



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) ¹

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: LDCF

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Integrated Adaptation Programme to Combat the Effects of Climate Change on Agricultural Production and Food Security in Central African Republic		
Country(ies):	Central African Republic (CAR)	GEF Project ID: ²	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	4377
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment	Submission Date:	September 22, 2010
GEF Focal Area (s):	Climate Change	Project Duration(Months)	48
Name of parent program (if applicable): • For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>		Agency Fee (\$):	340,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK³:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Indicative Financing from relevant TF (GEF/LDCF/SCCF) (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
CCA-2 (select)	Outcome 2.1 Mainstreamed adaptation in broader development frameworks at country level and in targeted vulnerable areas	Output 2.1.1 Adaptation measures and necessary budget allocations included in relevant frameworks	510,000	1,000,000
CCA-2 (select)	Outcome 2.2 Increased adaptive capacity to climate change in development sectors	Output 2.2.1 Vulnerable physical, natural and social assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	1,710,000	3,400,000
CCA-1 (select)	Outcome 2.2 Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk	Output 1.3.1 Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and	310,000	600,000

¹ It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.

² Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

³ Refer to the reference attached on the Focal Area Results Framework when filling up the table in item A.

	reduction processes at local level	risk reduction awareness activities		
Project management cost ⁴			250,000	560,000
Total project costs			2,780,000	5,560,000

⁴ GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project.

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Strengthening climate risk management capacity for enhanced food security and rural livelihoods in CAR					
Project Component	Grant Type (TA/IN V)	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative Financing from relevant TF (GEF/LDCF/SCCF) (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
Policy Development	TA	Policy, institutional and financial capacities developed and strengthened to plan for and manage climate change risks to the agricultural sector	<p>Long term planning tools developed to facilitate mainstreaming of climate change into policies</p> <p>Climate change adaptation measures and finance options integrated into. PRSP, Rural Development Strategy, local development plans and other appropriate policies</p>	510,000	1,000,000
Management of risk associated with climate vulnerability	TA	Adapted agro-pastoral options implemented in key vulnerable areas;	<p>Strategic Action Plan for the internalization of climate change risks into conservation of Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) developed (with support from co-financing).</p> <p>Climate resilient agro-pastoral practices and technologies (e.g. water management and soil fertility, pasture and rangeland management) demonstrated in Bangui and the surrounding</p>	1,710,000	3,400,000

			regions (ex. Bambari and Sibut) Appropriate seasonal and other long-term climate change including variability information disseminated to rural farmers and breeders.		
Knowledge management	TA	Knowledge/experiences shared, capitalized and disseminated	Awareness and capacity built to facilitate the process of integrating climate change risks and adaptation into agricultural strategies Project lessons codified and disseminated and learning and exchange, mechanisms put in place	310,000	600,000
Project management Cost ⁵				250,000	560,000
Total project costs				2,780,000	5,560,000

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Cofinancing for baseline project	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National Government		Unknown at this stage	500,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Unknown at this stage	500,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)		Unknown at this stage	2,250,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)		Unknown at this stage	2,310,000
Total Cofinancing			5,560,000

⁵ Same as footnote #3.

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country name/Global	Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNDP	LDCF	Climate Change	Central African Republic	2,780,000	278,000	3,058,000
Total Grant Resources				2,780,000	278,000	3,058,000

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

² Please indicate fees related to this project.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1.1 THE GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES: This project is well aligned with GEF objective related to “Increase adaptive capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change, including variability, at local and national level” through the pursuit of specific project outcomes including: 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; ii) knowledge/experiences shared, capitalized and disseminated.

A.1.2. FOR PROJECTS FUNDED FROM LDCF/SCCF: THE LDCF/SCCF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES:

Country ownership: The Central African Republic (CAR) is among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The country has ratified the CCNUCC in 1995 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2007. CAR has completed and submitted its NAPA to the UNFCCC in may 2008. This proposal originated from the NAPA process and was prepared with the full involvement of relevant stakeholders. The sector being targeted is among the priority measures identified in the NAPA. Furthermore, this project will be nationally executed to ensure that the country ownership and accountability prevails in line with Aid Effectiveness principle.

Compliance with program and LDC Fund policies: The project complies with the needs identified by the country within the PRSP1. It is designed to meet the additional costs of adaptation and priority measures identified in the NAPA. This is consistent with the strategic objective of the LDCF fund to promote the LDCs’ “climate compatible” development options and enable the achievement of the MDGs, under conditions of a changing climate. Moreover, the project design responds to policies of the LDCF fund by directing the resources to develop the required national and sub-national capacities and skills to reduce vulnerability to climate change in an area that is of national priority. In addition, the co-funding scale is on course with the stated guidelines.

Financing: Cost-effectiveness criteria will apply in the choice of adaptation measures and modalities. A comparison will be made of alternative means of addressing the underlying problem and removing barriers for efficient adaptation. Financial contributions to the project will strike a good balance between technical assistance, and the use of LDCF and other funds (bilateral multilateral and donations). The project document will outline a cost-effective analysis including alternatives that were considered during the design phase.

Institutional Synergy and Coordination: The project implementation will be overseen at the national level by CAR’s Environment and Sustainable Development National Committee which aims at developing environment management tools, implementing international conventions, protecting biodiversity, and preventing pollution. While the Ministry of Environment will be in charge of coordinating the project preparation phase (PPG), other bodies such as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry for Livestock Breeding will be consulted to determine the best suitable institutional arrangements for project implementation. The PPG phase will make sure that the most relevant authorities are given responsibilities based on critical factors such as underlying capacity assessments. UNDP, on the request of the Government of CAR, will support local partners to provide oversight support during the implementation of the project

Monitoring and Evaluation: The implementation of the project’s activities will reflect UNDP/GEF monitoring and evaluation procedures. The project is aligned with the Results Framework for the GEF LDCF/SCCF. Details for monitoring and evaluation will be articulated during the project development phase. In order to better incorporate gender issues, indicators will be disaggregated where possible. This will enable the project coordinator to track how many women are being capacitated and involved at both decision making and community levels.

