Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10771

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
LDCF

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
Strengthening the adaptive capacity of communities by up-scaling integrated landscape management and restoration in south-west region of Central African Republic

Countries
Central African Republic

Agency(ies)
FAO

Other Executing Partner(s)
WWF, African Parks, Minist?re de l?Environnement et du D?veloppement Durable, Minist?re des Eaux, For?ts, Chasse et P?che

Executing Partner Type
CSO

GEF Focal Area
Climate Change

Sector
Climate Change Adaptation Sector

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Productive Landscapes, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Biomes, Tropical Rain Forests, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Forest, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Income Generating Activities, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Agriculture, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Livelihoods, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Mainstreaming adaptation, Private sector, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Innovation, Complementarity, Community-based adaptation, Least Developed Countries, Climate information, Climate resilience, Livelihoods, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Sustainable Development Goals, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approache, Stakeholders, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Partnership, Participation, Communications, Awareness Raising, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Workshop, Training, Course, Professional Development, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Knowledge Exchange, Field Visit, South-South, Conference, Peer-to-Peer, Targeted Research, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Education, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Information Dissemination

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

No Contribution 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Principal Objective 2

Biodiversity

No Contribution 0

Land Degradation

No Contribution 0

Submission Date

9/15/2022

Expected Implementation Start

1/1/2024

Expected Completion Date

12/31/2028

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee($)
848,580.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
CCA-1	1.1	LDCF	6,932,420.00	8,106,237.00
CCA-2	2.1	LDCF	2,000,000.00	2,338,646.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**8,932,420.00**	**10,444,883.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Project Objective: Enhanced resilience of rural communities through the valuation of productive and forest landscapes and inclusive governance mechanisms

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing ($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing ($)
Reducing vulnerability to climate change through inclusive integrated land-use planning	Technical Assistance	1.1 Efficient territorial & development planning for resilient and sustainable integrated landscape management	1.1.1 Capacity-building programs implemented for decentralized entities or jurisdictions (prefectures and communes) to integrate climate change adaptation into development planning processes and through a landscape restoration approach 1.1.2 Five multi-stakeholder platforms established at the landscape level, in order to effectively engage multiple stakeholders (private sector, CSOs, local administration etc.) involved in agro-sylo-pastoral food systems resilience and investment. 1.1.3 Community structures strengthened/established to promote climate change adaptation through participatory forestry and integrated landscape management 1.1.4 Dimitra Clubs established and supported to facilitate the self-mobilization of communities, women?s leadership,	LDCF	1,311,560.00	1,533,637.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing ($)
			the definition and implementation of land-use management plans and to improve conflict resolution			
Promotion of ecosystem-based approaches for enhanced resilience of both the landscapes and the local communities	Investment	2.1 Forest ecosystems and productive landscapes are locally sustainably managed for enhanced resilience of local communities	2.1.1 Sustainable management plans developed and implemented for at least five Community Forests 2.1.2 Forests in at least seven communes are sustainably managed and restored by local communities for enhanced ecological functionality and climate change resilience	LDCF	3,170,150.00	3,706,929.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing ($)
Promotion of climate-smart nature-based livelihood interventions to decrease the risk of human/nature conflicts	Investment	3.1 Diversified and resilient livelihood strategies promoted based on climate-smart nature-based approaches for increased community resilience	3.1.1 Forest and farm producer organizations established and empowered to ensure efficient and inclusive management and governance in climate change adaptation 3.1.2 Sustainable NTFP/agriculture value chains identified and selected by FFPOs and cooperatives, and bankable business plans developed for investments 3.1.3 Capacities of extension services, NGOs and research institutions strengthened to provide up-to-date adaptive support to APFSs and FFPOs 3.1.4 Climate-resilient agroforestry production systems identified by producer groups and developed with support of extension services to reduce climate change vulnerability	LDCF	2,551,410.00	2,983,422.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing ($)
Knowledge, learning and M&E	Technical Assistance	4.1 Lessons and knowledge from the project are captured through a robust MEL system 4.2 Enhanced knowledge and learning at national and regional levels through a robust knowledge development and dissemination strategy	4.1.1 Effective and participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) implemented, including tools adapted to/with communities for them to define, monitor and visualize progress 4.2.1 Exchange visits for key stakeholders (community groups, FFPOs) organized to share best practices and increase knowledge on community-managed landscape planning and resilient nature-based value chain development 4.2.2 Knowledge generated by the project is shared and communicated with broader stakeholder group in-country and with existing regional platforms (COMIFAC, Congo Basin countries) and initiatives to promote efficient exchange of knowledge and information	LDCF	1,350,800.00	1,579,521.00
				Sub Total ($)	**8,383,920.00**	**9,803,509.00**

Project Management Cost (PMC)		
LDCF	548,500.00	641,374.00
Sub Total($)	**548,500.00**	**641,374.00**
Total Project Cost($)	**8,932,420.00**	**10,444,883.00**

Please provide justification

Please note that PMC is beyond the PIF-approved cap of 5%. An initial HACT assessment of national government partners (as suggested in the PIF) pointed out significant operational capacity gaps. Non-state development partners were assessed instead, and both WWF & African Parks have been identified and confirmed as operational partners. WWF?s field activities are located in South-West CAR, while African Parks operations are concentrated in South-East CAR. Though both partners will provide significant co-financing to PMC, the cost of multiple PMUs is substantial and exceeds the PMC cap. In addition, some of the project management functions will be entrusted to the two key line ministries of environment and forests to secure coordination, stewardship and ownership.

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	821,000.00
Civil Society Organization	WWF	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,770,000.00
Civil Society Organization	African Parks CAR	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,900,000.00
Donor Agency	IFAD	Grant	Investment mobilized	953,883.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**10,444,883.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The project has identified investments through incrementally leveraging synergies and complementarities with existing initiatives and programs for an estimated associated co-financing of USS 9.49 million. Mobilized investment includes technical cooperation projects from FAO on water management, early-warning systems, climate-sensitive nutrition and value chain investment (for a total of USD 821,000). EU investment through the NaturAfrica Programme, channelled through WWF in South-West CAR (USD 2,770,000) and African Parks in South-East CAR (USD 5,900,000) will provide extremely relevant cofinancing for the proposed LDCF investment. Synergies will be facilitated as both WWF and African Parks will be main executing partners of the LDCF project. IFAD will be providing cofinancing through the PRAPAM project (Projet de renforcement de la productivit? et de l'acc?s aux march?s des produits agropastoraux dans les savanes). Please note that FAO will be looking for additional co-financing sources throughout implementation, and diligently report on cofinancing mobilization in PIRs.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
FAO	LDCF	Central African Republic	Climate Change	NA	8,932,420	848,580	9,781,000.00
			Total Grant Resources($)		**8,932,420.00**	**848,580.00**	**9,781,000.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount ($)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

19,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
FAO	LDCF	Central African Republic	Climate Change	NA	200,000	19,000	**219,000.00**
			Total Project Costs($)		**200,000.00**	**19,000.00**	**219,000.00**

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). false

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This Project has an urban focus. false

This Project covers the following sector(s)[the total should be 100%]:*

Agriculture	**30.00%**
Natural resources management	**70.00%**
Climate information services	**0.00%**
Coastal zone management	**0.00%**
Water resources management	**0.00%**
Disaster risk management	**0.00%**
Other infrastructure	**0.00%**
Health	**0.00%**
Other (Please specify:)	**0.00%**
Total	**100%**

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

CORE INDICATOR 1

Total

Male

Female

% for Women

Total number of direct beneficiaries

0

0

0

0%

CORE INDICATOR 2

Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha)

0.00

CORE INDICATOR 3

Total no. of policies/plans that will mainstream climate resilience

12

CORE INDICATOR 4

Male

Female

% for Women

Total number of people trained

20,350

10,200

10,150

49.88%

To calculate the core indicators, please refer to Results Guidance

OBJECTIVE 1

Reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaption

OUTCOME 1.1

Technologies and innovative solutions piloted or deployed to reduce climate-related risks and / or enhance resilience

View

OUTCOME 1.2

Innovative financial instruments and investment models enabled or introduced to enhance climate resilience

View

OBJECTIVE 2

Mainstream climate change adaption and resilience for systemic impact

OUTCOME 2.1

Strengthened cross-sectoral mechanisms to mainstream climate adaption and resilience

View

OUTCOME 2.2

Adaptation considerations mainstreamed into investments

View

OUTCOME 2.3

Institutional and human capacities strengthened to identify and implement adaptation measures

View

OBJECTIVE 3

Foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate change adaption

OUTCOME 3.1

Climate-resilient planning enabled by stronger climate information decision-support services, and other relevant analysis, as a support to NAP process and/or for enabling activities in response to COP guidance

View

OUTCOME 3.2

Increased ability of country to access and/or manage climate finance or other relevant, largescale, pragmatic investment, as a support to NAP process and/or for enabling activities in response to COP guidance

View

OUTCOME 3.3

Institutional and human capacities strengthened to identify and implement adaptation measures as a support to NAP process and/or for enabling activities in response to COP guidance

View

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1.a Project Description

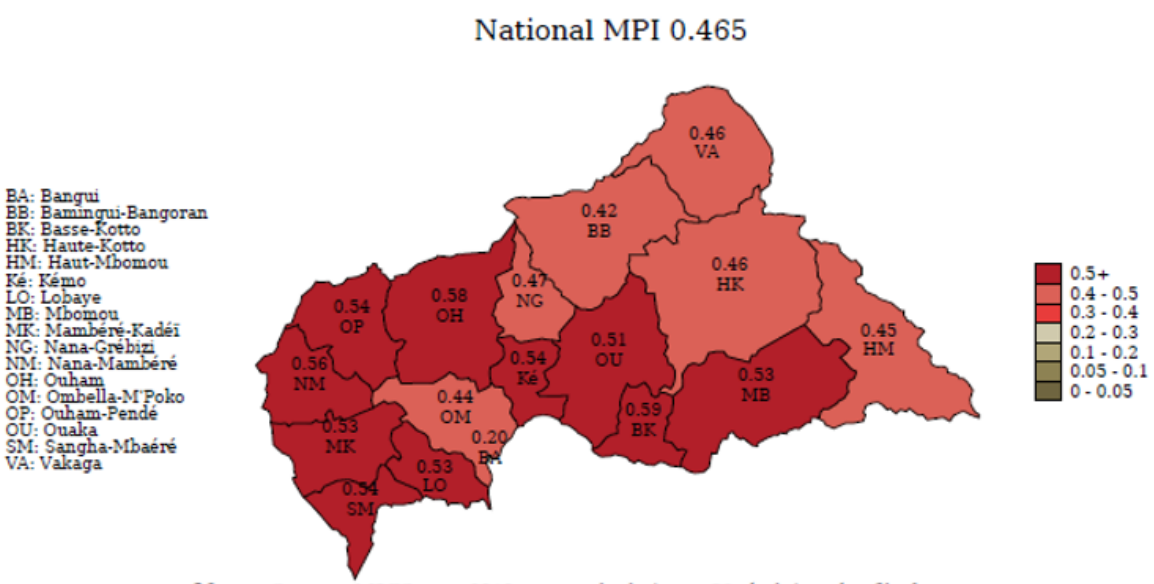
1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description).

A) Global adaptation problem

A least-developed country strongly dependent on climate-vulnerable subsistence agriculture and forestry, and threatened by insecurity

1. The Central African Republic (CAR) is a landlocked country with an area of around 623,000 km2. The population of the CAR is predominantly rural (62.1%), female (50.2%) and young (49.4% less than 18 years old). It is among the poorest countries in the world, with a Human Development Index of 0.397 in 2019, positioning CAR at the 188th position out of 189 countries[1]. The Central African economy relies primarily on the agricultural sector, a sector described is in the National Communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as one of the most vulnerable sectors to climate change impacts[2]. Decades of conflicts and political instability have also spread insecurity throughout the population, causing the abandonment of production systems and migration to safer zones, which has impeded further the adaptive capacity of communities and government. Local people tend to fall back on the remaining forest ecosystems for food and nutrition security which, in the absence of adequate sustainable planning and governance systems, causes further degradation and reduces adaptive capacity to climate change.

Figure 1. Mapping Multidimensional Poverty Index value by region[3].



Notes: Source: MICS year 2010, own calculations. Underlying shp-file from Global Administrative Areas (2019).

2. The CAR ranked 180th out of 181 countries in 2020 on the climate ND-GAIN[4] Index. The country?s vulnerability to socio-economic challenges and climate change is high because of social constraints of extreme poverty, violence, political instability, population displacements and health constraints, as well as limited natural resource management and agricultural capacity to adapt to natural hazards[5],[6]. Over the last decade, the country has suffered from an increasing number of severe humanitarian needs, counting to 2.29 million people in crisis or severe food insecurity conditions[7]. At the local level, poor urban and rural communities are particularly vulnerable to compounded effects of extreme temperatures and changing rainfall patterns negatively affecting agricultural production which is mainly rain-fed and characterized by low value adding capacities, technical and human resource-poor[8]. In addition, increasing dry spells followed by heavy rains and flash flooding events all result in soil erosion, with negative impacts on building and road infrastructure[9]. Overall, smallholder farmers constitute the most vulnerable group to conflict-led productivity losses and displacements, resulting in disruptions to food stocks, increased prices, need of humanitarian aid, and increasing use of maladaptive practices. It is also proved that the intensity of climate risk is different according to livelihoods? socio-economic conditions, locations, gender, age, and ethnicity in Central Africa[10], and is higher towards women, youth, and children due to limited access to credit and assets, relationship with high-level institutions and engagement in policy dialogue and decision making in agriculture and forestry sectors. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), female farmers, cocoa and plantain producers, pastoralists, rural and forest communities are the most vulnerable groups to climate change in Central Africa, characterized by low adaptive capacity and adverse socio-economic conditions. Natural hazards are expected to further exacerbate such challenges, thus undermining environmental, social, food security and

economic conditions, exacerbating loss of lives, through negative impacts on water resources, ecosystem services, and biodiversity losses[11], compounded by reducing capacity of external humanitarian aid to operate in adverse conditions[12].

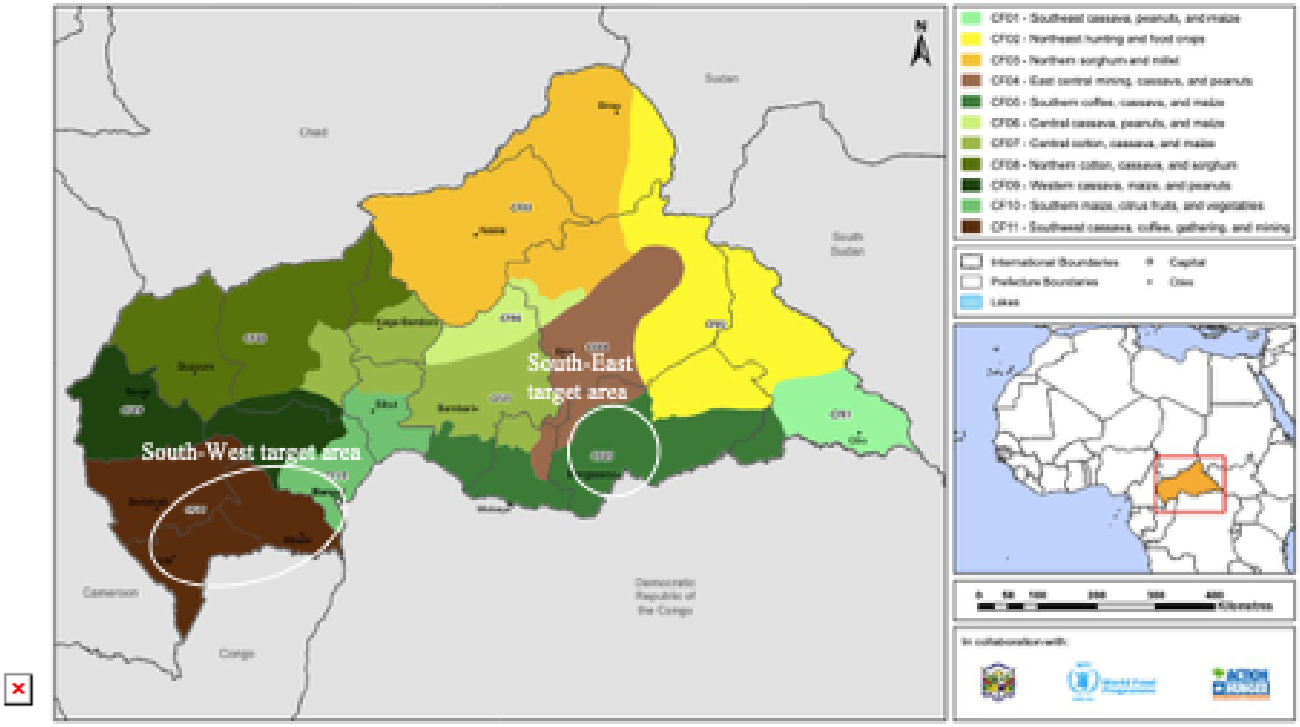
3. In 2013 and 2014, the CAR witnessed a surge in violent conflicts with two consecutive civil wars. A reconciliation process was launched in 2014, which led to the 2015 Bangui Forum, a new Constitution and a new inclusive government. With the support of the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank Group, a Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment was prepared and led to the development and adoption of a National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (Rel?vement et Consolidation de la Paix en Centrafrique ? RCPCA[13]), which consists in three pillars: i) critical reforms to promote peace, security, and reconciliation; ii) reforms to provide basic social services such as education, health, water, and sanitation; and iii) measures to facilitate a rapid improvement of the business environment and to improve natural resources management, including of minerals and timber. Despite massive investments in development projects and the signature of six different peace accords up to 2019, conflict-related violence persevered, and the situation remains fragile, especially in the eastern parts of the country.

4. The main economic sectors in the CAR are linked to subsistence farming and the exploitation of forest resources. Most of the CAR population (74%) relies on the agro-pastoral sector[14], which contributes to 52% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The CAR has a great natural potential, represented by 15 million ha of arable land suitable for agriculture and nearly 16 million ha of pasture and rangeland suitable for livestock activities. It also has significant water resources thanks to a dense hydrographic network, favorable to crop irrigation and inland fisheries. Despite this potential, only 5% of land is valued and used for cropland (0.8 Mha) and 56% is valued as pastureland[15] (9 Mha).

5. Agriculture is mostly centered on food crops, mainly focusing on cassava, groundnut, maize, rice, sesame and plantain. It is estimated that 70% of farmers cultivate an area less than 1 ha. Cash crops are marginal, with tobacco, coffee and palm oil small-scale plantations being mostly present in the southwest. Small-scale farmers often supplement their incomes by working for wealthier households, hunting and gathering natural resources, or partaking in the country's large informal mining sector[16]. Agricultural exports, which used to account for 50% of the country?s wealth, have been completely shut down because of the fragmentation of existing value chains caused by the political and insecurity crisis. In the southwest (SW) region, most land is under forest concessions (Permis d?Exploitation et d?Am?nagement, PEA) and local communities have access to the ?Series for Agriculture and Human Settlement? (S?ries Agricoles et d?Occupation Humaine, SAOH) to practice agriculture in these PEAs (Table 1).

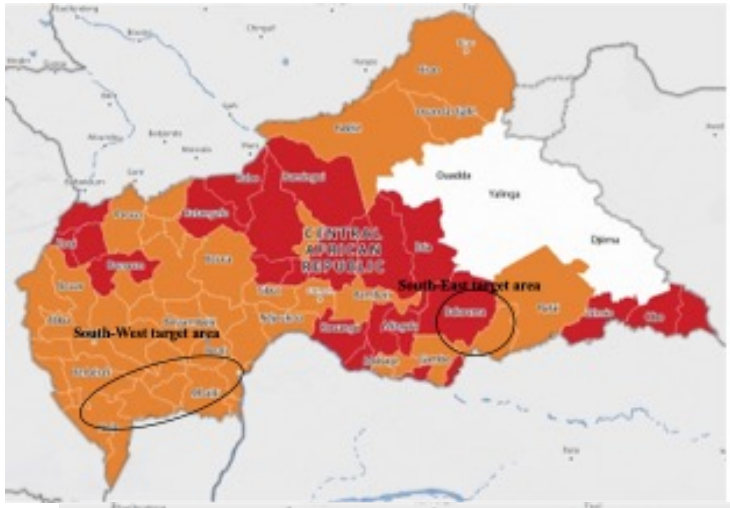
6. CAR can be divided into 11 major livelihood zones (Figure 3) defined by agroecological characteristics. The project target areas belong to: i) Zone 5 in the SE where communities focus on coffee, cassava and maize; ii) Zone 10 in the South with a focus on maize, citrus and vegetables; iii) and Zone 11 where livelihoods rely on cassava, coffee, gathering and mining.

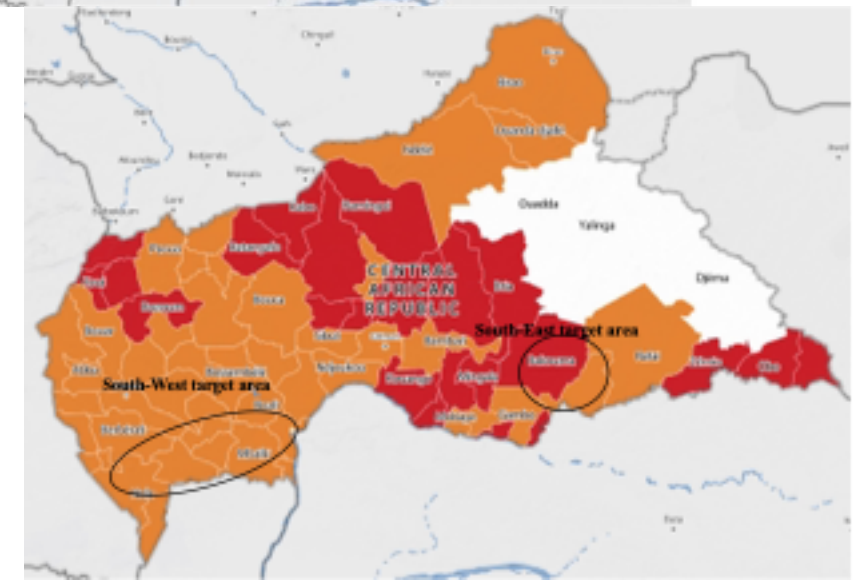
Figure 2. Livelihood map of the CAR[17].



7. Food insecurity is widespread throughout the country, with a proportion of households suffering from food insecurity ranging from 32% to 65% in 2020. An Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis carried out from May-August 2020 estimated that 2.36 million people in the CAR were severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or higher), covering 35 sub-prefectures (Figure 2). Following the National Evaluation of Food Security (ENSA) conducted by WFP and ICASEES[18] in November 2019, the proportion of households involved in agriculture increased significantly over the past three agricultural seasons (92% in 2019 compared to 67% in 2017), which highlights the key role of agriculture as a resilience strategy for the majority of the population.

Figure 3. Food insecurity situational analysis April-August 2022. Source: IPC.





8. With 11% of the GDP[19], the forestry sector contributes to around half of total exports and plays an important role in the national budget. Before the current crisis, the private forestry sector directly employed 4,000 people directly and 6,000 people indirectly. Under favorable circumstances, forest companies can largely contribute to the mobilization of fiscal income and to the budgets of local collectivities through the payment of forest taxes to the forest Communes for the financing of their local development plans[20]. Artisanal logging can also be considered an important

economic activity, as field surveys[21] carried out just before the crisis in 2010 and 2011 showed that 50% of the wood supply (33,000 m3/year) were sold in the CAR and, in addition 6,000 m3 were exported to Chad annually. Most of the artisanal sector remains informal and, according to a 2019 survey[22], 93% of the respondents indicated having no cutting permit, despite legal obligations under the Forest Code.

9. Forests? role in the national economy is further enhanced by the numerous services and goods it provides to local communities besides timber provision. According to the 2012-2017 National Strategy and Action Plan for the promotion of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP)[23], the livelihoods of 72% or rural people in the CAR depend partly or entirely on NTFPs. This proportion would be even greater for marginalized indigenous peoples, such as Pygmies / Bay?Aka, although reliable data is lacking in this field. The most well-known NTFPs include[24]: k?k? (*Gnetum* spp; harvest estimated at 500 t/year), caterpillars (notably *Imbrasia* spp.; total harvest estimated at 540 t/year), pepper (*Piper negrum*) and diverse mushrooms ? among others. Caterpillars are greatly appreciated in the CAR, and especially in the South-West, as they provide a valuable source of proteins and are part of the traditional culture[25]. Thirty host plant species and seventy types of edible caterpillars have been identified in the literature[26]. Essesang (*Ricinodendron heudelotii*) is considered one of the most valuable host species and the most requested by local populations, as it can host three different types of caterpillars. However, climate change affecting agricultural yields tends to increase pressure on forest resources through unsustainable practices, such as uprooting of trees, thereby jeopardizing the sustainable supply of such NTFPs.

10. In the CAR, the total annual cost of land degradation is estimated at USD 700 million ? which amounts roughly to 40% of GDP. A considerable share of the costs of land degradation (68%) is due to the decline in provisioning ecosystem services (e.g. food availability, wood production), which has a significant impact on the national population. The remaining share refers to regulating ecosystem services (e.g. carbon sequestration, water regulation flows), which has an impact not only at the country level, but also on the regional and global scale due to the transboundary nature of these services. In 2018, the National Coordination on Combatting Land Degradation and Desertification of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Minist?re de l?Environnement et du D?veloppement Durable, MEDD) undertook an evaluation of the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target 15.3 to estimate the proportion of land degraded in the CAR[27]. According to this assessment, 8.149 Mha of lands have seen a decline in productivity during the past 15 years (2000-2015), which represents 13.20% of the total land area. The loss in ecosystem services has been reducing the overall resilience of land, which in turn has increased the vulnerability of local communities and ecosystems to the point that they no longer have sufficient adaptive capacities to respond to numerous intertwined climatic, socio-economic and environmental challenges.

The CAR has been, is and will be affected by adverse climate impacts

11. Climate types: Because of its close proximity to the equator, the climate of the CAR is hot and humid, with a dry and a wet season. The average annual temperature ranges from 15?C in the south to 38?C in the north. The country can be divided according to rainfall regimes and is characterized by the following three main climatic zones going from south to north: i) tropical climate in the equatorial forest of the South; ii) inter-tropical climate in the center; and iii) arid, sub-Sahelian climate in the north.

12. This diversity in climate types has provided CAR with a wide range of ecosystems. Five phytogeographic domains can be distinguished (Figure 4):

? Congo-Guinean or Guinean forest domain: this domain forms part of the Congo Basin and the vegetation is characterized by dense humid forests. It has one long wet season and one short dry season; annual rainfall is over 1,600 mm.

? Sudano-Ubanguian domain: this domain is characterized by semi-humid and gallery forests with annual rainfall ranging between 1,300 and 1,600 mm.
? Sudano-Guinean woodlands: characterized by wooded and tree savanna.
? Sudano-Sahelian domain: characterized by shrub savanna, grassy savanna and steppes
? Sahelian domain: typical Sahel landscape in far north of the country with longer dry seasons than wet season and annual rainfall below 700 mm.

Figure 4. Phytogeographic domains of the CAR[28].

13. The project target areas (SW and SE) are mainly within the Guinean Forest and the Sudano-Ubanguian domains where climate change impacts such as reduced certainty of agricultural calendars, increase in temperature, erratic and excessive rainfall and flooding are threatening the livelihoods of local communities. The widespread practice of slash-and-burn agriculture is highly vulnerable to these impacts; in response, communities survive by harvesting NTFPs and further encroaching on forest ecosystems which, in turn, have a reduced adaptive capacity when fragmented or degraded.

Past climate change

14. Temperatures[29]: According to the IPCC-AR6 report[30], there is a high confidence that mean temperatures and hot extremes have emerged above natural variability, relative to the 1851-1900 period, in all land regions in Africa. Since 1970, the annual average temperature in the CAR has significantly increased at a rate of 0.35?C/decade, equivalent to 1.75?C between the 1970 and 2020 period[31]. Most of this increase has been observed since the 1970s, a considerably colder decade than the average temperature observed between 1930 and 1970.

15. Precipitations: With regards to precipitation indices, some of the major changes observed in the CAR are associated with a statistically significant decrease in total precipitation of -31.1mm/decade over 1955-2005.[32] While the latter study reports a decrease in precipitation across the country between 1955-2005, the World Bank[33] reports an improvement on precipitation by 8% since the 1990s. Aguilar et al.[34] also suggest a decline in both the number of consecutive wet days (?1mm/day) and the number of consecutive dry days (?1mm/day), respectively by -0.35days/decade (statistically significant different) and -0.06 days/decade (non-statistically significant different) over the 1955-2005 period.

16. Extreme weather events: Changes in extreme weather events in the CAR have mostly been studied over the 1955 and 2006 period. Aguilar et al. indicate a 0.25 and 0.21?C increase per decade (1950-2006 period), respectively of the warmest day and night-time temperatures. The same work suggests an increase in coldest day and night-time temperatures by 0.13 and 0.23?C/decade, whereas the cold night and cold day frequency has significantly decreased by -1.71 and -1.22% days/year on average per decade over the 1950-2006 period. Lastly, warm night and warm day frequency has suffered a notable increase over time by 3.24 and 2.87% days/year on average per decade over the 1950-2006 period.

17. W5E5 reanalysis data displays a statistically significant increase in the number of days per year with Tmax ?35?C, particularly along the Ouham, Nana-Gr?bizi, Bamingui-Bangoran and Haut-Mbomou provinces. In these provinces, Tmax ?35?C has increased by 1.0 to 1.5 days/year (equivalent to 25.0-37.5 days) over the 1980-2005 period. In addition, northern parts of the CAR (Vakaga province) have observed the largest increase in extreme heat-stress conditions (Tmax ?40?C), with an annual increase of 0.6 days/year over the 1980-2005 period. Lastly, large areas of the CAR have reported statistically significant increases in tropical nights (Tmin ?20?C). For example, along the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo there has been an annual increase of more than 3 tropical nights per year over the 1980-2005 period.

18. Aguilar?s et al. work has also thoroughly examined the changes in extreme precipitation in the CAR over the 1955-2005 period. For example, the number of heavy precipitation events (?20mm/day) has decreased by -0.67 days/decade. Maximum absolute precipitation has suffered a decrease over the 1955-2005 period, particularly maximum 5-day precipitation with a decrease of -1.54mm/decade. In disagreement to the previous study are the W5E5 reanalysis results for the 1980-2005 period, which show an increase in the number of heavy rainfall days per year (?20mm/day). These changes are statistically significantly different over Bamingui-Bangoran (0.3-0.5 additional heavy rainfall events/year) and Mbomou (>0.6 heavy rainfall events/year) (Figure 9). On the contrary, central, and westernmost parts of the country have reported a decrease in heavy rainfall conditions, mostly in Ouaka province where there has been a decrease of -0.2 to -0.3 heavy rainfall events per year over the 1980-2005 study period.

Anticipated climate change

19. Methodology: The Climate Hazard Toolbox (CHAT)[35] allows the user to access regionally downscaled climate models (CORDEX-CORE) at 25km resolution for two socioeconomic emission scenarios and/or representative concentration pathways (RCP), namely RCPs 2.6 (low emission scenario) and RCP 8.5 (high emission scenario). For future projections, the CHAT tool uses the W5E5 merged dataset for the 1980-2005 period that combines WFDE5 data over land with ERA5 over the ocean. One of the main functions of the CHAT tool is that the user can look at the model agreement in the sign of the climate change signal (as defined by the IPCC) as well as to the standard deviation of the climate change

signal (not shown for brevity in this study). The CHAT tool also allows the user to apply thresholds, including climate change and agroclimatic indices that are of interest for climate change impact assessments in agriculture.

20. Temperatures: While average Tmax is expected to increase by 1.0 to 1.5?C under RCP 2.6, average Tmax may increase by as much as 3.0 to 4.0?C under RCP 8.5 by the end-century (2070-2099). In the mid-term (2040-2069), average Tmax is expected to be 2.5?C higher under RCP 2.6 compared to the 1980-2005 baseline period. Most changes in average Tmax are likely to occur between March and May, with average Tmax increases higher than 4?C under RCP 8.5 by the end-century (2080-2099).

21. All models agree on an increase in Tmin over time, particularly under RCP 8.5. While Tmin is expected to increase by 1.0 to 1.5?C under RCP 2.6, it is expected to increase by 3.5 to 4.5?C under RCP 8.5 by the end-century (2070-2099).

22. Precipitations: According to the IPCC regional fact sheet[36], there is a high confidence that Central Africa is likely to experience an increase in heavy precipitation and pluvial flooding over the 21st century. Monsoon precipitation may increase over the Central Sahel and, thus, affect the northern parts of the CAR. Annual changes of up to 10% are expected along the country and are likely to heighten in a warmer climate over the century.

23. Over the 21st century, a higher precipitation increase is expected among central and northern parts of the CAR, with a precipitation improvement of 100 to 200mm under RCP 2.6 by the end-century (2070-2099) compared to the baseline period 1980-2005. On the contrary, precipitation is likely to remain constant in eastern and westernmost parts of the country under RCP 2.6. In addition, under RCP 8.5, there is a higher uncertainty on future precipitation projections, which are heightened by the end-century. There are also large spatial differences on future projections under RCP 8.5. While the central and northernmost parts of Bamingui-Bangoran provinces are expected to experience an annual precipitation increase of up to 250mm, southwestern most provinces (Sangha-Mba?r?) may suffer from a decline in total annual precipitation of 50 to 100mm (with high model agreement on the sign of change). Furthermore, most of the precipitation changes are likely to occur over the rainy season. However, while models do not show a high agreement in precipitation changes between April and June, a high model agreement is displayed between July and December. For example, under RCP 8.5, most models agree on a precipitation increase of 0 to 100mm between October and December across most parts of the CAR. Lastly, most of the precipitation decline is projected between April and June, with a high model agreement on a precipitation decrease, ranging between 50 to 100mm in northern and southernmost parts of the country under RCP 8.5 by the end-century (2070-2099).

24. Extreme weather events: According to the IPCC-AR6 report[37], there is a high confidence that observed increases in hot extremes, including heat waves, and decreases in cold extremes may continue and exacerbate over the 21st century with additional global warming. The CHAT tool depicts much of this change in extreme temperatures. For example, most of these models agree on an increase in the number of days with hot (Tmax ?35?C) and very hot (Tmax ?40?C) weather conditions, which are in both cases likely to be heightened under RCP 8.5. For example, while the number of days per year with Tmax ?35?C may increase by 20 to 40 days under RCP 2.6, simulation results for RCP 8.5 show an increase of up to 80 to 120 days by the end-century (2070-2099) compared to the baseline period (1980-2005).

25. Very hot conditions (Tmax ?40?C) are also expected to exacerbate throughout the country, with a rise ranging between 50 to 100 days by the end-century under RCP 8.5. While major changes in heat-stress conditions are expected under RCP 8.5, small to moderate changes are projected under RCP 2.6. Lastly, most models agree on an increase in the number of tropical nights (Tmin ?20?C) over the century. The rate of increase is expected to be higher in eastern and westernmost parts of the country than in the central and northernmost areas.

26. According to the IPCC-AR6 report[38], Central Africa may experience a notable increase in annual maximum daily precipitation, mostly in a 4?C global warming with an increase as high as 40%. In addition, simulation results from Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP 5) used in the CHAT tool indicate a decrease in the total number of rainy days (precip. ?1mm/day), thus suggesting an increase in dry-spell duration during the rainy season. The majority of the CMIP5 models agree, for both RCPs and time-horizons, in a decrease in the number of rainy days. This decrease is likely to heighten under RCP 8.5, where the number of rainy days per year is likely to decrease by 15 to 20 days by the end-century (2070-2099), mostly along the southernmost provinces of the CAR.

Climate threats & impacts

27. High-impact events: Annex N (Table 1) reports on the series of natural disasters occurring in the CAR from 1973 to 2022. Overall, within the target SE and SW prefectures, rising maximum and minimum temperatures, declining rainy days combined with heavy rainfall events all resulted in drought and associated wildfires, as well as riverine and flash flooding events and associated riverbank erosion, overflows, landslides and mudslides, and waterlogging of crop fields[39]. In 2009, severe storms and flooding events particularly in the southwest areas and around the capital city of Bangui affected over 14,500 people, with associated costs for losses and damage reaching USD 6 million. In 2012-2013, heavy precipitation affected nearly 14,000 people and destroyed property and infrastructure and farmland in five localities surrounding Bangui and Begoua[40]. Flooding, drought, and wildfire impacts were exacerbated by anthropogenic drivers including land use and deforestation activities, watershed degradation and limited management practices for settlements, urbanization, agricultural activities of land clearing and burning, firewood extraction, and hunting. The risk is projected to increase in the mid-term future under changing climatic conditions[41], [42].

28. Crop yields and livestock production: The agro-pastoral sector, together with the overall socio-economic situation and food security conditions of the country, was highly impacted by the humanitarian and security crisis in 2013-2015. The limited productivity and income opportunities of the sector, the lack of building, road infrastructures and public services particularly in rural areas, are the main causes of high poverty levels in the country[43]. According to the IPCC AR6,[44] Central Africa has already observed an increase in agricultural and ecological droughts, with impacts on land degradation, biodiversity losses, surface water stress, reduced quantity and quality of yields, as well as increasing wildfire risks[45]. Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns are expected to shift farming operational activities[46]. In addition, heavy rains and flooding events in CAR are primarily responsible for impacts to crop production and along the entire value chains, disrupting lands and infrastructure, leading to crop failures (e.g., of cassava) due to water logging and challenges to harvest yields, reducing the nutritional quality of products, as well as perishable food, grains, and seeds contamination from fungal growth as a result of increased humidity at storage and processing levels[47]. The road and river transportation infrastructure are also highly exposed to flooding and heavy rainfall and vulnerable to increasing costs for road maintenance and repairing, causing negative impacts on food spoilage and reduced shelf life during transportation and access to markets, with compounded effects on farmers and all linked value chain actors? profits.

29. The rise in minimum and maximum temperatures combined with increasing rainfall is also expected to pose additional stress to farmers? crop selection and production capacities, and cropland transformation into agroforestry and forestry systems. In addition, pests and pathogen attacks, particularly the cassava mosaic virus and coffee rust, are projected to increase as a result of increasing temperatures[48], [49].

30. In the project sites, coffee and cocoa production is a potential agroforestry source to increase resilience of crop and forestry systems in the areas as well as for exportation from the CAR. However, such food commodities are highly vulnerable and exposed to climate impacts, including extremes and variability, particularly increasing temperatures and consequent spread of pests and pathogens such as coffee rust[50]. For coffee

production, a study[51] analyzed changes in suitability for *C. canephora* by 2050 in the center of origin in West Africa and the Congo Basin. Results show reduced crop suitability by 60% under RCP2.6 and up to 95% under RCP 8.5, thus becoming almost unsuitable. Overall, losses are projected to be higher for Robusta than for Arabica, and substantial within forest lands. Cocoa production instead is more susceptible to increasing heavy rainfall and associated brown rot disease spread, as already detected in cocoa production sites in Ghana and C?te d?Ivoire[52]. In addition, sesame, sorghum, peanuts, and millet productivity is projected to decrease by up to 20% with increasing dry spells by 2030.[53]

31. Future climate impacts to crop yields by 2050 compared to 2020 in the targeted CAR prefectures are simulated using IFAD?s Climate Adaptation in Rural Development (CARD) assessment tool. The CARD tool uses a median average of crop-climate models? results under RCP 8.5 (high emission scenario) and projected global warming by 4?C by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial levels. The projections assume rainfed agricultural production, without irrigation[54].

32. The models (Table 1) show decreasing yields for major CAR?s crops, particularly cassava and groundnut which are expected to decrease in all five prefectures by 12-16%. In contrast, maize (5-8%), rice (10-12%), sorghum (7%), and millet (8-9%) yields are projected to decrease to a lesser extent. Although sorghum production is already scarce in the country, while cassava, rice, and maize production is already damaged by pests and diseases attacks as well as climate variability[55]. Higher reduction in soy production (16%) is depicted in Mbomou and Mamb?r? Kad?i prefectures. While increasing mean temperatures may increase plant productivity in the future, heat-sensitive species would be negatively affected and risk the extinction, while extreme heat and rainfall events may also alter the phenological phases of key crop (duration of cultivation season) and livestock (breeding periods) species, as well as increase animal and plant mortality[56]. Decreasing crop yields are also driven by the exhaustion of agrobiodiversity resources due to limited management and conservation capacities.

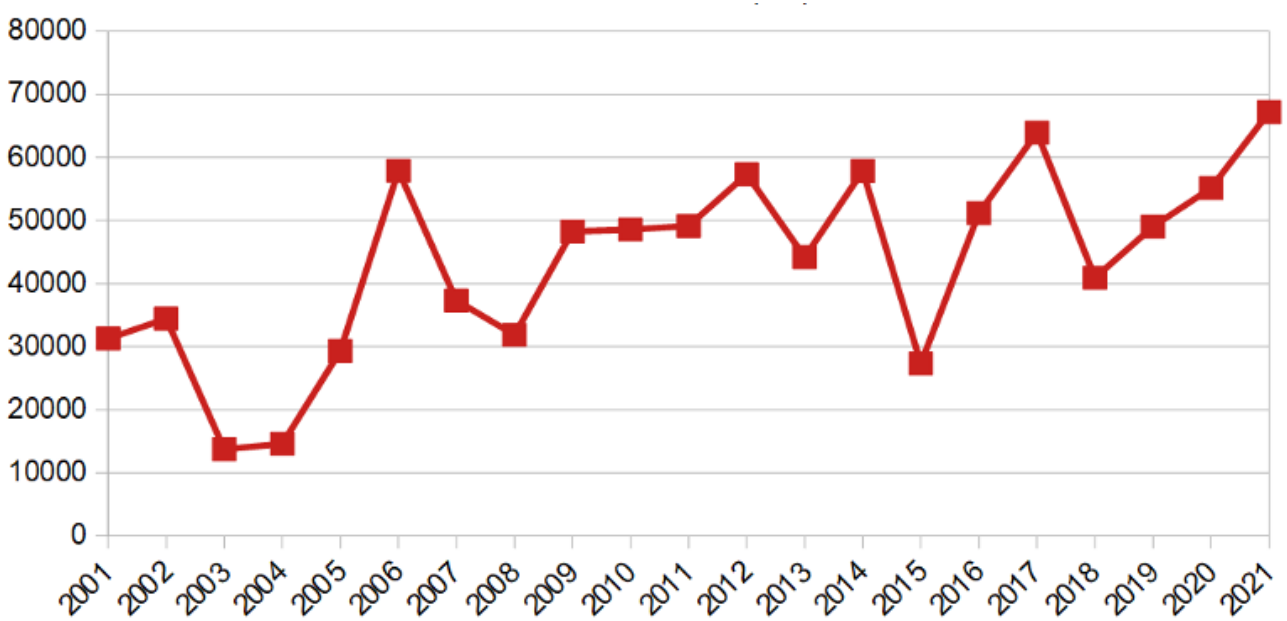
Table 1. Projected climate impacts on crop yields. Source: IFAD, 2019.

	Maize	Cassava	Groundnut	Rice	Sorghum	Millet	Soy
Mbomou	-7%	-12%	-15.8%	-10.4%	-7%	-9.7%	-16%
Mamb?r? Kad?i	-5.8%	-14.4%	-14.7%	-11.5%	-6.7%	-8.4%	-16%
Sangha Mba?r?	-8.2%	-15.5%	-14.8%	-9.9%	-7.4%	-	-
Lobaye	-8.2%	-16.1%	-14.8%	-11.7%	-7.7%	-	-8.7%
Ombella Mpoko	-8.6%	-15.7%	-14.1%	-12.2%	-7.8%	-8.9%	-10.8%

33. Changing rainfall patterns also have detrimental consequences on the reproduction of insects such as caterpillars, a delicacy and important nutrient source in the CAR. The earlier start of the rainy season creates several problems. For example, edible caterpillar species now appear earlier (May), meaning that insects tend to be smaller and fewer; in addition, their life cycle finishes more quickly. These changes can cause a decline of about 83% in collection (20 kg/year/household compared to 145 kg/year/household in a favorable year) which represents a significant drop in household budgets and threatens food security[57].

