GEF-6 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GETF

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Forest and Landscape Restoration supporting Landscape and Livelihoods Resilience in the Central African Republic (CAR)			
Country(ies):	The Central African Republic (CAR)	GEF Project ID:	9514
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO	GEF Agency Project ID:	642738
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forestry, Hunting, and Fisheries (*Ministère de l'environnement, du développement durable, des eaux, forêts, chasse et pêche* - MEDDEFCP)	Submission Date: Resubmission Date:	19 March 2018 17 April 2018
GEF Focal Area (s):	MFA	Project Duration	60 months
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities ☐ IAP-Commodities ☐ IAP-Food Security ☐	Corporate Program: SGP ☐	
Name of Parent Program	[if applicable]	Agency Fee ($)	536,548

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in $)	
			GEF Project Financing	**Co-financing**
LD-2 Program 3	Support mechanisms for forest landscape management and restoration established; Improved forest management and/or restoration; Increased investments in Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and restoration.	GEFTF	1,000,000	1,600,000
LD-3 Program 4	Support mechanisms for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in wider landscapes established; Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities based on gender sensitive needs; Increased investments in integrated landscape management.	GEFTF	1,031,006	1,600,000
BD-4 Program 9	Increased area of production landscapes and seascapes that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into management; Sector policies and regulatory frameworks incorporate biodiversity considerations.	GEFTF	1,943,430	3,600,000
SFM-3	Integrated landscape restoration plans to maintain forest ecosystem services are implemented at appropriate scales by government, private sector and local community actors, both women and men.	GEFTF	993,601	1,800,000
SFM-4	Improved collaboration between countries and across sectors on the implementation of SFM.	GEFTF	993,601	1,800,000
Total project costs			5,961,638	10,400,000

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective:
Contribute to the restoration and maintenance of critical landscapes to provide global environmental benefits and more resilient economic development and livelihoods, in support of the Bonn Challenge

Indicators
  a) Area (ha) of deforested and degraded landscapes in restoration transition, stratified by land management actors (communities, farmers, private enterprises, and others);
  b) tCO2eq avoided emissions/increased removals in the CAR landscapes as a result of The Restoration Initiative (TRI) interventions.
  c) Number of households directly benefiting from the project (from jobs, revenue and income, sustainably harvested timber, Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP), etc.)

Targets
  a) 3,221 ha of degraded agro-ecosystem and degraded forest landscapes moved to sustainable land management regimes and 2,665 ha of avoided deforestation
  b) 3,185,597tCO2eq avoided emissions/increased removals from direct project activities over the Project's impact period.
  c) 3,000 households will directly benefit from capacity building, trainings, equipment, jobs, revenue and income, products such as sustainably harvested timber, NTFP, etc.

Project Components	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in $) GEF Project Financing	(in $) Confirmed Co-financing
Component 1: Policy Development and Integration	TA	OC 1.1) Increased national and sub-national commitment to forest and landscape restoration INDICATOR 1.1) New/additional Bonn Challenge commitments from TRI countries. TARGET 1.1.1) xx million ha* of deforested and degraded land newly committed to restoration by the CAR, in support of the Bonn Challenge. *to be defined during Project implementation, by the LDN National Coordination: potential for and location of sites to be restored to emanate from the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) study OC 1.2) National and sub-national policy and regulatory frameworks are increasingly supportive of restoration, sustainable land management, maintenance and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest and other land uses, and reduced emissions from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) and agriculture. INDICATOR 1.2) Policies and regulatory frameworks in the CAR that support forest and landscape restoration while incorporating biodiversity conservation, accelerated low GHG development and emissions reduction, and sustainable livelihood considerations	OP 1.1.1 Filling of knowledge gap: ecosystem service valuation OP 1.1.2 Filling of knowledge gap: assessment of restoration opportunities OP 1.2.1 Elaborating a Land Planning Scheme for the South-West area OP 1.2.2 Upgrading the Wood Energy Supply Plan (WISDOM) for Bangui/Bambio OP 1.2.3 Fine-tuning the Forest Policy Statement and including FLR concerns OP 1.2.4 Upgrading the SNPA-DB and including FLR concerns	GEFTF	875,750	1,500,000

		TARGETS 1.2.1) Key policies and regulatory frameworks strengthened (i) Improved knowledge: (agro)biodiversity, soil fertility, C storage, Costs/Benefits of ecosystem services, (ii) ROAM study (iii) South-Western Land Planning Scheme, (iv) Upgraded WISDOM Platform / Strat. for (peri)urban forests in Bangui, (v) Fine-tuned forest policy statement (incl. Forest and Landscape Restoration - FLL), (vi) Upgraded National Strategy and Action Plan regarding Biodiversity (SNPA-DB), including FLR concerns.				
Component 2: Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives	Inv	OC 2) Integrated landscape management practices and restoration plans implemented by government, private sector and local community actors, both men and women. INDICATOR 2.1) Area (ha) of deforested and degraded landscapes in restoration transition, stratified by land management actors (communities, farmers, private enterprises, and others) in the CAR. TARGETS 2.1.1) 3,221 ha under restoration in the landscape, stratified by land management practices and actors such as communities, farmers, private enterprises, etc., and progress on restoration (Index of Restoration Progress, 1-5), 2,665 ha of avoided deforestation, and 44,131 ha under improved land management practices. In total, 3,185,597 tCO_{2eq} avoided emissions/removals in TRI target landscapes as a direct result of TRI interventions. INDICATOR 2.2) Number of households directly benefiting from the project (from jobs, revenue and income, sustainably harvested timber, NTFP, improved livelihoods, etc.). TARGETS 2.2.1) 3,000 households will directly benefit from capacity building, trainings, equipment, jobs, revenue and income, products such as sustainably harvested timber, NTFP, improved livelihoods etc. linked to FLR	OP 2.1 Baseline setting in each FLR perimeter, within the five pilot sites OP 2.2 Implementing FLR activities with local populations OP 2.3 Implementing complementary Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) with local populations OP 2.4 Day-to-day supervision and support by field agents and Project Management Unit (PMU)	GEFTF	3,071,311	5,670,000
Component 3: Institutions,	TA	OC 3) Strengthened institutional capacities and financing arrangements in place to allow for and facilitate	OP 3.1 Capacity needs assessment of key stakeholders	GEFTF	1,003,148	3,180,000

