

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION	3
Project Summary	4
Indicative Project Overview	5
PROJECT COMPONENTS	6
PROJECT OUTLINE	9
A. PROJECT RATIONALE	9
B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	33
Project description	33
Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project	52
Core Indicators	53
Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation	54
C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES	57
D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS	60
Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:	60
Stakeholder Engagement	60
Private Sector	65
Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks	65
E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS	65
Knowledge management	65
ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES	65
GEF Financing Table	65
Project Preparation Grant (PPG)	65
Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation	66
Indicative Focal Area Elements	66
Indicative Co-financing	66
ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS	67
GEF Agency(ies) Certification	67
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):	67
ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION	67
ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING	68
ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS	68
ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET	68

General Project Information

Project Title

Livestock Support for Climate Change Adaptation and Enhanced Resilience Project (LISCADERP) in Central African Republic

Region

Central African Republic

GEF Project ID

11433

Country(ies)

Central African Republic

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies):

IFAD

GEF Agency ID

2000004751

Executing Partner

Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Climate Change

Submission Date

10/18/2023

Project Sector (CCM Only)

AFOLU

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change, Forest, Land Degradation, Biodiversity, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Indigenous Peoples, Civil Society, Local Communities, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Gender Mainstreaming, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Capacity Development

Type of Trust Fund

LDCF

Project Duration (Months)

60

GEF Project Grant: (a)

8,932,420.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

848,580.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

9,781,000.00

Total Co-financing

35,450,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

200,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

19,000.00

PPG total amount: (e+f)

219,000.00

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

10,000,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

With nearly 75% of the population involved in agriculture (including livestock, fishing, hunting and forestry), the Central African Republic (hereafter CAR) considers the sector to be an important engine for economic growth and poverty alleviation and the country's reconstruction. Livestock production is an important socioeconomic and cultural activity. Cattle alone contribute 14% of GDP and 35% of the gross agricultural product. Given its socioeconomic importance, the growth of the livestock sector in CAR has been on the policy radar through measures such as improving epidemiological monitoring and the security of livestock breeders, promoting breeders and developing the rearing of small animals.

The productivity of livestock is however stifled by different factors. CAR is exposed to extremes of climatic hazards in terms of drought and torrential rains followed by floods. In 2019, the country had to face the most severe floods it had experienced in 10 years which led to the displacement of more than 20,000 people. Overall, by 2050, it is projected that climate change will result in an increase in temperature ranging between +1.31°C and +2.11°C based on RCP scenario 4.5. The majority of climate models predict also a slight tendency towards an increase in total annual precipitation.^[1]

The rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events have significantly disrupted the livestock sector (e.g. shifts in the availability of forage and water resources; amplification of susceptibility of livestock to African swine fever and Newcastle diseases^[2]; disruption of traditional livestock management practices and seasonal migration routes) - exacerbating existing challenges (e.g. lack of infrastructure and resources, such as veterinary services, feed, and water management systems). Nearly 70% of the animals at cattle markets come from Chad and Sudan. Herders lose a lot of animals to zoonotic diseases and armed groups in the forests on their way to CAR to markets. It has been reported that the Rift Valley Fever Virus (RVFV) is present in CAR, and the virus causes severe illness and abortion in sheep, goats, and cattle as well as other domestic animals. The spread of RVFV is associated with climate change.^[3] Mixing Chadian, Sudanese and CAR animals facilitates the spread of diseases but also leads to genetic erosion of landraces. As herders tend to be nomadic, access to veterinary doesn't exist. Without agriculture and livestock support, many farmers and herders won't be able to secure food and income and will remain extremely vulnerable to the effects of the conflict and economic crisis. Additionally, livestock is at the core of exacerbated tensions between farmers and pastoralists, resulting in increasingly violent intercommunal conflict. Livestock production, in particular transhumant livestock herding, severely gets affected.

Addressing these challenges, the Livestock Support for Climate Change Adaptation and Enhanced Resilience Project (LISCADERP) in Central African Republic is proposed with the objective to strengthen the climate resilience of agrosilvopastoral communities and the livestock systems they depend on by improving agriculture and livestock sector policy, planning and value chains while directly benefitting 25,000 households (or 150,000 beneficiaries) living in vulnerable agrosilvopastoral rural landscapes: 50% of whom are women and 30% young people in poor and vulnerable rural households eight Prefectures in Central African Republic. The target Prefectures cover five of the country's seven major livestock communes and includes both sedentary agropastoralists and transhumant herders (including the Peuhl Mbororo), as well as the Aka/Bayaka pygmy population (in Lobaye). The focus on livestock is strategic: It is on government policy priorities; it is socioeconomically and culturally a mainstream livestock activity across the country (and therefore plays an immeasurable role as an adaptation and coping strategy at both household and community levels); and is at the core of intercommunal interminable conflicts – and therefore, it has an important role in the peace building process in the country. The project is proposed to contribute to the country's second adaptation priority: strengthening the climate resilience of the livestock sector and reducing conflict risks, with the objective is to promote sustainable management of pastoral systems and contribute to reducing the risk of conflicts between livestock breeders and farmers through the integration of adaptation to climate change into the sector policies.

LISCADERP will catalyse IFAD's baseline investment project called PEAJ in capacity building, production of resilient, nutrition-sensitive livestock production chains, promoting sustainable access to adapted financial services, and strengthening market links. Thus, building on PEAJ, LISCADERP will support communities to transition to resilient livestock systems thereby empowering them with more alternative and broader livelihood opportunities, improved nutrition and food security. The project proposes multitasking interventions that will equally address conservation of ecosystems and their services, as well as adapting production systems to reduce climate vulnerability. Therefore, GEF's investments in IFAD's will be strategic in embedding climate change adaptation and environmental concerns in the livestock production sector on the one hand, and building socioecological resilience, on the other hand – in a generally fragile country; socioeconomically and politically. Also, catalyzing IFAD investments is consistent with finance mobilization for large scale adaptation for transformative action.

The project aligns with the food security, agriculture and health theme of the GEF programming strategy on adaptation to climate change for LDCF, and will support all of its three strategic priorities by scaling up finance for adaptation while promoting technology transfer, innovation, and applying a whole of society approach.

[1] Government of Central African Republic. (2022). National Adaptation Action Plan – [CAR](#)

[2] https://unfccc.int/files/documentation/submissions_from_non-party_stakeholders/application/pdf/516.pdf

[3] Mweya CN, Mboera LEG, Kimera SI. Climate Influence on Emerging Risk Areas for Rift Valley Fever Epidemics in Tanzania. Am [J Trop Med Hyg](#). 2017 Jul;97(1):109-114.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

Strengthen the climate resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral communities by improving agriculture and livestock systems in eight Prefectures in Central African Republic (target: 25,000 households/150,000 beneficiaries of whom 50% are women and 30% are youth)

Project Components

Component 1: Enhancing an enabling environment for resilient livestock farming systems in CAR

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
600,000.00	3,529,940.00

Outcome:

1.1: Enhanced institutional capacities of public, private institutions and local communities improve resilient livestock value chain systems, planning and better response to extreme weather events and climate change in CAR

Output:

1.1.1:

Two (2) policies and institutional capacity review/assessment conducted to i) mainstream climate resilience in the livestock sector; and ii) develop a digital platform to facilitate the implementation of the transhumance policy considering the socioeconomic and political dynamics in the neighbouring countries.

1.1.2: Development of the livestock sector investment plan, based on policy instruments including improving the regulatory framework and the livestock monitoring evaluation system at the Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health;

1.1.3: Animal disease outbreak education and awareness campaigns conducted (150,000 target beneficiaries, 50% being female) to improve disease surveillance systems and response and increase the capacity to forecast occurrence of climate sensitive diseases

1.1.4: Gender-responsive community-led disaster response committees to enhance preparedness, and response efforts established at local level

Component 2: Strengthening gender-responsive community resilience by improving the resilience of livestock value chains

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
4,200,000.00	16,279,493.00

Outcome:

2.1: Community climate resilience strengthened through improved livestock management

2.2: Local community access to financial services improved through community-level financial service provision.

Output:

2.1.1: Climate resilient livestock value chains strengthened and climate-proofed (including identification of breeds that are better adapted to CC) within the target Prefectures

2.1.2: Three (3) transhumance corridors created

2.2.1: Community-level revolving fund (CRF) facility established to support investments in building climate resilience in the agriculture sector (for both livestock and crops to benefit 8,000 people, 50% being females).

2.2.2: Gender-responsive digital financial services established to facilitate links to markets and secure financial transactions of smallholder livestock and crop producers.

Component 3: Enhancing gender-responsive financial investment flows to livestock and crop sectors for community adaptation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
3,356,567.00	13,010,287.00

Outcome:

3.1: Local community access to financial services improved through community-level financial service provision.

Output:

3.2.1: Community-level revolving fund (CRF) facility established to support investments in building climate resilience in the agriculture sector (for both livestock and crops to benefit 8,000 people, 50% being females).

3.2.2: Gender-responsive digital financial services established to facilitate links to markets and secure financial transactions of smallholder livestock and crop producers.

3.2.3: Financing packages that are responsive to the needs of livestock producers, small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs to establish their access to credit are developed to benefit 5,000 people (50% being women).

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
350,500.00	1,169,280.00

Outcome:

The knowledge management support smooth project implementation

Output:

4.1: Project M&E enhanced and provides adequate technical oversight and adaptive management.

4.2 Information and lesson gathered and dissemination mechanisms and tools developed.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Enhancing an enabling environment for resilient livestock farming systems in CAR	600,000.00	3,529,940.00
Component 2: Strengthening gender-responsive community resilience by improving the resilience of livestock value chains	4,200,000.00	16,279,493.00
Component 3: Enhancing gender-responsive financial investment flows to livestock and crop sectors for community adaptation	3,356,567.00	13,010,287.00
M&E	350,500.00	1,169,280.00
Subtotal	8,507,067.00	33,989,000.00
Project Management Cost	425,353.00	1,461,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	8,932,420.00	35,450,000.00

Please provide justification

None

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

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. It has a population of nearly 5.7 million,^{[1]⁴} and is among the poorest countries on the planet. 75% of the population is under 35 years old, and three out of ten Central Africans are between 10 and 24 years old. Young people are vulnerable, especially that the prospect of an uncertain future makes them 'instruments of new unrest and conflicts social and intercommunity.' The youth face socioeconomic challenges in CAR – characterised by weak education system, and therefore, not able to compete favourably in the job market. It is recalled that unemployment rate among the youth is as high as 87%. And when they are not unemployed, they work in under-qualified jobs, even for those who were able to access the University.^{[2]⁵}

Nearly 80% of the population in CAR (4,388 thousand people in 2021) is multi-dimensionally poor while an additional 12.9% is classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (704 thousand people in 2021). The intensity of deprivations in CAR, which is the average deprivation score among people living in multidimensional poverty, is 57.4%. The economy largely depends on the agriculture sector.^{[3]⁶} More than 80% of the CAR's working population relies on agriculture, but years of conflict and instability have stifled economic growth and reduced crop and livestock production. Agriculture accounts for around 50% of the GDP. 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]⁷} The agricultural potential is estimated to be some 15 million hectares, of which only 600,000 to 700,000 are cultivated annually. It also has 5.4 million hectares of dense forest with a potential of 3.8 million hectares of exploitable forest, of which 2.8 million are the subject of operating concessions. Some 9.3 million hectares, out of a total of 16 million, are used for livestock comprising 3.2 million tropical livestock units, essentially transhumant. As regards freshwater fishing and aquaculture, the annual potential is estimated at between 50,000 to 100,000 tons a year, while production ranges from 21,000 to 51,000 tons. Mixed farming is the most common method, together with the breeding of small livestock (goats, sheep, pigs and poultry). Farms are usually quite small (1.5 to 2 ha) and because rudimentary production methods are used, yields are low.^{[5]⁸}

National Overview of risks and vulnerability

CAR benefits from rich and diverse natural capital (arable land, crude oil, natural gas, diamonds, gold, and the like), with exceptional forest density of more than 87 million cubic meters of exploitable mixed species. However, average need over 2020–2030 for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage is \$393.8 million a year.^{[6]⁹} Deforestation and habitat loss result from expanding agriculture, logging, and charcoal production, driven by population growth and limited alternative livelihoods. Unsustainable hunting and poaching threaten biodiversity. Climate change exacerbates these issues, causing erratic weather patterns, prolonged droughts, and increased temperatures. Weak governance, limited law enforcement, and political instability contribute to illegal resource extraction and land tenure disputes.

CAR faces certain pressures including uncontrolled exploitation of forest resources, significant loss of biodiversity, land degradation and deforestation. Land degradation leads to a decline in soil fertility in agricultural areas, a reduction in forest cover, a reduction in rangeland, a reduction in cultivable areas as well as the loss of biodiversity. The forest area of the CAR is constantly declining as a result of large-scale exploitation and its percentage in relation to the country's area fell from 29% in 2015 to 14% in 2018.^{[7]¹⁰} Pasture land is estimated at 16 million hectares and 56% of this land is exploited by transhumant livestock farming, leading to the degradation of pasture land in agro-pastoral areas.

The consequences on agriculture and livestock breeding include, among other things, a drop in the productivity of certain crops, an increase in the loss of forest area, an increase in unregulated cross-border transhumance movements, putting strong pressure on resources which leads to resource conflicts between farmers and breeders. These points are revisited in the sections below.



CAR is exposed to extreme climatic hazards in terms of drought, torrential rains and floods. The occurrence of these climatic phenomena are increasingly frequent and severe. In Bangui alone, flood damage in 2009 amounted to 2.8 billion FCFA (USD 6 million) in damages, and 1.2 billion FCFA (USD 2.6 million) in losses – leaving nearly 14,500 people homeless. In 2017, the bushfires, strong winds and floods caused 417 victims per 100,000 inhabitants, without counting the considerable material damage. In 2019, the country had to face the most severe floods it had never experienced in 10 years – leading to the displacement of more than 20,000 people.^{[8]¹¹} For a country with financial constraints and weak ability to adapt, the financial losses and damage to property are socioeconomically debilitating.

75% of the Central African population is affected by climate change.^{[9]¹²} The third national communication highlights the vulnerability to climate change of key development sectors, vulnerability exacerbated by development challenges and the low adaptive capacity of these sectors. The sectors concerned are as follows: agriculture and food security, water resources and sanitation, forests, energy, infrastructure and habitats (see table below):^{[10]¹³}

Sector	Sensitivity to climate change	Exposure to climate change	Adaptation capacity	Level of vulnerability
Agriculture and food security	Strong	Strong	Weak	Strong
Water resources and sanitation	Strong	Strong	Weak	Strong
Forest	Medium to strong	Strong	Weak	Medium to strong
Energy	Medium to strong	Medium	Weak	Medium to strong
Infrastructure	Strong	Strong	Weak	Strong

The process of developing the tabulated typology by sector was informed by Interviews with resource people and focus groups, via the Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis and adaptation to climate change method (CVCA), organized Prefectures of Mambéré, Kadéï, de la Lobaye, de l’Ombella M’poko and Kémo. Experiences of climate change, their impacts on the tabulated sectors were collected, and the rankings and classification of levels of vulnerability developed in collaboration with various stakeholders, including communities, civil society organizations and government ministries. The RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 climate scenarios were selected, and the defined project period is 2020-2050 and the period reference 1990-2015.^{[11]¹⁴}

RCP8.5 represents a high-emission trajectory where greenhouse gas concentrations continue to rise throughout the 21st century, leading to a warming of the planet. In the context of CAR, this scenario paints a bleak picture of escalating challenges across various sectors tabulated above. Under the RCP 8.5 scenario, temperature will rise. In CAR, this heightened temperature will intensify the frequency and severity of heatwaves, exacerbating existing problems related to water scarcity, agricultural productivity (including both livestock and crop production), and human health. Predicted increases in maximum air temperatures will result in large fractional increases in water requirements (in small birds, equivalent to 150–200 % of current values), which will severely reduce survival times during extremely hot weather.^[1] Rising temperatures are likely to disrupt ecosystems, pushing many plant and animal species beyond their tolerance limits and leading to the loss of biodiversity, a critical aspect of livestock production in the country.

