benefit of farming lands.

Climate resilient agriculture practices, water and soil management and reuse of agricultural residues are expected to not only increase yield (the potential increase is 5%[52]), but also limit land degradation, and minimize soil erosion (a minimal cover rate of about 2%, i.e., 100 kg ha−1 is sufficient to reduce wind erosion[53]), runoff and groundwater pollution. The use of organic manure will decrease the use of chemical fertilizers, leading to reduced production costs to the benefit of producers. All above support the improvement of groundwater quality and quality and better soil carbon stocks. Promotion of climate resilient farming practices will contribute to the restoration of degraded land, establish ecological buffer zones and, in the long run, forests restoration with important carbon sequestration. This support will be provided to smallholder farmers engaged in subsistence production, through capacity-building on innovative composting techniques, and their introduction and uptake facilitated by the integrated Farmer Field Schools (FFS).

This constitutes an important contribution to the CAR land degradation neutrality objectives, consisting of restoration of 50% of plant cover and reduction of 50% in the loss of land productivity by 2030 compared to 2010, as well as maintaining the current sequestration capacities of forest and grassland ecosystems of the country estimated at 728,896 GgeCO2 (NDC, 2021). Support provided to maintaining carbon sequestration capacities will be a significant contribution to actions initiated by the CAR to benefit from REDD+ results-based payment within the framework of existing global forest partnerships (E.g., Forest Carbon Partnership Fund, Climate Emissions Reduction Facility).

97. ***Improved ecosystem services and biodiversity***: The Central African Republic hosts an important biodiversity of flora, fauna, wetlands, cultivated plants and domestic animals, which provides critical economic, social, and environmental services to communities, including food, shelter, clean water, and medicines.

    By reducing forests' conversion into agricultural areas, the project contributes to maintaining the provisioning services (e. g., food and timber) and regulating services (e. g., water regulation and pest control) of forests to communities depending on such services: smallholder farmers using forest products as safety nets for coping with stresses, when agriculture production fails, and indigenous Pygmies populations depending on timber and non-timber forest products such as firewood, wild fruits, and mushrooms.

[52] Lu X (2020) A meta-analysis of the effects of crop residue return on crop yields and water use efficiency. PLoS ONE 15(4): e0231740. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0231740

[53] Amadou Abdourhamane Touré, Jean-Louis Rajot, Zibo Garba, Beatrice Marticorena, Christophe Petit, et al.. Impact of very low crop residues cover on wind erosion in the Sahel. CATENA, 2011, 85 (3), pp.205-214. ff10.1016/j.catena.2011.01.002ff. ffhal-00596792

Promoting mixed farming (cassava with intercropping other crops) and agroforestry (maize growing areas), and a better access to local climate resilient seeds, contribute to expanding the diversity of species, habitats, and ecological functions. Additionally, the use of native and wild animals (wild poultry for the indigenous Pygmies populations), and disease resistant animal breeds (for Fulani Mbororo minorities) lead to maintaining valuable characteristics of animal species such as the ability to cope with future and changing local environmental conditions.

98. ***Promotion of climate-smart agriculture***: CAR's climate information network has very limited capacity and as such, projects and relevant government agencies do not have key climate data to support planning and decision-making. The local councils and Ministry of Agriculture have limited human and technical capacity. The project will strengthen the CAR's technical capacity to collect, interpret and disseminate data on climate change and rainfall patterns in the targeted areas, to inform the planning and management decision-making processes of all relevant stakeholders (government, FOs, cooperatives, individual farmers). With that approach the project will provide the basis for improved climate risk management, community preparedness for response and recovery. The "Produce more with less" approach is used for this purpose: crop associations to reduce the risks associated with climatic hazards and increase plant biomass, use of high-yield varieties resistant or tolerant to biotic and abiotic stresses, promotion of the Intensified rice cultivation methods to improve water uses (30-50% less irrigation water) while reducing greenhouse gas emissions (methane emissions). Access to renewable energy to power agricultural value chains and extend production beyond the regular growing seasons and to conserve fish stock will support the development of climate resilient and low emission agriculture. This is consistent with the SDG 7 on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services for all.

Avoiding or mitigating negative impacts

The following measures will ensure that project activities are designed and implemented in a way that does not cause negative social or environmental impacts:

- the project will be implemented in accordance with national standards,
- the project Gender Action Plan (Annex 2) will ensure that risks related to gender are managed and enable project decisions to be gender-inclusive,
- Implementation of the environmental and Social Management Plan (Annex 1) will ensure impacts of the project are mitigated or minimized and there will be no negative environmental or social impact from the project activities, Site-specific environmental or social impact assessments (ESIAs) are planned, to comply with standards for some activities (infrastructure) and take appropriate mitigation measures.
- Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) allows Indigenous Peoples to provide or withhold/ withdraw consent, at any point, regarding activities impacting their territories, and engage in negotiations to shape the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the project.
- The grievance redress mechanism established by the project (See ESMP) facilitate the resolution of concerns and complaints regarding alleged non-compliance with environmental and social policies of the AF.

C. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project / programme

99. The project design is cost effective as it builds on works done and on-going activities in the cassava, maize and rice sectors by various donors and governments and IFAD funded projects in CAR. It intends to improve the efficiencies of donors' investments in these sectors over the last decade.

100. The total project investment which is US$10,000,000 project will directly benefit 20,000 direct beneficiaries. This represents about US$500 per head of household engaged in the three main selected value chain (rice, cassava, maize) value chains. As a matter of comparison, an adaptation project at community level run by the NGO and other donors in the same area spent about 100-200 $ or less per direct beneficiary.

101. The project activities are based on experience from past interventions in the agriculture, water, and infrastructure sectors. The staff from field levels to administration have worked with and managed complex project.

102. Project will work with communities which will be able to share resources, knowledge and lessons learned from the interventions and for project staff to be able to monitor and manage community activities without extensive stress and resource requirements.

103. The activities of the project are designed to obtain optimum results that are of benefit to the communities and direct and indirect project beneficiaries in tangible ways.

Table 6: below presents the Comparative analysis of environmental risks and cost-effectiveness of intervention per Component and output

Component	Cost (USD)	No. of Beneficiaries	Losses Averted /Benefits Generated	Alternative to Project
Component 1 Climate-resilient agricultural production and appropriate post-harvest measures combined with livelihood diversification	**5,217,900**	20,000 direct and 119,000 indirect beneficiaries, of which 50(10,000) percent will be women and 30(6,000) percent youth in rural communities	• Improved short-cycle crop varieties; efficient irrigation; management of soil salinity (namely drainage, flooding and organic matter addition); • Increase in more resilient and higher yielding crop varieties improving farmers' income and contributing to food security; • Increase in more efficient water use, reduced emissions from crop fields and adoption of RETs; • Precise and reliable hydro-meteorological forecasts will be invaluable for enhancing flood protection and avoid excessive outflows; • Investment in storage, conservation and processing techniques and infrastructure for reduced post-harvest losses and value addition; • Gender, Marginalised and vulnerable groups including the PLWHIV and pygmies, mainstreamed into the project	The major alternative to implementing climate-resilient agricultural production and appropriate post-harvest measures combined with livelihood diversification in CAR is the business as usual considering that the country is just trying to transit to a post-conflict nation. Hence, the implementation of this project is key to building the adaptive capacity of the beneficiaries in the project area to cope. Some alternative methods of paddy cultivation to the System of rice Intensification (SRI) include BAU scenario, aerobic rice, and System of Assured Rice Production (SARP); Although the aerobic and SARP methods require comparatively less water, SRI water management in general reduces water needs by 30-50%, it also raises average yield, reduces costs of production, increases farmers' net income per hectare, and produces crops that are more resistant to the hazards of climate change[54] Without this project, these vulnerable groups will continue to be marginalised
Component 2 Climate-resilient rural transportation and water infrastructure	**2,579,282**	20,000 direct and 119,000 indirect beneficiaries, of which 50(10,000) percent will be women and 30(6,000) percent youth in rural communities	• Rural transportation and water infrastructure have been rehabilitated and upgraded to withstand weather extremes • Climate-proofing 120 km of feeder roads and farm tracks constructed to ensure the year-round and all-weather usability • Road maintenance plans developed with road gangs' formation and distribution of maintenance tools • 50 drinking water supply facilities, simplified networks, HOP boreholes and stand-alone water points rehabilitated and constructed respectively and construction of 10 public and 150 individual sanitation facilities in the project area	Without this project, the farmers will spend longer hours from the farm gate to market in other sell their goods. The number of public vehicles that ply the existing roads will continue to decrease as a result of the impact from the poor road conditions. The absence of the water infrastructure provided by this project will continuously lead to reduced yield, wilting from drought and conflicts arising from completion among farmers and herders. The absence of maintenance plans and gangs will lead to the reduced shelf-life of the rural roads and water infrastructure.

[54] Uphoff, Norman. (2020). Re: Why the alternative methods of rice cultivation with less water are not popularizing?. Retrieved from:https://www.researchgate.net/post/Why_the_alternative_methods_of_rice_cultivation_with_less_water_are_not_popularizing/5ede729a47507050225f8344/citation/download.

			• Built capacity of beneficiaries to manage construction and rehabilitation of water structures	Without the implementation of potable water infrastructure and sanitation facilities in the project area, there will be an increase in the prevalence of water borne diseases. Without building the capacities of the beneficiaries to manage these water and sanitation structures, this will lead to the early dilapidation of these structures.
Component 3 Institutional capacity-building, policy engagement and knowledge management	**816,453**	20,000 direct and 119,000 indirect beneficiaries, of which 50(10,000) percent will be women and 30(6,000) percent youth in rural communities	• Capacities of staff Ministry of Environment, and ministry of Agriculture on climate change adaptation strengthened. • Meteorological Department and local representation strengthened, including capacity building through technology enhancement and training to enhance institutional capacity. • Technical Assistance for improved policy frameworks to mainstream climate risks in into sectoral strategies and policies provided.	This project builds on the efforts of other projects ensuring that capacities of ministry staff are strengthened to provide extension services and strengthen the exit strategy of the project. Without the provision of technical trainings to the meteorological department, the dissemination of information from the early warning equipment will not be effective. There is need to improve policy frameworks to mainstream climate risks into sectoral strategies and policies. Hence, this project builds on the efforts of the IFAD baseline project PRAPAM

D. Describe how the project / programme is consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programs of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist

104. The project is aligned with the 2017-2021 National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan. This is now the main instrument of CAR, planning and mobilizing resources for the restoration of peace and the socio-economic recovery country and served reference document at the international donors' conference, held in Brussels in 2016. The plan articulates the national recovery and peacebuilding priorities, which are based on three pillars: (i) support peace, security, and reconciliation, (ii) renew the social contract between the state and the population, and (iii) promote economic recovery and boost productive sectors. The Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Sustainable Development sets and modifies the policies necessary to accelerate the transition into a sustainable economy. The mitigation and adaptation strategy of the current Government of CAR is in step with previous policies. CAR ratified the Paris Agreement on 11 October 2016

105. The proposed AF-financed project is aligned with several of CAR's strategies, plans, programmes and reports, as described in the table below.

Table 7: Alignment with national strategies

National Priority	**Alignment**
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	The proposed project is aligned with and will contribute towards achieving a number of the SDGs: i) SDG 1 – No poverty. Poverty reduction will be supported under Component 1 and 2 adaptation practices, transportation and water management which will lead to agricultural productivity for the population that mainly depend on crop and livestock farming (Output 11) and by developing diversified livelihood opportunities to increase household income with sustainable fishery (Output 1.2.) SDG 2 – Zero Hunger. The project will contribute to SDG 2 by improving food security and nutrition of households with improved productivity under Output 1.2 (best adaptation in crop and livestock value chains) . and Output 213. (livelihood diversification) SDG 5 – Gender equality. The project has been designed in a gender sensitive manner and will include a minimum of 40% female representation in all activities. Women-headed households will be prioritised to receive support for strengthening their houses thanks to easier access to potable water (Output 2.2) as well as Output 1.1. and output 1.2. on livelihood diversification support SDG 13 – Climate action. As a climate change adaptation project, the AF project will inherently contribute to achieving SDG 13. Apart from the on the ground interventions (Output 1.1 and output 1.2.) to improve the adaptive capacity of the vulnerable char communities, better access to climate information and institutional capacity to consider and account for climate change will be increased (output 3.1..) Furthermore, the provision of water services (output 2.2) strengthens the social contract between a government and its citizens by re-establishing the government's credibility and accountability and between communities, provided that users have equitable access to and control over the resources. By building climate resilience into water-reliant sectors like agriculture, the Adaptation Fund is supporting the largest source of rural employment. Investments in water infrastructure, governance, and management will promote more sustainable poverty eradication, support broader economic recovery, and enhance livelihoods.

National Adaptation Plan	Activities under Output 1.1. and Output 1.2. define adaptation options and diversification livelihood which are aligned on the Objective 2 of the NAP which is Adaptation Priorities for the most vulnerable sectors are included in the NAP and sectoral and national development planning Additionally with capacity building (output 3.1) and Output 3.2 on monitoring and knowledge management, the project will contribute to improving the NAP first development objective. The AF project financing itself contribute to the NAP result 3 which is financing mechanism to address climate change are strengthened including private sector engagement , innovation and indentation of flagship projects
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)	Through its activities, the project will align with the NDC's which commits to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 24.28 per cent by 2030 while improving food security, water security, and health and livelihood protection. Through sustainable agricultural practices, agricultural production will increase and food and nutrition security insured (output 1.1.) and Output 1.2. This requires robust knowledge on climate change to inform the development of NAPAs, NDCs, national strategic planning, investment, and financial decisions country programming in the agricultural sector and particularly in the crop and livestock value chains. TO sustain the work and scale it up Output 3.1. and 2.2. proposed capacity building activities for both smallholders, but also national institutions to better manage CIEWS and the climate services, expand and consolidate climate resilient agricultural production on both crop and livestock value chains which reduce the CO2 emissions contributing to the NDCs.
National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan 2017-2021	The project is aligned with the National Recovery Plan and Peacebuilding which is a five-year plan 2017-2021. Both Output 1.1. on agricultural production and value chains (crop and livestock) and output 1.2. on livelihood diversification contribute to the three pillars: (i) support peace, security, and reconciliation, (ii) renew the social contract between the state and the population, and (iii) promote economic recovery and boost productive sectors.
National Water Policy, 2020	The project is fully aligned to the main objective of this National Water Policy which is, on the one hand, to create individual and collective awareness on water-related issues within the country, and on the other hand, to foster greater synergy and coherence in public and private investments as well as ensuring the active engagement of various actors to address critical water resources issues and foster IWRM in the country. The government is committed to working with all actors to ensure that the water and sanitation policy document is fully implemented at all levels.
National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Equity (PNEE)-	The project is in coherence with the strategic orientations of the PNEE which are, inter alia, improvement of the living conditions of men and especially women as well as their equitable access to productive resources, property, employment, decision-making bodies, and management. The project will address gender-balanced representation within the CNCC, to ensure the positioning of women as main contributors to strategies and decisions. Output 1.1. and output 1.2. on production improvement and livelihood diversification will be key in enhancing the living conditions of women, while output 2.1. and output 2.2. will provide them with the infrastructural enabling environment to marketing products. Output 3.1. will address gender-balanced representation within local and national decision-making bodies.

106. Furthermore, the project is in line with "UN Delivering as One" as expressed in the agreed 2017-2020 Development Assistance Framework that is focused on (i) governance, (ii) human development, and (iii) sustainable development. It will explore avenues of partnering with other UN agencies like UNICEF, WFP and FAO jointly to support the government of CAR. In particular, it will work with policymakers to put in place policies directed toward sustainable production and consumption, decent work, income generation, and building the resilience of vulnerable populations to climate change.

107. **Strategic partnerships**. Key partners for policy dialogue include Farmers' Organizations, NGOs, private-sector actors, bilateral and multilateral development partners, key sector ministries such as the

Ministry of Agricultura and Rural Development, The Ministry of Environment, AFDB, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, the WFP Regional Centre on nutrition to name few.

E. Describe how the project / programme meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and complies with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund

108. The project will ensure potential adverse environmental impacts are identified and avoided, and where impacts cannot be avoided, a suitable plan is prepared for those impacts to be mitigated and managed. Applicable and relevant national technical standards including best environmental practice will be used to deliver the planned activities.

Table 8: Alignment to AF Principles

AF Principles	**Corresponding National Standards**	
	National Text enacting the standard	STANDARD
Compliance with law	Environment Legislation	Ordinance No. 89/043 of February 1989 establishing the National Committee for the Environment and 90/003 of 9 1990, the integration of environmental issues into development planning. RCA Environmental Policies comes under the competence of the Ministry of the Environment and Ecology whose role is to develop and implement national policies relating to environmental protection, rational management of natural resources and improvement of the environment and quality of life. At the regional level, the mission of the environment administration is carried out by the prefectural inspections of the environment and ecology. The Directorate-General for the Environment is the structure responsible for monitoring ESIA procedure to ensure effective implementation. Among others, the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment also include: • Protection of soil, subsoil, sites, landscapes and national monuments, vegetation, the flora and fauna, especially classified areas, national parks and existing reserves; • Establish the basic principles for managing and protecting the environment against all forms of degradation to develop natural resources and to fight against all kinds of pollution and nuisances; • Improve the living conditions of different types of people in respect of the balance with the surrounding environment; • Create conditions for a rational and sustainable use of natural resources for present and future generations; • Guarantee all citizens a framework for an environmentally healthy and balanced life; and • Ensure the restoration of the degraded environment. Output 1.1 promotes concrete adaptation measures as well as output 1.2 on livelihood diversification set sustainable practices that comply with the national environment Code. The PMU and relevant national authorities will ensure that the activities are implemented in line with the environment codes related to the proposed activities of the project. Output 2.1 focuses on the rehabilitation of rural transportation infrastructures withstanding weather extremes. Beforehand, an ESIA will be conducted to determine the type of infrastructures to be implemented (depending on impacts and mitigation measures) and define the management plan to avoid or reduce the potential negative impacts. More specifically, the results of the ESIA will have to be validated by the authorized entity (from the Ministry of Environment) before construction work could be started.

	Law No. 07/018 of 28 December 2007	Bearing the Environmental Code in its section7 specifies that "regulatory texts set out the content, methodology and procedure for impact studies, as well as the conditions under which these studies are made public and the modalities by which the Minister in charge of the environment may request or be asked for an opinion on any impact study environmental". The project will be in compliance with this environmental code in relation to EIAs or activity specific ESMFs for component 1 and 2.
	Order No. C5 / MEEDD / DIRCAB of January 21, 2014	This order defines the different categories of operations whose completion is subject to the obligation of environmental and social impact study in CAR. Article 3 of the decree stipulates in addition to hydro-agricultural projects of 1000 ha and any water withdrawal (water from surface or groundwater) of more than 30 m3 / h are subject to completion of the environmental impact study.
	Law No. 09/003[55]	The national spatial planning policy aims in particular to protect the environment by seeking a balance between the spaces developed in town and in the countryside, through harmony between the achievements and the environment, both social and natural. The various Municipal Councils concerned are consulted to give their opinion on the results of the preliminary socio-environmental impact study. The study must comply with the evaluation standards laid down in the evaluation and environmental impact guide drawn up by the technical services of the State. The Ministries in charge of Rural Development and that of Water, Forests, Hunting, Fisheries and the Environment are involved, among others, in the Spatial Planning process.
Equity and Access	The National Recovery Plan and Peacebuilding 2017-2021	This is the main instrument of CAR planning and mobilizing resources for the restoration of peace and the socio-economic recovery country and served reference document at the international donors' conference, held in Brussels in 2016. It seeks to rebuild the economy through investments in Agriculture, Health, and Infrastructure etc. and is providing peace building initiatives to sustain the gains of these investments. The project intends to reach at least 40% women and 40% of youth. Activities under Output 1.1. both on crop and livestock value chain development will give a special attention to youth and women. This will be also the same for Output 1.2. on livelihood diversification with sustainable fishery.
	Law No. 08/022 of October 17, 2008 on the Forestry Code	The Central African Forest Code was passed in October 2008 (Law No 08.022) and is the main legal text governing the forest sector in CAR. The term "legality of timber and timber products" is defined by the law as: all timber produced according to several components of CAR legislation and regulations. The Forest Code is consistent with other CAR land legislation, stating that all forests are state-owned. It provides the authority for the licensing of traditional timber production and community forests. This provides that timber extracted from community forests or via licenses for traditional production may be lawfully

[55] Loi portant orientation de la politique nationale de l'aménagement du territoire.

		exported. The Forest Code also determines the forest categories, the legal status of forest, the modalities of extraction of forest resources by different stakeholders, and the preservation of forest ecosystems. The project intent to support sustainable agricultural production in the crop and livestock sectors. By doing so, it will address the degradation of natural resources particularly deforestation. Under Output 1.1., sustainable production with tree shading, restoration of degraded land and promotion of agroforestry will contribute to meeting the forest code. The National Agency for Environment, PMU and relevant national authorities will ensure the compliance monitoring against this law and national standards through the ESMF during the project implementation
	Law No. 09/004 of January 29, 2009 on the Labour code	The Labour Code governs professional relations between workers and employers. It ensures that workers are not short-changed by employers and provides a grievance mechanism structure for redress issues. It forbids the engagement and exploitation of minors and child labour. The project will not engage or exploit minors or employ children to carry out the activities of the project.
	Law No. 63/441 of January 9, 1964 on Land code	This code (under revision) relates to the national domain of the CAR which recognizes access to land for people and state-owned land. The land code determines the national expropriation procedures and compensation
	Law No. 06/001 of April 12, 2006 on the Water Code	Under the Water Code, the country's water resources are part of the common national heritage, and the state provides integrated management of all water resources, facilities, and structures. The state's water priorities are: (1) providing drinking water; (2) protecting, conserving, and managing water resources; and (3) satisfying other human water-related needs. The state's water management duties under the Water Code include maintaining quality of water resources; preventing waste; ensuring availability; preventing waterborne disease; and developing and protecting water facilities and structures. The government may contract out the operation of water structures and facilities to other entities, as it has for the provision of drinking water. Under the Water Code, the right to use water is connected to the right to use land. The project location is the Congo basin where activities under Output 2.2. on development of water management and infrastructure aims at supporting water availability and use. Additionally, Output 1.1. on best adaptation practices on crop and livestock value chains will be implemented while managing sustainably water resources. The sustainable use of water will be monitored by the PMU and National Agency for Environment, PMU, and relevant national authorities to ensure compliance with the water code.

Conservation of Biological diversity	CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)	CAR acceded to CITES Convention in 1980. There are 30 plant species from CAR listed in CITES. It is an international agreement among governments whose purpose is to ensure that international trade in wild animal and plant species does not threaten the survival of these species. A total of 180 countries have agreed to the CITES regulations, which is a legally binding agreement. It is up to each CITES Party to draft its own domestic legislation in order to comply with its CITES obligations. The Ministry of Environment, PMU and relevant national authorities will ensure the compliance monitoring against this law and national standards through the ESMF
Gender Equity and Women's empowerment	General Directorate for the Promotion of Women	In CAR, the structure in charge of gender promotion is the General Directorate for the Promotion of Women, within the Ministry of social, National Solidarity and Family (MASSNF). To do this, its institution decree (2005 decree) assigns it the following missions: design, propose and implement the national policy on equality and fairness; work to promote the rights and social status of woman and man; work so that women and men gradually emerge from socio-cultural constraints and poverty, by supporting women's groups, through coherent literacy programs, granting of micro credits and technical training. A change of name from the general directorate for the promotion of women to the general directorate for gender promotion was carried out in 2011. The projet intends to reach at least 40% woman with all activities set under output 1.1. on the best adaptation activities and output 2,2 on the development of water infrastructures in order to increase climate resilience. The PMU and relevant national authorities will ensure the compliance monitoring against this law and national standards through the ESMP
	The national policy for the promotion of equality and equity (PNPEE), 2005	This policy considers that "a new partnership, based on equality between men and women is essential if we want to achieve human development sustainable in the service of the individual".
Protection of Natural Habitats	Forest Code	The Forest Code recognizes customary rights to forest resources, granting local communities use-rights to forest land and forest products. All use-rights recognized by the formal law are subject to state definition and control. The Yaoundé Declaration of 1999, which was signed by CAR, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon, established an international framework for collaboration on cross-border forest issues, the creation of protected areas, and the development and implementation of coordinated sustainable forest management. The declaration also created a governance structure, the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), which has the authority to direct, coordinate, harmonize, and monitor forest and environmental policies in the region.

		Under Output 1.1, specific activities related to crop value chain production, agroforestry, and sustainable management of degraded land along the protected areas will contribute to the country protected areas management. Component 3 of the project will support institutional strengthening
Pollution prevention and resource efficiency	Law N0. 03.04 on the code of hygiene	This law promotes the hygiene of the environment setting guidelines for waste disposal, and pollution. Activities planned under Output 1.1. (Adopting the best adaptation practices in crop and livestock value chains will contribute to reducing the emissions of GHG, by reducing the deforestation, sustainable rice production with SRI and sustainable land management. A monitoring will be done though Output 3.2. The PMU and relevant national authorities will ensure the compliance monitoring against this law and national standards through the ESMF
	The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC)	The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) is a voluntary global partnership of governments, intergovernmental organizations, business, scientific institutions and civil society committed to catalysing concrete, substantial action to reduce SLCPs (including methane, black carbon and many hydrofluorocarbons). The Coalition works through collaborative initiatives to raise awareness, mobilise resources, and lead transformative actions in key emitting sectors. Activities planned under Output 1.1. (Adopting the best adaptation practices in crop and livestock value chains will contribute to reducing the emissions of GHG, by reducing the deforestation, sustainable rice production with SRI and sustainable land management The National Agency for Environment, PMU and relevant national authorities will ensure the compliance monitoring against this law and national standards through the ESMP.
Indigenous Peoples	UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) ILO Convention 169 in August 2010	CAR voted in favour of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in September 2007 and ratified ILO Convention 169 in August 2010. It was the first and only African State to ratify this Convention. On 11 August 2011, under the terms of the ILO Constitution, the Convention entered into force. The project is targeting indigenous peoples (M'bororo, Fulani and the Aka Pygmies) without access to opportunities all of which are characterized by structural vulnerability, weak social integration and a lack of socioeconomic opportunities, and schooled and out-of-school pygmies and nomadic M'bororos. The PMU will ensure that these people groups are properly targeted in line with IFAD and AF targeting procedures.

109. The project will comply with CAR's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement that consists of plans for mitigating and adapting to climate change through the protection of water resources, cultivation of climate change-resistant crops, developing agroforestry, protecting soil fertility, and supporting sustainable fisheries practices.

F. Describe if there is duplication of project / programme with other funding sources, if any

Table 9: Project Synergies with other Projects

Project and donor	Project Name and Implementation Status	Main interventions	Synergies	Non Duplication and complementarity
Fonds Bêkou	Capacity building, resilience, and recovery project of the smallholder farmers in the Northern prefectures of RCA Status: Under implementation	The main objective is to sensitize and build the capacity of rural communities on peace building	The project could build on results and lessons learnt from the AF to offer solutions to rural communities. Exchanges visits, invitation to attend the project steering committees, joint technical and management meeting, joint supervisions missions and flied visits, joint learning events will help the project draw on lessons from the earlier initiatives during the project design, learning from their problems/mistakes, and establishing a framework for coordination during implementation	AF project will inform but also integrate the key approach on peace building during the implementation
FED	Two projects in the Northeast (Bamingui) and South East (Chinko)	The Project main objective is to enhance transboundary /transhumance and local development	These FED projects could be on the scaling up of the best adaptation practices generated by the AF project while the AF project could apply the FAD participatory and comprehensive local development tools under its capacity building component as well the diversification output with livestock , Exchanges visits, invitation to attend the project steering committees, joint technical and management meeting, joint supervisions missions and flied visits, joint learning events will help the project draw on lessons from the earlier initiatives during the project design, learning from their problems/mistakes, and establishing a framework for coordination during implementation	There will not be any duplication and the two projects complement each other's. FED project is more on local development while the AF focus on adaptation along maize, rice and cassava value in a specific region

Fonds Bêkou/ BDEAC	PRESU Project	The Project main objective is to rehabilitate roads, drainage systems, schools and provide equipment (School yakité, High School Miskine, Health Centre Mamadou Mbaïki à PK5), feeder roads avenue Idriss Deby	These PRESU project is being implemented in different targeted areas and the AF project could be built on the best practices, and identify the best contractors to support the infrastructure development under this AF project, Exchanges visits, invitation to attend the project steering committees, joint technical and management meeting, joint supervisions missions and flied visits, joint learning events will help the project draw on lessons from the earlier initiatives during the project design, learning from their problems/mistakes, and establishing a framework for coordination during implementation	There will not be any duplication as the two projects are not being implemented in the same region. PRESU is more in the cities while the AF are in rural areas.
UNDP – GEF	Integrated Adaptation Programme to Combat the Effects of Climate Change on Agricultural Production and Food Security in CAR	The main objective is to reinforce management capacities for climatic risks, improve food security and subsistence means for CAR rural populace.	The future GEF financed activities will complement some required CC activities not covered by PRAPAM in the areas of interventions. Exchanges visits, invitation to attend the project steering committees, joint technical and management meeting, joint supervisions missions and flied visits, joint learning events will help the project draw on lessons from the earlier initiatives during the project design, learning from their problems/mistakes, and establishing a framework for coordination during implementation	There will not be any duplication and the two projects complement each other's. GEF project will support climate change activities not covered under this AF project
GCF funded projects	Accelerating Financing and Implementation of Low Carbon and CC Resilient Priorities for Agriculture and Energy in Agriculture in African Countries	The main objective is to support the eligible countries to shift to low-emission sustainable development pathways and increase access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy to its populations.	The provision of low-emission energy pathways for agriculture will complement the AF project by proving cheap access to energy required to carry out activities like irrigation and value addition which will in-turn increase the adaptive capacity of the farmers. Exchanges visits, invitation to attend the project steering committees, joint technical and management meeting, joint supervisions missions and flied visits, joint learning events will help the project draw on lessons from the earlier initiatives during the project design, learning from their problems/mistakes, and establishing a framework for coordination during implementation	There will not be any duplication and the two projects complement each other's. The GCF project will support low-emission energy generation which will be complimentary to the AF including areas not covered under this AF project

IFAD	Project to Revitalize Crop and Livestock Production in the Savannah- PREPAS- Ongoing project	The development objective is to Strengthen the socio-economic development framework and revive crop and livestock production production through approaches adapted to climate change change	Interventions of the project will contribute to the development of production, processing, and marketing in the agricultural (maize, cassava, groundnuts, red beans) and livestock (poultry, goats, sheep, pigs) sectors. It seeks to promote sustainable practices that will help farmers adapt to climate change, particularly droughts and floods. Training activities on good feeding practices, nutrition and hygiene will be organised. Improving the availability of highly nutritious food will be one of the objectives of the project. To reduce tensions and promote long-term sustainability, the project will also encourage dialogue between livestock keepers and farmers.	There will not be duplication between the two projects but complementarities
IFAD	Project to Improve the Productivity and Access to Markets of Agricultural products in the Savannah zones- PRAPAM- Ongoing	The overall goal of PRAPAM is to make a lasting contribution to poverty reduction, the improvement of the food and nutrition security of poor rural households and the economic integration of women and youth in targeted regions of the Central African Republic. Its development objective is to build rural populations, resilience and give them greater access to market opportunities	The synergies can be illustrated given the type of interventions of PRAPAM. The development of the agricultural sector, aiming at increasing the productivity and production of plant and animal systems, which also contributes to an improvement in nutritional improvement. There is also support for the supply of services and the valorisation of products, with the aim of creating better managed infrastructures for processing, marketing and access to markets. It will also aim to strengthen the intervention capacities of support services to the agricultural and pastoral sector.	There will not be duplication between the two projects but complementarities

G. If applicable, describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned

110. Effective knowledge management – including the collection, generation, and dissemination of information – is an important component of climate change adaptation. Access to current and detailed information on climate trends and adaptation techniques is essential for project stakeholders such as government agencies, agricultural extension services and local communities to implement prioritised adaptation intervention effectively and sustainably on crop and livestock value chains. Component 3 in the project includes the design and implementation of a KM plan, which will consist of capturing, documenting, and disseminating lessons learned from the project activities both at the local and institutional levels for targeting and improving adaptive capacity in crop and livestock value chains. Monitoring and evaluation activities will also be implemented under Component 3 to inform long-term policies and strategies for climate adaptation practices in the agricultural and rural development through income diversification. The knowledge acquired in the project will be shared on online and offline channels.

111. The project will identify and analyse knowledge products in existing projects in the country, focused on, climate resilient and sustainable crop and livestock value chains to serve as a basis for the knowledge management activities that this project will implement. This basis will also allow the project to understand where knowledge flow needs to improve the project's outcomes as well. Thus, the project will define specific targets for its KM plan to identify the most appropriate knowledge products for these targets and define the most relevant events for knowledge access and sharing such as regular physical or virtual workshops. Workshops allow relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries to exchange experiences and learn from each other. Integrating lessons from previous projects' knowledge products will ensure a strong knowledge management established across the project by assessing performance against anticipated outcomes and adjust as necessary. Particular attention will be paid to equal gender representation.

112. The project will establish a knowledge platform on climate risks and climate change adaptation activities to enhance experience sharing. The project will generate knowledge through conducting vulnerability mapping and climate research, this research will focus on assessing the future geographical suitability for crop and livestock production in CAR by looking at maximum dry temperatures that are projected to be limiting for the crops. From this activity, there will be an understanding of what the differentiation of climate vulnerability is within the project area, including gender differentiated impacts and socio-economic analyses. In addition, it will project the implications for future shifts in crop and livestock production and hence, recommend adaptation measures. The project will work with relevant partners and stakeholders to contribute to the development of maps for protected forests in the country. These maps will be made available to the implementing partners to map the farms. The vulnerability mapping of areas most susceptible to slash and burn will also be mapped adding to knowledge of the scale of the problem at a national scale.

113. In addition to the maps, this activity will also include researching crop failure. The project will also design tools for knowledge dissemination to the farmer level. This will be in the form of best practices manuals and guides for tree crop production, fish farming, a curriculum developed for climate smart agriculture that will be implemented through the FFS and type of business models, pest management warnings and short demonstration videos in their indigenous languages. Furthermore, the project will develop case studies that will help disseminate lessons learned and foster replication or scaling up of successful climate smart crop production enhancement. Whenever possible, the project will facilitate baseline studies and surveys for future interventions.

114. The lessons generated by the project will be disseminated through relevant: e-newsletters, articles, blogs and hardcopy publications online, in workshops, seminars, at the line ministries and at public functions websites as well as websites of relevant regional platforms.

115. In addition, the project will produce success story videos, TV, radio interviews and packages of practice for dissemination through online and offline channels. Case studies, photo stories and short videos; booklets, posters, and brochures; public and school presentations; climate hazard maps; trainings, meetings, exchange visits and workshops for community members, community leaders, CBOs, and civil authorities regarding climate resilient agriculture, community briefs and guidelines.

H. Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund

116. Public consultation during the preparation of the project, were conducted in accordance with the requirements of the AF and IFAD (see in Tables 10, 11 a part of the list of people/ institutions consulted), in 2020, 2021, and 2023. They were complemented by a desk review of relevant documents on the environmental and social context of Central Africa Republic. The same process applied for the ESMF and the gender analysis and action plan: a broad institutional and community consultation took place at different levels and with targeted stakeholders. These consultations were carried out at the national level in Bangui and at the local prefectural, sub-prefectural and community levels. The last series of consultations conducted in 2023, targeted mainly marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups, ethnic minorities, and indigenous populations of the intervention sites.

117. In terms of the technical scope, the ESMF reviewed environmental, climate and social impacts, focusing on areas that have been impacted by oil operations, unsustainable agricultural practices and climate change. More specifically, the ESMF reviewed earlier reports and studies on ground and water contamination, CO2 emissions, aquatic pollution, potential impacts of oil pollutants on public health, soil degradation, impact of illegal refining operations, as well as the institutional and legal structures in the targeted areas.

118. The ESMF team held consultations with different stakeholders in the country (field, online). This ESMF report was developed in accordance with AF' E&S principles, IFAD's Social Environment and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP) as well as IFAD's Environment and Natural Resources Management Policy, the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and Targeting policies. The report also considered relevant environmental and social laws, policies, and guidelines of CAR.

119. Consultations made by the gender team raised issues relating to the participation and role of gender sub-groups in the agriculture-livestock-fishery sectors, gender differences in time allocated to daily activities, access to and control of resources (women and men), gender-differentiated adaptation strategies to the impacts of climate change, specific needs and concerns of marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups (single mothers, people with disabilities, the elderly, widows and widowers, indigenous Pygmies AKA, Fulani Mbororo).

120. The main objective of this approach of information, communication and participation of stakeholders was to create a climate of mutually beneficial exchanges, favourable to an open dialogue with the aim of: (i) ownership of the project by beneficiaries at the stage of preparation and planning; (ii) the consideration of the concerns of all stakeholders including vulnerable populations (women, youth, children, indigenous people and minorities) in the design and implementation of the project; (iii) exchanges on financing and project sustainability; (iv) identification of environmental and social impacts and risks and appropriate mitigation, compensation and environmental and social cooperation, (v) design of gender-responsive

intervention measures. The consultative process comprises more than three weeks of stakeholder consultation and field trips, and partly on interviews with all stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project.

121. Using two stakeholder consultations, field survey, expert solicitation, and literature review, we have validated the vulnerability of the selected regions. Given the fragility of the project area, the Environmental Social Management Framework has been prepared to give direction on mitigation and adaptation measures required to ensure that the set objectives of the project are actualized. Interviews with resource persons working in different ministries and structures involved as well as main actors engaged in main agro forestry, pastoralism were made. Field visits (potential sites and sites in exploitation) and interviews with the beneficiaries of perimeters in exploitation were made. This helped to establish in a participatory manner the context of project development, problems to solve, the types of adapted solutions, etc. and the consideration of the problems of vulnerable populations particularly women and youth.