Finance and Upscaling		large-scale restoration and maintenance of critical landscapes and diverse ecosystem services in the CAR. INDICATOR 3.1) Number of cross-agency mechanisms and/or frameworks established and maintained to strengthen and facilitate coordinated national and sub-national action on restoration. TARGET 3.1.1) 1 National Coordination mechanism on FLR (the overall coordinating framework on FLR) INDICATOR 3.2) Establishment/functioning of field-level support entities; number of TRI-supported trainings, workshops, and capacity-building/learning events; demonstrated increase in knowledge and capacity to plan for and manage restoration. TARGET 3.2.1) Capacity-building needs assessment carried out and ad hoc capacity-building actions implemented for (i) Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forestry, Hunting, and Fisheries (MEDDEFCP) and Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture (MDRA) (esp. Field officers), (ii) Targeted local populations, (iii) Academic institutions (Central African Institute for Agricultural Research - ICRA and Higher Institute of Rural Development - ISDR) INDICATOR 3.3) Value of resources (public, private, development partners) flowing into restoration initiatives in TRI countries. TARGET 3.3) by the end of the Project, 7 million US$ of additional funding (in addition to TRI CAR Project) flowing into restoration and complementary SLM initiatives from diverse sources and innovative mechanisms INDICATOR 3.4) Number of bankable restoration projects developed in TRI countries through inclusive development process TARGET 3.4) Two bankable restoration projects developed as well	OP 3.2 Capacity-building of field officers and local project coordinators OP 3.3 Capacity-building of targeted local populations OP 3.4 Capacity-building of academic institutions (ICRA and ISDR) OP 3.5 Mobilizing domestic and external funding for FLR OP 3.6 Support to the National Coordination on FLR			

		as a study on domestic channeling and disbursement of forest taxes and others				
Component 4: Knowledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment	TA	OC4.1) Increased effectiveness of Program investments among Program stakeholders INDICATOR 4.1) Participation in TRI Annual Knowledge Sharing events, Biennial Restoration Finance events, and TRI-sponsored South-South exchanges that address restoration TARGET 4.1.1) Participation in at least 1 event sponsored by TRI annually INDICATOR 4.2) Program monitoring system successfully developed and supporting implementation of Project TARGET 4.2.1) Program monitoring system successfully developed and supporting implementation of the TRI CAR Project. OC 4.2) Improved knowledge of best practices on restoration among key external audiences. INDICATOR 4.3) Development of timely and relevant TRI knowledge products that capture lessons learned, and supporting tools for accessing and communicating TRI results to practitioners and global community. TARGET 4.3.1) TRI-related best practices and lessons-learned published on TRI web portal and shared with environmental and development agencies and organizations, in particular (i) Reports/short movies re: technical days (three/year), (ii) Training materials on FRL and IGAs, (iii) Guide on good practices in terms of FRL and IGAs INDICATOR 4.4) Development of effective global awareness campaign increasing public awareness and support for FLR. TARGET 4.4.1) Increased number of people equipped with new knowledge related to forest and landscape restoration through communications from the TRI CAR Project.	OP 4.1.1 South-South exchange for a mixed audience (civil servants, asso/groups, ICRA/ISDF); FLR actions / FRM OP 4.1.2 Participation in the annual knowledge meetings and the bi-annual finance events OP 4.1.3 Monitoring & Evaluation of the Project OP 4.1.4 Project Steering Committe (PSC) OP 4.2.1 Facilitation of technical days, gathering practitioners and policy-makers OP 4.2.2 Creation and diffusion of technical materials and awareness-raising, to promote FLR and IGAs OP 4.2.3 Elaboration of a Guide of Good Practices in terms of FLR & IGAs	GEFTF	727,542	0
			Subtotal		5,677,751	10,350,000
			Project Management Cost (PMC)	GEF TF	283,887	50,000

			Total project costs	5,961,638	10,400,000

C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount ($)
Recipient Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Project for the Regional Development of the South-West PDRSO and Central African Forest Initiative - CAFI)	Grant	5,000,000
Recipient Government	Forest&Mining Gov. Project (WB)	Grant	4,800,000
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	550,000
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	50,000
Total Co-financing			10,400,000

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in $)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total (c)=a+b
FAO	GEFTF	CAR	LD	N/A	2,031,006	182,791	2,213,797
FAO	GEFTF	CAR	BD	N/A	1,943,430	174,909	2,118,339
FAO	GETF	CAR	SFM	N/A	1,987,202	178,848	2,166,050
Total Grant Resources					5,961,638	536,548	6,498,186

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	*22,232 hectares: 7,964 hectares of SLM in production systems plus 14,268 hectares of ecosystems with avoided degradation (see EXACT estimates in Annex B)*
Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	*7,964 hectares: 3,221 hectares direct plus 4,743 hectares indirect (see EXACT estimates in Annex B)*
Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO_{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	*15,191,511 tons CO2e mitigated (3,185,597 tCO2eq direct and 12,005,914 tCO2eq indirect – see EXACT calculations in Annex B)*

- 3,221 hectares (Direct) + 4,743 hectares (Indirect) = 7,964 hectares considered as agroforestry restoration operations for SLM in production systems *(agricultural lands and plantation sites within the logging concessions)* in the different selected areas mentioned in the EX-ACT calculation table available in Annex B).
- 5,886 hectares (D) + 16,346 hectares (I) = 7,964 hectares (Productive ecosystems) + 14,268 hectares *(avoided degradation estimates in other forested ecosystems)* = 22,232 hectares considered as landscapes better managed and providing biodiversity and ecosystem good and services to society *(both direct and indirect)* in the different selected areas mentioned in the EX-ACT calculation table available in Annex B).