A.2. NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS, IF APPLICABLE, I.E. NAPAS, NAPS, NBSAPS, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, TNAS, NIPS, PRSPS, NPFE, ETC.:

This project is well aligned with the national priorities defined in the first National Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP1, 2008-2010). Agriculture development and sustainability is a key issue in the third pillar of the “Rebuild and Diversify the economy” national plan which is designed to address poverty issues in urban and rural areas. The main sub programs are related to institutional capacity building to plan, conduct research, and supervise. These sub programs are also linked with goals 1 and 7 of the MDGs.

The government is also working on the revitalisation of the agriculture sector by implementing a national program costing more than \$1.2 million. Actions are related to build capacity of the agricultural planning body, rehabilitate the cotton tracks in the centre of the country, develop income-generating chains (cotton, coffee, palm oil, sugarcane, and tobacco), reinforce irrigation systems in the low lands, and support market gardening in peri-urban areas of Bangui. The project will support these efforts by promoting sustainable agricultural development throughout the reinforcement of the climate risk management capacity.

While clearly meeting priorities in the Climate Change Convention, the proposed initiative is also aligned with the Action Plans to Fight against Desertification, and the National Biodiversity Strategy which aims to improve the resilience of ecosystem services, especially in agriculture and food security. It will in addition contribute to the future capacity building action plan for the implementation of the 3 Rio conventions.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

B.1. DESCRIBE THE BASELINE PROJECT AND THE PROBLEM THAT IT SEEKS TO ADDRESS:

Economic and agricultural development

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a landlocked country, extending over an area of almost 623,000 km². In recent years, CAR has suffered from political instability and endured recurring internal conflicts. Despite vast natural resources, the Central African Republic is one of the least developed countries in the world (LDC) group. In 2009, GDP per capita was estimated at approximately US\$362, which puts the CAR among the bottom five poorest countries in the world. The prevalence of extreme poverty has increased, with a particularly high concentration of poor people in rural areas where inhabitants are unable to meet the costs of food based on a food basket providing 2,400 kcal/person/day.

In the framework of economic recovery and improvement of social conditions, the Central African Republic developed its PRSP, which seeks “*to revitalize the food and agricultural sector to contribute to shared, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth and development, provide food and nutritional security, increase employment and income, and measurably reduce poverty*”. To support the long term sustainable development targeted by the PRSP, CAR is requesting support from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) to cope with expected negative effects of climate change on agriculture and food security. This project is designed as a contribution to the achievement of MDG 1.

As the backbone of the Central African Republic’s economy, the agriculture sector is dominated by agro-pastoral production, involving nearly 74% of the active population and representing 45% of GDP. Agricultural and pastoralist systems are found along a bioclimatic gradient running north to south from the dry Sudanian to the humid Guinean zones with the different agricultural systems, including cattle farming, matched closely with rainfall. Due to its geographical situation, the country produces a wide range of crops, for cash (sugar cane, cotton, coffee) and for food (cassava, rice, sorghum, groundnut,

maize). Cattle farming are essentially dominated by extensive herding (*transhumance*). Despite significant potential, yields are very low and most of the rural inhabitants, as indicated above, remain in extreme poverty. Several factors affect production such as heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture and ongoing practices regarding crop selection, water resource management, and agro-ecosystem and rangeland management. Part of the country is already seriously affected by severe land degradation, especially in the region around Bangui where there's high demand for foodstuffs. Co-existence between herders and farmers have been decreasing over the past years due to mismanagement of ecosystem services and natural resources leading to conflicts over competition for access to diminishing stocks of land and water.

Additional vulnerability drivers are related to (i) diminished public safety affecting a wide part of the country and causing refugee migration; and (ii) a dearth of basic investment in agriculture over the past 20 years (weak support from extension services, no access to credit, limited market access, etc.). On the whole, public services at national and local levels have suffered, and agricultural extension services as well as meteorological support services are therefore very limited. Private sector involvement in the agriculture sector is limited to cash crops, which is the only area exhibiting the use of conventional inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, HYV seeds) though on a reduced level.

Climate change threats

Climate Change is an additional threat for agriculture and food security, undermining PRSP achievement. The Initial National Communication and the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) have clearly highlighted major climate change driven risks. For the past years, it has been increasingly difficult to identify the optimal time to plant crops. In the humid Guinean area (south of the country), the short dry season – previously lasting, on average, one month – has for the past several years exceeded two months. In many regions, reduced soil moisture is considered to be a factor in sub-optimal cereal yields. The increase in temperatures and decrease in rainfall has led to the reduction of the cool period, resulting in increased evaporation and soil desiccation, factors causing disruption in the supply of water to the cotton crop. The phenomenon also affects cassava, leading to slower plant growth and tuber development and a corresponding reduction in production. With sugar, there are phenological and physiological effects with consequent reduction in output.