Water resources, already scarce in many parts of CAR, will face further strain. Changes in precipitation patterns are expected, with a likelihood of more intense but sporadic rainfall events. This could result in increased flooding, threatening communities and vital infrastructure. Simultaneously, prolonged dry periods will contribute to drought conditions, impacting livestock and crop production and making water sources even scarcer. The combination of these factors poses a substantial threat to food security, as agriculture is a primary source of livelihood for a large percentage of the population.

Agricultural systems in CAR will undergo profound transformations under scenario RCP8.5. The changing climate will affect crop yields, reduce arable land, and alter the distribution of pests and diseases. Staple crops like cassava, maize, and millet, which form the backbone of the region's food supply, may experience significant declines. This not only jeopardizes food security but also undermines the economic stability of the country, as agriculture contributes significantly to the GDP and employment.

The consequences of climate change extend to human health. Increased temperatures provide favorable conditions for the spread of infectious diseases, such as malaria and waterborne illnesses. Changes in precipitation patterns may lead to the contamination of water sources, posing a direct threat to public health. The strain on healthcare systems in CAR is likely to increase as the frequency of climate-related health issues rises, further challenging the country's ability to provide adequate medical care to its population.

In addition to these direct impacts, the changing climate in CAR will also exacerbate existing social and economic vulnerabilities. The country, already grappling with political instability and economic challenges, will face heightened risks of internal displacement and conflict as communities contend with the consequences of climate change, such as resource scarcity and competition.

[1] McKechnie Andrew E. and Wolf Blair O. (2010). Climate change increases the likelihood of catastrophic avian mortality events during extreme heat waves [Biol. Lett.](#)

As can be read from the table above (column 4), CAR's adaptive capacity is weak. Due to a combination of political, geographic, and social factors, Central African Republic is recognized as highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, ranked 180 out of 181 countries in the 2020 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 (see a retrogression of CAR's adaptation index between 1995 and 2016).^{[12]¹⁵}

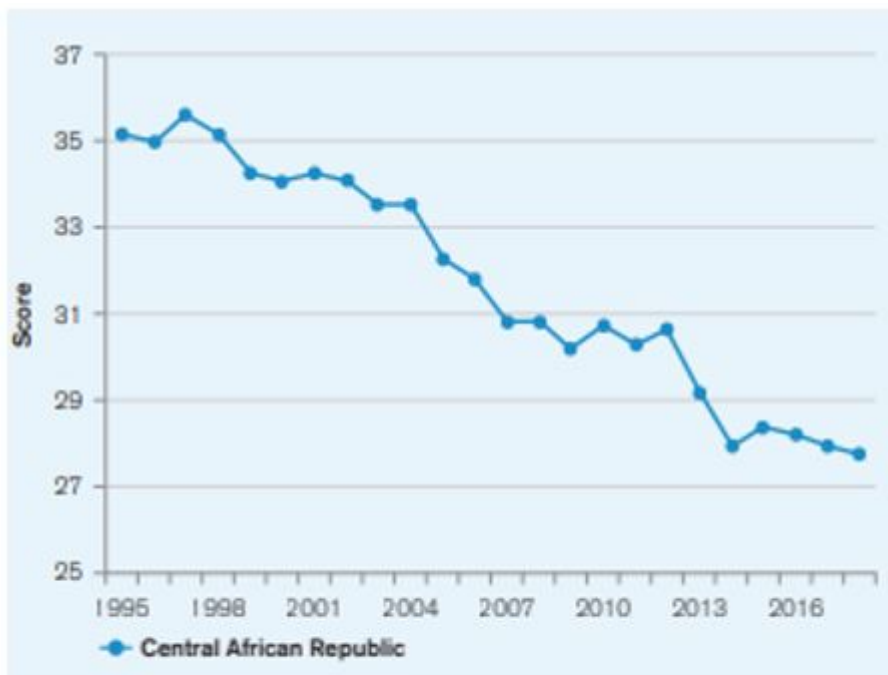


Figure showing a time-series plot of the ND-GAIN Index showing the CAR's progress over time

The agriculture sector: The sector remains the most important sector of the Central African economy, with a contribution of around 50% to the gross domestic product (GDP) and the employment of nearly 75% of the active population. Highly dependent on rainfall for the water supply of crops, agriculture is sensitive to climate change, and particularly for extreme phenomena. Pockets drought occurs depending on the years between the months of May and April and sometimes arise during the rainy season. Rainfall excesses characterized by regularity of rain over several consecutive days occur during the harvest and drying period between June and September. We also observe an extension of the rainy season and the shift in rainy days over the months of November and December which are dry months. These climatic hazards, recognized by grassroots communities, negatively impact agricultural yield and production.

The most affected crop is corn, where the loss can be significant in the event of drought. Most of the work carried out in Central African Republic generally indicate a drop in production of foodstuffs such as sorghum, corn, millet and peanuts in relation to climate warming. Moreover, the drop in water levels in the two basins hydrographic (Chari-Logone and Congo) qualitatively and quantitatively affected production fisheries. This decline would worsen if the trend current remains. It is recalled that there is established empirical evidence that CAR agriculture sector is dwindling as a result of poor sensitization of farmers and inadequate government support to tackle adaptation constraints.^{[13]¹⁶}

Based on the crop productivity assessment using IFAD’s Climate Adaptation in Rural Development – Assessment Tool (CARD), cassava, maize, millet, sorghum, rice and groundnuts – important crops produced for essentially domestic consumption – show a reduction in the medium and no irrigation scenario between 2031 and 2044. The figure on the right demonstrate the reduction in productivity of selected crops produced and consumed by smallholder farmers in CAR.

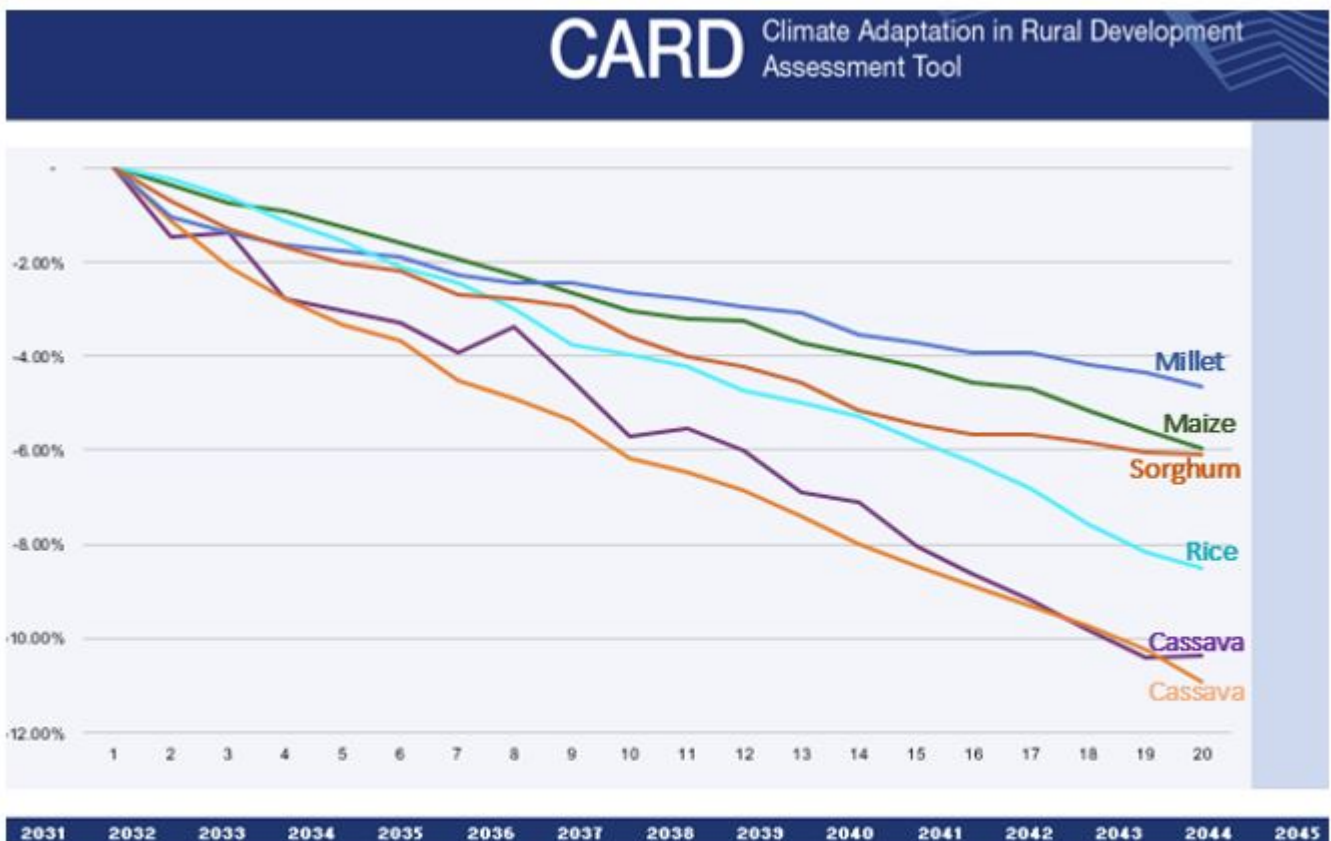


Figure showing gradual loss of crop productivity of selected crops in CAR under no irrigation scenario between 2031 and 2044

Overall, over the past three decades, the agriculture and livestock sub-sectors have experienced low average annual growth of nearly 2%, lower than the population growth rate of 2.5%. The agriculture sector remains characterised by low access to technologies, unsustainable production systems, low productivity, the disorganization of transhumance corridors, and limited access to markets for goods and services. The capacity of the public sector to offer the required extension services to the population remains very weak. This generates a high level of vulnerability and reinforces poverty (while weakening adaptive capacities to the impacts of extreme weather events), with extremely limited employment opportunities for young people, who thus become easy prey for armed groups. Likewise, women suffer from limited access to resources and productive inputs, thereby fueling food and nutrition insecurity.

Livestock production: Livestock production in CAR comprises both small ruminants (including mainly goats, sheep, pigs and poultry) and cattle. The ethnic groups, notably the Peuls/Fulani and Mbarara are culturally pastoral communities. Therefore, livestock production for them is a sociocultural practice before it is an

economic activity. For other groups, livestock production serves a crucial sociocultural and economic activity. Overall, the sector is viewed as an important driver national economic development. For example, cattle breeding represents 14% of GDP. Given the sociocultural embeddedness of livestock production, the sector is an important driver of rural development though its full potential remains hugely untapped. Additionally, given that livestock production is socioeconomically and culturally a mainstream activity across the country, the sector plays an immeasurable role as an adaptation and coping strategy at both household and community levels. Finally, since livestock production is at the core of intercommunal interminable conflicts – its sustainable production has an important role in the peace-building process in the country. Indeed, the nation’s second adaptation priority is focused on strengthening the climate resilience of the livestock sector and reducing conflict risks. The objective is to promote sustainable management of pastoral systems and contribute to reducing the risk of conflicts between livestock breeders and farmers through the integration of adaptation to climate change into the sector policies.[\[14\]](#)¹⁷

Several types of transhumant movements cross the Central African Republic: internal transhumance, which concerns around 250,000 breeders, mainly of Peuls/Fulani and Mbarara ethnic groups, and cross-border transhumance, which is observed in the dry season when moving oxen Chadians or Sudanese in the country, looking for pastures. These breeders arrive on the CAR territory between mid-November and mid-January, and leave between the end of April and mid-June. The military-political crisis that CAR has been going through since 2013 has particularly affected the sector of transhumant livestock farming, with negative consequences on the production and marketing system. In addition, the high climatic variability of recent decades and the intensification of extreme events recorded have put pressure on this sector by further deteriorating the health of livestock and the livelihoods of breeders, as well as by increasing conflicts between breeders and farmers.[\[15\]](#)¹⁸ It should be emphasized that the rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events have significantly disrupted the livestock sector, exacerbating existing challenges. Notably:

- The changing climate has led to shifts in the availability of forage and water resources, causing shortages and quality degradation, which directly affect the health and productivity of livestock. Limited access to water sources has intensified competition between livestock, wildlife, and communities, leading to conflicts and overgrazing, further deteriorating the fragile ecosystem. Herder-farmer conflicts are ubiquitous in agro-pastoral landscapes, and CAR is no different. Specifically, the pervasiveness of farmer-herder conflicts in agro-pastoral landscapes is due to a seasonal incompatibility between the two livelihoods. This incompatibility occurs after the rainy season has ended when farmers are attempting to harvest their crops without damage by livestock. At the same time, herders are working to provide their animals with adequate water and pasture before the annual dry season begins. In the West African agro-pastoral zone, this is increasingly difficult because the period when crops are maturing in fields and roaming livestock are juxtaposed in the same area has stretched to several months due to both changes in environmental conditions and

livelihood strategies. In many places, blocked resource access and crop damage have become the norm rather than the exception for herders and farmers, respectively. [\[16\]¹⁹](#)

- The increasing incidences of droughts and floods have amplified the susceptibility of livestock to diseases, resulting in higher mortality rates and reduced productivity. Infectious diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, anthrax, and trypanosomiasis have become more prevalent, posing significant threats to animal health and food security. Also, Rift Valley Fever Virus (RVFV) is present in CAR, and the virus causes severe illness and abortion in sheep, goats, and cattle as well as other domestic animals. The spread of RVFV is associated with climate change. [\[17\]²⁰](#) Additionally, the emergence of new pests and vectors has created additional challenges for livestock farmers, impeding their ability to maintain healthy and productive herds.
- Furthermore, the erratic weather patterns have disrupted traditional livestock management practices and seasonal migration routes, leading to the loss of indigenous knowledge and cultural practices. This has undermined the resilience of local communities and their ability to adapt to the changing climate, exacerbating poverty and food insecurity.

Overall, it is projected that by 2050 climate change will result in an increase in temperatures of between +1.31°C and +2.11°C according to the RCP 4.5 scenario. This increase would be 0.56°C per decade. The warming will be uneven (+2°C in the west, +2.11°C in the northwest and +1°C in the south of the country) with an increasing gradient South North. The months of November, December and January will become increasingly warm (+1.93°C on average) in the southern and western part of the country.