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A "NON-GRANT" INSTRUMENT?   No

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF

A.1. Project Description

1) Global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

The TRI CAR Project will address the following environmental threats: deforestation and forest degradation, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, and climate change. These threats are closely linked together and share most of their indirect and direct drivers. Based on the sectoral assessments presented in details in the TRI CAR Project Document, hereafter are described the gaps/barriers of the baseline initiatives to overcome, in order to successfully implement FLR activities and to address the aforementioned global environmental threats:

Drivers of environmental threats	Baseline initiatives	Gap/barriers to overcome
Unsustainable industrial logging	Policy context: Forest Code (2008) and specific regulations in that regard, effectively implemented. Financing support: (i) Voluntary Partnership Agreement / Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (VPA/FLEGT) process (EU, EURO 6.7 million) to support wood legality/traceability, (ii) Comp. 2 of the 2017-2021 PDRSO (French Agency for Development (AFD) – French Global Environmental Facility (FFEM), EURO 6.5 million) and Forest Comp. B of the 2018-2022 Mining & Forest Governance project (USD 5.7 million for the forest part, WB) to support forest management plans and forest industry in general.	None
Unsustainable artisanal logging	Policy context: Forest Code (2008) and specific regulations in this regard, but not yet implemented (no private/decentralized collectivity/community forest, no formal artisanal logging). Draft V0 of Forest policy aiming at addressing these issues. Financing support: (i) 2016-2018 CoNGOs' project (International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), budget for CAR not yet defined) to facilitate multi-stakeholder concertation, (ii) Forest Comp. D of the 2018-2022 Mining & Forest Governance project (USD 5.7 million for the forest part, WB) to set up pilot Community forests and formal artisanal logging near Berbérati.	To fine-tune the Draft V0 Forest policy re: private/local authorities/community forests and artisanal logging (Output 1.2.3)
Unsustainable wood energy harvest	Policy context: Forest Code (2008) and specific regulations not dealing explicitly with this issue. Marginal consideration for wood energy in the energy policy. WISDOM study carried out in 2009 in Bangui, but no follow-up. Draft V0 of Forest policy aiming at addressing these issues. Financing support: (i) 2016-2018 CoNGOs' project (IIED, budget for CAR not yet defined) to facilitate multi-stakeholder concertation, (ii) Forest Comp. D of the 2018-2022 Mining & Forest Governance project (USD 5.7 million for the forest part, WB) to set up pilot Community forests and formal artisanal logging near Berbérati.	(i) To fine-tune the Draft V0 Forest policy re: private/local authorities/community forests and artisanal logging (Output 1.2.3) (ii) To upgrade the WISDOM study for Bangui (major Demand/Offer gap) (Output 1.2.2)
Little reforestation,	Policy context: Forest Code (2008) focusing on public reforestation (unclarity for private/decentralized collectivity/community forest) and not explicitly mentioning Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) or FLR. No	(i) To fine-tune the Draft V0 Forest policy re: private/local authorities/community,

nearly no ANR or FLR	outcome from the National Reforestation Committee set up in 2010, esp. no national reforestation/ANR/FLR strategy. No national capacity to produce forest seeds/plants at scale. Poor success of reforestation perimeters from the Special Earmarked Account for Forest (CAS-DF) (lack of means, as the forest taxation regime is challenged by forest companies / poor follow-up). Few experience of local communities and civils servants in terms of reforestation/ANR/FLR. Draft V0 of Forest policy aiming at addressing these issues. Financing support: (i) 2016-2018 CoNGOs' project (IIED, budget for CAR not yet defined) to facilitate multi-stakeholder concertation, (ii) Forest Comp. D of the 2018-2022 Mining & Forest Governance project (USD 5.7 million for the forest part, WB) to set up pilot 2 Community forests and formal artisanal logging near Berbérati, (iii) Comp. 3 of the 2017-2021 PDRSO (AFD-FFEM, EURO 6.5 million) to set up small-scale / pilot reforestation and ANR/FLR actions (few ha near Bangui).	reforestation, ANR/FLR (Output 1.2.3) (ii) To assess reforestation/restoration opportunities and set up a nat. strategy (Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2) (iii) To build capacities of local communities and civil servants in terms of reforestation, ANR, FLR and implement field actions (Outputs 2.1 to 2.4, and 3.1 to 3.4) (iv) To make recommendations for an efficient channeling of domestic / external funding for ANR / FLR (Output 3.5)
Bushfire, closely linked with bushmeat hunting	Policy context: Forest Code (2008) authorizing bushfire for cropping, under certain conditions, but little control. Protected Areas better preserved, thanks to external funding (eco-guards, IGAs, etc.). Wildlife Protection Code (1984) outdated, but to be replaced soon by a Wildlife Plan (expected 2017). Bushmeat consumption still common and bushfire for hunting very common. Draft V0 of Forest policy to address these issues. Financing support: (i) Dzanga-Sangha Protected Area (APDS) project (Tri-National Sangha + many other donors, funding level unknown), (ii) ECOFAC6 (EU, EURO 12 million) to support protection of 3 Protected Areas (North and South-East), (iii) Comp. 3 of the 2017-2021 PDRSO (AFD-FFEM, EURO 6.5 million) to set up IGAs in 10 South-Western Communes.	(i) To fine-tune the Draft V0 Forest policy re: bushfire and bushmeat, reflecting the findings of the Wildlife Plan (Output 1.2.3) (ii) To promote alternatives IGAs (incl. NTFPs), to increase revenues and diversify diets, thus reducing bushfire / hunting (Output 2.3)
Unsustainable slash-and-burn cropping	Policy context: No agriculture policy, but the Agriculture Investment Plan (PNIASAN) focusing on "conventional agriculture" to develop food crops. Agriculture sector deeply impacted by the recent crisis. Rural development projects replaced by emergency and post-emergency projects, notably for food aid. Poor performance of the CAR agriculture as a whole. Weak public services in the agriculture sector (Ministry of agriculture - MDRA, National Agriculture Research Centre - ICRA, National Agriculture Extension Service - ACDA, etc.) with marginal support from the State and the donors (apart from the NGO Welthungerhilfe which recently supported the renovation of ICRA research stations). Little or no experience of local communities and civils servants in terms of agroecology, despite the concept is included in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions - INDC (2015). Financing support: (i) National Agriculture Support Program (WB, USD 45 million?) to be launched in 2018 or even 2019...But no details on actions and locations, (ii) Comp. 3 of the 2017-2021 PDRSO (AFD-FFEM, EURO 6.5 million) to set up small-scale / pilot agroecology field trials (few ha near Bangui).	(i) To support ICRA in setting-up R&D programs on FLR and agro-ecology (Output 3.4) (ii) To build capacities of local populations and civil servants in agro-ecology (Outputs 3.1 to 3.3) (iii) To promote alternatives IGAs (incl. NTFPs), to increase revenue and diversify the diet, and thus reduce slash-and-burn (Output 2.3)
Mining	Policy context: Mining Code (2009) inadequate with regard to the artisanal mining. Gold and diamond artisanal mining common in the South-West.	None