Over the coming years, climate change is expected to increasingly lead to changes in rainfall patterns with droughts occurring more frequently and lasting longer, and an increase in extreme events. It is also predicted that by 2050, the country's average annual temperature is likely to increase by 2.5-3.7°C. The increase in temperature and the decrease in rainfall will lead to further reductions in duration of the rainy season, increasing evaporation and desiccation of already poor soils and impacting agricultural calendars. The phenomenon will affect food crops such as cassava as well as other crops such as millet, maize or peanuts. It is also likely to have negative impacts on cash crops (cotton, coffee) while during their critical growth periods. Pastoralism, the livelihood for a significant number of rural people, may also be affected by the change in rainfall patterns, as access to water is crucial during transhumance. This, in turn, is likely to exacerbate conflicts with farmers.

Project intervention

In the context of the above underlying-causes, the performance of the agricultural sector and its capacity to adapt are limited. The CAR Government, with support from a few donors (FAO, EU), tried recently to revitalize the sector through the implementation of baseline activities which include various agriculture and rural development initiatives focusing primarily on stimulating rural economies by improving agricultural productivity (see D and E, below). While necessary for the overall development of the sector, these interventions are insufficient to ensure resilience of the agriculture and food production sector to overcome climate change risks.

In order to respond to the greatest and most immediate threats of climate change, the government of CAR prepared a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), which prioritized a number of interventions that should enhance the adaptive capacity of the agriculture sector. These include: promoting drought-adapted seeds, rehabilitation of degraded land, establishment of an early warning system.

However, the widespread introduction and adoption of these strategies face a series of barriers including a) policy, legal and institutional instruments that fail to take into account new patterns of risks brought about by climate change and that do not provide sufficient incentives for key stakeholders to adopt climate-resilient agriculture strategies and practices; b) awareness of policy-makers and other opinion leaders in relation to increasing climate risks and the means to manage them; c) staff capacities in the line ministries to provide technical support to implementation of the strategies at local and sub-national levels; d) spatial and quality gaps in the climate information supply chain that result in under-performance of early warning systems and thus in correspondingly poor adaptation decisions; e) capacities of farmers and herders to identify, adopt and implement adaptive measures including both appropriate agro-ecological practices and the sustainable use of plant genetic resources, and e) codification and dissemination of knowledge on successful climate risks management models.

The LDCF project will seek to remove the above barriers preventing the successful implementation of the NAPA. Specific contributions toward the reduction of vulnerabilities to climate change will be achieved through the pursuit of specific project outcomes including: 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; ii) knowledge/experiences shared, capitalized and disseminated. As such, the project will focus on creating the necessary enabling environments at all levels to support the integration of climate change risk management into national and local planning frameworks as well as in agricultural plans. At the national level, the PSRP will be the main entry point, in particular as its emphasis is on agriculture; and at the local level, the project will emphasize local development plans. A specific capacity building program will be developed to revitalize key support services from meteorological and agricultural departments to enable them to better provide the necessary tools and information to local decision makers, including farmers and pastoralists on the ground. Civil society organizations, including recently launched farmer associations, the national Association of Central African Livestock Owners, will be also targeted during project intervention as they will be key vehicles to test and validate pilot adaptation options as well as to disseminate best practices widely. This will specifically include participatory plant breeding involving joint identification of key crops and desirable traits for climate extremes (especially drought tolerance), nutrition and other cultural values, as well as on-farm testing and conservation of tolerant varieties through the strengthening of social networks and other informal institutions.

The project will focus on specific vulnerable regions that are representative of key agro-ecological areas of the country, thus providing a basis for future scale-up of proven techniques and practices, including participatory plant breeding. Given the size and political instability of CAR, these areas and regions will be evaluated first for their operational viability. Bangui and the surrounding region, where there's a high demand for food with a scarcity of productive land, will be prioritized for project intervention. Other potential areas of intervention will be assessed carefully and systematically during the PPG phase.

B. 2. INCREMENTAL /ADDITIONAL COST REASONING: DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL (GEF TRUST FUND) OR ADDITIONAL (LDCF/SCCF) ACTIVITIES REQUESTED FOR GEF/LDCF/SCCF FINANCING AND THE ASSOCIATED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (GEF TRUST FUND) OR ASSOCIATED ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF) TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT:

Component 1: Policy development

Outcome: Policy, institutional and financial capacities developed and strengthened to plan for and manage climate change risks to the agricultural sector. *This outcome corresponds to the GEF/SCCF/LDCF Results Framework Outcome 2.1: Mainstreamed adaptation in broader development frameworks at country level and in targeted vulnerable areas*

Without LDCF intervention: The Government of the CAR has defined a Rural Sector Development Strategy Paper (DSDSR) with four strategic pillars: (i) capacity building of producers and their organizations; (ii) intensification and diversification of agriculture production, forestry, fisheries and hunting; (iii) infrastructure to support production, preservation, storage, processing and marketing; and (iv) strengthening of agriculture and forestry institutions. In the short term, the Government plans to undertake a “Surface Area-Yield Production” survey of major crops, and prepare a bill on the restructuring of farmer organizations and a new land law. CAR’s ability to implement the strategy is however severely undermined by insufficient resources and low institutional capacities. In addition, policies and programmes implemented since 1986 – the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) and Support Programme for Agricultural Institutions (PAIA) – have failed to prevent the disintegration of the main agricultural and pastoral networks, the increase in production costs and decline in producers’ incomes.