While in the northwest, June which will be the hottest month (+2.45°C). By the end of the century, warming of the order of +1.7 to +4.2°C (compared to the reference period 1971 to 2000) is probable. In addition, a sharp increase in duration of heat waves, as well as a sharp decrease in the duration of the coolest periods, are planned. For the future, the majority of climate models predict a slight upward trend in total annual precipitation. For the end of the century, a variation in total annual precipitation of the order of 0 to +12% (compared to the period of reference from 1971 to 2000) is probable. Furthermore, the projections suggest a slight trend towards an increase in the intensity of heavy precipitation and a strong trend towards increasing frequency heavy rainfall, as well as a slight tendency towards a reduction in the duration of periods of long-term drought. [\[18\]²¹](#)

Summary of future climate projections for a 30-year period combined for all scenarios till 2085^{[19]²²}

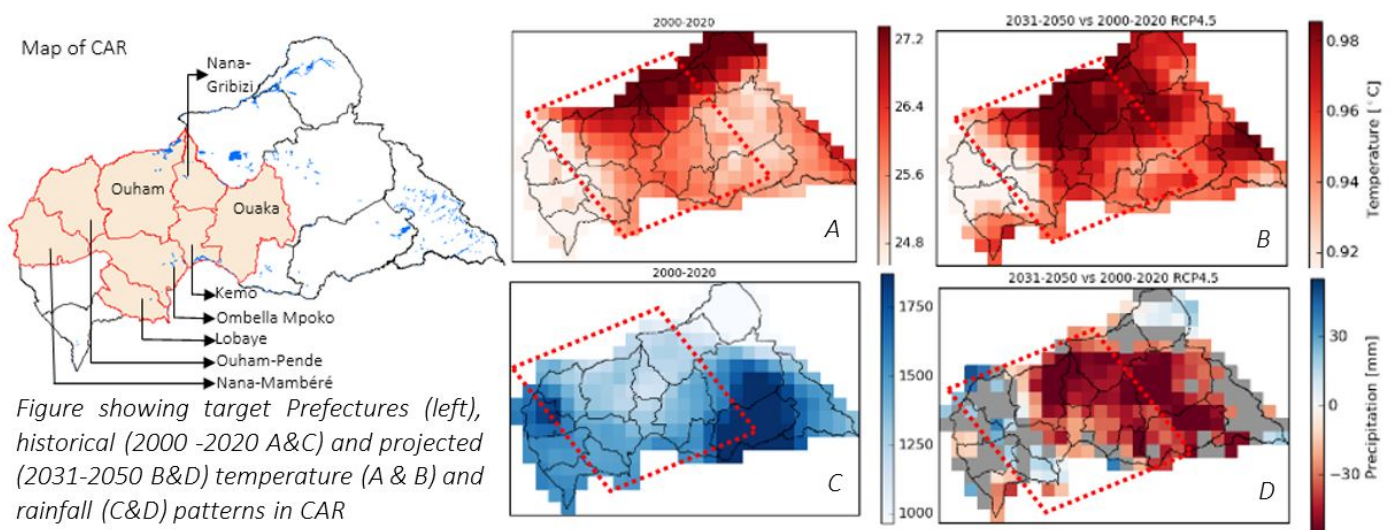
Temperature	Projected changes in mean annual temperature is +1.7 to +4.2°C by 2085, and the most likely range is +1.1 to +5.6 °C - considered moderately strong.
Precipitation	The likely range of change in total annual precipitation is 0 to +12% by 2085, and the most likely range is -4 to +19%, with only a few projections showing a decrease
Period of drought	The likely range of expected changes in the duration of prolonged dry spells is -11 to 0 days by 2085, and the most likely range is -16 to +2 days, with only a few increased. The confidence level in these figures is low.
Evaporation	The likely range of predicted change in annual average actual evaporation is +2 to +7% by 2085, and the most likely range is -1 to +9%, with only a few projections showing a decrease. The confidence level in these figures is average.
Rainfall abundance	The likely range of predicted changes in heavy rainfall intensity is 0 to +19% by 2085, and the most likely range is -3 to +37%, with only a few projections showing a decrease. The variation in the intensity of heavy rain can be considered as weak.

These climate change-related phenomena will continue posing multifaceted challenges in CAR. Rising temperatures, erratic precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events will continue impacting forage and water availability, affecting livestock health and productivity. Heightened prevalence of vector-borne diseases and stress-related ailments will continue to further strain production systems, impacting animal welfare and farm profitability. Altered environmental conditions will also necessitate changes in management practices, necessitating adaptations in housing, feeding, and breeding strategies. Additionally, increased competition for resources will simply exacerbate existing socio-economic disparities, particularly in vulnerable communities reliant on livestock for their livelihoods – including unending conflicts between crop producers and herders.

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.^{[20]²³} 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.^{[21]²⁴}

Based on IFAD’s programmatic approach that is consistent with the government’s development priorities in CAR, the proposed project is will be implemented in (1) Nana-Mambéré; (2) Ombella Mpoko; (3) Ouham-Pende; and (4) Lobaye; and will be extended to four new prefectures: (5) Kemo; (6) Ouham; (7) Ouaka; and (8) Nana-Gribizi. This intervention areas cover five of the country's seven major livestock communes and includes both sedentary agro-pastoralists and transhumant herders (including the Peuhl Mbororo), as well as the Aka/Bayaka pygmy population (in the Lobaye).

Together, the prioritized Prefectures present a complex interplay of environmental richness and socioeconomic challenges. As agrosilvopastoral landscapes, they are characterised by low productivity and vulnerability to climate change, conflict and displacement, poor infrastructure, limited access to education and healthcare, deforestation and floods in some cases and droughts in others.^{[22]²⁵}



Based on RCP4.5 model^{[23]²⁶}, the target Prefectures have been experiencing an average temperature ranging between 24.8 and 26.4°C, with northern zone of Nana-Gribizi experiencing temperatures as high as 27.2°C. Ouham, Nana-Gribizi and Kemo are likely to experience a temperature increase ranging between 0.96 and 0.98°C. The other Prefectures are likely to experience a temperature increase ranging between 0.92 and 0.96°C during the period 2031-2050. In terms of precipitation, the target Prefectures have been having receiving rainfall ranging between 1,250 and 1,500 mm with Prefectures such as Nana Gribizi, Kemo and Ouham receiving between 1,000 and 1,250 mm. The Prefectures are projected to receive reduced rainfall between 2031 and 2050, reducing by 0-30 mm. The RCP 4.5 is described by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a moderate scenario in which emissions peak around 2040 and then decline.^{[24]²⁷} Thus, 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. 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.

According to the World Bank,^{[25]²⁸} after two consecutive years of virtual stagnation, economic activity is estimated to have ground to a complete halt in 2022, owing to major flooding and fuel shortages. Real GDP growth is estimated at 0.0% in 2022, down from 1.0% in 2021. With per capita GDP growth declining by 2.2% in 2021, it is estimated that more than 3.5 million persons are expected to continue living in extreme poverty between 2023 and 2025. Provided that domestic fuel supplies improve and security gains continue, real GDP growth is projected at 3.0% in 2023, before reaching 3.8% on average over the period 2024–2025. The medium-term outlook is subject to significant internal and external risks. Internal risks include a reversal in security gains and a deterioration in food security triggered by food price pressures and climate shocks (floods). The main external risk is the decline in international timber prices, which could affect forestry sector activity, significantly reduce export earnings and delay prospects for economic recovery. Within this context of economic volatility, the resilience of target population will remain weak, and likely to get worse should security gains be undone.

Socioeconomic challenges - poverty: Nearly 80% of the country depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, increasing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Farming is largely the responsibility of women who grow cassava, millet, corn, rice, squashes and peanuts for their own consumption. CAR experiences a high volume of herders, both herders who originate from CAR and herders present because of transhumance from the Sahel and Lake Chad regions. Finally, forestry is estimated to provide direct employment to about 4 000 people in CAR, contributing 6% of the country's GDP. Whilst deforestation rates are relatively low for the region, degradation levels are high, threatening the forests' rich biodiversity.^{[26]²⁹}

CAR experienced a difficult socioeconomic context which has been shaped by the fragility of the political system in the country. Over the years, GDP per capita increased from an average of US\$ 280 over the period 1980-85 to US\$ 260 over the period of 1995-2001 and the human development index (HDI) fell by 5% between 1990 and 2003, placing the CAR among the bottom five countries globally. The impact of the poverty has increased, with a particularly high concentration of poor people in rural areas rural.^{[27]³⁰} Almost 80% of the population are vulnerable to chronic poverty, 68.8% of them live below the national poverty line (€1.10 a day), and 10.1% are vulnerable to poverty in case of a shock.^{[28]³¹} Around 50% are in need of humanitarian aid.^{[29]³²} With 50% of the population not eating enough, CAR has one of the highest proportions of critically food-insecure people in the world. Humanitarian actors provided life-saving assistance to 1,045,000 people during the first semester of 2023, representing 43% of the Humanitarian Response Plan target in CAR. Overall,

of the 6.1 million population, 3.4 million people need humanitarian assistance, and 486 thousand are internally displaced.[\[30\]](#)³³

The poverty levels in CAR have implications on the management of natural resources but also the ability of communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Poverty often drives local communities to exploit natural resources unsustainably as they struggle to meet their basic needs. This includes deforestation for fuelwood and agricultural expansion, leading to habitat destruction and soil degradation. Such practices exacerbate environmental degradation and reduce the region's resilience to climate change. Poverty hinders the CAR's ability to invest in climate change adaptation measures. Vulnerable communities lack access to resources and infrastructure needed to adapt to changing weather patterns and extreme events. This increases their susceptibility to climate-induced disasters, including droughts and floods, which can disrupt livelihoods and exacerbate poverty. It is also noted that poverty limits access to education and healthcare, reducing the population's capacity to understand and respond to climate change. Limited financial resources also impede the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and renewable energy technologies, further contributing to environmental degradation. In sum, poverty creates a vicious cycle, where environmental degradation and climate change disproportionately affect the poor, trapping them in a cycle of poverty and making sustainable resource management and climate adaptation all the more challenging.

CAR's protracted conflicts have led to low levels of social cohesion and weak public institutions. The state is virtually non-existent beyond the capital, Bangui, though efforts to decentralize power through local elections are underway. A lack of state adaptive capacity compounds low individual and communal adaptive capacity to climate change.[\[31\]](#)³⁴

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% 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% in the Prefectures of Bangui, Mbomou, Basse-Kotto, Ombella Mpoko and Lobaye.

In addition, Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Gribizi) hosted approximately 20,000 IDPs. In contrast, the IDP population in the Vakaga prefecture has declined by 19% 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.

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. [\[32\]](#)³⁵

Gender dynamics: 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) [\[33\]](#)³⁶ 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%) [\[34\]](#)³⁷. 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. [\[35\]](#)³⁸ 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 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^{[36]³⁹}.

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.

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 [\[37\]](#)⁴⁰ 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^{[38]⁴¹}. 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. 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.

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.

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.

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^{[39]⁴²}. 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 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 [\[40\]](#)⁴³. 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 themselves compared to men. Traditionally, it is the man who embodies the authority within the household [\[41\]](#)⁴⁴. 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.

Representation of gender sub-groups in the agricultural and fisheries sector

The woman, on the other hand, participates mainly in food production. The tasks devolved to him relate in particular to plowing, sowing, weeding, harvesting, and 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^{[42]⁴⁵}.

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, and 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^{[43]⁴⁶}.

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.

Addressing these socioeconomically and environmentally complex issues, CAR contends with structural and systemic barriers at national (government) and local (community) levels. These barriers also constitute serious drivers of resilience weakening in the livestock sector to the extent that they stifle its socioeconomic growth to improve the adaptive capacities of agro-pastoral communities. In the future changes, these barriers will continue stunting the livestock sector, and stifling its potential to build community resilience and adaptive capacities to extreme weather events and climate change in general. These are summarised in the table below:^{[44]⁴⁷}

Key barriers	
National (government level)	Local (community) level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited capacity and coordination mechanisms and financial resources within the government system to enhance climate change resilience in livestock value chains. <p><i>Project primary relevance: Components 1 and 2 – For example, the project will develop the livestock sector investment plan, based on policy instruments including improving the regulatory framework and the livestock monitoring evaluation system at the Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to limited capacity and financial constraints as noted above, but also short term non-integrated project-based approaches, there is limited integration of climate information, gender-transforming considerations into national institutions, programmes and policies – thereby limiting the participation of women in relevant decision making processes to empower them with better adaptation capacities and options. <p><i>Project primary relevance: Components 1, 2 and 3. The project will be deliberate about mainstreaming gender concerns across all the components, and will support livestock value chains and establish a Community Revolving Fund to lessen the financial constraints for both men and women.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited knowledge of climate change impacts on smallholder livestock value chains and landscapes and effective adaptation interventions, but also lack of adaptation options and practices that reduce vulnerability and strengthen preparedness to climate related hazards. This is associated with closely linked to non-diversified livelihoods which simply exacerbate vulnerability to impacts of extreme weather events. <p><i>Project primary relevance: Components 1, 2 and 3. The project will support value chains, conduct awareness raising campaigns while offering trainings to beneficiaries.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of access to information and knowledge to markets and required market standards, and information to better manage increased climate variability and recurrent climate shocks, including impacts associated with increased livestock disease outbreak and poor quality pasture. <p><i>Project primary relevance: Components 1 and 2. The project will conduct animal disease outbreak education and awareness campaigns, gender-responsive community-led disaster response committees to enhance preparedness, establish gender-responsive digital financial services to facilitate links to markets and secure financial transactions of smallholder livestock, as well as gathering and disseminating information.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fragile political context that has seen women abuses and children/youth soldiers, and cultural practices that stifle the ability of women and the youth to participate in decision making processes to build adaptive capacities. <p><i>Project primary relevance: Components 2. As has been noted, the project will be deliberate about mainstreaming gender concerns across all the components, and will have an equal share of men and women in access project benefits, including access to training/capacity development opportunities and information.</i></p>

In responding to future changes in the drivers, the project will strategically create enabling environment and capacities of institutions and also communities, including socioeconomic opportunities for coping with impacts of extreme weather events and climate change. Thus, the project will invest in multi-tasking interventions to enable communities to aptly respond to future changes in the drivers of poor livestock productivity and environmental degradation in general – which has negative impacts on community wellbeing.

It is noted that capacity building will equip individuals and institutions with knowledge and skills to understand and address future drivers of climate change and the impacts on livestock production. By enhancing expertise in sustainable practices, resilience, and adaptation strategies, capacity building will foster proactive measures, empowering communities and institutions to adapt to the impacts of climate change and livestock production more effectively.

Within this context and barriers, LISCADERP will be fully designed with the objective to strengthen the resilience of 25,000 households (or 150,000 beneficiaries) living in vulnerable agrosilvopastoral rural landscapes: 50% of whom are women and 30% young people in poor and vulnerable rural households eight Prefectures in CAR. It will focus on institutional capacity development and livelihood opportunities. Combined, these interventions will contribute to transforming the socioecological context in a way that will enhance adaptation and community resilience in a context of socioeconomic and political fragility but also affected by impacts of extreme weather events.