	Financing support: (i) Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development II - PRADD2 (USAID, USD 0.7 million) to support the "formalization" of the artisanal mining (and conformity to the Kimberley process) in the South-West, (ii) 2018-2022 Mining & Forest Governance project (USD 4.3 million for the mining part, WB) to support the "formalization" of the artisanal mining in the South-West.	
Poor knowledge of ecosystems values	Policy context: On-going studies to cross LULUCF data and carbon stock data, and thus value forest carbon, thanks to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and soon coming Central Africa Forest Initiative (CAFI). The Biodiversity Strategy (SNPA-DB, 2000) poorly reflects existing research in terms of biodiversity in the CAR. Knowledge gaps in terms of agrobiodiversity to be filled. The Land Degradation Strategy (PAN-LCD, 2009) does not present land degradation status and trends, nor does it include cost estimates of land degradation. Financing support: Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target setting process (United-Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - UNCCD/Global Mechanism, funding level yet unknown) to assess 2001-2014 land degradation in the South-West (work carried out by World Resource Institute - WRI) and support the LDN target setting.	(i) to assess degradation trends and estimate the cost of land degradation (with WRI) (Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2) (ii) To compile biodiversity literature and carry out research on agro-biodiversity, to estimate the cost of agro/biodiversity loss (Outputs 1.1.1) (iii) To review agro/biodiversity cost and upgrade SNPA-DB (Outputs 1.1.4)
No land planning and poor inter-sectoral coordination	Policy context: No land planning, either at national, regional, prefectural or local level. Poor inter-sectoral coordination, leading to overlaps in land use (e.g. mining, forestry, agriculture, etc.), conflicts and/or dilution of the responsibilities. Financing support: Comp. 1 of the 2017-2021 PDRSO (AFD-FFEM, EURO 6.5 million) and Forest Comp. A of the 2018-2022 Mining & Forest Governance project (USD 5.7 million for the forest part, WB) to support the 21 forest Communes of the South-West in preparing their Local Development Plans.	Based on the Local Development Plans and based on inter-sectoral consultations and spatial analyses, to support the elaboration of a regional land planning scheme in the South-West (Output 1.2.1)
Land tenure insecurity	Policy context: Land tenure regime outdated and unsuitable in several respects. Draft Framework Law on Land Tenure ready for validation since 2015, pending political impulse for approval. Financing support: To our knowledge, no project addressing this issue.	Political impulse to reinforced when fine-tuning the Draft V0 Forest policy in order to get the Framework Law approved (Output 1.2.3)
Climate change	Policy context: National Adaptation Plan of Action - NAPA (2008) and INDC (2015) focusing adaptation measures in the agriculture and forestry sectors (Ecosystem-Based Adaptation - EBA). Financing support: To our knowledge, no project explicitly supporting EBA	(i) To build capacities of local communities and civil servants in terms of reforestation, ANR, FLR and implement field EBA actions (Outputs 3.1 to 3.3) (ii) To promote alternatives IGAs (incl. from NTFPs), to increase revenues and diversify diets, thus increasing climate resilience of local communities (Output 2.3)

2) The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects The CAR has suffered from many politico-military crisis for the last decades. The last one in 2013 was the most dramatic. The overall economy was down for the last years and the country has just recently started to plan the recovery thanks notably to the CAR Donor Conference organized in Brussels in November 2016. Nevertheless the political stability and economic recovery remain fragile, which explains why the Government and its key technical

and financial partners have been till very recently focusing their efforts on emergency and post-emergency operations rather than rural development and natural resources management.

After the implementation of the 2014-2016 Emergency and Sustainable Rehabilitation Program (CAR Government 2014), notably supported by the FAO and WFP through the PURCARA, the CAR Government prepared the 2017-2021 RCPCA (CAR Government 2016), based on the following key-messages: (i) Stabilizing the CAR is a long term process, setbacks are to be expected in the coming years, (ii) Development is key to overcoming the state of fragility and the cycle of crises in the CAR, (iii) Donors should not wait for a complete normalization of the security situation before supporting development programs (World Bank, 2016b). The foreseen budget of the RCPCA was USD 3,161 million, divided into three main axes: (i) Restoring peace and security by progressing the DDR process and resettling refugees and displaced peoples, (ii) Renewing the social contract between the State and the population by providing basic public services (education, health, food aid) and improving public governance) and (iii) Revamping productive sectors (transport, agriculture, water, energy and telecommunication). At the time of writing the TRI national child project, the RCPCA was thus the main roadmap from the Government. Few months after the CAR Donor Conferences, most of the pledges were still under discussion between the Government and donors, including the main ones, EU and World Bank *(See more details in Section 2.1.2 Baseline initiatives of the Project Document)*.

This explains why on-going or upcoming projects, relevant for the present TRI national child project and that can be considered as co-financing investments, are few and are listed together with other on-going or planned Government initiatives on forestry, agriculture, environment, mines, land tenure and decentralization.

A process led by the MEDDEFCP has recently been launched to build a vision for the forestry sector by 2035. This process is building on the key principles of the current Forest Code (adopted in 2008) and the 2015-2025 COMIFAC Convergence Plan aiming to promote the sustainable management of forests and to contribute to poverty reduction *(See more details in Section 2.1.2 Baseline initiatives of the Project Document)*.

From the donors' side there are only two relevant key baseline projects: the ongoing PDRSO *(AFD – Projet de Developpement Rural du Sud-Ouest)* and the Mining and Forest Governance Project recently approved by World Bank.