In the absence of the proposed project, CAR’s national agricultural policies and support capacities would continue to be mainly directed towards tackling the current baseline constraints on the sector and promoting agricultural practices aligned with historical climate. Insufficient consideration would be placed to address the likely adverse effects of climate change on agriculture including adjusting relevant sectoral policies, plans and programmes that will incentivize climate change resilient practices by small holders as well as larger farms. Subsequently, as climate change manifests and increasingly impacts the sector, national efforts on poverty reduction is likely to be undermined and hamper the achievement and certainly the sustainability of MDG1 targets for CAR. Under anticipated scenarios, the underestimation of likely impacts is likely to compound under-performance, if not failure, of on-going agriculture investments and exacerbate food security issues. This could also lead to reactive and potentially maladaptive options regarding ongoing or anticipated investment plans. In addition, although many development projects are currently being conducted in the agriculture sectors, most are ad hoc isolated pilot projects with little focus on up-scaling, and few take into consideration the complexities and multi-sectoral impacts of climate change. Moreover, the operational budget for the agricultural sector is insufficient to execute its responsibilities to restore affected populations’ assets and to help producers affected by increasingly common climate change induced hazards.

With LDCF intervention, UNDP/GEF will assist the CAR to build the necessary capacity to analyze, understand, plan and manage systematically anticipated climate change impacts on the agriculture sector. In the adaptation scenario, the LDCF resources will help CAR to define and implement measures that overcome both discrete and systemic barriers to adaptation and make the transition towards climate-resilient agricultural development and planning. The initiative will strengthen climate risk management capacities at the level of policy-makers, technical staff and local communities. It will contribute to building the necessary policy to systematically address looming threats from climate change on food production and security. Concretely, as determined during the consultative process for the articulation of this PIF with local stakeholders, this will be achieved through the delivery of the following outputs:

Long term planning tools developed to facilitate mainstreaming of climate change into policies: A climate lens will be applied when examining potential interventions in the agriculture sector at policy level. The application of such a climate lens at the national/ sectoral/local levels involves examining: (i) the extent to which a measure – be it a strategy, policy, plan or programme – under consideration could be vulnerable to risks arising from climate variability and change; (ii) the extent to which climate change risks have been taken into consideration in the course of the formulation of this measure; (iii) the extent to which climate change could increase vulnerability, leading to maladaptation, likely tradeoffs and missed opportunities; and (iv) for pre-existing strategies, policies, plans and programmes which are being revised, what amendments might be warranted in order to address climate risks and opportunities. The realization of the climate lens will be based on availability of complete climate change relevant information. In-depth vulnerability of crops, cross-sectoral social, economic and environmental assessments and cost-benefit analyses will be conducted (using appropriate modeling and scenario planning tools) including comparing the costs/benefits of climate change (the business-as-usual scenario) with the benefits of effective adaptation. This type of analysis is critical to capacitate well informed decision-making within key sector Ministries such as Finance/Planning as well as Agriculture/Water. Financing and risk management strategies will be elaborated to cover the additional cost of adaptation needed to reduce climate risks/vulnerabilities beyond the lifetime of this specific initiative.

Building awareness and capacity to facilitate the process of integrating climate change risks and adaptation into agricultural strategies and local development plans: the approach of integrating climate change into policies must be participatory, involving all primary stakeholders (farmers, local decisions makers, NGO, community based associations, etc.) to ensure that their real needs are met. The project will develop a set of advocacy/awareness tools and organize awareness campaign to engage key stakeholders and strengthen understanding of climate change in the agriculture sector, resilience and adaptive responses and support policy process. In addition, the project will facilitate the development of technical capacities and means by which the National Meteorological Agency and Agriculture services can provide farmers with relevant information for making informed decisions. Projections of climate change as well as provide training to produce appropriate forecasts for medium, to long-term decision-making over and beyond traditional knowledge will be made available. This includes the engagement of end users for training on optimally making use of the information that is made available. The project will also support the organization and delivery of training courses for Environment and Agriculture technical staff from line ministries (technical departments, extension services) and for local decisions makers to facilitate the review of policies and agricultural programs and integration of CC adaptation.

Climate changes adaptation measures and finances options integrated in at least 2 strategic documents and 3 local development plans: LDCF resources will be used to internalize climate change risks into the national PRSP2 policy. Results and recommendations from applying a climate change lens to analyze the performance and future development potential of the agriculture sector will be translated into the articulation and policies and decisions, as well as implementation of activities and investments on the ground that will assist CAR to achieve their intended targets on food security and poverty reduction.

Component 2: Management of risk associated with climate vulnerability

Outcome: Adapted agro-pastoral options implemented in key vulnerable areas;

This outcome corresponds to the GEF/SCCF/LDCF Results Framework Outcome 2.2: Increased adaptive capacity within relevant development sectors and natural resources

Without LDCF intervention: The CAR is currently working towards the development of its PRSP2 with a major focus on the agricultural sector. The government will pursue the intensification and diversification of the agriculture sector, based on the specificities and potentialities of its development and sector specific targets. Efforts will be directed towards (i) the design of an effective financing system for the reequipping of farm implements; (ii) boosting of production and seed dissemination mechanisms

for high value added and fast maturing species; and (iii) the continued support of a number of ongoing program (the more significant of which has already been outlined above), especially those aimed at reducing short-run food security problems. With nearly €10 million in EU funds, FAO is supporting efforts by the Central African Republic's government to boost agricultural production and improve the food security of around 18 000 families affected by high food prices. The project is helping farmers' groups develop lowland fields for rice, maize, sorghum, sesame and groundnuts. Via a network of 500 farm schools and agricultural instructors, farmers will be taught environmentally sound agricultural techniques and practices, including land management, soil and water conservation. Nonetheless, the challenge to CAR is to shift from an emergency response mindset/approach to setting up of structural, systemic, and sustainable support that meaningfully recognize and address climate change challenges.