As a GEF alternative, LISCADERP will draw lessons on engaging the government, local communities and other stakeholders to specifically build the resilience of the livestock sector in a country experiencing political instability, extreme poverty and impacts of climate change. Also, the project will draw lessons and experiences about community engagement from the above projects – learning from how community mobilization and engagement is done for adaptation in a fragile context. That is, climate adaptation in a fragile country is a specific context that has atypical dynamics compared to other developing countries. Thus, the project will benefit from institutional and engagement plans with communities – shortening the learning curve of the implementation context.

In sum, CAR is confronted with increased frequency of extreme weather events, including droughts and floods, which disrupt agricultural activities, threaten livestock production (including stifling opportunities for job creations from livestock value chains) and exacerbate food and nutrition insecurity. Limited access to resources, inadequate infrastructure, and poor institutional support hinder the implementation of effective adaptation measures. Additionally, the prevalence of infectious diseases and the loss of biodiversity threaten the sustainability of ecosystems and livelihoods. CAR's adaptation efforts are further impeded by socio-political instability and the lack of comprehensive policies and frameworks to address the multifaceted impacts of climate change, underscoring the urgent need for holistic strategies and international support to build resilience and ensure sustainable development. This context stifles the development of particularly the livestock value chains a crucial opportunity to address the community and national-level adaptation challenges as follows:

- By adopting climate-smart breeding techniques and improved animal health management, livestock farmers can enhance the resilience of their herds to climate-related stresses, reducing vulnerability to extreme weather events and diseases.
- Livestock value chains offer economic diversification opportunities for rural communities, reducing their reliance on climate-sensitive crops. Diversification can help mitigate the risks associated with climate variability and enhance household incomes, contributing to improved food security and poverty reduction.

It is noted here that improved production systems of livestock in ways that make it more sustainable, resilient and accessible to poor communities has potential positive impact on the conservation of wildlife in CAR. Little meat is produced in CAR from domestic livestock. Meat from domestic animals remains unaffordable for common people, therefore most people in CAR consume bush meat rather than domestic livestock meat. In addition to local consumption, there are bush meat trades from CAR to Sudan and Chad.^{[45]⁴⁸}

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[8] Government of Central African Republic. (2022). National Adaptation Action Plan – CAR

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[10] Information provided in this table has been excerpted from the Government of Central African Republic. (2022). National Adaptation Action Plan – CAR

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[22] PIF stage consultations revealed that rainy seasons have shifted in three particular ways: sporadic and unexpected heavy downpours during the dry season, late commencement of the rainy season; and shortened rainy season which seem to be compensated by unexpected heavy downpours during the dry season – often beating any reasonable level of planning for planting season.

[23] Data and model based on Climate Analytics: Regional climate model projections [RegioClim](#)

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[25] The World Bank Group (2023). Country outlook profile: [CAR](#)

[26] SIPRI. (2022). Climate, Peace and Security Fact Sheet [CAR](#)

[27] Central African Republic (2008). National Adaption Plan of Action ([NAPA](#)) for CAR

[28] AfDB. (2023). Country Profiles: [CAR](#)

[29] UNDP. (2022). Annual Report: [CAR](#)

[30] OCHA. (2023). Situation report in [CAR](#)

[31] SIPRI. (2022). Climate, Peace and Security Fact Sheet [CAR](#)

[32] OCHA. [CAR](#)

[33] <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indexes/GII>

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

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B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

LISCADERP recognises that livestock production is socioeconomically and culturally mainstream activity across the country (and therefore plays an immeasurable role as an adaptation and coping strategy at both household and community levels); and is at the core of intercommunal interminable conflicts – and therefore, it has an important role in the peace- building process in the country. The sector is high on government development policy discussions, however the growth of the sector is stifled by a mix of climate vulnerabilities and anthropogenic factors linked to structural and systemic challenges in CAR - weak institutional capacities and policy arrangements, and constrained access to financial resources for investments in resilient livestock value chains, and increased frequency and severity in the occurrence of climate induced threats in terms of floods and droughts - exacerbated by severely limited national level and community level limited capacities to respond to the impacts. It is reiterated here that the anthropogenic and natural factors unfold within a context of protracted years of political fragility and chronic poverty levels. Thus, despite CAR’s enormous agroecological potential, years of political instability punctuated by violent conflicts have generated fragility which has negatively impacted key socioeconomic sectors, particularly agriculture (crippling both crop and livestock production), and generally weakening the policy and institutional context. In a weakened policy and institutional context, sustainable management of natural resources is equally weakened for both global environmental and socioeconomic benefits.

In the face of vulnerability to the impacts of climate change of the livestock sector (e.g. leading to poor quality and quantity grass for grazing, diseases), economic shock, underemployment, migration and internally displaced persons, malnutrition, the LISCADERP seeks to enhance community adaptive capacities to cope with extreme weather events through targeted interventions that address key barriers at national and community levels. The project offers a three-pointer response approach that will contribute to addressing the challenges in a more integrated fashion. This approach will focus on: i) policy, institutional and capacity building; ii) community-led sustainable agriculture practices (including livestock value chains) – under this focus, the project will support economic diversification to contribute to reduction of poverty and vulnerabilities by generating employment opportunities in livestock value chains – thereby strengthening the ability and capacities of beneficiaries to cope with impacts of climate change; iii) forest conservation and restoration through sustainable land management practices that are ecologically and socially adapted and accepted in the four targeted Prefectures.

This approach is preferred for this project because: i) it builds on IFAD’s PEAI investment project which provides a blueprint or a model to support the implementation of the project (thus riding on already existing stakeholder networks, institutional arrangements including communities who have already been mobilized and sensitized, and lessons to inform adaptation mainstreaming during project design). Overall, this is more cost-effective as this approach shortens the learning curve. Also, the project’s approach is strategic in terms of the combination of key areas of interventions to strengthen the resilience of 25,000 households (or 150,000 beneficiaries) living in vulnerable agrosilvopastoral rural landscapes in eight Prefectures in CAR. The beneficiaries will include the youth, women and indigenous communities – thereby embracing an all-society approach to make the LDCF investment efficient, effective and responsive to climate risks in CAR’s vulnerable agrosilvopastoral rural landscapes while providing critical local knowledge relevant for adaptation interventions to the target beneficiaries over different timeframes as the country faces climate change risks within projected volatile socioeconomic context.

These are the critical areas where the resources will be invested. That means that the LDCF resources will make an important alternative without which the following will continue:

- Limited institutional and policy structures to support the mainstreaming of resilience in the livestock sector – as well as weak/limited ability to formulate and implement effective, evidence-based climate change policies;
- Livestock production is part of the culture in CAR, and therefore, important socioeconomically. In the face of climate change and extreme weather events, without LDCF resources, the livestock value chains will not be established, and opportunities for job creation, and food and nutrition security will be stifled.

The project's approach is meant to transform the context of poor institutional and policy structure, underdeveloped livestock value chains will continue in the target Prefectures.

Thus, LISCADERP's theory of change is based on the following:

- Building and strengthening the institutional and policy context at both national and community level in CAR will be critical at two levels: first, it will create an appropriate and enabling environment to support resilience-building in livestock production system in the country. Second, it will build and strengthen an enabling environment for responding to the extreme weather events (floods, droughts) in particular and short term. This will include effective response to disease/zoonotic outbreaks associated with extreme weather events. In the long term, this will be an important stride in setting up and having in place an enabling environment for the country's response strategy to climate change. It should be emphasized that as a fragile country, CAR requires support to have strengthened institutional context to coordinate response and preparedness to disasters at all levels. That is, the country needs a strengthened enabling environment at all administration tiers, including community levels. This will lead to national and community level preparedness to respond to extreme weather events as well as more coordinated implementation of activities to support adaptation and sustainable management of natural resources in CAR;
- A strengthened institutional context is important to the extent that it frames a context within which the country will respond to the impacts of climate change. However, it has to be complemented by socioeconomic context of the people who face and bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change. Therefore, investing in climate resilient livelihood socioeconomic opportunities that communities can relate with will not only strengthen their resilience and broaden coping strategies and mechanisms, but doing so will also position them better to invest in environmentally-responsible livelihood options. This will reduce community vulnerability while creating socioeconomic opportunities to empower communities to invest in sustainable environmental management practices to contribute to the generation of global environmental benefits. Thus, in component 2, LISCADERP will support a value chain approach that focuses on climate resilient production, while Component 3 will focus on innovative financing to ensure local producers in the targeted Prefectures have the tools and access to financial resources and services that they need to adapt to increasing climate impacts in livestock production. It is reiterated here that the primary focus will be on livestock value chains, riding on the sociocultural and economic importance of livestock production in CAR. Community and stakeholder buy-in is

evident because all stakeholders can easily relate to livestock production. They have invaluable traditional experience of livestock production, and therefore, possess a fair understanding of the challenges. The project therefore, brings technical resources and investments to catalyze the traditional production systems within a context that is characterised by weak institutional and policy arrangements, limited access to information and financial resources and services, limited development of livestock value chains, and impacts of extreme weather events.

Within the logic of investing in livestock value chain, the project recognises there will be other potential socioeconomic and environmental positive spillovers. Investing in livestock value chains in will boost income for farmers, create employment opportunities, enhance food security, and stimulate economic growth. The development of the sector will contribute to poverty reduction, improved nutrition, and overall resilience, fostering sustainable socioeconomic advancement in the target Prefectures. Thus, LISCADERP will contribute to the protection, sustainable management and restoration of both natural and modified ecosystems; benefiting both the environment and communities – making a positive contribution to climate change, disaster risk reduction, food and water security, environmental protection and human health – all of which are critical to sustainable economic development in CAR.

Diagrammatically, the pathways are as presented below:

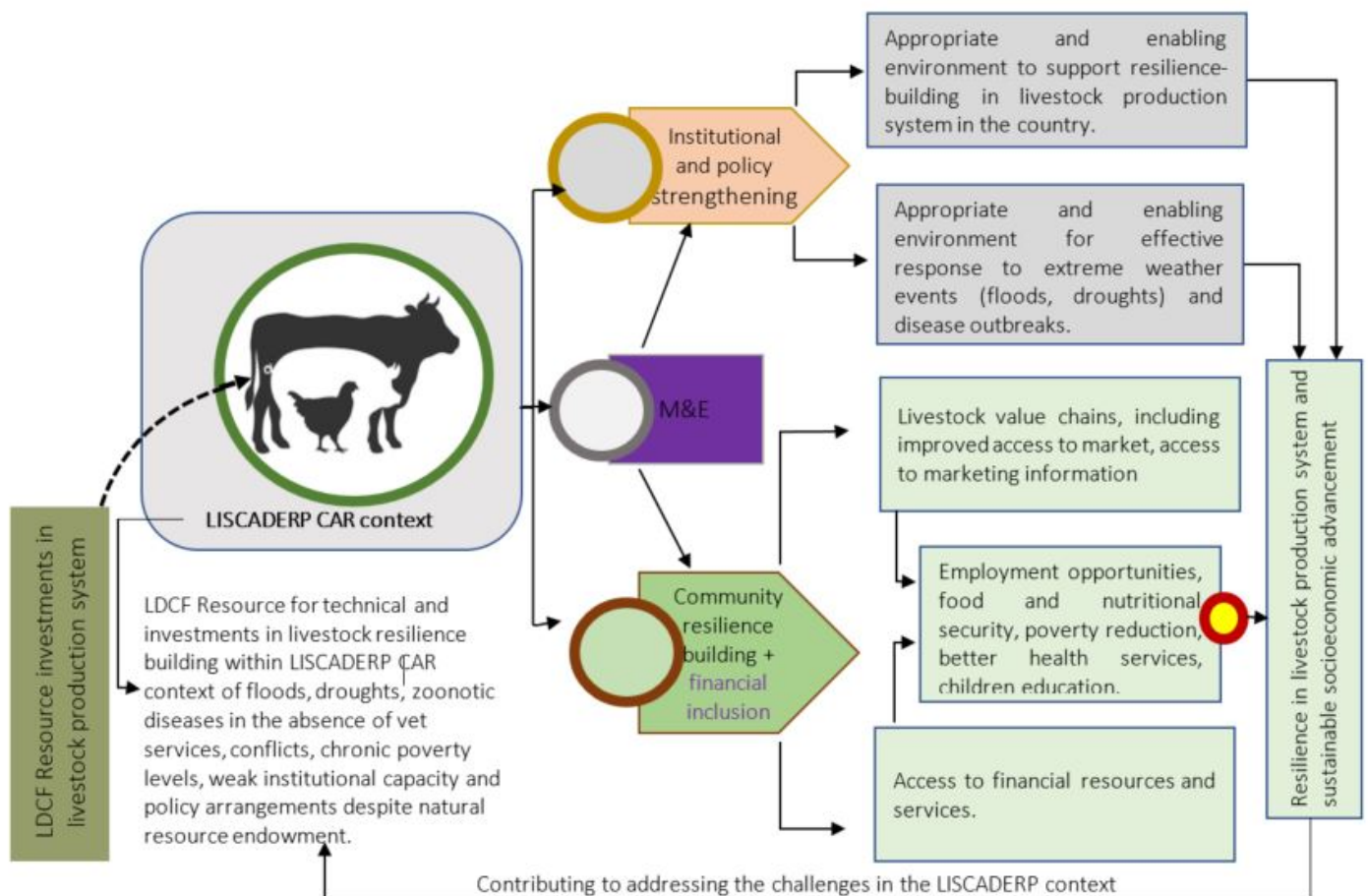
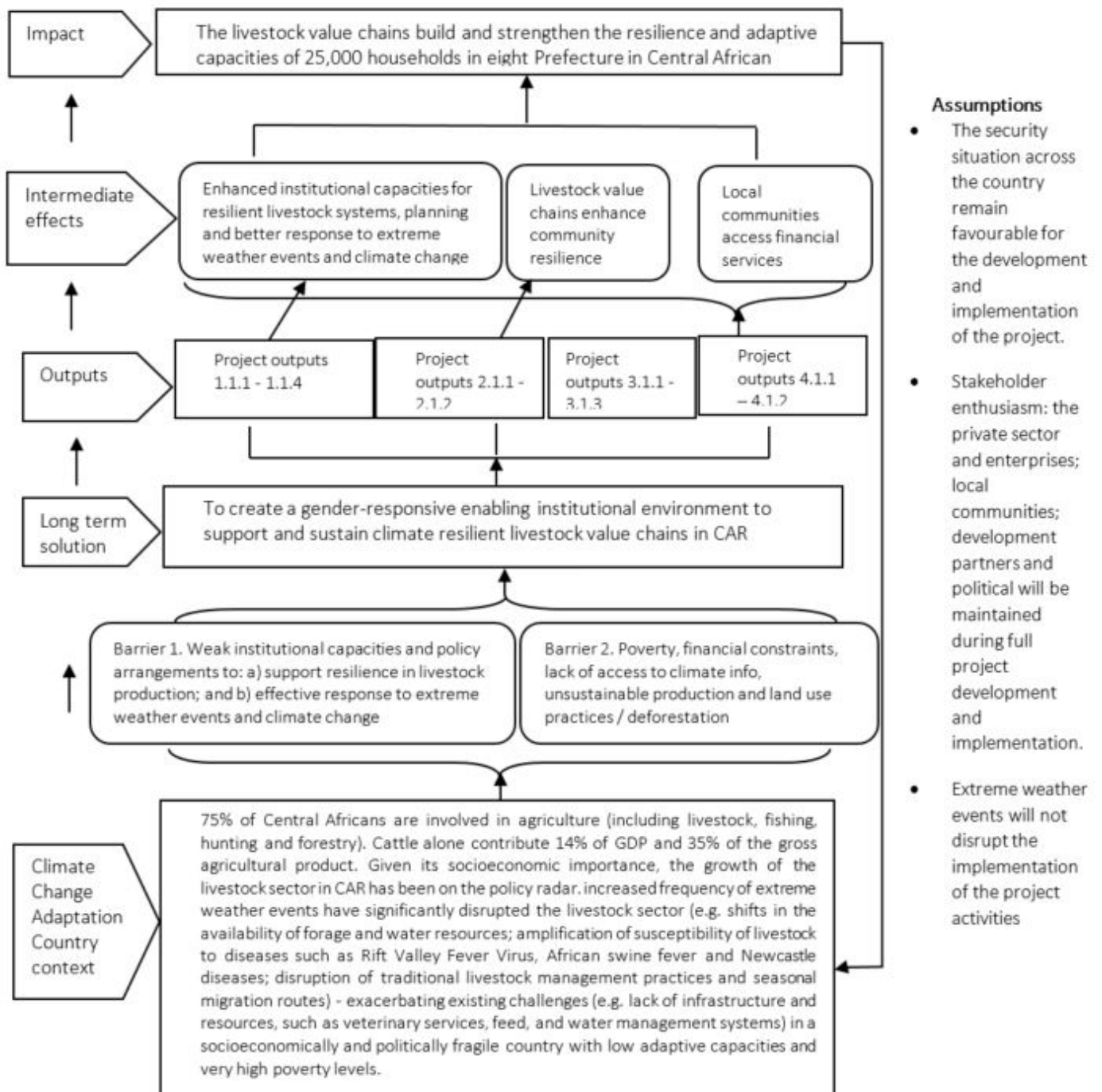