The PDRSO is a logical continuation of the three phases of the PARPAF (2000-2011). It started at the end of 2016 and is scheduled to conclude at the end of 2020. The total budget is EURO 6.5 million, EURO 5 million coming from AFD (AFD, 2015)[1] and EURO 1.5 million from the French Global Environment Fund [*Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial –* FFEM (FFEM, 2015][2].

The PDRSO has three main components:

- Support to ten forest communes in the South-West with technical assistance and funds to prepare and implement Local Development Plans to enhance Communes' access to sustainable revenues from forestry resources in order to finance basic collective services (e.g. health, water access, education...).

- Provision of equipment and technical assistance for the development of three new sustainable management plans and upgrading of existing ones;

- Support to the REDD+ process with pilot activities near Bangui focused on improving cropping practices, restoring degraded forests, improving knowledge on the wood energy and artisanal logging value chains and assessing cost-benefit of REDD+ actions.

More details on the baseline project PDRSO are described in section 2.1.2 Baseline initiatives of the Project Document.

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[1] AFD, 2015. *Convention de financement n° CCF1130.01.V entre l'AFD et la RCA*. Paris – AFD, juin 2015.

[2] FFEM, 2015. *Convention de financement n° CCF1151.01.Y entre le FFEM et la RCA*. Paris – FFEM, juin 2015.

The Mining and Forest Governance Project has not yet started in CAR. The Project Appraisal Document has been finalized on 16th February 2018 and the project has been presented with no objection to the Board Meeting on March 12, 2018 *(World Bank Website http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/823091521079287934/Central-African-Republic-Natural-Resources-Governance-Project)*. This project proposes to expand the effort of the PDRSO in order to cover the eleven remaining forest communes of the South-West. The total proposed budget is USD 10 million with USD 4.8 million considered as source of co-financing in the context of the present TRI national child project.

The forest components described in the Annex one of the World Bank appraisal document are as follows:

Component 1: Institutional support to strengthen the fiscal and governance of the forest sector with multiple actions both at national level and at decentralized level (decentralized forestry administration);

Component 2: Local development to support forest communes/communities in planning and financing their development priorities including both social, economic and environmental needs with a total budget of USD 1,650,000 targeted on small grants to be allocated to local communities

More details on the baseline project of the World Bank are also partially described in section 2.1.2 Baseline initiatives of the Project Document (based on information available in December 2017) and fully described in the Final Appraisal Document approved in March 2018 (*http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/823091521079287934/Central-African-Republic-Natural-Resources-Governance-Project*).

The section 2.1.2 Baseline initiatives of the Project Document provides a more detailed and comprehensive overview of the baseline scenario and describes several other on-going and upcoming projects implemented in Central African Republic even if they are not considered as confirmed sources of co-financing in the present TRI national child project

3) The proposed alternative scenario

The overall objective of the TRI CAR project is to contribute to the restoration and maintenance of critical landscapes to provide global environmental benefits and more resilient economic development and livelihoods, in support of the Bonn Challenge.

Indicators to measure success and to capture the change that has been achieved by the project are the following (See more details in the Annex A: Project Results Framework):

Indicators	Targets
1.1) New/additional Bonn Challenge commitment	x Mha [1]
1.2) Policies and Regulatory Frameworks (PRFs) that support FLR while incorporating biodiversity conservation, accelerated low GHG development, and sustainable livelihood considerations	6 PRFs
2.1.a) Area of deforested and degraded landscapes in restoration transition, stratified by land management actors (communities, farmers, private enterprises, and others) – Direct Activity of the TRI child project	3,221 ha [2a]
2.1.b) Area where deforestation is prevented thanks to direct activities of the TRI child project	2,665 ha [2b]
2.2) Area of land under improved/new application of FLR and complementary land management, stratified by land management actors (communities, farmers, private enterprises, and others) through indirect TRI child project effect	16,346 ha [3]
2.3) Number of households directly benefiting from the project (from jobs, revenue and income, sustainably harvested timber, NTFP, improved livelihoods, etc.)	Approx. 3,000 households[4] a balance of men and women involved will be important to keep in mind while

	developing the activities
2.4) tCO$_{2eq}$ avoided emissions/removals in TRI target landscapes as a result of TRI interventions (direct)	3,185,597 tCO$_{2eq}$ [5]
3.1) Number of cross-agency mechanisms and/or frameworks established and maintained to strengthen and facilitate coordinated national and sub-national action on restoration	1 National FLR Committee
3.2) Number of TRI-supported workshops, and capacity-building/learning events; demonstrated increase in knowledge and capacity to plan for and manage restoration	35 events [6]
3.3) Value of new and additional resources (public, private, development partners) flowing into FLR	USD 7 million
3.4) Number of bankable restoration projects developed through inclusive development process and meeting industry standards for quality and financial viability.	2 projects
4.1) Attendance of TRI-supported South-South exchanges that address restoration	12 events [7]
4.2) Degree to which TRI implementing partners practice adaptive management based on M&E inputs.	Effective M&E
4.3) Development of timely and relevant TRI knowledge products that capture lessons learned, and supporting tools for accessing and communicating TRI results to practitioners and global community.	Guide of GP on FLR Training materials
4.4) Development of effective global awareness campaign increasing public awareness & FLR support	Global TRI Project

[1] To be defined during project implementation, by the National Coordination on FLR

[2a] Estimate from field missions carried out in early 2017 in the five pilot sites

[2b] Avoided deforestation: Considering (i) 2,221 ha of land to be restored (3,221 minus 1,000ha plantation), (ii) each households has in average 1.5 ha of degraded fallows under his control in the South-West (TECSULT, 1994), (iii) the households engaged in the TRI CAR Projects could reasonably restore half of the degraded fallows under their control, i.e. 0.75 ha/household, then the TRI CAR Project would mobilize 2,221 / 0.75 = 2,961 households. Normally, each household would clear 0.9 ha of forests every two years for cropping, i.e. 0.45 ha/year (TECSULT, 1994). In the lifetime of the TRI CAR Project, it is reasonable and conservative to assume that the households engaged in the Project (2,961 households engaged in agroforestry + 1,334 households involved around the SEFCA concession) would avoid clearing for at least two years, thus avoided the deforestation of 2,665 ha (0.45 ha/year x 2 years x 4,295 households), out of the 6,662.25 ha (0.45 ha/year x 5 years x 4,295 households) that would have been normally cleared.