The process was conducted as follow:

122. In the first stage, beneficiaries were widely informed on the objectives and activities of the project. These meetings were conducted in each area of intervention of the project by representatives of technical services (agriculture, environment, forestry regional representations of Agriculture rooms and representatives of farmers' organizations, etc.) and representatives of local authorities.

123. In each of these regions, the mission organized an information and consultation meeting including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and agencies, Ministry of Women and social affairs and other sector ministries. At local level, a wide range of consultations were held with local communities and beneficiaries, CBOs, NGOs, private actors, and religious chiefs. In the targeted community meetings organized with local populations to exchange with them on the project activities, their needs, and their solutions. Specific consultations were conducted with vulnerable groups, ethnic minorities, and indigenous populations in the intervention sites (see Table 11). A total of 215 person (126 women and 89 men) representing marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged (people with disabilities, youth, widows, indigenous Pygmies AKA, Fulani Mbororo) were met. The concerns raised by the communities during the public consultation are summarized in **Error! Reference source not found.**12. This document is coordinated by IFAD in collaboration with other development partners. The Government officials, communities met during the mission have been referenced in the targeting and gender strategy in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund, is included as part of the Annexes attached. A list of attendance for the targeting and gender assessment is included as well as the description of the field joint mission and the process that led to this AF. The list of persons met during the mission is presented in the Targeting and Gender Strategy attached.

Table 10: List of some persons and institutions consulted (see Annex 3 for full list)

Persons	**Organizations**
Minister of Agriculture Minister of Planning and Economy Minister of Finance Minister of Environment Adaptation Fund' focal Point	Fédération nationale des éleveurs centrafricains - FNEC Fédération des Maraichers de la Nana Mambere WELTHUNGERHILFE Chamber of Commerce CCIMA UNOPS ONG AFPE World Bank FAO

	WFP UNOPS AfDB ACDA ANDE

Table 11: List of communities and organizations met during the consultation process in 2023.

Prefecture	Profile of organizations and people met
Nana Mambere	Prefectural Youth Council (CPJ), Association of People Living with Disabilities and Injuries (APVHB), National Organization of Rural Women (ONFER), Federation of market gardeners of Nana Mambere (FMNM), ASGOCA, National Federation of Central African Breeders (FNEC), National consultation of farmers organizations in CAR (CNOP CAF), Central African Institute of Agricultural Research (ICRA), Fish farmer, small livestock breeders,
Ouham Pende	Returned Fulani (male, female)
Ombella M'pocko	Network of Indigenous and Local Populations of the Central African Republic (REPALCA), Organization of Central African Women (OFCA), FNEC, Prefectural youth council (CPJK), National Livestock Development Agency (ANDE), Islamic Committee, association of butchers, disabled people, beekeepers, breeders, fish farmers, association of women fish sellers
	Network of Indigenous and Local Populations of the Central African Republic (REPALCA), Organization of Central African Women (OFCA), FNEC, Prefectural youth council (CPJK), National Livestock Development Agency (ANDE), Islamic Committee, association of butchers, disabled people, beekeepers, breeders, fish farmers, association of women fish sellers; returned Fulani (male, female), Muslim community in a situation of vulnerability
Lobaye	Producer (stockbreeder, farmer), local authorities and decentralized State services, other relevant actors, Performing Producer (PP), Association of the disabled, Community for the integration of indigenous minorities in central africa (CIMAC), Néhémie Group, Agropastral group (AGP), MONGONZA Group, Agropastoral Group
Meeting with civil society organizations	FNPAC: National Federation of Fishermen and Aquaculturists of the Central African Republic MEFP: House of the Child and the Pygmy Woman REPALCA: Network of Indigenous and Local Populations of the Central African Republic COPA: Cooperative of Fish Farmers and Aquaculturists of Bangui and its Surroundings PGDRNE: Platforms for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment OFCA: Organization of Central African Women

Table 12: Concerns raised by the populations during the public consultations

Group	Comments and concerns raised	Integration into the project activities
MADR, MESA technical departments, agencies, institutes, etc.	• Absence of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for some projects intervening in the zone, and/or absence of key relevant governmental agencies in the monitoring of ESMPs. Some projects do not develop either Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), or site-specific ESIAs.	• Build the capacity of relevant governmental agencies to enable a proper implementation and monitoring of the project's Environmental, and Social Management Plan (Output 3.1.). • Fully involvement of governmental agencies in project implementation and ESMP's monitoring (Output 3.1).

	• The prefectural services may be poorly involved, due to the low technical and logistical capacity to monitor projects at the local level. • Lack of enabling environment for institutional effectiveness and coordination mechanism. • Destruction of forests and farms by slash and burn, bush fires and flooding	• Activities under output 3 focuses to promote adequate coordination (both national and local), monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. • Activities under Output 1 (establishment of demo plots to demonstrate best reforestation and agroforestry techniques, ridge and bunding techniques) and Output 3 Strengthen institutional and regulatory frameworks and promote forest management. Compensatory reforestation is also planned under the ESMP.
Farmers' organizations	• Some projects intervening in the same zone failed to target real beneficiaries, and to fully involve local organizations umbrella organizations, NGOs in the selection of beneficiaries. • Farmers are facing with difficulties related to decline of soil fertility and soil erosion, pests, postharvest losses, lack of conservation units, rudimentary tools. • Lack of access to climate resilient inputs (vaccines, breed stocks, seeds, fertilizers, and bio pesticides quality) in the crop and livestock sectors. • For fish farmers, the continuous use of the same strains of tilapia over several years results in a phenomenon of dwarfism in the fish, and therefore a reduction in productivity. • Provision of seeds by some projects in an unappropriated timely manner (incompliance with the agricultural calendar).	• Setting up, with the support of local authorities, decentralized services, implementing partners and community representatives, of beneficiary identification committee, under Output 1.1., and setting up of a grievance redressing mechanism (See ESMP). • Adoption of climate resilient crops and livestock, climate proof and sustainable agricultural practices, and post-harvest practices as stipulated in Output 1.1, including actions to improve the fertility of the soil and land management, selection of pest resistant seeds/races, support for cooperatives in the construction and climate proofing of processing units, access to climate resilient inputs (Output 1.1.), and warehouse rehabilitation to withstand wetter climatic conditions (Output 2.1). • Support the introduction of new fish farming techniques: Promote renewal of *Tilapia nilotica strains and* establishment of hatcheries under fish farming to address the decline in yield due to dwarfism (Output 1.2.).
Marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged group	• Low inclusion of youth and women, and lack of jobs and increasing rural-urban migration of youth • Lack of equipment to reduce the hardship of the work. • Low access to local employment generated by the project for unskilled positions. • Marketing and trade constraints, due to lack of appropriate transport infrastructure.	• Activities under Output 1.1; 1.2.; 2.1., and 2.2. support the improvement of farmers' production and incomes, including women and youth, for whom respective quota of 50% and 30% of target beneficiaries are proposed by the project. • Output 1.2. promotes livelihood diversification measures, targeting mainly Women, youth, and marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups, including disabled persons (15% of the project total beneficiaries).

	• Hardship constraints for the disabled in production activities (agriculture).	• Output 1.1. provides support for female farmers in engaging in commercial production of the selected crops, through accesses to equipment, and output 2.1. facilitates the construction of climate-proofing feeder roads and farm tracks. • Project ESMP includes in the support to local employment by contractors for unskilled positions, within the site-specific ESIAs.
Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities (AKA and Fulani MBoro)	• Difficulty to get access to income generating activities, land, and decision-making bodies. • Difficulties in cultivating large areas due to rudimentary tools. • Absence of enclosures is source of tension with neighboring communities. • Combine provision of seeds with provision of food, to avoid the consumption or sale of seed intended for agro-pastoral activities. • Ensure that the infrastructure put in place (tracks, boreholes, etc.) do not encroach on the sacred sites of the indigenous peoples.	• Output 1.2 provides support to pygmies - AKA and Mbororo with income-generating activities in subsistence agriculture (maize) and livestock (wild poultry), to reduce the long periods of displacement. • Output 3.1. provides support to organizations representing indigenous Pygmies AKA populations to advocate for the mainstreaming of traditional rights on lands and natural resources in the revision process of the regulatory and legislative land framework in CAR. • Setting up, with the support of local authorities, decentralized services, implementing partners and community representatives, of beneficiary identification committee, under Output 1.1., and setting up of a grievance redressing mechanism (See ESMP).
Civil society	• Weak involvement of civil society in the implementation phase	• Output 3. 1. supports involvement of civil society organizations especially in outreach activities targeting communities, with whom they have been working over the years, and capacity building to support awareness activities and proper use of equipment and products provided by the project.
Private sector	• Need to build the capacity of farmers to maintain quality of the products	• Activities under Output 1 (construction of processing units and local branding of selected crops; user guide on sustainable production techniques) strengthen farmers' capacity to maintain the quality of products

List of organizations contacted stakeholder consultation participants and pictures of field missions are provided in **Annex 3**.

I. Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning

124. The overall goal of the project is to reduce the direct effects of climate change on 20,000 direct and 119,000 indirect beneficiaries, of which 50 percent will be women in rural communities. The paradigm shift is to move from a "business as usual" characterized by unsustainable management of natural resources in the main key commodities (livestock, fisheries, rice, maize, and cassava) and agriculture practices to climate resilient agricultural value chains in the project area.

125. Against the baseline scenario (BAU) and the alternative adaptation options are presented below :

1.1. Alternative 1: Without project

126. The alternative without project means not doing the Adaptation Fund project. Vicious cycle of poverty plunges poor people including the most vulnerable to climate change (youth, migrants) that depend on natural resources for their livelihood (food security, nutrition, and income) in the project area. In this case, farmers will remain vulnerable to climatic changes as long as possible. Agricultural yields will continue to decline as the both the basin is affected. The production will remain low and food insecurity and poverty, migration high unemployment, insecurity will gain more ground in connection with population growth. Indeed, the current situation is marked by droughts or intense rain, which limits the efforts of farmers. There is more and more a shift in terms of rainfall towards the south and some areas are becoming more and more not suitable crop and livestock productions, Current coping and agricultural practices (rain fed agriculture, deforestation, logging, hunting) in a context of climatic stresses are clearly inadequate and exacerbate food insecurity, malnutrition and conflicts over resources, high unemployment rate, migration in the absence of job opportunities and the inability to adapt to climate change. The rate of deforestation with continue and will affect the biodiversity while contribution to limiting the carbon sink function of the remaining forests. Young people prefer to migrate in the absence of opportunities and re-engage in conflict and armed groups. Without the project, sites will remain exposed to droughts, floods, unsustainable management of natural resources, deforestation; conflicts over resources; erosion of the land. The forests will remain prey to bush fires during the dry season, and their ecological and environmental importance will decline. The lack of water to irrigate crops during dry periods will remain and the rate of food insecurity may increase. Regarding fishery the alternative without project means that fishery remain exposed to climate change and pollution. The alternative without the AF project is environmentally, economically, and socially unsustainable. It does not allow the achievement of a sustainable economy because the country will be obliged to put in place in the medium-term emergency programs to rescue the populations in these regions. These programs from a financial point of view will cost the country and the donors more than the project under development to have the same results.

1.2. Alternative 2: Development of a classic project without resilient actions on climate change (Business as usual)

127. This alternative is to implement a purely development project that does not include resilient actions on along the selected commodities and or sustainable management of natural resources. Such a classic project may concern: (i) the development of the sites without climate proofed infrastructure (ii) a simple development of the sites without flood protection actions, sustainable watershed management and the silting up of the sites; ((iv) the development of the sites without actions of capacity building of producers on adaptation techniques; v) no support to climate resilient crop and livestock value chains. This alternative is less costly but will not produce convincing results in the long term particularly in this targeted area under climate threats. In view of the location of the project and the effects of climatic disruptions, there are irregular rains, floods in the rainy season and dry up during the dry season. This phenomenon is coupled with the erosion and transport of sediments that sand the shallows; deforestation and biodiversity

including fish loss. This limits the development of agricultural sector including forestry and fishery. This alternative therefore does not solve the problems faced by the populations.

Alternative 3: Development of an AF project with proposed climate resilient interventions through:

128. **Output 1.1: Best available technologies and integrated resilient crop varieties and livestock breeds are implemented to foster the resilience of crop and livestock production and post-harvest practices.**

129. **Rice value Chain:**

i. Selection of pest resistant varieties and cultural practices (distance between plants, irrigation management, and weeding) will be implemented in partnership with Africa Rice
ii. Expanding the System of Rice Intensification (SRI)
iii. Support to MOA to run Farmer Field Schools and provide other technical support. The FFS will showcase specific approaches to facilitate the introduction and uptake of resilient practices for farmers.
iv. Capacity building in modern composting techniques to reduce/prevent movement of farms to fallow land in secondary cropping years
v. Boreholes irrigation schemes, to cope with the consequences of drought and heat extreme events, boreholes will be rehabilitated, and irrigation schemes will be deployed. The increasing needs for irrigation induced by future climate change will be integrated in the design of the schemes.
vi. Development of new Inland Valley Swamps for rice production to increase the production of smallholder farmers and diversify and expand their revenue sources.
vii. wet-season valley bottom water control cascaded dykes
viii. micro-catchment water runoff control dykes
ix. construction or consolidation of structures for gravity irrigation serving 8,000 producers
x. Watershed rehabilitation, water efficiency and management,
xi. Training and extension and infrastructure rehabilitation and construction including drainage systems

130. **Cassava value Chain:**

i. An assessment of the impact of cassava production on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy
ii. Selection of pest resistant varieties and cultural practices (distance between plants, irrigation management, and weeding)
iii. Community mobilization and organizing to take up cassava as a climate smart cash crop and cooperative development
iv. Support female farmers to engage in commercial cassava production (including training in sustainable cassava production, negotiating access to farmland, tractors)
v. Conduct random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of cassava uptake on the resilience of female farmers and drought prone communities
vi. Support cooperatives with processing units.

131. **Maize value Chain:**

i. An assessment of the impact of maize production on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy
ii. Selection of pest resistant (army worm) varieties and cultural practices (distance between plants, irrigation management, and weeding)
iii. Community mobilization and organizing to take up maize as a climate smart cash crop and cooperative development

iv. Support female farmers to engage in commercial maize production (including training in sustainable maize production, negotiating access to farmland, tractors)
v. Conduct random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of maize uptake on the resilience of female farmers and drought prone communities
vi. Support cooperatives with processing units.

132. **Output 1.2: Income-generating activities focusing on climate resilient fish farming and livestock in the project area, conservation, processing units, marketing are promoted as livelihood diversification measures.**

Fisheries IGA:

i. Construction of 50 earth dams less than 15m high[56] for fish farming activities.
ii. Establishment of fish farms, including the creation of value-chain services (fingerling, etc.).
iii. Training of farmers on Tilapia and Milkfish production
iv. Designing and construction of ponds/enclosures
v. Purchase and distribution of fingerlings to farmers
vi. Construction of modern ovens
vii. Establishment and building capacity for fish farmers cooperative

Livestock IGA:

i. An assessment of the impact of the impact of poultry farming and commercial livestock on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy
ii. Selection of local resistant poultry breeds and animal production practices (feed formulation, vaccination, housing, water management, and actions to reduce mortality rate)
iii. Support female farmers to engage in in poultry farming and commercial livestock production (small ruminants) (including training in sustainable production of livestock and management practices)
iv. Conduct random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of livestock production uptake on the resilience of female farmers and drought prone communities.

Component 2: Climate Resilient Rural transportation and water Infrastructures

Output 2.1 – Rural transportation and water infrastructure have been rehabilitated and upgraded to withstand weather extremes

Activities under this output are:

i. Warehouse rehabilitation to withstand wetter climatic conditions. With an increasing recurrence of extreme wet events, it is essential to ensure that existing warehouses (1) preserve low humidity level to preserve the produce and (2) are rehabilitated outside floodable areas and are not exposed to extreme flood events that could adversely affect the stored produce.
ii. Climate-proofing 120 km of feeder roads and farm tracks to ensure the year-round and all-weather usability. This includes the studies and surveys, the works, the construction of bridges and culverts where necessary, routine and periodic maintenance.
iii. To sustain the climate-proofed investment over a longer period of time, activities aiming at their maintenance by local public authorities and Farmer-based organizations will also include: (1) Support to districts for development of Feeder Roads Maintenance Plans and (2) Support to Farmer-based

[56] Total reservoir size should not exceed 3 million m^3

Organizations (Road gangs' formation, distribution of maintenance tools, development of Farm Tracks Maintenance Plans)

Output 2.2 – Water supply storage capacity increased and sanitation infrastructure built, accounting for current and future climate risks.

Activities include:

i. Rehabilitation and extension of 50 drinking water supply facilities and protection of catchment areas Construction of 50 simplified networks, HOP boreholes and standalone water points in surrounding rural villages Construction of 10 public and 150 individual sanitation facilities in the project area
ii. Climate-proofed construction and rehabilitation of drinking water supply and sanitation to withstand the consequences of extreme dry and wet events that could disrupt the quantity and quality of water available to the population and its economic activities.
iii. Capacity building for potable water management will complement the construction and rehabilitation.

133. **Output 3.1: Capacity of the government (esp. Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Agriculture) in managing climate risk is strengthened.**

i. Strengthening of capacities of staff Ministry of Environment, ministry of Agriculture, civil society and partners on climate change adaptation. This could include Capacity building through technological enhancement, Training to enhance institutional capacity. The detailed trainings will be decided in collaboration with the staff of the line ministries at project start-up.
ii. Strengthening of the Meteorological Department and local representation, including capacity building through technology enhancement and training to enhance institutional capacity. The detailed trainings will be decided in collaboration with the staff of the Meteorological Department at project start-up.
iii. Technical Assistance for improved policy frameworks to mainstream climate risks in into sectoral strategies and policies.

134. Various activities planned these outcomes and presented under section project components and description will contribute to achieving environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable development. At the environmental level, activities to climate proofed crop and livestock production in the project area while building the resilience of rural communities. Additionally forecast based decision-making using climate information systems and surveillance will contribute to better climate risks preparedness in these sectors. In economic terms, the project activities allow the creation of green jobs for youth, women, the improvement of farmers' production and incomes, the improvement of women's incomes and their development as well as the improvement of the level Life of target areas. At the social level, the project promotes the reduction of the phenomenon of rural exodus, migration towards main cities, improving food and nutritional health of populations, poverty reduction and the strengthening of community life.

J. How the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes has been taken into account when designing the project / programme

135. The sustainability of the project will be supported by :i) emphasizing the active participation of communities in the implementation and management of project interventions under all components and outputs of the projects; ii) strengthening institutional and technical capacity at regional and community levels through component 3 to ensure stakeholders have adequate knowledge and skills to maintain the benefits of the project interventions; iii) training communities under components 1 and 2 extensively on

climate-resilient agricultural techniques, rainwater harvesting, climate-resilient construction and locally appropriate climate independent livelihood options; and iv) raising awareness on climate change and climate change adaptation amongst local community members, governments and other stakeholders v) proper coordination, the government will work towards integrating these models into national budgets or any new investments for replication and scaling up. Project interventions have been designed to incorporate both capacity building and physical interventions. All physical interventions have included considerations of sustainability beyond the end of the project funding cycle. The concrete measures to ensure the sustainability of each of these physical interventions after the project ends are as follow:

136. The project will work with the ministry of forestry and the ministry of environment to ensure that rehabilitated lands are well sustained through the activities proposed under component 2. They will work with foresters to monitor compliance with national standards and regulation as per the ESMF in Annex 1.

137. Access to improved seeds and breeds: This will foster the access and use of multiple resilience on cropping and livestock systems under changing climate with improved seeds and maintain and increase productivity with the most suitable seeds and agro tree crops practices/ technologies. Under Component 1, the collaboration with Africa Rice, Swiss centre and seeds producers including with cooperatives that produce improved seeds will sustain the adoption and use of improved seeds beyond the project ends. CAR's commercial production of foundation climate resilient seeds and research institutes like Africa rice will generate revenue for continuity of supplying the partners to continue to produce and sell climate resilient seedlings to farmers.

138. Scaling up of demonstration plots and best practices at government level: Under Output 3.1, the project will train government official on the use of climate information use for strategic planning programming and investment. These experiences and subprojects will be integrated into the national and local plans, local investment plans and proposed to other development partners for integration into new upcoming projects in the region and beyond. Functional cross sector coordination mechanism will be established between the line ministries, local authorities, and smallholder farmers.

139. To sustain the climate-proofed investment over a longer period of time, activities aiming at their maintenance by local public authorities and Farmer-based organizations will also include: (1) Support to districts for development of Feeder Roads Maintenance Plans and (2) Support to Farmer-based Organizations (Road gangs formation, distribution of maintenance tools, development of Farm Tracks Maintenance Plans) 3) empowered and autonomous farmers' organizations at all levels that build the communities' sense of ownership and their operation and maintenance capacity.

140. Moreover, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which hosts the Directorate General of Infrastructure (DGI) whose mandate is to ensure the maintenance of rural infrastructure, has committed to include in the annual programming of maintenance, the project infrastructure from year n-1 of the end of the project, corresponding to year 4 of implementation (see MADR letter in annex 4).

141. With regards to water infrastructure, the project will build the water users organizations on sustainable and well-managed infrastructure by communities and Farmers Organizations with participation of women in decision making processes and clear operation and maintenance arrangements and responsibilities for large and complex infrastructure.

142. This project is fully aligned with the IFAD baseline project PRAPAM which is also investing in productivity enhancement and rural infrastructure. The activity, "Capacity building for potable water management will complement the construction and rehabilitation" under Output 2.2 will build the capacity of the farmers to manage the water infrastructure. To ensure that this activity is sustained, Output 3.1 will improve the capacity of the technical agents while the Baseline project continues to provide support after the end of the adaptation fund project. Once these sustainability structures are put in place,

the beneficiaries will be gradually weaned to take ownership of these investments including their management.

143. Smallholder producers are cognizant of the drudgery of labor associated with shifting cultivation such as preparing new site each cropping year, weeding and protection of crops from rodents and birds. The project will move beneficiaries from shifting cultivation on the upland where they have experienced hard labor and low yield year after year to the lowland where rice production will be intensified and yield increased.

144. The project will provide alternatives for existing livestock production under Output 2.2 practices including intercropping practiced and agro forestry with the crops by farmers on the upland with utilization of swamp margins to produce crops. Farmers could then eat and market these tree and staple crops combined with the livestock and fishery value chains. This brings additional at the same time income and improves food security and nutrition in the households.

145. Knowledge and skills acquired through the implementation of all activities under all components by rural farmers, farmer organizations, fishermen, extension services, met agents is something that can never be taken away from them. The benefits they accrue from applying climate smart skill and knowledge will serve as motivating factor for sustaining food production under changing climate.

146. Youth and women entrepreneur (livestock/fisheries) organization activities will result in improvement of livelihoods thus serving as motivating factor for continuation of their business activities. They will earn additional incomes from sale of manure to crop producers for vegetable production. With diversified activities, they will be able to access to credit with their income and saving, invest and expand their businesses beyond the project ends.

147. CAR's commercial production of foundation climate resilient seeds and Africa Rice will generate revenue for continuity of supplying the crop producers to continue to produce and sell climate resilient seedlings to farmers.

148. Overall the sustainability will depends on i) the financial and economic profitability of proposed investments which was assessed as effective and efficient at design stage; (ii) strengthened public institutions; (iii) better equipped women and youth crop and livestock producers and training institutions; (iv) empowered and autonomous farmers' organizations such as women and youth organization on integrated climate resilient agriculture, crop and livestock producers and cooperatives at all levels that build the communities' sense of ownership (v) sustainable and well-managed water infrastructure and rural transportation by communities and Farmer Organizations; (vii) promotion of a more structured approach to value chain support.

K. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project / programme

149. A preliminary environmental and social assessment was performed as part of the project design to ensure existing environment and social standards applicable to targeted community beneficiaries are considered in the context of the AF's Principles. The assessment against the 15 principles and the identified mitigation measures are summarized below: As the CAR Environmental Protection Agency has endorsed the project, it is fully compliant with the country's rules, standards, and laws. With an environmental risk rating of "B," the project is committed to ensuring that all safeguards are in place to ensure that the investment's operations do not worsen environmental degradation. Monitoring of the adaption intervention will be conducted during implementation to continue to check conformity with national law.

150. Table below provides an overview of the assessment against AF's principles and the principles that require further assessment and management are discussed in more detail.

Table 13: an overview of the assessment against AF's principles

AF Principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential Risks and Impacts - Further Assessment and Management Required for Compliance
ESP 1: Compliance with the Law	✓	Risks that the sub-projects do not comply with environmental and social studies currently applied in CAR: ***No risk.*** Environmental management which comes under the Ministry in charge of the environment, oversees the implementation of the provisions of the environmental code. It is supplemented by Ordinance No. 89/043 of February 1989 creating the National Environment Committee and 90/003 of 9 1990, integrating environmental issues into development planning. The environmental code applies to the project, due to the environmental and social risks and impacts that it is likely to generate (construction of dykes and dams, construction/rehabilitation of feeder roads and agricultural tracks, etc.). Thus, in accordance with this principle, the project has prepared this ESMF to comply with environmental and social legislative framework. The ESMF has set the guidelines, to ensure that the PMU, in collaboration with the technical services of the relevant ministries, the prefectural services and the beneficiaries, carry out the environmental screening of the sub-projects, further environmental and social assessments required, and monitoring in accordance with the law in CAR. *No further assessment required during project implementation*
ESP2: Access and Equity		Risk that activities reinforce elite capture, and unequal access to resources and assets, to the detriment of smallholder farmers who do not have access to decision-making bodies at the local level: ***Low risk.*** The risk is mitigated by the targeting strategy and the selection approach. Initial consultations undertaken during the formulation process, raised awareness among communities on the project approach to prioritizing smallholder farmers active in subsistence production of crops and livestock in small areas of land and low livestock capital. The project has set up a participatory and inclusive beneficiary targeting strategy that includes those groups. At the start of the project, the PMU will work closely with local authorities and partners, to facilitate their identification. Household selection criteria will be informed by the outcomes of the gender analysis and action plan. A grievance mechanism has also been prepared to ensure full stakeholder participation, and fair and impartial access to project benefits.
ESP 3: Marginalized and vulnerable groups		Risks that marginalized groups are discriminated: ***Low risk.*** The project is not expected to result in any risks to marginalized and vulnerable groups (people living with HIV/AIDS, single mothers, people with disabilities, the elderly, widows and widowers, and indigenous peoples (M'bororo Fulani and the Aka Pygmies). Because of the targeting approach,

		which prioritizes vulnerable groups as direct beneficiaries, this impact will be minimized. Marginalized groups, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples represent 15% of project beneficiaries. Stakeholder consultations held during the proposal development, were an opportunity to integrate their concerns into project design. In addition, the management framework has defined grievance mechanism that will ensure their effective consideration, during project implementation.
ESP 4: Human Rights	✓	Risk that the project does not respect the fundamental rights of people in the areas of intervention: ***No appreciable risk.*** The CAR recognizes fundamental human rights and freedoms in its constitution, without discrimination based on race, national origin, color, religion, opinion, belief, or sex. Project activities are not expected to have any negative human rights impacts, but rather enhance economic and social rights: the right to work in just and favorable conditions, right to food, water, and sanitation, etc. *No further assessment required during project implementation*
ESP 5: Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment		Risk that women and youth will not equitably benefit from the proposed project's adaptation and capacity building interventions: ***Low Risk*** The project has set targets for targeting 50% women and 30% young people. Activities are designed and implemented in such a way that men and women have equal opportunities to participate in consultation, training, awareness-raising activities; and benefit comparable social and economic benefits. In addition, the concerns of women, young people and people with disabilities were well recorded during public consultations, integrated in the project design, and will be given special attention during implementation. The proposed project is supported by a gender analysis and gender action Plan to address needs and vulnerabilities that are specific to women, and to ensure equal representation, access and participation of women and men. Gender quotas have been established where relevant and necessary.
ESP 6 Core Labor Rights		Risk of non-respect of labor rights in construction activities (boreholes, dams, irrigated areas, etc.): ***Low risk*** The project respects the ILO's labor standards. The environmental and social management framework describe the standards to be respected and the environmental monitoring mechanism (ESMP) will ensure compliance with those standards, by and private contractors in charge of infrastructure and agricultural and livestock intervention. The PMU, in particular, M&E expert will prevent child labor below 14 years in accordance with the provisions of the CAR Labor Code. It will also ensure that employment does not fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e., principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions).
ESP 7 Indigenous Peoples		Risk that activities negatively affect indigenous peoples, without their specific Free, Prior, Informed, Consent (FPIC): ***Low risk.*** CAR voted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in September 2007 and ratified ILO Convention 169 in August 2010. It was the first and only African state to ratify this convention, which entered into force on August 11, 2011. Therefore, special attention is paid to these communities. The project targets indigenous peoples (M'bororo, Fulani and the AkA Pygmies) characterized by structural vulnerability, weak social integration, and a lack of socio-economic opportunities. During the formulation process, M'bororo, Fulani and AkA Pygmies were fully consulted to better understand and reflect their specific needs. A process to obtain the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from

		the indigenous peoples present in the territories targeted by the project, is planned by the ESMF at the starting phase of the project. It will be operationalized, through sub-projects' ESIAs in the territories hosting indigenous people and minorities. In addition, the management framework has defined grievance mechanism that will ensure their effective consideration, during project implementation.
ESP 8 Involuntary Resettlement	✓	Risk of involuntary displacement for construction/rehabilitation of roads and rural tracks sub-projects: ***No risk*** During preliminary consultations, the project confirmed that no expropriation, relocation, or disruption of producers' livelihood activities will be undertaken, neither in physical nor economic terms.
ESP 9 Protection of natural habitats		Risk that project activities lead to species' habitat destruction (birds and reptiles; insects, etc): ***Medium risk.*** The project is not anticipated to invest in conversion of natural habitats. The project will not involve unjustified conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, including those that are (a) legally protected; (b) officially proposed for protection; (c) recognized by the national government for their high conservation value, including as critical habitat; or (d) recognized as protected by traditional leaders and communities. However, there is risk of localized destruction of plant and wildlife habitats with the removal of rice paddies, during the rehabilitation of degraded land, rural tracks, construction of earth dams and dykes and hydraulic structures. The project will implement mitigation measures particularly compensatory reforestation for the rehabilitation of degraded habitats. All necessary assessments will be conducted before the rehabilitation and construction (sub-projects ESIAs) and the promotion of sustainable rice intensification will result to restoration and improved management and protection of natural habitat.
ESP 10 Conservation of biological diversity		Risk of loss of biodiversity caused by bush fires and slash and burn agriculture, which lead to biological diversity losses: ***Medium risk.*** Clearing of lands and rehabilitation that lead to loss of biodiversity and deforestation through physically removing species will be avoided by this project. Intervention will happen at early in the planning process by prioritizing rehabilitation and use of abandoned lands, which will lead to the biodiversity restoration. However, activities related to development of new inland valley swamps for rice production, rehabilitation of degraded land, rural tracks, construction of earth dams and dykes and hydraulic structures may lead to minor and localized impacts on biodiversity. The project will mitigate impacts on biodiversity, through compensatory reforestation. In addition, all necessary assessments will be conducted before the rehabilitation and construction (sub-projects ESIAs). The promotion of sustainable rice intensification, and the rehabilitation of degraded lands, through soil restoration techniques and agroforestry, will result to restoration and improved management and protection of ecosystem functions and services.
ESP 11 Climate Change		Risk of methane emissions from rice paddies: ***Low Risk*** The project will not generate a significant and/or unjustified increase in greenhouse gas emissions or any other cause of climate change. Small methane emissions may arise from the rice fields. However, SRI will be promoted in the rice sector and the climate-resilient crop and livestock value chain will contribute to avoiding methane emissions. The project

		environmental monitoring mechanism (ESMP) will ensure appropriate measures are well-monitored and recorded during the project implementation.
ESP12 Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		Risk of pollution with change to agriculture and livestock production (such as increased use of fertilizers and pesticides), and as a result of the construction of infrastructure: ***Low to medium risk*** The project has integrated activities to promote sustainable soil fertilization techniques, organic manure, use of bio-pesticides and capacity building for farmers. Potential pollution and resource damage are likely localized, site specific, and manageable with ESMP which includes measures to address pollution risks. In addition, specific sub-projects ESIAs, including pollution prevention and resource efficiency, are planned by the project ESMP in the case of the construction of infrastructure.
ESP 13 Public Health		Risk of potential safety concerns for the communities within the vicinity of works especially when they are carried out by community workers or near a community: ***Low risk.*** The ESMF evaluate the risks and impacts to community health and safety and establish preventive and control measures during the project implementation. The PMU, in particular the M&E expert and private contractors (for both infrastructure and agricultural and livestock intervention) will be required to observe a code of conduct for workers, which addresses community health and safety concerns. This will be operationalized through specific sub-projects ESIAs, as planned by the project ESMP.
ESP 14 Physical and cultural heritage		Risk that the cultural and natural heritage of indigenous peoples is affected and that access of communities to this heritage is compromised: ***Low Risk*** Activities are unlikely to affect the tangible and intangible cultural heritage and/or access to known physical cultural resources, as the project focus, as much as possible, on existing farms. However, the ESMF gives guidelines in the event of encroachment on sacred sites during the construction/rehabilitation of infrastructure, consisting in stopping the work; circumscribe the site and inform the customary and state authorities for support in accordance with the law.
ESP 15 Lands and Soil Conservation		Risk that project activities contribute to land degradation (increased soil erosion, run-off, or significant changes to soil characteristics): ***Low risk.*** The project integrates the promotion of soil conservation practices, through capacity building of actors in the use of bio fertilization, organic fertilizers, soil defense and restoration techniques, innovative composting techniques to reduce/prevent movement of farmers to fallow land. In addition, the environmental monitoring plan has included site-specific ESIAs to ensure the effectiveness of soil protection measures.

Overall Risk Categorization

Based on the above assessment most of project activities are low risk with the potential for medium risk through specific activities in Components 1 and 2. E&S impacts that can be readily addressed through mitigation measures, have been planned under the ESMF. Additional site-specific ESIAs will ensure appropriate mitigation measures are taken to comply with standards for some activities.

As such, the overall risk level for the project is rated as medium risk (Category B). To mitigate the risk an ESMP has been developed (see section C-PART III below).

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A. Describe the arrangements for project / programme management

151. **Approach.** The project's approaches, actions, modes of organization and implementation will apply a general principle of subsidiarity promoting decision-making processes as close as possible to the action at different levels: (i) geographical, the project targets primarily the most "local" geographical scales (village, commune, province) and their link with the regional and national scales; (ii) institutional; (iii) project management (delegate project implementation to direct users when possible, support of national government entities when needed and technical support of AFDB and other donor agencies like FAO, and UNDP); (iv) knowledge management, by strengthening local capacities and knowledge sharing, and cross-sectoral coordination and transfers.

152. Using the approach of synergies, the project will also complement on-going initiatives and programs in the country having similar objectives while avoiding duplications (Table 9). Therefore, all interventions will be coordinated closely with other relevant on-going initiatives implemented in the country for more effective complementarity.

153. The institutions involved in the implementation of the Project include on one hand administrative structures at the central level and decentralized structures and on the other hand steering, consultation, coordination, execution, and monitoring bodies. The implementation of the Project will be ensured by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with ministries and technical structures such as the Ministry of Agriculture, agency in charge of water resources, regional Committees made up of technical advisers from the 4 prefectures as well as representatives of local communities.

154. **General Organization (**Figure 1**6):** The Central African Republic will receive funding from the Adaptation Fund (AF) through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Through Ministry of Environment, CAR will be the executing entity in coordination with ministry of environment and ministry of agriculture while IFAD will be the implementing entity accredited by AF Board to receive direct financial transfers from the Fund as well as the monitoring and supervision entity during the implementation of the project by the executing entity. The African Development bank and other donor agencies will be the Implementing Partners (IP).

155. Ministry of environment is the only executing entity in coordination with the ministry of agriculture. Collaborations will be set up with the other institutes and NGOs focused on the selected value chains.

156. **The National Steering committee (NSC)** will define the orientations for the operational steering of the project, ensuring its alignment with sectoral strategies and priorities. It will integrate the project's action in complementarity and synergy with development partners in the agricultural sector to optimize its interventions and maximize its impact on the beneficiaries. In addition to approving the project annual work plan and budgets (AWPB) and activity reports, the NSC will monitor implementation and make recommendations during its monitoring missions in the field. The NSC will be composed by the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, government agencies responsible for women, youth, water, trade, and the Adaptation National Focal Point.

157. **Technical Committee:** The Directorate of the department in charge of climate change issues, the Directorate of all the line ministries and agencies, focal points from the research institutions and NGOs.

158. **Regional advisory committees:** At local level, the project will benefit from the support of the regional advisory committees made up of a technical referent from the 4 prefectures.