While intervention provided through EU and FAO support will boost agricultural production, additional needs are expected to deal with climatic variability. With the advent of changes in climatic patterns in recent decades, many of these strategies are proving to no longer be effective and therefore requiring additional support. While progress has been made regarding poverty alleviation; the population, in rural areas remain highly vulnerable. For example, agro-meteorological support to farmers is currently non-existent or ineffective. There is an urgent need to ensure that farmers use adapted drought seeds, and that the supply chain issues pertaining to crop switching are also addressed. Questions are also being asked about the means through which to ensure sustainable food supply availability including during increasingly periodic climate induced stress as well as support to traditional herders vulnerable to climate change.

Because of instability due to past conflicts, CAR does not have the relevant capacities to offer agro-meteorological assistance to farmers, or to support farmers through extension services. These services are critical in the context of a variety of questions that arise on advising smallholders on managing anticipated climate change risks (e.g. type of seeds that should be planted, when, etc). In addition, scientific research into the major crops of sub-Saharan Africa has been successful at improving the yield potentials, preventing disease and increasing the drought resistance of the cereal crops. However, most of the research has focused on other countries, and the Central African Republic does not have the expertise including technical and technological capacity to provide applied research support on adapted crops that will work best for the country. Finally, there's a high need to secure pastoralism within the framework of climate change.

With LDCF intervention: The proposed outcome focuses on strengthening the adaptive capacity of the agriculture sector to respond to anticipated pressures of long-term climate change, including variability. New approaches such as conservation of adapted plant genetic resources, adoption of resilient agro-pastoral practices etc. will be piloted so that learning and adaptive management can be applied in a cost effective manner. The transition to new more resilient systems (e.g. conservation of genetic resources) will require significant investments in agriculture in a deliberate but phased-like manner. Carrying out these investments now in the absence of considerable knowledge, data and experience is risky. In this context, this project will lead towards a transition of agricultural systems from vulnerable to resilient by way of new agro-ecological techniques and the sustainable use of plant genetic resources (PGR), identified and developed through participatory plant breeding. This transition will be tailor-made given the high degree of heterogeneity of soils, micro-climates, and other factors of production. Towards this end, the following outputs will be delivered by the project

Strategic Action Plan for the internalization of climate change risks into conservation of Plant Genetic Resource for Food and agriculture (PGRFA) developed: Adaptive measures at field level will build the capacities of national researchers and farmers to pro-actively identify, evaluate and share adaptive technologies increases the overall resiliency of the agricultural sector by reducing the risk to it from government institutional failures to deliver promised support, creating productive synergies between farmer-led and institutional activities and outputs, and building in critical local knowledge of ecological, social and other diversity. Given that agricultural adaptation depend on appropriately adapted crop

varieties, more emphasis will be placed on conservation and use of plant genetic resources sustainably for food and agriculture as a fundamental tool to adapt the agricultural systems to climate change and reducing the risk of food insecurity. Project interventions will first focus on the development of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) that will provide the foundation for short and medium term investments for the long range conservation of PGRFA in the Bangui and surrounding regions. The SAP will build on the following:

- identification of the PGRFA to be conserved and their relation to food security; understanding the vulnerability of these resources to climate change; recognition of the stakeholders involved, their roles in PGRFA conservation and their capacities;
- Identification of policies, norms, standards, and incentives motivating behaviour in relation to PGRFA use and conservation; and
- Definition of the barriers to effective conservation of PGRFA.

The SAP will then be formulated around the solution to these barriers, identifying strategic objectives and outcomes, implementation arrangements, partnership and financing strategies, monitoring and evaluation methods and plan, and a communications plan in support of knowledge dissemination and potential scale-up to other areas of the country. Various methodologies will be employed with stakeholder participation used to generate on-the-ground contextual information, greater stakeholder capacities, ownership of results, and active support for the Strategic Action Plan. This is particularly critical since the effective PGRFA conservation is entirely dependent on the actions of small farmers and their full understanding, commitment and ownership of the SAP is critical. Partnerships will be developed with FAO and the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for the achievement of this outcome.

Climate resilient technologies and practices and income-generating activities to improve the adaptive capacity of rural communities: The project will do so by modifying and supplementing baseline activities through the implementation of on-the-ground integrated adaptation strategies in about 3 sites located in Bangui and surrounded area. This will involve larger or more sophisticated investments in the demonstration of climate resilient technologies and practices and in income-generating activities that are resilient to more frequent and intense food security threats. These on-site investments will not only demonstrate appropriate climate risks management approaches, they will also bring direct relief to the most vulnerable communities in CAR. At each site, a participatory and community-centered approach will be adopted, and the project will provide overall guidance (towards climate change resilience) and provide technical and scientific support to the process. The project will support the introduction of innovative measures and the dissemination of traditional practices – both hardware and software – that increase adaptive capacity to climate change. This output will be implemented in close coordination with other adaptation projects being implemented in CAR such as the FAO project. In each project site, the process will be as follows:

- Step 1: Support for and understanding of the process will be built amongst the population of the targeted sites. This step will consist of awareness-raising and partnership building amongst key stakeholders within the targeted sites (in particular with local organizations and NGOs), through initial training, workshops and consultations.
- Step 2: Priorities amongst small-scale pilot adaptation investments will be determined under two domains (demonstration of resilient agro-pastoral practices and technologies and demonstration of resilient income generating activities). Identified priorities will be detailed and capacity development activities to be supported by the project will be selected based on the results of the participatory scientific cost assessment conducted under Output 1.1 of the project. In each case, the project management will ensure that LDCF support focuses only on the additional costs imposed by climate change. Special considerations will be given to traditional and endogenous knowledge and to low-tech measures.
- Step 3: Priority adaptation investments identified under Step 2 will be implemented. The project will support resilient income-generating activities encouraging the establishment of a microfinance system in each pilot site (to be managed by the local stakeholders in partnership with local microfinance institutions and project management). An eligibility screening tool

will be developed by experts under the supervision of the project manager for assessing fund requests and for ensuring that only additional needs due to projected climate changes are funded. Adequate measures will be taken so that men and women benefit from the fund in an equitable manner. In addition, the PPG will analyze mechanisms to set in place to support the initial capital investment. The project will benefit support and experiences from the Program on financial sector, managed by UNDP (PAE / IFC, 2007-2010) that set up a network of loans and saving offices.