[3] we consider that through the indirect impact, the surface prevented from deforestation can be doubled so another 2,665 ha (0.45 ha/year x 2 years x 4,295 households), out of the 6,662.25 ha. And we consider that the good management of land will continue and have impact on avoided deforestation for another 15 years so 2,665*6*2=31,980 ha. We consider as well that the good agroforestry practices will be replicated at least to an area similar to the one of the project (2,221 ha) and that 6 other forestry companies will want to initiate replantation similar to the pilot ones in SEFCA (1,253 ha*6= 7,518ha) [4] 0.75 ha restored per households, and 2,221 ha in total: 2,221 / 0.75 = 2,961 households [5] see Ex-Act calculations in **Annex B**

[6] 5 technical days + 20 meetings of the National Coordination on FLR

[7] 5 South-South exchanges + 5 annual knowledge meetings + 2 Bi-annual finance meetings

Project components, outcomes, and outputs

Component 1: Policy Development and Integration

Outcome 1.1 - Increased national and sub-national commitment to forest and landscape

→ Output 1.1.1 - Filling of knowledge gap in terms of ecosystem service valuation

National data on (agro)biodiversity (level of populations, locations, risk exposure and trends of populations, cost/benefit of (agro)biodiversity protection notably in terms of resilience to climate change, etc.) and soils (chemical and physical fertility by soil types, agricultural potential, carbon storage, cost/benefit of organic matter and soil carbon enhancement, etc.) are fragmented and/or obsolete, or even non-existent (e.g. data on agro-biodiversity and carbon storage). Having no real values, the environmental services derived from (agro)biodiversity and soils are not considered at their right importance, hampering decision-makers' involvement in and commitment to environmental policies, notably FLR policies. Therefore, filling this knowledge gap is key-factor of success for the TRI CAR Project as a whole. In essence, two assessments will be carried out in the frame of this output: a biophysical one, and an economic one.

The biophysical assessment will follow two steps:

- Gathering of data, at national / sub-regional / global levels, allowing to better qualify/quantify environmental services (from a biophysical point of view) derived from (agro)biodiversity and soils, in the two main agro-ecological zones of the CAR, savanna and dense moist forest;

- Analysis of impacts of FLR activities in terms of (i) (agro)biodiversity variation (composition, location, etc.), (ii) carbon storage variations in soils and vegetation, induced by variations in biodiversity (flora and fauna, macro-to-micro levels), (iii) organic matter and soil fertility;

The economic assessment will also follow two steps:

- Gathering of data, at national / sub-regional / global levels, allowing to better qualify/quantify environmental services (from an economic point of view) derived from (agro)diversity and soils, in the same agro-ecological zones, savanna and dense moist forest;

- Analysis of the costs and benefits of the maintenance of ecosystem services (mainly biodiversity maintenance, soil fertility maintenance and carbon storage) as a result of FLR actions, using ad hoc methods (i.e. decomposition of the Total Economic Value – TEV - of each environmental service, and identification/implementation of a specific economic evaluation for each part of the TEV).

These assessments will be carried out during a 3-year period by two PhD students from the University of Bangui (from which depend most of the research institutes in the CAR, notably the ISDR of M'Baïki), supervised by national researchers, in collaboration with researchers from the Center for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development - CIRAD (since 1988 present in M'Baïki and which will be involved in some activities of the project), and other research centers if relevant, such as the Regional Centre for Applied Research for Developing Agricultural Systems in Central Africa (*Pôle régional de recherche appliquée au développement des savanes d'Afrique Centrale* – PRASAC)[3] or the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)[4]. Two to four study sites (one to two, in each agro-ecological zone) will be chosen with the objective to have a diversity of local situations (especially in terms of vegetation, soils, and level of anthropic pressures), while taking into account the operational constraints (travel time and safety of the study sites).

Deliverables: PhD thesis on the biophysical impacts of FLR on (agro)biodiversity, soil fertility, soil and plant carbon storage; PhD thesis on costs/benefits of the maintenance of the same ecosystem services; At least two publications in international peer-reviewed journals; At least two participations in international conferences. Timeframe: Three years from 2018. Means: Allowances for the PhD students (including stays of four to six months per year in CIRAD, if hosting agreements are signed), local travel, other field expenses; Two follow-up meetings for each PhD student; Two trips to international conferences.

➔ Output 1.1.2 - Filling of knowledge gap in terms of restoration opportunities

The National Action Plan to fight against Land Degradation - PAN-LCD (MEE, 2009a) and the Mid-Term National Investment Plan in terms of Sustainable Land Management - PNIMT (MEE, 2009b) roughly describe the land degradation situation in the CAR. Quantitative data (i.e. affected areas stratified by type of land degradation, historical trends, future trends, etc.) were not included in this assessment. More generally, spatially explicit data regarding natural resources are few, including for the monitoring of LULUCF. However, thanks to the Satellite Observation of Tropical Forests (OSFT) and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and

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[3] See http://www.prasac-cemac.org/

[4] See http://www.worldagroforestry.org/working-for-icraf

Degradation in Africa (REDDAF) projects, an assessment of historical deforestation for the southern part of the country was carried out (JAFFRAIN et PINET, 2014) (DE WASSEIGE et al., 2014), and recently further refined for the South-West area (FRM et al., 2016). Still, much remains to be done to get an overview of LULUCF and land degradation at the national level.

Despite past crises, characterized by institutional and funding disruptions (for instance of scientific research centers), human resources and infrastructure are available, although limited, to carry out spatialized biophysical monitoring of natural resources, based on remote-sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS). Indeed, from an assessment made in the context of the AFD/FFEM-funded GEOFORAFRI project [(DEBARD & PATALANO, 2013)[5]; (LARDEUX and al., 2013)[6]; quoted in (SalvaTerra, 2015)], these resources are dispersed and low, but form a useful basis for the future.