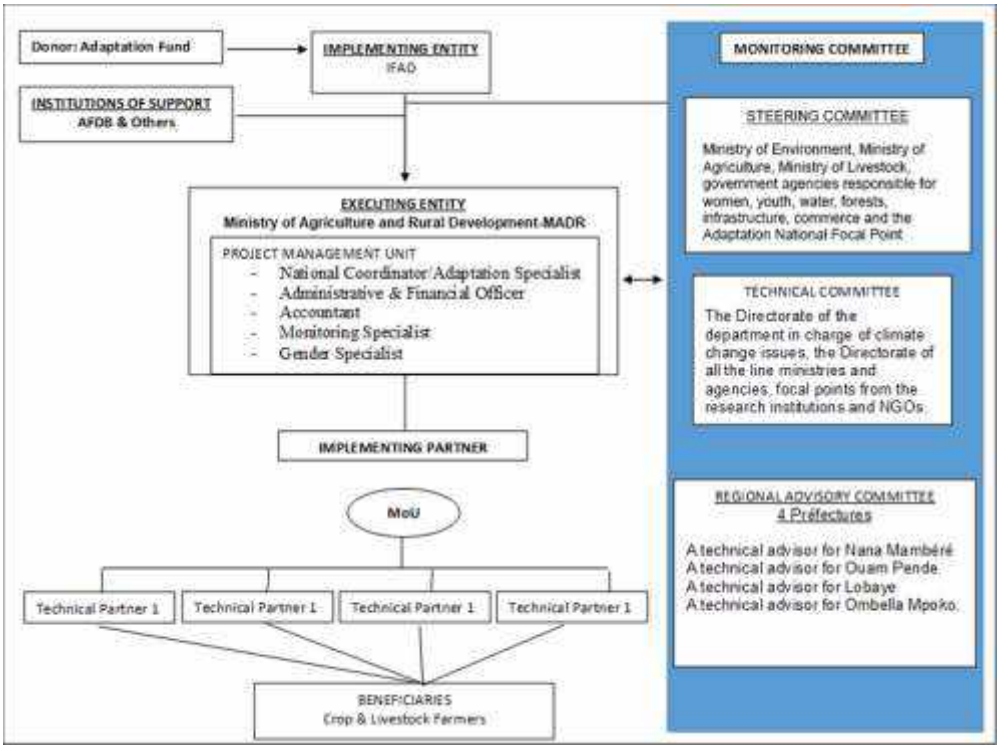


Figure 16: Schematic diagram of the project implementation organizational chart

159. The overall management of the project will be under the responsibility of the CAR, through its Ministry of the Agriculture and Rural Development. The ministry will set up the Project Management Unit (PMU) which will be in charge of the daily management of the project. The PMU will be composed of a National Coordinator, an Administrative and Financial Officer, an Accounting Assistant, a Procurement Controller, a Gender Specialist, and an M&E Officer. The PMU will be responsible and accountable to the Government and IFAD for the efficient use of project resources in compliance with the IFAD and AF procedures and guidelines. The PMU staff will be recruited competitively at national level, in compliance with IFAD's procurement procedures, and in accordance with the AF Gender Policy. Women candidates will be encouraged. The establishment and operationalization of the PMU at the ministry of environment will be facilitated by the presence of the IFAD Country Office and by the synergies established between the AF project and IFAD funded project PRAPAM, which will be able to provide or call upon expertise in institutional development if necessary. IFAD will report to the AF on the overall management and performance of the Project.

160. The PMU will consistently ensure proper financial management practices. Costing prepared by the project will take into consideration all elements of the project activities including project management and local partners' activities and administrative costs. The PMU will release project funds on the basis of benchmarks throughout the life of the project. A financial system will be established to monitor and control disbursement and expenditure of the project.

161. The PMU will remain cautious of this and monitor the quantity and quality of procurements. The PMU will encourage the preparation of quarterly cash flows showing benchmarks for amount stipulated in the project.

162. The PMU will establish the project account in a reputable local bank in Bangui with three signatories necessary for payment, the Coordinator of the PMU, Deputy Minister of Administration and the Project Controller. This Account will be operated and replenished following the Imprest Account mechanism. Disbursement may include direct payments and replenishments of the account, in line with the disbursement handbook for IFAD directly supervised projects. The Controller will develop a petty cash control and management system and set ceiling on petty cash.

163. Where and when necessary for the interest of beneficiaries, PMU will seek approval for budget realignment within the percentage provided for in the project financial policy. PMU will submit quarterly project performance reports to IFAD and each will be complete with standard financial component according to the donor's standards. MOUs will be established with implementing partners such as AFDB, PAM, Unicef, ILO / NGO-CYBS, FAO, Company private USAKA, Company private BIMBOSAINE, Sofia Credit, Deconcentrated Technical Services, Coordination of the SNU, BIT, WHH, RCA Chamber of Commerce, sector ministries and outline the activities that IPs will be directly responsible for. The PMU will consult implementing partners in drafting of technical specifications and ToRs while the final responsibility for the procurement process lies with the PMU. Each MoU will specify agreed disbursement arrangements with implementing partners and all the needed reporting and supporting documentation for the justification of expenditures incurred within its framework. Disbursement will always made in several tranches based on an annual activity budget and the release of tranche will be conditional to the justification of the previous one.

164. PMU will facilitate annual audits of the project financial statements. Annual audits will be performed based on the terms of reference that will be submitted to IFAD for approval. The Audit report will be submitted to IFAD and AF within 6 months after the end of each fiscal year. IFAD will review the report, submit to the Executing agency an action plan to address the eventual weaknesses highlighted in the report and monitor the implementation of this action plan.

165. The project, with the support of IFAD and specialised consultants will draft an operation manual together with an administrative and financial manual that will explicit all the accounting, internal control, and operation procedures that the project will follow during its implementation period. This manual will be submitted to IFAD for non-objection before the project will receive its first disbursement.

166. The project will also acquire and install an accounting software that will be able to automatically produce all the financial reporting required by IFAD and the Fund. The access to the accounting software will be defined to respect an acceptable level of segregation of duties. The purchase and set-up of the accounting software will also constitute a condition to first disbursement.

1.1. Pre-Implementation Phase

167. The project development will be informed by baseline data and social, economic, and environmental analysis. The Project Implementation Management (PMU) within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and in coordination with the ministry of Environment will hire a consultant to collect baseline data for monitoring and evaluation of the project performance throughout the implementation of the project.

168. The baseline data will be used as a yardstick for measuring the performance of the project and to inform project management decisions. The baseline data will also inform target setting and development of indicators and Log frame for the project.

169. The PMU will ensure that the project is social friend and gender sensitive. As such, a consultant will be hired to conduct social and gender analysis of the project communities and make recommendations for the inclusion of men, women, and youth regardless of economic status, social background, and religion. This will make the project inclusive and help to maintain the fragile peace.

170. The PMU will hire a consultant to conduct an economic analysis of the project to ensure that economic issues of smallholders are identified and address in the project design. While activities are proposed in this concept note, the full proposal will integrate findings from these analysis and recommendations to modify the proposed interventions.

171. In this AF project development process, the environmental, social, and economic impact assessment mentioned above will identify various potential impacts and recommend risk management and mitigation process as well as the responsible executing agencies and expert personnel.

1.2. Coordination and stakeholders consultative meeting

172. The PMU of the ministry of environment will be the lead implementation agency in close collaboration with the ministry of agriculture, other line ministries, AFDB, PAM, UNICEF, ILO / NGO-CYBS, FAO, Company private USAKA, Company private BIMBOSAINE, Sofia Credit, Deconcentrated Technical Services, Coordination of the SNU, BIT, WHH, RCA Chamber of Commerce IFAD. There will be monthly coordination meetings for information sharing on progress made and challenges that will emerge during the project implementation to provide forum for formulating joint solutions to problems.

173. The PMU will organize quarterly stakeholder consultative dialogue about the direction of the project relative to achievement of desired results and to share feedbacks from key stakeholders in the agriculture sector. Key stakeholders include both public and private sector actors.

1.3. Targeting communities and beneficiaries

174. Over the last decade, the government of CAR and development partners have continued to work with smallholder cassava, rice, livestock, and other food producers. If this project will address smallholder real farming issues and take them to the next level of the social ladder, targeting must be done selectively to make sure that those in real needs and potential to graduate from abject poverty are reached in a significant way.

175. The PMU will collaborate with local partners to identify the crop and livestock producers. Criteria for selecting project specific communities will be informed by results of the social and economic analysis and be used to target deserving beneficiaries.

176. Targeting will entail assessing random samples of farmers' farms conditions to determine the status of agronomic practices, clones, and varieties of existing and specific technical assistance that they need to increase production.

1.4. Local partners mapping and capacity assessment and training

177. The key partners to the project include vulnerable communities and their leaderships to promote ownership and sustainability of the adaptation interventions, environmental agency, ministry of youths and women and local implementing partners (to be selected on competitive basis on their experience working in the crop and livestock sectors).

178. For this project, PMU will reassess the capacities to determine their level of knowledge and skill implementing climate smart agriculture activities.

179. These partners have experience in conducting farmers' field school activities which will be core to the strategy for transferring climate smart skills and knowledge to farmers.

1.5. Private Sector Engagement

180. To ensure that the private sector is properly engaged, the project will explore opportunities to establish partnerships with these entities where they become off-takers in the crop and livestock value chains arrangements for the farmers.

181. To ensure that the farmers' interests are protected, the MOUs will be jointly developed by the private partners and the farmers with close supervision by the PMU. This action will ensure that the private partners do not impose predetermined prices on the farmers; issues about commodity rejection due to standard issues and commodity aggregation will also be addressed to ensure that the farmer's only burden will be to produce quality cassava stems, maize and bean seeds, disease resistant and hybrid livestock breeds; and rice paddy.

In addition, the major private sector players were part of the consultation meetings held. While they indicated their interests to work with the farmers in the capacity of off takers, they expressed concern over the need to build the capacity of more farmers to maintain quality of the products.

B. Describe the measures for financial and project / programme risk management

Table 14: Project risk table

Risk	Initial risk assessment (H = high, M = moderate, L = low)	Proposed mitigation measure	Final risk assessment
Insufficient capacities to appropriately manage the day-to-day implementation of the project	M	- A National Country Programme Unit (NPCU) with administrative and financial management autonomy that assumes the fiduciary management functions of the project. - Recruitment of experts with specific experiences in development project management and financial management procedures of the lessors and mastery of an accounting software. - IFAD country office will participate as an observer in all stages of the recruitment process. - The staff of the NPCU will be linked to the project by renewable annual contracts based on a performance evaluation, - Start-up support takes into account training in financial management.	L

The project budgeting process doesn't respect procedures and doesn't allow for a good implementation of project activities	M	- The budget preparation process will be carried out by the NPCU staff and the AWPB will then be submitted to the steering committee for approval. The AWPB will provide details of activities, their unit and overall costs, expected results and monitoring indicators, and their implementation modalities including procurement procedures. - The budgeting process will be defined in the project procedures manual and should be harmonized with the budgeting process of other IFAD projects. - The approved AWPB must be entered into the accounting and financial management software to monitor its implementation. - Quarterly financial reports including information on budget monitoring should be submitted to the ministries of guardianship, steering committee, and IFAD.	L
Project financial flows and disbursement processes are not timely and jeopardize the implementation of activities on the ground	M	- Availability of funds will be made through the standard circuit planned and already tested by other IFAD projects including replenishment of the designated account, direct payment, and reimbursement. - The use of Certified Statement of Expenditures in support of expenses incurred by the Project is also planned. - As regards the implementing partners and public services, the resources will be transferred in accordance with the signed agreements and service contracts, which will have to provide mechanisms for the provision of funds based on the work plan and budget of the convention/contract, and disbursements based on a quarterly / semi-annual report of the activities carried out by the beneficiary/provider/partner.	M
Project implementation and financial management procedures do not guarantee sufficient transparency and accountability	H	- Three (3) levels of security ensure transparency and control of operations and also mitigate the risk of distortion and dysfunction related to management: (i) The fact that only one person cannot conduct an operation in its entirety (from beginning to end, from execution to final control); (ii) the implementation of accounting self-audits; (iii) Implementation of the IFAD Representation's proximity monitoring in CAR and joint Government/IFAD support and supervision missions and an annual audit of the accounts.	L

The project accounting system and financial procedures are not sufficiently formalized	H	- The Project will be equipped with management software covering all financial aspects: accounting, commitment, financial statements, budget monitoring, contracts, etc. The staff will have to master the software in order to be able to correctly parameterize it to meet the needs of management. - The monitoring of financial commitments and financial achievements will be based on the use of accounting and financial management software as well as the production of financial dashboards for use by the NPCU, SC and IFAD. -The financial statements of the Project will be drafted according to the principles in force and by respecting the minimum information required by the lessor. -The annual financial statements of the Project for the year N will be established no later than the end of February of the year N + 1. The unaudited annual financial statements will be submitted to the SC and IFAD for review. -The Procedures Manual will provide a detailed phasing of all the stages leading to the closing of the accounts (monthly / quarterly / annual) and the preparation of the financial statements - The accounting system used in the framework of the Project should allow the registration of tax exemptions obtained from the government	L
The project financial procedures do not allow for proper and regular monitoring	M	Financial monitoring based on: a) regular preparation of withdrawal requests, based on rolling quarterly cash plans, and bank monitoring of the designated account and the account of operations; (b) budget monitoring; c) accounting monitoring; d) technical and economic monitoring provided by the administrative and financial officer b) The administrative and financial officer will prepare quarterly financial and accounting reports (interim financial reports) which he will submit to the Coordinator for signature and send for review to the Steering Committee and IFAD.	L
Current climate and seasonal variability and/or hazard events result in poor restoration results or agricultural yields.	H	Current climatic variability will be taken into account in the planning of activities along the value chains (livestock, rice, cassava, beans, maize, and fishery). Drought- and flood-resilient species will be used. Techniques to assist plant growth particularly in the seedling/sapling phases and to reduce risk of damage from climate change hazard impacts will be used. Species will be planted in appropriate seasons to reduce risk of hazard impact. Diversity in planted crops will reduce this risk, Diversification with farm fish and gardening	M to L

Loss of government support may result in lack of prioritisation of AF project activities	L	Regular stakeholder consultation and involvement will be undertaken to ensure that government maintains its commitment and considers the AF project as a support to its forestry and agriculture programmes.	L
Communities may not adopt activities during or after the AF project	M	The interventions will be institutionalised within The ministry to ensure sustainable delivery post project implementation. Capacity building and training of the communities will be undertaken to improve their awareness and understanding of the benefits of the activities.	L
Priority interventions implemented are not found to be cost-effective.	L	Cost-effectiveness is a core principle in the implementation of adaptation measures. Detailed information will be recorded regarding cost-effectiveness. This will be widely disseminated and will be of use to future adaptation initiative	L

C. Describe the measures for environmental and social risk management, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund

182. The following table provides an overview of anticipated E&S risks broken down for each project component.

Component	Risk categorization
Component 1: Climate-proofed agricultural production and post-harvest combined with livelihood diversification	***Risk: Medium*** ***Potential Impact: Medium*** Some activities of component 1 present environmental and social risks. This concerns the selection of resistant varieties and breeds for which there is a risk that there are not suited to the target sites; the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides with a high degree of pollution; the construction of dykes, irrigation systems and earth dams with risks of reduced plant cover and destruction of habitats for wildlife, following the clearing works. However, both generic and specific mitigation measures proposed by the ESMF should, mitigate the impacts: promotion of endogenous varieties and breeds, promotion of organic fertilizers, and compensatory reforestation. Regarding construction, specific measures will be included in the sub-projects ESIA as per activity design, to ensure that the works are undertaken in a proper manner.
Component 2: Climate resilient rural transportation and storage infrastructure	***Risk: Medium*** ***Potential Impact: Medium*** Component 2 includes the construction/rehabilitation of structures, in particular warehouses to withstand humid climatic

	conditions, rural tracks, drinking water supply and sanitation structures. These activities present risks of loss of land or economic activities along the routes, noise pollution, exclusion of the local workforce. Both generic and specific mitigation measures proposed by the ESMF should mitigate the impacts. This includes systematic avoidance of involuntary displacement, ratio of local use of local labor, compensatory reforestation. In addition, specific measures will be included in the sub-projects ESIA as per activity design, to ensure that the works are undertaken in a proper manner.
Component 3: Institutional capacity building, policy engagement and knowledge management.	*Risk: Low* *Potential Impact: Low* Activities under Component 3 are relevant to capacity building, and knowledge and information management. As such, there are limited, even negligible risks pertaining to the AF's E&S principles. The risk of capture by the elites is mitigated by the ESMP by gender ratio to comply with project set targets.

183. The environmental and social management plan (ESMP) developed as part of the project design includes more detailed information on identified potential environmental and social impacts, mitigation measures, monitoring indicators, responsible parties for ensuring the risks are monitored and mitigated, cost and timing (see table 16 below).

Table 15: Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

Activities / Sources of impact	Potential Risks/Impacts	Possible measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental and social risks	Monitoring indicators	Responsibility	Costs (USD)	Timing
Component 1: Climate-resilient agricultural production and appropriate post-harvest measures combined with livelihood diversification.						
Selection of project beneficiaries	Social exclusion of marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups, including indigenous people and minorities	- setting up, with the support of local authorities, decentralized services, implementing partners and community representatives, of beneficiary identification committees. - Organization of information sessions on the beneficiary identification and targeting processes	-Proportion of vulnerable less advantaged groups representatives, indigenous people, and minorities, as part of committees (disaggregated by gender) -Number of information sessions organized	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture	-Included in Project costs 8,000	At the start of the project
Access to cropping lands	Land tenure insecurity for beneficiary farmers, in particular women, indigenous people, and minorities	-Advocate for the adoption and implementation of the new land policy to guarantee land tenure security for beneficiary farmers, including women, indigenous people, and minorities	-Number of land lease agreement signed with landowners and/or authorities	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture	Included in Project costs	
Hydro-agricultural and rice plots; food crops; rehabilitation of watersheds	-Deforestation due to the expansion of the rice Intensification system and food crops Pollution (use of fertilizers and pesticides, air pollution) and waste generation	-Carry out compensatory reforestation. - Promote sustainable soil fertilization techniques, organic manure, use of bio-pesticides	-Reforested areas (ha) -Number of capacity-building on innovative bio techniques	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Waters and Forests, contractor agencies	50,000 - Included in Project costs	Year 2 onwards

		and capacity building for farmers -Carry out site specific ESIA as per activity design, to ensure minimal pollution and waste generation, Land and soil conservation, and compliance of employment (contracts) to labor standard	-Number of site-specific ESIA complying with relevant standards and cleared		- Included in Project costs	
Construction of earth dams and dykes	Disruption of rainwater runoff areas	-Ensure that the sizing and location of small dams/retention areas allow the continuous passage of aquatic fauna (e.g., fish, hippos) -Carry out site specific ESIA as per activity design, to ensure minimal pollution and waste generation, land and soil conservation, renewal of *Tilapia nilotica strains*, and compliance of employment (contracts) to labor standard	-Number of waterways obstructed during site audits --Number of site-specific ESIA complying with relevant standards and cleared	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Waters and Forests, contractor agencies	Included in Project costs Included in Project costs	Year 1 onwards
Component 2: Climate resilient rural transportation and storage infrastructure						
Road construction/rehabilitation	-Deforestation Non-use of local human resources	-Carry out compensatory reforestation. -Ensure contractors hire local staff whenever possible (e.g., for unskilled positions)	-Reforested areas (ha) -Ratio of local staff to non-local staff	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Waters and Forests, Ministry of infrastructure, contractor agencies	-Included in Component 1 - No cost	-Year 2 onwards -Before the starting of construction

	-Pollution and waste generation, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions	-Carry out site-specific ESIA as per activity design, to ensure minimal pollution and waste generation, safe and healthy working conditions, respect of sacred sites in the event of encroachment during the construction/rehabilitation of infrastructure (stopping the work; circumscribe the site and inform the customary and state authorities for support in accordance with the law)	-Number of site-specific ESIA complying with relevant standards and cleared		-Included in Project costs	-Year 2 onwards -Before the starting of construction
Construction of water supply and sanitation infrastructure	-Conflicts (water supply structures) with other uses (drinking for communities, watering of small livestock, etc.)	-Set up management committees for water supply works, including nomadic less advantaged groups representatives, indigenous people, and minorities, as part of committees (disaggregated by gender	-Number of management committees set up, with management rules	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry in charge of the Development of Energy and Hydraulic Resources, contractor agencies	-Included in Project costs	-Before the starting of construction
	- Unappropriated physicochemical and biological quality, and pollutant content of water	- Collection and analysis of water samples	Number of reports complying with relevant standards		20,000	-Year 2 onwards
	-Pollution and waste generation, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions	-Carry out site specific ESIA as per activity design, to ensure minimal pollution and waste generation, and compliance of	-Number of site-specific ESIA complying with relevant standards and cleared	PMU, IFAD -Included in Project costs		

		employment (contracts) to labor standard				
Component 3: Institutional capacity building, policy engagement and knowledge management.						
Capacity building	-Difficulty of accessing to project data in real time due to distances, communication issues and security context -Weak involvement of local governmental agencies, NGOS, and communities in the ESMP's monitoring, due to lack of capacities	-Digitization of databases allowing stakeholders to have access to information in real time. - Building capacities of local actors on risk management so they can monitor the implementation of environmental and social safeguard measures in the field	-Number of Databases -Number of gender-sensitive trainings	PMU, Accredited Entity, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, contractor agencies	-Included in project costs -Included in Project costs	-Year 2 onwards
E&S monitoring	Capture of project benefits by the elites	-Gender ratio monitoring on a quarterly basis, to comply with set targets of 50% women, 30% young people, and 15% of less advantaged groups representatives, indigenous people, and minorities, as part of committees (disaggregated by gender. -Implementation of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Plan -Setting-up of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and Process for the project	-Number of gender assessment reports, complying with initial targets -Number of FPIC assessments undertaken during supervision missions, in compliance with the Plan	PMU, IFAD	Included in project costs. 50 000 10,000	-Year 1 onwards

			-Number of complaints received and actions taken			
	GHG emissions	-Setting up of a calculating matrix to monitor potential methane emissions and emission avoidance due to SRI, in support to the MRV country's system	-GHG balance reports	PMU, IFAD	Included in project costs.	Year 1 onwards
	Sub-projects' environmental and social impacts not assessed, and mitigation measures not implemented	Sub-projects' ESIA cleared by the ministry of environment and mitigation measures implemented	Number of sub-projects cleared by the ministry of environment	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, contractor agencies	Included in project costs.	
		Mid and final evaluation of the ESMF		PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment,	22,000	
						Total = 160,000

The project contemplates a number of infrastructure-related activities that may require permits and following specific site-specific ESIA (see the list of activities in table 10 of the annexed 1-ESMF). The ministry of environment's checklist will be used to ensure that planning permissions and decisions comply with Government environmental and social approval processes. Updating of ESMP and a decision as to whether an EIA is required will be the final step. The initial actions during pre-inception will involve coordination of the roles and responsibilities of those involved in managing these risks with the M&E specialist taking the lead role with supporting role from the Gender Specialist.

1.1. Grievance Mechanism

184. To reduce conflicts, a robust grievance/complaints mechanism that meets at least the following 'effectiveness' criteria should be instituted[57]:

a. *Legitimate*: enabling trust from the stakeholder groups for whose use they are intended, and being accountable for the fair conduct of grievance processes;
b. *Accessible*: being known to all stakeholder groups for whose use they are intended, and providing adequate assistance for those who may face particular barriers to access;
c. *Predictable*: providing a clear and known procedure with an indicative time frame for each stage, and clarity on the types of process and outcome available and means of monitoring implementation;
d. *Equitable*: seeking to ensure that aggrieved parties have reasonable access to sources of information, advice and expertise necessary to engage in a grievance process on fair, informed and respectful terms;
e. *Transparent*: keeping parties to a grievance informed about its progress, and providing sufficient information about the mechanism's performance to build confidence in its effectiveness and meet any public interest at stake;
f. *Rights-compatible*: ensuring that outcomes and remedies accord with internationally recognized human rights;
g. A source of *continuous learning*: drawing on relevant measures to identify lessons for improving the mechanism and preventing future grievances and harms;
h. Based on *engagement and dialogue*: consulting the stakeholder groups for whose use they are intended on their design and performance, and focusing on dialogue as the means to address and resolve grievances.

185. IFAD has established a Complaints Procedure to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and complaints with respect to alleged non-compliance of its environmental and social policies and the mandatory aspects of its Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures in the context of IFAD-supported projects. The procedure allows affected complainants to have their concerns resolved in a fair and timely manner through an independent process. Although IFAD normally addresses potential risks primarily throughout the design process and project, it remains committed to: (i) working proactively with countries and the affected parties to resolve complaints; (ii) ensuring that the complaints procedure is responsive and operates effectively; and (iii) maintaining records of all complaints and their resolutions[58].

186. To ensure that complaints and dissatisfactions from farmers are duly attended to and resolved, the apex groups of the farmer organizations will serve as the first level of grievance reporting mechanism. Issues that cannot be resolved at this stage will proceed to the community leadership. When the leadership is not able to resolve these issues, the matter will be escalated to the project implementation unit through the project liaison officer at the community level.

[57] Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) (2011), *UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* (OHCHR: Geneva), pp.33-34

[58] IFAD (2016) *Managing Risks to Create Opportunities. IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP)* (IFAD: Rome), p.12

187. The AF Project will as much as possible utilize every available grievance redress mechanism including: associations (including farmers' associations/organizations) traditional council (Paramount Chiefs and elders), village square engagement (consisting of representatives of men, women and social groups), village general assembly, the project NCPU, etc. The grievance redress mechanism is further elaborated in the ESMF.

D. Describe the monitoring and evaluation arrangements and provide a budgeted M&E plan

188. Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Knowledge management will be under the oversight of the National Project Coordinating Unit and led by the M&E officer who will work closely with the implementing partners. The M&E system should: (i) produce, organize and disseminate the information needed for the strategic management of the Project, (ii) document the results and lessons learned for internal use and for public dissemination on the achievements and (iii) respond to the information needs of Adaptation Fund, IFAD and the Government on the activities, immediate outcomes and impact of the Project. A monitoring and evaluation manual that will describe a simple and effective system for collecting, processing, analysing, and disseminating data will be prepared in the first year of the Project.

189. A computerized database will be developed that will enable the generation of dashboards used in IFAD projects. The system will be regularly fed from data collected in the field by the implementing partners and the various studies carried out as part of the projects' implementation. The monitoring and evaluation system will be coupled with a geo-localized information system (GIS) that will allow mapping and spatial-temporal analyses. Trainings will be organized to strengthen the capacities of the various stakeholders involved in the monitoring and evaluation system.

190. Project M&E activities will be guided by the following key considerations:

- Data will be disaggregated by poverty, livelihood group and gender;
- Each implementing or partner agency will have clear M&E responsibilities with specific reporting deadlines and a forum for presenting and discussing the findings of the monitoring exercise; and
- M&E will be linked to the project rationale, log frame, and annual work plans and budgets. M&E findings will be used to take corrective or enhancing measures at the level of project management.

The project key M&E activities will include the following:

191. **Project Inception Workshop.** A Project Inception Workshop will be conducted within one month after the inception workshop has taken place with the full project team, relevant government counterparts and IFAD. The Inception Workshop, i.e., the start of the Project implementation, shall be held within 6 months from the date of the 1st disbursement from AF to IFAD

192. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first-year annual work plan. A fundamental objective of the Inception Workshop will be to present the modalities of project implementation and execution and assist the project team to understand and take ownership of the project's goals and objectives. An Inception Workshop Report will be prepared and shared with participants.

193. **Reporting.** In the first and sixth year of the Project, a MPAT/SYGRI+ survey that also incorporates the information needs of the project logical framework will be conducted. MPAT, a multidimensional poverty assessment tool, is a recently developed IFAD tool that assesses poverty in ten dimensions that are at the heart of rural livelihoods. The due date of the 1st annual Project Progress Report is 1 year after the Inception Workshop, with 2 months tolerance window. The same timeline will apply for subsequent PPRs

194. Semi-annual and Annual Project Reports will be prepared by the NPCU and verified by the PSC to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the previous reporting period.

195. These reports include, but are not limited to, reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes - each with indicators, baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative);
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual);
- Lessons learned/good practices;
- Annual expenditure reports; and
- Reporting on project risk management.

196. Quarterly Progress Reports will also be prepared by project implementing partners in the field and submitted to the NPCU to ensure continuous monitoring of project activities and identify challenges to adopt necessary corrective measures in due time.

197. Technical reports – such as a best practices and lessons learned report - will also be completed, as determined during the project inception report.

198. A Terminal project report will also be completed at least two months before project closure.

199. **Financial Reporting.** In terms of financial reporting (article 77 of the AF standard agreement), the project team will provide IFAD with certified periodic financial statements, and with an annual audit of the financial statements relating to the status of funds according to the established procedures.

200. **External Evaluations.** The project will undergo an independent external Mid-Term Evaluation at the mid-point of project implementation, which will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency, and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation, and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project term.

201. A Final Evaluation will be conducted 3 months before project closure.

202. **Field visits.** Government authorities, members of PSC and IFAD staff will conduct regular field visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress.

203. **Knowledge management,** KM culture and lack of country level M&E framework for measuring the results and contributions towards the Agenda 2030 will be addressed. Over the past year IFAD has moved towards a country programme approach in RCA with dedicated M&E resources and has provided capacity building support in the areas of monitoring, analysing results and documenting lessons learned for greater knowledge management. The project will strengthen the existing structure of the M&E Unit in the National Project Coordination Unit (NPCU) to monitor outcomes in concert with the Project Monitoring and Evaluation and prepare a clear KM and implement it throughout the entire project cycle and beyond.

The proposed M&E budget is as follows (Breakdown of how IE fees that will be utilised for M&E function):

IE Fees Breakdown of M&E Supervision	Responsibility	Budget (USD)	Timeframe
Inception Workshop (IW)	IFAD, NPCU, Government	15 000	Within two months of project start up

Supervision visits	IFAD, NPCU, Government	40 000	bi-annually
Training workshops on M&E	IFAD, NPCU	40 000	2024
Baseline survey/ MPAT/SYGRI+ survey	NPCU	55 000	First Year (2024)
			Sixth Year (2028)
Mid-Term Evaluation	IFAD, External consultants	30 000	2026
Final Evaluation	IFAD, External consultants	30 000	2028
Knowledge Management Activities and Publications	IFAD, NPCU	50 000	bi-annually
Support to Gender Inclusion Monitoring	IFAD, NPCU	50 000	Bi-annually
ESMP monitoring costs	IFAD, NPCU	160 000	Bi-annually
TOTAL		470 000	5 Years

E. Include a results framework for the project proposal, including milestones, targets and indicators

Table 16: Project Results Framework

Project Objective(s)[59]	Project Objective Indicato	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
Overall objective: To reduce the direct effects of climate change on 20,000 direct and 119,000 indirect beneficiaries, of which 50 percent will be women in rural communities					
Enhancing smallholder farmers and rural population's resilience to climate change	**AF Core indicator: Number of beneficiaries (direct and indirect)**	**0**	**20,000 direct beneficiaries, including 50 per cent women and 30 per cent youth 119,000 indirect beneficiaries**	- Project M & E reports - Progress reports - Mid-term and final project evaluations	Political and economic stability in CAR
	AF Core indicator: Number of smallholder farmers reporting improvements in their living conditions	**0**	**20,000**	- Project M & E reports - Progress reports - Mid-term and final project evaluations	Political and economic stability in CAR
	Number of institutions and smallholder farmers with strengthened	**0**	**4 at least**	- Project M & E reports	

[59] The AF utilized OECD/DAC terminology for its results framework. Project proponents may use different terminology but the overall principle should still apply

	capacity to reduce risks associated with climate change			- Progress reports - Mid-term and final project evaluations	
	Number of communities with access to adapted complex climate data	**0**	**20,000**	- Project M & E reports - Progress reports - Mid-term and final project evaluations	
	Number of communities with increased adaptative capacity to climate change-driven hazards affecting their specific locations	**0**	**20,000**	- Project M & E reports - Progress reports - Mid-term and final project evaluations	
	CC priorities are integrated into national development strategy.	**0**	**3 at least**	- Project M & E reports - Progress reports - Mid-term and final project evaluations	
	Number of farmers reporting better access to innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies accelerated, and scaling -up and/or replicating	**0**	**20,000**	- Project M & E reports - Progress reports - Mid-term and final project evaluations	
Project Outcome(s)	**Project Outcome Indicator(s)**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Means of Verification**	**Risks and Assumptions**
<u>Component 1:</u> Climate-proofed agricultural production and post-harvest combined with livelihood diversification					

The selected crop and livestock value-chains are resilient to future climate change impacts and smallholders' incomes are diversified	- Number of farmers reporting more diverse income sources -	**0**	60 per cent of farming households (in project area)	- Project M & E reports - Progress reports - Mid-term and final project evaluations	Political and economic stability in CAR
	- Number of farmers reporting an increase in rice productivity	**0**	85 per cent of farming households (in project area)		
	- Number of farmers reporting an increase in maize productivity	0	85 per cent of farming households (in project area)		
	- Number of farmers reporting an increase in cassava productivity	0	85 per cent of farming households (in project area)		
	- Number of farmers adopting climate resilient farming practices	**0**	60 per cent of farming households (in project area)		
	- Number of earth dams constructed		50		
	- Percentage of fisherman adopting climate resilient fishing		60% in project area		
Component 2: Rural transportation and water infrastructure designed and developed to withstand climate change					
Climate proofed rural transportation, water and storage infrastructures	- Number of farming households having access to a potable water supply	**Tbd**	1050	- Project M&E Reports - - Progress reports - -MTR and Final project evaluations.	Political and economic stability in CAR.
	- Number of kilometers or rural roads	**0**	120km		

	and feed roads climate proofed				
	- Number of hectares of land irrigated from earth dams	**0**	100 ha		
	- Percentage of water user groups adopting sustainable irrigation practices.	**0**	60% of farming households in project area		
	- Number of warehouses rehabilitated	**0**	120		
Component 3: Institutional capacity development and policy engagement					
Institutional Environment for resilient crop and livestock value chain improved, policy and regulatory frameworks strengthened	- Number of staff of the Min. of Env. Min. of Agric. and other sector trained.	0	Two technicians trained by PY1. Two meteorologists trained by PY3. 24 staff completed the training (12 by PY 1 and 12 by PY3)	- Project M & E reports - Progress reports - Mid-term and final project evaluations	Political and economic stability in CAR
	- Number of sectoral policies integrating climate change risks (thanks to the training provided by the project)	0	At least one		

F. Demonstrate how the project / programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund

The table below demonstrates how the project aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund.

Table 17: Project alignment with the result framework of the Adaptation Fund

Project Objective(s)[60]	**Project Objective Indicator(s)**	**Fund Outcome**	**Fund Outcome Indicator**	**Grant Amount (USD)**
Overall objective: To reduce the direct effects of climate change on 20,000 direct and 119,000 indirect beneficiaries, of which 50 percent will be women in rural communities				
Enhancing smallholder farmers and rural population's resilience to climate change	- Number of smallholder farmers living below poverty line. - Number of smallholder farmers reporting improvements in their living conditions.	Outcome 6: Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats	1.2.1. Percentage of target population covered by adequate risk reduction systems	**10,000,000**
Project Outcome(s)	**Project Outcome Indicator(s)**	**Fund Output**	**Fund Output Indicator**	**Grant Amount (USD)**
Component 1: Climate-proofed agricultural production and post-harvest combined with livelihood diversification				
1.1 Established proven best practices on climate resilient crop and livestock value chains, drawing from local and international research leading to a sustainable increase in food production	- Number of farmers reporting an increase in crop productivity (50% women) - Number of farmers reporting an increase in rice productivity (50% women) - Number of farmers reporting increase in cassava productivity (50% women) - Crop yield change in target areas No of target farmers adopting climate resilient farming practices. - Number of improved crop improved nurseries established. - Number of improved seeds distributed. - Number of improved breeds distributed	Output 5: Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability. Output 6: Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	5. Ecosystem services and natural resource assets maintained or improved under climate change and variability induced stress Nutrition and food security ensured during the dry season	**4,115,900**

[60] The AF utilized OECD/DAC terminology for its results framework. Project proponents may use different terminology, but the overall principle should still apply

1.2 Adaptation strategy of smallholder farmers improved because of diversified livelihood strategy	- Number of farmers reporting more diverse income sources (disaggregated by gender) - Number of Fish farms as alternatives source of financing (disaggregated by gender)	Output 6: Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, Vulnerable households have access to better nutrition and food security, source of income during the dry season	6.2. Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate resilient alternative livelihoods Nutrition and food security ensured during the dry season.	**1,102,000**
Component 2: Rural infrastructure and water management measures				
2.1. Rural transportation and water infrastructure designed and developed to withstand climate change	-Number of Climate-proofing feeder roads and farm tracks constructed and/or rehabilitated - - Number of Warehouses rehabilitated	- Output 4: Vulnerable development sector services and infrastructure assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	4.2. Physical infrastructure improved to withstand climate change and variability-induced stress 4.1.2. No. of physical assets strengthened or constructed to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability and change (by sector and scale)	**1,858,014**
2.2. Water supply storage capacity increased and sanitation infrastructure built, accounting for current and future climate risks	-Number of farming households having access to a potable water supply - Number of elevated reservoirs constructed - Number of water user groups adopting sustainable irrigation practices. - Number of water user groups adopting sustainable irrigation practices. - Number of latrines constructed			**721,268**
Component 3: Institutional capacity development and policy engagement				
3. Environment for resilient crop and livestock value chain improved, policy	- Number of staff of the ministry of environment and meteorological institute trained (disaggregated by gender)	Output 2: Strengthened capacity of national and subnational centres and networks to	2.1.1. No. of staff trained to respond to, and mitigate impacts of,	**500,000**

and regulatory frameworks strengthened and government institutional capacities enhancement on adaptation to climate change in these sectors.	- Number of sectoral policies integrating climate change risks (thanks to the training provided by the project) – Under ministry of environment management - Number of knowledge management products disseminated	respond rapidly to extreme weather events	climate-related events (by gender) 2.1.2 No. of targeted institutions with increased capacity to minimize exposure to climate variability risks (by type, sector and scale	

G. Include a detailed budget with budget notes, a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use, and an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs

The table below presents the detailed budget of the project per activity.