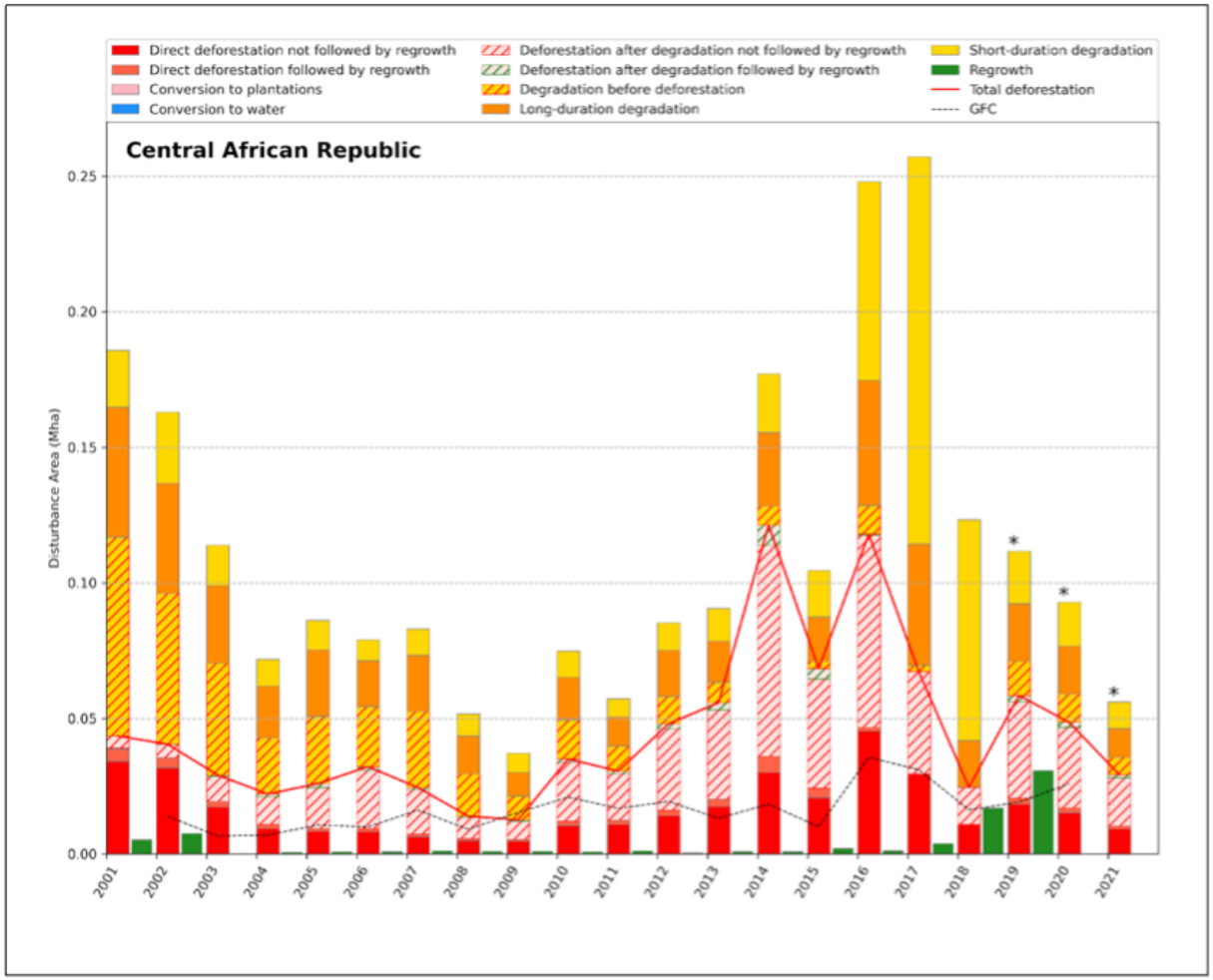
34. Forestry systems: Forests and landscapes in southern CAR are subject to substantial pressure, deforestation, and degradation[58]. In 1990, forest cover represented 37% of the CAR?s territory[59] which progressively decreased by 19,400 ha per year until 2020, compared to 1990. According to the Global Forest Watch?s database, the CAR lost 1.9% ? a total of 910,000 ha of tree cover between 2001-2021 (Figure 1), resulting in 426Mt of CO_2 equivalent emissions.

Figure 5. Tree cover loss (ha). Source: Global Forest Watch.



35. The main anthropogenic drivers of forest cover loss include land use changes of forest and grassland conversion into agriculture lands, forest wood and charcoal extraction, land clearing and burning for agricultural practices, as well as the abandonment of exploited land and soils and industrial logging, particularly in the south-western areas[60], [61]. The lack of technical resources and capacities for integrated sustainable and resilient practices as well as of regulatory or market-based measures for biodiversity management are other drivers of ecosystem degradation. In addition, biodiversity resources have been threatened by uncontrolled introduction of invasive species, border transhumance, and hunting practices, political and military conflicts leading to the invasion of protected areas[62]. Figure 2 highlights deforestation and forest degradation trends from 2001 to 2021 in the CAR, showing how the majority of the area was affected by degradation before deforestation (2001-2003), followed by an increasing trend of deforestation after degradation, not accompanied by forest regrowth (2012-2017), while in 2017-2018 areas were primarily affected by short-duration degradation, followed by regrowth trends in 2018 and 2019.[63]

Figure 6. Deforestation and degradation trends in Central African Republic. Source: CAFI.

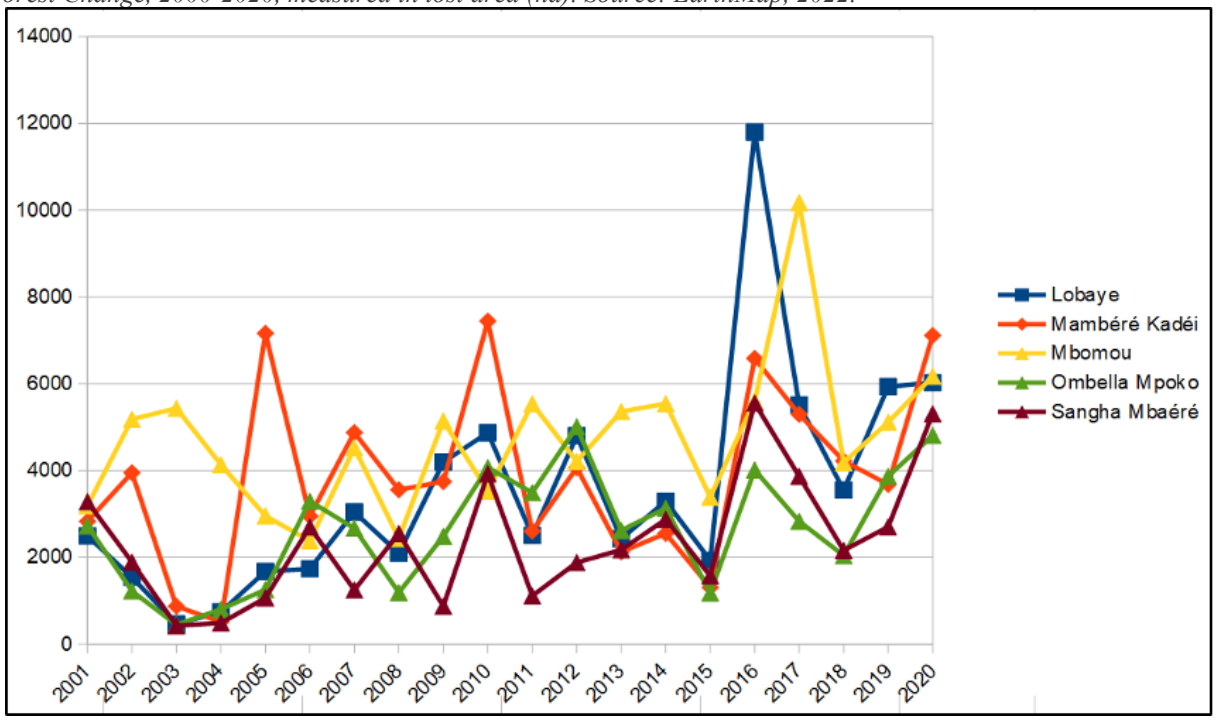


36. Future effects on biome distribution in Central Africa vary according to the abiotic stressor. A projected increase in CO_2 concentration is expected to increase woody plant cover, although this might be counteracted by increasing temperatures and rainfall variability, leading to an increase in heavy rainfall and dry spell events respectively, and in invasive species distribution, exacerbating forest degradation, soil erosion, biodiversity loss and shift in species distribution. Compounded effects of increasing temperatures and dry spells will increase the likelihood of wildfires in forest areas, with negative impacts on dependent hydrological systems[64], [65]. Temperature projections in Africa depict a progressive intensification in biodiversity loss for every 0.5?C increase compared to the baseline period. Under scenarios with global temperatures exceeding

1.5?C increase, more than 30% of the population of half of assessed species is expected to be lost, with 7-18% of species risking the extinction under a 2?C warming scenario. Under future scenarios projecting more than 2?C warming, the rapidity and severity of biodiversity loss is expected to escalate throughout Central Africa[66].

37. At the sub-national level, Figure 3 shows an initially slow ascending trend in lost forest area, with sudden peaks of 12,000 ha lost in 2016-2017 due to increases in forest degradation and deforestation, particularly in the prefectures of Mbomou, resulting in total 94,200 ha lost from 2001 to 2020, and Lobaye, resulting in total 70,600 ha lost from 2001 to 2020 ? although with slightly lower results compared to Mamb?r? Kad?i which accounted for a total loss of 77,400 ha more uniformly spread throughout the years, with the exceptions of 2005 and 2010.

Figure 7. Global Forest Change, 2000-2020, measured in lost area (ha). Source: EarthMap, 2022.



38. Table 2 depicts the Central African Republic?s tree restoration potential, derived from Bastin et al. (2019)?s global dataset which measures the interaction of climatic (annual mean temperature, mean temperature of the wettest quarter of the year, annual and seasonal precipitation, precipitation of the driest quarter of the year) topographic (elevation and slope), and edaphic (soil organic carbon, soil sand content, and depth of the bedrock) variables with current tree cover, cropland and urban areas, at 1km resolution in 2015, by modelling current environmental drivers of tree cover, assuming minimum human interventions. The results depict a small percentage of restorable canopy cover particularly in the Sangha

Mba?r? prefecture which already presents less total area covered by forests than most of the other targeted prefectures. At the same time, while Lobaye encompasses less total tree cover area than the other prefectures, the share of restoration potential is comparatively as high, with key areas suitable for restoration spread in the central and northern areas of the prefecture, and followed by the Mamb?r? Kad?i prefecture. In terms of both total area covered and tree restoration potential, the Ombella Mpoko and Mbomou prefectures perform best. The former?s hotspot areas are identified in the center, spread from south to north, and south-east at the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. The latter?s hotspot areas for tree restoration potential are detected north-east close to the border with Haut Mbomou prefecture, as well as south-west at the border with Basse-Kotto prefecture[67].

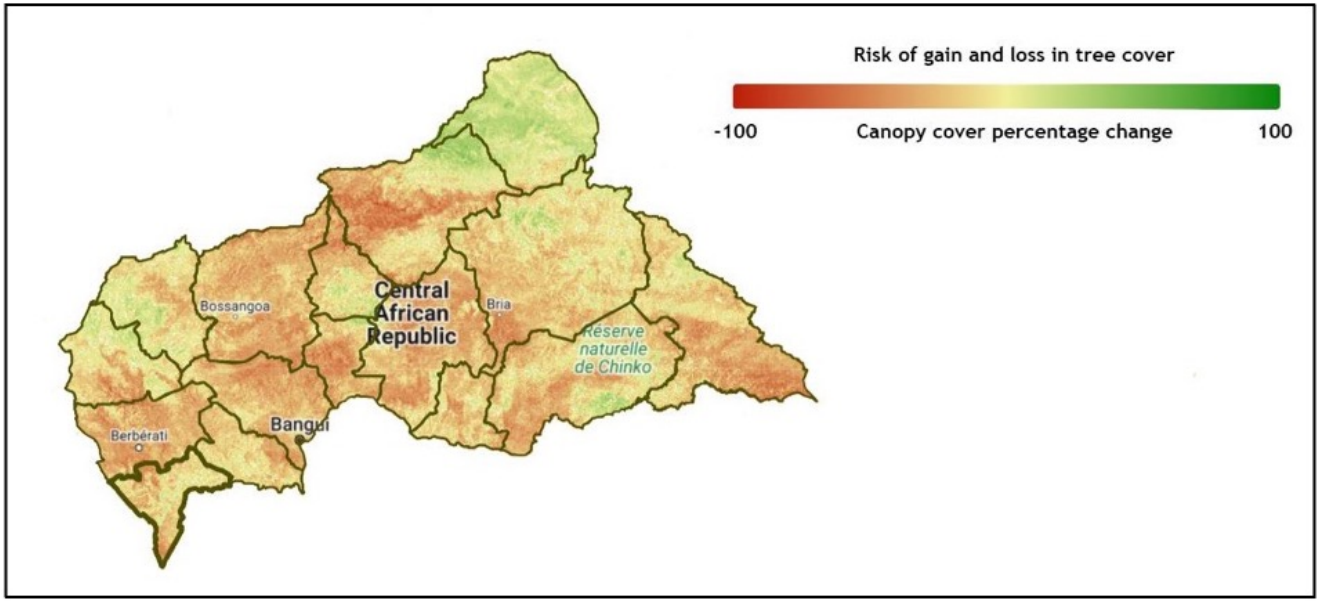
Table 2. Tree restoration potential. Source: The global tree restoration potential[68].

Tree restoration potential	Total area (ha)	Restoration potential (ha)	Restoration potential (%)
Lobaye	1,858,853.62	86,112.81	4.63
Mamb?r? Kad?i	2,959,699.79	138,905.92	4.69
Mbomou	6,023,731.90	232,466.07	3.86
Ombella Mpoko	3,198,470.59	145,281.35	4.54
Sangha Mba?r?	186,3871.70	15,447.29	0.83

39. According to CAR?s latest Nationally Determined Contributions, by 2030 forest areas are projected to decrease by 0.1% per year. Under a high emission scenario and increasing global surface temperature by 4?C, forest areas might contract by up to 15%.[69] A number of studies, summarized below, analyze future climate change impacts to CAR forest cover:

? Bastin et al.?s study analyzes climate change impacts to global forest growth by end-century, in order to inform long-term restoration projects. The methodology used consists of projecting the tree cover model under three Earth System Models, and two RCPs, namely 4.5 and 8.5. The tree cover capacity is projected to substantially reduce compared to the baseline model, even in areas with high total forest area, in the targeted prefectures, particularly in south-western areas of Mbomou, northern and southern areas of Ombella Mpoko and Sangha Mba?r?, and throughout Mba?r? Kad?i prefectures (Figure 4). At the same time, south-central areas in Mbomou show high positive changes in canopy cover gain, as well as in central and north-eastern areas of Sangha Mba?r?.

Figure 8. Risk of gain and loss in tree cover. Source: Earth Map, 2022.



Overall, Bastin et al.?s model does not account for anthropogenic drivers of forest cover losses such as land-use changes, grassland and pasture expansion for livestock production, which might undermine the decreasing trend. At the same time, the authors acknowledge high uncertainties in the model and limits in the accounting for ecological, hydrological, and biogeochemical feedback which would also drive changes in tree cover, such as increasing CO2 concentrations? positive impacts on tree growth.

? According to Hansen et al.[70], CAR forests in the south-eastern areas are mainly characterized by low forest structural canopy height and cover conditions, as well as forest loss, thus implying high human pressure. In the south-western areas, the trend is opposite with a predominance of high forest structural integrity and low human pressure, thus with high ecological value.

? Claeys et al.?s study[71] projects M'Ba?ki forest dynamics by 2100 under RCPs 4.5 and 8.5. Overall, climate change is projected to accelerate tree growth, as well as mortality through increasing temperatures and total runoff, and regeneration, causing more dynamic changes in forest structure due to different responses among different groups of species, resulting in natural thinning effects, and an increase in the percentage of pioneer species (such as *Bosqueia angolensis*) compared to shade-bearer trees (*Garcinia punctata, Staudtia kamerunensis* and *Celtis zenkeri*), due to the higher growth rate of the former and adaptation capacity to climate disturbances. At the same time, in CAR slow-growing shade-bearers are the least sensitive tree species to drought, while pioneers are less resilient to water stress impacts. Therefore, the increase in pioneer trees might negatively affect the capacity of the forests to adapt to drought impacts on water stress, thus increasing trees? mortality[72].

40. Table 3 below summarizes the first- and second-order climate change impacts in the two target regions under RCPs 2.6 and 8.5

Table 3. Summary of biophysical, climate, and socio-economic impacts on CAR?s livelihoods, crops, livestock, and forestry systems under RCPs 2.6 and 8.5.

Target region	South West	South East
Observed biophysical climate impacts	? Tmax increase by 0.5?C ? Tmin increase by 0.5?C ? Low-medium production potential ? Substantial land degradation ? Severe storms and flooding events	? Tmax increase by 0.85?C ? Tmin increase by 0.75?C ? Increase in days with Tmax>35?C ? Poor soils
	? Increase in number of days with Tmin>20?C ? Increase in total annual precipitation (3 to 15mm/year) ? Increase in number of heavy rainfall days per year (>20mm/day) ? Drought and associated wildfires, increase in agricultural and ecological droughts ? Riverine and flash flooding events and associated riverbank erosion, overflows, landslides and mudslides, and waterlogging of crop fields ? Reduced nutritional quality of products, seeds and food contamination	
Projected biophysical climate impacts (RCP2.6)	? Decline in total annual precipitation of 50mm by end-century ? Tree restoration potential	? Constant total annual precipitation
	? Tmax increase by 1-1.5?C by end-century ? Tmin increase by 1.0-1.5?C ? Increase in days with Tmax>35?C by 20 to 40 days ? Decrease in the number of rainy days ? Reduced coffee suitability by 60% ? More than 30% of the population of half of assessed biodiversity species is expected to be lost ? Increase in CO2 concentration is expected to increase woody plant cover ? Increasing temperatures and dry spells will increase the likelihood of wildfires in forest areas, with negative impacts on dependent hydrological systems ? Reduced sesame, sorghum, peanuts, and millet productivity by up to 20% with increasing dry spells by 2030 ? Negative impacts on water resources, ecosystem services, and biodiversity losses ? Extreme heat and rainfall events altering the phenological phases of key crop (duration of cultivation season) and livestock (breeding periods) species, and increasing animal and plant mortality ? Increasing pests and pathogen attacks	

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Projected biophysical climate impacts (RCP8.5)</td><td>? Decline in total annual precipitation of 100mm by end-century
? Reduction in tree cover capacity
? Accelerated tree growth, as well as mortality through increasing temperatures and total runoff, and regeneration, causing more dynamic changes in forest structure, natural thinning effects, and an increase in the percentage of pioneer species compared to shade-bearer trees, negatively affecting the capacity of the forests to adapt to drought impacts on water stress, thus increasing trees? mortality
? Decreased soy and cassava production by 16% by 2050</td><td>? Uncertainties in precipitation trends
? Increase in number of heavy rainfall events
? The tree cover capacity is projected to substantially reduce
? Decreased soy and groundnut production by 16% by 2050</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">? Tmax increase by 3-4?C by end-century
? Tmin increase by 3.5-4.5?C by end-century
? Increase in days with Tmax>35?C of up to 80 to 120 days
? Decrease in the number of rainy days
? Reduced coffee suitability by 95%
? Decreasing yields for major CAR?s crops
? The rapidity and severity of biodiversity loss is expected to escalate
? Increase in CO2 concentration is expected to increase woody plant cover
? Increasing temperatures and dry spells will increase the likelihood of wildfires in forest areas, with negative impacts on dependent hydrological systems
? Reduced sesame, sorghum, peanuts, and millet productivity by up to 20% with increasing dry spells by 2030
? Negative impacts on water resources, ecosystem services, and biodiversity losses; increasing pests and pathogen attacks
? Extreme heat and rainfall events altering the phenological phases of key crop (duration of cultivation season) and livestock (breeding periods) species, and increasing animal and plant mortality
? Forest areas might contract by up to 15%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Observed socio-economic impacts on forestry & agriculture</td><td>? Lower levels of human pressure
? Tree restoration potential
? High forest structural integrity and high ecological value</td><td>? Increases in forest degradation and deforestation, high human pressure</td></tr>
</table>

	? Land use and deforestation activities, pressure and degradation of forests and landscapes, forest and grassland conversion into agriculture lands, forest wood and charcoal extraction, land clearing and burning for agricultural practices, hunting ? Watershed degradation and limited management practices for settlements ? Urbanization ? Political and military crisis ? Shift to sedentary livestock production systems ? Poverty, health issues, discrimination, population displacements ? Severe food insecurity conditions ? Over-exploitation of surface and groundwater, water pollution and contamination, and limited water storage capacity ? Limited agrobiodiversity management and conservation capacities
Projected socio-economic impacts on forestry & agriculture	? Projected rise in population density and water demand for domestic consumption and commercial agriculture purposes ? Undermining environmental, social, food security and economic conditions, exacerbating loss of lives ? Reducing capacity of external humanitarian aid to operate in adverse conditions

B) National framework for the management of productive landscapes

Institutional context

41. The overall strategy of the project is to build on past and existing initiatives, working in partnership with the most appropriate and performing partners in the field though partnerships and collaborations. A brief description of the institutional context at the national and local level is provided below.

At the national level

42. The management of forest resources, including oversight of commercial forestry operations and management of the national parks and the implementation of the Forest Policy is under the responsibility of the Ministry for Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishery (Minist?re des Eaux, For?ts, Chasse et P?che, MEFCP) in collaboration with other ministries, in particular the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Minist?re de l?Environnement et du D?veloppement Durable, MEDD), the Ministry of Finances and Budget (Minist?re des Finances et du Budget, MFB), and the Ministry of Planning, Economy and International Cooperation (Minist?re du Plan, de l?Economie et de la Coop?ration Internationale, MPECI). In 2012, the National Agency for Sustainable Management of the Forest Resources (Agence Nationale pour la Gestion Durable des Ressources Foresti?res, AGDRF; Law 12-006) was created under the MEFCP to: i) provide guidance and support to the MEFCP in terms of definition and implementation of its Forest Policy; and ii) support and monitor the sustainable and integrated management of the forest resources.

43. The **Ministry for Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishery** is responsible for the development and implementation of the policy defined by the Government, for the elaboration and implementation of the national policy in the areas of water, forests and wildlife management and exploitation. The management of wildlife and protected areas is the responsibility of its Direction de la Faune et des Aires Prot?g?es (DFAP). The MEFCP is also responsible for managing and controlling all economic development activities falling under its department. In particular, it is responsible for

- ? ensuring the protection and restoration of natural resources through their rational exploitation;
- ? ensuring the dissemination of techniques for the development of forestry, wildlife and aquatic resources;
- ? ensuring the preservation, conservation and renewal of threatened ecosystems;
- ? determining forestry, hunting, wildlife and aquatic management zones;
- ? integrating the environmental dimension into the policies, plans and programmes for the development of the forestry, wildlife and aquatic sectors; and
- ? ensuring compliance with the texts in force relating to the protection and management of natural.

44. The **Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)** is in charge of defining national orientations and strategies in terms of environmental management and to legislate to this effect. The MEDD?s mission is to design, develop and coordinate the implementation of the Government's policy in the fields of environment and sustainable development, including in terms of environmental protection, rational management of natural resources and improvement of the living conditions of the population, both in rural and urban areas. The MEDD has two general directorates: the General Directorate for the Environment and Social Economy and the General Directorate for Ecology and Risk Prevention. The MEDD hosts the National Climate Coordination (NCC) created in 2016 as well as the National Biodiversity Coordination and National Desertification Coordination created in 2019. These institutions are in charge of coordinating national efforts in line with the respective Rio Conventions. At the regional level, the MEDD is represented by the Regional Water and Forestry Directorates.

45. The agriculture sector is led by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development** (MARD) and the **Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health**. Both ministries rely on specialized institutes and agencies for the implementation of their activities. While the Central African Institute for Agricultural Research (**Institut Centrafricain de Recherche Agronomique**, ICRA) and the National Federation of Central African Breeders (F?d?ration Nationale des Eleveurs de Centrafrique, FNEC) are specialized, the Central African Agriculture Development Agency (Agence Centrafricaine de D?veloppement Agricole, ACDA) and National Agency for Livestock Development (Agence Nationale de D?veloppement de l?Elevage, ANDE) have broad mandates ranging from the provision of agriculture extension/veterinary services, cooperative strengthening, input provision and marketing of agriculture commodities. The Universit? de Bangui, Facult? de Droit et des Sciences Economiques is the only institute for agriculture education which also provides agriculture extension services. Two main farmer organizations[73] represent farmers at the national level. The private agri-business sector is represented by the Agriculture Chamber of Commerce, which includes the federation of cotton producers and is undergoing restructuring.

46. The **Ministry of Land Management, Decentralization and Local Development** (Minist?re de l'Administration du Territoire, de la D?centralisation et du D?veloppement Local, MATDDL) oversees the decentralization process in the CAR, including the transfer of competence to municipalities for local development. The MATDDL is involved in the support to management committees of SOAHs and Community Wildlife Zones (CWZs).

<u>At the decentralized level</u>

47. **Regions, prefectures** and **sous-prefectures** are the official institutions representing the State in the country (Law 21_001 of 21 January 2021). **Municipalities** represent the administrative level for Local Development Plans (Plans de D?veloppement Local, PDLs ? cf. below). The **Local Development Committees** (Comit?s de D?veloppement Local, CDLs) are the main municipal consultation bodies for the PDLs. Below the municipality level, grassroot communities have a legal existence (Chapter IX of Law 21-001) and, in rural areas, are grouped in villages (at least 200 people) organized through **Village Councils** and headed by Village Chiefs. Key line ministries have deconcentrated services at the sub-national level (prefecture, communes) and extension officers to support local communities.

Legal & policy framework

- National level

Cross-cutting development & adaptation

48. The GoCAR adopted an overarching National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (Rel?vement et Consolidation de la Paix en Centrafrique, RCPCA, 2017-2021) which consists in three pillars : i) critical reforms to promote peace, security, and reconciliation; ii) reforms to provide basic social services such as education, health, water, and sanitation; and iii) measures to facilitate the rapid improvement of the business environment and to improve natural resources management, including minerals and timber. In line with the national vision and sectoral policies, targeted efforts are needed to ensure that the recovery interventions do not have any negative impact on the environment. The proposed project will actively contribute to the second and third pillars aiming to promote economic recovery and boosting the productive sectors to rapidly provide the population with income-generating activities and employment opportunities in core productive sectors, and to improve the business and investment environment more broadly.

49. The project is also well aligned with the 2011-2015 Strategy for rural development, Agriculture and Food Security (Strat?gie de D?veloppement Rural, Agricole et de S?curit? Alimentaire, SDRASA) which aims to promote a productive, profitable central African agriculture respectful to the environment, while supporting local initiatives and embracing gender concept and creating richness and the emerging conditions for a dynamic private agricultural sector, for job creation which on its turn will contribute to the reduction in poverty and achieving food security for all. The project will also contribute to the associated National Agricultural Investment and Food Security and Nutrition Programme (Programme d'investissement agricole et de s?curit? alimentaire et nutritionnelle, PNIASAN) which aims to attain and maintain an annual agricultural GDP rate of 6% and a food insecurity rate of 15%. The importance of strengthening agriculture technical services at national level and decentralized level is highlighted, as well as the need to support the commercialization of the sector and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. The strategy also calls for the rebuilding of certain agricultural export value chains, such as coffee.

50. Aligned with the RCPCA, the National Strategy for Sustainable development was validated in March 2021. Both strategic and operational, it will serve as a roadmap to facilitate the joint and holistic implementation of the Multilateral Environment Agreements and underpin the achievement of the SDGs in the CAR. Its objective is to contribute to addressing the challenges faced by the Central African Republic is facing and to which it is committed, notably adaptation to climate change, the fight against desertification, water and land conservation and biodiversity protection. The Strategy integrates the major principles of sustainable development, namely integration, territoriality, solidarity, precaution, prevention, subsidiarity, responsibility and participation. responsibility and participation. As such, it takes into account the priorities of the RCPCA, pillars 2 and 3 and its strategic axes in relation to the productive sectors that are suffering the full impact of climate change.

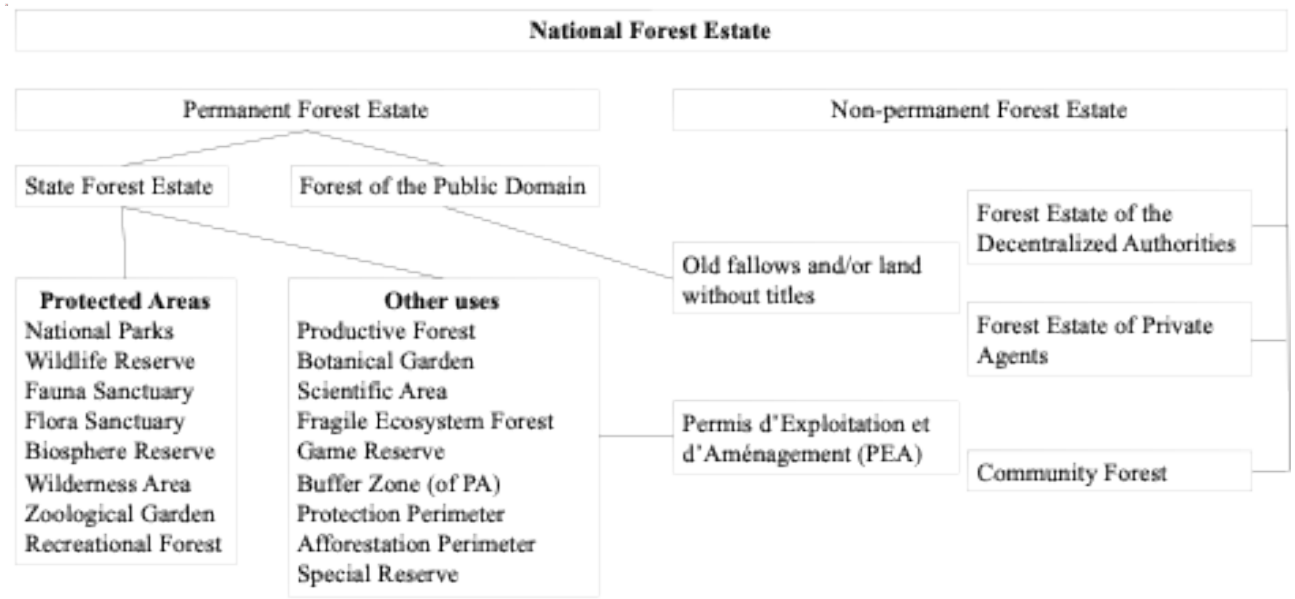
51. Law N? 07.018 of 28 December 2007 constitutes the Environmental Code. The National Environmental Action Plan (Plan National d?Action Environnementale, PNAE) for the period 2000-2020, aims to create a framework for the implementation of actions to improve the quality of life of the population and maintain the balance of ecosystems. The implementation strategy of the PNAE focuses on strengthening the planning and management capacities of the various actors, establishing a reliable information network, making use of local know-how and modern scientific knowledge, exchanging experience and information, and regional cooperation for the coordinated sustainable management of transboundary resources.

52. The GoCAR has also developed a Strategic and Operational Plan on Climate Change (2017-2020). This document aims to equip the MEED with the necessary means to implement its climate change policy for the period 2017-2020. The document presents the guidelines for the projects, programmes and strategies that will be part of the CAR?s national climate change policy.

Forestry

53. The main legal texts ruling the forestry sector are Law n?08-022 to enact the Forest Code (GoCAR, 2008)[74] and its implementing Decrees 09-117[75] and 09-118[76]. The Forest Code sets specific measures for Permanent and Non-permanent Forest Estate, the first being subdivided into Private State Domain and Public State Domain, as presented on the figure below.

Figure 9. Legal classification of forests in the CAR.



54. After many years without a clearly defined forest policy, the GoCAR adopted a Forest Policy for the period 2019-2035. The vision is to ensure that ? *forest ecosystems and associated resources are co-managed for the goods and services necessary for peace, sustainable development, conservation of the biological diversity and the protection of the global environment?*. The main objective of the Forest Policy is to restore the authority of the GoCAR in the sector, and, as such, contribute to the peace process outlined in the RCPCA. It also aims to promote a sustainable development that will allow for the reduction of GHG emissions and increased resilience to climate change.

55. The CAR forest sector is also guided and in line with the 2015-2025 COMIFAC[77] Convergence Plan, which aims at promoting sustainable forest management and contributing to poverty alleviation. CAR is also one of the few countries worldwide having signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union under the FLEGT initiative, to guarantee the sustainability and legality of timber production and export.

56. CAR?s National REDD+ Investment Framework[78] for 2020-2025 was adopted in 2020 in order to achieve a reduction in GHG coming from deforestation and degradation of forests, to enhance forest carbon stocks and socio-economic co-benefits. The Framework identifies 27 priority measures to achieve six outcomes, including:

? integrated and inclusive development of the national territory and increased land security, conducive for REDD+ investments;
? adoption of sustainable exploitation and management practices for forest ecosystems and restoration of degraded landscapes;
? reduction of unsustainable woodfuel harvesting;
? development of a remunerative, job-creating, sustainable and "zero deforestation" agriculture
? adoption of good environmental and social impact management practices in the mining sector
? mining sector; and
? increased access to "green" finance for sustainable investments in the LULUCF sector.

This will contribute to realizing the goals set in the NDC: reduce 5% of the emissions by 2030 and 25% of emissions by 2050, while ensuring annual agricultural growth rate of 6% and stabilize food insecurity around 15%.

57. Legal & policy context specifically relevant to communal forestry: The possibility to create community-managed forests was included on the Forest Policy, but the institutional arrangements for their implementation and management needs to be further defined, piloted and inserted in the regulatory framework[79]. A procedural manual exists to create these community forests; amendments to this manual were proposed by the civil society and validated in 2019. A practical management manual for these community forests is still lacking, however.

58. The Forestry Code recognizes the communities' right of ownership over the forest resources allocated to them, namely forest products of all kinds that ?belong entirely to them?, with the exception of protected species (Art. 39). The provisions relating to community forestry therefore go beyond the customary 'use' rights under the general regime of the Forestry Code, in that they authorize not only subsistence activities, but also the controlled exploitation of resources for sustainable income.

59. Title V of the Forest Code focuses on participatory forest management with a view to restoring forest stands; Articles 153 and 154 mentions the following stakeholders :

- ? the State, represented by the administrative and political authorities, local elected officials and territorial collectivities;
- ? central and decentralized technical services;
- ? the civil society, represented by grassroots communities and indigenous populations;
- ? economic operators, represented by forest permit holders; and

? holders of site titles.

60. Article 135 states that ?the management of a community forest is the responsibility of the organized village community. The interested organized village and/or indigenous community concerned may call upon the expertise of the administration in charge of forests, or upon a proven competence in the field of forests?. This is completed by Article 136: "Forests that are the subject of a management agreement are those located on the outskirts or in the vicinity of one or more organized and interested village and/or indigenous communities in which the populations carry out their subsistence activities.?

61. Particular attention needs to be paid to potential requests for land allocation with a view to obtaining community forest status in the project area, as these requests are not authorized in the permanent forest estate (cf. Figure 11), as Decree N?15- 463 of 3 December 2015 stipulates in its Article 3 that "community forests are part of the non-permanent forest estate". However, it is also mentioned in Article 8 that community forests are allocated ?in the agricultural Series of Exploitation and Management Permits on the basis of a specific management plan according to management standards?.

Agriculture

62. There is no general code for agriculture in the CAR. The 2011-2015 Strategy for Rural Development, Agriculture and Food Security (Strat?gie de D?veloppement Rural, de l?Agriculture et de la S?curit? Alimentaire, SDRASA) gives the key orientations for the sector. The National Program for Agricultural Investments in Food and Nutrition Security (Programme National des Investissements Agricoles de la S?curit? Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle, PNIASAN) guides the implementation of the SDRASA. The overall vision is ?to have a productive, environment-friendly Central African agriculture, building on local initiatives and the gender concept, creating wealth and necessary conditions for a dynamic private agriculture sector and for employment while contributing to the reduction in poverty and achieving food security for all?. After the political crisis, a roadmap for the agriculture sector was developed with the support of FAO, which is the most recent strategic document for the sector. Based on this, Regional Agricultural Development Programmes (Programmes R?gionaux de D?veloppement Agricole, PRDA) were developed to guide the technical services of the MADR in each of the six agro-ecological regions of the CAR.

63. Government strategies acknowledge that food security is at the heart of the CAR development agenda and investing in food security is tantamount in keeping the peace and stability that the country needs. The GoCAR has developed several policies and strategies which prioritize agriculture sector development. The National Policy on Food Security and Nutrition adopted in December 2017 identified as priority intervention the need to increase food availability in a sustainable way and meet the food demand of the CAR population. In addition, the National Agricultural Policy Document (2020-2030) prepared in 2019 recommitted to the key principles of the Malabo Declaration[80] with a focus on: (i) transforming the productivity of smallholder farming and contributing to food and nutrition security; (ii) promoting the development of a commercial, competitive agriculture that contributes to economic growth.

Sub-national level[PB1]

64. Although Regional Development Plans are described in the law[81], no region has developed such a plan[PB2] as of August 2022. Instead, the main sub-national development plans are the **Local Development Plans** (Plan de D?veloppement Local, PDL) which are both strategic plans as well as diagnostic, prioritization and programming tools, designed by and for the communities of a given territory, defining a set of multisectoral actions defined over time to promote the harmonious and sustainable development of the commune. Under the AFD-funded PDRSO project (cf.

baseline section below), 10 PDLs were developed in South-West CAR (prefectures of Lobaye & Sangha-Mba?r?). PDLs typically outline priority development initiatives per sector for a ten-year horizon, with associated costs and pre-identified partners.

C) Barriers

65. A number of barriers have been identified that need to be addressed to achieve the project objective, namely to enhance the resilience of rural communities through the valuation of productive and forest landscapes and inclusive governance mechanisms. These barriers are described below.

Barrier 1: Lack of sustainable adaptive forest management and restoration plans

66. Poverty affects the lives of most rural people, and, in difficult times, local communities heavily depend on forests for their food, fodder, medicine and other services. In the SW forest massif, slash-and-burn agriculture is one of the major causes of forest degradation and is mainly linked to the rotation of cassava/maize production along forest fringes for a period of 5 to 10 years[82]. Due to increased population pressure (migration due to conflict and insecurity), especially in the SW region, these practices have been increasingly frequent. While the majority of subsistence smallholder farmers used to plant coffee and cacao as cash crops, the collapse of extension services and the absence of market access in the context of political crises have severely hampered these practices.

67. Adaptive forest management plans as well as forest and landscape restoration plans are two important tools for forest and landscape adaptation. These tools are required to enhance the functionality of both forest and forest landscapes facing under the alterations of growing conditions due to climate change impacts (extreme weather events and accompanying pathogen pressures)[83]. Instead, conversion zones and SAOH do not have sustainable management plans in place, nor are there any structures in place to plan for and monitor the management of these zones within PEAs.

68. In terms of community forestry, a procedural manual exists to create these community forests and amendments to this manual were proposed by the civil society and validated in 2019; however , a practical management manual for these community forests is still lacking.

Barrier 2: Limited access to financial resources, technologies and information

69. The majority of existing farming systems are based on unsustainable slash-and-burn practices which degrade existing forest ecosystems. These farming systems are characterized by low productivity, little mechanization and scarcity of inputs. For example, in 2018, average yields for the main food crops were 2.8 t/ha for cassava and 0.88 t/ha for maize, which is respectively 3.2 and 2.3 times less than the average yield for these food crops in Africa[84] in 2018. Smallholder farmers have limited access to improved technologies, especially those adaptation technologies that can enhance their resilience to climate change impacts such as improved seeds and inputs. In addition, farming is usually practiced on very small holdings, with 70% of the poorest households cropping 1 ha or less. These farmers often supplement their income by working for wealthier households, hunting and gathering natural resources and mining in the country?s large informal mining sector.

70. In terms of agricultural support, both the Central African Institute for Agricultural Research (Institut Centrafricain de Recherche Agricole, ICRA) and the Central African Agricultural Development Agency (Agence Centrafricaine de D?veloppement Agricole, ACDA) have not been performing well for the past decade, as these institutions were seriously impacted by the 2013 crisis. The technical institutes focusing on rural

development suffer from a chronic lack of human and financial resources[85]. As for the extension services, they are in a difficult situation and barely reach farmers, as most of the recent support in the agriculture sector has been targeted towards distributing food aid[86].

71. The financial sector in the CAR is characterized by poor coverage of the country, resulting in a low ratio of branches to inhabitants compared to other countries in the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) such as Cameroon, Congo and Equatorial Guinea. The banking and microfinance sectors therefore only reach a small proportion of the population. Entire regions, especially those far from Bangui, are effectively excluded from the national financial system and its accessibility is undermined[87].

72. Several events have negatively influenced the development of the financial sector and its accessibility throughout the country, including
    - ? civil insecurity that has weakened the population's confidence and entrepreneurial spirit;
    - ? the persistence of a weak savings culture, endemic poverty which is both rural and urban and a clustering of structures in urban centres, particularly in Bangui;
    - ? an economic fabric characterized by the virtual non-existence of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; and
    - ? the weakness of infrastructure such as roads and telecommunications in rural areas characterized by endemic poverty.

73. In practice, none of the target sites for the proposed project currently benefit from any formal financial institution: no resilience funds, micro-credit, support programmes or revolving funds exist in the sites. Interviews conducted the PPG phase show that this situation tends to develop a feeling of discrimination among the population, as southern communities compare themselves to their northern compatriots in the North who they feel have benefitted more from development projects.

74. In general, capacity for business development and value addition among producers is low. Entrepreneurial support services remain weak or non-existent. Women face a range of social and economic restrictions that require special attention, and youth emigrate because they do not see opportunities in rural communities. Forest and farm producers are still not as well organized as they could be into larger scale, professionally run group businesses or managers of territories that might overcome these barriers and remedy skills deficits.

Barrier 3: Weak operational and planning capacity at the decentralized level

75. Since 2015, the Government of the CAR has been engaged in a process of decentralization, but, due to the continued status of insecurity in large parts of the country, the needed infrastructure and capacity development of decentralized technical services have not been promoted, which has been impeding the provision of support to local communities to help them adapt to climate change. This is particularly the case for the sectors that have an impact on the forest cover, namely agriculture, forestry, energy and mining.

76. In early 2020, the National Assembly passed the first Decentralization Law on Territorial Administration, which is a key component of the Peace Treaty. The aim is to further support the decentralization process to be able to organize local elections in 2022, with a view to promote local fiscal responsibility and address the needs of the local population. However, in the CAR, communes still have limited capacity in terms of operations as well as technical knowledge to identify, plan and implement climate change adaptation measures. In the SW region, communes (mainly forest-related municipalities) are received support from the Project for the Regional Development of the South-West (PDRSO) and, currently, from the extension phase of the Natural Resources Governance Project (PGRN, cf. below) to develop local development plans. However, existing local development plans do not sufficiently take climate change impacts in the agriculture and forestry sectors into account, and do not integrate green

investments and adaptive nature-based solutions (such as agroforestry and restoration interventions). South-eastern parts of the country especially suffered from the 2013-2014 political crisis and remains in a kind of insulated stage with regards to local administration.

Barrier 4: Limited knowledge of the integrated landscape approaches under climate change

77. Improving the knowledge about resilience to climate change is one of the key adaptation options highlighted in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted in 2015, as well as in the revised NDC[88] (2021). However, there is currently limited knowledge across relevant stakeholder groups on resilience mechanisms of relevance to the sectors most vulnerable to climate change, namely agriculture and forestry. Both the NDC and the National Investment Framework for REDD+ recall the importance of preserving natural resources to reduce the vulnerability to climate change and increase the resilience of local communities and ecosystems. In this respect, the promotion of agroecology is in line with the EbA approach and is one of the key measures proposed to be rolled out through the LDCF investment. While local communities already possess knowledge and experience related to agroecology, the capacity both at national and local levels is generally limited in terms of resilient plants and seed production as well as innovative cropping systems alternative to traditional slash-and-burn practices. This has been confirmed by surveys conducted during the PPG phase, which found that the level of awareness on current climate change and the risks associated with future climate impacts is low among local communities.

Barrier 5: Complex tenure system and weak governance at the local level

78. In the forest massif of SW CAR, almost all of the 3.8 million hectares have been allocated to industrial logging concessions and protected areas, leaving the communities with no *ad hoc* areas over which they can ensure management control: only Agricultural and Human Occupation Series (S?ries Agricoles et d?Occupation Humaines) are provided for in the management prescriptions of certain PEAs. However, the legal framework of the SAOHs is not demanding: only the obligation for the populations to group together and structure themselves in management bodies (such as a management committee) is mentioned. There is no obligation to plan or manage these areas. The main problem remains the lack of support from the state forestry services in developing management measures for these SAOHs, which are nevertheless part of the State's domain, and therefore part of its mission.