Component 3: Knowledge management

Outcome: Knowledge/experiences shared, capitalized and disseminated. *This outcome corresponds to the GEF/SCCF/LDCF Results Framework Outcome 1.3: Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation*

Without LDCF intervention: To date, poor awareness of the impacts of climate change has been a root cause for the inadequate adaptation and climate risk management response in CAR.

With LDCF intervention: Disseminating lessons learned from this LDCF project, in the form of reports and the progress, success and feasibility (ease of implementation) of adaptation measures will motivate for, and encourage the spread of adaptation and climate risk management measures to the whole nation, and provide valuable experiences and information to inform adaptation endeavours within other West and Central African countries.

- ***Appropriate seasonal and other long-term climate change including variability information are disseminated to rural farmers and breeders:*** The proposed LDCF project will develop the institutional capacity for producing and disseminating appropriate climate change information (scenario data, climate induced biophysical changes, etc) to rural farmers and breeders. This is an opportunity to increase the adaptive capacity of rural farmers to climate change, including variability, by providing short- and medium-term forecasts and training farmers/breeders to use the information for agricultural planning. A multidisciplinary working group composed of technical, development, and research experts will be created to act as a 'boundary institution' – bridging the gap between the climate and agricultural communities by 'translating' climate information into useful information and advice for farmers/breeders. This group must include members from the meteorological service, the Ministry of Agriculture, agricultural research institutes, farmers/breeders, and the media. The different group members will provide inputs as follows:
 - Man and woman users (farmers and breeders) define the climate-related data and products they need;
 - The meteorological service analyzes technical aspects of these data and products
 - The Ministry of Agriculture, extension services, and research groups work on issues related to food production, crop health/protection, and choice of crop varieties
 - The media sensitize users and disseminate climatic and agro meteorological information. Community radio will be used to distribute the packaged information.
- ***Project lessons codified and disseminated and learning and exchange mechanisms put in place:*** An important part of ensuring the sustainability of any project is information-sharing to enable the continuation and up-scaling of the project once the LDCF funding has come to an end. Therefore, this Output is dedicated to compiling and documenting lessons-learned in the process of implementing all the activities. These lessons learned are to be widely disseminated, be freely available and easily accessed by the population of CAR, and the international community. Various forms of communication will to be used to ensure access by all, including the internet, pamphlets, seminars, radio, TV, billboards, etc. The UNDP's Adaptation Learning Mechanism (ALM) and wikiADAPT (web-based resources) will be used to disseminate lessons learned where they are easily

accessible to both the national and international communities. In addition, public awareness on the impacts of climate change and adaptation requires strengthening to reduce vulnerability: if the public do not know what risks they are prone to, they will be unprepared for the risks, and therefore inherently vulnerable. Lack of awareness of risks can also lead to the acceptance and implementation of maladaptive activities. It is therefore important that an awareness campaign is undertaken, in collaboration with the dissemination of lessons learned, advertising the impacts of climate change (both risks and opportunities), and the effects of adaptation measures on increasing resilience to climate risks. Climate change and adaptation will be included into Bangui University and agricultural centers curricula to ensure that the future leaders and managers are empowered with respect to climate change and adaptation. A similar activity integrating climate change and adaptation into university education curriculum developed in another UNDP Programme funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Climate Change and Development – Adapting by Reducing Vulnerability (CC DARE) jointly implemented with UNEP will be handy in guiding this process as replication.

B.3. DESCRIBE THE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF GENDER DIMENSIONS, AND HOW THESE WILL SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS(GEF TRUST FUND) OR ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF). AS A BACKGROUND INFORMATION, READ [MAINSTREAMING GENDER AT THE GEF.](#):

Individual, institutional and systemic capacities will be developed and strengthened, rendering CAR able to identify and implement the necessary modifications to its development plans and programs at national, local and sectoral levels, thus ensuring successful achievement of MDG1 in a changing climate. In particular, project direct benefits would include:

Increased stability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture: The project will lead to increased effectiveness in the production of adapted seeds and other PGR by building the capacities of the Central African Republic Agricultural Research Center, as well as farmers' associations and supporting actors, to work separately and jointly within a strategic framework to ensure sustained selection and development of varieties adapted to changing climatic conditions. The project will develop a Strategic Action Plan for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture that will identify and prioritize key crops for plant breeding, develop or adapt participatory breeding methodologies, build the capacities of farmers and local and national authorities, analyze policy gaps and identify potential reforms, and otherwise create a dynamic system of PGRFA conservation on farm. The Center will build its capacities to carry out participatory plant breeding involving joint selection with farmers' associations and key farmers of desirable traits in crops important to food security, on-farm testing of varietal tolerance to climate extremes (drought, high temperatures, etc.) and on-farm plant genetic resource conservation. Farmers' associations will build their capacities to participate in plant breeding and conservation processes and to disseminate adapted varieties to their members. The Center will benefit from the support of regional/international expertise as well as genetic material in the collections of other Contracting Parties of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. About 10 researchers will attend international/regional workshops, receive training to improve their skills, and exchange knowledge and experience with colleagues in similar institutions and circumstances.