Table 18: Detailed budget per project activity

Component 1: Climate-proofed agricultural production and post-harvest combined with livelihood diversification	**Budget Notes**	**Total Budget**
Output 1.1. Best available technologies and integrated resilient crop varieties and livestock breeds are implemented to foster the resilience of crop and livestock production and post-harvest practices		
1. Selection of pest-resistant varieties and cultural practices (distance between plants, irrigation management and weeding) in partnership with Africa **Rice**	Partnership with Africa Rice to provide pest resistant rice varieties. Cost includes seed selection, step-down training on important cultural practices required for optimum yield.	**75000**
2. Expansion of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI)	Cost includes assessment of existing rice fields, mapping of new production areas, and engagement of consultants.	**50000**
3. Support for the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment to run integrated Farmer Field Schools (FFS) or business models and provide other technical support. FFS or model business farms will be identified to showcase specific approaches to facilitate the introduction and uptake of resilient practices for farmers	Cost includes engagement of local extension consultant to develop FFS manual and conduct ToT for lead farmers with regular follow-up to track implementation.	**40000**
4. Capacity-building on modern composting techniques to reduce/prevent movement of farmers to fallow land in secondary cropping years	Cost includes engagement of consultants to build beneficiary capacity on modern composting techniques annually in all the prefectures.	**150000**
5. Establishment or rehabilitation of boreholes and irrigation schemes to cope with the consequences of drought and heat extreme events	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out necessary technical studies and drawings, evaluation of existing boreholes for rehabilitation, and installation of new boreholes.	**500000**

6. Development of new inland valley swamps for rice production to increase the production of smallholder farmers and diversify and expand their revenue sources.	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out necessary technical studies for construction required to develop the new inland valley swamps for rice production and the development of the IVS.	**525000**
7. Construction of dikes in the valley bottom to control water during rainy seasons and of micro-catchment water runoff control dykes	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out necessary technical studies for construction of dykes in the valley bottom to control water during rainy seasons and of micro-catchment water runoff control dykes and the development of the valley.	**500000**
8. Construction or consolidation of structures for gravity irrigation serving 8,000 producers	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out necessary technical studies for construction or consolidation of structures for gravity irrigation serving 8,000 producers and the construction or consolidation for gravity irrigation structures.	**500000**
9. Watershed rehabilitation and introduction of efficient water use and management methods	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out necessary technical studies for Watershed rehabilitation and introduction of efficient water use and management methods and the rehabilitation of watersheds.	**825000**
10. Extension and infrastructure rehabilitation and construction including drainage systems	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out necessary technical studies for the extension and infrastructure rehabilitation and construction of drainage systems and management methods and the construction of drainage systems.	**500000**
11. Assessment of the impact of the production of the specific crop (cassava, maize) on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out necessary technical studies for the assessment of the impact of the production of the specific crop (cassava, maize) on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy.	**10000**
12. **Cassava**: Selection of pest resistant varieties and growing practices (distance between plants, irrigation management and weeding)	Partnership with relevant institutions to provide pest resistant Cassava varieties. Cost includes seed selection, step-down training on important cultural practices required for optimum yield.	**75000**
13. Community mobilization and organizing to promote the adoption of the selected crops as climate smart cash crops and the development of cooperatives	Cost includes engagement of consultant for community mobilization and organizing to promote the adoption of the selected crops as climate smart cash crops and the development of cooperatives.	**115000**
14. Support for female farmers in engaging in commercial production of the selected crops (including training in sustainable production, negotiating access to farmland and equipment)	Cost includes engagement of consultant to conduct training in sustainable production, negotiating access to farmland and equipment.	**100000**
15. Conducting random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of crop production uptake on the resilience of female farmers and drought prone communities	Cost includes engagement of consultant to conduct random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of crop production uptake on the resilience of female farmers and drought prone communities.	**10000**
16. Support for cooperatives in the construction and climate proofing of processing units and local branding of selected crops	Cost includes engagement of consultant to implement support activities in the construction	**25000**

	and climate proofing of processing units and local branding of selected crops.	
17. Elaboration and dissemination of a user guide on sustainable production techniques best suited to the project area and good agroecological practices	Cost includes engagement of consultant to conduct elaborate and disseminate a user guide on sustainable production techniques best suited to the project area and good agroecological practices.	**10000**
18. Strengthening of the capacity of the extension services to develop the field-schools farmer approach to train farmers in soil fertility management, the use of organic manure and biopesticides and the adoption of good farming practices adapted to the effects of climate change; popularize soil restoration techniques; develop a sustainable mechanism for the production of organic manure and promote agroforestry (leguminous forest species or species of economic or nutritional interest)	Cost includes engagement of consultant to coordinate activities leading to the strengthening of the capacity of the extension services to develop the field schools farmer approach to train farmers in soil fertility management, the use of organic manure and biopesticides and the adoption of good farming practices adapted to the effects of climate change; popularize soil restoration techniques; develop a sustainable mechanism for the production of organic manure and promote agroforestry (leguminous forest species or species of economic or nutritional interest).	**100000**
19. Set up an ICT platform for beneficiary cooperatives to exchange knowledge and experience with good agroecological practices and market information.	Engage the services of a consultant to set up an ICT platform for beneficiary cooperatives to exchange knowledge and experience with good agroecological practices and market information	**5900**
Sub-total (1.1)		**4,115,900**
Output 1.2: Income-generating activities focusing on climate resilient fish farming and livestock in the project area, conservation, processing units, marketing are promoted as livelihood diversification measures		
1. Design and Construction of 50 earth dams less than 15 m high for fish farming activities	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out necessary technical studies for design and construction of 50 earth dams and the construction of the 50 earth dams.	**500000**
2. Establishment of 50 fish farms and the creation of services for the entire value chain (fingerlings, etc.).	Cost includes engagement of consultant to establish 50 fish farms and the creation of services for the entire value chain.	**80000**
3. Training for 300 smallholder farmers on Tilapia and Milkfish production	Engagement of consultant to conduct training for 300 smallholder farmers on Tilapia and Milkfish production	**50000**
4. Construction of modern ovens to improve women's living and working conditions	Engagement of consultant for the construction of modern ovens to improve the living and working condition of the women	**112000**
5. Purchase and distribution of fingerlings to farmers	Engage the services of a consultant Initiate the procurement and distribution of fingerlings to farmers	**75000**
6. Establishment and capacity-building for fish farmers' cooperatives	Cost includes engagement of consultant to establish and capacity-building for fish farmers' cooperatives.	**85000**
7. Assessment of the impact of poultry farming and commercial livestock on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out necessary technical studies for the assessment of the impact of poultry farming and commercial livestock on rural livelihoods	**10000**

8.Selection of local resistant poultry breeds and animal production practices (feed formulation, vaccination, housing, water management, and actions to reduce mortality rate)	Partnership with relevant institutions to provide local resistant poultry breeds. Cost includes breeds selection, training on production practices	**50000**
9.Support for female farmers in engaging in poultry farming and commercial livestock production (small ruminants, poultry) (including training in sustainable production of livestock and management practices)	Cost includes kits for replenishing/strengthening poultry breeding capital and small-scale milk processing units	**130000**
10. Conducting random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of livestock uptake on the resilience of female farmers and communities	Cost includes engagement of consultant to conduct random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of crop production uptake on the resilience of female farmers	**10000**
Sub-total (1.2)		**1,102,000**
Cost for Component 1		**5,217,900**
Component 2: Climate resilient rural transportation and storage infrastructure		
Output 2.1 Climate resilient rural transportation and storage infrastructure		
1.Warehouse rehabilitation to withstand wetter climatic conditions. With an increasing recurrence of extreme wet events, it is essential to ensure that existing warehouses (1) preserve low humidity level to preserve the produce and (2) are rehabilitated outside floodable areas and are not exposed to extreme flood events that could adversely affect the stored produce	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out necessary technical studies and the implementation for the rehabilitation and climate proofing of existing warehouses.jobs	**550000**
2.Climate-proofing 120 km of feeder roads and farm tracks to ensure the year-round and all-weather usability. This includes the studies and surveys, the works, the construction of bridges and culverts where necessary, routine and periodic maintenance	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out necessary technical studies and the implementation for the climate-proofing 120 km of feeder roads and farm tracks to ensure the year-round and all-weather usability.	**808014**
3.To sustain the climate-proofed investment over a longer period of time, activities aiming at their maintenance by local public authorities and Farmer-based organizations will also include: (1) Support to districts for development of Feeder Roads Maintenance Plans and (2) Support to Farmer-based Organizations (Road gangs formation, distribution of maintenance tools, development of Farm Tracks Maintenance Plans)	Cost includes engagement of consultant to execute activities aimed at maintaining climate-proofed by providing: (1) Support to districts for development of Feeder Roads Maintenance Plans and (2) Support to Farmer-based Organizations (Road gangs formation, distribution of maintenance tools, development of Farm Tracks Maintenance Plans).	**500000**
Subtotal (2.1)		**1,858,014**
Output 2.2. Climate resilient water supply and sanitation infrastructure		
1.Climate-proofed construction and rehabilitation of drinking water supply and sanitation to withstand the consequences of extreme dry and wet events that could disrupt the quantity and quality of water	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out necessary technical studies and the implementation for the climate-proofed construction and rehabilitation of drinking water	**571268**

available to the population and its economic activities	supply and sanitation to withstand the consequences of extreme dry and wet events that could disrupt the quantity and quality of water available to the population and its economic activities.	
2.Capacity building for potable water management will complement the construction and rehabilitation	Cost includes engagement of consultant to carry out ToT training for beneficiaries on water use management.	**150000**
Subtotal (2.2)		**721268**
Cost for component 2		**2,,282**
Component 3: Institutional capacity building, policy engagement and knowledge management.		
Output 3.1: Capacity of the government (esp. Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, and Africa Rice) in managing climate risk is strengthened		
1.Supporting organizations representing indigenous Pygmies AKA populations to advocate for the mainstreaming of traditional rights on lands and natural resources in the revision process of the regulatory and legislative land framework in CAR	. Cost includes provision of support to organize awareness meetings targeting relevant ministries and decision-makers, partners, and media.	**25000**
2.Strengthening of capacities of the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment, civil society, and their partners,	Cost includes provision of support to strengthen capacities of the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment and their partners.	**50000**
3.Strengthening of the CAR Meteorological Department and local representatives	Cost includes provision of technical support to strengthen capacities of the staff of the CAR Meteorological Department and local representatives.	**75000**
4.Building the capacities of technical agents and civil society by providing them with equipment, tools, and training on climate risk management so they can analyze and monitor the changes in the status of natural resources and the implementation of environmental and social safeguard measures on the field.	Cost includes provision of technical support to strengthen capacities of technical agents by providing them with equipment, tools and training on climate risk management so they can analyse and monitor the changes in the status of natural resources and the implementation of environmental and social safeguard measures on the field.	**300000**
5.Provision of technical assistance for improved policy frameworks to mainstream climate risks into sectoral strategies and policies	Cost includes provision of technical support to strengthen capacities of the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment, and their partners.	**50000**
Sub-total (3.1)		**500,000**
Output 3.2: Monitoring & Evaluation and Coordination of the Adaptation Activities		
1.Support for the development of a measurement reporting and verification system for climate response programmes	Cost includes engagement of a consultant to provide technical support for the development of a measurement reporting and verification system for climate response programmes.	**25000**
2.Support to improve monitoring & evaluation and knowledge management activities, which will include funds to cover additional baseline surveys	Cost includes engagement of a consultant to provide technical support to improve monitoring & evaluation and knowledge management activities, which will include funds to cover additional	**40000**

(related to climate change adaptation) and terminal surveys (related to climate change adaptation).	baseline surveys (related to climate change adaptation) and terminal surveys (related to climate change adaptation)..	
3. Project management and coordination, including the recruitment of a climate change adaptation specialist for the duration of the project and staff training on adaptation-related issues.	Cost includes provision for the overall management and coordination, recruitment of a climate change adaptation specialist, and other relevant staff for the duration of the project and staff training on adaptation-related issues.	**225000**
4. Produce a knowledge management plan, knowledge transfer platform, knowledge management products such as newsletters, TV and radio interviews and materials on success stories. These products will be disseminated via online and offline channels	Cost includes engagement of consultants to produce a knowledge management plan, knowledge transfer platform, knowledge management products such as newsletters, TV and radio interviews and materials on success stories.	**26454**
Sub-total (3.2)		**316,454**
Cost of Component 3		**716,454**
Project Activity cost		**8,613,636**
Project Execution costs (7%)		**602,954**
Equipment	Cars: 40 000 USD *3	**120,000**
Running costs	24 000/Year: Maintenance Fuel for 5 years, Office consumables for 5 years, etc	**120,000**
Support to Recruitment	This line provides additional support costs required for the day-to-day execution of the project including fiduciary aspects and overall coordination.	**187,954**
Finance and Procurement	Cost covers fiduciary aspects and procurement	**75,000**
Communications	Cost covers setting up and managing communication	**50,000**
Travel	Cost provides additional support for travels for supervision	**50,000**
Total project costs		**9,216,590**
Project cycle management (8.5%)		**783,410**
Direct Project Management	Cost includes engagement of consultants and activities required for the effective management of the project	**313,410**
Support to M&E	Cost includes support to the M&E activities of the project	**260,000**
Support to Gender Inclusion Monitoring	Cost includes support towards mainstreaming Gender inclusion	**50,000**
Support to ESMP Monitoring	Cost includes support for the monitoring of the ESMP	**160,000**
Amount of Financing Requested		**10,000,000**

Table 19: Project disbursement matrix

Outputs	Activity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Component 1Climate-proofed agricultural production and post-harvest combined with livelihood diversification							
Output 1.1.	Output 1.1	**785 100**	**805 200**	**780 200**	**1 110 200**	**635 200**	**4 115 900**
	Selection of pest-resistant varieties and cultural practices (distance between plants, irrigation management and weeding) in partnership with Africa **Rice**	**15 000**	**15 000**	**15 000**	**15 000**	**15 000**	**75 000**
	Expansion of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI)	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**50 000**
	Support for the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment to run integrated Farmer Field Schools (FFS) or business models and provide other technical support. FFS or model business farms will be identified to showcase specific approaches to facilitate the introduction and uptake of resilient practices for farmers	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**5 000**	**5 000**	**40 000**
	Capacity-building on modern composting techniques to reduce/prevent movement of farmers to fallow land in secondary cropping years	**50 000**	**50 000**	**50 000**	**0**	**0**	**150 000**
	Establishment or rehabilitation of boreholes and irrigation schemes to cope with the consequences of drought and heat extreme events	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**500 000**
	Development of new inland valley swamps for rice production to increase the production of smallholder farmers and diversify and expand their revenue sources.	**100 000**	**125 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**525 000**
	Construction of dykes in the valley bottom to control water during rainy seasons and of micro-catchment water runoff control dykes	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**500 000**
	Construction or consolidation of structures for gravity irrigation serving 8,000 producers	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**500 000**
	Watershed rehabilitation and introduction of efficient water use and management methods	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**500 000**	**25 000**	**825 000**
	Extension and infrastructure rehabilitation and construction including drainage systems	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**500 000**

	Assessment of the impact of the production of the specific crop (cassava, maize) on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy	**0**	**10 000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**10 000**
	Cassava: Selection of pest resistant varieties and growing practices (distance between plants, irrigation management and weeding)	**15 000**	**15 000**	**15 000**	**15 000**	**15 000**	**75 000**
	Community mobilization and organizing to promote the adoption of the selected crops as climate smart cash crops and the development of cooperatives	**25 000**	**25 000**	**25 000**	**20 000**	**20 000**	**115 000**
	Support for female farmers in engaging in commercial production of the selected crops (including training in sustainable production, negotiating access to farmland and equipment)	**20 000**	**20 000**	**20 000**	**20 000**	**20 000**	**100 000**
	Conducting random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of crop production uptake on the resilience of female farmers and drought prone communities	**0**	**0**	**10 000**	**0**	**0**	**10 000**
	Support for cooperatives in the construction and climate proofing of processing units and local branding of selected crops	**5 000**	**5 000**	**5 000**	**5 000**	**5 000**	**25 000**
	Elaboration and dissemination of a user guide on sustainable production techniques best suited to the project area and good agroecological practices	**10 000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**10 000**
	Strengthening of the capacity of the extension services to develop the field schools farmer approach to train farmers in soil fertility management, the use of organic manure and biopesticides and the adoption of good farming practices adapted to the effects of climate change; popularize soil restoration techniques; develop a sustainable mechanism for the production of organic manure and promote agroforestry (leguminous forest species or species of economic or nutritional interest)	**20 000**	**20 000**	**20 000**	**20 000**	**20 000**	**100 000**
	Set up an ICT platform for beneficiary cooperatives to exchange knowledge and experience with good agroecological practices and market information.	**5 100**	**200**	**200**	**200**	**200**	**5 900**
Output 1.2:	Output 1.2.	**275 000**	**365 000**	**230 000**	**135 000**	**97 000**	**1 102 000**

	Construction of 50 earth dams less than 15 m high for fish farming activities	**100 000**	**200 000**	**100 000**	**50 000**	**50 000**	**500 000**
	Establishment of fish farms and the creation of services for the entire value chain (fingerlings, etc.).	**20 000**	**20 000**	**20 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**80 000**
	Training for smallholder farmers on Tilapia and Milkfish production	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**50 000**
	Construction of modern ovens to improve women's living and working conditions	**30 000**	**30 000**	**30 000**	**15 000**	**7 000**	**112 000**
	Purchase and distribution of fingerlings to farmers	**20 000**	**20 000**	**20 000**	**10 000**	**5 000**	**75 000**
	Establishment and capacity-building for fish farmers' cooperatives	**30 000**	**20 000**	**20 000**	**10 000**	**5 000**	**85 000**
	Assessment of the impact of poultry farming and commercial livestock on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy	**10 000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**10 000**
	Selection of local resistant poultry breeds and animal production practices (feed formulation, vaccination, housing, water management, and actions to reduce mortality rate)	**25 000**	**25 000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**50 000**
	Support for female farmers in engaging in poultry farming and commercial livestock production (small ruminants, poultry) (including training in sustainable production of livestock and management practices)	**30 000**	**40 000**	**30 000**	**30 000**	**0**	**130 000**
	Conducting random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of livestock uptake on the resilience of female farmers and communities	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**10 000**	**10 000**
Cost for Component 1		**1 060 100**	**1 170 200**	**1 010 200**	**1 245 200**	**732 200**	**5 217 900**
Component 2: Climate-proofed agricultural production and post-harvest combined with livelihood diversification							
	Output 2.1.	**450 000**	**608 014**	**500 000**	**200 000**	**100 000**	**1 858 014**
Output 2.1.	Warehouse rehabilitation to withstand wetter climatic conditions. With an increasing recurrence of extreme wet events, it is essential to ensure that existing warehouses (1) preserve low humidity level to preserve the produce and (2) are rehabilitated outside floodable areas and are not exposed to extreme flood events that could adversely affect the stored produce	**150 000**	**200 000**	**200 000**	**0**	**0**	**550 000**

	Climate-proofing 120 km of feeder roads and farm tracks to ensure the year-round and all-weather usability. This includes the studies and surveys, the works, the construction of bridges and culverts where necessary, routine, and periodic maintenance	**200 000**	**308 014**	**200 000**	**100 000**	**0**	**808 014**
	To sustain the climate-proofed investment over a longer period of time, activities aiming at their maintenance by local public authorities and Farmer-based organizations will also include: (1) Support to districts for development of Feeder Roads Maintenance Plans and (2) Support to Farmer-based Organizations (Road gangs' formation, distribution of maintenance tools, development of Farm Tracks Maintenance Plans)	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**500 000**
Output 2.2:	Output 2.2	**150 000**	**221 268**	**150 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**721 268**
	Climate-proofed construction and rehabilitation of drinking water supply and sanitation to withstand the consequences of extreme dry and wet events that could disrupt the quantity and quality of water available to the population and its economic activities	**100 000**	**171 268**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**571 268**
	Capacity building for potable water management will complement the construction and rehabilitation	**50 000**	**50 000**	**50 000**	**0**	**0**	**150 000**
Cost for Component 2		**600 000**	**829 282**	**650 000**	**300 000**	**200 000**	**2 579 282**
Component 3: Institutional capacity building, policy engagement and knowledge management.							
Output 3.1.	Output 3.1	**105 000**	**150 000**	**140 000**	**85 000**	**20 000**	**500 000**
	Supporting organizations representing indigenous Pygmies AKA populations to advocate for the mainstreaming of traditional rights on lands and natural resources in the revision process of the regulatory and legislative land framework in CAR	**15 000**	**10 000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**25 000**

	Strengthening of capacities of the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment, civil society, and their partners, such as Africa Rice, in climate risk management, planning for climate adaptation transitions (e.g., introduction of new farming systems or livelihoods) and exploiting opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, where feasible. This could include capacity-building on technological enhancement methods and measures to enhance institutional capacity on sustainable agricultural productivity, supporting equitable increases in farm incomes and food security and to adapting and building the resilience of the crop and livestock sectors to climate change at multiple levels. The details of the trainings will be decided in collaboration with the staff of the ministries at project start-up	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**50 000**
	Strengthening of the CAR Meteorological Department and local representatives	**20 000**	**20 000**	**20 000**	**15 000**	**0**	**75 000**
	Building the capacities of technical agents by providing them with equipment, tools, and training on climate risk management so they can analyze and monitor the changes in the status of natural resources and the implementation of environmental and social safeguard measures on the field. In coordination with the PMU beneficiaries and other relevant project partners, to ensure a proper implementation and monitoring of the project's Environmental, Social and Climate Management Plan and the Adaptation Fund's 15 Principles in each target zone during the implementation of the best available technologies and integrated resilient crop varieties and livestock breeds (output 1.1), income-generating activities (output 1.2.), upgrading water infrastructure (output 2.2.) and rural transportation (output 2.1), which aim to contribute to improved overall agricultural productivity, climate resilience in the crop and livestock sectors and an effective adaptation strategy in the CAR for ensuring	**50 000**	**100 000**	**100 000**	**50 000**	**0**	**300 000**

	food security and improving livelihoods in the project area						
	Provision of technical assistance for improved policy frameworks to mainstream climate risks into sectoral strategies and policies	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**50 000**
Output 3.2:	Output 3.2:	**65 000**	**65 500**	**65 500**	**60 453**	**60 000**	**316 453**
	Support for the development of a measurement reporting and verification system for climate response programmes	**5 000**	**5 000**	**5 000**	**5 000**	**5 000**	**25 000**
	Support to improve monitoring & evaluation and knowledge management activities, which will include funds to cover additional baseline surveys (related to climate change adaptation) and terminal surveys (related to climate change adaptation).	**10 000**	**10 000**	**10 000**	**5 000**	**5 000**	**40 000**
	Support to project management and coordination, including the recruitment of a climate change adaptation specialist for the duration of the project and staff training on adaptation-related issues.	**45 000**	**45 000**	**45 000**	**45 000**	**45 000**	**225 000**
	As part of the activities to ensure that the project is efficiently monitored, the project will produce a knowledge management plan, knowledge transfer platform, knowledge management products such as e-newsletters, TV and radio interviews and materials on success stories. These products will be disseminated via online and offline channels	**5 000**	**5 500**	**5 500**	**5 453**	**5 000**	**26 453**
Cost for Component 3		**170 000**	**215 500**	**205 500**	**145 453**	**80 000**	**816 453**
Project Activity Costs		**1 830 100**	**2 214 982**	**1 865 700**	**1 690 653**	**1 012 200**	**8 613 635**
Project Execution Cost (7%)							**602 954**
Equipment							120 000
Running costs							120 000
Support to Recruitment							187 954
Finance and Procurement							75 000
Communications							50 000
Travel							50 000

Total Project costs	**9 216 589**
Project cycle management (8.5%)	**783 410**
Direct Project Management	313 410
Support to M&E	260 000
Support to ESMP monitoring costs	160 000
Support to Gender Inclusion Monitoring	50 000
Amount of financing requesting	**10 000 000**

H. Include a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones

Table 20: Project disbursement schedule

	Upon Agreement signature	One Year after Project Start	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	**Total**
Project Activity cost (US$)	800000	1010100	2174982	1845700	1725654	1057200	8613636
Project Execution costs	102954	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	602954
Implementing Entity Fee (US$)	100000	183410	200000	100000	100000	100000	783410
Total (US$)	1002954	1293510	2474982	2045700	1925654	1257200	10000000

Table 21: IE Fees Breakdown

Category	IE Fees Breakdown of M&E Supervision	Responsibility	Budget (USD)	Timeframe
Support to M&E	Inception Workshop (IW)	IFAD, NPCU, Government	15 000	Within two months of project start up
	Supervision visits	IFAD, NPCU, Government	40 000	bi-annually
	Training workshops on M&E	IFAD, NPCU	40 000	2024
	Baseline survey/ MPAT/SYGRI+ survey	NPCU	55 000	First Year (2024)
				Sixth Year (2028)
	Mid-Term Evaluation	IFAD, External consultants	30 000	2026
	Final Evaluation	IFAD, External consultants	30 000	2028
	Knowledge Management Activities and Publications	IFAD, NPCU	50 000	bi-annually
Gender	Support to Gender Inclusion Monitoring	IFAD, NPCU	50 000	Bi-annually
ESMP	ESMP monitoring costs	IFAD, NPCU	160 000	Bi-annually
Direct Project Management	Policy Support	IFAD, NPCU	50 000	Bi-annually
	Portfolio management	NPCU	100 000	Bi-annually
	Oversight	IFAD	100 000	Bi-annually
	Financial management	IFAD, NPCU	63 410	Bi-annually
	Total		**783 410**	**5 years**

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[61] *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for each country participating in the proposed project / programme. Add more lines as necessary. The endorsement letters should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letters with this template;*

MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET
DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

DIRECTION DE CABINET

COORDINATION NATIONALE CLIMAT

DIRECTION MOBILISATION FONDS
INNOVANTS

N°023/MEDD/DIRCAB/CNC/DMFICC.21

République Centrafricaine
Unité - Dignité - Travail

Bangui le, 10,7 OCT 2021

Letter of endorsement by the Central African Government

To: **Adaptation Fund**

Subject: Endorsement of the project "**Increasing the adaptation capacity and resilience of rural communities to climate change in the Central African Republic**".

In my capacity as Designated National Authority for Climate Funds in Central African Republic (CAR), I confirm that the above National Project proposal is consistent with the government's national priorities in the implementation of adaptation activities to reduce negative impacts and the risks associated with climate change in CAR.

Accordingly, I am pleased to approve the above project proposal. If approved, the project will be implemented by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in partnership with the United Nations Food Organization (FAO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the CAR.

Yours sincerely,

LE DIRECTEUR

Mr. Boris Bemokolo
Focal Point

6. Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

B. Implementing Entity certification *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">I certify that this Concept Note has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Implementing Entity Coordinator:
Mr Juan Carlos Mendoza Casadiegos
Director
Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division (ECG), IFAD</td></tr>
<tr><td>Date: 21 August 2023</td><td>email: ecgmailbox@ifad.org</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Project Contact Person:
Ms Maam Suwadu Sakho Jimbira,
Regional Climate and Environment Specialist, West and Central Africa
Tel: +221781842766 email: suwadu.jimbira@ifad.org</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">IFAD HQ focal point:
Ms Janie Rioux
Senior Technical Specialist (Climate Change), ECG Division, IFAD
Email: j.rioux@ifad.org</td></tr>
</table>

ANNEX 1: Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

"Increase the adaptive capacity and resilience of rural communities to climate change in the Central African Republic".

1. Description of the proposed project

1.1. Project objective, area, and target group

The overall objective of the project is to "***Increase the adaptive capacity and resilience of rural communities to climate change in the Central African Republic***". The ambition is to contribute to a sustainable reduction of poverty, improvement of the food and nutritional security of 20,000 households and indirectly 119,000 beneficiaries in rural areas and to support economic integration and empowerment of women and rural youth. The development objective is to strengthen the resilience of rural populations and improve their access to market opportunities in regions 1, 2 and 3 of the Central African Republic. It aims to create the necessary conditions for an increase in plant and animal production and to pave the way for better marketing of products in the areas of intervention thanks to quality infrastructure.

Main Expected Results. The performance of the project at the end of the interventions will translate to five (5) categories:

1. Human well-being and jobs: 20,000 households as direct beneficiaries for 119,000 people supported; 85,000 jobs created (direct and indirect);
2. Land management: 730 ha developed (605 ha new and 125 ha rehabilitated); 850 ha cleared and plowed;
3. Infrastructure: 125 km of roads created; 53 road maintenance brigades equipped and installed; 4 equipped and functional multifunctional platforms; 6 crop storage warehouses delivered to cooperatives; 20 storage areas for crop production delivered to cooperatives; 3 units for processing beans and rice into functional by-products; 5 functional rice hullers;
4. Financing: financing and installation of 100 individual micro-project units linked to the processing and marketing of products (48 simple solar dryers, 10 rural market platforms, 10 artisanal cheese dairies, 22 transport support units and 10 thresher units);
5. Yield improvement: increased yields (Rice from 1.5 T/ha to 4 T/ha; Maize from 0.85 T/ha to 1.8 T/ha; Cassava 1.3 T/ha to 1.7 T/ha;

Intervention areas: The project will be implemented in four (4) prefectures: Nana Mamberé, Ouam Pendé, Lobaye and Ombella Mpoko. The focus will be on eleven (11) sub-prefectures and production basins (Bimbo, Boali, Bossembélé, Yaloké, Boda, Boganangone, Mbaïki, Bouar, Baboua, Bozoum and Bocaranga). They are part of the Country Strategic Opportunities Programs 2020-2024 targeting strategy on selected areas and beneficiaries based on the level of poverty, vulnerability, agro-pastoral productive opportunities, and security criteria. The area of intervention holds 33% of the population and 39% of agricultural dwellers registered throughout the country in 2013. In the context of COVID-19, the project will have to support the most affected people through its interventions. These target areas are also impacted by the effects of climate change (floods, droughts), continuous degradation of natural resources including deforestation. The target areas also face poaching issues which impact wildlife biodiversity.

Figure 2: Map of Project area

The region offers significant potential for agro-pastoral production and marketing due to its proximity to Bangui, the country's main capital, and many other economic and commercial centres. The export of plant and livestock products can take place depending on the opportunities in Cameroon, Congo (Brazzaville) and the DRC.

This area was selected on the basis of several criteria, including: (i) good potential for farming, irrigation and rainfed agriculture; (ii) areas suitable for the development of pastoral and fish farming activities; (iii) high population density and labor availability; (iv) the inception of the structured of farmers' organizations; (v) strong potential for the development of agricultural entrepreneurship; (vi) complementarity with other agricultural development initiatives and programs; and (vii) severe deterioration of production and marketing of agricultural infrastructure.

By promoting the value chain approach, the project will aim to reach all actors of the different segments of the four targeted sectors. These are: (i) small producers and their organizations; (ii) downstream actors, including processors, traders, and consumers; (iii) actors working on support activities and trade, including input suppliers, suppliers and repairers of agricultural materials and equipment, transporters; (iv) private sector actors who will promote profitability, inclusion, and equity in terms of value chains. Rural women and young rural people (15-35 years old), who represent a significant ratio at the level of the three sectors, will constitute privileged sub-groups because of the difficulties they encounter in accessing production factors and the market, but also the opportunities that the three sectors offer to increase their incomes and create jobs for the different segments of the value chain.

Target groups: The project will prioritize: (i) smallholder farmers engaged in subsistence crop and livestock production on small land and low livestock capital and (ii) marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups including people living with HIV/AIDS, single mothers, persons with disabilities, the elderly, widows, widowers, indigenous peoples Aka Pygmies and M'bororo Fulani minority group, characterized by low access to socio-economic opportunities, v) governmental agencies. Women and youth represent respectively 50 and 30% of the 20,000 total target.

1.2. Description of project components

The project will implement a set of adaptation measures in some of the most profitable agricultural value chains in the country: rice, cassava, and maize. Enabling actions designed to strengthen national capacities and institutions will be interlinked with concrete adaptation measures to build the resilience of the crop and livestock value chains in four target prefectures: Nana Mambéré, Ouam Pende, Lobaye and Ombella Mpoko.

Within these prefectures, the project will focus in eleven sub-prefectures/production basins: Bimbo, Boali, Bossembélé, Yaloké, Boda, Boganangone, Mbaïki, Bouar, Baboua, Bozoum and Bocaranga. Concrete adaptation measures include the adoption of integrated, climate resilient farming, production, post-harvest, and marketing systems. New technologies will be introduced, as well as best practices aimed at promoting the paradigm shift and behavioural change in the crop and livestock value chains and increasing linkages to markets.

The project is structured around three components:

- **Component 1:** Climate-resilient agricultural production and proper post-harvest measures combined with livelihood diversification.

  The purpose of this component is to improve the production and productivity of main crops (cassava, maize, rice). This component will introduce technologies to improve the productivity, processing and storage of agricultural products. Emphasis will be placed on women and young people in certain activities. The project will support the rehabilitation and management of irrigated areas, income generating activities from agriculture, fishery, and livestock. Livestock keepers will be provided with the knowledge, skills and material resources needed to increase livestock productivity and production.

- **Component 2** Climate-resilient rural transportation and water infrastructure

  The objective of this component is to **improve the profitability of selected products and infrastructure** for better access to markets. This component supports the establishment of the rural infrastructure for agriculture and the climate responses, to extend production areas. Support will be provided to improve the management, rehabilitation and construction of new rural roads that will support agricultural production areas. This component will add value to selected products by supporting small-scale processing units for youth and women. Treatment that improves nutritional outcomes will be prioritized.

  Component 3. Institutional capacity building, policy engagement and knowledge management.

  This component aims **improve the management of the actions through an effective coordination of project investments** with swift administrative, accounting, and financial management of the project, the procurement services and the implementation of the social and environmental management plan, as well as policy dialogue at national and regional discussions on infrastructure development and maintenance. The project will support ministries and key stakeholders to coordinate the development and implementation of key policies and strategies needed in the sector with the aim of improving governance and enabling effective transformation of the rural sector. The project will also build the capacity of CSOs and farmer organizations in key areas of their skills needed to participate in and influence policy development and implementation. These will include among others the gender strategy, the land management bill, and their associated action plans.

Table 22: Summary of project activities by component

Outputs	Activity
Component 1: Climate-resilient agricultural production and appropriate post-harvest measures combined with livelihood diversification.	
Output 1.1. Best available technologies and integrated resilient crop varieties and livestock breeds are implemented to foster the resilience of crop and livestock production and post-harvest practices:	**Rice value chain:** Selection of pest-resistant varieties and cultural practices (distance between plants, irrigation management and weeding) in partnership with Africa Rice
	Extension of the Intensified Rice Cultivation System (SRI)
	Support to Ministries of Agriculture and Environment to run integrated Farmer Field Schools (FFS) or business models and provide other technical support. FFS or model commercial farms will be identified to showcase specific approaches to facilitate the introduction and adoption of resilient practices for farmers
	Capacity building on modern composting techniques to reduce/prevent movement of farmers to fallow land in secondary crop years
	Creation or rehabilitation of boreholes and irrigated perimeters to cope with the consequences of extreme episodes of drought and heat
	Development of new swamps in the interior valleys for rice production in order to increase the production of smallholder farmers and to diversify and expand their sources of income.
	Construction of dikes at the bottom of the valley to control water in the rainy season and dikes to control runoff water from micro-catchments
	Construction or consolidation of gravity irrigation works serving 8,000 producers
	Rehabilitation of watersheds and introduction of efficient methods of water use and management
	Extension and rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure, including drainage systems
	Assessing the impact of producing a specific crop (cassava, maize) on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy

	Maize value chains: Assessing the impact of producing a specific crop (maize) on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy
	Selection of pest-resistant varieties and cultural practices (distance between plants, irrigation management and weeding)
	Community mobilization and organization to promote the adoption of selected crops as climate-smart cash crops and the development of cooperatives
	Support for women farmers to engage in commercial production of selected crops (including training in sustainable production, negotiation of access to farmland and equipment)
	Conduct randomized control trials for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of agricultural production adoption on the resilience of women farmers and drought-prone communities
	Support to cooperatives in the construction and climate protection of processing units and the local marking of selected crops
	Development and dissemination of a user guide on the sustainable production techniques best suited to the project area and good agro-ecological practices
	Strengthening the capacity of extension services to develop the farmer field school approach to train farmers in soil fertility management, the use of organic manure and bio-pesticides and the adoption of good agricultural practices adapted to the effects of climate change; popularize soil restoration techniques; develop a sustainable mechanism for the production of organic manure and promote agroforestry (leguminous forest species or species of economic or nutritional interest)
	Set up an ICT platform for beneficiary cooperatives to exchange knowledge and experiences with good agroecological practices and market information. The project will support 12,500 maize producers
	Cassava value chains: Selection of pest-resistant varieties and cultural practices (distance between plants, irrigation management and weeding)
	Community mobilization and organization to promote the adoption of selected crops as climate-smart cash crops and the development of cooperatives

	Support for women farmers to engage in commercial production of selected crops (including training in sustainable production, negotiation of access to farmland and equipment)
	Conduct randomized control trials for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of agricultural production adoption on the resilience of women farmers and drought-prone communities
	Support to cooperatives in the construction and climate protection of processing units and the local marking of selected crops
	Development and dissemination of a user guide on the sustainable production techniques best suited to the project area and good agro-ecological practices
	Strengthening the capacity of extension services to develop the farmer field school approach to train farmers in soil fertility management, the use of organic manure and bio-pesticides and the adoption of good agricultural practices adapted to the effects of climate change; popularize soil restoration techniques; develop a sustainable mechanism for the production of organic manure and promote agroforestry (leguminous forest species or species of economic or nutritional interest)
	Set up an ICT platform for beneficiary cooperatives to exchange knowledge and experiences with good agroecological practices and market information. The project will support 12,500 cassava producers
Output 1.2: Income-generating activities focusing on climate-resilient fishing, agriculture and livestock in the project area, conservation, processing units and marketing are promoted as livelihood diversification measures	Construction of 50 earth dams less than 15 m high for fish farming activities
	Establishment of fish farms and creation of services for the entire value chain (fingerlings, etc.).
	Training for smallholder farmers on tilapia and milkfish production
	Design and construction of earth dams
	Construction of modern ovens to improve the living and working conditions of women
	Purchase and distribution of fingerlings to breeders
	Creation and capacity building of fish farmers' cooperatives
	Assessment of the impact of poultry farming and commercial livestock on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy
	Selection of local resistant poultry breeds and animal production practices (feed formulation, vaccination, housing, water management, and actions to reduce mortality rate)

	Support for female farmers in engaging in poultry farming and commercial livestock production (small ruminants, poultry) (including training in sustainable production of livestock and management practices)
	Conducting random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of livestock uptake on the resilience of female farmers and communities
Component 2: Climate-resilient rural transportation and water infrastructure	
Output 2.1. Climate resilient rural transportation and storage infrastructure	Warehouse rehabilitation to withstand wetter climatic conditions
	Climate-proofing 120 km of feeder roads and farm tracks to ensure the year-round and all-weather usability. This includes the studies and surveys, the works, the construction of bridges and culverts where necessary, routine, and periodic maintenance
	Support climate-proof investment over a longer period of time, through maintenance by local public authorities and farmer organizations, including: (1) support to districts for the development of feeder road maintenance plans and (2) support to Farmer Organizations (Training of road gangs, distribution of maintenance tools, development of Farm Track Maintenance Plans)
Output 2.2: Climate resilient water supply and sanitation infrastructure	Climate-proofed construction and rehabilitation of drinking water supply and sanitation to withstand the consequences of extreme dry and wet events that could disrupt the quantity and quality of water available to the population and its economic activities
	Capacity building for drinking water management will complement the construction and rehabilitation
Component 3: Institutional capacity building, political engagement, and knowledge management.	
Output 3.1. Capacity of the government (esp. Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, and Africa Rice) in managing climate risk is strengthened	Supporting organizations representing indigenous Pygmies AKA populations to advocate for the mainstreaming of traditional rights on lands and natural resources in the revision process of the regulatory and legislative framework

	Capacity building of staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and their partners, such as Africa Rice, in managing climate risks, planning for climate adaptation transitions (e.g., introduction of new farming systems or new livelihoods) and exploiting opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, where possible.
	Strengthening the CAR meteorological service and local representatives
	Strengthen the capacities of technical agents by providing them with equipment, tools and training on climate risk management so that they can analyze and monitor the evolution of the state of natural resources and the implementation of environmental and social safeguard measures in the field.
	Provision of technical assistance to improve policy frameworks to integrate climate risks into sector strategies and policies
Output 3.2: Monitoring & Evaluation and Coordination of the Adaptation Activities	Support for the development of a measurement reporting and verification system for climate response programs
	Support to improve monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management activities, which will include funds to cover additional baseline surveys (linked to climate change adaptation) and endline surveys (linked to climate change adaptation).
	Support for project management and coordination, including recruitment of a climate change adaptation specialist for the duration of the project and training of staff on adaptation issues.
	As part of the activities to ensure effective follow-up to the project, the project will produce a knowledge management plan, a knowledge transfer platform, knowledge management products such as e-newsletters, TV and radio interviews, and success stories documents. These products will be disseminated through online and offline channels

2. Description of national policy, legal and institutional framework

This section describes political, legal (conventions, agreements, laws, decrees, and orders, etc.) and institutional provisions relevant to the project. A brief reminder is made of the country's obligations that apply directly to the project under the relevant international treaties and agreements.