79. To date, a few villages in some PEAs have organized themselves to set up platforms for consultation and management of SAOH, with the help of the industrial forestry operator. However, no PEA has a management tool for these series. In the 10 years since the forest management standards for the PEAs were set, the local populations have not benefited from any effective support from the forestry services whose mission is to accompany them in the management of these SAOH. In fact, these SAOHs are dominated by unsustainable and inefficient land and natural resource exploitation practices.

80. This lack of a management framework contributes to the degradation of forest cover and limits the capacity of the family farms concerned to invest in agricultural value chains. The unsustainable exploitation of the natural resources of the SAOH is further exacerbated by human pressures linked to the large positive migratory flows (military-political conflict, diamond and gold rush) in the SW forest zone.

81. In the CAR, the process to acquire legal ownership of land is complex and very costly, and the majority of land today belongs to the State. Law 60.139 on land acquisition and tenure (1964) does not recognize the traditional land rights of indigenous peoples and local communities; as such, these people do not have any long-term land security and are not incentivized to invest in long-term sustainable practices. A recent report[89]

from FAO and the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America (FILAC) clearly demonstrates the existence of lower deforestation rates in territories where governments have formally recognized collective land rights.

82. These barriers have translated into the failure of past community forest initiatives in the CAR. This is the case of the Lomba community forest (Lobaye), for which a decree allocating the community forest was published in 2018, but was, however, withdrawn from the community soon after because of unclarified tenure issues ? cf. box below.

Two promising but short-live community forest initiatives: Moloukou (Lobaye) and Bayanga (Sangha-Mba?r?)

In the locality of **Moloukou** (a village located 75 km from Mba?ki in the Lobaye prefecture), efforts are being made by traditional chiefs and communities in the direction of planning and integrated management at the landscape level for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems. In this context, the community of Moloukou associated with that of neighboring villages (Lokomb? and Moal?) was able to benefit from the technical support of the NGO CADD (Comit? d?Action pour la D?fense de la D?mocratie) in 2011 in the process of establishing a community forest. Traditional chiefs and some community members were trained in mapping, committees were set up for CF management, and a local system for monitoring the CF was initiated. This includes young people from Moloukou, Lokomb? and Moal? who are organized into a group of forest patrollers who look for potential violators of the exploitation norms of the series. All of this resulted in the attribution of the decree on the attribution of the Lomba community forest in 2018, which was however withdrawn from the community, for land tenue reasons. The remnants of the local organization around the forest remain and efforts are being made to reallocate management rights.

A similar experience ? initiated in 2015 by the Network of Indigenous Peoples (R?seau des Populations Autochtones et Locales, REPALCA) ? was conducted in **Bayanga**. During the process of allocating the Lossi community forest, the following activities were carried out with the support of REPALCA: awareness raising of communities on community forests, mapping to determine the size of the targeted forest and the location of watercourses; inventory of various resources; and setting up of Councils. Partners such as UNICEF (United Nations of International Children's Emergency Fund; in 2017) and AGDRF (Agence de Gestion Durable des Ressources Forestie?res ; in 2019) also supported the process, which unfortunately did not come to fruition, leading to their withdrawal.

Barrier 6: Weak intersectoral coordination

83. Climate change is a cross-cutting issue, and its impacts can be felt amongst different sectors. In order to develop adequate and proactive strategies to enhance the resilience of local communities and ecosystems, efficient coordination mechanisms/platforms need to be effectively promoted both at national and local levels. In 2017, a decree was published to set up a National Climate Coordination which supported the development of the National REDD+ Investment Framework 2020-2025 (CNI-REDD+). A national civil society platform, called Sustainable Management of the Natural Resources and the Environment (Gestion Durable des Ressources Naturelles et de l?Environnement, GDRNE), was established and participates in discussions on climate change, FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade) and community forests; however, this platform needs to be supported in terms of capacities and engagement.

84. A National Committee on REDD+ was also proposed under the CNI-REDD+ to ensure coordination at the highest level across the different ministries as well as sectors. At the local/ decentralized level, inter-prefectural committees (IPCs) were suggested to facilitate coordination across administrative boundaries ? a crucial aspect for climate change and forest management. Only two of the three proposed IPCs have been currently

established but are not fully operational yet. At the local level, cooperation between line ministries remains insufficient, for instance among extension services, and prevents the dissemination of holistic climate resilience strategies.

Barrier 7: Insufficient knowledge base to demonstrate the validity of communal / participative forestry as a climate-resilient, sustainable development strategy

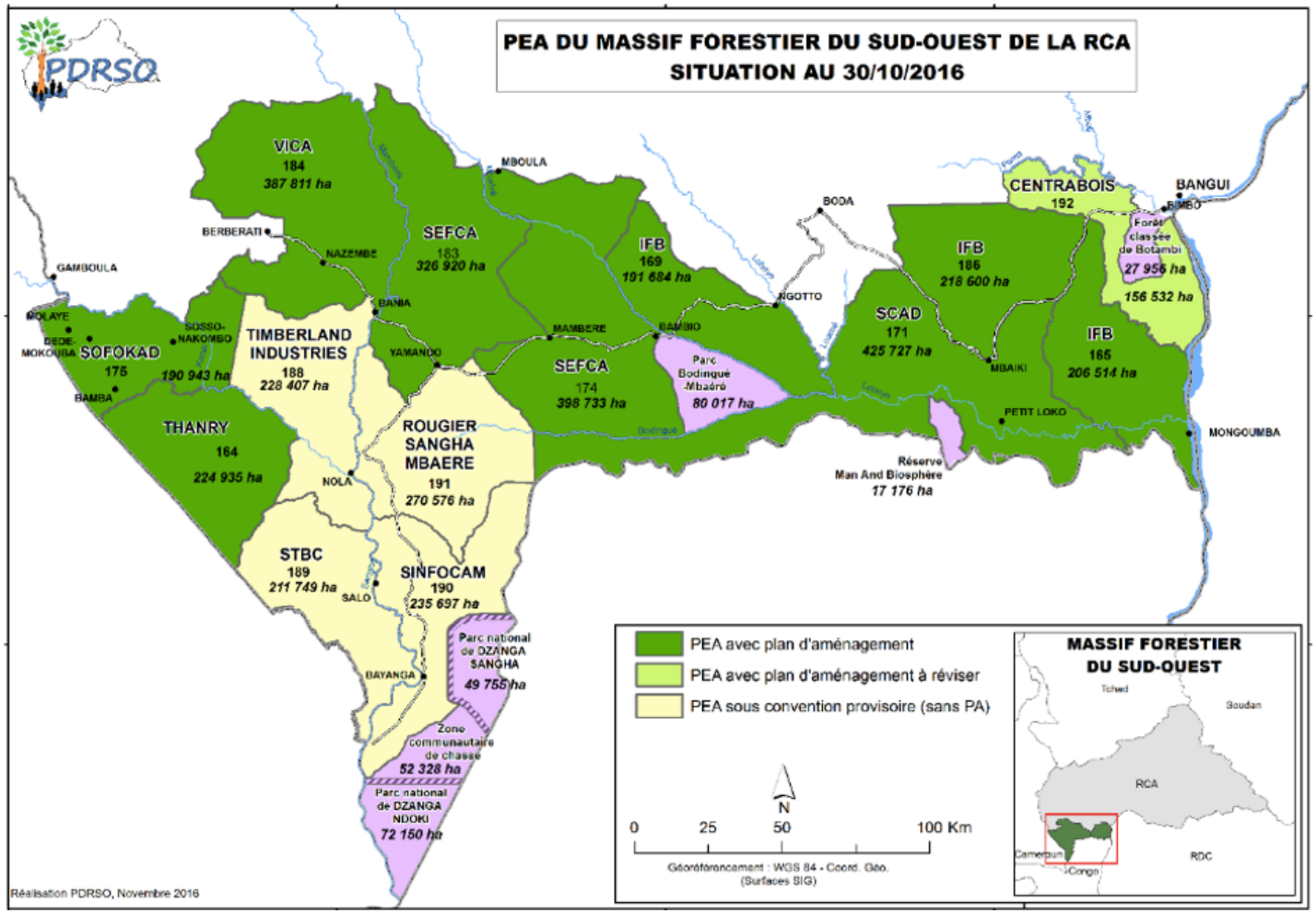
85. After nearly two decades of setting up community forests in Central Africa, particularly in Cameroon and Gabon, the results are very heterogeneous and have not allowed the emergence of efficient and viable models, either socially, economically or environmentally[90]. What is known as "community forest" is based on the dissociation of spaces; it is an exclusive space for local populations, distinct from the industrial concessions and protected areas that occupy most of the forest space. These concessions allocated to communities are then reduced to degraded areas close to the roads, and thus become the only areas available for the inhabitants to develop commercial activities by valorizing forest products. In Cameroon, the community forests created since 1997 are not profitable in the face of informal and illicit timber exploitation, which is more lucrative for individuals. The maximum authorized area of 5,000 hectares is rarely reached because of other land uses, while traditional uses of forest resources often cover much larger areas[91]. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the legal framework promotes community forestry, but no initiative is currently autonomous and viable, nor does it offer a tested and validated model, as in the CAR, and remains at the stage of institutional arrangements.

D) Baseline elements

Presentation of target landscapes

86. The total forest cover in the CAR is very significant, with around 28.3 Mha forested (45.5% of total land surface), including 5.5 Mha (8.9%) of dense humid forests encountered in one-third of the country (SW, where they are commercially logged, and SE where they are not) and 22.8 Mha (36.6%) of forest-savanna mosaics encountered in the other two-thirds of the country[92]. The SW part of the CAR is a forest-rich area: 82% or 4.03 Mha of forest cover according to the LULUCF analysis carried out in 2016. Protected areas cover 8% and the majority of forest resources (92%) fall into 14 forest concessions. Forestry companies are required to have PEAs for industrial logging, and with the support of the AFD[93]-funded Project for the Regional Development of the South-West (Projet pour le D?veloppement R?gional du Sud-Ouest, PDRSO), 12 PEAs have had an approved management plan in place and two are in the process of finalizing it. Besides this formal sector, the local population has limited access to forest ecosystems for artisanal logging as they can only request annual permits for a maximum of 10 ha in the agriculture or conversion areas of PEAs, subject to the elaboration of the following documents: forest inventory, environmental impact assessment, technical specifications for logging including social and environmental safeguards. In practice, artisanal loggers do not request such permits and work informally[94].

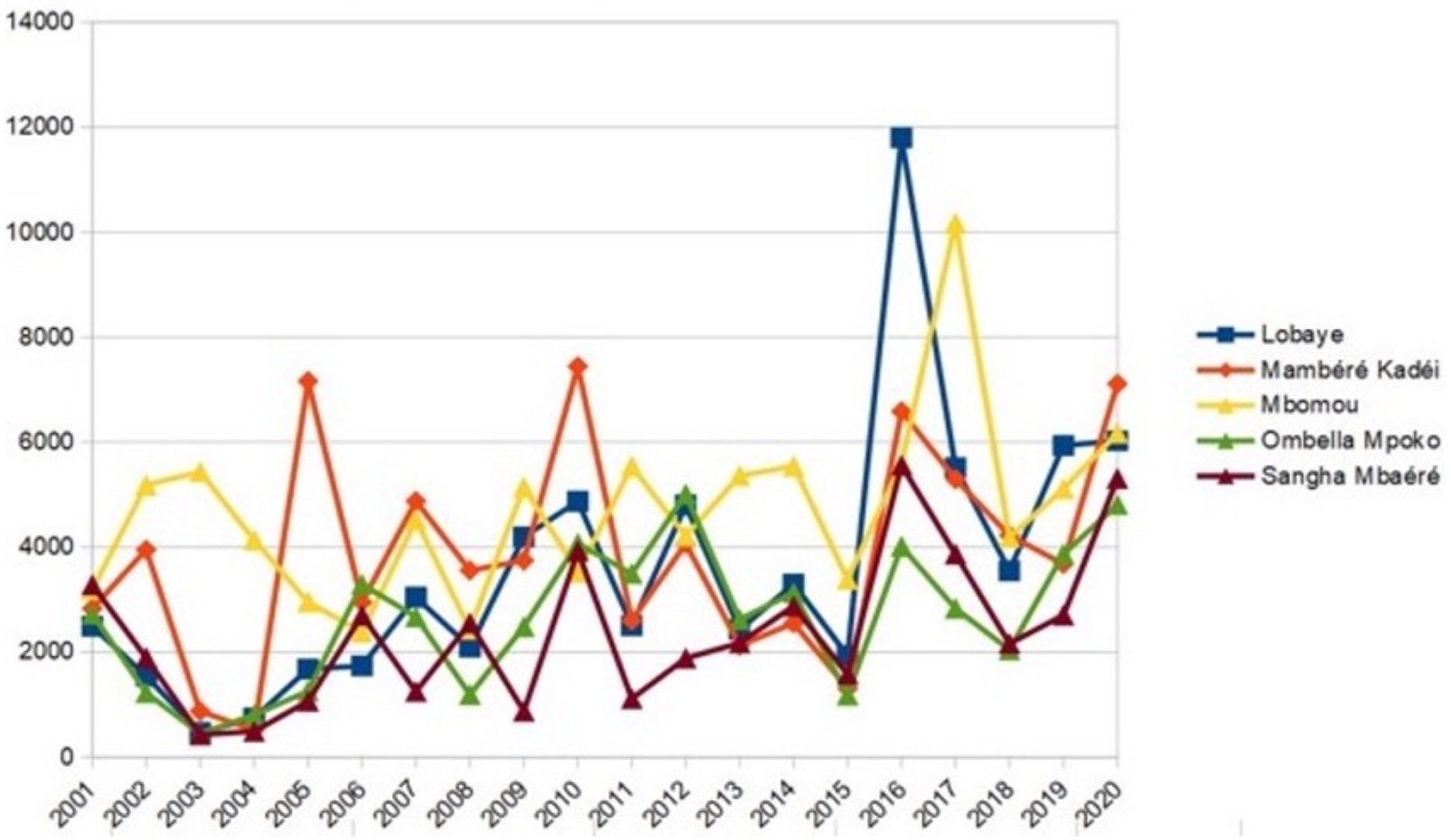
Figure 10. Map[95] of PEAs in SW CAR and status of management plans in place as of 2018.



87. In the SE, the forest massif of Bangassou (prefecture of Mbomou) covers over 1.6 Mha which, due to its remoteness, remains unexploited by private companies. No thorough forest inventory has been carried out, but human pressure is causing severe degradation. The north of the massif is characterized by mosaics of dry forests and gallery forests and is threatened by large-scale conversion through slash-and-burn practices. The riverine forests are also degraded and are currently converted in secondary forests. It is estimated that 28.28% of the watershed is degraded[96] (838,300 ha).

88. Several Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) assessments have been carried out in the CAR, but each use a different set of definitions in terms of land-use classes, which makes time comparisons difficult. Definitions for forests are not consistent across assessments, and there is thus no consensus about the level of forest degradation and deforestation at the national level. Over the period 1990-2010 (table 3), the country lost 406,700 ha (or 4% of total surface) of dense forests, equivalent to 20,335 ha per year on average[97].

Figure 11. Global Forest Change 2000-2020 measured in lost area (ha) in the target prefectures (source: EarthMap, 2022).

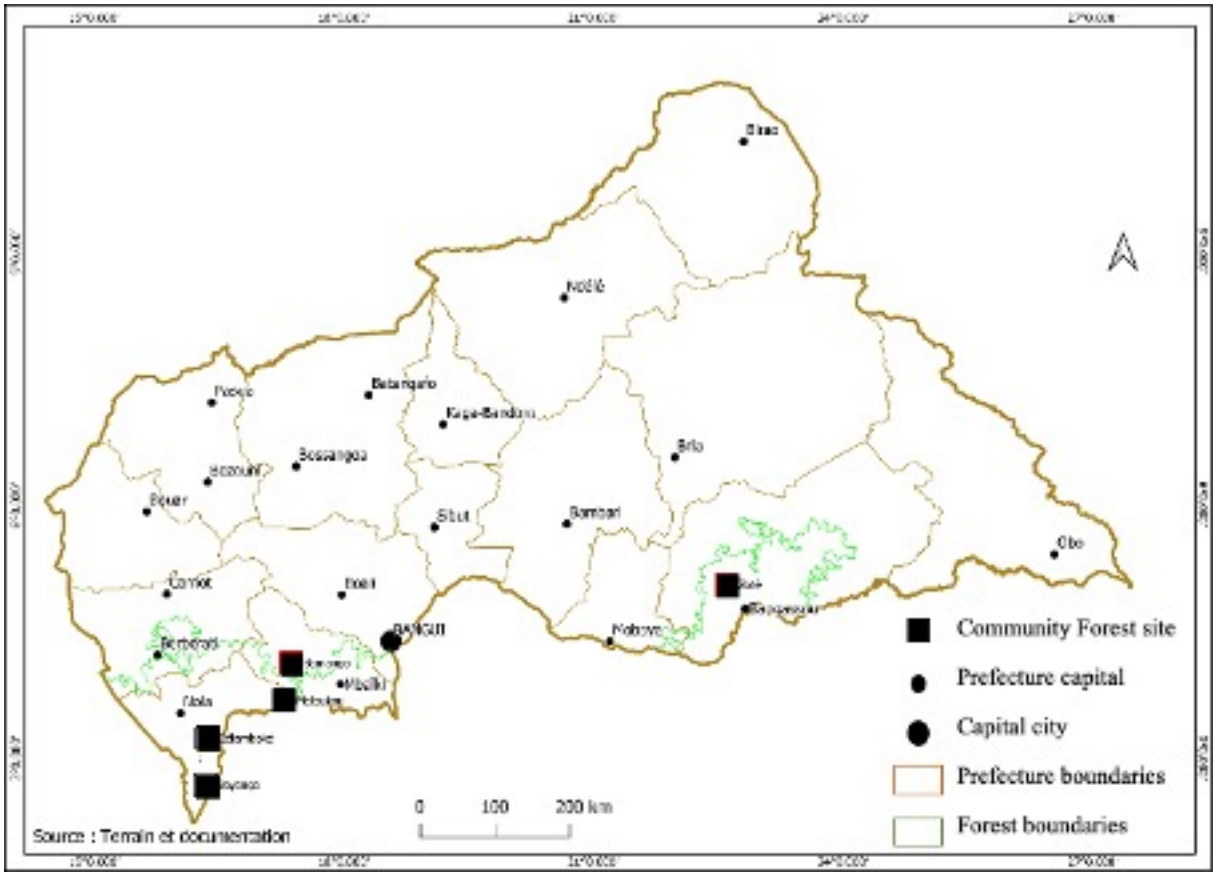


89. Five sites are registered in the project intervention zone, namely four in the SW massif and one in the SE:

Table 4. Target sites[98].

Forest massif	Community Forest	Communes	Prefecture(s)	Total area	Earmarked for restoration (ha)	Population
SW	Lomba	Moboma, Mba?r?	Lobaye, Sangha-Mba?r?	14,975	628	2,993
SW	Mbunza-Boffi	Nola (Ngotto)	Lobaye	13,475	565	5,317
SW	B?lambok? / Monasao	Yob?-Sangha, Salo	Sangha-Mba?r?	1,700	71	9,233
SW	Lossi	Yob?-Sangha	Sangha-Mba?r?	49,508	2,076	13,134
SE	Zott?	Niakari, Bakouma	Mbomou	17,000	713	7,000
			Total	**96,658**	**4,054**	**37,677**

Figure 12. Location of target sites.



90. Seven communes are concerned by the creation of Community Forests, including six in the SW and one in the Bangassou (SE) Forest. Some Community Forests straddle two or three communes.

91. The population of forest areas is growing rapidly (cf. Figure 1, annex ?Caract?risation des sites du projet?). The majority of the population is poor and depends heavily on the forest for its livelihood. Access to infrastructure and social services is often limited. For example, around the Lomba CF, for the three villages combined (2,993 inhabitants), there is only one functional full-cycle public school; one functional health post, no functional boreholes (out of 2) and the road has been out of order since 2012. This situation has cut off local communities from the town of Mba?ki, limits access to the market, and leaves the population totally impoverished. In general, both the testimonies of the populations (popular consultation) and the literature review indicate that the impacts of inappropriate farming practices combined with the impacts of climate change directly affect agriculture (slash and burn) and forest resources.

92. Increasingly vulnerable communities survive by collecting NTFPs and encroaching further on forest ecosystems (e.g unsustainable tree felling to collect caterpillars *gnetum spp* or guinea pepper *Xylopia gethiopica*). Combined with increased demographic pressure, this leads to the fragmentation of the forest, reducing its adaptive capacity and leading to its degradation. The ?Caract?risation des sites du projet? annex provides more detailed information about each target site.

Baseline projects

93. The following project and programmes constitute the baseline for the proposed project. Not all of these projects will contribute co-financing, but each project will provide lessons, tools and approaches to inform LDCF implementation. A number of projects are focusing on the agriculture sector, while others are focusing on the forestry sector. Only few projects are focusing on an integrated landscape approach to provide the necessary environmental and socio-economic benefits for the local communities.

94. Over a dozen projects and programmes intervene in the target regions to improve the resilience of communities and landscapes. Some of these projects will provide co-financing to the proposed LDCF investment (Table 6), while other non-co-financing baseline projects (Table 7) that are not closed at the time of project implementation will be involved in coordinated activities using the same processes as co-financing baseline projects (quarterly contacts and, as relevant, invitations to Project Steering Committee meetings). Closed projects have been and will be capitalized upon by building on lessons learned and improved capacity to support project implementation. These are mentioned for reference.

95. Coordination will be sought with both co-financing and non-co-financing projects with compatible objectives to this project to maximize synergies. In addition to ad-hoc meeting based on a needs-basis, collaboration will be facilitated by quarterly meetings of project focal points either in Bangui or at the regional level, as relevant.

Table 5. List of co-financing baseline projects.

Baseline project	Project details	Complementarity as LDCF baseline

NaturAfrica ? Protection de la Biodiversit? en R?publique Centrafricaine Child projects in South-West (Dzanga-Sangha) and South-East (Chinko)	**Financier:** European Union **Amount:** USD 50 m **Implementing agencies:** African Parks, WWF, WCS **Duration:** 2023-2026 **Geographic coverage:** South-West (Dzanga-Ndoki & Dzanga-Sangha national parks) ; South-East (Chinko) ; North-East (Bamingui-Bangoran & Manovo-Gounda-Saint Floris national parks) **Cofinancing**: USD 5,900,000 (Chinko) + USD 2,770,000 (Dzanga-Sangha)	Based on the lessons learned from the ECOFAC 6 program in CAR, the programme will pursue the conservation landscape approach to land and natural resource planning and management at the scale of territories encompassing protected areas as well as peripheral zones. The action responds directly to three priority problems: i) the degradation of ecosystems and the impact of climate change; ii) the poverty of local populations; and(iii) the weakness of institutions in charge of biodiversity. Its general objective is to promote a green economy characterized by endogenous, sustainable and inclusive economic development, and to combat climate change. Its specific objectives are to: i) effectively preserve biological diversity and fragile ecosystems, in conjunction with the associated ecosystem services; and ii) promote the sustainable socio-economic development of populations living near protected areas. In both the South-West and South-East regions, NaturAfrica investment will directly contribute to the LDCF project objective. African Parks and WWF being the main executing partner of both NaturAfrica and the LDCF project in these two target regions, synergies opportunities will be systematically seized.

FAO Technical Cooperation Projects: ? Projet de D?veloppement de l?Irrigation et de la Gestion Durable de l?Eau en R?publique Centrafricaine ? Projet d?appui ? l?op?rationnalisation de ? l?Initiative Main dans la Main ? en R?publique Centrafricaine ? Appui ? la mise en place d?une base de donn?es sur l??levage et la transhumance et d?un syst?me d?aide ? la d?cision et d?alerte pr?coce en R?publique Centrafricaine ? D?veloppement et renforcement des syst?mes alimentaires sensibles ? la nutrition notamment en milieu scolaire et dans le contexte de changement climatique en RCA	**Financier:** FAO **Amount:** USD 200,000; USD 221,000; USD 200,000; USD 200,000 **Implementing agencies:** FAO, MADR **Duration:** 2023-2024 **Geographic coverage:** national **Cofinancing**: USD 821,000	The four TCPs will deliver results that will contribute to the LDCF project?s overall resilience objective, in the fields of water management, data management, early warning systems and nutrition, respectively. Additional TCPs may be leveraged after 2024, that could also contribute as cofinancing to the LDCF investment.

Project to Improve the Productivity and Access to Markets of Agricultural products in the Savannah zones (Projet d'am?lioration de la productivit? et de l'acc?s aux march?s des produits agro-pastoraux dans les zones de savane, PRAPAM)	**Financier:** IFAD[1] **Amount:** USD 39,86 m **Implementing agency:** **Duration:** 2021-2026 **Geographic coverage:** Nana Mamber?, Ouam Pend?, Lobaye and Ombella Mpoko *Cofinancing to be confirmed: USD 9,000,000*	The objective of PRAPAM is to reinforce the resilience of rural populations and improve their access to market opportunities. It aims at creating favorable conditions for increased crop and animal production leading to increased income from key value chain products in the two areas overlapping with the LDCF project (namely, Lobaye and Ombella Mpoko). Under Component A, PRAPAM will enhance the production and productivity of strategic crops and livestock (incl. through the dissemination of new production technologies; the production of improved seeds and seed conservation technologies; the development of 730 ha of lowland irrigated farms to support the intensification of rice, food crops and market gardening). Under Component B, PRAPAM will support the provision of services and enhance products (incl. through improved market access infrastructure ? e.g. roads ? and improved storage and processing capacities). Through these components, PRAPAM will participate to the establishment of favorable baseline conditions for the LDCF project to deliver on its expected results.

[1] International Fund for Agricultural Development

Table 6. List of non-co-financing baseline projects.

Baseline project	Project details	Complementarity as LDCF baseline
NDC Partnership Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP)	**Financier:** NDC Partnership **Amount:** USD 249,310 **Implementing agency:** FAO **Duration:** 2020-2021 **Geographic coverage:** National	The main objective is to enhance CAR?s NDC, including by raising its ambition, as part of the Paris Agreement NDC update process. Numerous studies and reviews will be undertaken related to carbon sequestration potential of the ecosystems, potential for Forest and Landscape Restoration, review of NDC and vulnerability of sectors to climate change. The project also aims to support the development of a land-use plan using latest technologies available. The LDCF project will build upon the results of CAEP.

Project for the Regional Development of the South-West (Projet pour le D?veloppement R?gional du Sud-Ouest, PDRSO) NB: a second phase of PDRSO is currently in the identification phase	**Financier:** AFD[1] **Amount:** USD 7.1 million **Implementing agency:** MEFCP, MEDD **Duration:** 2016-2020 **Geographic coverage:** SW	The PDRSO supported 10 out of the 21 recognized forest Communes[2] in the CAR to prepare and implement Local Development Plans (PDL) with a strong focus on basic infrastructure and collective services development. The PDLs drawn up in these communes are genuine tools for planning and prioritizing the activities to be carried out in order to improve the living conditions of local populations. The pilot approach adopted by the PDRSO served as a reference for the decree defining the standards for the development of PDLs in the CAR, a basis on which other projects such as the PGRN, which supports 11 communes in the Prefectures of Lobaye and Mamb?r?-Kad?? in the development of their PDLs, now rely. The training provided, both in local planning and in administrative and financial management, has enabled the indispensable capacity building of local actors. Nevertheless, the needs are still great and the support should be continued to ensure that what has been learnt is sustained. The proposed project will build on the capacity developed and focus on the integration of climate change considerations and green investments as a means to adapt/mitigate climate change. The PDRSO also identified some pilot REDD+ activities near Bangui (including improved cropping practices and restoration of degraded forests) which can be used as good example for implementing the proposed project interventions. As a second phase of the PDRSO is currently being developed, the proposed LDCF project will seize all opportunities to participate project identification to maximize synergies with the LDCF intervention framework.

Forest and Landscape Restoration supporting Landscape and Livelihoods Resilience in the Central African Republic (CAR) under The Restoration Initiative (TRI)	**Financier:** GEF **Amount:** USD 10 million **Implementing agency:** MEFCP **Duration:** 2018-2023 **Geographic coverage:** SW	The project is providing support to improve the institutional framework favorable to forest and landscape restoration (FLR), and will provide valuable lessons learned in terms of both on the ground restoration experience as well as planning and M&E for FLR. Public-private partnership is also being piloted to provide impacts to farmers on the ground, while restoring degraded lands. Through TRI, a virtual incubation programme is spearheaded to help entrepreneurs develop robust business plans for innovative nature-based business ideas and linked to restoration and/or sustainable management of the land. The proposed project will learn from the approach used and build on the knowledge and experience/expertise generated.
Scaling up ecological corridors and transboundary connectivity through integrated natural resources management in the Ngotto Forest landscape and Mba?r?-Bodingu? National Park	**Financier:** GEF **Amount:** USD 7,606,881 **Implementing agency:** MEFCP; GEF Agency: World Bank **Duration:** 2022-2026 **Geographic coverage:** SW	The project falls under the Sustainable Landscape Management Congo Basin Impact Programme and aims to improve governance and strengthen capacity in the forest and mining sectors in the CAR. The overall goal of the project is to improve integrated natural resources management and sustainable rural livelihoods in the Ngotto Forest landscape and Mba?r?-Bodingu? National Park. The project will provide valuable lessons on enhanced participatory management planning and best practices on sustainable alternative livelihoods creation will be shared. Close coordination was initiated during the PPG phase and will continue during implementation to ensure complementarity between the two projects especially with regards to the funding of prioritized actions from PDLs in SW CAR, with a view to share lessons learned and avoid duplication.

Integrated Adaptation Programme to Combat the Effects of Climate Change on Agricultural Production and Food Security in the CAR	**Financier:** GEF **Amount:** USD 2,780,000 **Implementing agencies:** MADR, MEDD ? GEF Agency: UNDP **Duration:** 2021-2026 (original 2010-2015) **Geographic coverage:** SW	The project aims to strengthen climate risk management capacity for enhanced food security and rural livelihoods in the CAR through three technical outcomes: i) policy, institutional and financial capacities developed and strengthened to plan for and manage climate change risks to the agricultural sector; ii) adapted agro-pastoral options implemented in key vulnerable areas; and iii) knowledge/experiences shared, capitalized and disseminated. This project was to be implemented from 2010 to 2015, but it was postponed due to the security situation. Synergies will be sought on climate information, climate-resilient agricultural options and on policy interventions for climate change integration into local planning.
Development of Agricultural Value Chains in the Savannas (Projet d'Appui au D?veloppement des Cha?nes de Valeurs Agricoles dans les Savanes, PADECAS)	**Financier:** IFAD/AfDB[3] **Amount:** USD 22,940,000 **Implementing agency:** MADR **Duration:** 2018-2023 **Geographic coverage:** Lobaye, Ombella-Mpoko and Ouham-Pend?	The overall project objective is to contribute to the reduction of poverty and the sustainable improvement of food and nutrition security. The project is implemented through three components: development of agriculture and livestock value chains, institutional support to the agricultural sector and coordination of the project. Specific objectives include: i) developing value chains for cassava, maize, rice, beans and cattle; ii) improving productivity, processing and marketing of agri-food products; and iii) improving coordination and dialogue between actors in the value chains through capacity building of support institutions. PADECAS will contribute to the proposed LDCF project?s objective by supporting climate-resilient agricultural technologies and practices (e.g. climate-resilient varieties of staple crops), setting up small transformation units in rural areas, training rural communities on marketing, supplying veterinary products etc. Overall, PADECAS?s interventions in the two overlapping regions will contribute to strengthen the development and resilience of rural communities.

Agriculture Recovery and Agribusiness Development Support Project (Projet d'appui ? la Relance Agricole et au D?veloppement de l'Agrobusiness en Centrafrique, PRADAC)	**Financier:** World Bank **Amount:** USD 25 million **Duration:** 2019-2024 **Implementing agency:** MADR **Geographic coverage:** NE, NW, Central	The project objective is to increase agriculture productivity of small-scale farmers, strengthen capacity of micro, small and medium agribusiness enterprises in the project area, and provide immediate and effective response in the event of a crisis. Components 1 on the development of productive infrastructure and competencies for agriculture and rural entrepreneurship and 3 on the improvement of the quality of agriculture public services are relevant for the proposed project and will benefit the LDCF investment through enhanced capacity of MADR and technical agencies as well as learning from innovation platform to be established at the national and communal levels.

Support to the implementation of APV (Voluntary Partnership Agreement) FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) in the CAR	**Financier:** EU **Amount:** USD 6.7 m **Implementing agency:** MEFCP, FAO **Duration:** 2021-2025 **Geographic coverage:** National	By supporting the effective implementation of the FLEGT APV in the CAR, the project will strengthen the multi-stakeholder governance of the forestry sector in the country and aim to ensure that logging for timber production takes place within the legal framework of sustainable natural resource management on the one hand, and contributes to the socio-economic development of the country at national and local levels on the other. This impact will be achieved by pursuing the following two complementary outcomes: i) Stakeholders in the forestry sector are continuously involved in the development and monitoring of the implementation of policies and the legal framework relating to forests. ii) All the elements necessary for the legal production, processing and marketing of timber products (particularly those exported to EU markets) are operationalized. The APV-FLEGT project will contribute to achieve the proposed LDCF?s project objectives in particular through its Outputs 1.2 (Consultation and exchanges between actors involved in initiatives to support forest management and sustainable socio-economic development in CAR are strengthened) and 1.4 (Policies and legal texts related to forest management, including those mentioned in the VPA are developed in a participatory framework) ? in particular Activity 1.4.1 (Appraisals to revise/update/finalize the legal framework for community forests, artisanal permits, semi-industrial logging, plantation timber and regulation of domestic and cross-border markets).

Central African Republic Emergency Food Crisis Response Project (Projet de R?ponse Urgente ? la Crise Alimentaire en RCA, PRUCAC)	**Financier:** World Bank **Amount:** USD 50 m **Implementing agencies:** GoCAR, FAO (executing agency for a total of USD 15,237,257 corresponding to Sub-components 1.1, 1.3 and 2.2), WFP[5], AGETIP[6] **Duration:** 2021-2024 **Geographic coverage:** Nana Gribizi, Ouham, Ouaka, Basse Kotto, Haute Kotto, Mamb?r? Kadei as well as the greater Bangui area (autonomous communes of Bangui and surrounding communes in the prefecture of Ombella?Mpoko)	The objective of PRUCAC is to increase food production and improve the resilience of smallholder farmers and food insecure households in affected areas. The project is organized around two core components: Component 1: Supporting increased food production will support an accelerated supply response focused on restoring and preserving the productive capacity of farm households, to enable continued and expanded production of staple foods and livestock that is resilient to climate change. Of particular relevance for the baseline of the LDCF project are the FAO-executed sub-components 1.1(support to crop production) and 1.3 (strengthening hydrometeorological information for flood early warning) Component 2: labor-intensive public works for resilience aims to support the rapid recovery of livelihoods of vulnerable populations in the Greater Bangui area after the negative impact of simultaneous shocks (COVID-19 and floods), while contributing to building resilience and disaster preparedness for future floods. Of particular relevance for the baseline of the LDCF project is the FAO-executed sub-components 2.1 (Rehabilitation and maintenance of small-scale agricultural infrastructure).

[1] Agence Fran?aise de D?veloppement
[2] Five communes located in Lobaye (Less?, Mbata, Mongoumba, Nola-Mba?ki and Pissa) and five communes located in the Sangha-Mba?r? (Bilolo, Mba?r?, Nola, Salo and Yob?-Sangha).
[3] African Development Bank
[4] International Fund for Agricultural Development
[5] World Food Programme
[6] Agence d'Ex?cution des Travaux d'Int?r?t Public en Centrafrique, AGETIP

2) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project and the project?s Theory of Change.

96. This section presents the project?s Theory of Change (ToC), which sets out the project?s causal logic and relationships between the project?s outputs (goods and services delivered by the project) and immediate project outcomes (changes resulting from the use of project outputs by key stakeholders), medium and longer-term changes and states, and the project?s ultimate desired impact (fundamental, durable changes in environmental and social benefits).

97. As described above, the central problem the project seeks to address is the increasing climate vulnerability of the rural communities dependent on natural resources in the SW and SE regions of the CAR. The loss of ecosystems? goods and services underpinned by non-climate drivers and compounded by current and anticipated climate impacts (driver ?D1? on Figure 12) undermines livelihoods, food security and potential for sustainable economic development for farm, forest and rangeland users, leads to biodiversity loss, and further increases vulnerability to climate change[105]. The main causes and drivers of this degradation are detailed in the sections above but include widespread use of slash-and-burn agriculture and unsustainable forestry practices fueled by population poverty (Driver D2) and lack of capacity to tackle development challenges in a climate change context. This is aggravated by political instability and insecurity (Driver D3).

98. Faced with these challenges, the proposed project seeks to promote restoration and sustainable management of natural resources and forest ecosystems as a cost-effective climate adaptation measure[106]. Specifically, the project aims to overcome the barriers identified above (e.g. weaknesses in the governance framework, institutional capacity gaps, insufficient technical capacity of local communities, and limited knowledge availability), and thereby support the climate-resilient development of populations made especially vulnerable to climate impacts as they already face a series of challenges linked to the socio-political context of the CAR. The proposed LDCF project aims to achieve this objective through four interlinked approaches/strategies. Each of these is reflected in a specific project component (?areas of action?) comprising sets of project activities and outputs that, together, will deliver project outcomes that are sought to set beneficiary communities on an all-around resilient development path. The proposed project also will contribute to wider development objectives and socio-economic and cultural co-benefits (e.g. support to diversified and resilient livelihoods; empowerment and sustainable access to farm, forest and rangeland resources; reduced vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks; improved food and income security; capitalization on traditional knowledge; women and youth empowerment and contribution to SDGs).

99. Component 1 will address Barriers 3, 5 and 6. It will achieve this by supporting the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into landscape governance at a multi-scale level, and through capacity building, institutional building and enhanced coordination. Component 1 has one immediate project outcome, namely efficient territorial & development planning for resilient and sustainable integrated landscape management, which will be at the foundation of Components 2 and 3, as described below.

100. Component 2 will address Barrier 1 by promoting ecosystem-based approaches for enhanced resilience of both the landscapes and the local communities. This will be done by, firstly, establishing and/or enhancing sustainable management plans integrating climate change adaptation. Secondly, and in compliance with these plans, community forestry will be supported both through capacity-building in terms of management, and through adequate restoration of degraded forest areas. Component 2 has one immediate project outcome, namely that forest ecosystems and productive landscapes are locally sustainably managed for enhanced resilience of local communities.

101. Component 3 will address Barrier 2, 4 and 6 through the promotion of climate-smart, nature-based livelihoods to decrease the risk of human/nature conflicts while adapting to changing climate. Diversifying and climate-proofing rural livelihoods to increase their resilience to climate and non-climate shocks will require a holistic, threefold approach. Firstly, the project will intervene on the production side by disseminating best climate-smart agroforestry practices (using the Field Schools approach) to sustainably enhance productivity and promote

climate-smart cultures. Secondly, on the marketing side, the project will be strengthening local producers? organizations to identify and seize market opportunities (using the Forest and Farm Producers Organizations Approach). Thirdly, financing opportunities to stimulate local investment into promising value chains will be supported through the Caisse de R?silience approach. Component 3 has one immediate project outcome, namely diversified and resilient livelihood strategies promoted based on climate-smart nature-based approaches for increased community resilience.

102. Component 4 will address Barriers 4 and 7 by setting up an enabling environment for monitoring, evaluation, learning and knowledge sharing. Besides establishing a project monitoring framework conducive to adaptive project management, interventions under this component will allow to bridge the knowledge gap on several themes relevant to climate resilience building in forest landscapes and in the CAR, including community forestry. Such knowledge will be shared through classic material, but also at the grassroot level via knowledge-exchange visits for farmers, including at the sub-regional level. Component 4 has two immediate project outcomes, namely :

? lessons and knowledge from the project are captured through a robust M&E system ; and
? enhanced knowledge and learning at national and regional levels through a robust knowledge development and dissemination strategy

103. Several of these Outcomes interlink and work together or are dependent on the progress and results of others (the key relationships between the main elements in the Theory of Change are indicated by arrows in Figure 12). For example, Outcome 1.1 will pave the way for participatory forestry interventions under Outcome 2.1, which will themselves support the potential development of VCs under Outcome 3.1. Dimitra Clubs to be established under Outcome 1.1 will work as a first layer of community-based organizations (CBO) to generate social cohesion and prepare for the setting up of APFSs and FFPOs, namely two more technical and market-oriented types of CBOs that will be instrumental to deliver on Outcomes 2.1 and 3.1, respectively. Likewise, the selection of the sustainable climate-resilient VCs to be strengthened under Output 3.1.2 will depend on discussions held and priorities identified by farmers themselves through APFS sessions under Output 3.1.4. Similarly, there is a strong mutual connection between Components 1, 2 and 3 and Component 4 (indicated by hatched boxes and two-way arrow in Figure 12), where results and experiences from the technical components contribute to building the knowledge base on FC and SFM as a CCA strategy under Component 4, while guidance on improved practices and lessons learned identified by the project under Component 4 are fed back into improving on-the-ground activities under Components 2 and 3, in particular. Together, the five outcomes will contribute to the project objective to enhance the resilience of rural communities through the valuation of productive and forest landscapes and inclusive governance mechanisms.

104. However, the project?s approaches to securing widespread adoption of CCA practices in the target landscapes rest on a number of assumptions: that the capacity of communities structures (APFSs, FFPOs) and government extension services at commune and village levels can be increased; that the CCA, CSA- and SFM-based practices promoted by the project are cost-effective and lead to measurable results on reduced vulnerability, ecosystems productivity, income generation in a timely manner; and that the upcoming update of the Forest Code adequately provides the required security for the establishment of Community Forests.

105. In addition, the achievement of the project outcomes and progress towards the project objective and longer-term impacts depends on a number of wider assumptions (depicted by an ?A? in Figure 12), operating over different scales and at different points along the causal chains, being met. Assumptions that directly relate to achievement of the project?s immediate outcomes are that:

? A1. National government institutions involved in natural resources? management continue to acknowledge the necessity to increase cross-sectoral collaboration and participate actively in creating an enabling environment for the mainstreaming of CCA into landscape management;

- ? A2. Decentralized government institutions, community leaders, community groups, NGOs and private sector institutions are willing to engage in participatory governance for natural resources, especially forests;
- ? A3. Cultural barriers do not prevent women from effectively participating in the sustainable governance of natural resources and CCA implementation;
- ? A4. Local communities and FFPOs grasp market opportunities, and are willing to invest the required time and energy to make their livelihoods more resilient;
- ? A5. Private sector is willing (or can be encouraged) to invest in activities to address climate change vulnerability; and
- ? A8. The legal framework for participatory forestry adequately secures the institutional sustainability of pilot FCs.