Also, the land degradation neutrality target setting exercise is underway (CAR Gvt, 2016a). An assessment of land degradation in the South-West is currently carried out by WRI and Central African Forest Observatory (OSFAC), thanks to a support from the UNCCD and GM (passing through the African Union and its AFR100 Program). Preliminary results are not yet available for distribution (Pers. comm. R. D. NAMBONA - DG environment at the MEDDEFCP, February 2017), but the objectives of the study were presented during a workshop held in December 2016 in Bangui (Pers. comm. D. BEINA – FAO consultant, March 2017): (i) Calculate the area on which restoration is theoretically possible, (ii) Identify where restoration is technically, economically, and socially feasible, (iii) Estimate costs/benefits of restoration strategies, (iv) Determine the existing or needed incentives to support restoration, (v) Involve stakeholders.

The above forms a promising basis to upscale these regional assessments to the entire country, following a similar approach, the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) (IUCN & WRI, 2014)[7] (IUCN & WRI, 2016)[8]. This methodology has been successfully implemented in Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, etc. and is underway in many other countries. Specifically, in the CAR, building on the on-going WRI/OSFAC study, drawing on the soon-coming ROAM study in Laos (FAO Cambodia, 2016)[9], and building capacities of relevant institutions (Independent Agency for Sustainable Forest Resource Management - AAGRDF and Forest Data Centre CDF under the MEDDEFCP; AAGRDF), the ROAM study will consist in the following:

- Liaise with the relevant Ministries and institutions, and engage partners to set up a ROAM working group; clarifying tasks, roles and responsibility with the staff involved in the study;

- Stratify the area into homogeneous agro-ecological zones (using indicators such as climate, land use, topography, agronomical zones) and define assessment criteria, data needs, maps and priorities, in order to prepare GIS for the following: degradation maps per criteria, stacked multi-criteria degradation map, and full restoration potential map;

- Carry out "stakeholder mapping" (with particular attention to gender, youth, and vulnerable groups) and map "current land use" using collected data and results from field visits, meetings and stock taking;

- Carry out economic cost-benefit assessment and climate change impact analysis (carbon) of interventions, as well as prepare a short list of interventions for selected pilot Communes;

- Weight criteria per defined objectives and prepare a priority map, to be discussed during a validation workshop, in order to produce FLR opportunity maps for main interventions.

Deliverables: Degradation maps per criteria; Stacked multi-criteria degradation map; Full restoration potential map: Stakeholder map; Cost-benefit assessment and climate change impact analysis; Short list of interventions for selected pilot Communes; FLR

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[5] DEBARD, S. & PATALANO, J.-C., 2013. *Diagnostic de l'accessibilité aux données satellite en RCA – Composante 1 du projet GEOFORAFRI.* Montpellier – IRD, février 2013. 13p

[6] LARDEUX, C., PINET, C. & JAFFRAIN, G., 2013. *Diagnostic des capacités, besoins et actions prioritaires en vue du renforcement des centres de compétence en matière de suivi des forêts en RCA – Composante 2 du projet GEOFORAFRI.* Montpellier – IRD, avril 2013. 35p

[7] IUCN & WRI, 2014. *Version préliminaire : Guide de la Méthodologie d'évaluation des opportunités de restauration des paysages forestiers (MEOR) - Évaluer les opportunités de restauration des paysages forestiers à l'échelon national ou local.* Gland – IUCN, 2014. 126p

[8] IUCN & WRI, 2016. *Road-test edition: A guide to the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) - Assessing forest and landscape restoration opportunities at the national or sub-national level.* Gland – IUCN, February 2016. 43p

[9] FAO Cambodia, 2016. *Letter of agreement between FAO and IUCN for Technical Assistance on ROAM to Promote FLR in Cambodia.* Phnom penh – FAO Cambodia, January 2017. 16p

opportunity maps. Timeframe: One year from 2018. Means: Fees for two international experts and two national experts (45 man-days each); Lumpsum for local travel and local consultations; Two workshops (inception and validation).

Outcome 1.2 - National and sub-national policy and regulatory frameworks are increasingly supportive of restoration, sustainable land management, maintenance and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest and other land uses, and reduced emissions from LULUCF and agriculture

→ Output 1.2.1 – Elaborating a Land Planning Scheme for the South-West area

There is currently no land planning, either at national, regional, prefectural or local level. The inter-sectoral coordination in the rural area is globally poor, leading to overlaps in land use (e.g. mining, forestry, agriculture, etc.), conflicts and/or dilution of the responsibilities. However, an interesting study was carried out 20 years ago in the frame of the Project for Natural Resources Management (PARN), to elaborate a Land Planning Scheme in the South-West (TECSULT, 1994). A complete assessment of the biophysical and socio-economic conditions prevailing at that time has been done, and can be an inspiring source. In addition to that:

- Two projects are focusing their effort in the South-West, notably to support the 21 forest Communes to elaborate their Local Development Plans: Comp. 1 of the 2017-2021 PDRSO (AFD, 2012) and Forest Comp. B of the 2018-2022 Mining & Forest Governance project (World Bank, 2017b). This could lay the ground for a "bottom-up" land planning elaboration;

- Some technical and scientific institutions, notably WRI, Laboratory of Climatology, Cartography and Geographical Studies (LACCEG), CDF, AAAGDRF, and Central African Institute for Statistics, Economic and Social Studies (ICASEES), have already produced thematic maps and spatially explicit database. It is especially worth mentioning that the CAR is one of the few countries of the Congo Basin to have a high precision LULUCF map covering nearly half of its territory, thanks to the OSFT and REDDAF project (JAFFRAIN et PINET, 2014) (DE WASSEIGE et al., 2014). All these existing data could be of relevance for a "top-down" land planning elaboration.