2.1. Policy framework

The ***National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan 2017-2021 (RCPCA)*** has so far been CAR's main instrument for planning and mobilizing resources for the restoration of peace and the socio-economic recovery of the country and has served as a background paper to the international donor conference, held in 2016. In 2023, the RCPCA was updated in the form of an interim development plan (PID) in consideration of the gradual return to security throughout the territory observed in recent years. This interim plan has given impetus to development in addition to humanitarian actions with a view to triggering in its first phases the 2050 development plan under formulated by the country.

CAR's international commitments: The Central African Republic has ratified a number of international and regional legal instruments relating to the environment, including:

- The Convention on Biodiversity adopted in Rio in 1992, ratified on March 15, 1995;
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, ratified on March 15, 1995;
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought, ratified in September 1996;
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants ratified by No. 08 003 of 01/01/2008;
- Convention on international trade in species of wild fauna and flora of March 3, 1973;
- Convention on the conservation of migratory species belonging to fauna (Bonn Convention) of June 23, 1979;
- The Ramsar Convention of February 2, 1971, amended in 1982, 1987 and 2005 on wetlands of international importance, in particular as habitats for waterfowl, signed in 2005;
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - June 21, 1991;
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - April 23, 1992;
- The Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and signatory of the "Yaoundé Declaration" on the aspect of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa.

The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and the International Commission of Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS) for the sustainable management of water resources shared by the countries of Central Africa

The ***National Environmental Action Program (PNAE***), adopted in 1999, includes strategic axes which take into consideration the participation of local communities in forest conservation actions, the protection of priority sites known as fragile ecology, support for local development and the carrying out impact studies.

The ***National Adaptation Plan (NAP***): adopted by the country in 2022, aims to build adaptive capacity and resilience of the most vulnerable, and support the mainstreaming of adaptation into new and existing national, sectoral, and sub-national policies and programmes, especially development strategies, plans and budgets.

Nationally Determined Contribution (2021): The project will comply with CAR's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement (ratified in 2016) which consists of climate adaptation and mitigation change mitigation plans, including the protection of water resources, the cultivation of crops resistant to climate change, the development of agroforestry, the protection of soil fertility and the support of sustainable livestock practices.

The CAR is a member of the National Steering Committee for the Convention on Climate Change and the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), a treaty organization created to harmonize regional policies on forestry and biodiversity conservation.
CAR's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) declared an unconditional and conditional target of reducing GHG emissions, respectively by 11.82% and 24.28% by 2030, compared to a business-as-usual scenario. CAR has two laws in force relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation: Law No. 08-18 relating to biofuels and Law No. 08.222 establishing the Forest Code. (13)
The ***National Agricultural Investment, Food and Nutritional Security Program (PNIASAN)*** provides a reference framework for actions in the agricultural sector, with a view to reducing poverty and food insecurity. PNIASAN's scope of action covers agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and nutrition, the sector financing system and socio-economic infrastructure, as well as emerging issues related to environment, biodiversity, renewable energies, climate change and the promotion of agribusiness. It also prioritizes the most promising for sectors growth, namely: (i) food crops, (ii) main cash crops, (iii) livestock, (iv) fish products, and (v) forestry products.
The ***National Livestock Development Policy (PNDE) is*** the reference framework for the development of the animal sector. Three strategic axes have been identified to respond to the major development issues and challenges of the livestock sector, including: (i) improving the Institutional Framework; (ii) capacity building of stakeholders; (iii) revitalizing local value chains and improving their competitiveness.
The ***water and sanitation policy,*** adopted by Decree No. 21.167 of July 21, 2021, enshrines the government's objectives to promote the integrated management of water resources, by providing appropriate solutions to water-related challenges in the context of the country's economic and social development. The long-term vision of the CAR is to provide, by 2030, drinking water and sanitation facilities to 60% of the population.
Land access policy: In 2012, the government-initiated reforms by developing a "Draft framework law on the harmonization of legal instruments for better governance of land tenure". Despite the delay caused by the security crisis, a steering committee for the reform project has been set up for the national validation of this framework law. Its drafting considered the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Land Tenure of the FAO, as well as the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policies in Africa of the African Union and the directives of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC).
National youth policy: The 2nd generation national youth policy (PNPJ-2) operational framework has three (3) strategic axes which are as follows:

- Strategic Axis 1: Promotion of Peace, Security, National Reconciliation and Social Cohesion by youth;
- Strategic axis 2: Renewal of the social contract between the government and youth;
- Strategic axis 3: Recovery of the productive sector by young people.

2.2. Legal framework

The Constitution of the Central African Republic under Law No. 04/392 of December 2004 enshrines the environment in its preamble and guarantees rigorous management and a transparent environment as an unshakable condition for sustainable development. Within this environmental framework, the local communities as well as all the citizens have the latitude to ensure the protection of the nation. The idea of transparency, which reflects good environmental governance and the integration of the principle of citizen participation as indicated in the Environmental Code of Law No. 07/018 of December 28, 2007, the legal and regulatory framework of the management of natural resources and environment in the Central African Republic is therefore supplemented by the following reference texts:
Law N0. 07/018 of December 28, 2007, on the environmental code: The CAR Environmental Code mandates the prior environmental assessment (EA) of any project likely to impact the environment (Article 87). The modalities for the implementation of EAs are set by regulation. The code, in its section7, specifies that "regulatory texts specify the content, methodology and procedure of impact studies, as well as the conditions

under which these studies are made public and the terms and conditions under which the Minister responsible for the environment may request or be asked for an opinion on any environmental impact study. Regulatory texts include:

- Order No. C5 / MEEDD / DIRCAB of January 21, 2014, defines the different categories of operations whose implementation is subject to the obligation of an environmental and social impact study in CAR. Article 3 of the decree also provides for hydro-agricultural projects of 1000 ha and any water withdrawal (surface or underground water) greater than 30 m3 / h is subject to the completion of the environmental impact study.
- Order No. C5 / MEEDD / DIRCAB of January 21, 2014, sets the different categories. Operations whose implementation is subject to the obligation of an environmental and social impact study in CAR. Article 3 of the decree also indicates that hydro-agricultural development projects of 1000 ha and any water withdrawal (surface or underground water) greater than 30 m3 / h are subject to a study. impact.

Law No. 06/001 of April 12, 2006, on the water code, it concerns the management of water resources, hydraulic installations and works (use, protection, etc.). Sections 18 to 32 of the Act are related to the management and protection of water resources and hydraulic facilities. Several regulatory texts govern the protection of water resources and hydraulic facilities, including:

- Decree No. 16.368 of October 28, 2016, setting the procedures for granting authorization and declaring the development of hydraulic works and water withdrawal.
- Order No. 007/20MDERH.DIRCAB.DGRH of February 14, 2020, setting the conditions for granting approval to construction companies.
- Order No. 054/21MDERH.DIRCAB.DGRH of December 14, 27, 2021 amending and supplementing certain 007/20MDERH.DIRCAB.DGRH of February 14, 2020, setting the conditions for granting approval to construction companies.
- Order No. 007/22MDERH.DIRCAB.DGRH setting the fees for the authorization and control requirement for the construction of hydraulic infrastructures.

Considering these legal and regulatory provisions is therefore important, as the project plans the construction of drinking water boreholes and hydraulic infrastructures (earth dams, irrigation, etc.).

Law No. 08/022 of October 17, 2008, on the Forest Code determines the management of forest resources and the conditions for intervention in classified forests. Articles 3, 27, 83 to 92, 85, 86 and 88 of this law deal with the protection of nature and biodiversity as well as respect for the principles of sustainable forest management and manual or mechanized clearing. Article 43 raises the customary law on the use of the forest: the forest land, fruits, and products of the natural forest. A special authorization is provided for in article 22 on the cutting of a limited number of trees and species, subject to a marking in issue. The implementation of the project could impact landscaped areas and trees mainly around the marking of transhumance corridors or the development of rest areas.

Law No. 09/004 of January 29, 2009, on the labor code governs professional relations between workers and employers. Regarding this code, the following legal considerations are to be considered by the project in supporting young people and entrepreneurship:

- Article 11: “All employment must be fairly remunerated. Remuneration must be sufficient to provide the worker and his family with a decent standard of living. This must not be less than the minimum thresholds set by the salary scales and grids in force. The different elements of remuneration must be established according to identical standards for men and women”.

- Article 120: mentions the provisions relating to the conclusion of an employment contract of more than three (03) months with change of residence.
- Article 259: “Children may not be employed in any company, even as apprentices, before the age of 14, except by derogation issued by order of the Minister in charge of labor taken after consulting the permanent national labor council, taking into account local circumstances and the tasks that may be required. »
- Article 330 that: “any person who intends to open a business or establishment of any kind whatsoever must first declare it to the Labor Inspectorate”.

Law No. 63/441 of January 9, 1964, relating to the national domain of the CAR which recognizes access to land for people and to state lands. The land code determines the national procedures for expropriation and compensation. It stipulates in article 38 that: "the State is presumed to be the owner of all vacant urban or rural land". This enables the occupants of these lands to ensure the guarantee of real rights through registration in the cadastre which is materialized by a definitive land title of land ownership. Land ownership is defined as the right to use, enjoy, and dispose of funds or property in an absolute and exclusive manner, except for restrictions resulting from the law and the real rights belonging to others. The law provides that “no one may, without authorization issued by the competent authority, occupy a dependency of the national public domain or use it within the limits exceeding the right of use which belongs to all”. The provisions of this law are applicable to the project which provides irrigation systems and rural roads for community or public use, as well as development of food crops.

Legal framework dealing with minorities:

- ***Law No. 06.030 of September 12, 2006, establishing the rights and obligations of people living with HIV***, enshrines the principle of non-discrimination regarding people living with HIV/AIDS. It protects them against stigmatization and lack of respect for their private life, as well as imposes them the obligations of voluntary non-disclosure under penalty of sanction. The project should consider the provisions of this law, when considering the target people living with HIV.
- ***the provisions of CAR’s Constitution of March 30, 2016*** regarding minorities, in particular: (i) The recognition of human rights as the basis of any human community, of peace and justice (Articles 1 and 2); the recognition of the right to life and to physical and moral integrity without any distinction, in particular of sex (Article 3); reinforced protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, minorities and people with disabilities (Article 6, paragraph 2).
- In addition, the CAR ratified in 2010, ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples which aims at protecting the rights of indigenous people and guarantee respect for their integrity[62].

2.3. Institutional framework

The institutional framework relating to the protection of nature and the environment for any development project is characterized by a diversity of stakeholders; Those involved in the implementation of the Environmental and Social Assessment and Management Plan the project are detailed below.

The Ministry of Ministry of Environment and Ecology (MEDD) is the overseeing institution of any environmental and social assessment in application of the government's policy. The Environment Code and Order No. 04/MEED/DIRCAB of 21/01/2014, article 3 specify that: "the competent Authority for the procedure of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is the Minister in charge of the Environment and the General Directorate of the Environment (DGE) keeps the register of impact studies". The DGE is responsible for conducting and coordinating the environmental and social assessment process. The main tasks of the DGE consist of: (i) • Proceed with the validation of in-depth, summary, or simplified ESIAs; (ii) Carry out the

[62] https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/fr/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C169

administrative and technical monitoring of ongoing projects (analysis of field reports, inspection, and environmental audit).

At the regional, prefectural, and sub-prefectural level, the DGE is represented by decentralized services, namely the Regional Departments of the Environment and Sustainable Development (DREDD), which act locally by delegation and report back.

The responsibilities of the main institutions involved in the Environmental and Social Assessment and Management Plan of the project are listed in the table below.

Table 23: Institutions involved in the E&S management of the project

Institution	Mission and/or Mandate	Relevant operational bodies	Responsibilities
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR)	"Development, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of government policy on agriculture and rural development" including maintenance of rural tracks	DGA DGI ACDA ICRA Regional Directorate Prefectural services Interministerial coordination units for feeder roads (MADR and Ministry of Infrastructure)	Ministry anchoring the project Control and monitoring of standards / directives in the agriculture sector Monitoring and evaluation Maintenance of road infrastructure (rural tracks) Coordination of outreach activities
Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health (MESA)	"Development, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of Government policy on livestock and animal health" including issues relating to the management of transhumance	Directorate General Livestock Directorate General Animal Health Regional Directorates ANDE FNEC SEGA PMU	Control and monitoring of livestock sector standards/ guidelines Animal health monitoring Livestock infrastructure maintenance Coordination of outreach activities
Ministry of Waters, Forests, Hunting and Fishing	"Development, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of the Government's policy on water, forests, hunting and fishing" Establishes, develops, and periodically renews a management plan for aquaculture activities based on available statistical data	Directorate General for Studies, Fisheries and Aquaculture (DEPA) Regional Directorates	Supervision, monitoring, and implementation of activities related to flora, fauna, fishing, fish farming and beekeeping
Ministry of infrastructure	Implementation of government policy on public works and road maintenance	Interministerial coordination unit (Ministry of Infrastructure and MADR) Directorate General of Cadastre	Service order issued to the service provider selected by the PMU after the validation of technical documents through a seminar then a duly call for tenders within the framework of the track development sub-projects
Minister in charge of promoting gender, protection	Implementation of government policy on the promotion of gender, the protection of women, families, and children	DGPG	60% of beneficiaries are women

of women, family, and children			
Minister in charge of promoting youth, sports, and civic education	Implementation of government policy on the promotion, civic supervision of youth	National Youth Council (national and its local bodies) National Pioneer Youth	Young beneficiaries of the project
Minister in charge of Town Planning, Land Reform, Towns and Housing	Implementation of government policy on the management of state, private and community land assets	Prefectural town planning services Mayor	Land issues related to the limits of properties dedicated to project activities.
Ministry in charge of the Development of Energy and Hydraulic Resources (MDERH)	"Development, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of the Government's policy on Energy and Hydraulics" as mentioned in Article 1 of Decree No. 15.089 of March 17, 2015 of the MDERH	Directorate General of Hydraulics Regional directorates ANEA	Control and monitoring of standards and guidelines for the installation of hydraulic infrastructures. Maintenance of hydraulic infrastructures
Civil Society Organizations		Vulnerable people groups, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities Farmers' groups NGOs	30% of beneficiaries are young people and 15% of beneficiaries are from marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities
Service providers		Consultants Works control office Private companies NGOs _	Subcontracting with the PMU for the implementation of project activities

3. IFAD's environmental and social standards

IFAD's Environmental and Social Assessment Procedures (ESAP) are intended to help IFAD staff and partners to engage in environmental and policy dialogue. As such, they represent one of the fundamental elements of IFAD's approach to promoting sustainable development. They include criteria for integrating environmental aspects into IFAD's operations and prioritize social aspects through a set of principles, tools, and obligations. Below, the list of the IFAD's 10 standards with an indication of their relevance to the project; an analysis of the correlation with the 15 principles of the FA is discussed later in section 6.

- Standard 1: Biodiversity conservation - *Relevant to the project*
- Standard 2: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention - *Relevant to the project*
- Standard 3: Cultural Heritage - *Relevant to the project*
- Standard 4: Indigenous Peoples - *Relevant to the Project*
- Standard 5: Labor and working conditions - *Relevant to the project*
- Standard 6: Community Health and Safety - *Relevant to the project*
- *Standard 7: Resettlement and economic reintegration – Not relevant to the project*
- *Standard 8: Financial intermediaries and investments – Not relevant to the project*
- Standard 9: Climate Change - Relevant to the project
- Standard 10: Themes to be mainstreamed in the IFAD project cycle - *Relevant to the project*.

The 10 standards listed below are relevant to the project except for standards 7 and 8. The environmental measures should consider the objectives targeted by each standard.

4. Adaptation Fund's environmental and social standards

Projects/programmes supported by the Adaptation Fund (AF) must meet the requirements of 15 principles. Table below present those principles, and their correlation with IFAD's ESAP.

Table 24: Correlation between AF and IFAD's standards relevant to project

AF's principle	IFAD's standards
***Principle 1: Compliance with Legislation* - C**ompliance with all applicable domestic and international law.	Standard 10: **IFAD's mainstreaming themes in the project cycle** Review of policy and institutional contexts, to provide an overview of key national policies, strategies, and regulatory frameworks relevant to IFAD's mainstreaming themes.
Principle 2: Access and Equity – i) Provide fair, equitable and inclusive access to expected benefits, without impeding access to basic health services, clean water and sanitation, energy, education, housing, safe and decent working conditions, and land rights ii) Avoid exacerbating existing inequities, particularly with respect to marginalized or vulnerable groups.	Standard 2: **Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention** Support to vulnerable and marginalized communities in the improvement of equitable access to resources. Standard 10: **IFAD's mainstreaming themes in the project cycle** Gender sensitive: Assess the implications of any planned action on women and men and ensure that both women's and men's concerns and experiences are taken into account in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation activities
Principle 3: Marginalized and vulnerable groups - Avoid imposing disproportionate adverse impacts on marginalized and vulnerable groups including children, women and girls, the elderly, indigenous people, tribal groups, displaced people, refugees, people living with disabilities, and people living with HIV/AIDS	Standard 2: **Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention** Support to vulnerable and marginalized communities in the improvement of equitable access to resources. Standard 10: **Themes to be mainstreamed in the IFAD project cycle** Gender sensitive
Principle 4: Human Rights - Respect and, where appropriate, promote fundamental human rights.	Standard 4: **Indigenous Peoples** • Promote indigenous people's ability to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development; • Recognize and respect the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources that they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used.
Principle 5: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment - Design and implement project/program in a such way that women and men: 1) have equal opportunities to participate as per the Fund gender policy 2)	Standard 10: **IFAD's mainstreaming themes in the project cycle** Gender sensitive:

receive comparable social and economic benefits, and 3) do not suffer disproportionate adverse effects during the development process	Assess the implications of any planned action on women and men and ensure that both women's and men's concerns and experiences are considered in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation activities Gender transformative: Ensuring women have equal access for women to productive assets and services, employment, and market opportunities, as well as supportive national policies and laws.
Principle 6: Core labour rights - Respect the core labour standards as identified by the International Labour Organization.	Standard 5: **Labour and working conditions** • Promote, respect, and realize fundamental principles and rights at work by: – Preventing discrimination and promoting equal opportunity of workers; •workers in disadvantaged and vulnerable situations, including a special focus, as appropriate, on women workers, young workers, migrant workers, workers in the informal economy and workers with disabilities
Principle 7: Indigenous Peoples – Avoid activities inconsistent with the rights and responsibilities set forth in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other applicable international instruments relating to indigenous peoples.	Standard 4: **Indigenous Peoples** • Promote indigenous people's ability to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development, through free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC); • Ensure indigenous peoples obtain fair and equitable benefits and opportunities from supported activities in a culturally appropriate and inclusive manner
Principle 8: Involuntary resettlement – Avoid or minimize the need for involuntary resettlement. When limited involuntary resettlement is unavoidable, due process should be observed so that displaced persons shall be informed of their rights, consulted on their options, and offered technically, economically, and socially feasible resettlement alternatives or fair and adequate compensation.	Standard 7: **Physical and economic resettlement** • Avoid involuntary resettlement or, when unavoidable, minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring feasible alternative project designs and sites; • avoid forced eviction
Principle 9: Protection of natural habitats - Avoid unjustified conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, including those that are (a) legally protected; (b) officially proposed for protection; (c) recognized by authoritative sources for their high conservation value, including as critical habitat; or (d) recognized as protected by traditional or indigenous local communities.	Standard 1: **Biodiversity conservation** prioritize siting activities with potential adverse impacts far from critical habitats, protected areas (as outlined in paragraph 13 of standard 1), or areas of ecological significance, giving preference to locating activities on lands where natural habitats have already been converted (i.e. modified habitats).
Principle 10: Conservation of biological diversity – Avoid any significant or unjustified reduction or loss of biological diversity or the introduction of known invasive species.	Standard 1: **Biodiversity conservation** • Maintain and conserve biodiversity; • preserve the integrity of ecosystems; • maintain and enhance the benefits of ecosystem services; • ensure fair and

	equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources; • Respect, preserve, and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples, and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and their customary use of biological resources
Principle 11: Climate Change – Avoid that project activities result in any significant or unjustified increase in greenhouse gas emissions or other drivers of climate change.	Standard 9: **Climate Change** • Ensure that proposed activities are screened and assessed for climate change and disaster risks and impacts both of and to projects. • Strengthen the climate resilience of communities and their adaptive capacity to address risks of climate change impacts and climate-related disasters.
Principle 12: Pollution prevention and Resource efficiency – Meet applicable international standards for maximizing energy efficiency and minimizing material resource use, the production of wastes, and the release of pollutants	Standard 2: **Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention** • Avoid, minimize, and manage the risks and impacts associated with hazardous substances and materials, including pesticides; • Avoid or minimize project-related emissions of short- and long-lived climate-change related pollutants; • Promote sustainable use of resources, including energy, land and water; and • Identify, where feasible, project-related opportunities for resource-use efficiency
Principle 13: Public health – Project designed and implemented in a way that avoids potentially significant negative impacts on public health	Standard 6: **Community Health and Safety** • Anticipate and avoid adverse impacts on the health and safety of project-affected communities during the project life cycle from both routine and nonroutine circumstances
Principle 14: Physical and cultural heritage – Avoid the alteration, damage, or removal of any physical cultural resources, cultural sites, and sites with unique natural values recognized as such at the community, national or international level. Projects/programmes should also not permanently interfere with existing access and use of such physical and cultural resources	**Standard 3: Cultural heritage** • Ensure that effective and active measures are taken to prevent IFAD-supported projects from altering, damaging, or removing any tangible or intangible Cultural Heritage. • Promote the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of Cultural Heritage • Promote meaningful consultation on matters relating to Cultural Heritage
Principle 15: Lands and Soil Conservation - Promote soil conservation and avoids degradation or conversion of productive lands or land that provides valuable ecosystem services.	Standard 2: **Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention** • Avoid –and where avoidance is not possible, minimize – adverse impacts on soils, their biodiversity, organic content, productivity, structure, and water-retention capacity.

6. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

6.1. Consultation process

ESIAS's public consultation goal is to engage key stakeholders' groups such as national and local authorities, farmers organizations, marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups, NGOs, and interest groups to provide their input into the planned project and especially on those impacts that directly or indirectly affect people's livelihoods. Moreover, by involving key stakeholders' inputs in the ESIA, the planned project is strengthened by these inputs.
Thus, the public consultations initiated by the project were an opportunity to:

- Provide to interested and affected actors a better understanding of the project's goal, objectives, outcomes, and outputs to the various stakeholders.
- Provide a space and opportunity to stakeholders to share their comments, concerns, and inputs vis-à-vis the project.
- Present social and environmental safeguards, need for inclusive approach as well as relevant national policy and legal framework.
- Anticipate future issues and propose solutions to be integrated in the process.
- Collect data and information relevant to the 1. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment.

Methodology

The methodology used during the public consultations is essentially qualitative, with a view to better understand opinions and perceptions of the stakeholders on the project. The tool used for data collection is the semi-directive interview which aims to produce a discourse around predetermined themes. This approach made it possible to better understand the observations, views, concerns, and recommendations of the actors. In general, the methodology combined the four approaches listed below:

- Collect and use existing information sources;
- Meetings with institutional stakeholders;
- A workshop, in Bangui, with umbrella organizations of farmers, civil society and; representative of minorities and indigenous peoples;
- Public consultations at local and community level.

Consultations were carried out at different periods: in 2020/2021, and 2023.
The first series consultation was made with the stakeholders presented below:

Table 25: First round of consultation with stakeholders in 2020

Stakeholders consulted	Consultation date	Comments
Direct beneficiaries		
Union of Peasant Organizations – Maigaro	06/07/2020	Choice based on value chain and market link implications. Representatives of farmers from targeted areas.
ICRA staff - Bouar	06/07/2020	Key actors for the development of agriculture and livestock as well as for the management of climate change issues related to agriculture. Employees aware of climate issues and having many practical experiences in the field to share.

of meat - Bouar	08/07/2020	Key player in the promotion of animal products and market access. Evidence of climate change as it relates to the availability of animal products in communities and markets
Community of Bosemptélé	09/07/2020	The participants are made up of different age and gender groups, including young people and women; Local crop producers, pastoralists, fish producers, honey producers and small traders across all targeted value chains. Site selection was based on the community's historical information regarding production techniques and the management of environmental and climatic issues. The participants developed experiences on the thematic areas selected for PRAPAM in general and for the activities to be financed by the Adaptation Fund. In these Communities there are infrastructures to visit in order to learn.
Ngoulepka community	15 / 07/ 2020	
Sakai community – Bangui irrigated perimeter	07/15/2020	
Damara Community	06/07/2020	
Bogangolo Community	07/07/2020	
Pata Community		
DIDANG MANDJO Community	08/07/2020	
Zawa community	07/10/2020	
Boganangone	08/07/2020	
boganda	09/07/2020	
HUSACA Limited Company[63]	07/21/2020	Key player in production, agricultural mechanization, the development of agricultural products, particularly food producers, and market access for small producers. The choice is based on their business model which integrates young people and women.
Bimbosaine Company[64]	07/23/2020	
Representatives of institutions in the field		
President of the Special Delegation of the city of Damara	05/07/2020	These are key rural institutions in the field in charge of crops and livestock as well as cross-cutting themes such as the environment, climate, youth
Head of ACDA sector – Damara		
ANDE sector manager – Damara		
Head of antenna – PADECAS Damara		
Representative of the sub-prefect of Bogangolo	07/07/2020	
Mayor of Boda	08/09/2020	
President Chamber of Agriculture	07/29/2020	

List of consultations held in 2021 is presented in annex 3.

The second series of public consultations was conducted in 2023, mainly with vulnerable groups, ethnic minorities, and indigenous populations in the intervention sites (see Tables below).
A total of 282 people from all categories (187 men and 95 women) were met/consulted in the four (4) project prefectures; 120 people representing Fulani returnees and Aka pygmies were consulted in their living environment.
During public consultations at prefecture level, focus group interviews were organized consisting of three (3) groups:

- Governmental agencies and local authorities.
- Representatives of producers (breeders, farmers, beekeepers, fish farmers sometimes representing associations or groups or even list of groups per meeting);

[63]HUSACA has embarked on the revival of maize cultivation with a pilot project. To supply maize locally, and with the support of the Pan-African Conference of Cooperatives, HUSACA brought together 1,350 small producers (most of whom are young people) in three cooperatives in the prefectures of Ombella Mpoko and Lobaye. He then identified sites of more than 500 ha dedicated to corn production with the provision of adequate production equipment to reduce the hardship of young people's work.
[64]"La Bimbosaine" is a rural woman's business based in the Bimbo region, which supplies the capital Bangui and the city of Bimbo and its surroundings with products from its nzangi. The company is in the production and processing of foodstuffs (cassava, bananas, pineapple, peanuts, squash and sesame)

- Vulnerable targets: representatives of marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups, indigenous people, and minorities.

Table 26: Second series of public consultation with representatives of vulnerable groups, ethnic minorities, and indigenous populations in 2023 (gender disaggregated)

Prefecture	City, Place	Date	H	F	Total	Profile of organizations and people met
Nana Mambere	Bouar, Yaché room	25.05.23	26	9	35	Prefectural Youth Council (CPJ), Association of People Living with Disabilities and Injuries (APVHB), National Organization of Rural Women (ONFER), Federation of market gardeners of Nana Mambere (FMNM), ASGOCA, National Federation of Central African Breeders (FNEC), National consultation of farmers organizations in CARn (CNOP CAF), Central African Institute of Agricultural Research (ICRA), Fish farmer, small livestock breeders,
Ouham Pende	Camp of Fulani returnees	26.05.23	41	37	78	Returned Fulani (male, female)
Ombella M'pocko	Boali, Conference Room	26.05.23	19	15	34	Network of Indigenous and Local Populations of the Central African Republic (REPALCA), Organization of Central African Women (OFCA), FNEC, Prefectural youth council (CPJK), National Livestock Development Agency (ANDE), Islamic Committee, association of butchers, disabled people, beekeepers, breeders, fish farmers, association of women fish sellers
	Damara, camp for Fulani returnees integrated into the Yangué 2 village	11.06.23	21	16	37	Returned Fulani (male, female), Muslim community in a situation of vulnerability
Lobay	Mbaïki, Town Hall conference room	30.05.23	51	13	64	Producer (stockbreeder, farmer), local authorities and decentralized State services, other relevant actors, Performing Producer (PP), Association of the disabled, Community for the integration of indigenous minorities in central africa (CIMAC), Néhémie Group, Agropastral group (AGP), MONGONZA Group, Agropastoral Group,
Meeting with civil society organizations	MESA conference room	27.05.23	7	1	8	FNPAC: National Federation of Fishermen and Aquaculturists of the Central African Republic

						MEFP: House of the Child and the Pygmy Woman REPALCA COPA: Cooperative of Fish Farmers and Aquaculturists of Bangui and its Surroundings PGDRNE: Platforms for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment OFCA: Organization of Central African Women
B to B meeting			22	4	26	Officials of technical ministries, agencies and institutions involved
Total			187	95	282	

Table 27: Types of representatives (gender disaggregated) of vulnerable groups consulted in the project area

Date	Type of vulnerable	Male	Female	Number
BOUAR/ Nana-Mambere				
05/25/2023	disabled	2	2	4
	Youth	5	2	7
	Fulani (Mbororo)	4	1	5
	widows	-	6	6
BOSSEMPTELE/ Ouham Pende				
05/25/2023	Fulani (Mbororo)	41	76	117
BOALI/ Ombella M'poko				
05/25/2023	disabled	4	-	4
	Youth	5	2	7
	Fulani (Mbororo)	-	1	1
	widows	-	6	6
MBAÏKI/LObaye				
05/30/2023	disabled	1	4	5
	Youth	3	1	4
	Aka Pygmies (Indigenous)	3	2	5
	widows	-	7	7
Damara/ Ombella M'poko				
06/11/2023	returned Fulani	21	16	37
Total		**89**	**126**	**215**

6.2. Stakeholder's consultations outcomes

The table below presents the outcomes of the stakeholder's consultations.

Table 7: outcomes of the stakeholder's consultations

Group	Comments and concerns raised	Integration into the project activities
MADR, MESA technical departments, agencies, institutes, etc.	• Absence of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for some projects intervening in the zone, and/or absence of key relevant governmental agencies in the monitoring of ESMPs. Some projects do not develop either Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), or site-specific ESIAs. • The prefectural services may be poorly involved, due to the low technical and logistical capacity to monitor projects at the local level. • Lack of enabling environment for institutional effectiveness and coordination mechanism. • Destruction of forests and farms by slash and burn, bush fires and flooding	• Build the capacity of relevant governmental agencies to enable a proper implementation and monitoring of the project's Environmental, and Social Management Plan (Output 3.1.). • Fully involvement of governmental agencies in project implementation and ESMP's monitoring (Output 3.1). • Activities under output 3 focuses to promote adequate coordination (both national and local), monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. • Activities under Output 1 (establishment of demo plots to demonstrate best reforestation and agroforestry techniques, ridge and bunding techniques) and Output 3 Strengthen institutional and regulatory frameworks and promote forest management. Compensatory reforestation is also planned under the ESMP.
Farmers' organizations	• Some projects intervening in the same zone failed to target real beneficiaries, and to fully involve local organizations umbrella organizations, NGOs in the selection of beneficiaries. • Farmers are facing with difficulties related to decline of soil fertility and soil erosion, pests, postharvest losses, lack of conservation units, rudimentary tools. • Lack of access to climate resilient inputs (vaccines, breed stocks, seeds, fertilizers, and bio pesticides quality) in the crop and livestock sectors. • For fish farmers, the continuous use of the same strains of tilapia over several years results in a phenomenon of dwarfism in the fish, and therefore a reduction in productivity. • Provision of seeds by some projects in an unappropriated timely manner (incompliance with the agricultural calendar).	• Setting up, with the support of local authorities, decentralized services, implementing partners and community representatives, of beneficiary identification committee, under Output 1.1., and setting up of a grievance redressing mechanism (See ESMP). • Adoption of climate resilient crops and livestock, climate proof and sustainable agricultural practices, and post-harvest practices as stipulated in Output 1.1, including actions to improve the fertility of the soil and land management, selection of pest resistant seeds/races, support for cooperatives in the construction and climate proofing of processing units, access to climate resilient inputs (Output 1.1.), and warehouse rehabilitation to withstand wetter climatic conditions (Output 2.1). • Support the introduction of new fish farming techniques: Promote renewal of *Tilapia nilotica strains and* establishment of hatcheries under fish farming to address the decline in yield due to dwarfism (Output 1.2.).

Marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged group	• Low inclusion of youth and women, and lack of jobs and increasing rural-urban migration of youth • Lack of equipment to reduce the hardship of the work. • Low access to local employment generated by the project for unskilled positions. • Marketing and trade constraints, due to lack of appropriate transport infrastructure. • Hardship constraints for the disabled in production activities (agriculture).	• Activities under Output 1.1; 1.2.; 2.1., and 2.2. support the improvement of farmers' production and incomes, including women and youth, for whom respective quota of 50% and 30% of target beneficiaries are proposed by the project. • Output 1.2. promotes livelihood diversification measures, targeting mainly Women, youth, and marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups, including disabled persons (15% of the project total beneficiaries). • Output 1.1. provides support for female farmers in engaging in commercial production of the selected crops, through accesses to equipment, and output 2.1. facilitates the construction of climate-proofing feeder roads and farm tracks. • Project ESMP includes in the support to local employment by contractors for unskilled positions, within the site-specific ESIAs.
Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities (AKA and Fulani MBoro)	• Difficulty to get access to income generating activities, land, and decision-making bodies. • Difficulties in cultivating large areas due to rudimentary tools. • Absence of enclosures is source of tension with neighboring communities. • Combine provision of seeds with provision of food, to avoid the consumption or sale of seed intended for agro-pastoral activities. • Ensure that the infrastructure put in place (tracks, boreholes, etc.) do not encroach on the sacred sites of the indigenous peoples.	• Output 1.2 provides support to pygmies - AKA and Mbororo with income-generating activities in subsistence agriculture (maize) and livestock (wild poultry), to reduce the long periods of displacement. • Output 3.1. provides support to organizations representing indigenous Pygmies AKA populations to advocate for the mainstreaming of traditional rights on lands and natural resources in the revision process of the regulatory and legislative land framework in CAR. • Setting up, with the support of local authorities, decentralized services, implementing partners and community representatives, of beneficiary identification committee, under Output 1.1., and setting up of a grievance redressing mechanism (See ESMP).
Civil society	• Weak involvement of civil society in the implementation phase	• Output 3. 1. supports involvement of civil society organizations especially in outreach activities targeting communities, with whom they have been working over the years, and capacity building to support awareness activities and proper use of equipment and products provided by the project.