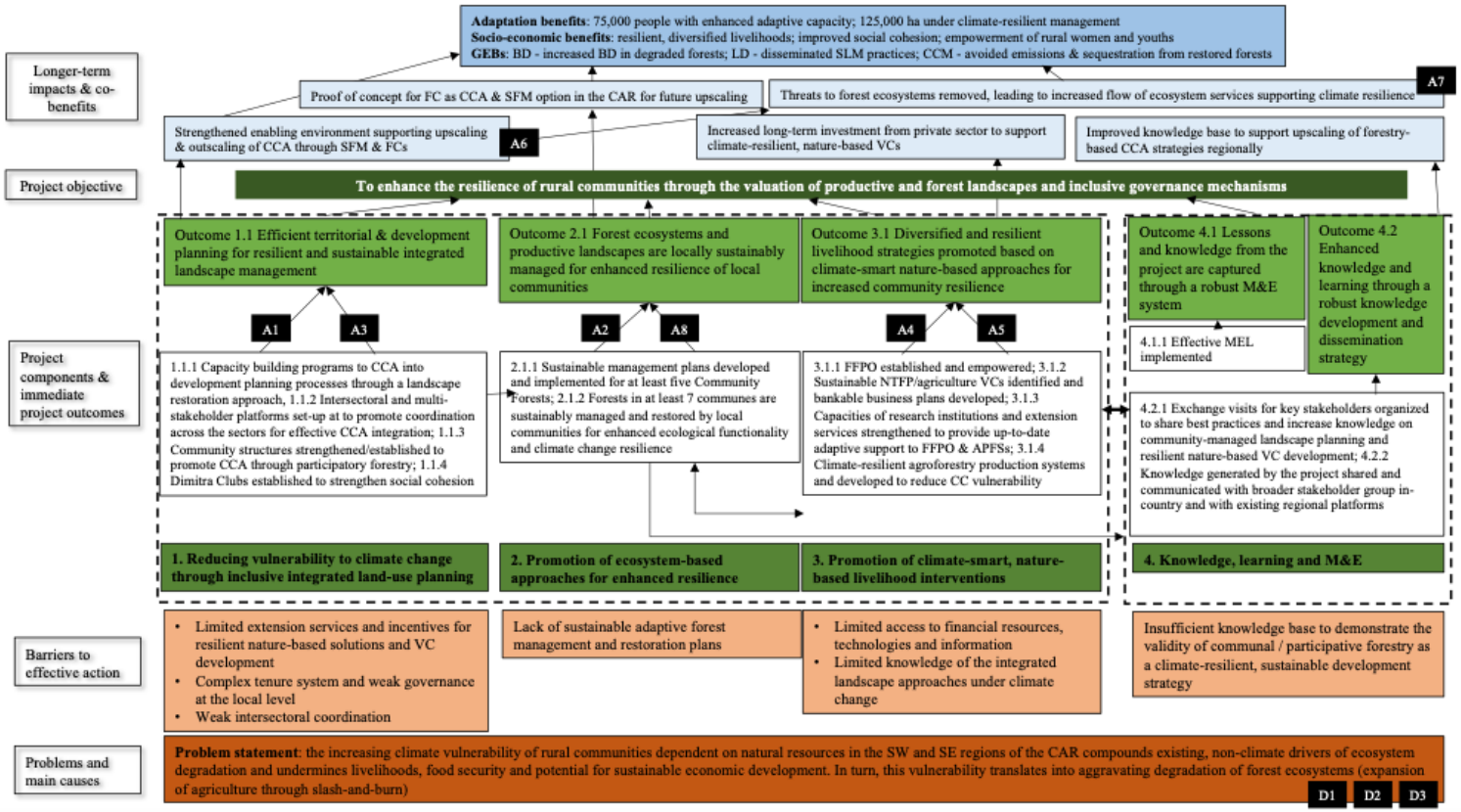
106. In addition, operation of the project itself rests on the assumptions that: i) it can secure the external expertise and technical assistance required for a full and timely implementation of project activities (needed for delivery of all four components); ii) there is continued commitment of participating institutions and actors from national to community level during the project lifetime ; and iii) there is no major political changes in the CAR so that the project?s institutional framework can continue to operate and deliver project results. Furthermore, it is assumed that unexpected events, such as Covid-19 pandemic, do not significantly adversely impact institutional and governance arrangements and prevent the project from proceeding.

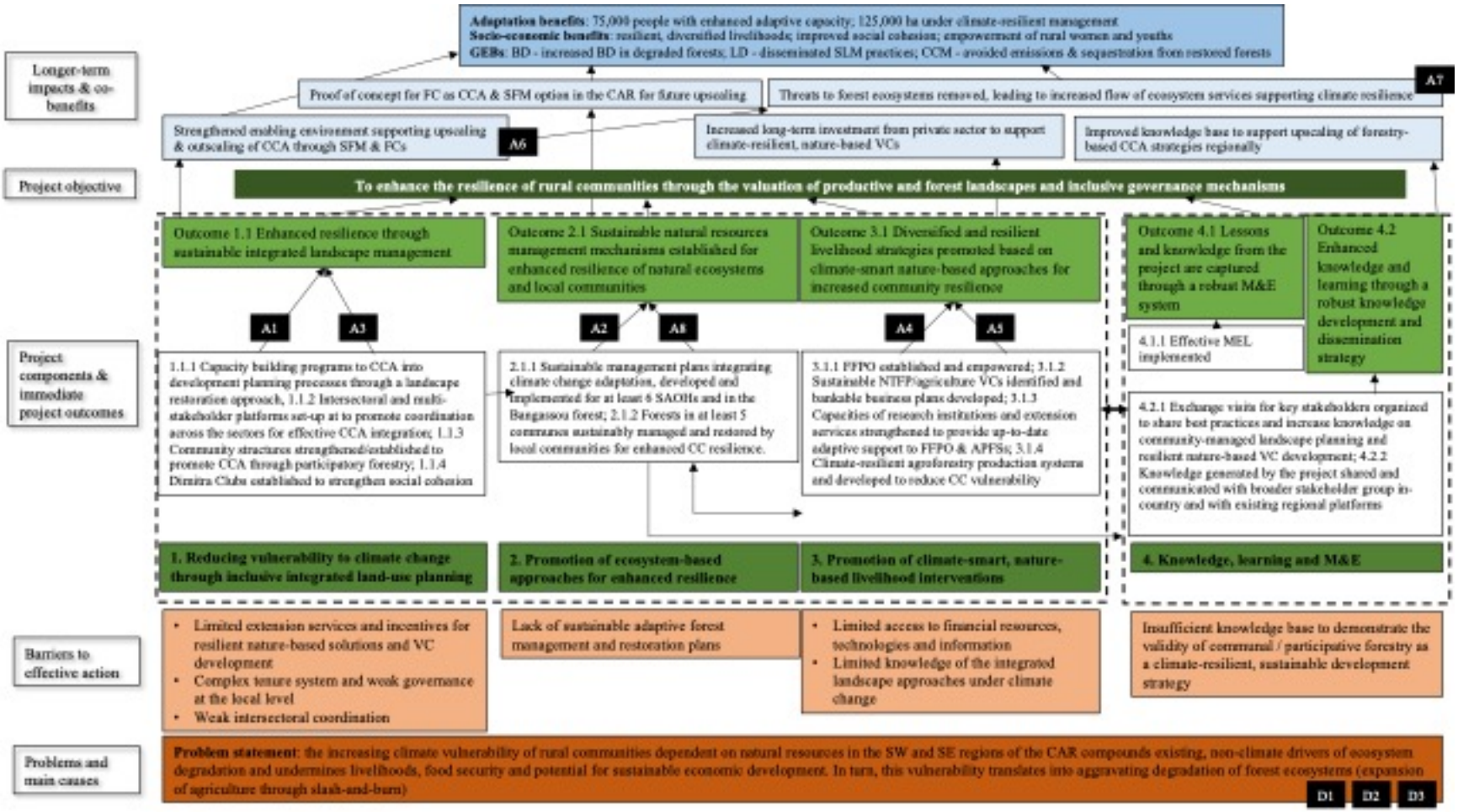
107. If the project outcome-level assumptions (A1-5) are met, then delivery of the four project components will result in further gains, represented by five longer-term outcomes. These are: strengthened enabling environment supporting upscaling & outscaling of CCA through SFM & FCs ; proof of concept for FC as CCA & SFM option in the CAR for future upscaling ; increased long-term investment from private sector to support climate-resilient, nature-based VCs ; threats to forest ecosystems removed, leading to increased flow of ecosystem services supporting climate resilience ; and improved knowledge base to support upscaling of forestry-based CCA strategies regionally.

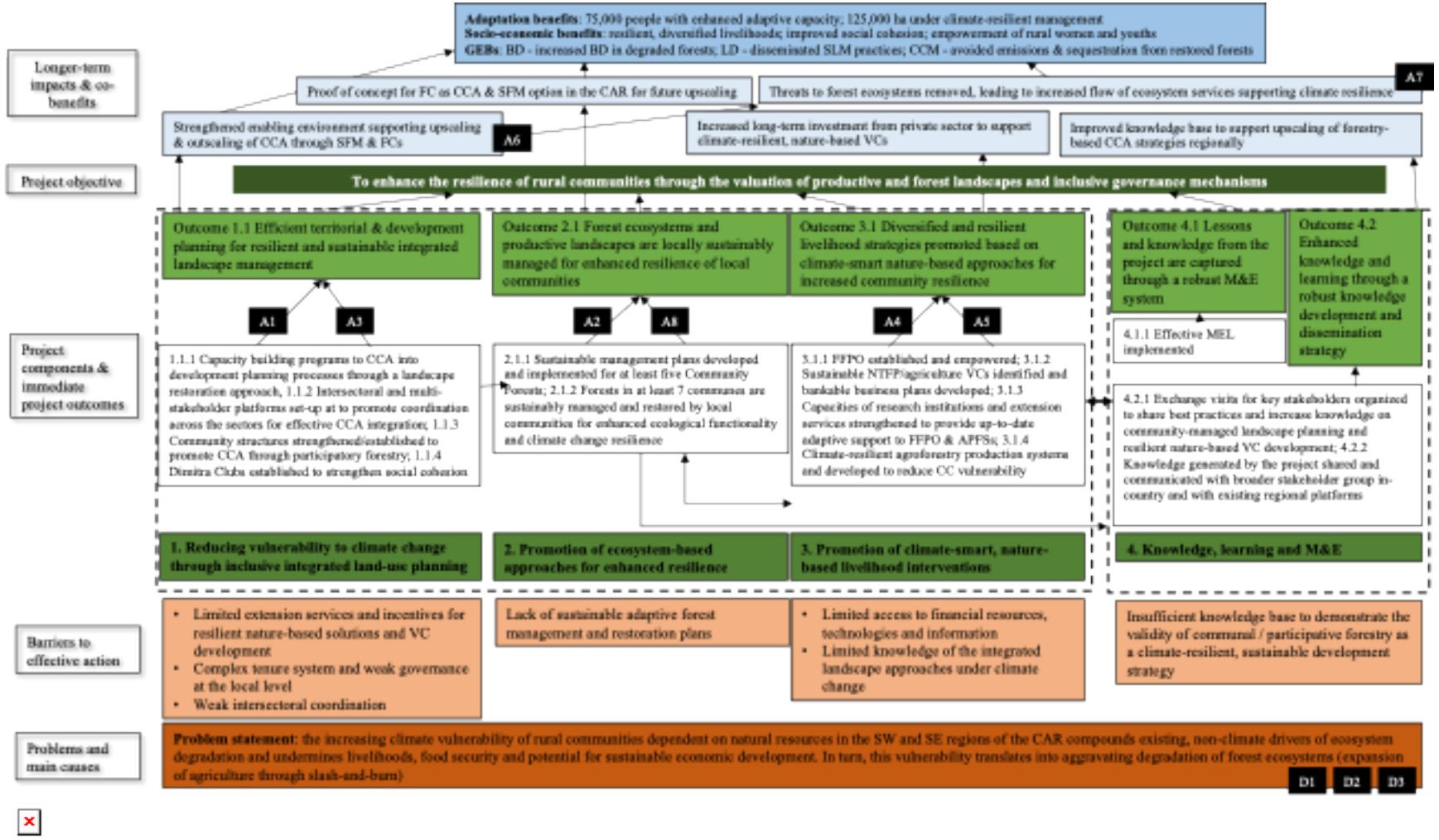
108. Achievement of these longer-term outcomes is subject to further assumptions (A6-A7), namely that:

- ? A6. There is sufficient and continued commitment (political support, staff, resources, etc.) by central and decentralized government authorities to address CC vulnerability ; and
- ? A7. Future climate change impacts do not irreversibly affect the structure and function of ecosystem services in production landscapes.

Figure 13. Theory of Change diagram.

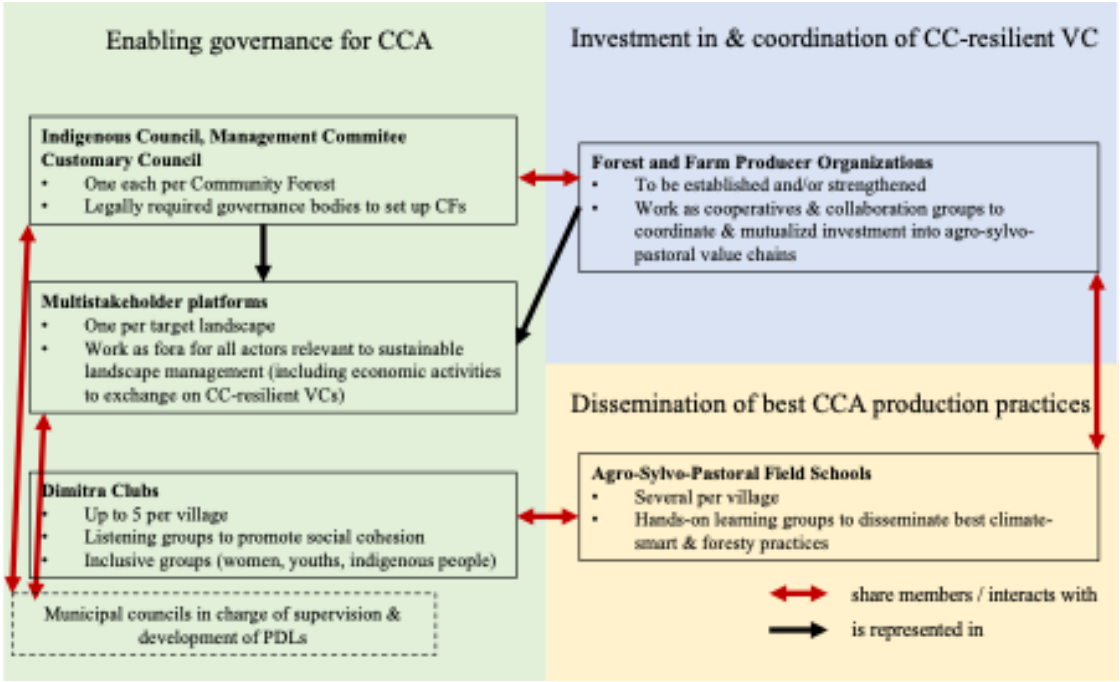

Longer-term impacts & co-benefits
Adaptation benefits: 75,000 people with enhanced adaptive capacity; 125,000 ha under climate-resilient management
Socio-economic benefits: resilient, diversified livelihoods; improved social cohesion; empowerment of rural women and youths
GEBs: BD - increased BD in degraded forests; LD - disseminated SLM practices; CCM - avoided emissions & sequestration from restored forests
Proof of concept for FC as CCA & SFM option in the CAR for future upscaling
Threats to forest ecosystems removed, leading to increased flow of ecosystem services supporting climate resilience
A7
Strengthened enabling environment supporting upscaling & outscaling of CCA through SFM & FCs
A6
Increased long-term investment from private sector to support climate-resilient, nature-based VCs
Improved knowledge base to support upscaling of forestry-based CCA strategies regionally
Project objective
To enhance the resilience of rural communities through the valuation of productive and forest landscapes and inclusive governance mechanisms
Outcome 1.1 Efficient territorial & development planning for resilient and sustainable integrated landscape management
Outcome 2.1 Forest ecosystems and productive landscapes are locally sustainably managed for enhanced resilience of local communities
Outcome 3.1 Diversified and resilient livelihood strategies promoted based on climate-smart nature-based approaches for increased community resilience
Outcome 4.1 Lessons and knowledge from the project are captured through a robust M&E system
Outcome 4.2 Enhanced knowledge and learning through a robust knowledge development and dissemination strategy
A1
A3
A2
A8
A4
A5
Project components & immediate project outcomes
1.1.1 Capacity building programs to CCA into development planning processes through a landscape restoration approach, 1.1.2 Intersectoral and multi-stakeholder platforms set-up at to promote coordination across the sectors for effective CCA integration; 1.1.3 Community structures strengthened/established to promote CCA through participatory forestry; 1.1.4 Dimitra Clubs established to strengthen social cohesion
2.1.1 Sustainable management plans developed and implemented for at least five Community Forests; 2.1.2 Forests in at least 7 communes are sustainably managed and restored by local communities for enhanced ecological functionality and climate change resilience
3.1.1 FFPO established and empowered; 3.1.2 Sustainable NTFP/agriculture VCs identified and bankable business plans developed; 3.1.3 Capacities of research institutions and extension services strengthened to provide up-to-date adaptive support to FFPO & APFSs; 3.1.4 Climate-resilient agroforestry production systems and developed to reduce CC vulnerability
4.1.1 Effective MEL implemented
4.2.1 Exchange visits for key stakeholders organized to share best practices and increase knowledge on community-managed landscape planning and resilient nature-based VC development; 4.2.2 Knowledge generated by the project shared and communicated with broader stakeholder group in-country and with existing regional platforms
1. Reducing vulnerability to climate change through inclusive integrated land-use planning
2. Promotion of ecosystem-based approaches for enhanced resilience
3. Promotion of climate-smart, nature-based livelihood interventions
4. Knowledge, learning and M&E
Barriers to effective action
• Limited extension services and incentives for resilient nature-based solutions and VC development
• Complex tenure system and weak governance at the local level
• Weak intersectoral coordination
Lack of sustainable adaptive forest management and restoration plans
• Limited access to financial resources, technologies and information
• Limited knowledge of the integrated landscape approaches under climate change
Insufficient knowledge base to demonstrate the validity of communal / participative forestry as a climate-resilient, sustainable development strategy
Problems and main causes
Problem statement: the increasing climate vulnerability of rural communities dependent on natural resources in the SW and SE regions of the CAR compounds existing, non-climate drivers of ecosystem degradation and undermines livelihoods, food security and potential for sustainable economic development. In turn, this vulnerability translates into aggravating degradation of forest ecosystems (expansion of agriculture through slash-and-burn)
D1
D2
D3


Longer-term impacts & co-benefits
Project objective
Project components & immediate project outcomes
Barriers to effective action
Problems and main causes
Adaptation benefits: 75,000 people with enhanced adaptive capacity; 125,000 ha under climate-resilient management
Socio-economic benefits: resilient, diversified livelihoods; improved social cohesion; empowerment of rural women and youths
GEBs: BD - increased BD in degraded forests; LD - disseminated SLM practices; CCM - avoided emissions & sequestration from restored forests
Proof of concept for FC as CCA & SFM option in the CAR for future upscaling
Threats to forest ecosystems removed, leading to increased flow of ecosystem services supporting climate resilience
A7
Strengthened enabling environment supporting upscaling & outscaling of CCA through SFM & FCs
A6
Increased long-term investment from private sector to support climate-resilient, nature-based VCs
Improved knowledge base to support upscaling of forestry-based CCA strategies regionally
To enhance the resilience of rural communities through the valuation of productive and forest landscapes and inclusive governance mechanisms
Outcome 1.1 Enhanced resilience through sustainable integrated landscape management
Outcome 2.1 Sustainable natural resources management mechanisms established for enhanced resilience of natural ecosystems and local communities
Outcome 3.1 Diversified and resilient livelihood strategies promoted based on climate-smart nature-based approaches for increased community resilience
Outcome 4.1 Lessons and knowledge from the project are captured through a robust M&E system
Outcome 4.2 Enhanced knowledge and learning through a robust knowledge development and dissemination strategy
A1
A3
A2
A8
A4
A5
1.1.1 Capacity building programs to CCA into development planning processes through a landscape restoration approach, 1.1.2 Intersectoral and multi-stakeholder platforms set-up at to promote coordination across the sectors for effective CCA integration; 1.1.3 Community structures strengthened/established to promote CCA through participatory forestry; 1.1.4 Dimitra Clubs established to strengthen social cohesion
2.1.1 Sustainable management plans integrating climate change adaptation, developed and implemented for at least 6 SAOIIs and in the Bangassou forest; 2.1.2 Forests in at least 5 communes sustainably managed and restored by local communities for enhanced CC resilience.
3.1.1 FFPO established and empowered; 3.1.2 Sustainable NTFP/agriculture VCs identified and bankable business plans developed; 3.1.3 Capacities of research institutions and extension services strengthened to provide up-to-date adaptive support to FFPO & APFSs; 3.1.4 Climate-resilient agroforestry production systems and developed to reduce CC vulnerability
4.1.1 Effective MEL implemented
4.2.1 Exchange visits for key stakeholders organized to share best practices and increase knowledge on community-managed landscape planning and resilient nature-based VC development; 4.2.2 Knowledge generated by the project shared and communicated with broader stakeholder group in-country and with existing regional platforms
1. Reducing vulnerability to climate change through inclusive integrated land-use planning
2. Promotion of ecosystem-based approaches for enhanced resilience
3. Promotion of climate-smart, nature-based livelihood interventions
4. Knowledge, learning and M&E
• Limited extension services and incentives for resilient nature-based solutions and VC development
• Complex tenure system and weak governance at the local level
• Weak intersectoral coordination
Lack of sustainable adaptive forest management and restoration plans
• Limited access to financial resources, technologies and information
• Limited knowledge of the integrated landscape approaches under climate change
Insufficient knowledge base to demonstrate the validity of communal / participative forestry as a climate-resilient, sustainable development strategy
Problem statement: the increasing climate vulnerability of rural communities dependent on natural resources in the SW and SE regions of the CAR compounds existing, non-climate drivers of ecosystem degradation and undermines livelihoods, food security and potential for sustainable economic development. In turn, this vulnerability translates into aggravating degradation of forest ecosystems (expansion of agriculture through slash-and-burn)
D1
D2
D3



109. A summary of the various bodies and groups to be supported / established under the proposed project, and linkages between them, is presented on Figure 13.

Figure 14. Summary of bodies & groups to be supported / established.



Component 1. Reducing climate change vulnerability through integrated development and land-use planning

Outcome 1.1. Efficient territorial & development planning for resilient and sustainable integrated landscape management

110. This component is designed to provide the necessary capacity and governance instruments that will pave the way for field interventions (forestry and livelihoods) under Components 2 and 3.

111. The approach builds on the GoCAR?s decentralization process (including efforts to put in place National and Regional Land-use Plans ? SNAT and SRAT) promoting an integrated landscape approach involving all the relevant sectors. It also capitalizes on the work carried out by several projects[107], [108] to strengthen the capacity of certain forest communes (mainly in the SW) to elaborate their Local Development Plans (Plan de D?veloppement Local, PDL). Despite the fact that these plans are not specifically orientated towards green investments and focus mainly on the urgent needs (such as health and education), the basic capacity is there. With the support of the proposed project, climate change adaptation will be integrated into the PDLs. In conjunction, the mainstreaming of CCA into landscape planning will be promoted by setting the conditions for the development of participatory forestry.

Output 1.1.1: Capacity-building programs implemented for decentralized entities or jurisdictions (prefectures and communes) to integrate climate change adaptation into development planning processes and through a landscape restoration approach

112. In order to involve all relevant institutional scales in the mainstreaming of climate change into landscape management, communication and awareness-raising efforts will be deployed. This will involve national, regional and local stakeholders, as relevant.

113. Capacity-building of stakeholders under Activities 1.1.1.1 ? 1.1.1.4, as well as under Output 1.1.2 and landscape-level climate risks assessments (Activity 1.1.1.5) will pave the way for the revision and/or development of PDLs that fully incorporate climate resilience priorities. This will be done under Activity 1.1.1.5, on the basis of existing PDLs (e.g. for the communes of Yob?-Sangha and Salo), and by supporting the other target communes to establish their own PDLs that will fully mainstream climate change adaptation.

114. Efforts will be undertaken to involve the Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPO) to be set up under Component 3 in Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology[109] (ROAM), a stepwise and iterative application of a series of analyses to identify the best set of FLR opportunities applicable to a degraded land where they are taking place. Where such ROAM exercises are not being undertaken, incentives will be provided to FFPOs to motivate these processes in their landscapes. Efforts to link FFPOs to climate change programmes will further enhance environmental sustainability[110].

Activity	Description
1.1.1.1	Hold information/communication workshops on land policy and the objectives and actions envisaged by the project in 7 communes. As relevant, this may involve referring to / training on the Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure for land, forests and fisheries in the context of national food security[111]
1.1.1.2	Carry out participatory diagnoses of natural resources and their use/allocation in terms of land for 7 communes
1.1.1.3	Carry out socio-tenure surveys involving participation at village level to validate this resource mapping and explicitly document the legitimate tenure rights (State, communes, villages, lineages, individuals) exercised on the communal territory for the benefit of 7 communes
1.1.1.4	Create and consolidate Geographic Information Systems/GIS leading to Land Information Systems/LIS at the level of the communes. Organize a training on tenure software solutions identified jointly with an international tenure expert[112].
1.1.1.5	Conduct complementary Climate Risk Assessments at the landscape level for the target communes.
1.1.1.6	Identify most suitable tools and approaches for participatory diagnostic with simple indicators of climate-change affected agro-ecosystems, based on recognised methodologies for assessing ecosystem services, such as ROAM and tools from the Participatory Negotiated Territorial Development Approach and diagnostic/design tools used in agroecological/regenerative approaches (permaculture food forests, analog forestry, synthropic agriculture etc.)
1.1.1.7	As necessary, train local facilitators in charge of the participatory design of restoration plans on the tools and methodology identified under Activity 1.1.1.6
1.1.1.8	Support the mainstreaming of CCA into existing PDLs (e.g. in Yob? Sangha and Salo) ; support other communes to develop their PDLs with full mainstreaming of CCA.
1.1.1.9	Organize information/communication workshops on land and forestry policy, and the objectives and process of integrating climate change adaptation into development plans for the benefit of three prefectures (Lobaye, Sangha-Mba?r? and Mbomou), targeting prefecture staff and deconcentrated State services.

Output 1.1.2: Five multi-stakeholder platforms established at the landscape level, in order to effectively engage multiple stakeholders (private sector, CSOs, local administration etc.) involved in agro-sylo-pastoral food systems resilience and investment.

115. Under this output, multistakeholder platforms will be organized around each target CF. These platforms will be structured at the landscape level, i.e. they will seek the participation of all relevant stakeholders involved in the functioning, administration and management of natural resources within the target landscapes. Such stakeholders will include: i) producers represented by FFPOs and /or APFS groups; ii) market intermediaries, such as collectors and resellers; iii) logging companies; iv) research institutions; v) local authorities; and vi) decentralized representatives of key line ministries, including agriculture; water and forests; environment and mining.

116. The terms of reference for the platforms will be collectively defined by the stakeholders themselves, with the guiding support of the project. The platforms may be comprised of thematic task forces, depending on the participants? interests. Experience shows that the prospect of discussions centered around the economic aspects of territorial organization (investment opportunities, infrastructure building etc.) can serve as a vehicle to attract stakeholders and facilitate exchanges about best agroecology practices, climate-smart agriculture and land-use planning. Typically, setting up a space where producers can have mediated discussions with collectors and bulk buyers helps the former to better understand market demand; this in turn creates opportunities to discuss how land use can be optimized at the farm and forest level to adapt to seasonal demand. Throughout the establishment and animation of the platforms, proven methodologies ? such as the stakeholder engagement tool developed under the SHERPA project[113] ? will be used to maximize participation and steer discussions to ensure that the platforms work as avenues to promote the beneficial contributions of productive landscapes to resilience strengthening. In addition, these platforms will facilitate discussions on the collaboration protocols that need to be signed between local and indigenous communities, logging permitholders concessionaires and/or relevant protected area managers when establishing CFs (cf. Component 2).

Activity	Description
1.1.2.1	Identify existing platforms in the target communes, with potential gaps in terms of representation. Define a preliminary list of relevant stakeholders in each target landscape and collectively establish or, for existing platforms, suggest revision to the terms of reference for each platform, ensuring proper consideration of women and indigenous people participation.
1.1.2.2	Following the terms of references of each platform, organize periodical plenary and task force meetings.
1.1.2.3	Produce and disseminate an annual stocktaking brief summarizing the outcomes of each platform.
1.1.2.4	Promote the mainstreaming of multi-stakeholder platforms into existing legal and regulatory frameworks, with a view to facilitate the upscaling of such platforms at the national level.

Output 1.1.3: Community structures strengthened/established to promote climate change adaptation through participatory forestry and integrated landscape management

117. Past CF initiatives in the CAR have involved the creation of a number of local community structures, including the Conseils coutumiers (Customary Councils), Conseils autochtones (Indigenous Councils) and Comite?s de gestion (Management Committees)[114], as required in the Manual for the establishment of CFs in the CAR[115]. Prior to setting up these bodies however, initial awareness raising on the principles, advantages and constraints associated with CFs need to be conducted[116]. This will confirm the communities? interest in the CF concept, and allow motivated individuals to identify themselves as potential members of committees. Such activities will be conducted in all project sites under this output.

118. Once initial awareness-raising sessions have been conducted, the project will support the constitution of the three required councils/committees per target site. As per Manual rules, further consultations will then be undertaken to ensure that the different parties on whom the proposed CFs may have an impact have reached a consensus on: i) the objectives of the community forest; ii) the boundaries of the forest being sought; and iii) the allocation of land and the rules or modalities for managing the forest being sought. Consultations are mandatory during the process of allocating and managing a community forest. While two types of consultation meetings must be conducted for the allocation of a CF ? namely, preliminary and official ?, only the former will be supported under this output, while the latter, which needs to happen after the drafting of a Simplified Management Plan for the CF, will be supported under Output 2.1.1.

119. Participatory demarcation of CFs in consultation with the commune and the deconcentrated services of the State will be supported. The constitution of a CF must be based on the strong participation of all the actors in charge of managing the entity. To achieve this, consultation and facilitation workshops will be held with different groups of stakeholders to gather the totality of the stakeholders' visions and analyze the potential vocations of different areas of the forest. This stage should involve representatives of the commune and the deconcentrated services of the State in order to accompany the process, ensure its legitimacy and ensure compliance with the legal framework in force.

Activity	Description
1.1.3.1	Hold awareness-raising sessions on the concept, benefits (esp. for CCA) and constraints associated with CFs in each target sites.
1.1.3.2	In each target site, support the establishment of Conseils coutumiers, Conseils autochtones and Comite?s de gestion as per Manual requirement.
1.1.3.3	In coordination with local authorities and deconcentrated State services, support the established bodies with the preliminary consultation process on the basis of pre-identified boundaries and uses of the CFs.

Output 1.1.4: Dimitra Clubs established and supported to facilitate the self-mobilization of communities, women?s leadership, the definition and implementation of land-use management plans and to improve conflict resolution

120. Conflicts over natural resources can be expected to increase in the CAR as populations expand and rainfall and temperatures become more erratic. However, while measures that slow the pace of these changes are important, they cannot overcome the immediate need to embrace options for adapting to the consequences of heightened climatic variability. While the project?s efforts to support participatory governance of natural resources (under Components 1 & 2) will contribute to reducing the risk of conflicts over natural resources, the target regions remain prone to social tensions borne out of the troubles socio-political context and heritage of the CAR. To further increase the capacity of local communities to mediate these conflicts should they nevertheless occur and enhance social cohesion without which other project interventions would be vain, Dimitra clubs will be established to work as main discussion and conflict-resolution fora at the decentralised, grassroots level.

121. Dimitra Clubs are voluntary, informal separate groups for women, men and youth who discuss common problems and determine ways to address them by acting together and using local resources. Agriculture is a common theme but is not exclusive; other topics may include climate change, education, health, infrastructure, nutrition, peace and women?s status. To date, over 7,000 Dimitra Clubs[117] have been established and supported by FAO across sub-Saharan Africa. Although the FAO methodology entails an initial support to facilitate the setting up of the clubs and provides them with training and coaching, the clubs themselves are self-managed. Dimitra Clubs create a space to discuss and act in relation with community social norms and behaviors affecting women ? enabling women?s leadership and encouraging men?s engagement. Nearly all

clubs own a solar-powered radio which allows to improve their access to information and a cell phone to maintain contacts with other clubs from other villages but also with technical partners. By fostering partnerships with local radio stations, Dimitra Clubs learn from one another, broadcast their initiatives and spark dialogue in the wider community and beyond.

122. Past experiences with women-only Dimitra Clubs have successfully proven their capacity to enable women to contribute to all the public matters of community life[118], and therefore to engage in decision-making. As required, Dimitra Clubs will be established and supported in the target communes at the very beginning of the project, to create local platforms to discuss priorities and assess how the project can contribute to solving issues of concerns, as well as to exchanges ideas on project results.

123. From a functional perspective, Dimitra Clubs have been found to be highly complementary with APFSs. They multiply the impact of APFS outcomes and make it possible to reach a larger rural population. In particular, implementing Dimitra Clubs ahead of APFSs allows to mobilize community groups, esp. women and youths, and create broader engagement that then translates into higher participation enrolment to APFSs. In addition, Dimitra Clubs act as drivers for change in multiple dimensions, in line with the all-around approach to resilience building envisioned through this project. Topics to be discussed in Dimitra Clubs may include climate adaptation strategy, land-use planning, conflict prevention and resolution etc. ? all themes that will be further supported through the project components. Complementarities between Dimitra Clubs and APFSs have been documented through a number of initiatives, including a GEF-financed project in Senegal. More information can be found here.

Activity	Description
1.1.4.1	Conduct a participatory diagnostic of existing community listening groups and community-based organizations and gender aspects in the target communes and identify capacity gaps.
1.1.4.2	Train facilitators (women and men) on the methodology of Dimitra Clubs
1.1.4.3	Create and support Dimitra Clubs in the seven target communes (between three and five villages per commune; 5 Dimitra Clubs per village) for 18 months. This may include the following actions: ? raising awareness among targeted communities on the advantages of the Dimitra Clubs; ? identifying potential partners; ? organising launching workshops; ? conducting training of the Dimitra Club leaders (2 leaders per club); ? conducting technical training for Dimitra Clubs according to their needs; ? identifying and training radio partners; ? producing and disseminating interactive gender-sensitive radio broadcasts; and ? using video and other means to share experiences.
1.1.4.4	Promote linkages and partnerships between Dimitra Clubs and other components of the projects (in particular with APFSs and FFPOs) in a win-win alliance, so that community actions endorsed by the clubs following their discussions can be funded through the solidarity funds at the community level[119].

Component 2. Promotion of ecosystem-based approach for enhanced resilience of both the landscapes and the local communities

Outcome 2.1. Forest ecosystems and productive landscapes are locally sustainably managed for enhanced resilience of local communities

124. This component builds on one of the GoCAR?s priorities to reduce poverty and fight against land degradation, which is also reflected in the RCPCA, namely the promotion of self-organization and efficient governance structures at the local community level. The importance of an ecosystem-based approach to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of both the ecosystems and the associated livelihoods is well documented, especially in cases where local communities heavily rely on the natural resource base. The national and decentralized capacity (human, technical, operational and financial) of the forest services is insufficient to promote adaptive forest management in the public forest domains outside the forest concessions or protected areas. As such, the proposed project will pilot community-based forest management models integrating economic, environmental and social concerns. Through the development and implementation of adaptive forest management plans, local communities will identify appropriate measures to counteract climate change hazards, for example restoration with resilient local tree species, putting in place fire management and detection measures, training on pest and diseases identification as well on local indigenous knowledge.

Output 2.1.1. Sustainable management plans developed and implemented for at least five Community Forests

125. The steps to be supported under this output are fully aligned with two crucial national guiding documents, namely the REDD+ Investment Framework for the CAR and the Manual for the establishment of CFs in the CAR. The strict adherence to these guiding documents will ensure that, unlike some of the past CF experiments in the CAR, best practices and existing legal provisions for the establishment and management of CFs in the CAR are fully respected, and that the CF initiatives supported by the proposed project as CCA instruments are not interrupted because of legal issues.

126. After the establishment of required local bodies and mandatory preliminary consultations (cf. Output 1.1.3), the official process for the constitution of a CF requires that a Simplified Management Plan (Plan de Gestion Simplifi?, PGS) be developed[120]. The elaboration of the PGS will be based on an inclusive process, especially with respect to indigenous people (represented through the Conseils autochtones). Meetings and discussions with the bodies and communities concerned will make it possible to draw up a diagnosis of the potential and constraints of the area and to identify actions and solutions that can give value to CF management. The elaboration of the PGS must incorporate reflections on the valorization of forest resources ? esp. in light of the climate risks and opportunities identified under Activity 1.1.1.5 ? and design management approaches allowing the bodies involved to control the exploitation of resources in total autonomy. All the tools used in the elaboration of the PGS must be simple to facilitate their appropriation by the local bodies. A successful methodological approach was developed in the implementation of the Makala project in the Congos[121]. In particular, the Makala project designed a PGS template adapted to rural communities so that they can independently define their own management of the forest resources; it is based on drawings of the land to be completed as the reflection progresses, with options to be ticked off to limit the need for writing.

127. To carry out these activities, a number of information sources will be tapped into in addition to participatory diagnoses. These include bibliographic data collected on the communes (incl. from past projects, such as PDRSO), cartographic data available and developed under Component 1 and statistical data recovered from institutions in charge of statistics. With work on the construction of a shared definition of actions to promote climate-resilient, local development, the project will help local bodies develop an operational and financial programme to be implemented. The whole document will be adapted to the understanding of all stakeholder groups ? in particular, it will be made available in local languages.

128. Once the PGSs are developed and approved by the local bodies, the applications can be submitted to relevant authorities, who will then organize the official consultation meetings and proceed with the review and validation of the files. The management conventions (i.e. contract

through which the management of the CF is officially transferred from the State to the communities) can then be signed. Throughout this labor-intensive process, the proposed project will provide regular support to animate the working groups, strengthen organizational capacities, disseminate information on aspects related to the climate-resilient, sustainable management of forest resources and ensure that the local bodies in charge of the CFs are set up in a dynamic and supportive manner.

Activity	Description
2.1.1.1	Support the development of climate-resilient PGSs for three CFs through animation of working groups (grouping local bodies and relevant authorities) and consultations.
2.1.1.2	Support the validation process of PGSs by relevant authorities by providing mediation and, as necessary, facilitating the revision of draft PGSs.

Output 2.1.2. Forests in at least seven communes are sustainably managed and restored by local communities for enhanced ecological functionality and climate change resilience.

129. Under this output, the proposed project will support the local CF bodies to sustainably manage and, as necessary, restore the forested areas under their management. Restoration approaches will be twofold: assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and ANR with enrichment planting. Both approaches are bottom-up in nature and relatively low-cost compared with a mono-plantation approach. The choice between the two techniques will be decentralized and result from the discussions between local communities and restoration experts. The project will provide financial support for fencing costs and initial provision of seedlings for enrichment planting, while community members will bear labor costs associated with planting, maintenance of fences etc.

130. The restoration protocols will also indicate plans to establish community nurseries. Technical training will be provided to voluntary community members ? with a focus on youths and women ? to operate these nurseries, collect seed (with a focus on species best adapted to climate change) and produce seedlings that will be used for restoration work. These nurseries will also produce fruit trees and other species used for agroforestry, as this practice will be promoted through the APFS curricula under Component 3. The use and exchange of local seeds will be promoted. Nursery managers will also benefit from business financial literacy training to establish sustainable business plans, with a view to promote the sustainability of the nurseries beyond the project?s lifetime.

131. The mainstreaming of climate adaptation will be key across the management support and restoration activities. For example, forest fires risks that are sought to increase with climate change will be tackled by adopting appropriate fire management techniques. Likewise, current and future climate change impacts will be fully accounted for in the choice of species and varieties to be selected for enrichment planting (and choice of seedlings to be grown in nurseries). This will be informed by: i) existing climate-risk assessments (cf. Annex N); ii) complementary, site-specific climate risk assessments to be developed under Activity 1.1.1.5; and iii) participatory diagnostic of climate change-affected agro-ecosystems (Activity 2.1.2.1).

Activity	Description
2.1.2.1	Based on PGSs, other land-use plans and the assessment of climate-change affected ecosystem services, support the participatory design of restoration plans for degraded forests

2.1.2.2	Establish restoration options based on the latest scientific evidence and local traditional or innovative knowledge to guide the restoration of degraded forests
2.1.2.3	Support the establishment of community-managed nurseries to provide seedlings for the restoration activities and beyond
2.1.2.4	Provide technical and business training to community members (esp. women and youths) for the sustainable management of nurseries
2.1.2.5	Support most adequate fencing and signage operations (real fencing, social fencing etc.) for the assisted natural regeneration of designated plots
2.1.2.6	Set up community seed banks, provide seedlings as required as well as small planting equipment for enrichment planting

Component 3. Promotion of climate-smart nature-based livelihood interventions to decrease the risk of human/nature conflicts

Outcome 3.1. Diversified and resilient livelihood strategies promoted based on climate-smart nature-based approaches for increased community resilience

132. Most of the local communities in the targeted landscapes rely on unsustainable and low-productive farming systems (mainly cassava and maize) on limited parcels of land. The weak diversity of crops and increasing vulnerability to climate change is a factor of climate vulnerability for local communities. Under Component 3, the proposed project will thus focus on the promotion of sustainable innovations in nature-based value chains, including sustainable management and efficient transformation of selected NTFPs on one side, and piloting (or improving) on the other side of climate-resilient agroforestry production systems, building on cash crop value chains such a coffee and cacao. Diversification being a recognized resilience strategy, market studies will be conducted to identify the most relevant value chains to be supported from both a climate perspective and a market perspective.

133. The two preferred instruments to effect this transformative change towards more climate-resilient livelihoods are Forest and Farm Producer Organization ? focused on the transformation & marketing aspects ?, and Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Farmer Field School (APFS) ? centered on the production side. FAO has significant experience and a comparative advantage on supporting both instruments, which have proven their effectiveness and efficiency in supporting the resilience of grassroot communities.

134. The utilization of trees on farms, diversification of species and varieties, use of faster-producing varieties, use of heat-tolerant crop varieties as well as improved soil conservation measures are some of the indicative adaptation measures that will be promoted by the project to counteract the anticipated climate impacts such as increase in temperature and rainfall variability. In combination with the promotion of Forest Farm Producer Organizations, Farmer Field Schools, local communities will have enhanced adaptive capacities to ensure sustainable livelihoods and income generation.

Output 3.1.1. Forest and farm producer organizations established and empowered to ensure efficient and inclusive management and governance in climate change adaptation

135. Under this output, the proposed project will strengthen, and, as necessary, set up Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPO ? see box below) in the target landscapes. Climate resilience is a fundamental aspect of the work of FFPOs. Their members feel the destructive force of extreme weather events and must adapt to increasing rainfall variability, which makes planting time a lottery. Moreover, they are frontline

observers of what is happening in the environment, so they have important knowledge for averting the threats posed by climate change. Indeed, a global survey[122] found that the top priority of most respondent producer organizations was obtaining new knowledge on, and options for, climate resilience. Other priorities include related aspects such as climate-smart agroforestry, organic approaches to maintaining soil fertility, and coping with pest upsurges.

Forest and Farm Producers[123]

Forest-and-farm producers are women and men, smallholder families, indigenous peoples and local communities who have strong relationships with forests and farms in forested landscapes. Such producers grow, manage, harvest and process a wide range of natural-resource-based goods and services for subsistence use and for sale in local, national or international markets.

Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs)

Forest-and-farm producer organizations (FFPOs) are formal or informal associations of such producers. They are created with the aim of helping their members share knowledge and experience; engage in policy advocacy; secure tenure rights and access rights to forest, land and other natural resources; improve forest-and-farm management; expand markets; build enterprises; and increase income and well-being. FFPOs vary widely in size and institutional form and may focus on forests or combinations of forest- and farm-related activities. They may include indigenous peoples and local community organizations; tree-grower and agroforestry associations; forest owner associations; producer cooperatives and companies; and their umbrella groups and federations.

136. FFPOs help their members innovate and implement practical solutions for resilience. They embrace nature-based solutions, often grounded in sustainable forestry and agroecological practices, and inclusive management and service solutions that promote participatory governance, integrated landscape management and efficiency in service provision through technological advances. By adopting these solutions, FFPOs increase the preparedness and adaptive capacity of their members in three key domains, thereby contributing to their resilience strategies[124]:

- ? Increasing the viability of livelihoods ? forest and farm producer organizations help members swell their profits by increasing productivity in the face of climate change, adding value and developing better-functioning value chains. This increases resilience by creating new prospects for rural employment, reducing poverty and encouraging young people to engage in forest and farm activities.
- ? Managing crises ? forest and farm producer organizations encourage systematic risk assessments, risk mitigation plans, improved data management, diversification, insurance and the uptake of efficient technologies to increase the capacity of smallholders to manage crises ? such as climate socks or pandemics. They also have the capacity to act during emergencies on behalf of their members and to help them recover.
- ? Creating new opportunities from ecological restoration ? FFPOs promote climate resilience (and climate change mitigation) by ensuring the sustainable management of forest and farm ecosystems. Practical measures include reforestation, forest restoration, longer tree rotations, sustainable forestry, agroforestry, agroecology and crop diversification.

137. Recent research[125] demonstrates that directly supporting smallholders to secure tenure rights and access to manage forests and farms, not only contributes to improving the livelihoods of many of the world poorest people, but may also be the most cost-efficient way to achieve significant climate change benefits in the shortest time periods.