Figure showing the conceptual logical pathways to achieving a resilient livestock production system in CAR

It is recalled here that these pathways to enhancing community adaptive capacities draws on the national and community levels barriers as presented in table 1 in section A and referred to in the 'LISCADERP CAR context' in the diagram above. Strategically, the choice to focus on institutions and climate resilient livelihoods offers a better opportunity for the project to be transformational to the livestock production system that is so strained by political fragility, abject poverty and extreme weather events – recognizing the preponderance of livestock to the socioeconomic and cultural wellbeing of communities in CAR, but also the untapped potential of the sector to national development.

The Theory of Change diagram is illustrated in the diagram below:



In line with the project’s theory of change, LISCADERP is designed around four linked components as follows:

Component 1: Enhancing an enabling environment for resilient livestock value chain systems in CAR

Outcome: Enhanced institutional capacities of public, private institutions and local communities improve resilient livestock value chain systems, planning and better response to extreme weather events and climate

change in CAR. The outcome signifies strengthened capacities in public, private, and local institutions, to foster resilience in the livestock value chain in CAR. This enhancement enables better planning and responses to extreme weather events and climate change, ensuring a more robust and adaptable livestock system for sustained agricultural productivity and community well-being, and better adaptation and coping strategies.

Overall, component 1 is organised in terms of three outputs:

- o 1.1.1: Two (2) policies and institutional capacity review/assessment conducted to i) mainstream climate resilience in the livestock sector; and ii) develop digital platform to facilitate the implementation of the transhumance policy considering the socioeconomic and politics dynamics in the neighbouring countries: Under this output, the project will assess CAR's policy and institutional capacities by evaluating the effectiveness of extension services for veterinary support, and implement capacity-building programs for farmers, enhancing knowledge on climate-smart practices and sustainable resource management. Additionally, the project will assess institutional capabilities for cross-border collaboration for socioeconomically viable cross-border transhumance practices. The digital platform will be developed to integrate real-time data on livestock movement, insecurities, border regulations, and market information, considering regional political sensitivities. Training will be conducted to ensure stakeholders can effectively utilize the platform for informed decision-making. That is, the policy review and assessment will inform the development of a digital platform.

- o 1.1.2: Development of the livestock sector investment plan, based on policy instruments including improving the regulatory framework and the livestock monitoring evaluation system at the Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health: Under this output, the project will focus on enhancing the regulatory framework by implementing reforms to streamline licensing procedures, encourage private sector participation, and ensure compliance with international standards. The project will establish a robust livestock monitoring and evaluation system at the Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health, integrating data collection on production, disease surveillance, and market trends. It will also conduct capacity-building initiatives for staff to effectively utilize the monitoring system, and facilitate public-private partnerships to attract investments, improve infrastructure, and promote sustainable practices for the long-term growth of the livestock sector in the country.

- o 1.1.3: Animal disease outbreak education and awareness campaigns conducted (150,000 target beneficiaries, 50% being female) to improve diseases surveillance systems and response and increase the capacity to forecast occurrence of climate sensitive diseases. : Under this output, the project will organize workshops, seminars, and community outreach programs to disseminate knowledge on common disease outbreaks, epidemiological information, and participatory diseases surveillance, in the target Prefectures – raising awareness and increasing forecasting capacity on climate sensitive diseases such as Rift Valley Fever Virus (RVFV and African swine fever and Newcastle, among others. The project will develop informational materials, including brochures and videos, to highlight the benefits of early detection and prompt responses to handling disease outbreaks. Through improved veterinary extension services, communities will be supported to develop response plans, strengthen collaboration and share best practices, and adopt sustainable livestock husbandry practices, fostering resilience.

- o 1.1.4: Gender-responsive community-led disaster response committees to enhance preparedness and response efforts at local level: The output will conduct training on early warning systems and disaster management protocols, foster community participation in risk assessments and contingency planning, ensure effective communication channels and coordination with local authorities and humanitarian organizations for timely and coordinated response efforts.

Under component 1, LISCADERP is conceived for technical assistance to render livestock production resilient to challenges linked to climate variability, disease outbreaks, and socio-economic instability. Resilience involves sustainable grazing practices, disease prevention, and diversified livelihoods, enabling communities to adapt to environmental and economic uncertainties while ensuring the well-being of their livestock and maintaining food security. (Capable) institutions are important in authorizing, resourcing and delivering climate action^[1]. The institutional capacity at various levels and regulatory environment in CAR is very weak, and this stifles that country's ability to more effectively respond to extreme weather events. Under this component, the project will support inadequate cross-sectoral coordination and give training programs to government agencies, local authorities, and civil society organizations in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, including in EbA which has been identified to be limited in the CAR's NAPA. In such fragile country, the Ministry of Environment, for example, with the mandate of guiding CAR towards compliance with national and international environmental laws requires capacity building. The scientific basis of this component is that social factors like institutions, perceptions and social capital strongly affect social capacities to adapt to climate change. Together with economic and technological development they are important for building social capacities^[2]. It is recalled here that policy and institutional capacity development and reforms will more effectively align climate change adaptation efforts with principles of good governance, particularly downward accountability, citizen and youth participation and transparent decision making in CAR.

Component 2: Strengthening gender-responsive community resilience by improving the resilience of livestock value chains

Outcome 2.1: Community resilience strengthened through improved livestock value chains: This outcome signifies heightened community resilience in CAR, achieved by fortifying livestock value chains. By bolstering economic opportunities, communities can better withstand shocks, ensuring sustainable development and improved livelihoods through the strategic management of livestock resources.

Outputs associated with outcome 2.1 are:

- o 2.1.1: Climate resilient Livestock value chains strengthened and climate-proofed within the target Prefectures: Under this output, the project intends to support livestock producers to improve their productivity, integrating livestock farming with agriculture, identifying and improving breeds that are better adapted to the environment and diseases and facilitate access to finance and technology for farmers while fostering linkages between producers, processors, and markets. The project will provide training to 10,000 farmers in

environmentally sustainable and climate resilient production techniques and quality control – standard livestock husbandry practices that are consistent with approved health standards.

o 2.1.2: Three (3) transhumance corridors created: Under this output, the project recognises that it is crucial to facilitate the seasonal movement of livestock. These corridors ensure access to grazing lands, minimizing conflicts and overgrazing in settled areas. They promote sustainable land use, preserve biodiversity, and support the livelihoods of pastoral communities, fostering harmonious coexistence and ecosystem resilience. Among others, the project will support water point development, provide training on conflict resolution and customary land rights, and establish monitoring mechanisms to ensure corridor functionality and address emerging challenges. The creation of transhumance corridors will be a robust adaptation land use and plan and intervention to prioritize the needs of the youth, women and indigenous communities who are the most vulnerable community members.

The scientific basis of component 2 is that extreme weather events have widely been seen to disrupt people's livelihoods by destroying their houses, assets and other capital, and reducing income and stocks, resulting in enduring poverty and prolonged shocks and stresses. Thus, in the face of serious disruptions to local livelihoods and asset bases by extreme climatic events, it is paramount to reconstruct but also to transform and diversify livelihoods^[3]. Lack of technical capacities and resources at district level (knowledge and resources) to support agriculture, lack of investment in rural infrastructure, lack of adaptation options and practices that reduce vulnerability and strengthen preparedness to climate related hazards, non-diversified livelihoods increase vulnerability to climate impact, and unsustainable agricultural practices such as slash and burn agriculture are some of the big barriers in the agriculture sector in CAR. In response, under component 2, the project will promote livestock value chains; providing training and technical support to local farmers. The project will educate 10,000 farmers on modern animal husbandry practices, disease management, and beekeeping techniques. Access to quality livestock breeds and beehives will also be facilitated. Through training and capacity development, the project will support establishing community cooperatives or producer groups to enhance economies of scale and market access, enabling communities to generate income from these value chains. Given the weak socioeconomic context of the target population, the project will support a community-level revolving fund facility to support investments in building climate resilience in the agriculture sector (for both livestock and crops).

It will further support rural small and medium enterprises with post-harvest management, sustainable value addition, processing, and will harness the potential of digital solutions to ensure market linkages in a fragility context with predominant insecurity. The project will adopt community driven approach for the design and management of basic infrastructure and natural resources, and will employ the 'Pass On the Gift (PoG)' approach that has recorded success in building solidarity among beneficiaries in East Africa. PoG involves each assisted family helping another family obtain the same or similar benefits. This is most commonly achieved when an original recipient of an animal raises one or more female offspring and, with guidance and approval from the local group, gives the young animal and training to another family^[4].

Component 2 will therefore, be dedicated to supporting communities who bear the brunt of climate change in a politically fragile context with limited adaptive capacities to broaden their livelihood bases through climate

resilient alternative livelihood income generating activities – riding on what they already do and narrowing the financial gaps that keep them from diversifying investments in building their asset portfolios which should strengthen their resilience.

Component 3: Enhancing gender-responsive financial investment flows to livestock and crop sectors for community adaptation

Outcome 3.1: Local community access to financial services improved through community-level financial service provision: This outcome denotes enhanced local community access to financial services in target Prefectures through community-level financial service provision. By facilitating financial inclusion at the grassroots level, the project will empower communities economically, fostering self-reliance and sustainable development while addressing financial barriers and promoting economic resilience within the livestock sector and other community-level productive sectors – supporting a community financial base to enable investments in other sectors, including job creation, access to better health services, children’s education. The gender lens of component 3 is to ensure financial inclusion across the gender divide – acknowledging that there are structural inequalities and gendered labour divisions. Women have more responsibilities that rely on natural resources, making them a greater risk to the negative impacts of climate change^[5].

Outputs associated with outcome 3.1 are:

o 3.1.1: Community-level revolving fund (CRF) facility established to support investments in building climate resilience in the agriculture sector (for both livestock and crops to benefit 8,000 people, 50% being females): This output will focus on bolstering climate resilience in the agriculture sector by provide accessible financial resources for investments in climate-smart technologies, water management, and sustainable livestock and crop production practices. The output package will also include facilitating training on adaptive farming methods while supporting transparent governance and community participation for sustainable and equitable fund management.

The CRF will target primarily 8,000 agro-pastoral producers with LDCF resources, 50% of them will be female. The rationale for this is level of inclusion is predicated on the understanding that women inclusion creates a virtuous circle. This is because empowered women boost livestock development and livestock development offers key entry points to support women’s empowerment and gender equality^[6]. Beneficiaries will be vetted through a grant funding process, to be accessed as both individuals (some would perform better as individuals, particularly those with big ruminants) and cooperatives (particularly with members having predominantly small ruminants). One of the vetting criteria will be the ability of the grantee to repay in cash or in livestock. During the life of the project, the Fund will first be managed by the Project Implementation Unit and or Service Provider (to be confirmed at PPG). Eventually, it will be decentralized to community level structures through Community Driven Development Plans. Capacity development will be key so that beneficiaries can be weaned and they graduate to independently continue managing their own resources and investments. Initially, the fund will be seeded with capital, often from external sources or government grants. The qualifying beneficiaries (individuals

and cooperatives) will access loans from the CRF to invest in their operations, such as purchasing livestock, improving animal health, or purchasing climate resilient seed varieties.

As producers repay their loans, the repaid amount replenishes the fund, creating a revolving cycle. This sustainable financial mechanism will ensure a continuous source of capital for community members. Additionally, as noted above, the CRF will offer financial literacy training, technical assistance, and veterinary support to enhance the producers' skills and practices. This model will stimulate economic growth by empowering livestock and crop producers and also strengthen community bonds and resilience by fostering self-sufficiency and collective prosperity in the face of both socioeconomic challenges and climatic uncertainties.

Finally, under component 3, in the pursuit to make financial resources and services more accessible to livestock producers, the project will seek to collaborate with local financial institutions to possibly create de-risking lines of credit for lending products and services at accessible terms (TBD during PPG). This will be coupled with gender-responsive and tailored technical assistance to livestock producers to support them with the identification and prioritization of viable and sustainable adaptation and resilience-building solutions. Additionally, the project will look into the possibility of supporting the Financial Institutions to target and monitor climate adaptation and resilience impacts in their lending products, including exploring options to create lending products and services that respond to the production levels of target livestock producers; embedding in the de-risking lines of credit specific needs of beneficiaries for them to grow and enhance their ability to cope with impacts of climate change and socioeconomic and environmental threats of extreme weather events. In this regard, the project with technical support partner (leveraging possibly on IFAD's partnership with i.e BNP Paribas and Foundation Grameen Credit Agricole in the context of the GEF-7 Challenge Initiatives. The project will explore opportunities and mechanisms for collaboration during PPG.

o 3.1.2: Gender-responsive digital financial services established to facilitate links to markets and secure financial transactions of smallholder livestock and crop producers. This output will focus on providing mobile banking and payment platforms to ensure secure and efficient financial transactions, and will be linked to the livestock value chains output to integrate market information and advisory services to facilitate access to markets. Additionally, the project will offer training on digital literacy to enhance the adoption of these services. Finally, the project develop community capacity (in financial literacy and business development) for 8,000 community members (50% being women and 30% youth).

o 3.1.3: Financing packages that are responsive to the needs of livestock producers, small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs to establish their access to credit are developed to benefit 5,000 people (50% being women). This output involves crafting tailored financing packages in the target Prefectures, specifically designed to meet the needs of livestock producers, small-scale farmers, and entrepreneurs. The initiative aims to benefit 5,000 individuals, with a noteworthy focus on gender inclusivity, ensuring that 50% of the beneficiaries are women. By facilitating access to credit, the output intends to empower these individuals economically, catalyzing sustainable agricultural practices, livestock development, and entrepreneurial ventures while fostering gender equity and broader community resilience through improved financial opportunities. Through the output, the project will collaborate with financial institutions to design financial packages suitable for livestock producers, small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs.