6.3. Environmental and social risk screening and categorization

A preliminary environmental and social assessment was performed as part of the project design to ensure existing environment and social standards applicable to targeted community beneficiaries are considered in the context of the AF's Principles. The assessment against the 15 principles and the identified mitigation measures are summarized below: As the CAR Environmental Protection Agency has endorsed the project, it is fully compliant with the country's rules, standards, and laws. With an environmental risk rating of "B," the project is committed to ensuring that all safeguards are in place to ensure that the investment's operations do not worsen environmental degradation. Monitoring of the adaption intervention will be conducted during implementation to continue to check conformity with national law.

Table below provides an overview of the assessment against AF principles and the principles that require further assessment and management are discussed in more detail.

Table 8: assessment against AF principles

AF Principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential Risks and Impacts - Further Assessment and Management Required for Compliance
ESP 1: Compliance with the Law	✓	Risks that the sub-projects do not comply with environmental and social studies currently applied in CAR: ***No risk.*** Environmental management which comes under the Ministry in charge of the environment, oversees the implementation of the provisions of the environmental code. It is supplemented by Ordinance No. 89/043 of February 1989 creating the National Environment Committee and 90/003 of 9 1990, integrating environmental issues into development planning. The environmental code applies to the project, due to the environmental and social risks and impacts that it is likely to generate (construction of dykes and dams, construction/rehabilitation of feeder roads and agricultural tracks, etc.). Thus, in accordance with this principle, the project has prepared this ESMF to comply with environmental and social legislative framework. The ESMF has set the guidelines, to ensure that the PMU, in collaboration with the technical services of the relevant ministries, the prefectural services and the beneficiaries, carry out the environmental screening of the sub-projects, further environmental and social assessments required, and monitoring in accordance with the law in CAR. *No further assessment required during project implementation*
ESP2: Access and Equity		Risk that activities reinforce elite capture, and unequal access to resources and assets, to the detriment of smallholder farmers who do not have access to decision-making bodies at the local level: ***Low risk.*** The risk is mitigated by the targeting strategy and the selection approach. Initial consultations undertaken during the formulation process, raised awareness among communities on the project approach to prioritizing smallholder farmers active in subsistence production of crops and livestock in small areas of land and low livestock capital. The project has set up a participatory and inclusive beneficiary targeting strategy that includes those groups. At the start of the project, the PMU will work closely with local authorities and partners, to facilitate their identification. Household selection criteria will be informed by the outcomes of the gender analysis and action plan. A grievance mechanism has also been prepared to ensure full stakeholder participation, and fair and impartial access to project benefits.

ESP 3: Marginalized and vulnerable groups		Risks that marginalized groups are discriminated: ***Low risk.*** The project is not expected to result in any risks to marginalized and vulnerable groups (people living with HIV/AIDS, single mothers, people with disabilities, the elderly, widows and widowers, and indigenous peoples (M 'bororo Fulani and the Aka Pygmies). Because of the targeting approach, which prioritizes vulnerable groups as direct beneficiaries, this impact will be minimized. Marginalized groups, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples represent 15% of project beneficiaries. Stakeholder consultations held during the proposal development, were an opportunity to integrate their concerns into project design. In addition, the management framework has defined grievance mechanism that will ensure their effective consideration, during project implementation.
ESP 4 : Human Rights	✓	Risk that the project does not respect the fundamental rights of people in the areas of intervention: ***No appreciable risk.*** The CAR recognizes fundamental human rights and freedoms in its constitution, without discrimination based on race, national origin, color, religion, opinion, belief, or sex. Project activities are not expected to have any negative human rights impacts, but rather enhance economic and social rights: the right to work in just and favorable conditions, right to food, water and sanitation, etc. *No further assessment required during project implementation*
ESP 5: Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment		Risk that women and youth will not equitably benefit from the proposed project's adaptation and capacity building interventions: ***Low Risk*** The project has set targets for targeting 50% women and 30% young people. Activities are designed and implemented in such a way that men and women have equal opportunities to participate in consultation, training, awareness-raising activities; and benefit comparable social and economic benefits. In addition, the concerns of women, young people and people with disabilities were well recorded during public consultations, integrated in the project design, and will be given special attention during implementation. The proposed project is supported by a gender analysis and gender action Plan to address needs and vulnerabilities that are specific to women, and to ensure equal representation, access and participation of women and men. Gender quotas have been established where relevant and necessary.
ESP 6 Core Labor Rights		Risk of non-respect of labor rights in construction activities (boreholes, dams, irrigated areas, etc.): ***Low risk*** The project respects the ILO's labor standards. The environmental and social management framework describe the standards to be respected and the environmental monitoring mechanism (ESMP) will ensure compliance with those standards, by and private contractors in charge of infrastructure and agricultural and livestock intervention. The PMU, in particular, M&E expert will prevent child labor below 14 years in accordance with the provisions of the CAR Labor Code. It will also ensure that employment does not fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e., principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions).
ESP 7 Indigenous Peoples		Risk that activities negatively affect indigenous peoples, without their specific Free, Prior, Informed, Consent (FPIC): ***Low risk.*** CAR voted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in September 2007 and ratified ILO Convention 169 in August 2010. It was the first and only African state to ratify this convention, which entered into force on August 11, 2011. Therefore, special attention is paid to these communities. The project targets indigenous peoples (M'bororo, Fulani and the AkA Pygmies) characterized by structural vulnerability, weak social integration, and a lack of socio-economic opportunities. During the formulation process, M'bororo, Fulani and AkA Pygmies were fully consulted to better understand and reflect their specific

		needs. A process to obtain the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from the indigenous peoples present in the territories targeted by the project, is planned by the ESMF at the starting phase of the project. It will be operationalized, through sub-projects' ESIAs in the territories hosting indigenous people and minorities. In addition, the management framework has defined grievance mechanism that will ensure their effective consideration, during project implementation.
ESP 8 Involuntary Resettlement	✓	Risk of involuntary displacement for construction/rehabilitation of roads and rural tracks sub-projects: ***No risk*** During preliminary consultations, the project confirmed that no expropriation, relocation, or disruption of producers' livelihood activities will be undertaken, neither in physical nor economic terms.
ESP 9 Protection of natural habitats		Risk that project activities lead to species' habitat destruction (birds and reptiles; insects, etc): ***Medium risk*** The project is not anticipated to invest in conversion of natural habitats. The project will not involve unjustified conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, including those that are (a) legally protected; (b) officially proposed for protection; (c) recognized by the national government for their high conservation value, including as critical habitat; or (d) recognized as protected by traditional leaders and communities. However, there is risk of localized destruction of plant and wildlife habitats with the removal of rice paddies, during the rehabilitation of degraded land, rural tracks, construction of earth dams and dykes and hydraulic structures. The project will implement mitigation measures particularly compensatory reforestation for the rehabilitation of degraded habitats. All necessary assessments will be conducted before the rehabilitation and construction (sub-projects ESIAs) and the promotion of sustainable rice intensification will result to restoration and improved management and protection of natural habitat.
ESP 10 Conservation of biological diversity		Risk of loss of biodiversity caused by bush fires and slash and burn agriculture, which lead to biological diversity losses: M***edium risk.*** Clearing of lands and rehabilitation that lead to loss of biodiversity and deforestation through physically removing species will be avoided by this project. Intervention will happen at early in the planning process by prioritizing rehabilitation and use of abandoned lands, which will lead to the biodiversity restoration. However, activities related to development of new inland valley swamps for rice production, rehabilitation of degraded land, rural tracks, construction of earth dams and dykes and hydraulic structures may lead to minor and localized impacts on biodiversity. The project will mitigate impacts on biodiversity, through compensatory reforestation. In addition, all necessary assessments will be conducted before the rehabilitation and construction (sub-projects ESIAs). The promotion of sustainable rice intensification, and the rehabilitation of degraded lands, through soil restoration techniques and agroforestry, will result to restoration and improved management and protection of ecosystem functions and services.
ESP 11 Climate Change		Risk of methane emissions from rice paddies: ***Low Risk*** The project will not generate a significant and/or unjustified increase in greenhouse gas emissions or any other cause of climate change. Small methane emissions may arise from the rice fields. However, SRI will be promoted in the rice sector and the climate-resilient crop and livestock value chain will contribute to avoiding methane emissions. The project environmental monitoring mechanism (ESMP) will ensure appropriate measures are well-monitored and recorded during the project implementation.

ESP12 Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		Risk of pollution with change to agriculture and livestock production (such as increased use of fertilizers and pesticides), and as a result of the construction of infrastructure: ***Low to medium risk*** The project has integrated activities to promote sustainable soil fertilization techniques, organic manure, use of bio-pesticides and capacity building for farmers. Potential pollution and resource damage are likely localized, site specific, and manageable with ESMP which includes measures to address pollution risks. In addition, specific sub-projects ESIAs, including pollution prevention and resource efficiency, are planned by the project ESMP in the case of the construction of infrastructure.
ESP 13 Public Health		Risk of potential safety concerns for the communities within the vicinity of works especially when they are carried out by community workers or near a community: ***Low risk.*** The ESMF evaluate the risks and impacts to community health and safety and establish preventive and control measures during the project implementation. The PMU, in particular the M&E expert and private contractors (for both infrastructure and agricultural and livestock intervention) will be required to observe a code of conduct for workers, which addresses community health and safety concerns. This will be operationalized through specific sub-projects ESIAs, as planned by the project ESMP.
ESP 14 Physical and cultural heritage		Risk that the cultural and natural heritage of indigenous peoples is affected and that access of communities to this heritage is compromised: ***Low Risk*** Activities are unlikely to affect the tangible and intangible cultural heritage and/or access to known physical cultural resources, as the project focus, as much as possible, on existing farms. However, the ESMF gives guidelines in the event of encroachment on sacred sites during the construction/rehabilitation of infrastructure, consisting in stopping the work; circumscribe the site and inform the customary and state authorities for support in accordance with the law.
ESP 15 Lands and Soil Conservation		Risk that project activities contribute to land degradation (increased soil erosion, run-off, or significant changes to soil characteristics): ***Low risk.*** The project integrates the promotion of soil conservation practices, through capacity building of actors in the use of bio fertilization, organic fertilizers, soil defense and restoration techniques, innovative composting techniques to reduce/prevent movement of farmers to fallow land. In addition, the environmental monitoring plan has included site-specific ESIAs to ensure the effectiveness of soil protection measures.

Overall Risk Categorization

Based on the above assessment most of project activities are low risk with the potential for medium risk through specific activities in Components 1 and 2. E&S impacts that can be readily addressed through mitigation measures, have been planned under the ESMF. Additional site-specific ESIAs will ensure appropriate mitigation measures are taken to comply with standards for some activities.
As such, the overall risk level for the project is rated as medium risk (Category B). To mitigate the risk an ESMP has been developed (see section 7 below).

6.4. Environmental and social impact assessment

The following table provides an overview of anticipated E&S risks broken down for each component.

Table 9: Anticipated E&S risks per project component

Component	Risk categorization
Component 1: Climate-proofed agricultural production and post-harvest combined with livelihood diversification	***Risk: Medium*** ***Potential Impact: Medium*** Some activities of component 1 present environmental and social risks. This concerns the selection of beneficiaries there is a risk of social exclusion of marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups, as well as the selection of resistant varieties and breeds for which there is a risk that there are not suited to the target sites, and the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides with a high degree of pollution. The construction of dykes, irrigation systems and earth dams present, as well, risks of reduced plant cover and destruction of habitats for wildlife, following the clearing works. However, both generic and specific mitigation measures proposed by the ESMF should, mitigate the impacts: setting up of beneficiary identification committees including community representatives, promotion of endogenous varieties and breeds, promotion of organic fertilizers, and compensatory reforestation. Regarding construction, specific measures will be included in the sub-projects ESIAs as per activity design (see ESMP), to ensure that the works are undertaken in a proper manner.
Component 2: Climate resilient rural transportation and storage infrastructure	***Risk: Medium*** ***Potential Impact: Medium*** Component 2 includes the construction/rehabilitation of structures, in particular warehouses to withstand humid climatic conditions, rural tracks, drinking water supply and sanitation structures. These activities present risks of loss of land or economic activities along the routes, exclusion of the local workforce, deforestation. Both generic and specific mitigation measures proposed by the ESMF should mitigate the impacts. This includes systematic avoidance of involuntary displacement, ratio of local use of local labor, compensatory reforestation. For additional risks related to overexploitation of sand and laterite quarries, pollution and waste generation, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, site-specific ESIAs will be carried out (see ESMP) and specific mitigation measures will be taken, as per activity design, to ensure that the works are undertaken in a proper manner.

Component 3: Institutional capacity building, policy engagement and knowledge management.	***Risk: Low*** ***Potential Impact: Low*** Activities under Component 3 are relevant to capacity building, and knowledge and information management. As such, there are limited, even negligible risks pertaining to the AF's E&S principles. The risk of capture by the elites is mitigated by the ESMP by gender ratio to comply with project set targets.

6.5. List of activities requiring specific ESIAs

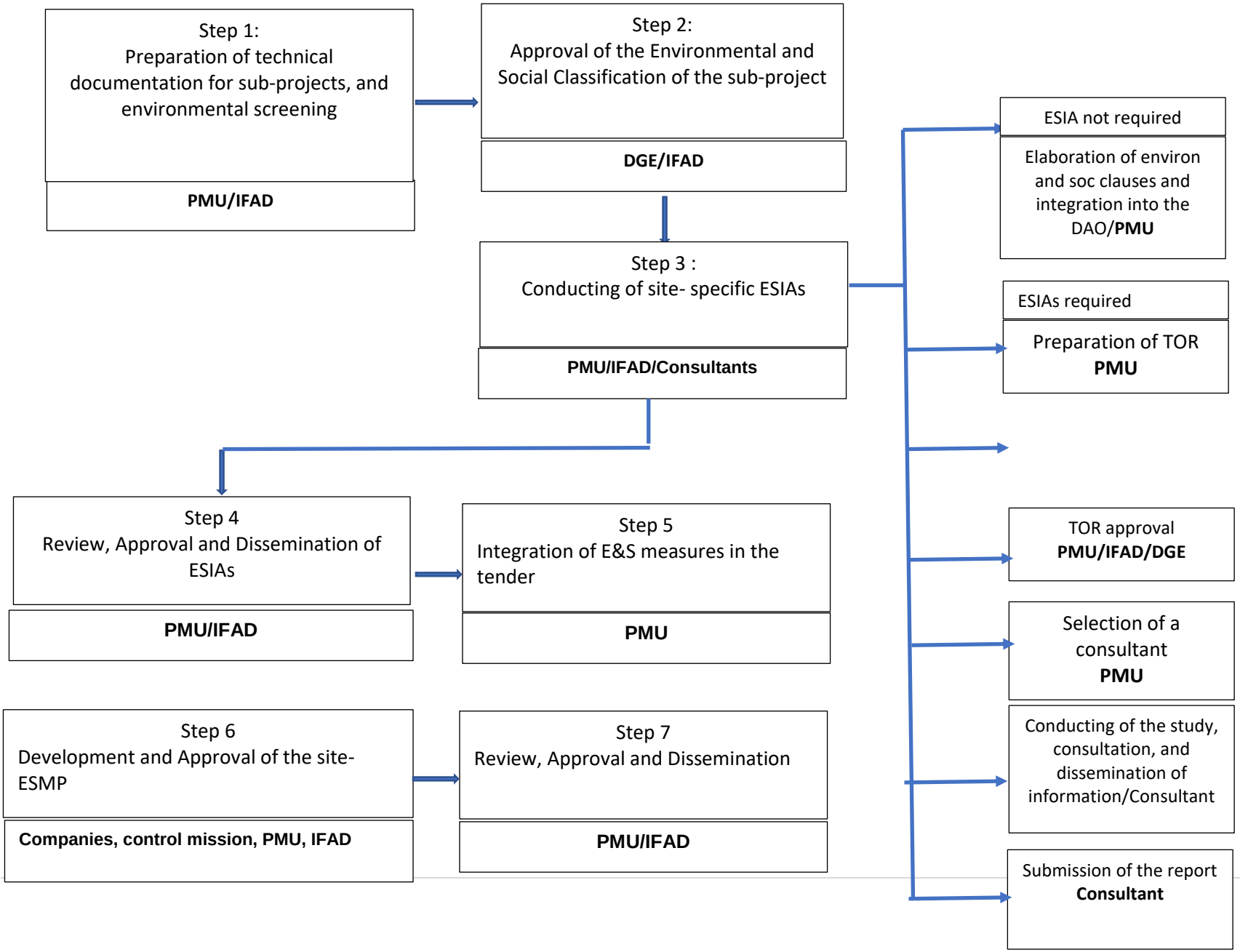
The table below lists the activities related to the project and requiring authorization/clearance.

Table10: List of requiring E&S authorization/clearance

Activities	Authorities in charge of the procedure	Applicable texts
Construction of hydraulic structures (irrigation schemes, water supply and sanitation infrastructure),	Minister in charge of hydraulics	• Water Code, articles 9, 10;11;12;13;14;15;16;18;21;22;23;24;25;26; 27;28;29;30;31;32;38 ;39;40;41;44;45;46;47;4;48;52;56;57;58;61;62;63;67;68;71;72;73;75;78;81;86;88;89;90;93; 5;6;33;34;35; 36;37;50;51 ;53.54;55;60;64;65; 4;77;82;83;87;92;94 • Order No. 054/21MDERH.DIRCAB.DGRH setting the conditions for granting approval to companies carrying out works
Construction of earth dams and dykes	Directorate General for Studies, Programming and Control (DGEPC)-Ministry of infrastructure	• Organic texts and operating decree of the Ministry of infrastructure
Warehouse rehabilitation	Directorate General of land cadastre	• Town planning code
Rural tracks	Inter-ministerial coordination unit (Ministry of infrastructure and Ministry of agriculture-MADR, Ministry of Waters and Forests,)	• Order establishing the Inter-ministerial coordination unit. • Decree and orders establishing the Ministry of infrastructure. • Forest Code, Article 43

The figure below illustrates how the sub-projects will ensure the authorization/clearance needed and how it would be granted.

Figure 2: Procedure for the environmental and social clearance of sub-projects



7. Project Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

The environmental and social management plan (ESMP) developed as part of the project design includes more detailed information on identified potential environmental and social impacts, mitigation measures, monitoring indicators, responsible parties for ensuring the risks are monitored and mitigated, cost and timing. (see table below).

Table 11: Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

Activities / Sources of impact	Potential Risks/Impacts	Possible measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental and social risks	Monitoring indicators	Responsibility	Costs (USD)	Timing
Component 1: Climate-resilient agricultural production and appropriate post-harvest measures combined with livelihood diversification.						
Selection of project beneficiaries	Social exclusion of marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups, including indigenous people and minorities	- setting up, with the support of local authorities, decentralized services, implementing partners and community representatives, of beneficiary identification committees. - Organization of information sessions on the beneficiary identification and targeting processes	-Proportion of vulnerable less advantaged groups representatives, indigenous people, and minorities, as part of committees (disaggregated by gender) -Number of information sessions organized	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture	-Included in Project costs 8,000	At the start of the project
Access to cropping lands	Land tenure insecurity for beneficiary farmers, in particular women, indigenous people, and minorities	-Advocate for the adoption and implementation of the new land policy to guarantee land tenure security for beneficiary farmers, including women, indigenous people, and minorities	-Number of land lease agreement signed with landowners and/or authorities	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture	Included in Project costs	

Hydro-agricultural and rice plots; food crops; rehabilitation of watersheds	-Deforestation due to the expansion of the rice Intensification system and food crops Pollution (use of fertilizers and pesticides, air pollution) and waste generation	-Carry out compensatory reforestation. - Promote sustainable soil fertilization techniques, organic manure, use of bio-pesticides and capacity building for farmers -Carry out site specific ESIA as per activity design, to ensure minimal pollution and waste generation, Land and soil conservation, and compliance of employment (contracts) to labor standard	-Reforested areas (ha) -Number of capacity-building on innovative bio techniques -Number of site-specific ESIA complying with relevant standards and cleared	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Waters and Forests, contractor agencies	50,000 - Included in Project costs - Included in Project costs	Year 2 onwards
Construction of earth dams and dykes	Disruption of rainwater runoff areas	-Ensure that the sizing and location of small dams/retention areas allow the continuous passage of aquatic fauna (e.g., fish, hippos) -Carry out site specific ESIA as per activity design, to ensure minimal pollution and waste generation, land and soil conservation, renewal of *Tilapia nilotica strains*, and compliance of employment (contracts) to labor standard	-Number of waterways obstructed during site audits --Number of site-specific ESIA complying with relevant standards and cleared	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Waters and Forests, contractor agencies	Included in Project costs Included in Project costs	Year 1 onwards
Component 2: Climate resilient rural transportation and storage infrastructure						

Road construction/rehabilitation	-Deforestation -Potential loss of land or economic activities along road alignments (especially for new roads) Nonuse of local human resources -Pollution and waste generation, of overexploitation of sand and laterite quarries, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions	-Carry out compensatory reforestation. -Develop, communicate, and implement a conflict management procedure. -Ensure contractors hire local staff whenever possible (e.g., for unskilled positions) -Carry out site-specific ESIA as per activity design, to ensure minimal pollution and waste generation, safe and healthy working conditions, respect of sacred sites in the event of encroachment during the construction/rehabilitation of infrastructure (stopping the work; circumscribe the site and inform the customary and state authorities for support in accordance with the law)	-Reforested areas (ha) -Number of recorded conflicts -Ratio of local staff to non-local staff -Number of site-specific ESIA complying with relevant standards and cleared	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Waters and Forests, Ministry of infrastructure, contractor agencies	-Included in Component 1 -Compensation is paid by the Central African State - No cost -Included in Project costs	-Year 2 onwards -Before the starting of construction -Year 2 onwards -Before the starting of construction
Construction of water supply and sanitation infrastructure	-Conflicts (water supply structures) with other uses (drinking for communities, watering of small livestock, etc.) - Unappropriated physicochemical and	-Set up management committees for water supply works, including nomadic less advantaged groups representatives, indigenous people, and minorities, as part of committees (disaggregated by gender - Collection and analysis of water samples	-Number of management committees set up, with management rules Number of reports complying with relevant standards	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry in charge of the Development of Energy and Hydraulic Resources, contractor agencies PMU, IFAD	-Included in Project costs	-Before the starting of construction -Year 2 onwards

	biological quality, and pollutant content of water -Pollution and waste generation, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions	-Carry out site specific ESIA as per activity design, to ensure minimal pollution and waste generation, and compliance of employment (contracts) to labor standard	-Number of site-specific ESIA complying with relevant standards and cleared	-Included in Project costs	20,000	
Component 3: Institutional capacity building, policy engagement and knowledge management.						
Capacity building	-Difficulty of accessing to project data in real time due to distances, communication issues and security context -Weak involvement of local governmental agencies, NGOS, and communities in the ESMP's monitoring, due to lack of capacities	-Digitization of databases allowing stakeholders to have access to information in real time. - Building capacities of local actors on risk management so they can monitor the implementation of environmental and social safeguard measures in the field	-Number of Databases -Number of gender-sensitive trainings	PMU, Accredited Entity, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, contractor agencies	-Included in project costs -Included in Project costs	-Year 2 onwards
E&S monitoring	Capture of project benefits by the elites	-Gender ratio monitoring on a quarterly basis, to comply with set targets of 50% women, 30% young people, and 15% of less advantaged groups representatives, indigenous people, and minorities, as part of committees (disaggregated by gender.	-Number of gender assessment reports, complying with initial targets	PMU, IFAD	Included in project costs. 50 000	-Year 1 onwards

		-Implementation of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Plan -Setting-up of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and Process for the project	-Number of FPIC assessments undertaken during supervision missions, in compliance with the Plan -Number of complaints received and actions taken		10,000	
	GHG emissions	-Setting up of a calculating matrix to monitor potential methane emissions and emission avoidance due to SRI, in support to the MRV country's system	-GHG balance reports	PMU, IFAD	Included in project costs.	Year 1 onwards
	Sub-projects' environmental and social impacts not assessed, and mitigation measures not implemented	Sub-projects' ESIA cleared by the ministry of environment and mitigation measures implemented	Number of sub-projects cleared by the ministry of environment	PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, contractor agencies	Included in project costs.	
		Mid and final evaluation of the ESMF		PMU, IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment,	22,000	
						Total = 160,000

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

The overall responsibility for implementing the ESMP and for monitoring the compliance of the project's environmental safeguard activities lies with the PMU. The M&E officer at the PMU shall oversee implementation of field activities relating to ESMP. Information collected during monitoring process helps to ensure that the priorities listed in the Environmental Management Plan (ESMP), and compliance with national and international environmental regulations mitigation measures are properly implemented, and that these plans and measures are effective in addressing the project's impacts. Monitoring will enable the project team to adjust and respond to unexpected events during the implementation phase.

The implementation of this environmental and social monitoring plan will be carried out through:
- Supervision at the national level provided by M&E Officer and the designated Specialists of the Executing Agencies involved in the project;
- External monitoring (at the national level) which is the responsibility of the authority in charge of implementing the country's environmental policy, the DGE;
- Local supervision which will be ensured by the Prefectures, municipalities, and NGOs and beneficiary organizations;
- The evaluation will be carried out by environmental consultants (national and/or international).

9. Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and Process for the project

The project will establish a community engagement process and provide access to information on a regular basis. To reduce conflicts, the project will use the grievance mechanism put in place by IFAD, which includes a grievance procedure to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns and complaints regarding alleged non-compliance with environmental and social policies of the AF. or IFAD as well as aspects of social, environmental and climate assessment procedures in the context of IFAD-supported projects. The procedure allows affected complainants to have their concerns resolved fairly and expeditiously through an independent process. Although IFAD normally addresses potential risks primarily through its enhanced QA/QA process and through project implementation support, it remains committed to: (i) working proactively with relevant parties to resolve complaints; (ii) ensure that the complaints procedure is responsive and operates effectively; and iii) maintain records of all complaints and their resolution. In addition, IFAD's Strategic Framework calls for ensuring that projects and programs promote the sustainable use of natural resources, build resilience to climate change and are based on ownership by rural women and men themselves to achieve sustainability.

IFAD-supported projects and programmes, including supplementary funds like this Adaptation Fund, are designed in a participatory manner, considering the concerns of all stakeholders. IFAD requires that projects be implemented in accordance with its policies, standards, and safeguards. It will be the responsibility of the project PMU, under the supervision of IFAD, to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are properly informed of the grievance mechanism. This mechanism will be made available to the Governorate of the region and to the administrators of the provinces (sectors). Copies of the grievance mechanism manual will be made available at the village level. It will also be posted on the project website and on the Executing Entity (IFAD) website. Complaint procedures are available on the IFAD website.

The objective of IFAD's complaints procedure is to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to enable individuals and communities to contact IFAD directly and lodge a complaint if they believe they are or might be affected by an IFAD-funded project/programme. comply with IFAD's social and environmental policies and mandatory aspects of SECAP. Complaints should relate only to environmental, social and climate issues and should not be accusations of fraudulent activities or

corruption related to project implementation – they are handled by IFAD's Office of Audit and Oversight.

Eligibility criteria according to the IFAD grievance mechanism

To file a complaint for alleged non-compliance with IFAD's social and environmental policies and mandatory aspects of its SECAP, IFAD will only consider complaints that meet the following criteria:

- Complainants claim that IFAD failed to enforce its social and environmental policies and/or the mandatory provisions set out in the draft SECAP and Adaptation Fund Safeguards.
- Complainants claim that they have been or will be affected by IFAD's failure to enforce these policies.
- Complaints must be filed by at least two people, both nationals of the country concerned and/or living in the project area. Complaints from foreign sites or anonymous complaints will not be considered.
- Complaints must relate to projects/programs being designed or implemented. Complaints about closed projects, or those that are over 95% disbursed, will not be considered.

The process according to the IFAD grievance mechanism:

Complainants should first bring the matter to the attention of the government or non-governmental organization responsible for planning or executing the project or program (executing agency of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Economy and Finance and Environmental Protection Agency who have the responsibility to supervise the field works. If the executing agency does not respond adequately, the matter may be brought to the attention The matter may be brought directly to IFAD if the complainants believe that they could be subject to retaliation if they go directly to the lead agency.

The IFAD Regional Division will investigate the complaint and, if necessary, contact the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Environmental Protection Agency under the Ministry of the Environment to decide whether the complaints are justified. If complainants request that their identity be protected, IFAD will not disclose this information to the Ministry of Agriculture or anyone in the government. If the complaint is not justified, the regional division will inform the complainants in writing. If the Regional Division finds that the complaint is justified and there is evidence of actual or probable harm as a result of IFAD's non-compliance with its policies and procedures, IFAD will take action. This may include making changes to the project/program, or requiring the government to meet its obligations under the Funding Agreement. IFAD's response will focus on bringing the project/program into compliance and no financial compensation will be available or paid in response to such complaints. Complainants will be informed of the outcome of the matter by the regional division.

In any case, if complainants disagree with IFAD's response, they can send a request to SECAPcomplaints@ifad.org and request that an impartial review be carried out by the Office of the Vice-President. The Office of the Vice President will decide what steps to take to investigate such complaints, including, if necessary, engaging outside experts to investigate the matter. Complainants will be notified of the results of the review. IFAD will include in its annual report a list of complaints received and a summary of actions taken to address them.

How to file a complaint:

A complaint relating to non-compliance with IFAD's social and environmental policies and the mandatory aspects of its SECAP may be submitted in one of the following ways:

• Download the complaint form (Word) from the IFAD website: https://www.ifad.org/en/accountability-and-complaints-procedures
• Email SECAPcomplaints@ifad.org

In addition, the project will use as much as possible all available redress mechanisms, including: associations (including farmers' associations/organizations), traditional council (paramount chiefs and elders), commitment of the village square (composed of representatives of men, women and groups), the village general assembly, the NPMU project, etc.

10. FPIC (Prior and Informed Consent)

The project targets as beneficiaries the AKA pygmies' indigenous peoples. As such, it is relevant to obtain the free and informed consent of these communities, because the forest and natural resources (water, land) and their exploitation have a high environmental quality and social impact on the lives of forest dwellers. It impacts the availability of resources and changes the way the forest is managed. The objective of FPIC is to ensure that if the project takes place, the resources are managed in an equitable and sustainable way. The process could be done in several steps namely:

a. Strengthen institutional capacities
The project team in charge of the social component will be crucial to obtaining the FPIC. This requires significant investments in human and material resources to carry out its work, especially with indigenous populations including pygmies. It should be fully integrated into the project and fully supported by the management. This involves ensuring that basic social aspects are well understood and respected by all.

b. **Develop appropriate communication and information strategies**
This requires research, expertise, and patience to find the most effective ways to communicate with project beneficiaries. Raising awareness should be treated as a two-step dialogue.

c. **Create a participatory decision-making process**
Forest dwellers including pygmies must be included in decisions. It is important to create mechanisms to bring the whole community into the process and create a culture of full participation through deliberate social inclusion.

d. Develop functional partnerships
Beneficiaries should be included in forest management partnerships. To be effective partners, they must receive the necessary training to put them on an equal footing with other partners. Partnerships should have clear self-regulatory procedures.

e. Understand the different consent models
It is important that both parties understand the concept of each other's consent and that both are respected as much as possible in the relationship.

f. **Map local community use areas:**
It is important that resource use by all users including indigenous peoples is mapped. This exercise could well be done by accompanying people in the forest and surrounding areas to rely on spokespersons. Protect resources located in their areas of use. This task should be the team in charge of the social component, guided by a team of community members representing the variation in that community (young and old, men and women, all ethnic groups, and indigenous people etc.). It should be very clear to all community members that their resources have been protected village by village and constantly monitored and improved.

g. **Inform local communities about the possible impacts of deforestation:** Forest dwellers need to know all the potential impacts (direct and indirect, positive and negative) of industrial logging on their areas of use and on life and develop measures to reduce these negative impacts as well as local communities.

h. **Negotiate compensation and benefit sharing with all users of the forest and other natural resources:** It is best achieved based on the trees to be felled in each use area, village by village

and the afforestation mechanism, d Allocation of land by local people needs to be constantly monitored and improved.

i. **Build and empower local community associations to manage village-level benefits It** is important to circumvent elite capture of benefits and encourage transparency.
j. **Formalize the consent process:** This can be done both legally on paper, if necessary, but also through an appropriate procedure. A ceremony to mark that the agreement is of mutual satisfaction.
k. **Maintaining the consent relationship:** Communication channels between the company and the communities must be always kept open, even after the end of the exploitation. The relationship can also be nurtured by constant exchanges.

Table 12: FPIC plan and implementation

Activity	**Managers**	**When**
Produce a socio-cultural and land assessment including user rights, traditional laws, ways of life and systems of governance and use of space	PMU, the social team, indigenous peoples, local authorities and other actors in the field	At the start of implementation
Identify decision-makers to include them in discussion forums on land and user rights	PMU, social team, indigenous peoples, local authorities and other actors in the field and definition of roles and responsibilities with formalization and customary ceremony, photos and videos	At the start of implementation before activities start
Conduct a consultation on inclusion in the different components of the project (right to property, land occupation and resource management)	PMU, the social team, indigenous peoples, local authorities and other actors in the field, inclusion of women and young people and mapping of resources formalization and customary ceremony , photos and videos	At the beginning of the implementation of activities
Formalize the FPIC (*written or in another form)* *And document in appendix*	The different project actors and documentation and registration including complaint mechanisms	Appropriate timing following negotiations
Budget is included in the ESMP budget		

ANNEX 2: Gender Analysis and Action Plan

"Increase the adaptive capacity and resilience of rural communities to climate change in the Central African Republic".

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project title	Increasing the adaptation capacity and resilience of rural communities to climate change in the Central African Republic (CAR)
Project grant amount (USD)	10,000,000
Location (Regions/Countries)	Nana-Mambéré, Ombella M'poko, Ouham-Péndé, Lobaye/RCA
Implementing entity	IFAD

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The project aims to reducing the direct effects of climate change for 20,000 direct beneficiaries and 119,000 indirect beneficiaries, including 50% women and 30% young people from rural communities. It is designed around three components: 1) Climate-resilient agricultural production and appropriate post-harvest measures, combined with livelihood diversification; 2) Climate-resilient rural transport and water supply infrastructure; 3) Institutional capacity building, political commitment, and knowledge management.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE GENDER ANALYSIS

The purpose of the gender analysis is to describe the gender situation in the CAR, and in the project intervention areas, by highlighting the differences in roles, activities, needs, opportunities, challenges or the risks for men and women of the different groups and sub-groups intervening in the areas of agriculture, livestock, and fishing. The analysis is based on primary data collected during the field phase and secondary data from national reports. The analysis is used to develop the Gender Action Plan (GAP) attached to this document. The GAP proposes project interventions based on the gender gaps identified in the areas of intervention.

4. NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES AND REGULATIONS ON GENDER

Central African Republic made many progresses, in putting in place laws with an ambition to promote equality between men and women, in all spheres of socio-political, professional and community activities. This equality of rights thus appears as a solid guarantee, even if it may still be insufficient since it is not fully implemented.

4.1. - The Basic Law: The Constitution of March 2016

The Republican Fundamental Law considered is the Constitution of March 30, 2016. This stipulates in its article 6 that "All human beings are equal before the law without distinction of race, ethnic origin, region, sex, religion, political affiliation and social position".
In article 14, it is mentioned that all citizens have the right to freely form associations, groups, societies, and political parties in accordance with the laws and regulations.

4.2. - The Parity Act

Law No. 16.004 of 24 November 2016, instituting parity between men and women in the Central African Republic, applies not only to electoral mandates, but also to elective functions and nominative positions based on their competence.
Article 4 specifies that for electoral mandates and elective functions, candidatures must be presented in equal numbers of male and female candidates.

Article 6: All forms of discrimination based on sex, in state and non-state organizations or in any other place constitute a violation of the Constitution.
The quota system is applicable for a period of ten years from the date of promulgation of the Parity Law (Article 8), i.e., from November 24, 2016, to November 24, 2026.
It concerns the State, political parties, local authorities, parastatal and private institutions and civil society under penalty of nullity. It is guaranteed, in article 9, that failure to observe the principle of parity between men and women entails the nullity of the act in question without prejudice to seizing the competent courts for compensation in accordance with article 21 of the Constitution of the March 30, 2016.

The law also provides for the creation of a "National Observatory for gender parity" whose mission is "to promote the principle of parity with training structures" as well as "monitoring and periodic evaluation" of the implementation of this law. This Observatory, which is supposed to be independent from other influences, or any group of pressure, had not yet been created when this study was carried out.

4.3. 4.3- National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCPCA) 2017-2021

This plan, which was drawn up with the support of the international community, after the post-crisis elections, aims to:

- Promote the reduction of violence by disarming and reintegrating ex-combatants and children associated with armed groups;
- Promote stability by reforming the security sector;
- Reform justice and promote the end of impunity;
- Facilitate reconciliation and social cohesion and put in place conditions conducive to the return of refugees and find durable solutions for displaced persons.

Pillar 2 entitled "renewing the social contract between the state and society" resolves to:

- Redeploy the administration throughout the territory and set up inclusive local governance;
- Provide basic services to the population throughout the territory, particularly in the areas of education, health, and water, by beginning to gradually transfer capacities and means to national structures;
- Ensuring food security and resilience; and,
- Strengthen macroeconomic stability and good governance (management and control of public finances, tax revenue, fight against corruption).

Pillar 3, "ensure economic recovery and the revival of the productive sectors", meanwhile, aims to:

- Relaunch and sustainably develop the productive sectors: agriculture and livestock, extractive and forestry industries;
- Rehabilitate and build infrastructure: transport, electricity and communication networks; And,
- Ensuring conditions conducive to private sector development and employment: improving business support and financial services, vocational training, entrepreneurship, and employment.