Activity	Description
3.1.1.1	Conduct a baseline analysis of existing FFPOs in the target landscapes, as well as umbrella FFPOs at the prefecture and/or national level.
3.1.1.2	Based on the baseline analysis and, *inter alia*, exchanges held in the multistakeholder platforms supported under Component 1, identify opportunities to: i) support existing FFPOs; and ii) support the establishment of new FFPOs where relevant.
3.1.1.3	Conduct an assessment of capacity-building needs among identified existing FFPOs in terms of: i) cooperative governance; ii) financial literacy; and iii) understanding of climate impacts on their activities.
3.1.1.4	Depending on results of Activity 3.1.21, support the establishment of new FFPOs where needed (drafting of ToRs, registration following national regulations, facilitation of first meetings etc.)
3.1.1.5	For both new and existing FFPOs, organize training sessions on: i) cooperative governance; ii) financial literacy; and iii) understanding of climate impacts on their activities.

Output 3.1.2. Sustainable NTFP/agriculture value chains identified and selected by FFPOs and cooperatives, and bankable business plans developed for investments

138. Climate resilience is intrinsically linked to the ability of local productions to generate enough income for communities to, firstly, cover their primary needs, and, secondly, develop away from poverty ? all in a context of climate change that not only threatens the sustainability of current local income streams, but also sheds uncertainty on future economic activity[126]. To further climate-proof local livelihoods, there is a need to identify those nature-based value chains that are and will be most suited to changing climate conditions, and also are able to generate increased value-added. Once collectively selected, the value chains will be supported through field-level training on the primary production side with Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Field Schools (Output 3.1.4).

139. However, another avenue to facilitate market access will be to equip selected FFPO members with the equipment and capacity to process raw products (under this output). The expected benefits are manifold: i) increase the value-added and, consequently, market value of products to generate a greater income for producers; ii) reduce post-harvest losses that affect unprocessed products; iii) increase the diversity of products available on local markets; and iv) crowd in private finance from local producers and initiate a positive dynamic of investment at the local level. The processing units will be financed on a co-financing basis. The details of the financing mechanism will be defined in collaboration with the stakeholders[127]. Likewise, investments to decrease post-harvest losses and facilitate market access for fresh products will be promoted.

140. Studies of the joint climate resilience and market potential of selected products will be carried out in order to assist the FFPOs in making judicious choices. The studies will propose models of micro-processing units for the processing of products adapted to the context of the different intervention communes. To ward off the risk of imposing irrelevant investment onto communities, the selection process will be both demand-driven and guided by market experts. A number of solutions have already been pre-identified that will form the basis of the discussions at the APFS level; such solutions include investment in the coffee value chain, sustainable charcoal production etc.

141. The FFPOs that will benefit from the micro-processing and post-harvest storage units will be selected by selection committees in each landscape. To this end, consensual selection criteria will be defined. These criteria will include the dynamism of the FFPOs and the relevance of their micro-project ideas in a perspective of increase resilience to climate change. Once beneficiary FFPOs are selected, an assessment of the FFPOs? needs for specific technical training will be carried out (in complement to the operational training sessions to be conducted under Output

3.1.2). This assessment will serve as a basis to organize thematic training sessions for FFPOs with similar needs. The monitoring of the functioning of the processing units will be ensured by the technical and operational partners. The assistance of the partners will cover the technical aspect of production but also the support to financial and accounting management.

Activity	Description
3.1.2.1	Conduct market study to assess of selected value chains to support the climate resilience of target communities through: i) potential to withstand current and future climate conditions; and ii) potential for increased value-added.
3.1.2.2	Select the FFPOs to benefit from the micro processing units, post-harvest storage units and other small-scale investments for agro-sylvo-pastoral products
3.1.2.3	Support selected FFPOs groups to formalize a management plan for their investments.
3.1.2.4	Support FFPOs for the development of micro-projects to facilitate market access of and increase value-added from climate-resilient ASP products
3.1.2.5	Organize specific technical training, coaching and support to increase the technical capacity of beneficiaries to conduct the target activities
3.1.2.6	Finance the creation and operation of micro-processing units and post-harvest storage solutions for ASP products

Output 3.1.3. Capacities of extension services, NGOs and research institutions strengthened to provide up-to-date adaptive support to APFSs and FFPOs

142. As mentioned previously, Outputs 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 will help bridge capacity gaps in the climate-resilient production of agro-sylvo-pastoral products in the target sites, all while disseminating best practices in terms of climate-sensitive management of natural resources at the plot level. The preferred instrument to perform this capacity building is through Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Field Schools (APFS), which have proven their effectiveness in the CAR to build capacity of farmers through a learning-by-doing approach.

Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Field Schools

APFS consist in informal education for adults to experiment with and disseminate improved farming practices through field observation and hands-on training. Participatory methods are used to create an environment conducive to learning, in which participants can exchange knowledge and experience in a risk-free setting. Practical field exercises using direct observation, discussion and decision making encourage learning-by-doing. Technical topics that can be addressed through APFS include soil, crop and water management, seeds multiplication and varietal testing, agropastoralism, aquaculture, agroforestry and nutrition. Forestry-specific modules have also been introduced.

The APFS process enhances individual, household and community empowerment and cohesion. Indeed, APFS have proven to strengthen not only technical skills and decision-making capacities of farmers, but also to significantly influence the community as well as intra-household dynamics. APFS strengthen community relations and the capacity to listening to others? opinions, to formulate and express personal points of view and to find together a common solution through the process of communication and learning. It will thus be a useful steppingstone towards the reduction of conflicts over natural resources.

The concept of farmer field schools was introduced by FAO in the CAR in the surroundings of Bangui, Lobaye and Mamb?r?-Kad?i, with satisfactory results. In 2015, FFSs were extended to Yaloke and across the other prefectures of the CAR.

143. The global strategy for the implementation of the APFSs will include four steps: i) the training of master trainers which will be conducted by existing senior master trainers and specialists in the target themes; ii) the training of facilitators which will be conducted by newly-trained master trainers and senior master trainers (including both existing facilitators and newly trained ones) ; iii) the training of rural communities which will be conducted by facilitators; and iv) the training of endogenous facilitators, i.e. voluntary community members who will continue the facilitation of APFSs after the end of the first 12-month training cycle. A global stocktake on forestry and FFS is currently being finalized, and will inform the development of curricula for the proposed project[128].

144. Under Output 3.1.3, steps 1 and 2 will be covered. 50 master trainers (50% women) will benefit from initial training. This is more than the number of master trainers that will actually be required to train facilitators for the APFS to be established under the proposed project (namely, 10 master trainers), as the objective will be to facilitate the widespread implementation of the APFS approach throughout the CAR beyond the scope of the LDCF investment. Having a critical mass of 50 trained master trainers available will allow the rural development ministries to follow up on the institutionalization of the APFS approach.

145. To kick off the implementation of the APFS sequence, a stakeholder workshop will be held to discuss and validate the APFS implementation strategy to be developed. This meeting will be used to inform/train the various stakeholders on the climate-sensitive agro-sylvo-pastoral school fields approach. A technical workshop will then be held to develop a training curriculum for master trainers. Climate-resilient ASP practices cover a vast field of expertise that requires a multi-stakeholder approach in identifying priority technical topics for the training curriculum of master trainers. This meeting will thus bring together senior master trainers, specialists in the fields of ASP and climate change from the ministries in charge of forestry, agriculture, livestock, environment and research as well as international experts in agroecology, as required. It will be based on the results of assessment such as ?innovation tracking? (?*traque aux innovations*?) done in the target areas[129] and latest scientific evidence. Terms of reference for the selection of future master trainers will then be drafted; these will mostly be selected from deconcentrated technical

services in charge of forestry, agriculture, livestock, the environment, research and vocational education in the field of ASP. Executives from central technical services and NGOs will also be involved.

146. A training plan for APFS facilitators? training will be elaborated based on existing material. This document will be reviewed and validated by a team of senior master trainers. As with the selection of master trainers, terms of reference will be drafted to guide the selection of facilitators. The ToRs will specify the profile of facilitators required and their role in the implementation of the project. The facilitators will be identified within the technical services and local NGOs of the project beneficiary communes.

147. The initial training of facilitators on the APFS approach and climate-resilient ASP practices, as well as the gender component, will cover 30 days divided into several sessions. This will be complemented by an initial refresher training of existing facilitators. The organization and facilitation of the training-of-facilitators (ToF) sessions will be based on the methodological guide. A facilitators? field school will be set up for the practical work. Also, in parallel to the learning process, the facilitators will set up their first APFSs (associated APFSs) in their commune of intervention. Each ToF will be under the technical responsibility of four master trainers with complementary background profiles (forestry specialist, agronomists, zoologists, climate change specialists)[130]. If necessary, they will identify additional resource persons to cover specific technical topics and guide their interventions.

148. Refresher training sessions for facilitators will be organized on the basis of a needs assessment, through an analysis of their performance and the state of the APFSs. These training sessions will be part of a perspective of continuous improvement of the implementation of APFSs in the field. Such refresher sessions will be conducted at the start of the project for any APFS facilitators already trained by previous projects, with a view to build on past investments as much as possible and avoid duplication of efforts. Training sessions may also be organized remotely, as to allow international experts to contribute and transport considerations to be overcome. Participants to refreshers can include MTs and facilitators, participants will be provided with funding to acquire phone credit to connect virtually.

Activity	Description
3.1.3.1	Develop a draft APFS implementation strategy
3.1.3.2	Organize a workshop to discuss and validate the APFS implementation strategy
3.1.3.3	Conduct a survey of agroecological and forestry innovations and practices already used in the target areas and that can be seen as ?pre-tested? by local innovators (?*traque aux innovations*?).
3.1.3.4	Organize at least two technical workshops to develop a training curriculum for master trainers and facilitators, including expertise on agroecology (permaculture design principles, soil health, synthropic farming, analog forestry etc.)
3.1.3.5	Select future master trainers (50% women)
3.1.3.6	Organize initial training sessions for master trainers on the APFS approach and climate-resilient regenerative ASP practices (at least 60 days of training over at least 5 months)
3.1.3.7	Organize training sessions for master trainers on Farmer Field and Business Schools (FFBS)/ Farmer Marketing Schools[131].
3.1.3.8	Organise refresher training sessions for master trainers, ? la carte
3.1.3.9	Conduct a rapid survey of needs and interests of farmers in target communities to be carried out before the training of facilitators with a view to inform the organization and content of facilitators? training.

3.1.3.10	Develop training plans for the training of facilitators based on existing curricula. The modules will include complementary models for capacity development, in particular video dissemination (e.g. Video entrepreneur model of Access Agriculture experimented by FAO in Uganda).
3.1.3.11	Select future facilitators (at least 50% women)
3.1.3.12	Organize initial training sessions for new facilitators as well as initial refresher training for existing facilitators on the APFS approach, climate-resilient ASP practices and gender-sensitive development
3.1.3.13	Develop market and business-oriented modules based on assessed needs, using existing modules such as FFBS, Farmer Marketing School, COQUA[132] and other. Organize training sessions for facilitators on these custom modules.
3.1.3.14	Organize at least two refresher training sessions for facilitators

Output 3.1.4. Climate-resilient agroforestry production systems identified by producer groups and developed with support of extension services to reduce climate change vulnerability

149. Before the creation of the APFSs, the facilitators ? under the supervision of the master trainers ? will carry out participatory diagnoses in the beneficiary villages. These diagnoses will focus on: i) the description and analysis of the context and production systems; ii) the identification and characterization of ASP problems related to climate change; and iii) the identification and analysis of local resilience solutions (practices). The results of this diagnosis will serve as a basis for the finalization of training curricula by facilitators, with support from master trainers, to be used in ASP communities.

150. APFSs will be created in the project?s beneficiary villages. The learning cycle of an APFS will cover a period of 12 months to 18 months to accommodate the longer timeframe needed to cover forestry-related activities, giving members the opportunity to explore a range of solutions to address adaptation challenges. In Year 1, newly-trained facilitators will jointly facilitate an APFS ? then facilitate one or two APFSs alone in Year 2, while also supporting the endogenous facilitator from Year 1. Existing facilitators who will benefit from the initial refresher training will be able to facilitate one or two APFSs on their own from Year 1. Some of the practices tested include soil conservation measures to restore degraded arable land and sustainably increase land productivity, thereby complementing the restoration of forests and rangelands under Component 2.

151. During the learning cycle in the APFSs, the facilitators and trainees will identify one or two group participants interested in becoming endogenous facilitators. These members should be motivated and able to develop new skills in future trainings. After a few months, these identified members shall be involved in helping the facilitator so that they can learn the basics of facilitation[133]. At the end of the first cycle of learning in the APFSs (12 to 18 months), a complementary training, lasting at least 15 days, will be conducted for the benefit of the endogenous facilitators. This training will cover modules related to the APFS methodology and climate-resilient ASP practices. The endogenous facilitators will ensure the continuity of the facilitation of the APFSs by replacing the technical facilitators after the first cycle. However, the technical facilitators will continue to provide regular coaching and technical support as needed, as well as be in charge of monitoring and reporting the performance of APFS.

Activity	Description
3.1.4.1	Carry out participatory diagnoses in target communities to identify farmers? priorities, characterize farm systems and jointly identify climate-resilient ASP practices to be tested

3.1.4.2	Set up and facilitate APFS training sessions
3.1.4.3	Ensure the follow-up and advice of the implementation of the APFSs

Component 4. Knowledge, learning and M&E

Outcome 4.1. Lessons and knowledge from the project are captured through a robust MEL system

152. This component will focus on the development of a robust and adaptive monitoring and evaluation system to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the project. The component will also capture various best practices and innovations from the project related to sustainable management of natural resources and development of climate-resilient production systems/businesses and disseminate them through publications, webinars and other communication tools to ensure widespread sharing of results and lessons learned.

153. Indicators often measure short-term effects as they are typically studied within the timeframe of a given project (between two and five years). However, this hardly allows to understand the extent to which interventions have had transformational effects after they have stopped being supported, even though some of the most crucial impacts ? in terms of adapting capacity, restoration of soil properties, changes in social dynamics around women and youths etc. ? would need to be monitored over the mid-run. This also means evaluations tend to focus on easily measurable changes, such as changes in yield, rather than significant ones, such as empowerment of women, changes in farming systems, evolution of collective action in the community etc.

154. Evidence shows that farmers rarely adopt a technical package as a whole, nor in a single phase of change, as this would be very risky and quite complex for them ? all the more so in an uncertain environment such as CAR?s. Generally, the adoption and often the adaptation of best resilience and landscape management practices require time to understand their effects and master their use. In most cases, this thus happens through several successive changes of practices for the same forested area, cropping or production system. For example, for the first season of introduction of a new practice, the farmer will test it on a small portion of one of his plots, then the following year the practice would be generalized to an entire plot after which, in the third year, the farmer may adapt the practice and modify it to better fit his expectations or needs.

155. To try and unpack the impact of participatory forestry and shift towards climate-resilient crops and practices as instruments to support climate adaptation, a twofold approach will be followed under the proposed project. Firstly, as per standard practice, project-level indicators that can be monitored in the timeframe of the project will be tracked (cf. Annex A1 and Outcome 4.1), making sure environmental, social and economic indicators are included. In addition, a research programme with the ambition to remedy some of the shortcomings of evaluations will be established under Outcome 4.2. This will entail working with national and, as required, international research institutions to set up a sustainable workplan that should extend beyond the project timeframe, with a view to provide insights on the mid- to long-term transformational impact of the project interventions in terms of climate adaptation. Alternative evaluation methods will be employed, such as relying on the reconstitution of transformation trajectories based on the beneficiaries? ?stories? collected during interviews.

Output 4.1.1. Effective and participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) implemented, including tools adapted to/with communities for them to define, monitor and visualize progress

156. Project activity will be comprehensively monitored and evaluated to help guide adaptive management and promote the uptake of knowledge, good practices and successful approaches, including gender mainstreaming. This will be achieved in part through the project?s Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) efforts.

157. The proposed project will ensure that decisions made, and interventions proposed for implementation, consider the potential impacts and outcomes for different groups within society, with particular focus on the roles played by men, women and youth. In line with the principles of integrated natural resource management, the proposed project will promote a participatory approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning, involving all relevant stakeholders, including local communities. The focus will include project level monitoring, to feed into FAO?s global monitoring of its GEF and LDCF portfolio, and to contribute to GEF/LDCF?s global monitoring system.

158. Partnerships with national (e.g. University of Bangui, ICRA) and, as relevant, international scientific institutions will be established in the first year of project implementation to ensure that a sound scientific monitoring of the restoration processes can be undertaken. Indeed, although such restoration processes are increasingly being documented ? especially through ecosystem-based adaptation initiatives ?, there is a still a lack of scientific evidence (including cost assessments) to support the widespread implementation of such solutions in the region. The scientific monitoring to be set up under the proposed project shall result in both publications in the grey literature and in peer-reviewed, scientific journals.

Hand-in-Hand initiative

The Hand-in-Hand (HIH) initiative is an evidence-based, country-led and country-owned initiative of FAO to accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development to eradicate poverty (SDG 1) and end hunger and all forms of malnutrition (SDG 2). It aims to facilitate the identification of investment opportunities (and matching investors with these opportunities) that would be the most effective and efficient to contribute to the above-mentioned objectives. One of the tools of the HIH initiative is the Geospatial Platform[134], which includes advanced geo-spatial modelling and analytics to identify the biggest opportunities to raise the incomes and reduce the inequities and vulnerabilities of rural populations. The Platform brings together over 20 technical units from multiple domains across FAO, from Animal Health to Trade and Markets, integrating data from across FAO on Soil, Land, Water, Climate, Fisheries, Livestock, Crops, Forestry, Trade, Social and Economics, among others. The CAR being one of the 52 active countries that took an engagement with the HIH initiative (since March 2021), the proposed project will contribute to feed the HIH initiative (including the Geospatial Platform) with information gathered through MEL. This will help upscale the impacts of the project beyond the scope of its target geography and timeline.

Activity	Description
4.1.1.1	Co-develop and implement the participatory MEL plan, identifying indicators, tools and the monitoring strategy for the project?s activities, including roles and responsibilities as well as a timeline and budget, including a mix of quantitative and qualitative approaches. In addition, some tools will be included to assess unexpected changes ? for instance through storytelling, photos, video and drawings, most significant impact by local community members, or evaluation using change trajectories[135]. Some of the MEL will be carried out digitally, using platforms such as KoboCollect to track basic indicators of performance at field level. The MEL at field level will involve extension agents so as to constitute evidence for buy-in by institutional actors.
4.1.1.2	Organize workshops to review the project?s MEL system and train local stakeholders on M&E tools at project inception and at regular intervals.
4.1.1.3	Hold annual review and planning workshops.

4.1.1.4	Produce at least three grey literature publications and three scientific papers for publication in peer-reviewed, scientific journals, the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform for ecological monitoring etc.
4.1.1.5	Upload relevant project information and data (incl. GIS) on the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform, the WOCAT[136] database (incl. actual intervention costs), the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM)[137] registry and the and the Global Climate Action Portal[138].
4.1.1.6	Conduct an Environmental & Social Risk assessment in accordance with national & FAO guidelines once exact project sites are selected
4.1.1.7	Based on lessons learned from the proposed project as well as from other relevant initiative, develop, discuss and validate a practical manual for establishment and management of community forests in the CAR.

Outcome 4.2. Enhanced knowledge and learning dissemination of the project?s outputs both at national and/ regional levels through a robust knowledge development and dissemination strategy

Output 4.2.1. Exchange visits for key stakeholders (community groups, FFPOs) organized to share best practices and increase knowledge on community-managed landscape planning and resilient nature-based value chain development

159. The organization of exchange visits between producer groups and the organization of technical field days will promote knowledge exchange and learning both at the local and national level.

Activity	Description
4.2.1.1	At the end of each APFS, organize open days to share results of experimentation and learning with the rest of the community.
4.2.1.2	Organize regional open days in APFSs in Y3 to which local/regional decision-makers can participate to understand the results of activities and potential of practices tested.
4.2.1.3	Organize field visits for local communities and authorities to get exposure to other, successful CF initiatives (Cameroon, DRC) with demonstrated impacts in terms of resilience building.
4.2.1.4	As relevant, organize exchange visits for FFPOs active in selected value chains to learn from other producer?s organizations with experience in the same value chains.

Output 4.2.2. Knowledge generated by the project is shared and communicated with broader stakeholder group in-country and with existing regional platforms (COMIFAC, Congo Basin countries) and initiatives to promote efficient exchange of knowledge and information

160. Under this output, best practices and lessons learned from project implementation will be translated into knowledge products and communication material. At the inception stage of the implementation phase, a project communication strategy will be developed. This strategy will aim at capturing best practices generated throughout the project. The effort will focus upon target communities as well as making certain lessons learned are captured for upscale across a larger geographic region incorporating a wider group of private producers.

161. Stakeholders will be presented with a series of communication methodologies scaled to local producers, extension workers, government decision-makers and other key stakeholders. The aim will be to make certain lessons gleaned from project activities are fully-unscalable by a larger audience across larger geographic areas. Communication approaches will include development of awareness-building materials, generation

of electronic and print media publications, and awareness-building workshops. In particular, knowledge products will include the PGSs and case studies, including at least one that is gender-focused, documenting key activities conducted by the project lessons learned and recommendation. Topics to be covered by knowledge products may include: i) lessons learned from the implementation of participative forestry in terms of engagement of indigenous people; ii) lessons learned from the articulation between Dimitra Clubs, APFSs and FFPOs; and iii) climate-resilient VCs.

162. The Congo Basin SLM and the Critical Forest Biomes Impact Programmes and their Global Platforms will provide valuable opportunities for the project to not only share best practices on landscape management planning and implementation of adaptation measures linked to sustainable forest-related value chains and food production systems, but also to learn from best practices/approached used in other countries within the region. Likewise, contacts will be facilitated with the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and the Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR IP) to learn from global best practices and share lessons learned from the proposed project.

Activity	Description
4.2.2.1	Prepare and publish annual briefs and case studies, including at least one that is gender-focused on the project?s accomplishments, experiences and lessons learned (themes may include: lessons learned from the implementation of CFs in the CAR and indigenous people engagement, nexus Dimitra Clubs / APFSs / FFPOs, climate-resilient VCs).
4.2.2.2	Organize two South-South knowledge-exchange visits (one in Cameroon and one in DRC) for government, scientific and civil society partners to capitalize on experiences in terms of climate resilience and participative forestry.
4.2.2.3	[PB2] Based on experience from the Dryland Sustainable Landscape Impact Program (DSL IP)[139], implement participatory video methodologies to develop community-centered videos for wider dissemination.
4.2.2.4	Develop innovative knowledge products destined to local communities, such as comic books in local languages on climate adaptation, participatory forestry, natural resource management etc.
4.2.2.5	Participate in webinars and other global events to share knowledge generated under the project.

3) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

163. The proposed project adopts an integrated landscape approach to tackle climate change adaptation and vulnerability issues, with a focus on improved agricultural practices and the strengthening of selected nature-based value chains. It is fully aligned with the LDCF programming strategy[140], as described in the table below.

Table 7. Alignment of proposed project with LDCF programming strategy.

LDCF objectives	LDCF outputs	Project outputs contributing to LDCF output
1. Reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaptation	1.1.2 Livelihoods and sources of income of vulnerable populations diversified and strengthened	3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4

	1.1.4 Vulnerable ecosystems and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts	2.1.1, 2.1.2
	1.2.1 Innovation incubators and/or accelerators introduced	3.1.2
2. Mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience for systemic impact	2.1.1 Development/sector policies and plans integrate adaptation consideration	1.1.1
	2.2.2 Adaptation and resilience relevant financing coordinated for synergistic programming including with the private sector	1.1.3, 3.1.2
3. Foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate change adaptation	3.1.1 Systems and frameworks established for the continuous monitoring, reporting and review of adaptation	1.1.2, 4.1.1
	3.2.1 Capacities strengthened to identify, implement and/or monitor adaptation measures	4.1.1, 4.1.3
	3.2.2: Increased awareness of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 4.2.1, 4.2.2

164. The proposed project highlights strong linkages with GEF-7 priorities, in particular in terms of climate change and land degradation focal areas. The project interventions intend to generate Global Environment Benefits through improved landscape planning and management at the local level, promotion of adaptation technologies in nature-based value chains and enhanced knowledge generation on resilience. Biodiversity protection will also be strengthened through the establishment of improved community-based governance mechanisms set-up.

165. Project interventions will also contribute to climate change mitigation as co-benefit from improved sustainable management of existing forests and avoided forest degradation through promotion of resilient production systems and sustainable NTFP value chains.

166. The Congo Basin SLM Impact Programme and its Global Platform will provide an important opportunity for the project to not only share best practices on landscape management planning and implementation of adaptation measures linked to sustainable forest-related value chains and food production systems, but also to learn from best practices/approached used in other countries within the region.

4) Additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the LDCF and co-financing

Additional cost reasoning

Without LDCF

Without the proposed interventions, local communities will continue to practice slash-and-burn agricultural practices and will suffer from food insecurity due to the anticipated gradual increase of climate change impacts. Climate change will continuously lead to an increase in forest degradation due to conversion into agriculture or unsustainable management of the ecosystem. There will be increased conflicts between local

communities and private forest companies, due to limited space available for them to be able to sustainable use their forests and the products and services they provide. Stakeholders with interest in landscape management will still lack spaces to meet, confront their views and be informed about the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into the management of natural resources. Local communities will continuously rely on unsustainable practices, such as slash-and-burn, to provide their daily livelihoods and they will become more and more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Through the decentralization process, local communes may receive support towards their own local development planning; however, they will lack the necessary tools/knowledge to efficiently plan adaptation nature-based solution to really address climate change impacts and follow an integrated landscape planning approach. The NTFPs will be harvested and exploited by local communities without a long-term vision and sustainable business approach. Local communities will also not benefit fully from the best available science and research available to promote resilient crops/seeds/varieties which will be able to grow under the longer-term temperature and rainfall projections.

With LDCF

With the proposed interventions, the CAR will strengthen the adaptive capacity of local communities to improve local governance of the natural resource base, as most of their livelihoods depends on the sustainable management and provision of ecosystem services and goods. All stakeholders, including the private sector, involved in land use/management in the target landscape will agree on a common vision for the landscapes where food production and sustainable natural resources management are not competing. This vision will be clearly mapped as part of the integrated land use plans and agreed by all making sure that once a land use has been decided it will remain for the medium to long term. Such an endeavour will capitalize on the conducive regulatory framework for community forestry in the CAR, and the project will support target communities along the process of planning, registering, and managing community forests.

Through farmers field schools beneficiaries will be trained on climate-smart agriculture, sustainable agricultural intensification practices and restoration. The project will also support the development of climate-adapted, green and inclusive businesses, as creating value from restored and sustainably managed land is the best way to secure community buy-in for such practices in the medium to long term. The project will contribute to and benefit from best practices / knowledge sharing through targeted awareness raising and communication campaigns as well as exchange visits at national and regional levels. The proposed project will promote climate-smart agricultural practices (such as agro-forestry, and sustainable land management) in the food production systems, and enhance the capacity of local stakeholders to plan, implement and monitor forest and landscape restoration of degraded areas to minimize impact of climate change. Research organizations will provide support to local communities to secure their livelihoods under a changing climate.

Through the project, national and local decision-makers will be trained and have access to the necessary tools and technologies to integrate climate change considerations into their development planning. Through the identification and development of climate-resilient micro-enterprises, the local stakeholders will also increase their overall resilience.

5) Adaptation benefits (LDCF)

171. The overall aim of the project falls within the overarching goal of the GEF Programming strategy[141] on adaptation to climate change for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for the period of 2018-2022. The project in particular will contribute to the first two objectives:

? Objective 1: Reduce Vulnerability and Increase Resilience through Innovation and Technology Transfer for Climate Change Adaptation

? Objective 2: Mainstream Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience for Systemic Impact

172. At landscape level, adaptation and resilience building will be integrated into decentralized (or local) development planning through the strengthening of capacities of communes and the provision of tools/knowledge and improved decision making on land-use planning both at communal as at higher level (inter-prefectoral level). At the community level, the project will enhance the adaptive capacity of local people (75,000 people) through diversification of climate-resilient livelihood strategies and improved governance mechanisms to reduce the vulnerability of the ecosystems themselves and provide long-term vision for communities to manage their natural resources sustainably. The transfer of innovative technologies such as improved charcoal production, efficient cook stoves and sustainable agro-ecological approaches will form a key aspect of the project intervention logic, as they help sustain resilient and productive forest ecosystems and therefore resilient and productive communities.

173. Estimates for the direct benefits are rooted in a challenging context, one of prolonged crisis and conflict. Population density is relatively low in the CAR and transaction costs are extremely high. On the WBG?s Logistics Performance Index, the CAR ranks 150 out of 167 countries. Road infrastructure is extremely poor, putting much of the country beyond the reach of the road network and limiting access to services and markets. CAR?s electricity access rate of 8 percent is among the lowest in SSA, with Bangui at 35 percent and the rest of the country at 2 percent. CAR has one of the lowest levels of financial inclusion in the region: only 13.7 percent of adults have access to a bank account. Microfinance accounts for only one percent of total credit facilities and serves only 0.5 percent of the population. It is envisaged to have 125,000 ha under resilient management (50,000 ha of forests and 75,000 ha of productive land).

6) Innovativeness, sustainability, potential for scaling up and capacity development. ?

Innovation

174. The revised NDC highlights the need for a number of technologies to be disseminated and capacities to be increased to foster climate change adaptation in the country. The proposed project will contribute to several of these, including: i) NTFP transformation processes; ii) simplified tillage practices; iii) agroforestry; iv) climate analyses; and v) climate vulnerability studies.

175. Through the participatory identification of climate-resilient, nature-based value chains, the livelihoods of local stakeholders will be improved, and their resilience strengthened. Local communities as well as forest ecosystems will benefit from the promotion of improved and inclusive technology transfer /innovations. For example, the CNI-REDD+ highlighted key gaps in terms of sustainable management of the SAOH and the non-existence of legal community-based forests. This project will spearhead both and provide the tools and knowledge to decentralized services to support local communities in this effort and improve longer-term land-use planning in the targeted project areas and as such reduce its vulnerability to climate change.

176. Communes/prefectures will also be supported and receive training on utilizing the latest technologies/tools to plan and monitor the adaptation measures. Tools such as Collect Earth and KoboCollect will assist decentralized institutions to ensure effective implementation and evaluation of the project interventions. It will also assist them in improved M&E linked to national commitments made (SDGs, Bonn Challenge).

177. Under the third component promising business ideas linked to sustainable value chain development and/or restoration of degraded lands will be supported, and training will be provided to develop ideas into viable business plans to enable potential private sector investment. In-kind small grant will be provided to promising ideas in order to facilitate testing the business ideas.

178. Under Component 4, innovative knowledge dissemination & awareness-raising products will be prepared, including comic books in local languages on climate adaptation, participatory forestry, natural resource management etc., and participatory videomaking (inspired by the DSL IP).

Sustainability

179. The proposed project aims to promote the sustainable diversification of income sources of the most vulnerable communities to increase their overall resilience to climate change, while promoting sustainable forest management interventions. Through the inclusive and participatory approach to identify sustainable nature-based value chains and NTFPs, and through the establishment of legal community-based forests, communities will have full ownership of the project interventions, and as such ensure a high degree of sustainability in the long term. The project will also enhance the capacity of decentralized authorities to integrate climate change adaptation and restoration into the development planning process (PDLs).

180. Furthermore, resilience in the context of the proposed project is understood as a multi-dimensional capacity to withstand shocks to and disturbances of livelihoods and landscapes. As such, sustainability is built into the project intervention strategy insofar as it includes building less vulnerable communities to pandemics, putting in place the infrastructure to build back better such as short value chains, livelihood diversification, extension services that easily and promptly address health-related concerns so they do not become social, economic and environmental crises, etc. The project intervention logic has the potential to addresses critical issues around human-wildlife interaction (including increased exposure to viruses), and the landscape management plans will integrate this concern. The project approaches do offer opportunities to reduce future risk of zoonotic and other diseases to spill over to the human world, from the natural world, as it addresses the causes of forest ecosystem degradation, halts the degradation and restores the ecosystems. The causal links between protected and restored natural systems and their ecological functionality have been documented[142] and recognized by the GEF[143], and the landscape management and governance work of the project are an opportunity to fully address concerns with forest boundaries, altered habitats and increasing pressure on ecosystems.

Potential for scaling up

181. The project will set the stage for the inclusive development of nature-based small-scale enterprises and value chain development and pilot the development of community forests, as well as the development of sustainable management plans for the SAOHs. The project will build on the experience in country on running Farmer Field and life schools to not only collect but also share best practices and lessons learned at the community level. Through the training of FFS trainers and facilitators from the ministries and project partners, it is anticipated that these will disseminate and train beyond the project scope. Dimitra Clubs will also be promoted to ensure widescale dissemination of best practices through means of audio-visual technologies. The lessons learned from the development of resilient micro-enterprises will be shared with similar regions to promote interest of possible micro-entrepreneurs.

182. Climate programmes and finance mechanisms must engage millions of forest farmers if they are to halt deforestation and restore forest landscape. Even though forest landscape restoration is sometimes perceived as a large-scale intervention, most restoration opportunities are on,

or adjacent to, agricultural or pastoral land, and an estimated 1.5 billion hectares (ha) of land offer the potential to combine forests with other land uses. FFPOs provide a logical entry point for positive, on-the ground actions toward forest landscape restoration and halting deforestation. FFPOs can provide a platform to demonstrate and lobby for improved tenure rights systems and access rights, facilitate access to markets and capital, and offer a structure for providing capacity-building services for their members and monitoring negative environmental impacts.

183. The project will continuously promote active knowledge exchange with ongoing projects both within the CAR as in neighboring countries to ensure continuous learning and dissemination of knowledge. Existing regional platforms, such as COMIFAC/OFAC and Platforms under the different GEF IPs (CBSL IP, FOLUR IP) also will provide opportunity for learning and sharing of best practices. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration also provides an opportunity to share knowledge and experience from the project. Knowledge generated through the project will be uploaded to global platforms such as WOCAT, FERM, the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform and Global Climate Action Portal.

184. The country has extensive forest ecosystems and the lessons learned from the process towards establishment of community-managed forests will provide good lessons learned to showcase to other communities for potential upscaling. This will be facilitated by the development of a practical manual for CFs to complement the existing procedural manual.

185. At FAO level, several platforms and online Communities of Practice (CoP) exist to which this project can contribute in terms of knowledge and experience: the Knowledge Sharing Platform on Resilience (KORE), the CoP on Forest and Landscape Restoration, the CoP on Family Farming and Agroecology.

Capacity development

186. Capacity development is at the core of the project intervention strategy, as it is through capacity development that the adaptive capacity of local communities will be enhanced. This will allow communities to withstand not only planned climate impacts but also future, unplanned shocks. The proposed project will contribute to capacity development through several avenues (training sessions under Component 1, APFSs and FFPOs under Component 3) etc.

187. For example, market analyses and development trainings will be undertaken directly with individual producers identified by the producer organizations, primarily women and youth within the organization's membership to help them individually, or in small groups, to assess the possibility for sustainable enterprises to develop sustainable, climate-resilient business pans. At the same time, the capacity of the producer organizations themselves to build a business incubation and development services unit will ensure that they can continue to provide the market analysis and development training but also ongoing coaching and linkages which will help to ensure the sustainability of the enterprises and the ongoing building of individual capacity but also to extend those services to many other members helping to take this to scale.

188. A similar process will be followed by facilitating the smooth functioning of multistakeholder platforms, with a view to establish an interface between the strength and capacity of the government employees and departments with the strength of the capacity of the producer organizations to jointly identify opportunities for development. By organizing joint events including exchange visits which include individual producers, working relationships between FFPO leaders and government staff will be strengthened and extend well beyond the project period.

7) Summary of changes in alignment with the project design with the original PIF

189. While the overall project strategy has not changed from the PIF, consultations and studies undertaken during the PPG phase have allowed to adjust some elements from the PIF:

- Component 1:
  - the wording of Outcome 1 was adjusted to better reflect its scope, which remains unchanged;
  - PIF Output 1.1.2 corresponds to project document Output 1.1.3. The establishment and strengthening of Forests and Farms Producer Organization was relocated under Component 3 (Output 3.1.1) for the sake of coherence, as these will mostly be an instrument to support climate-resilient livelihoods;
  - PIF Output 1.1.3 corresponds to project document Output 1.1.2 and was rephrased to reflect more thoroughly the landscape approach and make an explicit reference to the five target landscapes;
  - Output 1.1.4 was added in the project document as Dimitra Clubs have been found to be an efficient tool to strengthen social cohesion, with excellent buy-in results at the community level that can effectively pave the way for interventions linked to land-use planning and resilience building (cf. description of Output 1.1.4). This is all the more relevant in contexts with a history of social conflicts;
- Component 2:
  - Outcome 2 was rephrased to better capture the integrated nature of the landscape-level interventions, that will consider both forests and productive land (cropland, rangeland, agroforestry);
  - Output 2.1.1 was rephrased to reflect the result of the extensive consultation process, which concluded that, because of the current dispositions of the Forestry Code, the adequate level of intervention for the development of community forestry would likely not be at ?S?ries of Agriculture and Human Settlements? level in the South-West. To ward off the risks of legal deadlock during implementation, it was thus advised to refer directly to the five target community forests;
  - Output 2.1.2 was adjusted to reflect the updated geographical focus (seven communes instead of five), as a result of the PPG feasibility analyses;
- Component 3:
  - Output 3.1.1 was slightly rephrased (adding a mention to climate change adaptation) to better reflect the scope and alignment with LDCF priorities;
  - Output 3.1.3: the mention to NGOs was added, as PPG consultations found that NGOs could be powerful actors in this field;
  - the wording of Output 3.1.4 was slightly streamlined, with identical scope;
- Component 4:
  - Outcome 4.1 was slightly rephrased to enhance its scope by adding a mention to learning, in addition to M&E. This will involve the development of publications, knowledge-sharing events, sharing of lessons learned etc. (cf. description of Output 4.1.1); and
  - PIF Outputs 4.1.1. and 4.1.2 were merged into project document Output 4.1.1, for the sake of simplicity.

Furthermore, please note that: i) target CFs and communes have been revised based on extensive consultations and field visits; ii) project-level indicators and targets have been reviewed and updated; iii) budget estimates have been revised in light of the updated activity plan and best cost estimates at the time of submission; and iv) institutional arrangements have been revised to reflect the results of operational capacity assessments of execution partners.

190. In addition, the cofinancing plan has been revised as some investments quoted in the PIF have expired, while new initiatives have been announced. Overall, the extended PPG phase and challenging investment context in the CAR have made it necessary to update significantly cofinancing perspectives. During implementation, the project team will remain mindful of potential new cofinancing opportunities.

[1] Source: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
[2] See First National Communication (2003), Second National Communication (2015) and Nationally Determined Contribution (2015).
[3] Source: Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, 2020.
[4] Notre-Dame Global Adaptation Initiative
[5] World Bank Group. 2021. Climate Risk Country Profile: Central African Republic. Available here.
[6] FAO. 2022. The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism. Central African Republic. Available here.

[7] FAO. 2022. Crisis in the Central African Republic. Available here.
[8] Central African Republic. 2015. Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC). Available here.
[9] World Bank Group. 2021. Climate Risk Country Profile: Central African Republic. Available here.
[10] IPCC. 2022. Trisos, C.H., I.O. Adelekan, E. Totin, A. Ayanlade, J. Efitre, A. Gemeda, K. Kalaba, C. Lennard, C. Masao, Y. Mgaya, G. Ngaruiya, D. Olago, N.P. Simpson, and S. Zakieldeen, 2022: Africa. In: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.* Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
[11] World Bank Group. 2021. Climate Risk Country Profile: Central African Republic. Available here.
[12] FAO. 2022. Crisis in the Central African Republic. Available here.
[13] Government of the CAR. 2016. Plan national de rel?vement et de consolidation de la paix en RCA.
[14] USAID. 2018. Climate risks in the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) and Congo Basin. Available here.
[15] Source: Programme National d?Investissement Agricole, de S?curit? Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle (PNIASAN), 2013-2018
[16] Sources: Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), 2012 & World Food Programme, 2015
[17] Source: FEWS NET, 2012.
[18] Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques et Sociales
[19] Source: FAO/CIFOR. 2018. ?tat du secteur for?t-bois en R?publique Centrafricaine (2016)
[20] CFA 1.5 billion (approx. USD 2.5 million) between 2012 and 2017 for the 23 forest Communes in SW region of the CAR, according to the Projet de D?veloppement R?gional du Sud-Ouest (PDRSO), 2017.
[21] Lescuyer G, Didier H et al. 2014. Le march? domestique du sciage artisanal en R?publique Centrafricaine : ?tat des lieux, opportunit?s et d?fis. CIFOR.
[22] Dubiez E, Gazull L et al. 2019. Etat des lieux de l'exploitation artisanale de bois d'oeuvre en p?riph?rie de Bangui en R?publique centrafricaine. Quantification des flux et caract?risation de la fili?re. CIRAD.
[23] Konzi-Sarambo BF, Dimanche L, Lamba B. 2012. Strat?gie nationale et plan d?actions des PFNL en RCA ? GCP/RAF/441/GER ? Renforcement de la s?curit? alimentaire en Afrique centrale ? travers la gestion durable des PFNL.
[24] Minist?re du D?veloppement Rural et de l?Agriculture. 2013. Programme national des investissements agricoles de la s?curit? alimentaire et nutritionnelle 2014-2018.
[25] Moinecourt H. 2009. Projet de plantations d?arbres h?tes de chenilles comestibles dans les villages limitrophes au dispositif de recherche sylvicole de M?Ba?ki.
[26] The TRI project team has undertaken a literature review on caterpillar utilization within the sub-region (mainly DRC) and in total 30 caterpillar species and 70 host plants have been identified for potential utilization.
[27] Programme de d?finitions des cibles nationales de la Neutralit? de d?gradation des Terres, 2018. Available here.
[28] Source: Atlas r?actualis? de la RCA, 2007

[29] Please report to Annex N for additional information and graphic illustration of the evolutions of all climate variables mentioned in this section.
[30] IPCC. 2021. Sixth Assessment Report. Regional Factsheet ? Africa. Available here.
[31] World Bank Group. 2020. Climate Change Knowledge Portal. For Development Practitioners and Policy Makers. Available here.
[32] Aguilar E, Aziz Barry A et al. 2009. Changes in temperature and precipitation extremes in western central Africa, Guinea Conakry, and Zimbabwe, 1955?2006. *In* Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 114(D2).
[33] World Bank Group. 2020. Climate Change Knowledge Portal. For Development Practitioners and Policy Makers. Available here.
[34] Aguilar E, Aziz Barry A et al. 2009. Changes in temperature and precipitation extremes in western central Africa, Guinea Conakry, and Zimbabwe, 1955?2006. *In* Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 114(D2).
[35] Available here.
[36] IPCC. 2021. Sixth Assessment Report. Regional Factsheet ? Africa. Available here.
[37] Ibid.
[38] Ibid.
[39] World Bank Group. 2021. Climate Risk Country Profile: Central African Republic. Available here.
[40] World Bank Group. 2020. Climate Change Knowledge Portal. For Development Practicioners and Policy Makers. Available here.
[41] World Bank Group. 2021. Climate Risk Country Profile: Central African Republic. Available here.
[42] FAO. 2022. The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism. Central African Republic. Available here.
[43] IFAD. 2019. Available here.
[44] IPCC. 2021. Sixth Assessment Report. Regional Factsheet ? Africa. Available here.
[45] World Bank Group. 2021. Climate Risk Country Profile: Central African Republic. Available here
[46] International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). 2021. Central African Republic ? Climate fact sheet. Available here.
[47] World Bank Group. 2021. Climate Risk Country Profile: Central African Republic. Available here
[48] Ibid
[49] ICRC. 2021. Central African Republic ? Climate fact sheet. Available here.
[50] USAID. 2018. Climate risks in the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) and Congo Basin. Available here.
[51] Bunn C, L?derach P, Ovalle Rivera O. et al. 2015. A bitter cup: climate change profile of global production of Arabica and Robusta coffee. *In* Climatic Change 129, 89?101. Available here.
[52] USAID. 2018. Climate risks in the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) and Congo Basin. Available here.
[53] Minist?re de l?Environnement et du Developpement Durable. 2021. Contribution D?termin?e Au Niveau National. Version R?vis?e. Available here.
[54] IFAD. 2019. Climate Adaptation in Rural Development (CARD) Assessment tool. Available here.
[55] Convention on Biological Diversity. Central African Republic ? Main Details. Available here.
[56] World Bank Group. 2021. Climate Risk Country Profile: Central African Republic. Available here
[57] Sonwa DJ, Oumarou Farikou M, Martial G, F?lix FL. 2020. Living under a Fluctuating Climate and a Drying Congo Basin. *In* Sustainability, 12, 2936.
[58] FAO. 2022. The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism. Central African Republic. Available here.
[59] Source : World Bank, 2022. Data retrieved here.
[60] Convention on Biological Diversity. Central African Republic ? Main Details. Available here.
[61] International Union for Conservation of Nature. 2021. The Restoration Initiative: A Central African Republic story. Partnerships for restoration in the Central African Republic. Available here.
[62] Ibid.