With regards to outcome 3.1 with the aforementioned linked outputs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2, the proposal notes that CAR is ranked among the countries in the world where the issue of financial exclusion is the most developed. About 86% of the adult population does not have a bank account^[7]. Within the specific context to build resilience and adaptive capacities, the project will establish community-managed financial institutions such as village savings. It will offer financial literacy programs to enhance understanding and promote savings, and support the integration of mobile banking and digital payment solutions, ensuring accessibility in remote areas by working with mobile companies in the country (e.g. Telcec CAR, Orange CAR, Azur CAR). The project will also foster partnerships with microfinance institutions (e.g Credit Mutuel du Centrafrique, Caisses d'Epargne et de Credit de Lutte contre la Pauvreté) to develop financing packages that are responsive to the needs of livestock producers, small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs to expand their access to credit. Encourage community participation in financial decision-making, fostering trust and sustainability in financial service provision.

Under component 3, in partnership with microfinance institutions, the project will support the establishment of digital financial services to facilitate access to financial services, links to markets and securitize financial transactions in the agriculture sector - empowering community members to save, access credit, and invest in their livestock enterprises. The financial support enables farmers to weather financial shocks and expand their businesses. Improved access to financial services will be accompanied by education and training in financial literacy so that 8,000 beneficiaries make informed decisions about financial management, investment, and risk mitigation in the face of climate change. Finally, the project will also support the adaptation of operational policies and procedures (including credit, and strengthening of technical capacity in agricultural financing considering both livestock and crop production). Overall, under component 3, the project will make a business case for investing in livestock and crop production sector for adaptation and resilience building in the target Prefectures.

Component 4: M&E

Outcome 4.1 Knowledge management support smooth project implementation: This outcome underscores the pivotal role of knowledge management in ensuring the seamless implementation of LISCADERP. By effectively organizing and disseminating information, the outcomes will enhance coordination, decision-making, and overall project efficiency, contributing to successful implementation and attainment of the project's objective.

The component has two outputs as follows:

- o 4.1.1: Project M&E enhanced and provides adequate technical oversight and adaptive management. Employing skilled personnel to monitor progress and ensure compliance with standards, the project will implement regular evaluations, feedback mechanisms, and risk assessments. It will utilize collected data to make informed adjustments, enhance efficiency, and address challenges, fostering continuous improvement and successful project outcomes.

o 4.1.2 Information and lesson gathered and dissemination mechanisms and tools developed. In complementarity with the output that will develop digital platform to facilitate the implementation of the transhumance policy, this output will focus on systematically collecting data, analysis, and documentation of project activities and outcomes. Dissemination mechanisms will include workshops, reports, and digital platforms to share knowledge with stakeholders. Interactive tools, such as webinars and case studies, to facilitate learning and promote best practices will be utilized.

The implementation of the aforementioned components will have the following tabulated adaptation and global environmental benefits which underscore the project’s incremental reasoning:

Component	GEF-project scenario	Without GEF-project scenario
	Adaptation and global environmental benefits	
Component 1: Enhancing an enabling environment for resilient livestock value chain systems in CAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective Resource Management: Enhanced institutional capacity enables CAR to develop and implement sustainable natural resource management policies. This ensures the responsible use of forest, water, and land resources, reducing deforestation and habitat degradation. • Climate Resilience: Robust policies and institutions facilitate the integration of climate adaptation strategies into national development plans. This leads to more resilient infrastructure, improved disaster preparedness, and a reduced vulnerability to climate-induced shocks. • Conservation and Biodiversity: Strengthened institutions enforce wildlife protection laws, combat illegal logging and poaching, and promote the conservation of critical ecosystems. This safeguards CAR's unique biodiversity and maintains essential ecological functions. • Economic Growth: Sound policies attract investments in sustainable sectors, such as eco-tourism and renewable energy, fostering economic growth while minimizing environmental impacts. 	<p>Overall, the livestock sector will continue enduring impacts of climate change including poor access to grazing and water points, disease outbreak and lack of investments. Institutional capacities and policy arrangements will remain weak, with agro-pastoral communities having limited to none access to financial resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the absence of the GEF project, the livestock sector will continue to be characterised by limited institutional capacity, policy arrangements and coordination mechanisms to strengthen climate resilience building with the sector. Lack of value chain development and enhancement will negatively affect the sector potential to create gender-responsive job and other socioeconomic opportunities which are critical for adaptation to extreme weather events, but also insecurities which threaten food and nutrition security. • Without the GEF project, the gender gaps in access to livestock market information as well as climate information at national and community level will continue. This information is critical in making climate change-informed decisions. Women’s participation in relevant decision making processes to empower them with better adaptation capacities and options will continue to be limited.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Empowerment: Effective institutions ensure that local communities participate in decision-making processes and benefit from natural resource management efforts, thereby enhancing their livelihoods and promoting sustainable practices. • By strengthening institutional and policy capacities, CAR can simultaneously adapt to climate change and protect its environment, fostering long-term sustainability and resilience for both its ecosystems and its people 	
<p>Component 2: Strengthening gender-responsive community resilience through resilient livestock value chains; and Component 3: Enhancing gender-responsive financial investment flows to livestock and crop sectors for community adaptation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptive Livelihoods: Empowering women in livestock value chains diversifies income sources, reducing vulnerability to climate-related shocks. These sectors also offer opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, enhancing community resilience. • Biodiversity Conservation: Promoting beekeeping and sustainable livestock management practices aligns with environmental conservation. It supports pollinators, preserves native plant species, and reduces habitat destruction often linked to unsustainable agriculture. • Natural Resource Management: Sustainable beekeeping and livestock rearing encourage responsible land and resource use. This helps mitigate land degradation and overgrazing, promoting ecosystem health. • Climate Resilience: Diversified income streams provide financial security during extreme weather events. Additionally, sustainable land management and agroforestry practices within these value chains enhance soil fertility and water retention, contributing to climate resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the without GEF-project scenario, financial constraints to support sustainable livestock production systems, broaden other socioeconomic opportunities, including job creation will continue among agro-pastoral communities. Therefore, these challenges will continue, and communities will not have the opportunities for strengthening their resilience while reducing their vulnerabilities and shocks. Also, the role of women and the youth and other vulnerable community members in resilient livestock production systems will remain peripheral – rendering them even more vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather events and climate change. • Finally, with the proposed GEF project, agro-pastoral communities in the target Prefectures will not have access to animal disease outbreak education and awareness campaigns, and gender-responsive community-led disaster response committees to enhance preparedness will

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Empowerment: Ensuring women's participation and access to financial services fosters gender equality and women's economic independence, which in turn contributes to more sustainable and resilient communities. • In sum, strengthening gender-responsive community resilience through these value chains and financial services not only empowers individuals but also nurtures environmentally friendly practices, reinforcing CAR's adaptation efforts and ecological sustainability 	<p>not be established. 8,000 people (50% being females) in the target Prefectures would not have access to the community-level revolving fund facility would not be established to support investments in building climate resilience in the agriculture sector (for both livestock and crops to benefit). Finally, 5,000 people (50% being women) would not benefit from financing packages that are responsive to the needs of livestock producers, small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs.</p>
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In achieving the adaptation and environmental benefits tabulated above, LISCADERP will draw on lessons and experiences from different stakeholders, including the private sector in CAR. The project will primarily catalyze PEAJ's investments in capacity building, production of resilient, nutrition-sensitive livestock production chains, promoting sustainable access to adapted financial services, and strengthening market links.

Therefore, consistent with PEAJ's investments, LISCADERP will invest in activities to improve the productivity and production of livestock sector (including the revival of transhumance), which are resilient, inclusive of the vulnerable, and contribute to food and nutrition security. The project will support beneficiaries to: i) access financial services adapted to their needs; ii) reconstitute or constitute their productive capital; iii) access non-financial services (training, organizational support, monitoring-support-coaching); iv) produce; and v) access marketing services. The project will support producers with basic start-up production kits for traditional poultry farming, small ruminants, pigs, beekeeping and traditional cheese). This path will allow them to gradually graduate from humanitarian approach of hand-outs to making small savings to capitalize additional investment in more environmentally-friendly production systems to levels that will facilitate their access to financial institutions.

The project will develop a stakeholder engagement plan to facilitate knowledge generation, learning processes, knowledge dissemination and partnerships and opportunities for collaboration. The project will work closely with development partners who are active in CAR (see the baseline projects) as well as private sector entities.

The project will support the emergence of major local feed, hatcheries and artificial insemination producers for their specialization in the production of quality breeding stock, with a view of improving genetic resources to develop production and dissemination of improved breed and feed. This activity may be carried out within the

framework of a Producer Public Private Partnership (PPPP) as joint venture between producer organizations and private sector entities. Thus, the project will identify, for each value chain the most suitable approach and model, with an emphasis on capacity of beneficiaries. To access credit facilities the project will put in place with financial service providers models to enable private sector and entrepreneurs to purchase inputs for their production.

Working with State institutions (the Fonds interprofessionnel de développement de l'élevage – FIDE (Interprofessional Livestock Development Fund), which deals with veterinary aspects; the Agence nationale de développement de l'élevage – ANDE (National Livestock Development Agency); the Fédération nationale des éleveurs centrafricains – FNEC (National Federation of Central African Stockbreeders), which provides breeders with support; and the Société d'État de gestion des abattoirs – SEGA (State Slaughterhouse Management Company), the project will identify the bottlenecks for more meaningful private sector engagement. This will be in view to supporting public and private structures to provide technical and entrepreneurial training for producers including through livestock farmer field school for disseminate access to improve livestock management and advisory services. To do this, an entrepreneurship-training program will be developed including access to digital solutions, in addition to the technical modules and technical guides. The support will be given to entrepreneurs in particular to women and young entrepreneurs already engaged in livestock activities and whose companies have real growth potential.

Finally, the project will support the links in the value chain, namely the production of feed, processing, marketing and related services. In partnership with academic and research institutions, the project will support technical studies in targeted value chains by private sector to identify the pro-gender and pro-youth specific needs. This will allow the project to strengthen both public and private rural institutions to deliver adequate and professional services at local level, building on existing experiences and practices – in order to contribute to generation of global environmental benefits that accrue from alternative climate resilient livelihood opportunities.

In supporting the project to provide financial services, enhancement of value chains, seed development and distribution, entrepreneurial trainings, improving access to markets and providing technical services in conducting targeted studies, and climate-proofing infrastructure under PEAJ, among others, stakeholders will have space to interact among themselves. The project will therefore, provide an opportunity for stakeholders to share experiences and learn from one another to grow their business opportunities. At PIF, non-state actors have been part of the consultations, and have expressed strong commitment to support the implementation of LISCADERP. These include the Enterprise Afrique Excellence and the Enterprise Groupe Oubangi (see attached signed letters of expression of interest to work with the project). They will also have access to funding to catalyze their business models to contribute to enhancing capacities and generating global environmental benefits. At PPG, stakeholder mapping will be done, including the development of a stakeholder engagement plan after additional consultations to support the identification of key stakeholders, roles will be better defined consistent with what the project seeks to achieve. At PIF stage, the table below highlights some key stakeholders that have already been identified and their proposed roles in the project.

Table of stakeholders and their potential role in LISCADERP

Institution	Mission and/or Mandate	Roles to contribute to LISCADERP
Civil Society Organizations: Centre for Environmental Information and Sustainable Development (CIEDD), Global Ecovillage Network- Central Africa Republic (GEN-RCA) and House of the Pygmy Child and Woman (MEFP)	These indigenous groups support the implementation of the The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) which CAR voted in favour of in 2007 and ratified ILO Convention in 2010.	The groups will support the mobilization of indigenous communities for their effective participation in the project (30% of beneficiaries are young people and 15% of beneficiaries are from marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities).
Enterprise Afrique Excellence	The enterprise works in the production and distribution of livestock feeds (birds and ruminants), including fish farmers – participating in the value chain that links with smallholder producers	Support production services to livestock smallholder farmers
Enterprise Groupe Oubangi	Community-level support in microenterprises, including livestock production and horticulture, working with women and the youth to provide them with agriculture-based job opportunities	The enterprise will be involved in the project focusing on reforestation using socioeconomically viable tree species
Telcec CAR, Orange CAR, Azur CAR	These are mobile phone providers in CAR	To facilitate banking and digital payment solutions, ensuring beneficiary accessibility in remote areas
Credit Mutuel du Centrafrique, Caisses d'Epargne et de Credit de Lutte contre la Pauvreté	These are microfinance institutions active in CAR	To develop financing packages that are responsive to the needs of livestock producers, small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs to establish their access to credit
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	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	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	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	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 of women, family, and children	Implementation of government policy on the promotion of gender, the protection of women, families, and children	60% of beneficiaries are women
Minister in charge of promoting youth, sports, and civic education	Implementation of government policy on the promotion, civic supervision of 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	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	Control and monitoring of standards and guidelines for the installation of hydraulic infrastructures. Maintenance of hydraulic infrastructures
Service providers	Including consultants, works control office, private companies, financial service providers, NGOs	Subcontracting with the PMU for the implementation of project activities

It is recalled here that engagement with stakeholders will continue during PPG, during implementation and monitoring and evaluation phases. During PPG, the project will take into account the socio-cultural dynamics to engage different stakeholders. In certain cases, women in target Prefectures will need to be engaged separately taking into account their availability from household chores. Equally, the youth and men will need to be engaged during the times when they will not need to take their animals for grazing. Besides community consultations that will largely take the form of group discussions, national level and Prefecture level engagements with authorities, financial institutions, enterprises and Civil Society Organization will take the form of workshops and meetings with presentations of the project. As has been noted, the stakeholders tabulated above, and others that will be mapped will be engaged on a continuous basis through the life of the project.

As has been alluded to, the project will have a convening power to bring together different stakeholders to support but also to benefit from capacity building, access to information, alternative livelihood opportunities and ecosystem restoration. The interventions will seek to transform the vulnerable socioecological context to enhance its resilience while generating global environmental benefits. Thus, there will be lessons to be learned from an approach that focuses on capacity development, livelihoods and ecosystem restoration to strengthen the vulnerable socioecological systems in the target Prefectures. These lessons will be packaged and disseminated to appropriate audiences including development partners, policy makers, civil society organizations, local communities to inform discussions but more importantly inform future interventions and to facilitate replication and scaling up of best practices from the project. In this regard, the project will develop dissemination tools and mechanisms so that as many people as possible are reached. This will be done through the M&E component of the project.

In terms of scaling up, it is recalled that this project builds on another IFAD project to invest in livestock chains while building national and local capacities to enhance adaptive capacities in the target Prefectures. As noted in the table of stakeholders, the project will bring together stakeholders who will serve as conduits of scaling up project outcomes and within and beyond the target Prefectures. The number of beneficiaries will amplify the potential for scaling up best practices in livestock value chain production. The project, as noted above, will have a robust knowledge management system for generating knowledge and disseminating lessons learned – an important mechanism to facilitate scaling up of project outcomes.