Increased productivity: The project will strengthen the capacities of the national agricultural research and extension system, as well as national farmer associations, in developing, testing, disseminating and implementing agro-ecological practices aimed at increasing productivity and sustainability of traditional farming systems. The testing, selection, dissemination and adoption of adapted varieties and management practices will increase yields of poor farmers, resulting in higher food output for both household consumption and local markets. Over 3,000 farmers and pastoralists will gain the knowledge

(weather information and interpretation) and technical tools required (adapted seeds and agro-ecological practices) to face future climatic risks.

Increased understanding of climate risks to agriculture and food security: Policy and decision makers and opinion leaders of all kinds and at all levels will systematically receive information on climate risks to agriculture and food security, and mitigation measures.

Increased availability of food products all year long: while productivity will be enhanced, food access will also be reinforced in partnership with others agencies. The “pole of development” will be the main entries points for the LDCF project, they have been chosen because of their geographical location (connected to cities). Food production will be made available in major cities of the countries, enable consumers to get access to food products at a better price.

Income generation; by supporting one of the main economic sector which employ majority of inhabitants of CAR, the project should also support the transformation of the sector. Farmers will be targeted as the first beneficiaries of the project. However, employment should be created throughout the supply chain value. Micro-finance scheme will be an asset to support this objective. Women are playing a key role regarding financing tools. The project will have positive impact on both reinforcing the micro-financing sector as well as positioning women as key player during project implementation.

Increased integration of climate risk analysis into key public policies for agriculture and food security: The policy measures that would be supported under the project include at least two key national policies (PRS, rural development strategy, etc.) and three local development plans which will integrate climate changes adaptation measures and finances options. An accompanying training program on climate change adaptation intended for technical staff from line ministries and for the managers and senior staff of their primary partners (NGO, media) will be developed to facilitate review of policies and agricultural programs with a view to mainstream climate risk analysis.

Increased knowledge on tools, methods and practices for greater adaptation to climate change in agriculture: The project will support the development of tools (guidelines and manuals), methods and practices addressing climate change and targeting land managers, local government agencies, extension services, and farmers associations in pilot sites. This will be done to allow the country to perpetuate the best practices and other measures undertaken by the project and thus incorporate them in a scaled up, longer term adaptation strategy for food security and agriculture.

B.4 INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE, PROPOSE MEASURES THAT ADDRESS THESE RISKS TO BE FURTHER DEVELOPED DURING THE PROJECT DESIGN:

Identified risks	Mitigation measures
<p>The political context could slow down the implementation of the project. A presidential election will be held in the coming months. On the other hand, the country does not enjoy a uniform stability across its territory.</p>	<p>The first identification mission took place and has enabled to sensitize the main stakeholders of the importance of the project for the country; the main actors are involved of which the Plan, agriculture, environment and meteorology; this should facilitate the implementation of the PPG.</p> <p>The project intervention areas will take into account the most vulnerable as well as the most politically stable areas to ensure the success of the project. However, there is awareness that this will not be addressing the barrier posed by insecurity for adaptation action.</p>

Lack of adequate human and material resources for the implementation of this project could disturb the implementation of the various activities of the project.	Research will be carried out during the PPG to assess the capacities of the project's key institutions at different levels to ensure the effective implementation of the process and judging their comparative strength to undertake specific areas of the project
Adaptation is a new field of knowledge that involves an increased sensitization to ensure a full ownership of the issue by the beneficiaries.	The project will strive to implement a large awareness program with various partners to ensure full ownership of the new cultivation practices as well as the adaptation measures and policies. In addition, those practices will strive to promote the traditional know-how and technical solutions relevant to local contexts.

B.5. IDENTIFY KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES, AS APPLICABLE:

Capacity of civil society in CAR is very limited and it is the same for community organizations. In particular, farmer associations in CAR are less organized compare to other region (West Africa). LDCF will make sure that the embryonic organization will be strengthened. In this sense, farmer association and other local communities organization (micro-finance scheme) will have a priority role during project implementation. Key emphasis will be also given to the FNEC (cattle-farmer association) and the recently launched association of famer. The project will involve woman farmers association in the development of the strategy on genetic plants, as key players on food security in the country.

B.6. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

CAR is supported by GEF in the implementation of numerous enabling activity projects: the Second National Communication and the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA). Result from these ongoing related projects as well as consultations with project staff will be used as inputs towards informing the technical feasibility of adaptation options and measures that are identified during the preparatory phase

With the support from various donors, the government is implementing, programs and projects in the agriculture sector. Among them, the Rural Infrastructure Rehabilitation Support Project (PARIR) aims at ensuring food security and reducing poverty in rural areas. The main expected outputs consist of the rehabilitation of 2 cattle markets, 2 slaughterhouses, 2 municipal markets, one rural market, 60 km of farm-to-market roads, and the equipment of 6 product analysis and control laboratories. There are also plans to rehabilitate and equip 2 vocational training centres for young school dropouts of both sexes as well as a rural development technical secondary school. The project also aims to build the institutional capacity of partners concerned at both the central and decentralized level, in order to enhance the quality of their services and ensure the sustained management of post-project achievements. In addition, the European Union is financing the development of agricultural intensive pole for the scaling up of food crop production. The financial volume of the project is estimated to be about \$4,032 million and implemented by FAO. The demonstration activities of the LDCF project will focus on selected areas identified by these initiatives, in particular Bambari (prefecture of Ouaka), Sibut (prefecture of Kémo), and Bangui.