[63] Central African Forest Initiative. CAFI. 2021. Annual deforestation in the Central African Republic. Available here.

[64] ICRC. 2021. Central African Republic ? Climate fact sheet. Available here.
[65] IPCC. 2022. Trisos, C.H., I.O. Adelekan, E. Totin, A. Ayanlade, J. Efitre, A. Gemeda, K. Kalaba, C. Lennard, C. Masao, Y. Mgaya, G. Ngaruiya, D. Olago, N.P. Simpson, and S. Zakieldeen, 2022: Africa. *In* Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.
[66] Ibid.
[67] Earth Map. 2022. Available here.
[68] Bastin JF, Finegold Y, et al. 2019. The global tree restoration potential. *In* SCIENCE. Vol 365, Issue 6448. pp. 76-79. Accessible here.
[69] Minist?re de l?Environnement et du Developpement Durable. 2021. Contribution D?termin?e Au Niveau National. Version R?vis?e. Available here.
[70] Hansen AJ, Burns P, Ervin J et al. 2020. A policy-driven framework for conserving the best of Earth?s remaining moist tropical forests. *In* Nat Ecol Evol 4, 1377?1384 (2020). Accessible here.
[71] Claeys F. et al. 2019. Climate change would lead to a sharp acceleration of Central African forests dynamics by the end of the century. *In* Environ. Res. Lett. 14 044002. Available here.
[72] Ibid.
[73] The Concertation Nationale des Organisations Paysannes de la Centrafrique (CNOP) and the Organisation Nationale des Femmes Rurales "Fleurs de Centrafrique."

[74] Loi n?08-022 portant Code forestier de la RCA
[75] D?cret n?09-117 fixant les modalit?s d?application de la Loi n?08-022 portant Code forestier de la RCA
[76] D?cret n?09-118 fixant les modalit?s d?attribution des permis d?exploitation et d?am?nagement
[77] Commission des For?ts d?Afrique Centrale
[78] Available here.
[79] Source: CNI-REDD+
[80] Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods (Malabo, June 26?27, 2014)
[81] Law 21_001 of 21 January 2021
[82] Amoudou et al. 2018. Diagnostics participatifs des villages de Talo et Lilando.
[83] Spathelf P et al. 2018. Adaptive measures: integrating adaptive forest management and forest landscape restoration. *In* Annals of Forest Science. 75.
[84] Source: FAOSTAT, 2020
[85] Ministry of Environment and Ecology. 2009. Plan national d?investissement a? moyen-terme en matie?re de gestion durable des terres en RCA - Projet de renforcement des capacite?s juridico-institutionnelles pour la lutte contre la de?gradation des sols.
[86] World Bank. 2016. Note sur les sept bassins de productions agropastorales et halieutiques en Re?publique Centrafricaine.
[87] Source: UNDP, 2020.
[88] Accessible here.
[89] FAO, FILAC. 2021. Forest Governance by Indigenous and Tribal People. An Opportunity for Climate Action in Latin America and the Caribbean.
[90] Dubiez E, Gazull L, Peltier R, Lescuyer G. 2019. Etat des lieux de l'exploitation artisanale de bois d'oeuvre en p?riph?rie de Bangui en R?publique Centrafricaine : Quantification des flux et caract?risation de la fili?re. Accessible here.

[91] Dubiez E, Karsenty A, Dessard H, Gazull L. 2016. D?coupler d?forestation et d?veloppement de l?agriculture commerciale : croiser approches territoriales et fili?res z?ro d?forestation. D?bat d?actualit?.
[92] Source: World Resource Institute, 2013.
[93] Agence Fran?aise de D?veloppement ? French Development Agency
[94] Lescuyer G, Didier H et al. 2014. Le march? domestique du sciage artisanal en R?publique Centrafricaine : ?tat des lieux, opportunit?s et d?fis. CIFOR.
[95] Source: PDRSO
[96] Source: Programme de d?finitions des cibles nationales de la Neutralit? de d?gradation des Terres, 2018. Available here.
[97] Source : Cadre National d?Investissement REDD (CNI-REDD), 2020
[98] Source: Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des ?tudes ?conomiques et Sociales (ICASEES) & MEFCP
[99] International Fund for Agricultural Development
[100] World Food Programme
[101] Agence d'Ex?cution des Travaux d'Int?r?t Public en Centrafrique, AGETIP

[102] Agence Fran?aise de D?veloppement
[103] Five communes located in Lobaye (Less?, Mbata, Mongoumba, Nola-Mba?ki and Pissa) and five communes located in the Sangha-Mba?r? (Bilolo, Mba?r?, Nola, Salo and Yob?-Sangha).
[104] African Development Bank
[105] See FAO. 2022. State of the World?s Forests. Available here.
[106] Tchatchou B, Sonwa DJ, Ifo S, Tiani AM. 2015. De?forestation et de?gradation des fore?ts dans le Bassin du Congo - E?tat des lieux, causes actuelles et perspectives. CIFOR.

[107] Mining and Forest Governance project, support to 11 forest Communes of the SW in preparing their Local Development Plans
[108] AFD, 2012. Pr?sentation du Projet de d?veloppement r?gional dans le Sud-Ouest de la RCA (PDRSO) - Comit? des Etats ?trangers du 7 novembre 2012. Paris ? AFD, Novembre 2012. 31p
[109] More information is available here.
[110] NB: where relevant, capacities established under the TRI project will be leveraged to avoid duplication of efforts.
[111] More information can be found here.
[112] Security of private information stored in such an activity is critical and ownership of data should be clear and carefully assessed, in line with relevant legal framework. Free softwares available include Open Tenure (FAO) and MAST (USAID). An International Tenure expert will be hired to advise on the options available and train relevant personnel on selected softwares.
[113] Sustainable Hub to Engage into Rural Policies with Actors (SHERPA) is a four-year project (2019-2023) with 17 partners funded by the European Union (EU)?s Horizon 2020 programme**.** It aims to gather knowledge that contributes to the formulation of recommendations for future policies relevant to EU rural areas, by creating a science-society-policy interface which provides a hub for knowledge and policy. Under SHERPA, a set of stakeholder engagement tools have been developed and made publicly available to facilitate the establishment and management of such multi-stakeholder platforms. More information can be found here.
[114] FAO. 2020. Evaluation de l??tendue et de l?efficacit? de la foresterie participative en R?publique centrafricaine.
[115] MEFCP. 2011. Manuel de proc?dure d?attribution des for?ts communautaires en R?publique Centrafricaine. Available here.
[116] Ibid.
[117] Additional information can be found here.

[118] FAO. 2020. E?valuation finale du projet ? Re?duire la vulne?rabilite? des moyens d?existence agricoles a? travers l?approche ?Caisses de re?silience? au Sahel ?. Se?rie e?valuation de projet. Available here.
[119] As above.
[120] MEFCP. 2011. Manuel de proc?dure d?attribution des for?ts communautaires en R?publique Centrafricaine. Available here.
[121] The Makala project was funded by the European Union and coordinated by the Centre de coop?ration internationale en recherche agronomique pour le d?veloppement (CIRAD). In the DRC, around Kinshasa and Kisangani, and in the Republic of Congo, around Brazzaville, seven different activities have been set up: the development of village plantations dedicated to wood energy, the management of degraded peri-urban natural forests, and the transfer and strengthening of skills, among others. Launched at the beginning of 2009 for a period of four years, the Makala project was followed by the CapMakala project designed to capitalize on the project's results. Additional information can be found here.
[122] Macqueen D, Mayers J. 2020. Unseen foresters ? An assessment of approaches for wider recognition and spread of sustainable forest management by local communities. WWF-Sweden. Available here.
[123] Source: Forest and Farm Facility brochure, available here.
[124] Simola N, Vuori K. eds. 2021. Forest and farm producer organizations building resilience ? Strength in numbers and landscapes.
[125] See for example:

- Ding H, Veit P, Gray E, Reytar K, Altamirano JC. 2016. Climate Benefits, Tenure Costs The Economic Case for Securing Indigenous Land Rights in the Amazon, WRI. Available here.
- Zomer RJ. et al. 2016. Global Tree Cover and Biomass Carbon on Agricultural Land: The contribution of agroforestry to global and national carbon budgets. *In* Nature, Scientific Reports 6. Accessible here.

[126] Macqueen D. 2021. Diversification for climate resilience: thirty options for forest and farm producer organisations. IIED. Available here.
[127] Because of security risks in terms of theft and corruption at the local level, it was decided not to follow the Caisse de R?silience approach in this project. Instead, small grants in the form of procured transformation units and other equipment to support the climate-proof diversification of production.
[128] FAO. 2022 (upcoming). Enabling ?Response-ability?: A stocktaking of farmer field schools in smallholder forestry and agroforestry.
[129] More information is available here.
[130] Alternatively, if four good master trainers with such profiles are not available, one qualified master trainer with either forestry, agronomy or zoology background will be hired and remaining profiles will be filled by good trainers who will be coordinated by the master trainer.
[131] Training of trainers on market and business-related modules can be conducted by specialized partners with local branches such as Fair Match Support.
[132] Commercialisation et Qualit?
[133] Endogenous facilitators shall be selected during the first APFS cycle, after a few months. They will act as support after a while, then be trained as endogenous facilitators before setting up their own APFS with support from external facilitators.
[134] Accessible here.
[135] See Bakker T, Dugu? P, de Tourdonnet, S. 2021. Correction to: Assessing the effects of Farmer Field Schools on farmers? trajectories of change in practices. Agronomy for Sustainable Development, 41, 28
[136] The World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) is a global network that was established in 1992. The vision of WOCAT is to improve land resources and ecosystems (including soils, water, flora, and fauna) and people?s livelihoods by sharing, enhancing, and using knowledge on sustainable land management (SLM). WOCAT was recognised as a ?Primary recommended database? by UNCCD in 2014; in particular, it maintains a useful database that documents real-life, costed SLM interventions. NB: FAO and WOCAT are in the process of designing a standardized tool to report on the land degradation neutrality - tenure nexus, which could be useful under this activity.

[137] The FERM registry supports the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration Worldwide Flagships, UN member countries and UN supported restoration projects to monitor the status of ecosystem restoration.
[138] Accessible here.
[139] The "Making every voice count for adaptive management" initiative facilitated by the Global Coordination project of the DSL IP promotes a variety of communication tools, focusing on a participatory video approach as an interactive platform that supports networking and knowledge generation, and in later stages documenting and disseminating knowledge assets and lessons learned, especially those identified by the local communities and stakeholders at landscape level.

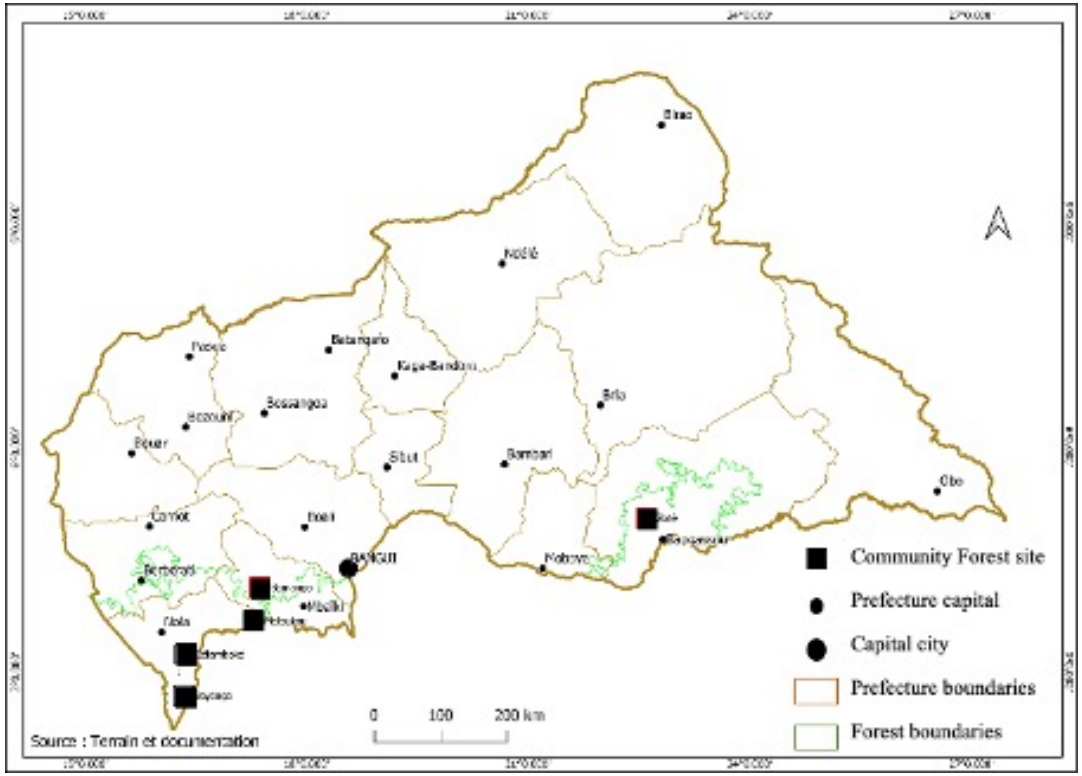
[140] Source : GEF. 2018. Updated results architecture for adaptation to climate change under the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund (2018-2022).
[141] https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/EN_GEF.LDCF_.SCCF_.24.03_Programming_Strategy_and_Operational_Policy_2.pdf
[142] See for example:
- CIFOR Webinar ?Strengthening the connection between forests, biodiversity and health in the One Health approach?, 2020, accessible here.
- Nasi R, Simons T. 2020. The future beyond Covid-19 required rebuilding planetary health. *In* Global Landscapes Forum. Accessible here.

[143] GEF. 2020. White Paper on a GEF Covid-19 Response Strategy. Accessible here.

[PB1]Maxime, y a-t-il d?autres plans de d?veloppement sous-nationaux qu?il convient de mentionner ici ?
[PB2]Maxime, peux-tu confirmer ?

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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



Forest massif	Community Forest	Communes	Prefecture(s)	Latitude	Longitude
SW	Lomba	Moboma, Mba?r?	Lobaye, Sangha-Mba?r?	N 3? 47' 0" 3.783333	E 17? 31' 0" 17.516667
SW	Mbunza-Boffi	Nola (Ngotto)	Lobaye	N 3? 31' 29" 3.524722	E 16? 2' 45" 16.045833
SW	B?lambok? / Monasao	Yob?-Sangha, Salo	Sangha-Mba?r?	N 3? 10' 58' 3.182778	E 16? 7' 9" 16.119167
SW	Lossi	Yob?-Sangha	Sangha-Mba?r?	N 2? 47' 19" 2.788611	E 16? 13' 33" 16.225833
SE	Zott?	Niakari, Bakouma	Mbomou	N 5? 31' 36" 5.526667	E 22? 35' 8" 22.585556

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

NA

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

N/A

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

1. Several stakeholder consultations were conducted during the project identification and PPG phase with representatives of local communities, governmental institutions (central and decentralised), local government, non-governmental partners (multilateral UN agencies, NGOs, parastatals), research institutions, local and national Community-Based Organisations as well the private sector. A full list of consultations conducted in the project design phase is presented in Annex I2. Focus groups were conducted with local communities (women and men) to gain an in-depth understanding of the social, economic and environmental dynamics in the target landscapes. The Stakeholder Engagement Matrix in Annex I2 includes information on how stakeholders will be involved and consulted in the project execution, including any disadvantaged or vulnerable groups/individuals.

2. Under Component 4, the project will develop a MEL strategy and a communication plan (in the first semester of project implementation) to ensure information dissemination and sharing of knowledge and lessons with project stakeholders and interested parties beyond project partners. FPIC will be continued at project inception (cf. Annex J).

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities
WWF	WWF has been working on conservation in the Sangha River region for several years. WWF has established itself a key stakeholder in environment work in South-West CAR, in particular through its action in favour of the trinational protected area in DRC, CAR and Cameroon. WWF will be the main executing partner for field activities to be conducted in South-West CAR.
African Parks	In Chinko, African Parks is contributing to conservation and community development, and employs 300 people. A major actor in conservation and community development in South-East CAR, African Parks will be the main executing partner for field activities to be conducted in this target region.
Ministry of Forest, Water, Hunting and Fisheries (MEFCP)	The MEFCP oversees forestry-related policies and their implementation. In particular, it delivers authorizations to establish community forests. A member of the PSC, it will be a co-executing partner for activities linked to forest management and the development of community forestry in the country.
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	The MEDD is the institution entrusted with the development of climate-related policies in the CAR, and hosts focal points for the Rio Conventions as well as the GEF OFP. The MEDD will be a co-executing partner for activities linked to the mainstreaming of adaptation into development planning (Component 1).
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR)	Its decentralized services will support the implementation of APFS and income-generating activities in the target regions (including land-use planning and investment in agricultural and NTFP value chains). MARD will also benefit from related capacity-building activities implemented by the project.
Prefectures	The proposed project covers three Prefectures (Lobaye, Sangha-Mba?r? and Mbomou). Prefectures are the official representatives of the State in the target areas. All are members of the Project Steering Committee.
Municipalities	As per the draft Code on Territorial Authorities, municipalities represent the administrative level for Local Development Plans (PDLs). The Local Development Committees (CDLs), the municipal consultation body for the PDLs, will be the gateway to the consultation process for the implementation of LDCF-funded activities.

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities
Major national CSOs	In addition to WWF and African Parks, the two main Operational Partners for the proposed project, other CSOs support the implementation of development projects in both target regions. These include the House of the Pygmy Child and Woman, the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Network of Indigenous and Local Populations of CAR (REPALCA), Education, Environment and Sustainable Development, Partnership Action for Community Development, Batali, Echelle and others. GEF activities will leverage their expertise and local presence in the target areas. For example, the project will continue the PPG engagement with REPALCA and its experts to ensure due participation and consideration of indigenous populations in project activities and outcome.
Private Sector	Forest concessionaires are the main private operators in South-West CAR. Their Forest Management Plans (FMPs) are critical component of land-use planning in the area. Farming is also an important local economic sector. It is partially structured in cooperatives, organizations or producer groups. GEF activities will support both sectors to improve sustainable practices.
Local Development Committees (LDCs)	Municipal level consultative body overseeing the development and implementation of Local Development Plans (LDPs). LDCs and their work on LDPs are supported by the parent NRGP and AFD?s SWRDP. They are composed of representatives of municipal services, decentralized administrations, civil society, CSOs, and the private sector. They will be the gateway for engaging municipalities in the MBNP periphery on GEF activities.
Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples	Direct beneficiaries of project activities. They will also be hired to the extent possible (e.g. through local NGOs, WWF, African Parks etc.) to support the implementation of activities.
IFAD	Cofinancing partner, will be consulted on a regular basis to ensure coordination and maximize synergies with the PRAPAM project.

3. Primary beneficiaries of the LDCF project are the local forest-dependent communities in the target regions. Communities in these areas mostly rely on NTFPs, subsistence agriculture and hunting and artisanal mining as their main source of income. The LDCF investment will support them to better adapt to the present and anticipated impacts of climate change on their livelihoods, while also managing their environmental and social impacts. It will also promote diversification of economic activities and encourage formalization to enhance socio-economic outcomes, with a view to strengthen communities? resilience. Other beneficiaries include authorities and administrations responsible for natural resources governance (including forest, environment, and agriculture). In line with the on-going decentralization process, the LDCF will support municipalities and other authorities to include sustainability principles in local development planning and action. The project will also help build

technical capacity in decentralized administrations. This will in turn also allow them to fully engage in project activities and monitor results on the ground.

4. Stakeholder engagement during project implementation will leverage the Local Development Committees (CDLs) established in targeted municipalities as the official gateway to stakeholder engagement and consultation on LDCF activities. The various management committees ? Conseils coutumiers (Customary Councils), Conseils autochtones (Indigenous Councils) and Comite?s de gestion (Management Committees)[1] ? required for the planning and management of community forests will be created or revitalized, as required in the Manual for the establishment of CFs in the CAR[2]. The principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be implemented with the support of local CSOs throughout project activities. The national Project Steering Committee will be complemented by Local Project Technical Committees (one per target region) to bring together the stakeholders interested in the project activities at the local level, and facilitate exchanges, information sharing and conflict resolution on LDCF-supported activities. The multistakeholder platforms that will be set up in Year 1 under Component 1 will also create a favourable environment for all concerned parties to engage in landscape-level discussions on natural resource manegement and resilience building. Annual Steering Committee meetings will be critical to sharing information and collecting feedback from beneficiaries and authorities, at both the national and local level. They will also enable broader reporting and communication efforts on activities and outcomes, including with co-financing partners and GEF agencies active in the country.

5. As per FAO and GEF requirements, communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by the project activities may submit complaints to the project-level grievance redress mechanism (GRM ? cf. detailed description in Annex I2).

6. The establishment of local offices for the Local Project Teams in both South-West and South-East CAR will facilitate day-to-day communication with stakeholders and beneficiaries. Regular supervision missions involving authorities (MEFCP, MEDD) and FAO will provide additional oversight and capacity building regarding stakeholder engagement and communication.

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[1] FAO. 2020. Evaluation de l??tendue et de l?efficacit? de la foresterie participative en R?publique centrafricaine.

[2] MEFCP. 2011. Manuel de proc?dure d?attribution des for?ts communautaires en R?publique Centrafricaine. Available here.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Cf. Stakeholder Engagement Plan uploaded.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

General gender context in the CAR

1. The socio-cultural context of the CAR is based on essentially patriarchal norms and customs, generally unfavorable to women[1]. The Family Code confers on the man the role of head of the family, who has exclusive power to manage the family, while the woman assists him. It is the man who chooses the family's residence and is required to ensure the physical and moral security of the other members of the family, while Central African society assigns the role of mother to the woman[2].

2. These two positions are of great importance in the education of young girls and boys, which forges the power relations between men and women through decision-making, access to resources and control. In Central African society, the young girl in her biological family is perceived as an individual who belongs to another family which will be that of her husband. As a result, she must be prepared by her family and community education to carry out household tasks in order to be suitable for her home, which is in fact her natural destination. This perception excludes her, in favorr of her brothers, from decision-making in the family and from the sharing of inheritance, on the pretext that the family's goods should not go to another family. The boy, on the other hand, is perceived as the future heir and head of the family, who will eventually possess the

family's assets and the power to direct the other members of the family (women and children). Thus, through his education, which is often initiatory, he acquires all the rudiments of power on a daily basis that will enable him to lead the family.

3. By attributing these respective positions to the young boy and girl, society institutes unequal relations between them from birth, which customs perpetuate throughout adolescence through education and thanks to which the man generally holds decision-making power, and the woman must submit to him.

4. Despite the progress made at the legislative, legal and regulatory levels with the promulgation of a law on gender parity, the mobilization of women in the fight for equality has not been translated into action by several government institutions[3]. There therefore remains a significant gap between women's strong capacity for commitment, mobilization and participation and their effective representation in political and administrative institutions[4]. In the CAR, the inequality index for gender remained at 0.673 in 2017, making the CAR the 5th lowest ranked country in terms of equalities between men and women. Only 8,6% of parliamentarians are women, and only 13.2% of women graduate in secondary school (against 30.8% for men)[5].

Institutional context

5. In the CAR, the structure in charge of gender promotion is the General Directorate for Gender Promotion, within the Ministry of Social Affairs, National Solidarity and the Family, which was established in 2005. To this end, it has been assigned the following missions:

? design, propose and implement national policy on equality and equity;
? work for the promotion of the rights and social status of women and men; and
? work to ensure that women and men progressively emerge from socio-cultural constraints and poverty by supporting women's groups through coherent literacy programs, micro-credit grants and technical training.

6. The General Directorate for the Promotion of Women was transformed in 2011 into the General Directorate for the Promotion of Gender, which allowed the executives of the said Directorate, as well as the Gender Focal Points (GFPs) of other ministerial departments to benefit from training on gender issues thanks to the support of the Technical and Financial Partners of CAR. In the same vein, a sectoral committee was set up. This "Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction" committee essentially brings together the Gender Focal Points (Gender Focal Points) of the ministries and representatives of support organizations and NGOs. To date however, this sectoral committee is not very operational, due to the mobility of GFPs, and because they are often not at the appropriate decision-making level to exercise in?uence in favor of gender mainstreaming in their respective structures.

7. Other actors have been promoting gender equality in the CAR for a long time, including civil society organizations such as the Association des femmes d'affaires Centrafricaines (AFAC), the Association des femmes juristes, and platforms of associations such as the Organisation des Femmes Centrafricaines and the G 23. These organizations work either for women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, for the promotion of women's rights, or for women's participation in politics.

Policy context

8. The GoCAR?s political will to promote equality, justice and the law has been reflected in the various legal instruments adopted by the country, such as:

? the Constitution of 30 March 2016;
? Law No. 16.004 of 24 November 2016 instituting parity between men and women in the CAR;
? Law No. 06.032 of 15 December 2006 on the protection of women against violence in the CAR; and
? the Family Code promulgated on 27 November 1997.

9. The Ministry of Gender Promotion, Women, Family and Child Protection (Minist?re de la Promotion du Genre, de la Protection de la Femme, de la Famille et de l?Enfant, MPGPFFE) has developed several policy documents namely:

? the National Policy for the Promotion of Equity and Equality (2005) and its action plan which identifies the fight against harmful practices and violence against women and girls as priority areas for intervention;
? the National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security (2014-2016) which is a political and operational tool intended not only for the execution of the terms of Resolution 1325, but also to re?ect the GoCAR?s commitment and responsibility in ensuring the safety of women and girls during armed con?icts while strengthening their active participation in peacebuilding;
? the National Strategy to combat gender-based violence, harmful practices, child marriage and female genital mutilation (2019-2023). This strategy includes the following objectives:
    - ensure the protection of women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence;
    - fight impunity for perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV); and
    - rehabilitate victims of sexual violence and GBV through comprehensive and integrated management of their needs.

10. Despite an adequate policy framework, the GoCAR faces significant challenges in development planning, monitoring and evaluation due to the absence of, *inter alia*, a gender baseline and the lack of updated and sex-disaggregated data.

Sector-specific gender situation

11. The majority of women in the CAR make their living from the exploitation, processing and marketing of natural resources, and are thus especially affected by the climate-induced impacts on natural resources. This being the case, women?s vulnerability to climate change could be reduced should they be directly involved in decision making.

12. In the agricultural sector, the feminization of poverty is particularly visible and can be explained by: i) the difficulties women have in accessing land; ii) the small size of farms; iii) the difficulties in accessing production factors; and iv) low level of education[6], [7]. Whereas cash crops (coffee, cotton, etc.) are mainly produced by men, women farmers often produce food crops (cassava, peanuts, corn, millet and sorghum, etc.) on plots of land allocated by men. In terms of distribution of tasks in the field, men are primarily responsible for the preparation of the plantation (clearing, plowing and weeding) while sowing, harvesting and post-harvesting tasks are specifically assigned to women. It was estimated[8] that women?s efforts represent 90% of crop weeding, 80% of field-village transport, 60% of harvest work, and 90% of processing. Women also participate in many off-farm activities: rodent hunting, small-scale fishing, picking of mushroom, caterpillars and termites for self-consumption, petty trade, etc.

13. Generally, resources are controlled by men, including land and income from the sale of agricultural products. Men generally have a monopoly on making decisions about the management of household resources. This often puts women in a situation of extreme dependence and precariousness.

14. In the breeding sector, women are mostly involved in short-cycle livestock production (small ruminants, pigs, poultry). However, women are generally responsible for milk production and even dairy products ? despite this, women's work remains invisible and under the supervision of men. In rural families, the man is traditionally the leader of the activities that generate significant income, even if the woman takes charge of most of the activities.

15. Despite their strong vulnerability, women (along with indigenous peoples and youth) are poorly represented in adaptation coordination and consultation[9]. The lack of awareness among these segments of the of the population is one of the main reasons for their under-representation; in addition, there is a lack of detailed analyses on the specific climate vulnerabilities of women in the CAR.[10]

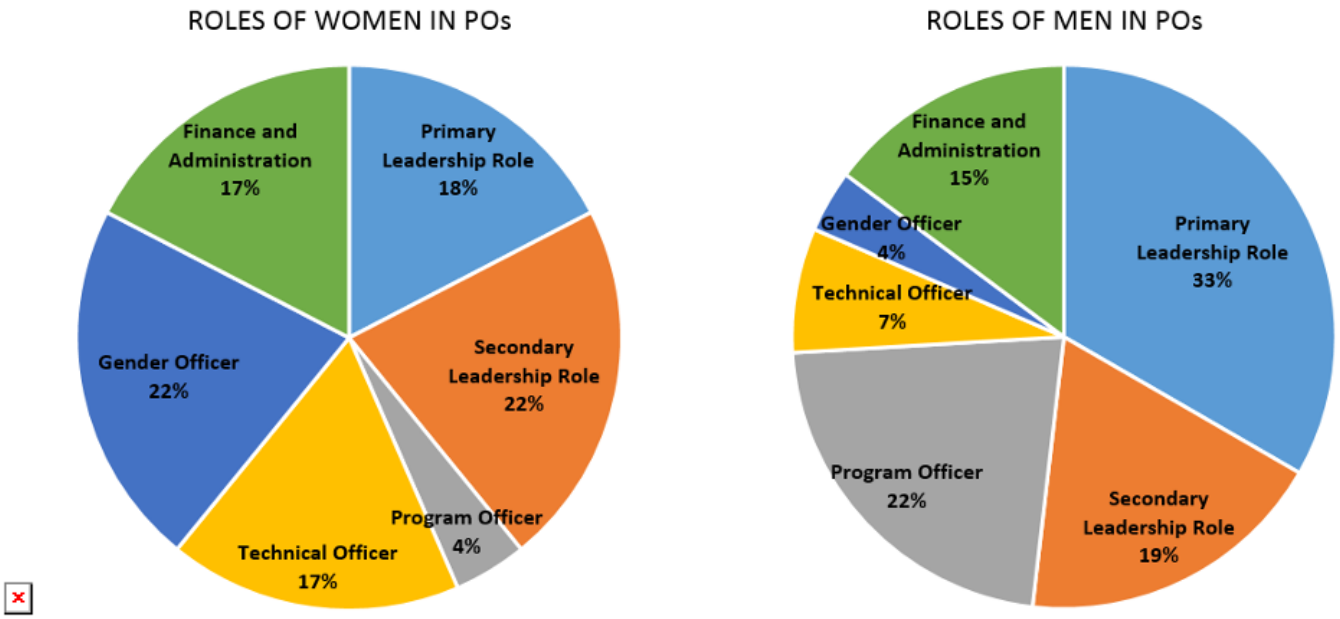
Women in producer organizations

16. Formal and informal producer organizations can help rural communities to overcome poverty and facilitate their access to resources, assets, markets and services. They are platforms for forest and farm producers to get organized, take joint decisions concerning their livelihoods and priorities and to advocate for their rights. Often, these organizations are open to male and female members, others are women-only groups.

17. Women-only organizations can be crucial in contexts where existing producer organizations are restricted to men or where it is culturally not foreseen for men and women to sit together and jointly negotiate and make decisions. However, women-only groups often remain confined to the local level. Furthermore, there are very few dedicated funding mechanisms available for women-only organizations.
18. In mixed organizations, women may be well-represented as members, yet few of them occupy leadership positions, and the trend becomes even more pronounced as one moves from local to regional and national levels. Generally, women are often excluded or poorly represented in such organizations, which tends to reinforce existing gender inequalities.

19. Within the full portfolio of FFPOs supported by the Forest Farm Facility, the proportion of women varies with there being significant support to women-only groups. The FFF gender assessment showed clear differences between the roles men and women take on in the questioned FFPOs. Although almost the same percentage of female and male members state that they occupy a specific role in the organization, the nature of the positions and their power vary widely:

Figure 15. The different roles of women and men in FFPOs[iii].



20. Multiple factors can form barriers hindering women to become actively participating members and access the services and benefits of producer organizations in the same way as men[12]:

? **Socio-cultural norms and perceptions:** Refer to beliefs about men?s and women?s capabilities and skills, it also refers to the norms that guide what public spaces men and women have access to, and how they should behave in those spaces. Traditional gender roles in many cultures associate men with public sphere, while women?s roles tend to be seen as within the domestic sphere. Therefore, women are often discouraged from participating in the public sphere and therefore in producer organizations.

? **Time burden and women?s double burden and triple roles:** Refers to the availability of time that women can dedicate to producer organizations. In general, women spend a significant amount of their time on reproductive and household activities, including childcare, water and food collection, cooking and other care activities. This limits their time availability for participating in producer organizations? meetings and other events.

? **Status, age and previous membership in an organization:** The social status is determined by age, marital status, economic wealth, and caste, amongst others. Examples on how that affects participation in FFPOs are: i) older women from wealthier households tend to participate more in producer organizations; ii) female heads of households are more likely to actively participate and speak freely compared to women in male headed households; and iii) women participating in FFPOs are likely to have had previous experiences in organizations.

? **Access to assets and resources:** Refer to men?s and women?s access to and control over resources, both physical and social, that affect their status in the community. Women generally control less land, use fewer inputs and have less access to extension services compared to men. This limited access to assets, land and income may decrease women?s bargaining power.

? **Rules of entry:** Refer to membership criteria for producer organizations. These may be set by individual associations or by government policies. Women are generally disadvantaged if entry requirements include the possession of legal land rights or other assets that women often have limited access to or control over. Also membership fees can pose challenges to women, as they oftentimes have less cash resources than men, they are often less engaging in paid labor activities.

? **Legal and policy environment:** Refer to the laws and policies that govern membership in producer organizations, which are often gender-blind.

? **Preferences and motivations:** Refer to men? and women?s preferences, which in turn determine their motivation for joining rural organizations.

? **Education, training and access to information:** Refers to the level of literacy and to leadership skills. It also refers to education about gender equality. Rural women are more often facing illiteracy and low educational background than men. This might affect their confidence in their capacities and diminish their chances of actively participating in POs, especially in leadership positions.

21. Depending on the local context, one specific barrier or a set of various aspects might be the causes for low membership of women in FFPOs and low presentation in decision-making processes.

Table 8. Indicative Gender Action Plan.

	Project activities (outputs and activities when relevant)	**Gender- sensitive indicators and targets**	**Entry points for gender mainstreaming**
	Creation of the Project Coordination Unit (PCU)	1 M&E and Gender Specialist contracted and engaged throughout of the project. She/he will assist project activities throughout project implementation and ensure that gender aspects are duly taken into account.	
1.1.1.1	Hold information/communication workshops on land policy and the objectives and actions envisaged by the project. As relevant, this may involve referring to / training on the Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure for land, forests and fisheries in the context of national food security		Gender aspects are fully mainstreamed into the Voluntary Guidelines, and will be communicated accordingly.
1.1.1.2	Carry out participatory diagnoses of natural resources and their use/allocation	Gender-sensitive diagnoses	Gender aspects will be surveyed (incl. differentiated access to and use of natural resources)
1.1.1.3	Carry out socio-tenure surveys involving participation at village level to validate this resource mapping	Gender-sensitive surveys % of women respondents	Gender aspects will be surveyed

1.1.1.5	Conduct complementary Climate Risk Assessments at the landscape level		The analysis of climate risks and vulnerabilities will include gender aspects
1.1.1.7	As necessary, train local facilitators in charge of the participatory design of restoration plans on the tools and methodology identified under Activity 1.1.1.6	At least 50 % of women trained	
1.1.2.1	Identify existing platforms in the target communes, with potential gaps in terms of representation. Define a preliminary list of relevant stakeholders in each target landscape and collectively establish or, for existing platforms, suggest revision to the terms of reference for each platform, ensuring proper consideration of women and indigenous people participation.	Gender-sensitive ToRs	?Ensure gender aspects are fully included in the ToRs of the multi-stakeholder platforms, which will provide a basis for gender mainstreaming into the agenda of the frameworks. ?Provide women with an enabling space to express their viewpoints without fears of being confronted
1.1.2.2	Following the terms of references of each platform, organize periodical plenary and task force meetings.	Gender-disaggregated attendance lists	
1.1.2.4	Promote the mainstreaming of multi-stakeholder platforms into existing legal and regulatory frameworks, with a view to facilitate the upscaling of such platforms at the national level.		Highlight the benefits of platforms in terms of women empowerment & contribution to the national gender policies & strategies.

1.1.3.2	In each target site, support the establishment of Conseils coutumiers, Conseils autochtones and Comite?s de gestion as per Manual requirement.		Equal participation of men and women to these committee will be sought, even though traditional gender differentiation may make reaching this objective difficult. Throughout the project, concrete actions will be taken to achieve participation targets in local committees and trainings, including: ? scheduling the meetings of the decision-making structures at times suitable for women participation ? providing women with an enabling space to express their viewpoints without fears of being confronted ? monitoring participation of women and taking immediate corrective measures if gender indicators and gender targets are not met ? as women play an important role for social cohesion, opportunities to strengthen this role in conflict-resolution mechanisms will be identified within COFOs as a possibility to mitigate the growing number of conflicts over natural resources. ?ensuring the participation of grassroots women living in remote agropastoral communities, including through the use of ICTs to overcome any budget or security-related challenges facing the participation of women in decision making.
1.1.4.1	Conduct a participatory diagnostic of existing community listening groups and community-based organizations and gender aspects in the target communes and identify capacity gaps.		The promotion of Dimitra?s Clubs is part of the gender-transformative strategy of the project. Dimitra clubs are informal groups mainly composed of women, who discuss common problems and determine
1.1.4.2	Train facilitators (women and men) on the methodology of Dimitra Clubs		

1.1.4.3	Create and support Dimitra Clubs in the target communes	Number of Dimitra clubs established or community listening groups consolidated At least 70% of participants of Community listening groups or Dimitra Club are women	ways to address them by acting together and using local resources. Dimitra Clubs create also a space to also take action in relation with community social norms and behaviours affecting women, thereby strengthening women?s leadership. As women play an important role for social cohesion, opportunities to strengthen this role in conflict-resolution mechanisms will be identified within Dimitra Clubs or existing listening clubs. This opportunity to operationalise this peace building - protection of natural resources - women?s empowerment nexus (part of the humanitarian?development?peace nexus) will be assessed by the M&E and Gender expert[13].
1.1.4.4	Promote linkages and partnerships between Dimitra Clubs and other components		
2.1.2.3	Support the establishment of community-managed nurseries to provide seedlings for the restoration activities and beyond		Community nurseries may be managed by women, as this is an activity often popular among women.
2.1.2.4	Provide technical and business training to community members (esp. women and youths) for the sustainable management of nurseries	At least 50 % of women trained	
2.1.2.6	Set up community seed banks, provide seedlings as required as well as small planting equipment for enrichment planting		Seed banks may be managed by women, as this is an activity often popular among women.
3.1.1.1	Conduct a baseline analysis of existing FFPOs in the target landscapes, as well as umbrella FFPOs at the prefecture and/or national level.		Gender representation & benefits will be an analysis criterion
3.1.1.2	Based on the baseline analysis and, *inter alia*, exchanges held in the multistakeholder platforms supported under Component 1, identify opportunities to: i) support existing FFPOs; and ii) support the establishment of new FFPOs where relevant.	Women make up at least 50% of the members of supported FFPOs	As relevant, women?s FFPOs may be created.

3.1.1.3	Conduct an assessment of capacity-building needs among identified existing FFPOs in terms of: i) cooperative governance; ii) financial literacy; and iii) understanding of climate impacts on their activities.		Specific capacity building needs for women will be analysed.
3.1.1.4	Depending on results of Activity 3.1.21, support the establishment of new FFPOs where needed (drafting of ToRs, registration following national regulations, facilitation of first meetings etc.)	% of women in newly established FFPOs	Gender aspects (representation, needs etc.) will be mainstreamed into the ToRs of the FFPOs
3.1.1.5	For both new and existing FFPOs, organize training sessions on: i) cooperative governance; ii) financial literacy; and iii) understanding of climate impacts on their activities.	At least 50 % of women trained	
3.1.2.1	Conduct market study to assess of selected value chains to support the climate resilience of target communities through: i) potential to withstand current and future climate conditions; and ii) potential for increased value-added.		Gender will be taken into account when selecting products for which the market will be studied.
3.1.2.2	Select the FFPOs to benefit from the micro processing units, post-harvest storage units and other small-scale investments for agro-sylvo-pastoral products		As relevant, gender representation can be included as a selection criterion for FFPOs to be supported. This will be discussed with local women?s associations and representatives from the MPGPFFE in due time.
3.1.2.3	Support selected FFPOs groups to formalize a management plan for their investments.		
3.1.2.4	Support FFPOs for the development of micro-projects to facilitate market access of and increase value-added from climate-resilient ASP products		
3.1.2.5	Organize specific technical training, coaching and support to increase the technical capacity of beneficiaries to conduct the target activities	At least 50 % of women trained	

3.1.3.1	Develop a draft APFS implementation strategy		To build gender-sensitive APFS approach, the project will make sure to: ? Select attractive learning module for women, such as nutrition and commercialisation modules. ? Schedule all relevant activities (trainings, graduation, surveys, APFS preparation sessions) at times suitable for women participation. ? When possible, hire cooks to prepare local foods to serve during the sessions and to care for children. ? Give priority to women regarding group leadership roles assignment (treasurer, chairwoman, secretary, advisor). ? Provide women with an enabling space to express their viewpoints without fears of being confronted ? Use the ?special session? of the APFS training to mainstream gender issues. ? When possible, hire women to conduct the ?special sessions? of APFS trainings. When possible, mobilise women extension agents in order to give more role models for women.
3.1.3.3	Conduct a survey of agroecological and forestry innovations and practices already used in the target areas and that can be seen as ?pre-tested? by local innovators (?*traque aux innovations*?).		Knowledge specific to women, if any, will be surveyed.
3.1.3.5	Select future master trainers	At least 50 % of women	Whenever possible, the project will target women for training sessions but due to structural reasons explained in the Gender Analysis, it is difficult to train as many women as men as trainers

3.1.3.6	Organize initial training sessions for master trainers on the APFS approach and climate-resilient regenerative ASP practices	At least 50 % of women trained	The project will ensure that gender aspects are fully included in the tailored training programmes, which will provide a basis for the mainstreaming of gender aspects into APFS curricula.
3.1.3.7	Organize training sessions for master trainers on Farmer Field and Business Schools (FFBS)/ Farmer Marketing Schools.	At least 50 % of women trained	
3.1.3.9	Conduct a rapid survey of needs and interests of farmers in target communities to be carried out before the training of facilitators with a view to inform the organization and content of facilitators? training.	Gender-sensitive survey	Needs specific to women will be surveyed The survey methodology will ensure that women?s voice can be adequately captured.
3.1.3.10	Develop training plans for the training of facilitators based on existing curricula.	Gender-sensitive training plans	
3.1.3.11	Select future facilitators	At least 50 % of women	
3.1.3.12	Organize initial training sessions for new facilitators as well as initial refresher training for existing facilitators on the APFS approach, climate-resilient ASP practices and gender-sensitive development	At least 50 % of women trained Integration of 1 awareness raising on gender aspects module into the recycling training	A first assessment of this module will be led, and the module will be strengthened if necessary.
3.1.3.14	Organize at least two refresher training sessions for facilitators	At least 50 % of women trained Integration of 1 awareness raising on gender aspects module into the recycling training	A first assessment of this module will be led, and the module will be strengthened if necessary.
3.1.4.1	Carry out participatory diagnoses in target communities to identify farmers? priorities, characterize farm systems and jointly identify climate-resilient ASP practices to be tested	Gender-sensitive diagnoses	Priorities specific to women will be surveyed The diagnosis methodology will ensure that women?s voice can be adequately captured.