It should be added that scaling up will help to sustain project outcomes. Financial sustainability will be ensured through value chains that will create and broaden non-agriculture-based livelihoods – including jobs along value chains. Financial saving groups will be an important aspect to ensure financial sustainability to help wean beneficiaries off humanitarian assistance; transitioning them to self-reliance with more adaptive capacities in the face of extreme weather events.

Additionally, the project will support the creation of a Community Revolving Fund and financial packages that will be created in collaboration with financial institutions - all to ensure that target beneficiaries have financial sustainability, are financially empowered to have options to cope with the impacts of extreme weather events. It should be emphasized that the Revolving Fund will be expected to generate sufficient returns from repaid loans to cover operational costs and replenish the capital. This is a self-reliant model that allows the Revolving Fund to persistently support community initiatives in livestock and agricultural activities, fostering economic resilience and sustainable development over the long term.

Besides strengthening the portfolio of community livelihoods and ecosystem restoration, it is reiterated that the design of LISCADERP will support strengthening an enabling environment for the country at national and local levels to cope better with the impacts of climate change. Thus, the project is conceived to be consistent with national priorities for sustainable management of natural resources and addressing the impacts of climate change. It is consistent with national priorities as expressed in section C (Alignment with GEF-8 programming strategies and country/regional priorities).

[1]Shakya, C et al. (2018). Building institutional capacity for enhancing resilience to climate change: An operational framework and insights from practice. [Learning paper](#)

[2]Grothmann, T., Grecksch, K., Wings, M., and Siebenhüner, B.: Assessing institutional capacities to adapt to climate change: integrating psychological dimensions in the Adaptive Capacity Wheel. [Journal of Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci.](#)

[3]Uddin, Salim et al. (2021). “Disasters threaten livelihoods, and people cope, adapt and make transformational changes”: Community resilience and livelihoods reconstruction in coastal communities of Bangladesh. [International Journal of Disaster Reduction Risks](#)

[4] James De Vries. (2012). Passing on the gift as an approach to sustainable development programmes. [Journal of Development in Practice](#)

[5] Huang, J. (2022). Equal Opportunity to Adapt: Improving Gender-Responsive Access to Climate Adaptation Financing. [PAE](#)

[6]FAO, ILRI, IFAD and the World Bank. (2023). A Framework for Gender-Responsive Livestock Development. Contributing to a world free from hunger, malnutrition, poverty and inequality. [Rome, FAO.](#)

[7] Yoko-Mokobongo et al. (2022). Financial Exclusion in Central African Republic. [Policy Brief](#)

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

No

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

Institutional setting: the project will be blended with the IFAD funded PEAJ program and therefore will follow the same governance structure. It will fall under the supervision of the Ministry of Livestock and Animal health (MESA) and will be managed by a joint PEAJ/LISCADERP National Coordination Unit with three decentralized field offices. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) including players from the public sector, POs, CSOs and the private sector will be set up under the chairmanship of the MESA who will also play as executing entity for the project.

LISCADERP will seek to coordinate with the following projects/programmes:

- Reducing rural and urban vulnerability to climate change in the Central African Republic by the provision of water supply – a \$7.1 m GEF-funded project implemented by AfDB.
- Strengthening the adaptive capacity of communities by up-scaling integrated landscape management and restoration in south-west region of Central African Republic – an \$8.9 m GEF-funded project implemented by AfDB.
- Development of Agricultural Value Chains in the Savannas – a \$30.9 m project funded by IFAD and AfDB.
- Natural Resources Governance Project – a \$10 m a World Bank project.
- Forest and Landscape Restoration supporting Landscape and Livelihoods Resilience in the Central African Republic (CAR) under The Restoration Initiative – this is a \$10 m project funded by the GEF and is implemented by Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries.
- Scaling up ecological corridors and transboundary connectivity through integrated natural resources management in the Ngot Forest landscape and Mbaér é-Bodingué National Park – this is a \$7.1 m GEF funded and is implemented by Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries.

In terms of knowledge management and dissemination. A communication and knowledge management manual will be drawn up at the start of the project. Exchange and learning visits and mini knowledge fairs will be organised. In terms of communication, communication products (newsletters, blogs, articles, brochures) will be developed to regularly inform all stakeholders, and beyond, about the project's activities.

Core Indicators

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

META INFORMATION – LDCF

LDCF true	SCCF-B (Window B) on technology transfer false	SCCF-A (Window-A) on climate Change adaptation false
Is this project LDCF SCCF challenge program? false		
This Project involves at least one small island developing State(SIDS). false		
This Project involves at least one fragile and conflict affected state. true		
This Project will provide direct adaptation benefits to the private sector. true		
This Project is explicitly related to the formulation and/or implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs). true		
This project will collaborate with activities begin supported by other adaptation funds. If yes, please select below		
Green Climate Fund false	Adaptation Fund false	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) false
This Project has an urban focus. false		
This project will directly engage local communities in project design and implementation false		
This project will support South-South knowledge exchange false		
This Project covers the following sector(s)[the total should be 100%]: *		
Agriculture	40.00%	
Nature-based management	38.00%	
Climate information services	12.00%	
Coastal zone management	0.00%	
Water resources management	7.00%	
Disaster risk management	0.00%	
Other infrastructure	3.00%	
Tourism	0.00%	
Health	0.00%	
Other (Please specify comments)		

		0.00%
Total		100.00%
This Project targets the following Climate change Exacerbated/introduced challenges:*		
Sea level rise false	Change in mean temperature true	Increased climatic variability true
		Natural hazards true
Land degradation true	Coastal and/or Coral reef degradation false	Groundwater quality/quantity false

CORE INDICATORS – LDCF

	Total	Male	Female	% for Women
CORE INDICATOR 1 Total number of direct beneficiaries	150,000	75,000.00	75,000.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 2 (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) (b) Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha)	41,000.00 0.00			
CORE INDICATOR 3 Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/institutions for to strengthen climate adaptation	2.00			
CORE INDICATOR 4 Number of people trained or with awareness raised	18,000	9,000.00	9,000.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 5 Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience action	6.00			

Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation

Summarize risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases and what are the mitigation strategies the project preparation process will undertake to address these (e.g. what alternatives may be considered during project preparation—such as in terms of consultations, role and choice of counterparts, delivery mechanisms, locations in country, flexible design elements, etc.). Identify any of the risks listed below that would call in question the viability of the project during its implementation. Please describe any possible mitigation measures needed. (The risks associated with project design and Theory of Change should be described in the “Project description” section above). The risk rating should reflect the overall risk to project outcomes considering the country setting and ambition of the project. The rating scale is: High, Substantial, Moderate, Low.

Risk Categories	Rating	Comments
Climate	High	The target Prefectures experience frequent extreme weather events in terms of droughts, floods and epidemics, and this might derail the implementation of certain activities. The consultations conducted confirm the vulnerability to these climatic hazards, particularly drought, rainfall

		variability, flooding, bush fires, strong and violent winds and extreme temperatures. The project will continue engaging different stakeholders to explore alternative mechanisms for executing project activities.
Environment and Social	Substantial	CAR is endowed with natural resources which are under threat due to deforestation, poverty, unsustainable production systems and climate change. The project is conceived to support livelihood opportunities that will lessen the pressure exerted on the resource base.
Political and Governance	Substantial	CAR has experienced protracted years of political fragility that have weakened institutional capacities and systems of governance. LISCADERP is conceived to build capacities at different levels to enhance governance systems.
Macro-economic	Substantial	CAR is one of the poorest countries in the world, and its macro-economic performance has been crippled by years of political fragility and weak governance systems. Also, the poverty levels are very high in the country. The project is conceived to improve the socioeconomic conditions of rural communities whose lives depend on the exploitation of natural resources
Strategies and Policies	Moderate	CAR has strategies and policies that are consistent with improving the country's response to climate change and sustainable management of natural resources. However, implementation is weak, largely due to weak institutional capacities, as noted above. The project will build capacities, but also work with different stakeholders such as the

		private sector to respond to capacity gaps.
Technical design of project or program	Low	LISCADERP is conceived on the basis of the Livestock and Youth Support project, and therefore, there is precedence on which the project will build. Additionally, it follows IFAD's programmatic approach in CAR. Therefore, there is sufficient technical knowledge in designing projects.
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Low	As above, IFAD has sufficient experience in CAR, and in case of additional technical skill requirements, IFAD is able to outsource through short term technical assistance to ensure project implementation and sustainability.
Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement	Moderate	The project will learn and ride on institutional arrangements from other IFAD-implemented projects in the country. As by standard practice, IFAD will closely monitor and support the project implementation team to ensure sound fiduciary practices, including through 'no objection' procedures where IFAD has to okay some of the procurements that exceed certain threshold.
Stakeholder Engagement	Low	The development of LISCADERP has been shaped by inputs from different stakeholders, including government agencies, development partners, NGOs. These stakeholders have been involved in other IFAD-implemented projects, including the Livestock and Youth Support project. This facilitates continued stakeholder engagement during project preparation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation phases.
Other	High	Political stability and insecurity: The CAR is both in a post-conflict

		situation and in political transition, which gives it a considerable level of vulnerability socioeconomic. Despite the efforts made by the Government with the support of the international community, the country remains partially occupied by groups armed, thus perpetuating the climate of insecurity and criminality with as a corollary, the accentuation inequalities, disruption of the education system and the worsening of poverty. footnote: Government of Central African Republic. (2022). National Adaptation Action Plan – CAR
Financial Risks for NGI projects		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	At PIF, the project recognises risks. Where possible, the project provides context of the risk, and proposes reasonable measures to mitigate the risks, including the justification essentially embedded in the fact that IFAD’s programmatic approach in CAR forms a strong basis for learning and replication of what works in other projects.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

As it has been alluded to, LISCADERP is proposed to catalyze IFAD investments in CAR through the PEAJ project. In this regard, LISCADERP is consisted and aligned with resource mobilisation for large scale adaptation finance and to support CAR, an unquestionably vulnerable country to go beyond incremental to transformative action in its response to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events livestock production in CAR. In this regard, LISCADERP is aligned with LDCF’s reinforcing policy coherence entry point. Additionally, LISCADERP will build institutional capacities to enhance the country’s ability to invest in sustainable agriculture sector (for both livestock and crop production) in the face of climate change and extreme weather events. Thus, the project is consistent with LDCF’s strengthening institutional capacity entry point.

CAR is a signatory to several international environmental agreements and other environmental commitments, including the following:

- Sustainable Development Goals: The proposed project is aligned with and will contribute towards achieving a number of the SDGs:
 - SDG 1 – No poverty. Poverty reduction will be supported under Component 2 and 3 with livestock value chains and access to financial resources.
 - SDG 2 – Zero Hunger. The project will contribute to SDG 2 through livestock value chains and access to financial resources (Component 2 and 3)
 - SDG 5 – Gender equality. The project has been designed to ensure equal gender participation and access of project benefits including training for capacity development in all the technical components.
 - SDG 13 – Climate action. As a climate change adaptation project, the project will inherently contribute to achieving SDG 13 through – mainstreaming climate resilience in the livestock value chains, access to climate and adaptation information through campaigns, community-led disaster response committees to enhance preparedness and response efforts at local level.

Besides the aforementioned more global and regional environmental commitments, LISCADERP is designed consistent with national environmental and natural resources management priorities, regulations and laws. This is natural in the sense that some of the national priorities are a ‘domestication’ of global environmental agreements. These relevant national priorities and strategies include the following:

- The National Adaptation Plan (2022). The second adaptation priority is squarely focused on livestock production and proposes that following activities: i) establish a sustainable management mechanism for transhumance corridors (development of pastoral infrastructure); ii) establish a mechanism for managing conflicts between farmers and breeders; iii) Rehabilitate and make operational veterinary pharmacies; iv) define adaptation options for the agro-pastoral sector in key vulnerable sites; and sustainably manage agro-silvo-pastoral systems in Central African Republic. LISCAFERP’s components 1 and 2 integrate aspects of these prioritized activities from the NAP. Therefore, the project is an opportunity for the implementation of the country’s NAP.
- The Central African Livestock Roadmap (2017-2021): Through component 2, the project will contribute to making livestock production as a socioeconomic activity for poverty reduction.
- The National Agricultural Investment, Food Security and Nutrition Program and the Rural Development, Agriculture and Food Security Strategy: The project will contribute to this strategy through Component 2 with livestock value chains and Component 3 on access to financial resources.
- The National Environmental Action Program (PNAE): The project will contribute to this Program through components 1 and 3 to build capacities but also concretely restore degraded ecosystems.

- The National Adaptation Plan (NAP): The project will contribute to the NAP through the three technical components by implementing adaptation related measures.
- Nationally Determined Contribution (2021): Through ecosystem restoration in Component 3, the project will contribute to carbon sequestration, consistent with the country's NDC.
- The National Agricultural Investment, Food and Nutritional Security Program (PNIASAN): Through component 2, the project will contribute to making livestock value chains socioeconomic activity for poverty reduction, and job creation that will contribute to food and nutrition security.
- The National Livestock Development Policy (PNDE): Implementing livestock value chains and offering technical capacity development in components 1 and 2 will contribute to the implementation of PNDE.

The design of LISCADERP is in response to the environmental and climate change-related challenges in CAR. The project proposed three principal entry points to addressing the challenges. These are: institutional capacity development; diversification of climate resilient livelihood opportunities; and ecosystem restoration. These constitute the principal components around which the project has been conceived. Thus, the project is aligned with the LDCF programming priorities as tabulated below:

LISCADERP component and focus	Alignment with LDCF GEF-8 programming
Component 1: Enhancing an enabling environment for resilient livestock value chain systems in CAR. Under this component, the project will enhance stakeholder capacities at all levels, including improved early warning systems to help inform the development of adaptation plans at national, subnational and even household level.	<i>Institutional strengthening and capacity building efforts at all levels:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted capacity building initiatives for relevant stakeholders, including community-based organizations and local level, are essential to enable them to develop robust adaptation plans and interventions which prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable communities.
Component 2: Strengthening gender-responsive community resilience through livestock value chains and Component 3: improved access to financial services. Under Component 2, the project will invest in strategic smallholder livestock value chains that are resilient to climate change, creating space for private sector involvement in innovative financing of the selected value chain businesses. Also, under component 3, the project will develop financial model suited for smallholders to facilitate access to financial resources and services to support farmer investments in climate responsible production systems.	<i>Using grant finance to share risk and catalyze private sector investment:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing technical assistance and grant-based guarantees for microfinance institutions create lines of credit dedicated to microloans at accessible terms to help smallholder farmers and MSMEs to invest transitioning to climate resilient activities. <i>Incubating and Accelerating Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic value chain approach that simultaneously focuses on climate resilient production, as well as innovative financing ensure local business have the tools and access, they need to adapt to increasing climate impacts.

Component 1, 2 and 3: Gender and stakeholder inclusion as cross-cutting all the components. The project duly recognises gender dynamics in CAR that keep women in the socioeconomic peripheries. This is also true for the youth, the poor, the differently-abled and the Aka/Bayaka pygmy population. Recognizing this, the project also acknowledges the roles that these vulnerable groups play and can play not only in access benefits but also in contributing to environmental restoration – building on their experience of interacting with the environment. They can also provide important traditional knowledge to inform investments in sustainable practices.