The project “supporting the realization of forest management Plan” (PARPAF) intends to promote a sustainable use of forest land. The program is in its second phase, implementing management plans focused on forest extraction by more than 8 concessions. However PARFAF is facing major constraints regarding land use management especially in areas in proximity to the capital Bangui. Competition for

land is fierce due to high food product demand and pressures brought about by urban growth for land. The initiative will collaborate with PARPAF project to ensure a necessary shift towards climate change resilient agro-ecological intensification of agriculture, enabling the PARPAF and national government to continue the sustainable extraction of forest products, a primary main source of income for the country.

This initiative will take into considerations the findings and experiences of the National Association of Central African Livestock Owners funded project “*Support to natural resources conflict management in the Mbomou and Haut Mbomou region*”. This project has made key recommendations for efficient use of natural resources in order to secure livelihood opportunities for herders, crop-farmers and wildlife users.

During the PPG phase, in-depth consultations will be undertaken to establish partnerships and practical modalities for linking and collaborating with the above ongoing initiatives, both at the national and sub-national level. Key representatives of civil society will be consulted to ensure there is a balance between public, private and civil society perspectives in the eventual project design. These consultations will also help to avoid duplication of activities and LDCF resources build on the progress and achievements made to date through other initiatives. A strategy and plan for collaboration with relevant ongoing and planned initiatives will be prepared during the preparatory phase, including defining the roles and responsibilities of critical stakeholders.

C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY’S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT: The proposed project is clearly within the compare advantages of UNDP as stated in the GEF Council Paper C.31.5 “*Comparative Advantages of GEF Agencies*” (see summary matrix in Annex L).

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UNDP is present in CAR since 1976. The framework of cooperation between UNDP and the Government of the CAR for 2007-2011 includes (i) improvement and stabilization of the macroeconomic framework and institutional capacity building, and (ii) strengthening of community living conditions in most vulnerable areas (micro finance, income-generating activities). In 2005, UNDP supported the development of a National finance strategy focused on improving the legal and regulatory environment, increasing of geographic coverage and diversification of products and services, the sustainability of interventions by microfinance institutions (MFIs) in order to professionalize financial services and increase access of micro finances resources and strengthen the integration of microfinance in the financial sector. The strategy is implemented through the Support Program on emergence of an inclusive financial sector (PAE / IFC, 2007-2010). The programme permits the establishment of an institutional framework for coordinating, promoting and controlling the micro finance activities and the operationalization of 14 savings and loans offices.

In the agriculture sector, UNDP is implementing several local and national initiatives:

- Project "Strengthening the legal and institutional capacities to fight against land degradation in CAR": information and education on unsustainable agricultural practices (slash and burn) and impacts in land degradation. Focus groups: local communities and NGO's.
- Project "Support for Network of Women Leaders in Conflict Areas": supporting women in agriculture techniques and providing material to help them to become autonomous;
- Project "Empowerment of unemployed youth in conflict zones": training on handicrafts and support them to increase crop yields by providing them agriculture material.
- Project "Socio-economic recovery in conflict areas": implementation of income generating activities (including including agricultural activities) in areas of conflict. The project is implanted in partnership with NGO (DRC).
- Project "Recovery of agro-pastoral in conflicts areas ": implementation of agro-pastoral activities through income generating activities. The project is implanted in partnership with NGO (CARITAS).

- Project "Small Grants Projects (GEF/UNDP)": 30% of grants are dedicated
- Project "Promotion of poor households' to access to sustainable financial services (UNDP/UNCDF): support agricultural initiatives in all regions of CAR, financing needs of farmers in grain storage for crops.

Project will be managed through National Implementation modalities. The Ministries of Agriculture will coordinate the project with a staff selected according to their competences (overseen by UNDP). The Ministry of Environment and Ecology will also be involved with national implementation especially in articulating the benefits to rural livelihoods. The project will also benefit from support by the UNDP "hub on Rural Livelihood" established to support LDCF projects in providing technical and scientific support including:

- The provision of capacity and expertise;
- The provision of technical assistance focused towards strengthening institutional capacity both at the national, sub-national and local levels;
- Access to global information networks, experience and knowledge that can be used to strengthen the implementation of the project;

The project will also gain experience sharing benefits by the project will be from other ongoing LDCF projects in the agriculture sector managed by UNDP in West and Central Africa (Mali, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Niger)

C.1 INDICATE THE CO-FINANCING AMOUNT THE GEF AGENCY IS BRINGING TO THE PROJECT:

500,000 USD

C.2 HOW DOES THE PROJECT FIT INTO THE GEF AGENCY'S PROGRAM (REFLECTED IN DOCUMENTS SUCH AS UNDAF, CAS, ETC.) AND STAFF CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW UP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

This current project responds to Priority 2 of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in CAR (UNDAF) over the period of 2007-2011: support to recovery process as well as the fight against poverty. The objective of these documents is to align and target assistance from the United Nations system to support process recovering and reduce extreme poverty and improve food security by developing a poverty-reduction strategy modeled on the MDGs. This strategy will take specific action to increase the production capacities of the population, especially that of youth and women.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE
Gustave Doungoube	<i>GEF Operational Focal Point,</i>	<i>Ecology and Environment Ministry</i>	<i>March, 25th, 2010</i>

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.				
Agency		DATE	Project	Email Address

Coordinator, Agency name	Signature		Contact Person	Telephone	
John Hough Deputy Executive Coordinator, UNDP/GEF		10/25/2010	Mame Dagou Diop Regional Technical Advisor West and Central Africa	+27 12 354 8115 Cell +27 7187 38 492	mame.diop@undp.org