Cross-cutting issues related to protection and fight against sexual violence, women's political participation, resilience and empowerment are fully taken considered in the RCPCA.

4.4. 4.4- National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Equity (PNEE)-2019-2022, 2nd generation

The PNEE defines the following six (6) strategic orientations:

- Promotion of access and retention of boys/men and especially girls/women in education and training at all levels;

- Improving access to health services and in particular holistic care for survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), quality reproductive health for men and women and health and social prevention, by putting the focus on access to quality care for all;

- Improvement of the economic situation of men and especially women (Cf. 3.1. The living conditions of men and especially women as well as their equitable access to productive resources, property, employment, decision-making bodies and management are improved);
- Improvement of the legal, social and cultural status of men and especially women;
- Valorization of local potential and fair consideration of the work of women and men;
- Promotion of traditional cultures and practices conducive to respect for human rights and the development of men and women.

4.5- The 2017 National Food Security and Nutrition Policy

This national food security and nutrition policy document includes the principles that "Gender and all vulnerable groups are given special attention (equity): the elimination of inequalities between gender groups will help resolve some underlying causes of vulnerability to malnutrition."

4.6- The Strategy for Rural Development, Agriculture and Food Security (SDRASA)

The Strategy for Rural Development, Agriculture and Food Security' (SDRASA) vision considers, by 2025, a Central African Agriculture, productive, profitable, respectful of the environment, based on local initiatives and the gender concept, creating wealth, conditions for the emergence of a dynamic agricultural private sector, employment and contributing to poverty reduction and the achievement of food security.

5. GENDER POLICY OF THE ADAPTATION FUND AND IFAD

5.1. IFAD Gender Equality Strategy Framework

IFAD advocates for changes in gender roles and relations, with a view to gender equality. In 2012, the Fund's Board of Directors approved a gender policy designed to achieve the overarching objective of its Strategic Framework, which is to work for poor rural people, women, and men, to improve their food security and nutrition, increase their income and strengthen their adaptive capacity.

IFAD's gender policy is therefore structured around the following three strategic objectives:

i) promote the economic empowerment of rural women and men, to enable them to participate in and benefit from profitable economic activities on an equal footing;

ii) enable women and men to have equal voice and influence in rural institutions and organizations; And

iii) achieve a more equitable balance between women and men in the distribution of work and economic and social benefits.

5.2. Adaptation Fund Gender Policy

The Adaptation Fund, which finances climate change adaptation projects and programs for the benefit of vulnerable communities in developing countries and signatories to the Kyoto Protocol or Parties to the Paris Agreement, ensures that its partners implemented integrate gender issues and ensure that the projects and programs supported by the Fund offer women and men, regardless of gender, equal opportunities to build their resilience, address their different vulnerabilities and increase their ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change and associated challenges.

The Fund's gender policy, revised in 2021, gives it a dual mandate in its approach: i) analyze and address gender-differentiated impacts and risks ("do no harm") and ii) detail opportunities considering gender perspective to proactively close persistent gender gaps ("doing it right"). These requirements are to be considered in the different phases of the six-stage project cycle: pre-project stage (conceptual stage), full proposal stage, project performance reporting stage, mid-term review stage, journey, completion report/final evaluation report stage and the knowledge sharing and learning stage.

The Fund's gender equality policy is based on a set of key guiding principles, as detailed below:

Commitment to uphold women's human rights and contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all its internal and external processes in accordance with international human rights instruments and international law and applicable national.

Completeness of scope and coverage to all its adaptation activities, regardless of the size or focus of the project/programme, whether implemented by multilateral, regional or national agencies, executing entities accredited to the Fund.
Accountability for its gender mainstreaming efforts and adaptation results, through regular annual reporting, as appropriate, in a transparent and comprehensive manner.
Skills, in terms of relevant expertise in gender and gender balance in the composition and appointment of its members.
Allocation of resources to concrete adaptation projects and programs that contribute to gender equality and support the empowerment of women and girls.

Knowledge management and communication, by accelerating learning about the implementation of gender-responsive adaptation actions contributing to filling existing gaps in knowledge, data and institutional capacities.

6. OVERALL SITUATION OF GENDER EQUALITY IN CAR

6.1- Main statistical data relating to gender in the country

The Central African population is estimated in 2021 at 6,091,097, of which 51% are women and 49% men (ICASESS, 2023). This population is very young: according to the last general population and housing census (RGPH) which dates from 2003, more than 75% of the total population is under 35 (RGPH, 2003). The main sectors of employment for young people are agriculture/livestock (37%) and trade (35.7%) (ICASESS, 2017). This human capital, not yet valued, is an asset for the sustainable development of the country. People with disabilities represent 1.3% of the total population, while the Fulani Mbororo minorities and the AKA indigenous Pygmies represent respectively 1% and 0.3% of the population (RGPH, 2003).

According to the African Development Bank (AfDB) Gender Equality Index, the CAR ranks 40th out of 52 African countries, which indicates that inequalities between men and women are pronounced. Country's Gender Inequality Index (IGI) [65]which reflects inequalities related to reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity, ranks the Central African Republic 188th out of 191 countries in 2021, with a GII value of 0.672. This inequality is expressed in different ways in the country.

In the field of employment, in 2018, it is estimated that 64% of the active population is employed, 34.2% unemployed, including 64.3% in rural areas. Women's participation in the labor force is estimated at 64.4% against 79.8% for men. During the same period, unemployment affected women more (42.1%) than men (28.6%) [66]. In terms of women's participation in decision-making bodies, the percentage of women heads of ministerial departments is only 17.4%, and only 12.5% women are prefects (2 women out of 16 prefects currently), 19% within the Internal Security Forces; quotas very far from the minimum of 35% as stated in the Law on Parity.

Active populations by economic activity, places the agricultural sector in the lead (67%), followed by the trade sector (15%). Even if legally, women have the same right to employment as men, their low level of education and qualification does not allow equal to the labor market and to certain jobs.
The same disparities apply between men and women in access to employment and financing for entrepreneurship. Women represent only 15% of the workforce in the administration and 4% in the salaried private sector. [67]Due to inequalities and disparities in access to the professional labor market and income-generating activities, only 25% of women seek employment in the formal sector.

Evolution of GDP over the last decades makes the CAR one of the poorest countries in Africa (UN-WOMEN 2021). This seems paradoxical in view of the mining resources. The poverty rate increased

[65] https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indexes/GII
[66]Gender Analysis Report (CAR Gender Profile), UN-WOMEN and UNDP, 2021
[67]Norwegian Refugee Council (2018), Market Research - Employment Opportunities for Central African Youth

from 70.5% in 2019 to 72.2% in 2020 due to the loss of purchasing power of the population, as the per capita income fell by 1.3 % in 2020. 67% of rural women over the age of 15 are poor due to their limited access to assets. The human development index, which is 0.404, well below the regional average of sub-Saharan African countries which is 0.547, ranks the country 188th out of 191 countries in 2021 (UNDP, 2022). The agricultural sector employs more than 70% of the active Central African population and produces more than 75% of the country's food production. The agriculture and livestock sectors employ 63% of poor households. Over 60% of household heads are farmers. 80% of the production in the food sectors is carried out by rural women and represents more than 65% of agricultural production [68].

In the area of health, maternal mortality fell from 850 per 100,000 live births in 2010 to 882 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018 due to conflicts. This rate represents the 2nd highest rate globally according to UNICEF (2018). Because of the conflict, access to health services has decreased in insecure areas, thus increasing the risk of death for difficult deliveries. In 2013, there were 890 deaths per 100,000 live births, and in rural areas only 36% of pregnant women were assisted by qualified personnel.

Data from the MICS6-RCA 2018-2019 national report indicate that:

- The *contraceptive coverage* rate was 17.8% in 2018. 29% of women with secondary education and above say they use a modern method of family planning compared to 14% for those with only primary education and above, barely 7% among uneducated women. Regarding family planning, that the rate of use is 14.4% (25.7% in urban areas and 8.7% in rural areas) for modern methods, against 3.5% (3.1% in urban areas and 3.6% in rural areas) for traditional methods.
- *Life expectancy* at birth is 56 years for men and 57 years for women. The infant mortality rate is 69.7 per 1000 live births, that of children under 5 is 108.7 per 1000. The maternal mortality rate is 400 per 100,000. The total fertility rate is 4.3 children per woman and only 21% of women use contraceptive methods.
- The *prevalence of HIV/AIDS* in the population aged 15-49 is estimated at 3.7%. It is 4.6% for women and 2.7% for men. In 2018, the prevalence of HIV infection was estimated at 4.2% among women aged 15-49 and 2.9% among men in the same age group. Among young people aged 15 to 24, the prevalence was 0.6% higher in young girls than in boys (1.68% versus 1.04%). In 2019, the prevalence of HIV infection among pregnant women was 5.0%.
- Regarding *basic social services*, the rate of access to drinking water is estimated at less than 30%, including 31.8% in urban areas and 27.6% in rural areas. In the city of Bangui, the rate is 36.5% and 27% in rural areas. The national coverage rate for the basic sanitation service remained below 30% in 2018. This situation has consequences on the time budget of women and girls whose social roles assign them the supply of water in households.
- Access to *electricity* for Central African households remains a major challenge for the government. Indeed in 2019, only 7.5% of Central African households are connected to the electricity network, including 22.4% of the urban population and 0.5% of the rural population.
- In terms of *access to telecommunications infrastructure*, 20.6% of Central African women aged 15-49 have a mobile phone compared to 36.9% of men in 2019. Although encouraging, this performance is well below the rate of possession of cell phones by women in the world, which is 80%.
- Only 10% of Central African women have a bank account with a mobile service provider, a much lower proportion than the average in sub-Saharan Africa, which is 25%. In the national banking system, only 10% of accounts in Central African financial institutions belong to Central African women over the age of 15 and 7% are savings accounts in 2017.

[68]Gender Analysis Report, UN-WOMEN and UNDP, 2021

The situation of gender-based violence shows that in recent years, actors who have signed the Information Sharing Protocol (PPI) of the Information Management System related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), have recorded [69]a gradual increase in GBV/SV incidents in CAR (8,321 GBV/SV incidents in 2017, 10,055 cases in 2018 and 13,028 cases in 2019). However, with 9,216 cases, a decrease in GBV/SV incidents was observed in 2020 compared to 2019. These GBV/SV incidents concern sexual violence, 20% (Rape = 16% and Sexual Assault = 4%) in 2018; 23% (rape = 19% and sexual assault = 4%) in 2019 and 24% (rape = 20% and sexual assault = 4%) in 2020, early marriages (2% in 2018 and 2019 in 1% in 2020) and other types of violence (physical aggression, psychological violence, denial of resources) (74% in 2018, 75% in 2019 and 2020). The victims are generally women and girls (92% in 2018, 94% in 2019 and 93% in 2020) or boys and men (8% in 2018, 6% in 2019 and 7% in 2020). While cases of sexual violence increased by 43% between 2017 and 2018, 49% between 2018 and 2019, there was nevertheless a decrease of 25.3% between 2019 and 2020.

These situations demonstrate the extent of the occurrence of GBV incidents, which is clearly increasing in the country from one year to the next. Despite the actions undertaken to combat them, the related indicators call for greater efforts: women themselves, up to 80% in certain regions, legitimize the violence done to them by their spouses because of the customs.

In general, the following factors contribute to exacerbating GBV:

- The weight of traditions and religion;
- Stigmatization of GBV survivors by communities;
- Fear of rejection or abandonment by spouse or community;
- Fear of reprisals by armed groups due to the absence of the rule of law;
- Ignorance about the knowledge of the actors and service providers who assume the management of GBV;
- Taboos;
- The high degree of acceptance of violence with 84% of women and 39% of men legitimizing the use of violence against women perpetrated by their partners;
- The low level of awareness-raising work;
- Misinterpretation and misunderstanding of GBV messages by community members;
- Cultural and traditional practices contrary to the guiding principles in the area of GBV;
- The absence of judicial and legal infrastructures for the legal care of survivors;
- The uneven distribution on the territory of humanitarian actors involved in the holistic care of survivors of GBV.

The Central African Republic is characterized by strong inequalities in access to education between men and women. Only 27% of women are educated against 50% of men. Thus, 74% of women over the age of 15 are illiterate[70]. Between 2012 and 2018, there was a considerable improvement in the Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) in primary education, going from 87.81% in 2012 to 116% in 2018. Unfortunately, this improvement in the Gross Enrollment Rate is not reflected in a reduction in the education gap between girls and boys. This gap, which was 24.1% in 2012, fell to 26% in 2018, indicating relative stagnation over the period, despite the observed increase in the enrollment of girls in primary education. In secondary education, in addition to the low participation of girls compared to boys, there is a trend of dropping out of school over the period 2012–2016, where the GER fell from 17.39% in 2012 to 15.04% in 2016. This decline in secondary school enrollment for adolescents clearly shows the effects of war and insecurity on the schooling of this age group. The disparity in access to schooling between girls and boys is also observed in higher education, where the girl/boy parity index was 0.36 in 2012.

[69]GBV statistics report (January-December 2018-2019-2020), GBVIMS-RCA quoted in the CAR Gender Profile 2021

[70] UNESCO, 2018

These situations demonstrate the extent of the occurrence of GBV incidents, which is clearly increasing in the country from one year to the next. Despite the actions undertaken to combat them, the related indicators call for greater efforts: women themselves, up to 80% in certain regions, legitimize the violence done to them by their spouses because of the customs.

Box 1. Gender facts and figures: break down.

- *Women's participation in the labor force* ➔ 64.4% against 79.8% for men.
- *Women's participation in decision-making bodies*➔ 17.4%, and only 12.5% women are prefects (2 women out of 16 prefects currently), 19% within the Internal Security Forces; quotas very far from the minimum of 35% as stated in the Law on Parity.
- *Women represent* ➔ 15% of the workforce in the administration and 4% in the private sector.
- *The poverty rate increased* ➔ from 70.5% in 2019 to 72.2% in 2020.
- *The human development index*➔ 0.353 in 2016
- *The agricultural sector* ➔ more than 70% of the active workforce and over 75% of the country's food production.
- *The agriculture and livestock sectors* employ 63% of poor households.
- Maternal mortality fell ➔ 850 per 100,000 live births in 2010 to 880 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018 due to conflicts.
- The contraceptive coverage rate ➔17.8% in 2018 (29% of women with secondary education and above compared to 14% for those with only primary education, barely 7% among uneducated women.
- Regarding family planning rate of use ➔ 14.4% (25.7% in urban areas and 8.7% in rural areas) for modern methods, against 3.5% (3.1% in urban areas and 3.6% in rural areas) for traditional methods.
- *Life expectancy at birth* ➔ 56 years for men and 57 years for women.
- *Infant mortality rate* ➔ 69.7 per 1000 live births, that of children under 5 is 108.7 per 1000.
- *Maternal mortality rate* ➔ 400 per 100,000.
- *Total fertility rate* ➔ 4.3 children per woman and only 21% of women use contraceptive methods.
- *Prevalence of HIV*/AIDS 15-49 years old ➔ 3.7% (4.6% for women and 2.7% for men).
- *Access to education* ➔ 27% of women are educated against 50% of men.
- *Gross Enrollment Rate* (GER) in primary education➔ from 87.81% in 2012 to 116% in 2018. (girl/boy parity index was 0.36 in 2012 for Higher education).
- *Access to drinking water* ➔ 30%, including 31.8% in urban areas and 27.6% in rural areas.
- *Basic sanitation service* ➔ 30% in 2018 with implications on the time budget of women and girls whose social roles remains on the supply of water for households.
- *Access to electricity* ➔ 7.5% of households are connected to the electricity network in 2019, including 22.4% of the urban population and 0.5% of the rural population.
- *Access to mobile phones* ➔ 20.6% of Central African women aged 15-49 have a mobile phone compared to 36.9% of men in 2019.
- *Access to banking systems* ➔ 10% of women have a bank account with a mobile service provider and 10% of accounts holders are women over 15 and 7% are savings accounts in 2017.
- *Gender-based violence GBV/SV incidents* ➔ 8,321 GBV/SV incidents in 2017, 10,055 cases in 2018 and 13,028 cases in 2019). Cases of sexual violence increased by 43% between 2017 and 2018, 49% between 2018 and 2019, there was a decrease of 25.3% between 2019 and 2020.

6.2- Legal status of women and laws applicable to gender groups in the country

Certain legal instruments of the CAR have taken up several international provisions in terms of civil rights and the legal status of Central African women. However, although this recovery is not systematic, these legal instruments generally advocate equality between men and women. Indeed, in the Family Code adopted in November 1997 and entered into force in November 1998, one notes the return of polygamy and the dowry, which exposes women to discrimination, whereas these two elements had already been prohibited by a presidential ordinance dating from 1966. Similarly, certain discriminatory provisions of the Code have been amended and are awaiting adoption by the National Assembly. For example, article 254, which gives the husband exclusive power to manage the family, has been revised in the direction of collegial management of this power by the two spouses.

In addition to the Constitution of the Central African Republic mentioned above, which recognizes that all citizens, men, and women alike, have equal rights and duties, the various laws, ordinances, and decrees below confirm equality between men and women in terms of employment, wages and criminal responsibility.

- Law No. 10.001 of January 6, 2010, on the Central African Penal Code;
- Law No. 10.002 of January 6, 2010, on the Central African Criminal Procedure Code;
- Law No. 09.004 of January 29, 2009, on the Labor Code of the Central African Republic;
- Law No. 99.016 of July 16, 1999, on the General Statute of the Public Service;
- Law No. 91.016 of December 27, 1991, on the Central African Code of Civil Procedure.

Law No. 10.001 of January 6, 2010, on the Central African Penal Code has taken measures against the perpetrators of violence against women and particularly that motivated by tradition and which is done to widows, such as the deprivation of meals, the confiscation of their property by the in-laws, etc.

The CAR is also party to the Protocol on the prevention and suppression of sexual violence against women and children of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). Similarly, the CAR has subscribed to the two international covenants of 1996, one relating to civil and political rights, the other relating to economic and social rights which enshrine the general norm of non-discrimination.

However, the effectiveness of this type of legal framework is limited by the contradictory provisions of customary law, which mean that gender disparities remain notorious in the CAR.

In addition to the paradox of certain provisions of national texts (e.g.: Family Law) and international texts, the various crises and conflicts in the Central African Republic have largely led to the deterioration of the living conditions and security of women, already precarious both in urban and rural areas.

The conclusions of the grassroots popular consultations and of the New Deal report on the fragility of the CAR carried out in September 2015, attest to the impoverishment and vulnerability of the populations, in particular of women, due to insecurity and continuous displacements. populations.

6.3- Cultural norms, received ideas, widespread perceptions and stereotypes, values and practices related to gender in the country

The socio-cultural context of the CAR is based on essentially patriarchal norms, habits, and customs, generally unfavorable to women. According to law N097.013 on the Family Code (Art 254), the man is the head of the family, he exercises this power in the common interest of the household and the children. It is he who chooses the residence of the family and is required to ensure the physical and moral security of the other members of the family. Central African society attributes to women the role of mother and housewife and to men the role of head of the family. These two positions have

great importance in the community education of young people (girls and boys) which forges power relations between men and women through decision-making, access to resources and its control.

The young girl is perceived by Central African society as an individual who is passing through her biological family for another family, which will be that of her husband. As a result, she must be prepared by her family and community education, which focuses on local and ancestral knowledge of household management, to be up to it in her home, which is in fact her natural destination. This perception excludes him for the benefit of his brothers from sharing the inheritance (land, livestock, etc.) in his family of origin on the pretext that the family property should not go to another family.
Unlike the girl, the boy is perceived as the head of the family, who has the power to direct the other members of the family (wives and children), as well as to ensure the continuity of the family line.

This gender discrimination, deeply rooted in Central African society and reflected in patriarchal institutions and socio-cultural norms, confines girls and women to their roles of performing unpaid domestic work, bearing, and caring for children. It is one of the root causes of harmful practices against girls and women. By placing a high value on a girl's virginity and developing fears about female sexuality, it diffusely brings, support for early and forced marriages of virgin girls, considered to be "pure" compared to other "impure" girls who have lost their virginity. For example, many parents believe that early marriage protects their daughters from premarital sex and sexual harassment.

Faced with all these beliefs, young mothers feel socially unwilling to decide on the conditions and period of marriage for their daughters and leave it up to their husbands and other members of the family and their community to take the decisions that will change the course of their lives, thereby perpetuating gender inequalities (UNICEF and UNFPA, 2018). Socio-cultural constraints also force parents to prevent their daughters from getting pregnancies outside of marriage, or becoming unmarried and "impure" spinsters, so as not to expose the rest of the family to harsh criticism from society.

These social values, traditionally justified by religious beliefs, thus encourage marriage from puberty, fundamental causes of early and/or forced marriages, which have unfortunate consequences on reproductive health.

Harmful practices such as widowhood rites, levirate, sororate and excision persist, despite their prohibition or denunciation. Whatever his rank, it is the first boy who is the heir of the family, and this to the detriment of the girls who have nothing either in their biological families or in their in-laws.

Widows, despite the favorable provisions of the Family Code, are stripped of their property, especially in the absence of legal marriage.

Linguistically, the CAR is a multilingual country with 72 languages used, including two official languages: French and Sango. Although not the mother tongue of most Central Africans, French is the language of reference for administration and education. This is at the root of many problems of inequity and gender inequality for the unschooled populations, which are generally women and girls. Sango, which became an official language in 1991, is the mother tongue of approximately 10% of the population and is used as a vehicular language by many Central Africans.

6.4- Distinct impacts of climate change on different groups and sub-groups of women and men, as well as their capacities to adapt to these impacts

a. Gender-differentiated impacts of climate change on groups and sub-groups and gender-differentiated capacities to cope with

With a rainfall that varies between 800 mm in the North and 1600 mm in the South and the increase and erratic rainfall in the South and prolonged droughts in the North, the country is already facing with

the effects of climate change. In addition to this climatic variability, anthropogenic factors exacerbate the degradation of natural resources.
The production of energy wood is the second factor of deforestation. Wood remains the main source of energy for Central African households. According to the multiple indicator survey (MICS6-RCA 2018-2019), 90.2% of households in the CAR use firewood and charcoal as fuel for cooking, including 79.5% in urban areas and 96.1% in rural areas.
The exploitation of minerals, in particular diamonds, is the third factor of environmental degradation and constitutes a threat to gallery forests and aquatic flora. Finally, the exploitation of timber and NTFPs (Non-Timber Forest Products) constitutes the fourth factor of environmental degradation.
The combination of natural and anthropogenic factors has resulted in an increase in the phenomena of drought, floods, bush fires, etc. In a country where agriculture employs 70% of the working population, 80% of whom are women, the latter are the most affected by climate change. The resilience of farming systems to climate change and variability depends on soil fertility. Unfortunately, many farmers and, particularly, rural women in the Central African Republic do not have enough financial, technological, livestock and time resources to maintain their land as they wish. However, infertile soils produce little, which further aggravates poverty. The direct and/or indirect effects of climate change constitute threats to agricultural yields in the CAR, endangering the livelihoods of more than 2/3 of the population, including women, and which will aggravate their already very fragile level of vulnerability. In the project area where the surveys took place, many women testified to their low agricultural yield, the cause of which they do not control: the leaves of plants that turn yellow, the dwarfism of cassava cuttings, the disruption of the seasons, etc. This situation would be aggravated by the rudimentary nature of the tools and equipment used.
Concerning the indigenous peoples (Aka pygmies) whose way of life is closely linked to the forest, the latter is considered as their foster mother. Residing in camps, the Pygmies live off the products of hunting and gathering. The transformation of Central African society has upset their way of life. The exploitation of the forest with its corollaries, deforestation, has resulted in the scarcity of the resources of fauna and flora from which they derive most of their means of subsistence.

It follows a displacement of the Aka populations towards the periphery of the agglomerations where they are often victims of discrimination, servitude, accusation of witchcraft, theft and other degrading and inhuman treatment on the part of other ethnic groups. Anthropological studies show that the traditional social organization of the Aka Pygmies is based on social elders and age groups and the configuration of social activities. Pygmy communities live in restricted social units. It is around the father that the nucleus of the residential community is formed. In their social organization, the Aka pygmies are united in small lineage groups around a grandparent to whom the men, women, daughters, sons, and descendants of the clan are associated. To these must be added sons-in-law and daughters-in-law. The *hut,* the basic element constituting the camp, shelters a conjugal family, the "group formed by a man, a woman and their dependent children."
The Aka pygmies have always used to move according to the food resources of the forest. From one camp to another, they carry all their belongings in a basket. The space travelled throughout the year in Lobaye, for example, by a band of Bayaka varies between two hundred and eighty and four hundred square kilometers, which gives everyone on average a space of four-square kilometres.
In the case of the Fulani-Mbororo ethnic minority, the transhumant pastoralism practiced since the 1920s is currently increasing under the effect of climate variability and change, which are driving herders to increasingly southern regions [71]. This transhumance is accused of being one of the causes of recurrent socio-political crises in the country.
The herders are mostly “Peul” Muslims, which include Mbororo (Central African), Fulbe, Chadian and Sudanese herders. Among shepherds, it is common for ethnicity to take precedence over national identity. Typically, pastoralists' traditional movements take them north from April to October to avoid

[71]Ankogui-Mpoko G., Program 1.1. Human and Animal Mobilities: Logics, Perceptions and Impacts, RCA Scientific Research Report 2005-2008 (March 2008), p. 8.

the wet season and associated livestock diseases, south in the dry season to reach safe water points, and from east to west to access some storm systems. This often results in conflicts with farmers.

b. Gender division of labor

A division of labor according to sex can be observed in particular in family labour. Cash crops (coffee, cotton, tobacco) are mainly produced by men, while women farmers mainly produce food crops (cassava, maize, rice, groundnuts, corn, millet, and sorghum, etc.) on plots of land allocated by men, and livestock (small ruminants and poultry). Regarding the distribution of tasks between men and women in field work, men are primarily responsible for planting preparation tasks (clearing and stump removal), while plowing, weeding, sowing, harvesting and post-harvest work are specifically assigned to women.

Men dedicate most of their day to productive functions, particularly around agricultural production, hunting and fishing, with the rest of their day being devoted to community activities and leisure. Women divide their days between working in the fields of food crops or supporting men in the plantations of cash crops, and reproductive tasks, i.e., domestic tasks such as cleaning, preparing meals, caring for children and water collection.

Resources are controlled by men, including land and income from the sale of agricultural produce. The latter hold the decisions to be taken within the household regarding resources, which further reinforces the situation of dependence and extreme precariousness of women.
Socio-cultural constraints are the strongest and underlie this gender-specific division of labour. They are based on beliefs linked to religions and traditions. They are rooted in social norms and practices. They even consecrated the sexual division of living spaces, but also the decision-making centered on the head of the family, who is the guarantor of the safety of the members and of the correctness of individual behavior regarding community expectations. The system is maintained by a society where essentially patriarchal norms, habits and customs are generally unfavorable to women [72]. Central African society attributes to women the role of mother and housewife and to men the role of head of the family. These two positions have great importance in the community education of young people (girls and boys) which forges power relations between men and women through decision-making, access to resources and its control.
In some communities, the belief is still strong that the place of girls and women is at home, in the kitchen. In some Muslim circles, the constraint seems even stronger, non-mixing being the rule. This refusal of coeducation is the basis of the decision of several parents not to accept that young adolescent girls' frequent spaces of coeducation. One of the major gender issues will be the participation of women and girls in training activities outside their localities. Indeed, the control of men over the movements of girls and women remains very rigorous.
In terms of fishing, men are in charge of catching, while women ensure the processing of fish products by drying or smoking, and their sale on local markets, fresh or processed. However, although women are responsible for distribution and sale in local markets, this does not mean that they own the income from the sale. It is the man who controls this income and uses it for household needs.
In terms of livestock, men often raise large livestock, while women process the by-products: milk, meat, etc. In addition, they are mainly active in raising small livestock (small ruminants), poultry and pigsty.

c. Gender-based power structure

Central African society is patrilineal, male dominated. Customary rules exert a strong influence on relations between men and women and underlie the disadvantaged situation in which women find

[72] CAR Gender Profile, UNDP, 2021, 88 pages

themselves compared to men. Traditionally, it is the man who embodies the authority within the household [73]. This role of authority is expressed through the following different social institutions:

- In *marriage*, the man has the privilege of an active role, he exercises power and control over the woman and the fertility of the couple.
- *In the educational, family and community processes*, the man benefits special treatment with greater permissiveness and responsibility, unlike women who are limited and controlled in their movements and initiatives.
- *At the level of the exercise of activities*, the sexual division of labor determines the distribution of tasks between girls and boys, men, and women. This differentiation makes it possible to assign to men, formal and valued production work and to women, maintenance and care activities which fall under the register of reproductive activities and are not counted and not valued.
- *At the community level*, the differentiated perception of male and female roles underlies the distribution of tasks and the unequal exercise of power. Men take on managerial roles in public affairs. As for women, they are more involved in establishing and strengthening social relations.

6.5- Representation of Gender sub-groups in the agricultural and fisheries sector

Women and youth play a very important role in agricultural value chains. The latter carry out most of the work of sowing, harvest maintenance and harvest conditioning. The man is mainly responsible for clearing, burning, and guarding. He invests more in the production of cash crops.

The woman, on the other hand, participates mainly in food production. The tasks devolved to him relate in particular to plowing, sowing, weeding, harvesting, transport, processing and marketing of products.
However, despite the important contribution of women to agricultural activities, the economic power over the production units is held by the man who is often the head of the farm. It is he who decides on the nature and importance of the crops to be grown, the distribution between self-consumption and the surplus to be put on the market, as well as the management of the income obtained [74].

Animal husbandry is practiced by more than 80% of the rural population, but it is traditional small animal husbandry that predominates. Poultry farming is present in 67% of farms, and pig farming in 74%. Women are mostly involved in short cycle breeding (small ruminants, pigs, poultry). They take care of the food, the care of the animals and the cleanliness of their habitat, for their personal breeding and that of their husband, as well as the processing and marketing of the products. Raising cattle is more the responsibility of men, especially Peulhs, but women are generally the managers of the milk. In rural families, the man is traditionally the head of the activities bringing in important incomes, even if the woman takes care of most of the activities [75].

In fishing, the men take care of the catch, and the women take care of the processing of the products, as well as their sale on the local markets. Intervening at the marketing stage, however, does not give women control over income from the sale of fish products; this is also the case in agriculture and animal husbandry.

[73]AfDB, Gender Profile of the Central African Republic, 2010
[74]CEDAW Initial Implementation Report, 2010.
[75]Rural Sector Development Strategy Document, 2007.

7. GENDER ASSESSMENT IN THE PROJECT AREAS

The data collection work was carried out in the field by the gender team, which carried out a participatory assessment in the project intervention areas, to assess roles and activities according to gender, resource access and control.

7.1 Stakeholder Consultation and Participatory Evaluation

Public consultation and community participation are fundamental elements of the process of assessing the specific needs of grassroots populations. They involve a more in-depth exchange of opinions and information through methodological support for data collection. Thus, a broad process of institutional and community consultations took place at different levels and with targeted stakeholders. Consultations were carried out at the national level in Bangui and at the prefectural, sub-prefectural and community levels of the project localities.

The discussions and exchanges mainly focused on issues relating to the gender concerns, risks or constraints, mitigation measures and recommendations. The interest of this consultation is to allow the project to integrate into its decision-making process the points of view of the stakeholders involved, but above all the vulnerable groups and specific indigenous peoples and minorities: smallholder farmers, people living with HIV/AIDS, single mothers, people with disabilities, the elderly, widows and widowers, indigenous Pygmies AKA populations, Fulani Mbororo ethnic minorities.

During interviews, issues relating to the participation and role of gender sub-groups in the agriculture-livestock-fishery sectors, gender differences in time allocated to daily activities, access to and control of resources (women and men), gender-differentiated adaptation strategies to the impacts of climate change, specific needs, and concerns of marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups, were addressed.

Overall, the public consultations had the following objectives:

- Present the project to the various stakeholders, to have a better understanding of the goal, objectives, outcomes, and outputs.
- Provide a space and opportunity to stakeholders to share their views, concerns, and expectations vis-à-vis the project.
- Anticipate future issues and propose solutions to be integrated in the process.
- Collect data and information relevant to the gender action plan and M&E.

Consultations were carried out at different periods: in 2020/2021, and 2023.

The first series consultation was made with the stakeholders presented below:

Table 28: First round of consultation with stakeholders in 2020

Stakeholders consulted	Consultation date	Comments
Direct beneficiaries		
Union of Peasant Organizations – Maigaro	06/07/2020	Choice based on value chain and market link implications. Representatives of farmers from targeted areas.
ICRA staff - Bouar	06/07/2020	Key actors for the development of agriculture and livestock as well as for the management of climate change issues related to agriculture. Employees aware of climate issues and having many practical experiences in the field to share.
of meat - Bouar	08/07/2020	Key player in the promotion of animal products and market access. Evidence of climate change as it relates to the availability of animal products in communities and markets

Community of Bosemptélé	09/07/2020	The participants are made up of different age and gender groups, including young people and women; Local crop producers, pastoralists, fish producers, honey producers and small traders across all targeted value chains. Site selection was based on the community's historical information regarding production techniques and the management of environmental and climatic issues. The participants developed experiences on the thematic areas selected for PRAPAM in general and for the activities to be financed by the Adaptation Fund. In these Communities there are infrastructures to visit in order to learn.
Ngoulepka community	15 / 07/ 2020	
Sakai community – Bangui irrigated perimeter	07/15/2020	
Damara Community	06/07/2020	
Bogangolo Community	07/07/2020	
Pata Community		
DIDANG MANDJO Community	08/07/2020	
Zawa community	07/10/2020	
Boganangone	08/07/2020	
boganda	09/07/2020	
HUSACA Limited Company[76]	07/21/2020	Key player in production, agricultural mechanization, the development of agricultural products, particularly food producers, and market access for small producers. The choice is based on their business model which integrates young people and women.
Bimbosaine Company[77]	07/23/2020	
Representatives of institutions in the field		
President of the Special Delegation of the city of Damara	05/07/2020	These are key rural institutions in the field in charge of crops and livestock as well as cross-cutting themes such as the environment, climate, youth
Head of ACDA sector – Damara		
ANDE sector manager – Damara		
Head of antenna – PADECAS Damara		
Representative of the sub-prefect of Bogangolo	07/07/2020	
Mayor of Boda	08/09/2020	
President Chamber of Agriculture	07/29/2020	

List of consultations held in 2021 is presented in annex 3.

The second series of public consultations was conducted in 2023, mainly with vulnerable groups, ethnic minorities, and indigenous populations in the intervention sites (see Tables below).

Table 29: Second round of public consultation with representatives of vulnerable groups, ethnic minorities, and indigenous populations in 2023

Prefecture	City, Place	Date	H	F	Total	Profile of organizations and people met
Nana Mambere	Bouar, Yaché room	25.05.23	26	9	35	Prefectural Youth Council (CPJ), Association of People Living with Disabilities and Injuries (APVHB), National Organization of Rural

[76]HUSACA has embarked on the revival of maize cultivation with a pilot project. To supply maize locally, and with the support of the Pan-African Conference of Cooperatives, HUSACA brought together 1,350 small producers (most of whom are young people) in three cooperatives in the prefectures of Ombella Mpoko and Lobaye. He then identified sites of more than 500 ha dedicated to corn production with the provision of adequate production equipment to reduce the hardship of young people's work.

[77]"La Bimbosaine" is a rural women's business based in the Bimbo region, which supplies the capital Bangui and the city of Bimbo and its surroundings with products from its nzangi. The company is in the production and processing of foodstuffs (cassava, bananas, pineapple, peanuts, squash and sesame)

						Women (ONFER), Federation of market gardeners of Nana Mambere (FMNM), ASGOCA, National Federation of Central African Breeders (FNEC), National consultation of farmers organizations in CAR (CNOP CAF), Central African Institute of Agricultural Research (ICRA), Fish farmer, small livestock breeders,
Ouham Pende	Camp of Fulani returnees	26.05.23	41	37	78	Returned Fulani (male, female)
Ombella M'pocko	Boali, Conference Room	26.05.23	19	15	34	Network of Indigenous and Local Populations of the Central African Republic (REPALCA), Organization of Central African Women (OFCA), FNEC, Prefectural youth council (CPJK), National Livestock Development Agency (ANDE), Islamic Committee, association of butchers, disabled people, beekeepers, breeders, fish farmers, association of women fish sellers
	Damara, camp for Fulani returnees integrated into the Yangué 2 village	11.06.23	21	16	37	Returned Fulani (male, female), Muslim community in a situation of vulnerability
Lobay	Mbaïki, Town Hall conference room	30.05.23	51	13	64	Producer (stockbreeder, farmer), local authorities and decentralized State services, other relevant actors, Performing Producer (PP), Association of the disabled, Community for the integration of indigenous minorities in central Africa (CIMAC), Néhémie Group, Agropastral group (AGP), MONGONZA Group, Agropastoral Group,
Meeting with civil society organizations	MESA conference room	27.05.23	7	1	8	FNPAC: National Federation of Fishermen and Aquaculturists of the Central African Republic MEFP: House of the Child and the Pygmy Woman REPALCA COPA: Cooperative of Fish Farmers and Aquaculturists of Bangui and its Surroundings PGDRNE: Platforms for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment OFCA: Organization of Central African Women

B to B meeting			22	4	26	Officials of technical ministries, agencies and institutions involved
Total			187	95	282	

A total of 282 people from all categories (187 men and 95 women) were met/consulted in the four (4) project prefectures; 120 people representing Fulani returnees and Aka pygmies were consulted in their living environment.
During public consultations at prefecture level in the form of workshops, focus group interviews were organized consisting of three (3) groups:

- Governmental agencies and local authorities;
- Representatives of producers (breeders, farmers, beekeepers, fish farmers sometimes representing associations or groups or even list of groups per meeting);
- Vulnerable targets: representatives of widows, disabled people, indigenous people, minorities.