3.1.4.2	Set up and facilitate APFS training sessions	At least 50 % of women trained	In African countries, the participation of women in APFS has thus far lagged behind male involvement. To address this situation, actions will be taken to better integrate women?s participation to APFSs? activities, including: ? Develop a strategy for the inclusion of women in APFS activities at the beginning of the project. The best practices from past and ongoing projects of APFS in terms of women mobilisation will be gathered, and will inform this strategy. ? Select value chains from a gender perspective in order to guarantee that women are not excluded from the proposed activities of APFS. ?Set gender-specific indicators and targets
4.1.1.1	Co-develop and implement the participatory MEL plan	Gender aspects integrated to the monitoring and the evaluation of the	All the project?s gender aspects will be monitored and evaluated

4.1.1.2	Organize workshops to review the project?s MEL system and train local stakeholders on M&E tools at project inception and at regular intervals.	project The gender sensitivity and gender responsiveness of the project will be evaluated in both the MTR and the TE.	including through the indicators of this Gender Action Plan and as foreseen in the MEL plan. A set of gender-responsive indicators was developed in order to facilitate the deployment of gender-sensitive activities. These gender-responsive indicators also allow proper monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming and gender benefits of the projects. The assessment of project?s gender dimension will therefore be an important element of both the mid-term review and the independent terminal evaluation.
4.1.1.7	Based on lessons learned from the proposed project as well as from other relevant initiative, develop, discuss and validate a practical manual for establishment and management of community forests in the CAR.		Gender aspects will be mainstreamed into the manual, as relevant.
4.2.1.1	At the end of each APFS, organize open days to share results of experimentation and learning with the rest of the community.		Women will be encouraged to attend and hear from other women about their particular perspective on the APFS experience.
4.2.1.2	Organize regional open days in APFSs in Y3 to which local/regional decision-makers can participate to understand the results of activities and potential of practices tested.		Representatives of women?s associations as well as the MPGPFFE will be invited
4.2.1.3	Organize field visits for local communities and authorities to get exposure to other, successful CF initiatives (Cameroon, DRC) with demonstrated impacts in terms of resilience building.	50% of women participants	
4.2.1.4	As relevant, organize exchange visits for FFPOs active in selected value chains to learn from other producer?s organizations with experience in the same value chains.	50% of women participants	Gender aspects to be mentioned in experience sharing; showcasing of women-led initiatives
4.2.2.1	Prepare and publish annual briefs and case studies	Number of briefs & case studies focused on gender and/or adopting a gender lens	Including at least one that is gender-focused on the project?s accomplishments, experiences and lessons learned

4.2.2.2	Organize two South-South knowledge-exchange visits (one in Cameroon and one in DRC) for government, scientific and civil society partners to capitalize on experiences in terms of climate resilience and participative forestry.	50% of women participants	Focus on gender aspects in the knowledge exchange visits
4.2.2.3	Based on experience from the Dryland Sustainable Landscape Impact Program (DSL IP), implement participatory video methodologies to develop community-centered videos for wider dissemination.		Gender aspects to be mentioned in experience sharing
4.2.2.4	Develop innovative knowledge products destined to local communities, such as comic books in local languages on climate adaptation, participatory forestry, natural resource management etc.	Number of knowledge products with specific mainstreaming of gender aspects	
4.2.2.5	Participate in webinars and other global events to share knowledge generated under the project.	Number of webinars & global events where gender aspects are communicated	

[1] See Annex P for the gender analysis conducted during the PPG phase.

[2] Source: UNDP & UN Women, 2021.

[3] MEDD. 2022. Pour un processus du Plan national d?Adaptation (PNA) qui r?pond aux questions de genre en R?publique Centrafricaine. Minist?re de l?Environnement et du D?veloppement Durable (MEDD) et R?seau mondial de PNA / Institut international du d?veloppement durable (IISD). Available here.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Source: UNDP, 2018.

[6] Tabapssi T. 2019. Strat?gie sectorielle ?galit? de genre et r?duction de la pauvret?.

[7] As of 2018, women?s literacy rate was estimated at 26% compared to 50% for men. Source: World Bank. The parity index developed by the Central African Institute of Statistics and Economic and Social Studies in 2010, shows the gap in school enrollment between girls and boys is more pronounced in rural (rate of 0.71), than in urban areas (0.97). This discrimination against girls is higher when their mother has no education (0.70), and higher in the poorest (0.59) than in the richest households (0.97).

[8] Source: MADR, 2013.

[9] GoCAR. 2022. Initial National Adaptation Plan. Accessible here.

[10] Ibid.

[11] Data source: FFF Gender Assessment, January 2017

[12] Kaaria S et al. 2016. Rural women?s participation in producer organizations: An analysis of the barriers that women face and strategies to foster equitable and effective participation. *In* Journal of Gender, Agriculture and Food Security, Vol. 1, pp.148-167.
[13] See also specific work conducted by FAO on this nexus in Yemen (here and here).

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Does the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

1. Private sector involvement will be key to the success of the project?s interventions, and to scale up its impacts. The project will contribute to the generation of income for local communities, in particular through the work on specific value chains. This will help secure rural livelihoods, thereby strenthening the resilience of local communities. The direct beneficiaries of the project are small-scale farmers and value chain actors, representing local private sector within the project boundary.

2. Components 2 and 3 are specifically geared towards private sector engagement. Interventions in these components are targeted at enhancing local private sector capacity and fostering entrepreneurship through value chain development of forest and agricultural products as a means to building climate resilience in vulnerable communities. The interventions aim to link smallholder producers, and particularly women, to markets, introduce sustainable supply chains, and create improved and sustainable revenues from forest and agricultural commodities.

3. In line with the GEF Private Sector Strategy, the private sector will be involved in the project through the following mechanisms and entry points:

? multi-stakeholder platforms at the landscape level (Output 1.1.2), that will bring together all key actors involved in agro-sylvo-pastoral food systems resilience and investment. Private sector representatives will be particularly involved in thematic taskforces focused on the economic aspects of territorial organization (investment opportunities, infrastructure building etc.), as these can serve as a vehicle to attract stakeholders and facilitate exchanges about best agroecology practices, climate-smart agriculture and land-use planning. For example, setting up a space where producers can have mediated discussions with collectors and bulk buyers will help the former better understand market demand; this in turn will create opportunities to discuss how land use can be optimized at the farm and forest level to adapt to seasonal demand;

? capacity development through Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (Output 3.1.1) as well as Farmer Field Schools (3.1.4). FFPOs help their members innovate and implement practical solutions for resilience. They embrace nature-based solutions, often grounded in sustainable forestry and agroecological practices, and inclusive management and service solutions that promote participatory governance, integrated landscape management and efficiency in service provision through technological advances. Farmer Field Schools are the preferred instrument for smallholder private agricultural producers to learn new climate resilient techniques that can be readily applied in their daily economic activity;

? investment support through; i) business advisory to develop bankable, climate-adapted, nature-based business plans; and ii) small grants to be provided to selected FFPO entrepreneurs; and

? knowledge management, including through: i) the Hand-in-Hand Initiative to facilitate matchmaking between investors and entrepreneurs (Output 4.1.1); and ii) exchange visits, both domestically and regionally, for private sector members to learn from others on production and business practices (Output 4.2.1).

4. As noted in the GEF-7 Programming Directions and reaffirmed in the GEF?s Private Sector Engagement Strategy (2019), ?platforms are vitally needed to bring key actors, including businesses, together to encourage them to transition to sustainable business practices.? The proposed project will establish such platforms under Component 1, with a view to structure discussions on the development of territorial markets among all relevant stakeholders (including producers represented by producers? organisations and /or FFPO & APFS groups, market intermediaries, such as collectors and resellers, investors and suppliers of agricultural inputs).

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

In the section below, elaborate on indicated risks **to the project**, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.

?

Description of risk	Impact[1]	Probability of occurence3	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Return to widespread conflict and violence	High	Medium	The project will promote as much as possible collaboration with local NGOs and institutions for on-the-ground implementation to mitigate potential risk of not being able to execute due to UN rules and regulations. Local NGOs and CSOs are generally less impacted by conflict with respect to national or international development partners. To this end, the project focuses on strengthening the capacities to adapt to climate change of local community groups, as agents of change. Furthermore, the project interventions aim to support social cohesion through the implementation of FFPOs, APFS, Club Dimitra to promote not only good agricultural practices but also good governance.	FAO & project executing partners; local authorities
Political instability	Medium	Medium	The country will go through protracted period of elections in December 2023 (local elections, postponed from January 2023), which could be contested. This could have an influence on project support at the ground level as extension officers would be limited to the capital. The project would promote the utilization of local-based NGOs/partners as much as possible to support project implementations.	FAO & project executing partners; local authorities
Institutional capacity for implementation	Medium	Medium	Capacity assessments of the partners were conducted and the institutional arrangements for the project were designed accordingly. The risks will be mitigated by having WWF and African Parks execute most of field activities, with the MEFCP and MEDD providing execution support for selected activities.	FAO, WWF, African Parks, MEFCP, MEDD

Lack of interest at prefectural/communal levels	Low	Medium	Extensive consultations were conducted during PPG to ensure that the project aligns with local needs. The project will ensure early involvement of selected communes/prefectures in the inception phase to get full ownership of planned interventions in line with local needs and priorities.	Executing partners, local authorities
Limited capacity/knowledge on adaptation measures	Low	High	Research organizations will be supported to ensure latest science is available to support project interventions, and knowledge/best practices will also be shared with and from other projects.	FAO, executing partners, LERSA, other scientific partners
Local, regional and/or global measures to contain impacts from pandemics (such as Covid-19) and their repercussions on availability of technical expertise, engage stakeholders, and secure financing	Medium	High	During implementation, the project will follow all sanitary measures to interact with stakeholders and the project itself will promote sustainable management of forest ecosystems and promote income generating activities based on sustainable utilization of natural resources and as such build back better. To overcome concerns in mobilizing the technical expertise to support project design and implementation, the project will work as much as possible with locally rooted (CSOs, NGOs, government institutes, extension services, ?) organizations and realities in order to minimize the impacts of limitations on mobility at the national and international level. Technological alternatives to face-to-face consultations will be deployed, securing proper participation and engagement of all relevant stakeholder groups, including women and youth.	FAO, all project partners
Local, regional and/or global measures to contain impacts from pandemics (such as Covid-19) and their repercussions on availability of technical expertise, engage stakeholders, and secure financing	Medium	Low	As government priorities potentially shift to address crises (health or other), the project will deliver evidence and increase its sensitization and awareness raising and capacity development efforts in order to advocate for continued support to green and resilient recovery. Financial resources from co-financiers will be reassessed throughout implementation.	FAO

Climate-induced hazards	Medium	Medium	The project aims to enhance the resilience of local communities and as such will analyze climate risks with local communities and experts to ensure minimizing future climate risks. For example, heat-tolerant and resilient seeds/crops would be promoted as well as diversification of livelihoods. At the landscape level, the integrated planning approach used would identify the necessary mitigation actions (restoration, reforestation, flood management). Synergies will be sought with other projects focusing on climate information data and services.	FAO, executing partners
Corruption and poor governance within all institutions, including the FFPOs can result in concentration of power and benefits by the elite and men.	Medium	Medium	Continuous self-assessment, training on governance, strong monitoring and learning systems help foster inclusion, transparency and good governance. Special focus will be on ensuring gender equality and increasing respective capacities within partner structures and processes.	Executing partners
The legal and regulatory frameworks is not suited to accommodate community forestry initiatives, resulting in the impossibility to implement CF-related initiatives under the project.	Low	High	Fully aware of this risk, the PPG team has held extensive consultations to ensure that: i) the legal framework is evolving (with the support of ongoing projects) to create an enabling regulatory environment for the establishment of CFs ; and ii) past challenges in CF experiments in CAR were due to factors that are under the project control (e.g. inadequate selection of sites ; lack of prior engagement with the MEFCP).	MEFCP

[1] H: High; M: Moderate; L: Low.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

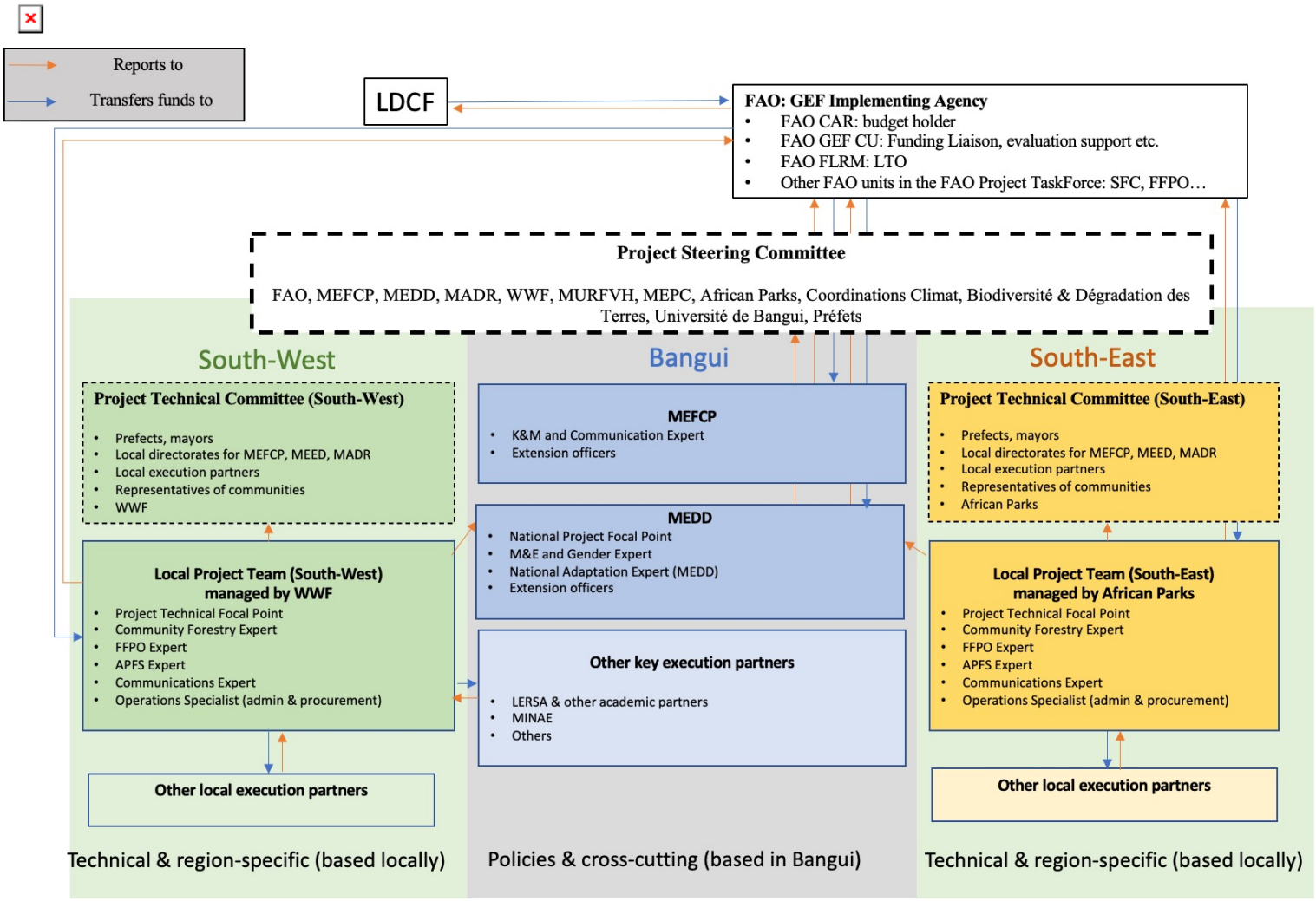
Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

1. WWF and African Parks will have the overall executing and technical responsibility for the project, in coordination with MEDD and MEFCP which will execute specific activities and ensure the facilitation of national processes, with FAO providing oversight as GEF Agency as described below. WWF and African Parks will act as the lead executing agencies and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreements signed with FAO. As OPs of the project,

WWF and African Parks will be responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

The project organization structure is as follows:

Figure 16. Institutional arrangements.


Reports to
Transfers funds to
LDCF
FAO: GEF Implementing Agency
FAO CAR: budget holder
FAO GEF CU: Funding Liaison, evaluation support etc.
FAO FLRM: LTO
Other FAO units in the FAO Project TaskForce: SFC, FFPO…
Project Steering Committee
FAO, MEFCP, MEDD, MADR, WWF, MURFVH, MEPC, African Parks, Coordinations Climat, Biodiversité & Dégradation des Terres, Université de Bangui, Préfets
South-West
Bangui
South-East
Project Technical Committee (South-West)
Prefects, mayors
Local directorates for MEFCP, MEED, MADR
Local execution partners
Representatives of communities
WWF
MEFCP
K&M and Communication Expert
Extension officers
Project Technical Committee (South-East)
Prefects, mayors
Local directorates for MEFCP, MEED, MADR
Local execution partners
Representatives of communities
African Parks
MEDD
National Project Focal Point
M&E and Gender Expert
National Adaptation Expert (MEDD)
Extension officers
Local Project Team (South-West) managed by WWF
Project Technical Focal Point
Community Forestry Expert
FFPO Expert
APFS Expert
Communications Expert
Operations Specialist (admin & procurement)
Other key execution partners
LERSA & other academic partners
MINAE
Others
Local Project Team (South-East) managed by African Parks
Project Technical Focal Point
Community Forestry Expert
FFPO Expert
APFS Expert
Communications Expert
Operations Specialist (admin & procurement)
Other local execution partners
Other local execution partners
Technical & region-specific (based locally)
Policies & cross-cutting (based in Bangui)
Technical & region-specific (based locally)

2. The government will designate a National Project Focal Point (NPFP). Located in the MEDD, the NPFP will be be responsible for coordinating national-level activities in close collaboration with WWF and African Parks, liaising with national institutions, as well as with the project partners. She/ He will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Local Project Teams (see below) on the government policies and priorities.

3. The NPFP (or designated person from lead national institution) will chair the Project Steering Committee which will be the main governing body of the project. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets on an yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners. The PSC will be comprised of representatives from FAO, MEFCP, MEDD, MADR, WWF, MURFVH, MEPC, African Parks, Coordinations Climat, Biodiversit? & D?gradation des Terres, Universit? de Bangui as well as Pr?fets.

4. The members of the PSC will each assure the role of a Focal Points for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project.

5. The PSC will meet at least twice per year to ensure: i) Oversight and assurance of technical quality of outputs; ii) Close linkages between the project and other ongoing projects and programmes relevant to the project; iii) Timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support; iv) Sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication; v) Effective coordination of government partner work under this project; vi) Approval of the six-monthly Project Progress and Financial Reports, the Annual Work Plan and Budget; vii) Making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the National Project Coordinator of the PMU.

6. Project Technical Committees will be established in South-West and South-East CAR. These consultative committees will be composed of WWF/ African Parks, Pr?fets, mayors, representatives from the local directorates of MEFCP, MEDD and MADR, local exection partners and representatives of communities. They will meet on an ad hoc basis to advise on the execution of activities at the regional level.

7. Local Project Teams will be co-funded by the GEF and established in South-West and South-East CAR, with additional coordination positions located in Bangui under the MEDD and MEFCP. The main functions of the Local Project Teams, following the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs). Local Project Teams will be placed under WWF and African Parks in South-West and South-East CAR, respectively. They will be lead by Project Technical Focal Points.

8. The Project Technical Focal Points will be in charge of daily implementation, management, administration and technical supervision of the project, on behalf of the Operational partners and within the framework delineated by the PSC. They will be responsible, among others, for:

9. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex J for details):
   - ? the Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day to day project execution;
   - ? the Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;
   - ? the Funding Liasion Officer(s) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being carried out and reporting done in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.

10. FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:
   - ? administrating funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
   - ? overseeing project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s)and other rules and procedures of FAO;
   - ? providing technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
   - ? conducting at least one supervision mission per year; and
   - ? reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress;
   - ? financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

6.b Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

See Tables 5 and 6.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

1. The CAR has signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and ratified it in 1995. The country also signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2007 and 2008, respectively. CAR submitted two National Communications (NC) to the UNFCCC (2003, 2015) and is about to submit its Third NC. The NCs highlight the vulnerability of the agriculture sector due to its dependance on rainwater and a decline of productivity due to anticipated climate change. It also stated that the extreme weather events would cause changes in reproduction periods of certain species, in the duration of planting season and possible increase of mortality for both plant and animal species which will affect the overall composition in forest ecosystems. These mutations will affect the forestry industry, ecotourism potential, the supply of Non-Timber-Forest-Products (NTFPs), traditionnal pharmacopoeia and these will reduce the livelihoods of the rural communities depending on the natural resources.

2. The proposed project responds to key government priorities for climate change adaptation in the CAR. The project will contribute to the overarching objective of the revised NDC[1] (2021) focusing on sustainable, low-carbon development and growing resilience of the sectors of agriculture and food security, heath, management of natural resources and infrastructure against the advers effects of climate change. Agriculture and food security are identified as the sectors most vulnerable to climate change, leading to the overall objective of ensuring the security of agro-sylvo-pastoral systems and water resources, by capturing opportunities associated with projected climatic variations. Specifically, the project is in alignment with the following identified adaptation priorities: i) disseminate high-performance cultivation techniques likely to bring about a sustainable improvement in productivity and the preservation of the environment in a context of climate change; ii) promote sustainable land management of agroforestry systems for sustainable soil management; iii) ensure the reforestation of degraded areas; iv) develop natural resource zoning adapted to the current and anticipated climate change; v) strengthen the technical and technical and material capacity of stakeholders on agroforestry etc.

3. In addition, the CAR submitted its Initial National Adaptation Plan (NAP)[2] in 2021. The NAP identifies a number of entry points for the mainstreaming of adaptation into sectoral planning. Aligned with the national vision, its medium- and long-term objective is "to improve the country's resilience, particularly in the sectors of agriculture, food security, health, natural resource management and infrastructure, to cope with the adverse effects of climate change". Among the eight prioritized operational directions identified in the NAP, the proposed project will particularly contribute to the following :

? 1. Establish governance that anticipates climate change ;
? 2. Raising public awareness, education, training and capacity building on climate change;
? 4. Strengthen measures to adapt to the effects of climate change;
? 7. Strengthen research for technology development, extension and transfer, and the production of appropriate information and data; and
? 8. Promote and strengthen sub-regional and international.

4. The proposed project will contribute to the implementation of some of the priority measured proposed in the CAR?s National REDD+ Investment Framework for 2020-2025 in order to achieve a reduction in GHG coming from deforestation and degradation of forests, to enhance forest carbon

stocks and socio-economic cobenefits. This contributes to realizing the goals set in the revised NDC, namely reducing 24.28% of the emissions by 2030, while having 100,000 ha placed under best agroforestry practices and reducing slash-and-burn agriculture by 60% by 2030.

5. The CAR has submitted their National Adaptation Programme of Action to the UNFCCC in 2008 aimed to determine urgent interventions to adapt to climate change. A major focus was on the agriculture, forestry and agroforestry due to their high climate vulnerability, and this project will contribute to the following prioritized adaptation options in the agriculture and food security and forestry sectors:

? mitigation of climate risk impacts on the agricultural production and food security; and

? prevention of forest degradation and rational management of forest resources.

6. The project will contribute to the overall Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target set by the country in 2017 to improve the state of more than 15% of the national territory (1,227,415.2 ha) by 2030 through coordinated actions on the restoration and conservation of degraded landscapes. The project will contribute to the following specific targets: (i) restore 50% of the vegetation cover (19,384 ha) by 2030 with reference to the 2010 baseline; (ii) by 2030, reduce by 50% land productivity loss and improve 25% of the biomass all throughout the national territory relative to the 2010 baseline; (iii) by 2030, increase by 10% the amount of soil organic carbon and reduce by 5% the GHG emissions as laid out in the INDC; (iv) reduce by at least 50% the conversion of gallery forests into agricultural lands, with reference to the 2010 baseline.

Table 9. International conventions, treaties, engagements relevant to the proposed LDCF project.

Convention / treaty	Date	Related national plans and actions
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1996	- 2009-2019 National Action Plan for fight against Land Degradation (PAN-LCD) and Mid-term National Investment Plan on Sustainable Land Management (PNIMT) - Voluntary targets of LDN in 2018
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Kyoto Protocol	1995 2008	- Three National Communications in 2003, 2015 and 2022 (to be submitted) - National Adaptation Programme of Action in 2008 - Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and associated implementation guide in 2015 under the Paris Agreement - Revised NDC (2021) - Initial NAP (2022)
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)	1995	- 2000-2015 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	1980	- Draft National Plan for the Sustainable Management of Wildlife 2017-2019

REDD+ process and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility	2008	- REDD+ Plan Idea Note in 2013 - REDD+ National Investment Framework in 2019
Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative	2011	- VPA signed in 2011 and ratified in 2012
Treaty on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa	2005	- Adoption of COMIFAC Convergence Plan for the Sustainable Management of the forest ecosystems with Priority 4 focusing on climate change and desertification - Subregional guidelines on sustainable management of NTFPs in 2007 - Adoption of revised Convergence Plan 2015-2025 with 6 priority intervention areas: i) harmonization of forestry and environmental policies; ii) sustainable management and exploitation of forest resources; iii) conservation and sustainable utilisation of biological diversity; iv) fight against climate change impacts and desertification; v) socio-Economic development and multi-stakeholder engagement; and vi) sustainable financing.
Bonn Challenge and AFR100[3]	2016	- 3,5 Mha to be restored by 2030 generating both economic (1,099 million USD) and climate (0,33 $GtCO_2$ sequestered) co-benefits.

[1] Accessible here.

[2] Accessible here.

[3] African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

1. Supervision and monitoring missions will be carried out during project implementation. A framework for gender-sensitive Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) will be developed before implementation starts to identify relevant indicators and procedure for feedback and reporting. Special emphasis will be laid on targeting the most relevant parameters that can be examined and collected internally. The information collected in the context of M&E will feed into activities for knowledge management, identify and share good practices, identify problems and constraints, and promote the continuous improvement of the project and its contribution to the implementation of national and regional objectives on food security and environmental protection.

2. Internally, the knowledge management & communication approach will focus on information sharing, regular dialogue at all levels and the dissemination of documents. Externally, it will focus on the dissemination of information to partners (government, civil society, etc.) and to beneficiaries. In particular, lessons learned from the implementation of APFS though the proposed project but also through other initiatives in the CAR will be documented and disseminated to elicit similar initiatives nationally and in neighbouring countries (also taking into account international experience, for example from Cameroon and DRC ? cf. Component 4). Appropriate channels of communication (technical guidelines, radio, posters, brochures etc.) will be used to target specific stakeholders, in appropriate languages (French, Sango, English). This will include international platforms such as the upcoming FAO Regional Technical Platform for Africa and the Global Farmer Field School Platform. The Global and Regional Platforms established under the GEF Impact Programmes (Congo Basin, FOLUR) will provide good vehicles to share knowledge generated by the project and capture lessons learned from other projects. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration also will provide an opportunity for the project to share project outputs and learn from other initiatives. Outreach will be planned with FAO?s Forestry Department Communications Team. A Knowledge Management & Communication Expert will be recruited to support the implementation of the MEL & communication strategy throughout project implementation.

3. During the PPG phase, special attention has been given to incorporate lessons learned from past relevant projects into this project?s design. In particular, the table below identifies how key lessons learned and recommendations from the mid-term review of the GEF-funded project TRI in the CAR have been taken into account.

Table 10. Capitalisation on key lessons learned and recommendations from the Mid-Term Review of FAO-GEF TRI project in the CAR.

Key lessons learned & recommendations	Capitalisation in proposed project
There is need to raise local communities? awareness about the effects of climate variability and change, particularly through: i) assisted natural regeneration of their forest and savanna ecosystems; and ii) application of nature-based solutions that include resilient local varieties of trees, shrubs and plants, especially those with local uses.	The whole LDCF project intervention strategy is centred on strengthening the climate resilience of local communities through a menu of interventions, including awareness raising, training, FLR etc.
Lack of qualitative monitoring to capture lessons learned and good practices at all levels to support further development of knowledge products; and an effective communication strategy to support informed decision-making on project activities.	The proposed project will implement strong M&E, knowledge management and communication strategies. Significant budget has been planned to support related activities (esp. under Component 4).
The PMU should recruit a communications specialist who is fluent in Sango and French to design a communications plan (project logo, slogan, advertorial, outreach, site sponsorships, skits, T-shirts, etc.) to stakeholders.	A KM & Communication Expert will be recruited. ToRs will reflect the need for fluency in Sango and French.

Long-term research and training programs on FLR to be developed and implemented by relevant faculties and institutes within the University of Bangui, (after initial training and support from the TRI-CAR project).	Research institutions will be involved in the project, and supported to produce research on the project outcomes under Component 4.
It is strongly recommended that the project support high resolution map development tools (preferably with the support of the PAG) to ensure the land use plan and maps for each project pilot site.	The LDCF project will support the development of GIS systems and databases at the municipal level under Component 1.
When complex policy, legal, and regulatory activities depend on achieving project objectives, provisions for a policy expert should be identified in the project design.	National and international policy experts will be recruited.
The commitment of universities and national research institutes (such as UB/LERSA) should be capitalized on to seize opportunities to develop the train-the-trainer principle to facilitate the ownership, development, and application of long-term training and research on PTR.	The training of trainers principle will be implemented, especially through APFSs. Research institutions will be involved, as relevant.

Table 11. Indicative knowledge management activities, deliverables and budget.

		Key deliverables	Budget (USD)	Y1				Y2				Y3				Y4				Y5			
				Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
1.1.1.1	Hold information/communication workshops on land policy and the objectives and actions envisaged by the project	Communication material	49,000		X	X																	
1.1.1.2	Carry out participatory diagnoses of natural resources	Diagnoses	105,000		X	X																	
1.1.1.3	Carry out socio-tenure surveys	Surveys	175,000			X																	

1.1.1.4	Create and consolidate Geographic Information Systems/GIS leading to Land Information Systems/LIS at the level of the communes. Organize a training on tenure software solutions identified jointly with an international tenure expert.	GIS outputs & systems	53,450			X	X																	
1.1.1.5	Conduct complementary Climate Risk Assessments	Climate Risk Assessments	28,050			X	X																	
1.1.1.6	Identify most suitable tools and approaches for participatory diagnostic with simple indicators of climate-change affected agro-ecosystems, based on recognised methodologies for assessing ecosystem services, such as ROAM	ROAM outputs	110,000		X																			
1.1.1.7	As necessary, train local facilitators in charge of the participatory design of restoration plans	Training reports	N/A: conducted by core project team					X	X															
1.1.1.9	Organize information/communication workshops on land and forestry policy, and the objectives and process of integrating climate change adaptation into development plans	Communication material	50,350			X		X		X														

1.1.2.3	Produce and disseminate an annual stocktaking brief summarizing the outcomes of each platform.	Stocktaking briefs	N/A: conducted by core project team				X				X				X				X			X	
1.1.3.1	Hold awareness-raising sessions on the concept, benefits (esp. for CCA) and constraints associated with CFs in each target sites.	Awareness-raising material	22,800			X	X																
1.1.4.1	Conduct a participatory diagnostic of existing community listening groups and community-based organizations and gender aspects in the target communes and identify capacity gaps.	Diagnostic	225,550	X	X																		
1.1.4.2	Train facilitators (women and men) on the methodology of Dimitra Clubs	Training reports	1,200		X	X																	
2.1.1.1	Support the development of climate-resilient PGSs for three CFs through animation of working groups (grouping local bodies and relevant authorities) and consultations.	PGSs	240,120						X	X	X												
2.1.2.1	Based on PGSs, other land-use plans and the assessment of climate-change affected ecosystem services, support the participatory design of restoration plans for degraded forests	Restoration plans	15,000									X	X										

2.1.2.4	Provide technical and business training to community members (esp. women and youths) for the sustainable management of nurseries	Training reports	4,200													X	X							
3.1.1.1	Conduct a baseline analysis of existing FFPOs in the target landscapes, as well as umbrella FFPOs at the prefecture and/or national level.	Baseline analysis	125,300		X	X																		
3.1.1.3	Conduct an assessment of capacity-building needs among identified existing FFPOs in terms of: i) cooperative governance; ii) financial literacy; and iii) understanding of climate impacts on their activities.	Capacity needs assessment	10,000					X	X															
3.1.1.5	For both new and existing FFPOs, organize training sessions on: i) cooperative governance; ii) financial literacy; and iii) understanding of climate impacts on their activities.	Training reports	6,600									X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X			

3.1.2.1	Conduct market study to assess of selected value chains to support the climate resilience of target communities through: i) potential to withstand current and future climate conditions; and ii) potential for increased value-added.	Market studies	11,700							X	X													
3.1.2.5	Organize specific technical training, coaching and support to increase the technical capacity of beneficiaries to conduct the target activities	Training reports	10,400											X	X					X	X			
3.1.3.1	Develop a draft APFS implementation strategy	APFS implementation strategy	8,320			X																		
3.1.3.2	Organize a workshop to discuss and validate the APFS implementation strategy	Workshop proceedings	1,000					X																
3.1.3.3	Conduct a survey of agroecological and forestry innovations and practices already used in the target areas and that can be seen as ?pre-tested? by local innovators (?*traque aux innovations*?).	Surveys	1,950			X																		
3.1.3.4	Organize at least two technical workshops to develop a training curriculum for master trainers and facilitators	Training curriculum	37,140					X																

3.1.3.6	Organize initial training sessions for master trainers on the APFS approach and climate-resilient regenerative ASP practices	Training reports	75,000					X	X															
3.1.3.7	Organize training sessions for master trainers on Farmer Field and Business Schools (FFBS)/ Farmer Marketing Schools[1].	Training reports	15,000					X	X															
3.1.3.8	Organise refresher training sessions for master trainers, ? la carte	Training reports	30,000										X				X							
3.1.3.9	Conduct a rapid survey of needs and interests of farmers in target communities to be carried out before the training of facilitators with a view to inform the organization and content of facilitators? training.	Surveys	84,000			X	X																	
3.1.3.10	Develop training plans for the training of facilitators based on existing curricula	Training plans	10,000						X															
3.1.3.12	Organize initial training sessions for new facilitators as well as initial refresher training for existing facilitators on the APFS approach, climate-resilient ASP practices and gender-sensitive development	Training reports	240,000						X	X														

3.1.3.13	Develop market and business-oriented modules. Organize training sessions for facilitators on these custom modules.	Market modules, training reports	105,000						X																
3.1.3.14	Organize at least two refresher training sessions for facilitators	Training reports	70,000										X				X								
3.1.4.1	Carry out participatory diagnoses in target communities to identify farmers? priorities, characterize farm systems and jointly identify climate-resilient ASP practices to be tested	Diagnoses	N/A: conducted by core project team							X															
3.1.4.2	Set up and facilitate APFS training sessions	Training reports	120,000								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.1.1.1	Co-develop and implement the participatory MEL plan	MEL plan & outputs	35,500	X																					
4.1.1.3	Hold annual review and planning workshops.	Reviews of MEL plan	20,000	X				X				X				X				X					
4.1.1.4	Produce at least three grey literature publications and three scientific papers for publication in peer-reviewed, scientific journals , the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform for ecological monitoring etc.	Grey literature publications & scientific papers	50,000					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
4.1.1.5	Upload relevant project information and data (incl. GIS)	Uploaded data	N/A: conducted by core project team					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

4.1.1.6	Conduct an Environmental & Social Risk assessment in accordance with national & FAO guidelines once exact project sites are selected	Environmental & Social Risk assessment	11,800			X																		
4.1.1.7	Based on lessons learned from the proposed project as well as from other relevant initiative, develop, discuss and validate a practical manual for establishment and management of community forests in the CAR.	Manual for establishment and management of community forests	87,500							X	X	X	X	X	X									
4.2.1.1	At the end of each APFS, organize open days to share results of experimentation and learning with the rest of the community.	Informal knowledge exchange	112,000								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
4.2.1.2	Organize regional open days in APFSs in Y3 to which local/regional decision-makers can participate to understand the results of activities and potential of practices tested.	Informal knowledge exchange	50,000											X	X									
4.2.1.3	Organize field visits for local communities and authorities to get exposure to other, successful CF initiatives (Cameroon, DRC) with demonstrated impacts in terms of resilience building.	Travel plan, communication material	100,000											X	X				X	X				

4.2.1.4	As relevant, organize exchange visits for FFPOs active in selected value chains to learn from other producer?s organizations with experience in the same value chains.	Informal knowledge exchange	15,000									X	X							X	X			
4.2.2.1	Prepare and publish annual briefs and case studies	Briefs and case studies	36,000					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
4.2.2.2	Organize two South-South knowledge-exchange visits	Visit plan, communication material, proceedings	200,000								X							X						
4.2.2.3	Based on experience from the Dryland Sustainable Landscape Impact Program, implement participatory video methodologies to develop community-centered videos for wider dissemination.	Videos	40,000								X	X												
4.2.2.4	Develop innovative knowledge products destined to local communities, such as comic books in local languages on climate adaptation, participatory forestry, natural resource management etc.	Comic books	50,000									X	X											
4.2.2.5	Participate in webinars and other global events to share knowledge generated under the project.	Presentation material	N/A: conducted by core project team			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

1. The project results, as outlined in the project results framework (Annex A1), will be monitored regularly, reported annually and assessed during project implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results. Monitoring and evaluation activities will follow FAO and GEF?s policies and guidelines for monitoring and evaluation. The M&E system will also facilitate learning, replication of the project?s results and lessons which will feed the project?s knowledge management strategy.

Monitoring Arrangements

2. Project oversight and supervision will be carried out by the Budget Holder with the support of the PTF, LTO and FLO and relevant technical units in FAO headquarters. Oversight will ensure that: i) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective; iii) risks are continuously identified and monitored and appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and iv) agreed project adaptation benefits are being delivered.

3. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and HQ Technical units will provide oversight of GEF financed activities, outputs and outcomes largely through the annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), periodic backstopping and supervision missions.

4. Day-to-day project monitoring will be carried out by the Project Management Unit. Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At inception phase, the results matrix will be reviewed to finalise the identification of i) outputs ii) indicators iii) targets and iv) any missing baseline information

5. A detailed M&E System, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc) will also be developed during project inception by the PMU M&E specialist.

Table 12. Monitoring & Evaluation plan.

M&E activity	Responsible parties	Timeframe	GEF Budget (USD)
Project inception report	Project Manager	Within two weeks of inception workshop	None

Project Progress Reports (PPRs)	PMU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project?s Results Framework. The PPR will be submitted to the FAO BH and FAO LTO for comments and clearance. The FAO BH will upload the PPR on the FPMIS.	Every six months	None
Project Implementation Review report (PIR)	FAO LTO (in collaboration with the PMU) will prepare an annual PIR covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) to be submitted to the FAO BH and the GEF-Funding Liaison Officer	Annually in July	None
Co-financing reports	FAO CAR Representation office, supported by PMU	Annually	Co-financing
LDCF Core Indicators	PMU and reviewed by FAO LTO	At mid-point and end of project	Project staff time
M&E expertise: ? National focal point ? M&E and Gender expert	PMU	Continuous	 ? 69,000 ? 90,000
Mid-term Review	External consultant, FAO BH in consultation with PMU, GEF Coordination Unit and other partners.	In the 3rd quarter of the 3rd year of the project	45,000
Independent Terminal Evaluation	The BH will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date). The RES will manage the decentralized independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of OED.	At least six months before operational closure	60,000
Terminal report	FAO CAR Representation office / PMU	Within two months of project closure	7,000
Total Budget[1]			271,000

Monitoring and Reporting

6. In compliance with FAO and GEF M&E policies and requirements, the PMU, in consultation with the PSC and PTF will prepare the following: i) Project inception report; ii) Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B); iii) Project Progress Reports (PPRs); iv) annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); v) Technical Reports; vi) co-financing reports; and vii) Terminal Report. In addition, the Core Indicators will be used to monitor adaptation benefits and updated regularly by the PMU.

7. **Project Inception Report**. A project inception workshop will be held within two months of project start date and signature of relevant agreements with partners. During this workshop the following will be reviewed and agreed:

? the proposed implementation arrangement, the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder and project partners;
? an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation;
? the results framework, the SMART indicators and targets, the means of verification, and monitoring plan;
? the responsibilities for monitoring the various project plans and strategies, including the risk matrix, the Environmental and Social Risk Management Plan, the gender strategy, the knowledge management strategy, and other relevant strategies;
? finalise the preparation of the first year AWP/B, the financial reporting and audit procedures;
? schedule the PSC meetings; and
? prepare a detailed first year AWP/B.

8. The PMU will draft the inception report based on the agreement reached during the workshop and circulate among PSC members, BH, LTO and FLO for review within one month. The final report will be cleared by the FAO BH, LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and uploaded in FAO?s Field Program Management Information System (FPMIS) by the BH.

9. **Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B).** The draft of the first AWP/B will be prepared by the PMU in consultation with the FAO Project Task Force and reviewed at the project Inception Workshop. The Inception Workshop inputs will be incorporated and subsequently, the PMU will submit a final draft AWP/B to the BH within two weeks after the workshop. For subsequent AWP/B, the PMU will organise a project progress review and planning meeting for its progress review and adaptive management. Once PSC comments have been incorporated, the PMU will submit the AWP/B to the BH for non-objection, LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit for comments and for clearance by BH and LTO prior to uploading in FPMIS by the BH. The AWP/B must be linked to the project?s Results Framework indicators to ensure that the project?s work and activities are contributing to the achievement of the indicators. The AWP/B should include detailed activities to be implemented to achieve the project outputs and output targets and divided into monthly timeframes and targets and milestone dates for output indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also be included together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The AWP/B should be approved by the Project Steering Committee, LTO, BH and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit, and uploaded on the FPMIS by the BH.

10. **Project Progress Reports (PPR)**: The PPRs are used to identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and to take appropriate remedial action. PPRs will be prepared based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the Project Results Framework (Annex A1), AWP/B and M&E Plan. Each semester the Project Manager will prepare a draft PPR, will collect and consolidate any comments from the FAO PTF. The PMU will submit the final PPRs to the FAO Representation in Burkina Faso every six months, prior to 31 July (covering the period between January and June) and before 31 December (covering the period between July and December). The July-December report should be accompanied by the updated AWP/B for the following Project Year (PY) for review and no-objection by the FAO PTF. The Budget Holder has the responsibility to coordinate the preparation and finalisation of the PPR, in consultation with the PMU, LTO and the FLO. After LTO, BH and FLO clearance, the FLO will ensure that project progress reports are uploaded in FPMIS in a timely manner.

11. **Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)**: The PIR is a key self-assessment tool used by GEF Agencies for reporting every year on project implementation status. It helps to assess progress toward achieving the project objective and implementation progress and challenges, risks and actions that need to be taken. Under the lead of the BH, the Project Manager will prepare a consolidated annual PIR report covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) for each year of implementation, in collaboration with national project partners (including the GEF OFP), the Lead Technical Officer and the FLO. The PM will ensure that the indicators included in the project results framework are monitored annually in advance of the PIR submission and report these results in the draft PIR.

12. The BH will be responsible for consolidating and submitting the PIR report to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for review by the date specified each year. FAO - GEF Funding Liaison Officer review PIRs and discuss the progress reported with BHs and LTOs as required. The BH will submit the final version of the PIR to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for final approval. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will then submit the PIR(s) to the GEF Secretariat as part of the Annual Monitoring Review of the FAO-GEF portfolio

13. **Technical Reports**: Technical reports will be prepared as part of project outputs and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned. The LTO will be responsible for ensuring appropriate technical review and quality assurance of technical reports. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to project partners and the Project Steering Committee as appropriate.

14. **Co-financing Reports**: The PMU will be responsible for tracking co-financing materialised against the confirmed amounts at project approval and reporting. The co-financing report, which covers the GEF fiscal year 1 July through 30 June, is to be submitted on or before 31 July and will be incorporated into the annual PIR. The co-financing report needs to include the activities that were financed by the contribution of the partners.

15. Tracking and reporting on results across the GEF 7 core indicators and sub-indicators: As of July 1, 2018, the GEF Secretariat requires FAO as a GEF Agency, in collaboration with recipient country governments, executing partners and other stakeholders to provide indicative, expected results

across applicable core indicators and sub-indicators for all new GEF projects submitted for approval. During the approval process of the proposed project, expected results against the relevant indicators and sub-indicators have been provided to the GEF Secretariat. Throughout the implementation period of the project, the PMU is required to track the project?s progress in achieving these results across applicable core indicators and sub-indicators. At project mid-term and project completion stage, the project team in consultation with the PTF and the FAO-GEF CU are required to report achieved results against the core indicators and sub-indicators used at CEO Endorsement/ Approval. Methodologies, responsibilities and timelines for measuring core-indicators will be outlined in the M&E Plan prepared at inception.

16. **Terminal Report:** Within two months before the end date of the project, and one month before the Final Evaluation, the PMU will submit to the FAO Office of Evaluation a draft Terminal Report. The main purpose of the Terminal Report is to give guidance at ministerial or senior government level on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the donor with information on how the funds were utilized. The Terminal Report is accordingly a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the project. The target readership consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for insuring sustainability of project results.