Priority Area 3: Fostering Partnership for Inclusion and Whole-of-Society Approach:

- Partnership with vulnerable groups such as women and girls, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities will not only make LDCF investment efficient, effective and responsive to climate risks in LDCs but also provide critical local knowledge relevant for adaptation interventions over different timeframes.
- Engaging with a wide range of groups and organizations, including the private sector, to harness the knowledge, experiences and capabilities of affected and interested individuals and groups.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

The development of LISCADERP has benefited from the insights and experiences from different stakeholders from government agencies from different administration levels, representatives from development partners implementing similar projects, civil society organizations, and communities from target Prefectures. They have been engaged to gain a better understanding of the adaptation challenges in the target Prefectures, the policy and institutional gaps and other barriers in enhancing climate resilience in the country, and the differentiated impacts of extreme weather events on vulnerable groups (women, poor, youth and differently-abled). Discussions and consultations with stakeholders also centred on the following:

- Identification of interventions to complement on-going projects to strengthen and ensure continuity;
- Lessons to be integrated in the proposal based on on-going interventions or those that recently closed; and
- Identification of stakeholders to play strategic roles in the project implementation.

To ensure meaningful participation of vulnerable groups, separate consultations were held in communities at the time chosen by women themselves when they have been available from household chores and agricultural activities. Therefore, meetings to encourage women participation took place in the afternoon. Overall, the following points emerged from the consultations with stakeholders that constitute lessons to inform the development of LISCADERP :

- Community participation in project activities is impacted by political fragility, and attention needs to be paid to ‘elite capture’ in communities to ensure equal representation and identification of the neediest and vulnerable members of the community;
- The community members need to influence the choice of activities so that the project can be more community-centric; reflecting but also responding to the climate change challenges as community members see and experience them rather than as other non-local ‘experts’ interpret community challenges. This can be managed through incorporation of traditional knowledge of climate change and evolving coping mechanisms. Forest officers can work with community members in the selection of tree species to use when doing restoration activities because community members know the socioeconomic value of tree species in the production landscapes that they often interact with;

Livestock value chains are important livelihood opportunities in the target Prefectures with potential to improve the socioeconomic well-being of community members – they need to be better developed through improved access to financial service and markets.

Pictures that were taken during stakeholder consultations on the following dates (May – October, 2023) - more in the PIF document:



Focus group discussion with women in Ouham Prefecture, May 24, 2023



FGD with women in Kemo Prefecture, May 25, 2023



FGD with various stakeholders in Ouham Prefecture, May 24, 2023



FGD with women in Ouama Prefecture, May 26, 2023



These herds of cattle originate from Chad and Sudan, driven by herders for months through forests while facing conflict with crop producers and armed groups. The animals tend to be white, big grazers and comparatively smaller than Central African breeds.

These multi-coloured herds of cattle are Central African breeds, larger and tend to be selective in their grazing patterns, unlike those from Sudan and Chad.

Bouboui Cattle markets, Ombella-Mpoko Prefecture - due to limited infrastructure, Chad and Sudan originating herds of cattle are indiscriminately mixed with Central African herds, pausing threats for transmission of zoonotic diseases.



Transporting firewood and charcoal to Bangui on Boali-Bangui road

Source of all the pictures: IFAD PIF design team in Central African Republic

Some lists of participants in consultations with stakeholders during project development

Période du 22 mai au 13 juin 2023
Préfecture ou Sous-préfecture : Ouhangye /Mpa/Ma /Date: 21/05/2023

Prénom	NOM	H	F	Structure/fonction	Contacts (email/tel)	Signature
Odelm	NOAKOBI	X		SG du Bureau Préfectoral de la Femme Ouhangye	78-20-85-08 78-66-81-36	
Bienvenu Rodrigue	REPAKAMBA	X		Conseiller Technique Agricole ACOA	78-23-05-67 15-955667	
Miriam Stella	SIAKE	X		Animatrice de la Fédération Nationale des Jeunes Agriculteurs	78-535274 78-77-99-05	
Sylvain Touanda		X		Personne Q de la FNCC		
Selego Dina Bets				PECHER	76-11-43-91	
GRACIENE ANICET				PECHER	72-47-40-53	
LABELLE AMOLO		X		S.S.P.	72-26-40-22	
Prénom <th>NOM</th> <th>H</th> <th>F</th> <th>Structure/fonction</th> <th>Contacts (email/tel)</th> <th>Signature</th>	NOM	H	F	Structure/fonction	Contacts (email/tel)	Signature
Présidente PPG de la Préfecture Ouhangye	WANGOUZI	X			78136862 75181413	
MAMBOB	SUDITH	I	F	T.O.S.P	72-14-21-66	
RADIO DIVOIRA		H		SG commercial	76634858	
Marc YERE		H		Handicapé	72-18-46-03	
Rosalie NGCE		F		Veuve		
ALINE DOUNBAI		F		OFCA	72-03-79-15	
ALINA CUSHANE		F		Musulmane	72-08-82-82	
Bakissou Abdoulaye		F		Musulmane	74-44-08-14	
Prénom	NOM	H	F	Structure/fonction	Contacts (email/tel)	Signature
FLORE WAGBÉLÉ				Présidente Nendeux-pois	72-80-18-05	
Barnabette GANASUI				TG Nendeux-pois	72-55-32-43	
Rifi hyacinthe				Coordination	78052194	
Rifi hyacinthe	NGAKOUTA	X		Coordination des C.F.P.A.P	78052194 72-35-34-55	
Joceline	ALI	X		Commerçant	78143480	
HONORE	MOUSSA	M		Cultivateur	72-70-24-00	
Joceline	SELEMAN	F		Veuve	72-18-57-32	
Félicie	YDIE	F		Veuve	72057873	
SANZE	Michelin	X		Commerçant	74064871	
Prénom	NOM	H	F	Structure/fonction	Contacts (email/tel)	Signature
Evodyne Paul	MBOLI	X		Conseiller technique Agricole /Mpa/Baal	72-66-25-36 75-74-04-33	
Brigitte	KALAU	X		Haraculteur/Cultivateur	76-40-75-23	
FABI	Am. Kopy	X		ANDE conseiller technique /Baal	72-47-72-41	
Présidente	LINGOUPOU	X		ANDE/ CSE/Baal	72-21-67-60	
AGGEE	YANCA	X		Jeune fille Nendeux-pois	72-52-10-77	
ORPA	TENGUEDE	X		Cultivateur commercial	72-77-34-02	
LEBRUN	CHARLIS	X		Pde OFCA Resli	72-70-86-40	
YADAWA	AMBOISSE	X		Chf de groupe	72-15-32-62	
AZEKIEL	AZENE	X		Pde M.L	72-15-74-22	
Prénom	NOM	H	F	Structure/fonction	Contacts (email/tel)	Signature
DIEZMERCI	NEROUME	X		Président	72-56-16-71 76-26-32-33	
DAVID	DEHOLE	M		Cultivateur	72-64-26-08	

Période du 22 mai au 13 juin 2023
Préfecture ou Sous-préfecture : Ouhangye /Mpa/Ma /Date: 21.05.23

N°	Prénom	NOM	H	F	Structure/fonction	Contacts (email/tel)	Signature
01	Thierry	KACANA OUMAR	X		Chf Secteur d'écologie de Bonora/Baal	72-62-19-22 75-38-37-25	
02	AHAMAT	OUMAROU	X		Éleveur		
03	OUMAR DANHA	AMADOU	X		Éleveur	72-46-14-52	
04	AKAPI	BI	X		Éleveur	72-20-00-90	
05	AMOU BAKARA	ALFAKIN	X		Éleveur		
06	GLOU DSA	ADAMO	X		Cultivateur	72-83-27-50	
07	AMADOU	MABAMAT	F		Commerçant	72-90-71-63	
N°	Prénom	NOM	H	F	Structure/fonction	Contacts (email/tel)	Signature
08	ABDOULAYE	ASSANE	X		Commerçant	72-10-80-90	
09	BAKARY	DJIBRINGE	X		Éleveur	72-31-21-58	
10	MOUSSA	MAHAMATI	F		Éleveur	72-71-32-82	
11	ALI	IBRAHIM	X		Commerçant	72-88-96-59	
12	ABAKAR	MOUSSA	X		Commerçant	72-88-24-27	
13	SOULEMANE	MAHAMATI	X		Commerçant	72-14-47-10	
14	BACHIR	DEWA	X		Commerçant	72-12-81-22	
15	YAYA	BAKARI	X		Commerçant	74-17-96-88	
N°	Prénom	NOM	H	F	Structure/fonction	Contacts (email/tel)	Signature
16	YACOUBA	GARBA	X		Commerçant	74-13-95-89	3
17	KADJIDJA	ISMAIL	X		veuve		3
18	ZARA	ISMAIL	X		Commerçante	7291	
19	AMADOU	BINTOU	X		veuve		69
20	MOUSSA	OUMAROU	X		Éleveur		
21	AMADOU	BOULEMA	X		Éleveur		
22	OUSMAN	AMADOU	X		Commerçant	72-14-56-57	
23	YACOUBA	ABDOULAYE	X		Commerçant	72-14-16-82	
N°	Prénom	NOM	H	F	Structure/fonction	Contacts (email/tel)	Signature
24	AMADOU	OUMAROU	X		Commerçant	72-27-82-53	
25	ABI BBA	OUSMAN	X		veuve		
26	MARIAM	OUSMAN	X		veuve		
27	FANE	BALE	X			72-39-14-11	
28	DOUDOU	WALF	X		Commerçant		
29	MARIAM	ISSA	X		veuve		
30	ALIMA	GARGA	X			72-52-50-75	
31	ABIBBA	ISSA	X				
32	RORR	OUSMAN	X				
33	ZENBBA	ABAKAR	X			72-62-88-54	
34	ANNA	IBRAHIM	X		Commerçante	72-57-20-28	
35	ANNA	GOULDJA	X		Commerçante		
36	FANI A	ABAKAR	X		Commerçante	72-14-72-05	
37	ZOUIC	ZAKARIA	X		Commerçante		

Stakeholder engagement plan or assessments will be developed at PPG.

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
IFAD	LDCF	Central African Republic	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	Grant	8,932,420.00	848,580.00	9,781,000.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						8,932,420.00	848,580.00	9,781,000.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

200000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

19000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
IFAD	LDCF	Central African Republic	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	Grant	200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
Total GEF Resources					0.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
CCA-1-1	LDCF	8,932,420.00	35450000
Total Project Cost		8,932,420.00	35,450,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co- financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health	Grant	Investment mobilized	30450000
GEF Agency	IFAD	Grant	Investment mobilized	5000000
Total Co-financing				35,450,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Investment mobilized: (i) The Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health through the Livestock and Youth Support Project (2023-2030; \$36,794,200); (ii) IFAD's Project to Improve the Productivity and Access to Markets of Agricultural products in the Savannah zones (PRAPAM) (2022-2027; \$42,000,000)

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Juan Carlos Mendoza Casadiegos		Director, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division		juancarlos.mendoza@ifad.org
GEF Agency Coordinator	Janie Rioux		GEF Coordinator		j.rioux@ifad.org
Project Coordinator	Caroline Mwongera		Country Director		c.mwongera@ifad.org
Project Coordinator	Suwadu Sakho Jimbira		Regional climate and Environment Specialist		suwadu.jimbira@ifad.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Mr. Lambert Gnapelet	Meteorological Engineer and Environment Manager	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	5/24/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Based on IFAD's programmatic approach that is consistent with the government's development priorities in CAR, the proposed project is will be implemented in (1) Nana-Mambéré; (2) Ombella Mpoko; (3) Ouham-Pende; and (4) Lobaye; and will be extended to four new prefectures: (5) Kemo; (6) Ouham; (7) Ouaka; and (8) Nana-Gribizi. This intervention areas cover five of the country's seven major livestock communes and includes both sedentary agro-pastoralists and transhumant herders (including the Peuhl Mbororo), as well as the Aka/Bayaka pygmy population (in the Lobaye).

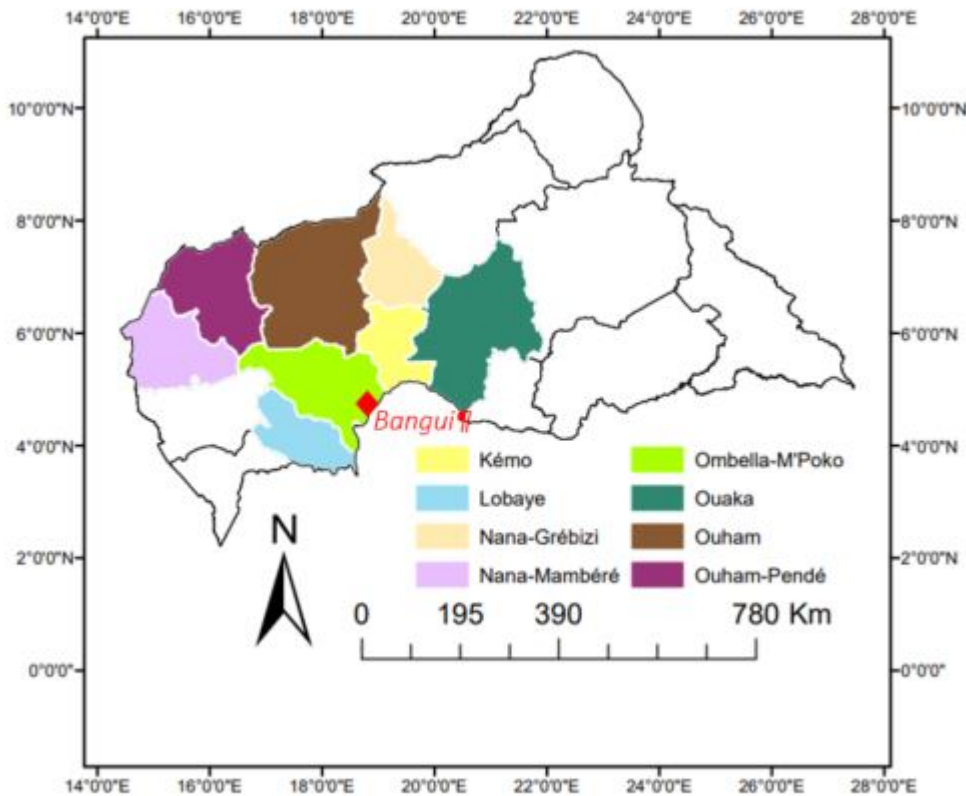


Figure 1: LYSCARDER's target Prefectures in CAR

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

Annex D- ESS screen and rating-rev-22Nov23

Climate Category_PEAJ CAR

Environment and Social Category_PEAJ CAR

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Strengthen institutional capacity/decision making Transform policy and regulatory environments		

Stakeholders	Indigenous people Beneficiaries Local communities Civil society organizations Private Knowledge and learning Stakeholder engagement		
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity development Knowledge generation and exchange		
Gender Equality	Gender results Gender mainstreaming		
Focal Area/Theme	Climate change Biodiversity Forest Land degradation		