Table 30: Types of representatives of vulnerable groups consulted in the project area

Date	Type of vulnerable	Male	Female	Number
BOUAR/ Nana-Mambere				
05/25/2023	disabled	2	2	4
	Youth	5	2	7
	Fulani (Mbororo)	4	1	5
	widows	-	6	6
BOSSEMPTELE/ Ouham Pende				
05/25/2023	Fulani (Mbororo)	41	76	117
BOALI/ Ombella M'poko				
05/25/2023	disabled	4	-	4
	Youth	5	2	7
	Fulani (Mbororo)	-	1	1
	widows	-	6	6
MBAÏKI/LObaye				
05/30/2023	disabled	1	4	5
	Youth	3	1	4
	Aka Pygmies (Indigenous)	3	2	5
	widows	-	7	7
Damara/ Ombella M'poko				

06/11/2023	returned Fulani	21	16	37
Total		**89**	**126**	**215**

Methodology

The methodology adopted during the public consultations is essentially qualitative, having made it possible to better understand the feelings, and perceptions of the stakeholders on the project. The tool used for data collection is the semi-directive interview which aims to have the respondents produce a discourse around predetermined themes. This approach made it possible to better understand the observations, views, fears, and possible recommendations of the actors concerning the project. In general, the methodology combined the four approaches listed below:

- Collecting and using existing documentation
- Meetings with institutional parties
- A workshop, in Bangui, with umbrella organizations of producers and defenders of the rights of indigenous peoples
- Public consultations at local and community level.

7.2 Demographics by gender

The 2020 ICASEES estimates break down the populations of the project area as follows:

Table 31: Distribution of the population of the project area by sex

Region	Prefecture	Sub-prefecture	Commune	Male	Feminine	Total
1: Trays	Ombella-Mpoko	Bimbo	Bimbo	152,932	155,026	307 958
		Boali	Boali	16,770	17,454	34,224
		Bossembele	Bossembele	16,449	17,638	34,087
			The Mbi	5,799	6,290	12,089
		Yaloke	Yaloke	17,799	19,426	37,225
			Guezeli	12,205	12,229	24,434
	Lobay	Mbaiki	Mbaiki	15,885	16,339	32,224
			Mbata	17,144	19,051	36,195
			Pissing	15,549	17,040	32,589
			Bogongo-Gaza	5,400	5,394	10,794
			Lessè	3,883	4,217	8,100
			nola	10,045	10,286	20,331
			Moboma	11,444	11,989	23,433
			Baleloko	15,312	16,584	31,896
		Boda	Boda	17,330	17,581	34,911
			Lobay	15,575	15,794	31,369
		Boganangone	Boganangone	18,328	18,934	37,262
2: Ecuador	Nana-Mambere	bouar	bouar	27,331	27,615	54,946
			Niem-Yelewa	16,089	16,813	32,902
			Herman Bush	11,737	12,150	23,887
			Zotoua-Banguereme	11,220	11,159	22,379
			Yenga	5,948	6,487	12,435
			Bea-Nana	4,434	4,687	9,121
			Doaka-Koursou	8,071	8,621	16,692
			Baboua	16,349	17,035	33,384
			Groudrot	3,674	3,907	7,581

		Baboua	Bingue	4,301	4,595	8,896
			Kounde	4,734	4,824	9,558
			Fo	7,070	7,431	14,501
3: Yade	Ouham-Pende	Bozoum	Bozoum	13,677	14,947	28,624
			Dan Gbabiri	6,536	6,913	13,449
			Birvan-Bole	6,932	7,325	14,257
			Kouazo	5,003	5,346	10,349
			Daneyerin	3,392	3,450	6,842
		Bocaranga	Bocaranga	40,300	42,947	83,247
			Loura	6,934	7,423	14,357
			Pende	8,020	8,109	16,129
Whole area				**579 601**	**603,056**	**1,182,657**

Source : CAR 2020 demographic projections, ICASEES

Women are numerically superior to men, with a demographic weight of 51% against 49%. However, the entire project area constitutes just over 1/5th of the overall Central African population in 2020.

7.3 Participation and role of gender sub-groups in the agriculture and fisheries sector

The CAR has abundant natural resources and favorable climatic conditions for agriculture and animal husbandry. There are very varied soil units that are divided between ferralitic, ferruginous and vertisol soils. Overall, these soils have good to poor agronomic values. The potential is estimated at 15 million hectares, of which only 0.7 million are exploited annually, and a total surface area of grazing land and rangeland is estimated at 16 million hectares, of which only 9 million are exploited by a herd of around 4 million. of cattle heads. There is also an abundance of water resources, thanks to an important hydrographic network.

Agriculture employs 70% of the active Central African population and produces more than 75% of the country's food production. The agriculture and livestock sectors employ 63% of poor households. Over 60% of household heads are farmers. 80% of the production in the food sectors is carried out by rural women and represents more than 65% of agricultural production.

Agricultural production in the CAR is structured around very small farms (0.5 to 1.5 ha), with less than 3 agricultural workers, using very rudimentary means of work. Often crop fertilization is non-existent. Cultivation practices are highly extensive on slash and burn and use very little fertilizer, which makes crop fertilization non-existent and yields very low. However, in recent years, animal traction has been introduced into the various production basins by the State with the support of development partners. To this end, animal traction kits are gradually being made available to farmers.

These farms are essentially family farms and strongly dominated by itinerant practices which do not allow better valorization of the labor force. This situation is aggravated by overgrazing during the transhumance period, the advanced degradation of rural roads and generalized insecurity in the production areas, the isolation of farms from roads and the lack of supervision of producers, which makes it difficult to access markets. These problems explain the low level of income of Central African farmers and justify more than 80% of the level of poverty in rural areas.

Family farming is strongly influenced by the patriarchy of Central African society, where men hold decision-making power, both within the household and in society. He is the head of the family, his guide and protector, he is the one who has decision-making power, while the woman divides her time between supporting her husband in his productive activities and the reproductive functions for which she is responsible (domestic work, housekeeping and child care). These well-defined and strict roles are hardly interchangeable, in particular because of the risk of gender-based violence and in particular

domestic violence faced by women, but also because of the feeling of inferiority that has been instilled in them from the start. birth rendering them unable to take part in traditionally masculine roles.

7.4 Controlling access to resources

Regarding land, it should be noted that according to customary law, access to land is by inheritance and in a privileged way for men. The son has the right to remain in the built property of his parents, even when married. The woman works the land of her ancestors or in the domain of her in-laws without owning it. The practice of land management differs according to geographical environments and the nature of the land. The method of land acquisition in rural areas remains dominated by customary law, due to the absence of cadastral services in rural areas. Therefore, access to land is by inheritance. Women traditionally have no right to land. However, a majority of women have access to a piece of land as usufructuary for themselves through their husbands or third parties. According to a study carried out [78]in the center of the country, **40% of married women had access to plots of land** through donations and legacies compared to 35% of divorced women and 25% of single women. **93.8% of widows had access to it compared to only 6.3% of single women**.
The land inheritance criteria for women are as follows:

- Unfailing fidelity to her husband (during his lifetime);
- Respect to his in-laws;
- Have an advanced age with no possibility of remarrying;
- If the wife is barren, she must love her husband's children, from another bedding;
- Display a high sense of sharing of property bequeathed by the husband;
- Identical ethnicity of husband;
- Young woman with children accepting levirate.

The indigenous AKA Pygmy populations who live mainly in the South-West Forest zone (Lobaye), generally have no tenure security on the lands they occupy or use, regarding the legal provisions in force (RF, 2018); which deprives them of a mode of access to property which compromises any prospect of sustainable exploitation, and therefore contributes to their impoverishment.

As for the Fulani Mbororo ethnic minorities who live in the savannah zone where they practice herding, a large part of them lost most of their assets during the socio-political crisis, including their land assets.

A land reform is being prepared by the Ministry of Urbanism with the support of the FAO. This will be an opportunity to bring important innovations for the consideration of gender-specific interests, with a view to statistical visibility on the access of men, women, and ethnic minorities to agricultural land.

The rate of access to drinking water is estimated at 32% in urban areas and 26% in rural areas. These data do not make it possible to highlight a distribution broken down by sex. However, the situation in rural areas remains more worrying with more than 74% of people without access to drinking water. The proportion of rural households that have access to it is very low:

- 40% of rural households have access to drinking water, the main source of which remains drilling;
- Only 34% of households have improved sanitation in rural areas;
- 38% of rural households do not have a latrine and defecate in the open [79].

The main source of combustible energy used by rural women remains firewood (100% of households). And, as far as lighting energy is concerned, it is the hurricane lamp that is used the most with wood.

[78]Marie-Madeleine Koyangbo-Damon, "The problems of access to agricultural land for women in savannah areas in the Central African Republic: case of the lands of Ngoumbélé (Kémo), Gbago, Didango-Mandjo (Ombella-M'poko)", thesis in geography (in preparation), University of Marien Ngouabi, Brazzaville, 2015.
[79]CEDAW initial implementation report (based on data from ICASEES, 2008.

Results of consultations with local communities

(i) **Summary of the perceptions of vulnerable people on the Project**

The content analysis of the perceptions resulting from the consultations with vulnerable people reveal a good understanding of the challenges of the project and an immense hope aroused by the project, especially since it comes to strengthen the activities of PRAPAM with more capacities for adaptation. and resilience to climate change. The level of social acceptability of the project by the communities is very good. This acceptability is linked to a good understanding of the social and economic issues of the project. The project should, in fact, make them economically resilient following the recurrent crises that the country has been experiencing for more than two decades. Beneficiary populations of the project have great hopes of seeing the project materialize as soon as possible, to be able to benefit from the multiform spinoffs announced.

(ii) **Concerns voiced by vulnerable people**

- ***Discrimination of vulnerable groups***

Some vulnerable people among the stakeholders may find it difficult to participate in project activities and may therefore risk be being excluded from the benefits of the Project. These include:

- low-income households;
- landlocked or isolated vulnerable communities;
- people with disabilities;
- poor people living alone, especially women heads of households and the elderly;
- minority communities or ethnic groups in the project intervention area (by the numerical criterion or the subsistence activity);
- widows and orphans;
- young mothers;
- Indigenous Peoples;
- etc

For many community actors, if the project does not take specific measures to promote the consideration and integration of these different groups, by fixing a ratio of vulnerable groups to benefit from the project, there is a risk of social exclusion.

- ***Gender and vulnerability to universal access: water, sanitation, health***

Access to water, sanitation, and health still constitutes, an indicator and a marker of social vulnerability for many individuals and social groups (*widows, people with disabilities, elderly, chronically ill, low-income households, unemployed, etc.)*. Despite efforts made by the Central African government and its partners, many households do not yet have access to quality water because of their low income. In many vulnerable households (especially those headed by women and the disabled) children do not have access to health services because they cannot afford the related fees and costs.

This global vulnerability is particularly gendered. Because many women, young people, children, vulnerable groups face difficulties related to the lack of quality water and sanitation services. Given that most women and children assume most household tasks, in particular the processing of agricultural products, cereals, fruits and vegetables, the alleviation and disappearance of the hardship of the tasks should be considered by the project, in order to build women's resilience. During the discussions with women's representatives during the consultations, the needs in terms of agricultural equipment and materials (cultivation tools, transport equipment, etc.) and women's empowerment (units processing and preservation), were clearly raised. To this end, the project should consider to:

- Reduce the hardship of field work;
- reduce the time women spend on household chores;
- incorporate gender considerations into infrastructure design (local youth participation);
- have an equal training opportunity for men and women; and

- improve the work, living conditions and access to basic health care for women and their families and offer them the opportunity to develop income-generating activities, specific economic empowerment activities.

In addition, to ensure that the design of infrastructure and services takes gender differences into account, the participation of women and representatives of vulnerable people in key stakeholder committees to design established to support project implementation should be ensured by considering the specific needs of women (place and schedule of meetings, facilitation of logistics and nearby meeting points). To do this, the other prerequisite is to consider the seasonal calendar of the communities and the division of social time and invite women on dates and times when they are available to participate in these consultation meetings or training activities.

Recruitment of local labor and capacity building of young people are also strong expectations. In this sense, the Youth Centers are gateways.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS AND GENDER ACTION PLAN

8.1. General recommendations

- ***Improved gender mainstreaming***

It was noted that women and young people in general, in the project areas, are poorly involved in the decision-making process even though they play a decisive role in local socio-economic activities. Indeed, they constitute an important part of the workforce in family farms and the contribution of household income. Despite this essential role in the production of resources, their access to decision-making bodies and factors of production, in particular financing, equipment and works, is proving to be an issue in almost all the project areas. Thus, within the framework of the project, to improve and strengthen the opportunities that women and young people could benefit from, it is recommended to:

- ***ensure the targeting of "real" beneficiaries:*** The people consulted propose the establishment of an inclusive targeting committee comprising project representatives, representatives of all categories of vulnerable people, as well as local and institutional authorities, and NGOs;
- ***promote the improvement of the rights of access*** to resources of women, indigenous peoples, and ethnic minorities in the areas of intervention of the project;
- Improve the participation of women in decision-making at the community level and within the household;
- develop and maintain ***targeted approaches*** around women with a view to empowering them fully, through project activities;
- promote ***youth employment*** and enhance their skills;
- introduce a **quota approach** in favor of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, including Aka Pygmies and Mbororo when selecting project beneficiaries;
- Include in the tasks and missions of the Project Management Unit, a gender expert or an environmental and social safeguard expert, whose mission included the gender action plan M&E.

8.2 Specific recommendations

Gender assessment results	Specific recommendations
The demographics in the project area are as follows: 51% women versus 49% men	• Participation and benefits from project activities should target men and women in equal proportions. • Ensure equal participation of men and women in project activities, and establish gender quotas to ensure equal representation, access and participation of women and men
Cash crops (coffee, cotton, tobacco) are mainly produced by men, while women farmers mainly produce food crops (cassava, maize, rice, etc.) on plots of land allocated by men, and livestock (small ruminants and poultry).	• Make a particular emphasis on staple food crops and livestock (small ruminants and poultry), to reach women farmers
A majority of women have access to a piece of land as usufructuary for themselves through their husbands or third parties. The indigenous AKA Pygmy populations who live mainly in the South-West Forest area (Lobaye), generally have no tenure security on the lands they occupy or use, with regard to the legal provisions in force.	• A land reform is being prepared by the Ministry of Urbanism. This will be an opportunity to bring important innovations for the consideration of gender-specific interests, with a view to statistical visibility on the access of men, women, and ethnic minorities to agricultural land. •
80% of the production in the food sectors is carried out by rural women and represents more than 65% of agricultural production. However, agricultural production is structured around very small farms (0.5 to 1.5 ha), with less than 3 agricultural workers, using very rudimentary means of work.	• Strengthening of the gender skills of project agents; design and implement a cascade training targeting women's to support production, marketing, processing.
Some vulnerable people among the stakeholders could find it difficult to participate in the activities of the Project and therefore risk being excluded from the benefits of the project. These include: • low-income households; • vulnerable, landlocked, or isolated communities; • people with disabilities;	• Take specific measures to promote the consideration and integration of marginalized and vulnerable less advantaged groups during implementation. • As specific measure, specific quota may be considered in targeting strategy

• poor people living alone, in particular women heads of households and the elderly; • minority communities or ethnic groups in the project intervention area (due to the numerical criterion or the subsistence activity); • widows and orphans; • young girl mothers; • Indigenous Peoples;	
Women and children assume most of household tasks, in particular the processing of agricultural products, cereals, fruits, and vegetables. Thus, the addition of new tasks by the project, without the necessary equipment, could increase the hardship	• Need to support agricultural equipment and materials (cultivation tools, transport equipment, etc.) and empowerment of women (processing and conservation units), to reduce the difficulty of work in the field; reduce the time spent by women on household chores; improve work, living conditions and access to basic social services for women and their families.
Youth unemployment and job insecurity for a large category of people are significant factors in the project's target areas.	• For expected investments in the field of climate-proof infrastructure, an approach based on local resources should be promoted by the project, to optimize the use of local human resources, in particular of young people.

Views, suggestions, and recommendations are taken into consideration by the project, through the Environmental and Social Management Plan (See ESMF).

9. PROJECT IMPACT ON GENDER SUB-GROUPS

The project objectives include the implementation of a set of concrete adaptation measures in some of the most profitable agricultural value chains in CAR, including rice, cassava, and maize. In addition, the project foresees a comprehensive package of capacity building of beneficiary communities, towards best practices aimed at promoting paradigm shift and behavioral change in crop and livestock value chains and strengthening linkages with the markets.

If such measures are put in place, the project will provide the following comparative advantages on the gender sub-groups:

a) The project will help to respond effectively to the practical needs of gender sub-groups (single women heads of households, widows, elderly) by reducing the hardship of agricultural work, by improving working tools and product transport equipment, the availability of water, the nutritional quality thanks to the diversification of the means of subsistence and the improvement of the level of resources, thanks to high income potential activities.

b) The project meets the strategic needs of vulnerable people through the following actions:
   - Improving and diversifying women's livelihood opportunities, through access to high-value crop production, small livestock, poultry, processing, and markets;
   - Improving access of the most vulnerable (indigenous peoples, returned Fulani, women and young people) to land and climate information, making them in a position to make better decisions for their livelihood activities;
   - Access of women, indigenous and Fulani people, to skills and of young people to knowledge, in support to their economic and social empowerment;
   -

10. GENDER ACTION PLAN

Impact Statement: Reduced climate vulnerability of 20,000 direct and 119,000 indirect people in rural communities in CAR of which 50 percent will be women and 30 percent youth in rural communities					
Outcome 1: Established proven best practices in climate resilient value chains, drawing from local and international research leading to a sustainable increase in production and income.					
Output Statement 1.1. *Best available technologies and integrated resilient crop varieties and livestock breeds are implemented to foster the resilience of crop and livestock production and post-harvest practices*					
Activities	**Indicators**	**Targets**	**timeline**	**Responsibilities**	**Monitoring cost (USD)**
Activity 1.1.3. Support for the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment to run integrated Farmer Field Schools (FFS) or business models and provide other technical support.	Percentage of Female-Headed Farm Households considered as part of the Farmer Field Schools (FFS), including young women and indigenous women.	50%,	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock)	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 40,000
Activity 1.1.4. Capacity-building on modern composting techniques to reduce/prevent movement of farmers to fallow land in secondary cropping years	Number of farmers trained disaggregated by sex, age, and disability	50 % women 30%youth	1st Year - 4th Year		Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 150,000
Activity 1.1.13. Community mobilization and organizing to promote the adoption of the selected crops as climate smart cash crops and the development of cooperatives.	Percentage of women farmers organizations active in community mobilization	50%	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock), NGOs, research institutions (ICRA, ACDA),	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 115,000
Activity 1.1.14. Support for female farmers in	Number of female farmers recipients of support	80% of which 30% of youth	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing	Included in activity costs

engaging in commercial production of the selected crops (including training in sustainable production, negotiating access to farmland and equipment)		and 15% of indigenous people		Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock), NGOs	Total activity cost: 100,000
Activity 1.1.15. Conducting random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of crop production uptake on the resilience of female farmers and drought prone communities	Number of female-headed farm households successful tested and evaluated	2 in each region (8 in total)	3rd Year –	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock),	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 10,000
Activity 1.1.16. Support for cooperatives in the construction and climate proofing of processing units and local branding of selected crops	Number of women cooperatives considered as part of the beneficiaries	50	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock), NGOs	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 25,000
Activity 1.1.17. Elaboration and dissemination of a user guide on sustainable production techniques best suited to the project area and good agroecological practices	Level of mainstreaming of gender considerations into the guide Percentage of female farmers targeted and reached by the dissemination	Gender consideration fully integrated 50% of the total	1st Year –	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock), NGOs, research institutions (ICRA, ACDA),	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 10,000
Output Statement 1.2. *Income-generating activities focusing on climate resilient fish, farming & livestock in the project area, conservation, processing units and marketing are promoted as livelihood diversification measures*					
Activity 1.2.1. Design and Construction of 50 earth dams less than 15 m high for fish farming activities	Percentage of local young people targeted and reached for unskilled positions	30%	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 500,000

				and livestock), Fishery Directorate	
Activity 1.2.2. Establishment of 50 fish farms and the creation of services for the entire value chain (fingerlings, etc.).	Percentage of Female-Headed household recipients of fish farms	50%	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock), Fishery Directorate	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 80,000
Activity 1.2.3. Training for 300 smallholder farmers on Tilapia and Milkfish production	- Trainings to be designed gender-sensitive taking into consideration low literacy levels for women -Percentage of women farmers participating in trainings	100% of trainings 50%	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock), Fishery Directorate	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 112,000
Activity 1.2.4. Construction of modern ovens to improve women's living and working conditions.	-Number of owens reducing the hardship of field -Number of female farmers recipients of owens	100% of owens 100% of owens attributed to women	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock), Fishery Directorate	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 50,000
1.2.6. Establishment and capacity-building for fish farmers' cooperatives	- Trainings to be designed gender-sensitive taking into consideration low literacy levels for women -Percentage of women farmers participating in trainings	100% of trainings 50%	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock), Fishery Directorate	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 85,000
1.2.9. Support female farmers to engage in poultry farming and commercial livestock production (small ruminants, poultry) (including training in sustainable production of livestock and management practices)	Number of female farmers recipients	150	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock), Fishery Directorate	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 130,000

Outcome 2 : Enhanced and secure access to drinking water supply, postharvest losses reduced and improved access to market by beneficiary communities through climate proofed rural road network					
Output Statement 2.1 *Rural transportation and storage infrastructure have been rehabilitated and upgraded to withstand weather extremes*					
Activity 2.1.1. Warehouse rehabilitation to withstand wetter climatic conditions.	Percentage of female farmers recipients of warehouse	50	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock),	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 550,000
Activity 2.1.2. Climate-proofing 120 km of feeder roads and farm tracks to ensure the year-round and all-weather usability	Percentage of local young people targeted and reached for unskilled positions	30%	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture, livestock, and infrastructure	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 808.014
Output Statement 2.2. *Water supply increased and sanitation infrastructure built, accounting for current and future climate risks to withstand weather extreme*					
Activity 2.2.1. Climate-proofed construction and rehabilitation of drinking water supply and sanitation to withstand the consequences of extreme dry and wet events that could disrupt the quantity and quality of water available to the population and its economic activities	Number of the Female-Headed Households recipients of drinking water supply and sanitation infrastructure	50 %	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture, livestock, and water	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 571,268
2.2.2. Capacity building for drinking water management to complement the construction and rehabilitation, with participation of women in	- Trainings to be designed gender-sensitive taking into consideration low literacy levels for women -Percentage of women farmers participating in trainings	100% of trainings 50%	1st Year - 3rd Year		Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 300,000

decision making processes.	--Percentage of women part of the local management committee	30%			
Outcome Statement: Environment for resilient crop and livestock value chain improved and policy and regulatory frameworks strengthened due to enhanced government and local authorities' capacities on climate adaptation in water and agriculture sectors					
Output Statement 3.1. *Capacity of the government (esp. Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and local councils) to manage climate risks is strengthened future climate risks to withstand weather extremes*					
Activity 3.1.1. Strengthening of capacities of the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Water, Ministry of Infrastructure and their partners	- Trainings to be designed gender-sensitive taking into consideration low literacy levels for women -Percentage of women farmers participating in trainings	100% of trainings 50%	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of agriculture, livestock, infrastructure, water	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 50,000
Activity 3.1.2. Strengthening of the CAR Meteorological Department and local representatives	- Trainings to be designed gender-sensitive taking into consideration low literacy levels for women -Percentage of women farmers participating in trainings	100% of trainings 50%	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of transport, agriculture, livestock, and water	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 100,000
Activity 3.1.3. Building the capacities of technical agents by providing them with equipment, tools and training on climate risk management	- Trainings to be designed gender-sensitive taking into consideration low literacy levels for women -Percentage of women farmers participating in trainings	100% of trainings 50%	1 st Year-5 th Year	IFAD; PMU (Gender Specialist); Executing Entity (ministries in charge of transport, agriculture, infrastructure, livestock, water)	Included in activity costs Total activity cost: 200,000

Gender Action Plan Budget:

Total Programming Cost	3 986 282 USD
Monitoring Cost (update of GAP + collect of additional gender sensitive data)	50,000 USD

11. MONITORING COMPLIANCE WITH IDENTIFIED GAPS

The overall responsibility for implementing the Gender Action Plan (PAG) and monitoring compliance of PAG activities, is the responsibility of the Project Management Unit, under the supervision of the Ministry in charge of agriculture. The Gender expert from the PMU will oversee the implementation of field activities relating to the PAG, and report to the project manager. Compliance monitoring will also include grievances that are reported through the grievance system. Grievance data should be analyzed and evaluated to make policy and/or process changes to minimize similar grievances in the future. The recording of each grievance that has been reported and its resolution should be recorded and reported in the project activity progress report.

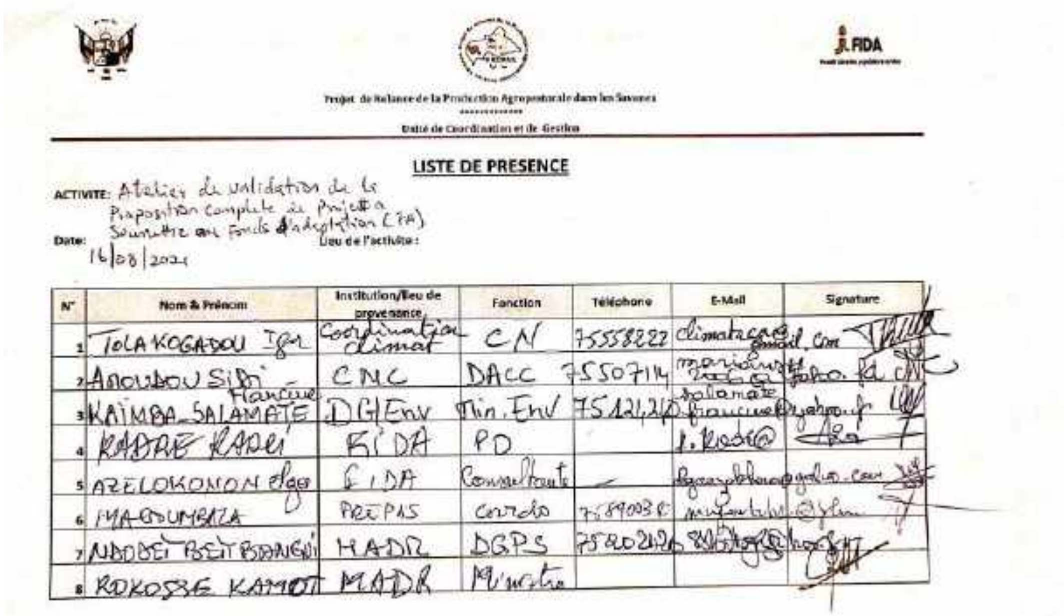
ANNEX 3. List of stakeholders consulted during project formulation

List of Organizations met during the national consultations (Year 2020)

Type of Institution	Name	Function	Organization	Email
Civil Society	SHEHOU OUSMAN	Secrétaire Général	Fédération nationale des éleveurs centrafricains - FNEC	shehou_ousman@yahoo.fr
Civil Society	ALBERT-ADAMOU	Président	Fédération des Maraichers de la Nana Mambere	albert.fmnm@gmail.com
Civil Society	Yolande YIKOUMA	Coordinatrice Nationale	ONG AFPE	ong_afpe@yahoo.fr
Civil Society	Begon Nganare Leaticia Astrid	Membre activiste	Chambre de Commerce CCIMA	letgoz3@yahoo.fr
Donor and Partner Organizations	Diderot Guy D Estaing Sandjong Tomi	Economiste	Banque Mondiale	dsandjongtomi@worldbank.org
Donor and Partner Organizations	Godefroid NIYONKURU	Head of Project	WELTHUNGERHILFE	Godefroid.Niyonkuru@welthungerhilfe.de
Donor and Partner Organizations	Emmanuel Octave BANANEZA	Head of Project / Consortium Coordinator	WELTHUNGERHILFE	Octave.Bananeza@welthungerhilfe.de
Donor and Partner Organizations	Gounio Etienne	Chargé de Programmes	FAO	etienne.gouniogagbia@fao.org
Donor and Partner Organizations	RUMONGE Aline	Représentante Adjoint	PAM	aline.rumonge@wfp.org
Donor and Partner Organizations	Moise KONATE	Chargé de Programmes	PAM	moise.konate@wfp.org
Donor and Partner Organizations	SANYI Emmanuel	Project Development Officer	UNOPS	emmanuelsa@unops.org
Donor and Partner Organizations	LAAJILI KHALED	Expert de Projet	BAD	K.LAAJILI@AFDB.ORG
Donor and Partner Organizations	YAMUREMYE HERCULE	Chargé Principal de Programmes Pays	BAD	H.YAMUREMYE@AFDB.ORG
National and Public Sector Institutions	M. Magoumbala Le Parfait	Coordonateur	Projet PREPAS / MADR et MESA	magoumbala1@yahoo.fr
National and Public Sector Institutions	Mme Sylvie Solange BETIBANGUI	Directrice Générale	DPESEPSA / Ministère MADR	ssbtbg2@yahoo.fr
National and Public Sector Institutions	Dr Gy Nana Sylvestre	Directeur Général	DGSZ/ Ministère MESA	naguysylvestre@yahoo.fr
National and Public Sector Institutions	M. Yakendé Rodrigue	Directeur Général	ACDA	yakendero@yahoo.fr

National and Public Sector Institutions	Mr Mokondji	Directeur Général	ANDE	domitie,_mokondji@yahoo.fr
National and Public Sector Institutions	M. Aimé Amoudou	Directeur de Cabinet MADR	Ministère MADR	amoudouabdoukarim@gmail.com
National and Public Sector Institutions	Dr Abel KPAWILINA-NAMKOÏSSE,	Chargé de mission	Ministère MADR	aknamkoisse@yahoo.fr
National and Public Sector Institutions	Mr Hissène Malmal	Chargé de mission	Ministère de l'Elevage - MESA	malmalesseine@yahoo.fr
National and Public Sector Institutions	Yvon Francis BOUBA-DALAMBAYE	Expert en Développement Rural	Ministère de l'élevage MESA	francisbouba@yahoo.fr
National and Public Sector Institutions	Mme Nancy Nadege KONGOMBE	Poinf Focal FIDA	Ministère de l'Economie EPC	cynakongo@yahoo.fr
National and Public Sector Institutions	Mme Irène Sabendo	Conseillere du Ministre	Ministère de l'Economie EPC	pounebingui@yahoo.fr
National and Public Sector Institutions	Privat Patrick Ngayenkoisse	Coordonateur	Projet PADECAS / MADR	privatpatrick_ngayeyankoisset@yahoo.fr
Private Sector	Brice Angèle MALETO	Directrice Gérante	BERAKA CONSTRUCTION	c.entrepriseberaka@gmail.com
Private Sector	NGAYANDE ZOWE TIBA	Directeur Gérant Associé	Bureau d'Etudes ATELIER A3	atel_a3@yahoo.fr
Private Sector	NDOLEGUIA Ferrier Célestin	Directeur Gérant	Bureau d'Etudes ACG	atelierac@yahoo.fr
Private Sector	YALEMENDE Marcelin	Directeur Gérant	REHOBOT MULTI SERVICES	etablissementrehoboth@gmail.com
Private Sector	Louis LIN LINGHOS	Directeur Gérant	DIVERSITE SERVICES	diversiteservices@yahoo.fr

Sample of stakeholders consultations (Year 2021)



Projet de Relance de la Production Agropastorale dans les Savanes

Unité de Coordination et de Gestion

LISTE DE PRESENCE

ACTIVITE: Atelier de validation de la Proposition complete de Projet à Soumettre au Fonds d'Adaptation (FA)

Date: 16/08/2021

Lieu de l'activite :

N°	Nom & Prénom	Institution/lieu de provenance	Fonction	Téléphone	E-Mail	Signature
1	TOLA KOGADOU Igor	Coordination climat	CN	75558222	climat...@gmail.com	
2	AMOUDOU Sidi	CNC	DACC	7550714	[illegible]@yahoo.fr	
3	KAIMBA SALAMATE Francine	DG Env	Min. Env	75121210	salamate.francine@yahoo.fr	
4	KADRE Kadre	FIDA	PD		k.kadre@	
5	AZELOKONON Elga	FIDA	Consultante	-	[illegible]@yahoo.com	
6	MAGOUMBAZA	PREPAS	Coordo	7589003[illegible]	[illegible]@yahoo	
7	NDOBEI BEITBRANGUI	MADR	DGPS	75202[illegible]	[illegible]@yahoo	
8	KOKOSSE KAMOT	MADR	Ministre			

Date : 11-08-2021 — Lieu : Salle Conférence Ministère de l'Agriculture

Nom	Structure/Organisation	Téléphone	Email	Signature
KONGOMBE Nancy	CSDRE/MEPCI	75030568	[illegible]@yahoo.fr	
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Nom	Structure/Organisation	Téléphone	Email	Signature
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TOUBARO BITENOU Simplice	PREPAS CA2	72375236	toubarobitenousimplice@gmail.com	

Date : 11 AOUT 2021 — Lieu : Salle Conférence Ministère de l'Agriculture

Nom	Structure/Organisation	Téléphone	Email	Signature
CADEAU Herman	PF MESA/PREPAS	72 74 61 61 / 75 04 81 68	cadeau.herman@yahoo.com	
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AZEIDKONON Olaya	FIDA	—	[illegible]@yahoo.com	
UKE PRAISE	FIDA-ECG	—	p.uke@ifad.org	
Christian DATILA	MESA-DGSZ	72.06.20.97	datila.christian@yahoo.fr	

Date: 12 AOUT 2021

Lieu : Salle Conférence Ministère de l'Agriculture

Nom	Structure/Organisation	Téléphone	Email	Signature
CADEAU Herman	PF MESA / PREPAS	75 04 81 68	cadeau.herman@yahoo.com	[signature]
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Christian DATILA	MESA-DGSZ	72.06.20.97	datila.christian@yahoo.fr	[signature]
F.J DAMBA-ZAMBO	PREPAS	72.19.54.41	zambofrederic@gmail.com	[signature]
NGANGUE-KETTE Alex-Cangoy	CS-PSCUPA-MAAR	72.03.61.93 75.46.11.35	ngangueketteakexcangoy@gmail.com	[signature]
BAIKOUA Celimène	PREPAS	75 92 60 04 72 36 92 86	baikouacelimene@gmail.com	[signature]

Sample of stakeholders consultations (Year 2023)

Consultations du public dans le cadre de l'élaboration du Cadre de Gestion Environnementale et Sociale du projet Accroitre la capacité d'adaptation et la résilience des communautés rurales au changement climatique en République centrafricaine

Période du 22 mai au 13 juin 2023

Réunion avec : minorités peuhls retournés

Préfecture ou Région : Ombella - M'poko /Date : 11. 06. 23

Village WANGUE/Site des retournés

N°	Prénom	NOM	H	F	Structure/fonction	Contacts (email/tél	Signature
01	Thierry	KARAWA Ouikon	X		Chef secteur d'élevage de Damara/Boali	7262-1922 7538-3705	[signature]
02	AHAMAT	OUMAROU	X		Eleveur		[signature]
03	OUMAR-SANDA	AMADOU	X		Eleveur	72-66-44-52	[signature]
04	AKAPI	BI	X		Eleveur	72-39-00-58	[signature]
05	AMOUBAKARA	ALFAKIN	X		Eleveur		[signature]
06	GOUDJA	ADAMO	X		Cultivateur	72-93-27-50	[signature]
07	AMADOU	MAHAMAT		X	Commerçant	72-90-71-63	[signature]

Pictures of consultations with communities (Year 2023)

Public consultations in Bouar – Nana-Mambéré	
Public consultations in Ouham-Pende with Fulani returnees	
Public consultations in Mbaiki–Lobaye	

Consultation with representative of AKA pygmies-Lobaye	
Public consultations in Boali – Ombella M'pocko	 
Focus group with Funali Mboro -Ouham Pende	 

ANNEX 4: MADR's letter of commitment-Maintenance of infrastructure

MINISTERE DE L'AGRICULTURE ET
DU DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL
****
DIRECTION DE CABINET
****
N°0418/ MADR / DIRCAB.23

REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE
Unité – Dignité – Travail

Date : 18 Août 2023

To: Mr. Mikko Ollikainen, Head of the Adaptation Fund

Subject: *Letter of commitment-Project "Increase the adaptive capacity and resilience of rural communities to climate change in the Central African Republic".*

In my capacity as Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Central African Republic, hosting the Directorate General of Infrastructure (DGI) whose mandate is to ensure the maintenance of rural infrastructure in the country, I confirm that the above project prepared with the support of IFAD, is in accordance with the government national priorities.

As such, I 'm pleased to undertake all due diligence for its consideration in the government annual programming of the rural infrastructure maintenance program, that include rural roads, warehouses, earth dams and dykes, boreholes, and irrigation schemes.

With the support of the project, the maintenance of the infrastructure, which is a key success criterion, will be secured. We endeavor to continue the support services from the year 2027, which is one year before the termination of the project.

We are looking forward to this highly expected support to advance community adaptation to multiple crises.

Sincerely

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

Mathieu Eric ROKOSSE-KAMOT

Copy to: Mr. **Noël Koutera BATAKA**, Country Director
Mr. **Hervé NDOBA**, Ministry of Finance
Mr. **GUISMALA HAMZA**, Minister of Equipment and Public Works
Mr. **Arthur Bertrand PIRI**, Ministry in charge of the Development of Energy and Hydraulic Resources