MTR and Evaluation provisions

Mid-Term Review

17. As outlined in the GEF Evaluation Policy, Mid-Term Reviews (MTRs) or mid-term evaluations (MTEs) are mandatory for all GEF-financed full-sized projects (FSPs), including Enabling Activities processed as full-sized projects. It is also strongly encouraged for medium-sized projects (MSPs). The Mid-Term review will: i) assess the progress made towards achievement of planned results; ii) identify problems and make recommendations to redress the project; and iii) highlight good practices, lessons learned and areas with the potential for upscaling.

18. The Budget Holder is responsible for the conduct of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the project in consultation with the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit halfway through implementation. He/she will contact the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit about 3 months before the project half-point (within 3 years of project CEO Endorsement) to initiate the MTR exercise.

19. To support the planning and conduct of the MTR, the FAO GEF CU has developed a guidance document ?**The Guide for planning and conducting Mid-Term Reviews of FAO-GEF projects and programmes**?. The FAO-GEF CU will appoint a MTR focal point who will provide guidance on GEF specific requirements, quality assurance on the review process and overall backstopping support for the effective management of the exercise and for timely the submission of the MTR report to the GEF Secretariat.

20. After the completion of the Mid-Term Review, the BH will be responsible for the distribution of the MTR report at country level (including to the GEF OFP) and for the preparation of the **Management Response** within 4 weeks and share it with national partners, GEF OFP and the FAO-GEF CU. The BH will also send the updated core indicators used during the MTR to the FAO-GEF CU for their submission to the GEF Secretariat.

Terminal Evaluation

21. The GEF evaluation policy foresees that all medium and full-sized projects require a separate terminal evaluation. Such evaluation provides: i) accountability on results, processes, and performance; ii) recommendations to improve the sustainability of the results achieved; and iii) lessons learned as an evidence-base for decision-making to be shared with all stakeholders (government, execution agency, other national partners, the GEF and FAO) to improve the performance of future projects.

22. The Budget Holder will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date). The RES will manage the decentralised independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of OED and will be responsible for quality assurance. Independent external evaluators will conduct the terminal evaluation of the project taking into account the ?GEF Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full-sized Projects?. FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) will provide technical assistance throughout the evaluation process, via the OED Decentralised Evaluation Support team ? in particular, it will also give quality assurance feedback on: selection of the external evaluators, Terms of Reference of the evaluation, draft and final report. OED will be responsible for the quality assessment of the terminal evaluation report, including the GEF ratings.

23. After the completion of the terminal evaluation, the BH will be responsible to prepare the management response to the evaluation within 4 weeks and share it with national partners, GEF OFP, OED and the FAO-GEF CU. The BH will also send the updated core indicators used during the TE to the FAO-GEF CU for their submission to the GEF Secretariat.

Disclosure

24. The project will ensure transparency in the preparation, conduct, reporting and evaluation of its activities. This includes full disclosure of all non-confidential information, and consultation with major groups and representatives of local communities. The disclosure of information shall be ensured through posting on websites and dissemination of findings through knowledge products and events. Project reports will be broadly and freely shared, and findings and lessons learned made available.

[1] This budget only covers formal M&E requirements. Additional M&E activities will be conducted and are budgeted under Component 4. The detailed budget in Annex A2 also includes provision for the recruitment of an M&E Officer.

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

1. The proposed LDCF project will generate socio-economic benefits by maintaining and enhancing the resource base on which the local communities in the target areas rely for their livelihoods.

2. Moreover, the project will support women and men small-scale producers in the target landscapes in accessing markets and modern value chains. It thereby aims to realize socio-economic benefits, while incentivizing beneficaries to manage their resources sustainably. The project will thus work towards achieving full and productive employment and decent work in rural areas.

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3. The project adopts a human rights-based approach, and this includes the right to Decent Rural Employment. This concept will guide the activities implemented under Components 2 and 3 of the proposed project. It will particularly promote employment creation and enterprise development, while aligning to the other dimensions of Decent Rural Employment, including:

? governance and social dialogue (support participation of women and rural poor in local decision-making and governance mechanisms empowering women and youths in particular);
? social protection (promote safer technology for small-scale and commercial agriculture in extension support programmes); and
? standards and rights at work (support socially responsible agricultural production, provide access to tools to limit hard working conditions).

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

The project will support activities to facilitate the involvement of local communities in the sustainable management of forest and agricultural land at landscape level, raising awareness on the importance of ecosystem restoration for the conservation of biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem goods and services (including genetic diversity). By applying a landscape approach, the project will focus interventions in both protected areas and the surrounding production land ? with the recognition that these are strongly connected and inter-dependent land uses. Indeed, even though certain areas have protected area status or fall under concession management in Central Africa Republic, degradation still takes place due to illegal activities, expansion of agriculture, firewood and charcoal collection, and as such rich biodiverse habitats get fragmented, or the overall diversity and quality of the PA is diminished. The project will undertake participatory mapping of degradation hotspots in the target landscapes, thereby enhancing local ownership, and agreeing on priority restoration and management interventions that help restore connectivity among fragmented habitats and enhance landscape functionality and ecosystem services on which the sustainable management of natural resources depends. The long-term social benefit and economic viability of the ecological restoration and sustainable NRM interventions will be addressed by strengthening diversified agriculture and forest value chains that are linked to FLR objectives, such as organically produced intercropped rice, legumes and fruit trees, tree-crop-livestock integrated systems, and multipurpose wood and non-wood forest commodities (e.g. honey, basketry, aromatic plants and eco-tourism). The emphasis of the project is indeed in restoring and sustainably utilizing the ecosystem services provided by the broader landscape (subwatersheds), and this cannot be done working in the protected sections of the landscapes only. The surrounding productive land also needs to be managed sustainably in order to protect the PAs from further degradation. The project seeks to improve ecosystems services, sustainable intensification and biodiversity conservation in degraded forests and landscapes in SW and SE of Central African Republic through wide-scale implementation of forest and landscape restoration (FLR) applying an integrated landscape management approach

Identified Environmental and Social risks from the project

The project includes the following risks factors under the Environmental and Social Risk Identification Screening Checklist:

(i) **ESS 1 ? Natural resources management**: The project will work to improve land tenure security and access rights through policy dialogue and multi-stakeholder policy and support implementation of participatory land use planning and establishment of community-managed forests. This may result in changes to existing tenure rights (formal and informal) of individuals, communities or others to land and forest resources which triggers ESS1.

(ii) **ESS 2 - Biodiversity, ecosystems and natural habitats**: The project will be implemented both in the buffer zone of PA in SW and SE and as such triggers ESS2. The project will follow a participatory approach to ensure efficient and sustainable governance mechanisms are put in place and will support the improvement of the existing frameworks for the transfer of natural resource management.

(iii) **ESS 3 - Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture:** The project will promote the production of high-quality climate-adapted plant material (seeds and seedlings) and establish community-managed nurseries and community seed banks which involves the provision and transfer of seeds and planting material for cultivation which triggers ESS3

(iv) **ESS 5 ? Pest and Pesticides management:** The project aims to promote Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management practices and targeted beneficiaries will be supported in the purchase and effective and safe use of equipments and inputs. The project will promote an agro-ecological approach with the least possible impact on the landscape and biodiversity. Depending on local context, it is however not excluded that the project would promote biological (or synthesized pesticides) and as such an Integrated Pest Management approach would be followed. This is the reason why ESS5 is triggered.

(v) **ESS 9 ? Indigenous Peoples and cultural heritage** : The programme aims to provide local communities and IP the financial solutions and the technical assistance to actively take part in the restoration movement. Some IP groups have been identified and consulted and throughout the project FPIC approach will be followed.

The identified risks are mostly temporal, localized and reversible. Considering the impact, appropriate mitigation measures have been developed to address and mitigate the identified risks above. The developed risk management plan in the table below will allow managing risks by monitoring mitigation actions throughout implementation.

The six-monthly Project Progress Reports (PPR) are the main tool for risk monitoring and management. The PPRs include a section covering the systematic monitoring of risks and mitigation actions that were identified in the previous PPRs. The PPRs also include a section for the identification of possible new risks or risks that still need to be addressed, risk rating and mitigation actions, as well as those responsible for monitoring such actions and estimated timeframes. FAO will closely monitor project risk management and will support the adjustment and implementation of mitigation strategies. The preparation of risk monitoring reports and their rating will also be part of the Annual Project Implementation Review Report (PIR) prepared by FAO and submitted to the GEF Secretariat.

Risk identified	Risk Classification	Mitigation Action (s)	Indicators	Progress on mitigation action

ESS 1- NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT Tenure	MODERATE	During project implementation, the project will address tenure rights by applying an integrated landscape approach following an inclusive and participatory approach involving all relevant stakeholders. The project will strengthen the capacity of existing community-based natural resource management structures and promote community-forestry in collaboration with governemtal entities and all landscape stakeholders. The project will promote training on land tenure and NRM management rights and regulations with a gender-inclusive focus and adhere to the principles/framework of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and stakeholders will be trained in its use	# Sustainable management plans developed and implemented for at least five Community Forests	N/A
ESS 2 - BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL HABITATS	MODERATE	The project will focus on strengthening the existing governance mechanisms, and setting up new ones to manage community forests. Through the first component useful information and data gathered on CCA adaptation and resilience building, the project will support the development of sustainable management plans for the community forests and restore degraded areas. The project will also assist in mainstreaming integrated multi-sectoral FLR landscape plan priorities into CBNRM governance frameworks.	# stakeholders participating in capacity strengthening for enhanced and sustainable management of the landscapes	N/A

ESS 3 - PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE	MODERATE	The FLR landscape planning process will assist in identifying and mapping the local crops species and varieties used by local farmers, including underutilized native species. The project will also establish community seed banks that will serve as hubs where local communities can conserve and exchange seeds that be used for diversifying agricultural systems locally. The selected seeds and planting material will be largely derived from locally adapted crops and varieties will be suitable to local conditions and preferences of farmers and consumers. Through associated trainings, capacities will be strengthened to conserve, restore, multiply and distribute local varieties across farming communities. Species to be used for restoration will be of high biodiversity and cultural value and woodlot planting will be carried out with fast-growing native species. The climate-suitability and adaptability of the prioritized species will also be modelled to ensure long-term sustainability. All species/seeds to be used by the project will need to be follow national phytosanitary standards	# of beneficiaries trained on seed conservation, production and dissemination technologies # of seeds/seedlings conserved and produced through the community nurseries # of crops/varieties conserved and exchanged through seed banks and fairs	N/A
ESS 5 - PEST AND PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT	Moderate	The project will focus on promoting an agro-ecological approach to support SLM/SFM/ER practices within the targeted landscapes. The project will identify and assess the needs/options for the specific landscapes and production systems and in collaboration with technical institutions/NGOs will develop and promote trainings on specific topics. Several approached will be followed, such as Dimitra Clubs Farmer Field and Business Schools and training and public extension support to enhance the capacities of local Forest and Farmer Producer Organizations. The project will prioritize biological control of pest and diseases to the extent possible taking into consideration traditional knowledge nd experience. In case pesticides are required, procurement and usage will follow FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct as well adhere to national policies/guidelines in place to ensure it can be promoted safely without compromising the health of the ecosystem and the local people.	# of beneficiaries trained on integrated pest management and safe usage of pesticides	N/A

ESS 5 ? Indigenous People and cultural heritage	Moderate	The project will focus both on indigenous people and non-indegenous peoples throughout its interventions and will follow the FPIC approach ensuring inclusive participatory planning and implementation approach. Specific windows will be targeting the needs and demands from the Ips. The project will also ensure training on FPIC to the PMU and ensure all implementing partners adhere to FAO?s policies and operational guidance on IPs.	# of IPs actively taking part in landscape planning and restoration interventions # of IPs trained on climate-resilient alternative livelihoods	N/A

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
ESS_Screening_LDCF CAR_prodoc	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	
Climate change risk screening	**Project PIF ESS**	
ESS certificate	**Project PIF ESS**	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Objective: Enhanced resilience of rural communities through the valuation of productive and forest landscapes and inclusive governance mechanisms							
Component 1: Reducing vulnerability to climate change through inclusive integrated land-use planning							
Outcome 1.1: Efficient territorial & development planning for resilient and sustainable integrated landscape management	(i) Number of regional/local planning tools established/revised integrating CCA concerns	(i) 0 A number of Plans de D?veloppement Locaux already exist (developped with the support of past initiatives, e.g. PDRSO), but they do not mainstream climate adaptation.	(i) 12 in total: - 7 Plans de D?veloppement Locaux - 5 Plans Simples de Gestion for Community Forests	(i) 12 in total: - 7 Plans de D?veloppement Locaux - 5 Plans Simples de Gestion for Community Forests	(i) Plans Simples de Gestion & Plans de D?veloppement Locaux	(i) Local authorities are willing to revise existing documents (PDLs) to further integrate climate change adaptation PDLs and PGSs can be revised in the project timeframe	(i) M&E team, independent evaluators, contractors, execution partners

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
-	(ii) Number of target landscapes supported with the establishment of community-based structures with increased capacity to plan for CCA and land use	(ii) 0	(ii) 5 landscapes equipped with the following structures (initial consultations for awareness raising, participatory drafting of ToRs, establishment of bodies): - Multi-stakeholder platforms - Conseils coutumiers, Conseils autochtones and Comite?s de gestion for CFs - Dimitra Clubs	(ii) 5 landscapes equipped with the following fully functioning structures (bodies in place, workplans/agendas adopted, log of meetings and activities): - Multi-stakeholder platforms - Conseils coutumiers, Conseils autochtones and Comite?s de gestion for CFs - Dimitra Clubs	(ii) ToRs, consultation reports, log of meetings and activities	(ii) There is willingness among local actors to participate actively to proposed bodies and institutions. Local constraints (logistics, security etc.) allow for the establishment and regular functioning of bodies.	(ii) M&E team, independent evaluators, contractors, execution partners
1.1.1 Capacity-building programs implemented for decentralized entities or jurisdictions (prefectures and communes) to integrate climate change adaptation into development planning processes and through a landscape restoration approach 1.1.2 Five multi-stakeholder platforms established at the landscape level, in order to effectively engage multiple stakeholders (private sector, CSOs, local administration etc.) involved in agro-sylo-pastoral food systems resilience and investment. 1.1.3 Community structures strengthened/established to promote climate change adaptation through participatory forestry and integrated landscape management 1.1.4 Dimitra Clubs established and supported to facilitate the self-mobilization of communities, women?s leadership, the definition and implementation of land-use management plans and to improve conflict resolution							
Component 2: Promotion of ecosystem-based approaches for enhanced resilience of both the landscapes and the local communities							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 2.1: Forest ecosystems and productive landscapes are locally sustainably managed for enhanced resilience of local communities	(i) Number of Community Forests duly registered with the MEFCP	(i) 0	(i) 5 Community Forests (4 in SW, 1 in SE) duly registered with the MEFCP	(i) 5 Community Forests (4 in SW, 1 in SE) duly registered with the MEFCP	(i) Registration certificates	(i) Legal barriers to the registration of CFs are overcome. All concerned actors (incl. MEFCP) are willing to collaborate on the registration process from the early stages (establishment of local bodies, development of PSGs etc.) to ensure a smooth validation of the applications.	(i) M&E team, independent evaluators, contractors, execution partners

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	(ii) Number of hectares of land under climate-resilient management	(ii) 0 ha	(ii) At least 125,000 ha of rural and agriculture land identified for climate-resilient management	(ii) At least 125,000 ha under climate-resilient management	(ii) Project monitoring reports, GIS monitoring, field monitoring. As relevant, the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan to be developed under Component 4 may include the monitoring of SDG Indicator 15.3.1, namely ?proportion of land that is degraded over total land area?. Tools like Trends.Earth[1] would then be used to track progress towards SDG Indicator 15.3.1.	(ii) Local communities grasp the opportunities offered by Sustainable Landscape Management and climate adaptation practices. No significant barriers to the uptake of best land management remain thanks to the project interventions.	(ii) M&E team, independent evaluators, contractors, execution partners

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
-	(iii) Number of hectares of community forests restored	(iii) 0 ha	(iii) - Target areas are mapped, consultations with local communities and authorities are undertaken, Plans Simples de Gestions are elaborated and approved - Conditions are set for the launch of restoration activities: restorations plans are developed, nurseries are established etc.	(iii) At least 4,000 ha of community forests restored	(iii) As above	(iii) As above There is local interest to operate community nurseries.	(iii) As above
2.1.1 Sustainable management plans developed and implemented for at least five Community Forests 2.1.2 Forests in at least seven communes are sustainably managed and restored by local communities for enhanced ecological functionality and climate change resilience							
Component 3: Promotion of climate-smart nature-based livelihood interventions to decrease the risk of human/nature conflicts							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 3.1: Diversified and resilient livelihood strategies promoted based on climate-smart nature-based approaches for increased community resilience	(i) Number of agro-sylvo-pastoral producers trained on innovative climate change adaptation and SLM practices	(i) 0. The total population of target communes is approx. 148,000.[2] Although no up-to-date data is available on the share of agricultural population in the target regions, this share can be estimated at around 80% (118,000 people).	(i) 5,000 (50% women)	(i) 15,000 (50% women) ? including 5,000 direct APFS trainees and 10,000 additional trainees through open field days, exchange visits etc.	(i) Surveys, project monitoring reports	(i) Target beneficiaries enroll in APFSs. Enough facilitators can be mobilised and trained to set up the 200 APFSs required.	(i) M&E team, independent evaluators, contractors, execution partners
-	(ii) # of entrepreneurs supported	(ii) 0	(ii) A baseline assessment of the status of cooperatives and FFPOs in the target regions is available, and a workplan to strenghten existing structures and support the creation of new ones is designed.	(ii) 100 entrepreneurs (50% women) are supported through FFPOs and APFSs,	(ii) As above	(ii) Women are willing and allowed to apply for support through the project	(ii) As above

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
-	(iii) Number of micro-projects supported at local/communal levels	(iii) 0	(iii) 0	(iii) At least 70 processing units established, operational and effectively used by local stakeholders to transform, store and put agricultural products on the market. NB: this target is tentative may be revised depending on interest expressed by local entrepreneurs and average cost per business plan.	(iii) Activity reports, business plans, procurement contracts, field surveys, market surveys	(iii) There is interest from rural communities in engaging in the processing of forest and agricultural products/	(iii) As above
3.1.1 Forest and farm producer organizations established and empowered to ensure efficient and inclusive management and governance in climate change adaptation 3.1.2 Sustainable NTFP/agriculture value chains identified and selected by FFPOs and cooperatives, and bankable business plans developed for investments 3.1.3 Capacities of extension services, NGOs and research institutions strengthened to provide up-to-date adaptive support to APFSs and FFPOs 3.1.4 Climate-resilient agroforestry production systems identified by producer groups and developed with support of extension services to reduce climate change vulnerability							
Component 4: Knowledge, learning and M&E							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 4.1: Lessons and knowledge from the project are captured through a robust MEL system	(i) A participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning plan supports a sustainable upscaling, outscaling and inscaling approach of lessons learnt	(i) No MEL plan	(i) 1 MEL plan developed	(i) 1 MEL plan developed and implemented	(i) Evaluation reports (mid-term review, project interim reports etc.), knowledge platforms websites, number of visits of the website and documents downloads, knowledge products, communication products	(i) Sectoral institutions involved in natural resource management acknowledge the necessity to increase cross-sectoral and regional collaboration and participate (lead) accordingly	(i) M&E team, independent evaluators

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 4.2: Enhanced knowledge and learning dissemination of the project?s outputs both at national and/ regional levels through a robust knowledge development and dissemination strategy	(ii) Number of knowledge events undertaken, and tools developed and disseminated	(ii) N/A	(ii) At least 10 knowledge events undertaken, and tools developed and disseminated (incl. videos, knowledge exchange visits in Cameroon and DRC on CFs, FFPO exchange visits, APFS open field days, annual briefs and case studies, comic books)	(ii) At least 30 knowledge events undertaken, and tools developed and disseminated (incl. videos, knowledge exchange visits in Cameroon and DRC on CFs, FFPO exchange visits, APFS open field days, annual briefs and case studies, comic books)	(ii) Knowledge sharing tools, reports from knowledge sharing events, communication tools on the project results and lessons learned	(ii) N/A	(ii) Communications Expert, M&E team, independent evaluators
4.1.1 Effective and participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) implemented, including tools adapted to/with communities for them to define, monitor and visualize progress 4.2.1 Exchange visits for key stakeholders (community groups, FFPOs) organized to share best practices and increase knowledge on community-managed landscape planning and resilient nature-based value chain development 4.2.2 Knowledge generated by the project is shared and communicated with broader stakeholder group in-country and with existing regional platforms (COMIFAC, Congo Basin countries) and initiatives to promote efficient exchange of knowledge and information							

[1] More information on Trends.Earth can be found here.

[2] Census data from 2015.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Response to pending comments from STAP at PIF stage

	Comment	Response
1	The project has clear objectives, but the relationship of those objectives to the problem diagnosis is not clear because the climate aspects of the problem are not clear.	Please see updated project description.

2	The description nicely lays out the situation in CAR with regard to livelihoods, food security, and conflict/insecurity. It spends a lot of time describing the environment of the entire country, but the project is to be implemented only in the south/southwest, which are quite distinct from the northern half of the country. A great deal of the information provided in the first 16 points of the description is not relevant to the project. When the description turns to climate, it also exhibits problems. For example, the description emphasizes climate change as a driver of conflict, saying ?the degradation of natural resources as a result of both overexploitation and climate change will contribute to increased conflicts over the distribution of natural resources.? This statement is not universally true (there is a large literature around this) and therefore requires support in the CAR context. The description provides no support. The description states that there will be increases in temperature and climate variability but does not make it clear how those increases relate to present conditions. For example, it states ?Total annual days of temperature above 35?C would rise by 60.6 days in 2050, while total annual days of temperatures above 40?C would be 14.5 days by 2050 and 50.7 by end of century.? However, it never states how many days above 35?C we see now, or how many over 40oC. As a result, we cannot assess the scale of the change by 2050. The description references 2100 conditions but does not note the substantial variance in projected conditions that far out. Even where there is a clear baseline against which to measure change, the significance of the change is not clear. For example, the description notes that ?Mean annual rainfall in CAR has increased slightly since the end of the 1990s, as recorded by a 4- percent increase over the 1995-2017 average in Bangui.? However, this is a place that receives around 1600 mm of rain per year, so what is the biophysical importance of a 4% change (60 mm of rain/year)? It seems unlikely that such a small shift matters for farming or any other issue raised in the description. It is clear that temperature is increasing, and temperature is what the RCPs are best at, but in the discussion of temperature it is not clear how temperature change will translate into impacts on the environment and people. Impacts are vaguely asserted, but without a clear pathway from temperature to environmental or human impact, it is not clear how a proposed intervention will address that impact. The claims about climate variability have a similar	In light of the comments received on the PIF, the problem analysis and project description have been thoroughly revised to account for the latest scientific evidence on climate impacts in the CAR. A Climate Risk Analysis was produced (cf. Annex N), which has informed all aspects of the proposed project. The project team is well aware of the current debates on the impacts of swidden agriculture (mostly described in South-East Asia; to our knowledge, this has not been analyzed in the context of the Congo Basin); however, the type of agriculture practices in the target regions of the CAR does generally not allow for longer fallow periods after one or two harvests, as is the case with swidden agriculture.

	problem ? in this case, the description does not do a good job of characterizing the increase in variability, but it also does not link that variability to environmental or human impacts in a manner that allows for the assessment of the efficacy of interventions. It is not until many points into the description that relevant information is provided that links climate trends to impacts. This is mostly in point 28, where a model is cited to warn of losses to maize and tropical cereal yields. Even here, the information provided is unclear ? how much are maize yields projected to fall (the description only mentions affected area)? How much will other cereals decline? It appears the project team read the abstract of the Stuch et al (2020) article, which provides these figures, without actually reading the article itself which suggests through figures that much of CAR would see a decline of 5-20% in maize yield and, for much of the country, no projected change in tropical cereal yield (though there is a pocket in the southwest modeled to have a 5-20% decline in yield). Reading the article carefully, it seems likely the projected maize yield decline is closer to 5% than 20%, and tropical cereals are likely to increase yields. This is critical information, as it suggests that farmers will, over time, adapt to this gradual shift in yields by shifting from one crop they already grow, maize, to other crops they already grow (tropical cereals), without requiring much intervention, and they might see an increase in productivity as they do so. While it is important and valid to note that CAR exhibits a great deal of climate change vulnerability, that vulnerability has three parts: exposure to changes and impacts, sensitivity to those changes/impacts, and adaptive capacity. When it comes to agriculture in CAR, there is clear exposure to trends and some sensitivity...but that sensitivity is not all negative. Further, it appears that farmers will have the adaptive capacity to shift from one familiar crop to another in a gradual manner. Thus, the staple production in the agricultural sector is not very vulnerable to climate change trends over the next several decades. Reading the description, it is clear that CAR?s challenges are very real, but it appears that climate change has relatively little, if anything, to do with them. The same issue exists for discussions of the forests. The impacts that are described are a product of farming and other forest use, but these human activities are not clearly driven by any climate trend or event. There appears to be a subtle	

	implication that climate change is and will stress agricultural production, thus leading to forest encroachment. However, the data in the articles cited by the project suggest that any encroachment will be driven not by climate impacts, but by a growing population in need of land and food. The project team should be advised that the term for the farming in this area is swidden farming. Slash and burn carries a pejorative sense that such practices inherently represent the mismanagement of environmental resources, when swidden farming can be a very sustainable practice. In fact, there are studies showing different results for biodiversity and carbon in the long term (see http://www.cifor.org/library/6318/). Likewise, Van Vliet et al., found that transition from swidden to permanent agriculture often contributes to ?permanent deforestation, loss of biodiversity, increased weed pressure, declines in soil fertility, and accelerated soil erosion.?	
3	Outside of climate change, the barriers and threats seem well-described, particularly issues of food security and conflict. With regard to the climate, the barriers and threats are poorly described and not effectively linked to either human or environmental vulnerability. The project appears to be identifying real human and environmental challenges worthy of attention, but with little to no connection to climate change.	Please see updated project description.
4	Current conditions are not well described for the project area, as the description tends to lay out conditions for the whole country. It also often refers to future conditions without explaining what the current conditions are so the reader can understand the change. There is no development of a scenario going forward that demonstrates the trajectory of human well-being and environmental conditions that justifies adaptation interventions or allows for the assessment of whether or not such interventions are robust across a range of plausible futures.	Please see Climate Risk Analysis (Annex N) and udpated project description, including expanded explanation of climate threats.
5	The ToC does not clearly address one of its barriers (regarding extension services and incentives for resilient nature-based solutions) and the entire TOC rests on claims about climate change impacts which are not substantiated.	Please see revised ToC.
6	The project does not address the climate trends and impacts described in the description. It will likely provide livelihoods benefits, but it is not clear these will be adaptation benefits.	Please see revised project description & ToC.

7	Indicators are provided for the project as a whole, but it is not clear these would be of use for measuring project progress, and they are not aligned with adaptation benefits.	Please see revised indicators in Annex A1.
8	There is no clear map of where implementation would occur below the prefecture level. There are many useful maps, but aside from a general sense of where, the maps do not help pinpoint project work. It would be good to have a more direct sense of where the work will take place, or the PIF should specify that specific locations are yet to be determined. Rather than have many maps from different sources and various resolutions, etc, it would be much more helpful to have one or two good maps which combine the relevant information and clearly lay out where the project intervention will take place.	Please see the new map and project site description.
9	The project has a good list of relevant stakeholders, but does not appear to see farmers or agrarian communities as a stakeholder for this project. These are not the same as forest-dependent communities and appear to be the largest group to be impacted by project efforts, so it seems odd to not name them.	Please see annex I2.
10	The project is aware that women have differential access to communications and might be excluded from participation in various project stages without aggressive outreach. Much of that outreach is to be planned in the PPG stage. The PIF lays out important gendered issues with regard to property rights, labor patterns, and even domestic labor distributions. However, there is no clear discussion of gendered agricultural or forest management roles in the project, and thus no discussion of the different ways in which project activities might affect women or even bypass them entirely.	Please see revised project description & gender action plan.
11	It is not clear how sensitive the people and environment of the proposed project areas are to projected climate change. The risks of climate change emerge from exposure to climate change (clearly present) and sensitivity to those changes (very unclear). STAP strongly recommends the project team establish the degree to which the people and environmental resources the project targets are sensitive to projected changes, and target their interventions at clear examples of sensitivity.	Please see revised project description.

12	Yes, it appears so with the exception of the GEF Congo Basin Sustainable Landscape (CBSL) program (GEF 7 Impact Program under Sustainable Forests), which is mentioned in passing in terms of linking with the WB project in CAR and the forthcoming portal; however, many of the interventions are similar and this project could potentially benefit from plans underway in the CBSL to develop integrated land use management planning tools (iLUMPs) and to therefore avoid unnecessary duplication.	Please see proposed coordination activities with the CBSL under Component 4, as well as with other global initiatives. The sharing of tools and approaches, not only on land-use planning but also in terms of community-based forestry and VC development, will be sought.

Response to pending comments from GEF Secretariat at PIF stage

	Comment	Response
1	During PPG, please expand on this initial identification of specific adaptation options that can be effective solutions to the specified climate impacts, to be advanced through the project interventions, including outcome 3.1, to strengthen resilient livelihood strategies including through climate resilient agricultural practices, ecosystem restauration, etc. Please also continue to identify available information on climate hazards and their impacts in CAR, for incorporating into design of interventions to be defined in further detail in the CEO Endorsement package.	Please see revised project description and ToC.
2	We note more thorough in person consultations with all relevant stakeholders will be conducted during PPG. In the CEO Endorsement package, please provide explanation of these stakeholder engagements and their outcomes.	Please see Annex I2.
3	We note further consultation and collaboration with the limited microfinance sectors will be advanced at PPG stage, in order to enable access to capital for the enterprises that will receive business planning support through this project. Please further define opportunity to strengthen this aspect of the project prior to CEO Endorsement.	After further consultations during the PPG phase, it was decided that developing ?in-cash? micro-finance mechanisms would not be adequate given the level of financial literacy of target populations, and the safety risks in target areas. Instead, it is proposed to address finance barriers through targeted support to select business plans (provision of transformation units etc.).
4	We note the institutional arrangements will be further specified during PPG, including confirmation that MEDD will be the Executing Partner; a diagram and confirmation the PMU will be housed at the MEDD; relationship of the PSC with REDD+ Committee and national climate coordination; etc.	Please see revised institutional arrangements, that were informed by the results of the institutional capacity assessments commissioned during the PPG phase for four partners (MEDD, MEFCP, WWF, African Parks).

5	Co-financing: As stated in the PIF, please ensure partnerships and co-financing potential (including with private sector actors) be identified during the PPG phase.	Please see revised cofinancing plan.

Response to comments from Council Members at PIF stage

Canada

	Comment	Response
1	It would be key to ensure that the project is rooted in a recent contextual and conflict analysis (i.e., post-December 2020) to ensure that the activities proposed are appropriate in the current context. (Note: there is no indication of an updated analysis in the document provided, which only refers to the impact of COVID-19.)	Please see revised project justification & description. Project activities have been designed in close coordination with field officers au fait with the safety situation in the proposed target areas. In addition, an adaptive management approach will be followed throughout implementation, ensuring that any national and UN guidance with respect to conflict sensitivity can be strictly followed.
2	It would be key to ensure that FAO has sustained access to the south-region of the country (despite the current prevailing insecurity) to ensure feasibility and impact of the project.	At the time of submission, access to project sites is guaranteed. Adequate budget provision will be made to ensure that safety requirements can be made (e.g. air travel to South-East sites).
3	It would be key to ensure that the project is anchored by a gender analysis, ensuring that the unique vulnerabilities and capacities of women are taken into consideration.	Please see gender analysis.

Germany

	Comment	Response

1	Germany appreciates the clear adaptation rationale of the proposed project and synergies with the local and national climate and development planning context. However, more detailed information on the implementation of the planned activities under Components 1, 2 and 3 will be helpful, for example, to understand if the sustainable management plans for the Series of Agriculture and Human Settlement as mentioned in output 2.1.1 will be prepared for project implementation or be embedded in the governance landscape. Outputs under outcomes 1 and 2 may also be rearranged (while Component 1 focuses on ?Reducing vulnerability to climate change through inclusive integrated land-use planning?, the outputs solely focus on capacity building and establishing community-based structures and platforms). Output 1.1.2 on capacity building on tools/data for nature-based solutions align better with Component 2. For Components 1-3, it will be helpful for the outcome indicators to set a clearer scope and targets such as number of beneficiaries / engaged stakeholders (like in outcome 2.1).	Please see revised and expanded project description & revised ToC.
2	Germany recommends that the current security situation and questions of the rule of law be addressed more strongly.	The security situation has been thoroughly discussed with national partners. Risk mitigation measures have been identified, and an adaptive management approach will be followed.
3	Germany agrees with the PIF review that more in-depth stakeholder engagement, especially with the private and microfinance sectors is required. While the project components focus on communities, the approach to inclusion of gender aspects and needs of marginalised communities are not explicitly indicated. While FAO?s response indicates that a gender expert will be involved during the PPG phase, these concerns need to be incorporated in outcomes and outputs of the project.	Please see responses above.
4	Finally, Germany suggests reviewing the theory of change and formulating quantifiable outputs. We consider this essential for an effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system under component 2, and for tracking project results in general.	Please see revised ToC and results-based framework (Annex A1).

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: **CAF/809P/LDF** **USD 200,000**			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent Todate***	***Amount Committed***
Personnel Cost	121,472	89,069	8,768
(5650) Contracts	12,000	63,451	0
(5684) Travel	44,709	30,498	0
(5905) Workshops	18,200	4,594	0
(6000) Expandable procurement	3,620	3,620	0
Total USD	**200,000**	**191,232**	**8,768**

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Cf. Section 1B.

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. These IDs are available on the GeoNames? geographical database containing millions of placenames and allowing to freely record new ones. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as:https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
Lomba	3.783333	17.516667		
Mbunza-Boffi	3.524722	16.045833		
B?lambok?/Monasao	3.182778	16.119167		
Lossi	2.788611	16.225833		
Zott?	5.526667	22.585556		

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

FAO Cost Categories	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1 Total	Component 2 Total	Component 3 Total	Component 4 Total	M&E	PMC	Total	OP1: WWF	OP2: AP	LoA: MEFCP	LoA: MEDD	FAO Support Services	Total GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
5011 Salaries professionals																					
OPA manager	Months	60	1,500	-	-	-	-		90,000	**90,000**	-	-			90,000	**90,000**	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
5011 Sub-total salaries professionals				-	-	-	-	-	**90,000**	**90,000**	-	-	-	-	**90,000**	**90,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**
5013 Consultants																					
International GIS expert	Days	20	600	**12,000**	-	-	-	-	-	**12,000**				12,000		**12,000**	12,000				
International Dimitra expert	Days	50	350	**17,500**	-	-	-	-	-	**17,500**	17,500					**17,500**	7,500	10,000			
International APFS expert	Days	45	350	-	-	**15,750**	-	-	-	**15,750**	15,750					**15,750**	15,750				
International agroecology expert	Days	30	350	-	-	**10,500**	-	-	-	**10,500**	10,500					**10,500**	10,500				
International data management expert	Days	20	600	-	-	-	**12,000**	-	-	**12,000**	12,000					**12,000**					12,000
International FFPO expert	Days	50	600	-	-	**30,000**	-	-	-	**30,000**	30,000					**30,000**		10,000	10,000	10,000	
International climate adaptation expert / CTA	Days	250	600	**36,000**	**54,000**	**48,000**	**12,000**	-	-	**150,000**			150,000			**150,000**	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Sub-total international Consultants				*65,500*	*54,000*	*104,250*	*24,000*	-	-	*247,750*	*85,750*	-	*150,000*	*12,000*	-	*247,750*	*75,750*	*50,000*	*40,000*	*40,000*	*42,000*
National GIS expert	Days	100	200	**20,000**	-	-	-	-	-	**20,000**				20,000		**20,000**	20,000	0	0	0	0
National climate risk specialist	Days	105	200	**21,000**	-	-	-	-	-	**21,000**				21,000		**21,000**	0	21,000	0	0	0
National climate adaptation expert	Days	89	200	**17,800**	-	-	-	-	-	**17,800**			6,000	11,800		**17,800**	0	17,800	0	0	0
National land & forestry policy expert	Days	40	200	**8,000**	-	-	-	-	-	**8,000**			8,000			**8,000**	0	8,000	0	0	0
Project Technical Focal Point (South West)	Months	60	2,300	**18,400**	**55,200**	**52,900**	**11,500**	-	-	**138,000**	138,000					**138,000**	27,600	27,600	27,600	27,600	27,600
Project Technical Focal Point (South East)	Months	60	2,300	**18,400**	**55,200**	**52,900**	**11,500**	-	-	**138,000**		138,000				**138,000**	27,600	27,600	27,600	27,600	27,600
National Project Focal Point	Months	60	2,300	-	-	-	-	69,000	69,000	**138,000**				138,000		**138,000**	27,600	27,600	27,600	27,600	27,600
Community forestry expert (SW)	Days	270	200	**15,000**	**39,000**	-	-	-	-	**54,000**	54,000					**54,000**	15,000	15,000	15,000	9,000	0
Community forestry expert (SE)	Days	90	200	**6,000**	**12,000**	-	-	-	-	**18,000**		18,000				**18,000**	5,000	5,000	5,000	3,000	0
Forestry extension officers	Days	175	200	**15,000**	**20,000**	-	-	-	-	**35,000**			35,000			**35,000**	5,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	6,000
National Dimitra expert	Days	71	200	**14,200**	-	-	-	-	-	**14,200**	14,200					**14,200**	4,000	10,200	0	0	0
Forest and Farm Producer Organisations specialist (SW)	Days	286	200	-	-	**57,200**	-	-	-	**57,200**	57,200					**57,200**	0	14,300	14,300	14,300	14,300
Forest and Farm Producer Organisations specialist (SE)	Days	85	200	-	-	**17,000**	-	-	-	**17,000**		17,000				**17,000**	0	4,250	4,250	4,250	4,250
Climate-sensitive Value Chain specialist	Days	45	200	-	-	**9,000**	-	-	-	**9,000**	9,000					**9,000**	0	9,000	0	0	0
APFS Expert (SW)	Months	54	1,000	-	-	**54,000**	-	-	-	**54,000**	54,000					**54,000**	5,000	12,250	12,250	12,250	12,250
APFS Expert (SE)	Months	30	1,000	-	-	**30,000**	-	-	-	**30,000**		30,000				**30,000**	3,000	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750
National Environmental & Social Risk Assessment expert	Days	45	200	-	-	-	**9,000**	-	-	**9,000**	9,000					**9,000**	9,000	0	0	0	0
Communications expert (SW)	Months	24	1,000	-	-	-	**24,000**	-	-	**24,000**	24,000					**24,000**	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800
Communications expert (SE)	Months	12	1,000	-	-	-	**12,000**	-	-	**12,000**		12,000				**12,000**	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Operations Specialist (admin & procurement) SW	Months	60	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	90,000	**90,000**	90,000					**90,000**	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Operations Specialist (admin & procurement) SE	Months	60	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	90,000	**90,000**		90,000				**90,000**	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
M&E & Gender expert	Months	60	1,500	-	-	-	-	90,000	-	**90,000**				90,000		**90,000**	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Knowledge management & Communication Expert	Months	54	1,500	-	-	-	**81,000**	-	-	**81,000**			81,000			**81,000**	16,200	16,200	16,200	16,200	16,200
Sub-total national Consultants				*153,800*	*181,400*	*273,000*	*149,000*	*159,000*	*249,000*	*1,165,200*	*449,400*	*305,000*	*130,000*	*280,800*	-	*1,165,200*	*226,200*	*291,750*	*225,750*	*217,750*	*203,750*
5013 Sub-total consultants				**219,300**	**235,400**	**377,250**	**173,000**	**159,000**	**249,000**	**1,412,950**	**535,150**	**305,000**	**280,000**	**292,800**	-	**1,412,950**	**301,950**	**341,750**	**265,750**	**257,750**	**245,750**
5650 Contracts																					
Audits (1per OP per year)	Audit	5	16,500	-	-	-	-	-	82,500	**82,500**					82,500	**82,500**	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
Spot checks (2 per OP per year)	Spot check	5	17,000	-	-	-	-	-	85,000	**85,000**					85,000	**85,000**	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
Translation	Document	2	3,500	-	-	-	**7,000**		-	**7,000**					7,000	**7,000**			3,500		3,500
Mid-Term Review	Lumpsum	1	45,000	-	-	-	-	45,000	-	**45,000**					45,000	**45,000**	0	0	45,000	0	0
Terminal Evaluation	Lumpsum	1	65,000	-	-	-	-	65,000	-	**65,000**					65,000	**65,000**	0	0	0	0	65,000
Terminal Report	Lumpsum	1	7,000	-	-	-	-	7,000	-	**7,000**					7,000	**7,000**					7,000
Implementation of ROAM tool	Lumpsum	1	115,000	**115,000**	-	-	-	-	-	**115,000**				115,000		**115,000**	45,000	70,000	0	0	0
Contract(s) with local organisations to implement the Dimitra approach	Lumpsum	1	200,000	**200,000**	-	-	-	-	-	**200,000**	162,500	37,500				**200,000**	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Radio broadcasts for Dimitra clubs	Lumpsum	1	50,000	**50,000**	-	-	-	-	-	**50,000**	50,000					**50,000**	0	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Video productions for Dimitra clubs	Lumpsum	1	50,000	**50,000**	-	-	-	-	-	**50,000**	50,000					**50,000**	0	50,000	0	0	0
Forest restoration - land clearing	Lumpsum	1	358,644	-	**358,644**	-	-	-	-	**358,644**	292,320.0	66,324				**358,644**	0	89,661	89,661	89,661	89,661
Forest restoration - ploughing	Lumpsum	1	707,018	-	**707,018**	-	-	-	-	**707,018**	577,947	129,071				**707,018**	0	176,755	176,755	176,755	176,755
Forest restoration - picketting/pitting	Lumpsum	1	137,836	-	**137,836**	-	-	-	-	**137,836**	113,594	24,242				**137,836**	0	34,459	34,459	34,459	34,459
Forest restoration - planting	Lumpsum	1	137,836	-	**137,836**	-	-	-	-	**137,836**	113,594	24,242				**137,836**	0	34,459	34,459	34,459	34,459
Forest restoration - remedial fill planting	Lumpsum	1	82,096	-	**82,096**	-	-	-	-	**82,096**	66,479	15,617				**82,096**	0	0	27,365	27,365	27,365
Forest restoration - maintaining & weeding	Lumpsum	1	1,236,200	-	**1,236,200**	-	-	-	-	**1,236,200**	1,012,300	223,900				**1,236,200**	0	309,050	309,050	309,050	309,050
Contract to produce scientific papers	Lumpsum	1	60,000	-	-	-	**60,000**	-	-	**60,000**	60,000					**60,000**	0	0	20,000	20,000	20,000
Contract to develop manual for establishment & management of CFs	Lumpsum	1	85,000	-	-	-	**85,000**	-	-	**85,000**			85,000			**85,000**	0	60,000	25,000	0	0
Contract for training & production of participatory videos	Lumpsum	1	45,000	-	-	-	**45,000**	-	-	**45,000**	45,000					**45,000**	0	0	45,000	0	0
Contract to develop comic books on participatory forestry, NRM etc.	Lumpsum	1	20,000	-	-	-	**20,000**	-	-	**20,000**	20,000					**20,000**	0	0	20,000	0	0
5650 Sub-total Contracts				**415,000**	**2,659,630**	-	**217,000**	**117,000**	**167,500**	**3,576,130**	**2,563,734**	**520,896**	**85,000**	**115,000**	**291,500**	**3,576,130**	**78,500**	**927,884**	**923,749**	**785,249**	**860,749**
5021 Travel																					
National Travel	Lumpsum	1	189,480	**87,410**	**82,620**	**16,650**	**2,800**	-	-	**189,480**	159,730	6,160	9,450	14,140		**189,480**	37,896	37,896	37,896	37,896	37,896
International travel	Lumpsum	1	198,960	**44,450**	**23,500**	**51,510**	**79,500**	-	-	**198,960**	59,260	14,000	108,000	17,700		**198,960**	39,792	39,792	39,792	39,792	39,792
Transportation cost - Vehicle 4x4 rental	Lumpsum	1	30,000	-	**30,000**	-	-	-	-	**30,000**	15,000	15,000	0	0	0	**30,000**	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
5021 Sub-total travel				**131,860**	**136,120**	**68,160**	**82,300**	-	-	**418,440**	**233,990**	**35,160**	**117,450**	**31,840**	-	**418,440**	**83,688**	**83,688**	**83,688**	**83,688**	**83,688**
5023 Training																					

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

N/A

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

N/A

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).

N/A