Specifically, the output will be achieved through the following activities:

- Liaise with the relevant Ministries (in charge of agriculture / forest / mine / environment / interior / finance / etc.) and institutions (local authorities at Prefecture level, Projects and NGOs active in the area, logging companies, etc.), and create a multi-actor South-West land planning working group, as well as four sub-working groups for each of the targeted Prefectures (NB: scope limited to two Communes in Ombella-Mpoko, Bimbo and Bangui, as they concentrate 20% of the population, as well as major issues in terms of food and energy supplies, and as it seems necessary not to disseminate efforts); Clarify tasks, roles and responsibility with the stakeholders involved in the study;

- Set up a land planning technical task force, which could be led by WRI and/or LACCEG, with external support if needed, such as IGN-FI[10] or GAF-AG[11]; Build capacities (GIS, remote-sensing, database management, legal texts directly or indirectly dealing with land planning, etc.) and provide equipment and technical assistance to create a regional GIS and regional database; Compile existing data, identify gaps of information, and potential major land use conflicts ("top-down approach");

- Gather and compile preliminary/final elements contained in the draft or final version of the Local Development Plans of the 21 forest Communes, as well as field data from the other targeted Communes (based on field survey, focus group, local workshop) ("bottom-up approach"); Combine and cross-check data issued from the "top-down approach" and the "bottom-up approach" and produce multi-thematic maps as needed (i.e. showing the borders and overlaps of forest estates, mining areas, agriculture area, settlements, etc.) in order to identify precisely land use potentials and major land use conflicts;

- Organize back and forth consultations, as needed, from local communities to upper administrative levels, to reconcile analyses and converge towards a consensual South-West Land Use Planning Scheme (this may include reviewing/upgrading the Local Development Plans), so that this scheme can be technically validated by the multi-actor South-West land planning sub-working group and working group, and conveyed to decision-makers for political and official validation, and transcription into the relevant legal texts.

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[10] See http://www.ignfi.fr/fr?redirect

[11] See https://www.gaf.de/

As part of their national strategies, notably REDD+, many countries of the Congo Basin are also preparing such Land Use Planning Schemes. This is the case for the DRC (Gvt of DRC, 2015)[12] and Gabon (Gvt of Gabon, 2016)[13]. In both cases, forest zoning is at the heart of the reasoning, but the planned activities go beyond the strict forestry framework to take into account all other land uses (agriculture, livestock, infrastructure, etc.), so that it deals with land use planning. The DRC has budgeted USD 19 million (USD 8.1 per km²) to elaborate a national land use planning, with specific support to Provinces hosting hot spots of deforestation. Gabon has budgeted for USD 11.1 million (USD 41.5 per km²) to develop its National Land Use Planning Scheme, based on the detailed participatory mapping of 2,600 villages.

In the case of DRC, costs are moderate, but most of the budget is allocated to fill the data gap because there is not yet basic data in terms of LULUCF (contrarily to the CAR). In the case of Gabon, the unit cost is high, but it covers much more than what is foreseen for the CAR: (i) National mapping of agricultural potential (using remote sensing analyses, ground surveys, and soil analyses), (ii) Establishing a complete network of meteorological stations and modelling the impacts of climate change on land use, (iii) Mapping of hydrocarbon and minerals and modelling future scenarios, (iv) Conducting econometric analyses on the sustainable extraction of natural resources and agriculture, (v) Mapping the high-conservation value zones.

Estimating the costs of elaborating a Land Use Planning Scheme is not evident, as existing land use potential and conflicts are, by nature, not known, thus making the exercise more or less tedious. In any case, based on the experience of the DRC and Gabon, and considering the existing data in the CAR, the unit cost of this study (in USD per km²) will not exceed half of the unit cost in the DRC.

Deliverables: Multi-thematic maps identifying precisely land use potentials and major land use conflicts; Regional Land Use Planning Scheme and corresponding maps: Upgraded Local Development Plans in the 21 forest Communes, reflecting outcomes of the exercise. Timeframe: Two years from 2018. Means: Fees for three international experts and three national experts (50 man-days each); Lumpsum for field expenses and local consultations; Twelve workshops (inception, mid-term, and validation / three sub-working group + working group).

→ Output 1.2.2 – Upgrading the Wood Energy Supply Plan (WISDOM) for Bangui/Bimbo

Wood energy is, by far, the main source of energy (93% in total), especially for rural and urban households; it does not appear as a priority of the Government in terms of energy policy; wood energy harvest is poorly managed by the MEDDEFCP and most of the harvest in peri-urban areas, especially Bangui/Bimbo, is unsustainable, with an increasing gap between the demand and the net annual increment of the peri-urban forests (MWH, 2017). And yet, thanks to the support of the FAO, a WISDOM Platform was put in place in the late 2000's, to quantify and spatialize wood energy fluxes (DRIGO, 2009), and a Strategy for the development of the urban and peri-urban forests of Bangui was prepared, incorporating WISDOM findings (SALBITANO, 2009).

Mainly due to the recent years of crisis, the use of these documents remained limited. But, the situation has further worsened: in 2009, the "Greater Bangui" (Bangui and its surroundings) was 10 times larger than in the 1960's, and deforestation was expanding at an annual rate of 300 m, especially towards the South and South-West; in 2017, the population of Bangui/Bimbo increased by 49% (i.e. 750,000 inhabitants in 2009 according to DRIGO (2009); 1,115,000 inhabitants in 2015 according to United-Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - UNOCHA (2016)). There are now two urgent issues to address: How to sustain the wood energy supply of vulnerable urban and peri-urban households? How to reduce the gap between the "human demand" and "the naturally sustainable offer (carrying capacity)"?

Therefore, an upgrading of the WISDOM exercise is urgently needed, to inform the national decision-makers and external partners about the urgency, and try to identify short-term, medium-term and long-term measures to address the above-mentioned issues. These can be done following five steps, as shown below (DRIGO & SALBITANO, 2009)[14] (FAO, undated)[15]:

[12] Gvt of DRC, 2015. *Plan d'investissement REDD+ 2015-2020*. Kinshasa – Gvt de RDC, novembre 2015. 150p

[13] Gvt of Gabon, 2016. *Draft V3 du CIN - Planification de l'utilisation des terres et surveillance forestière pour promouvoir des stratégies de développement durable et écologique*. Libreville- Gvt du Gabon, décembre 2016. 121p

[14] DRIGO, R. et SALBITANO, F., 2009. *WISDOM pour les villes - Analyse de la dendroénergie et de l'urbanisation grâce à la méthode WISDOM - Carte globale intégrée de l'offre et de la demande de bois de feu*. Roma – FAO, 2009. 134p

[15] FAO Roma, undated. *Cartographie globale intégrée de l'offre et de la demande en combustible ligneux – WISDOM. Question méthodologique et structure*. Roma – FAO, non daté. 14p
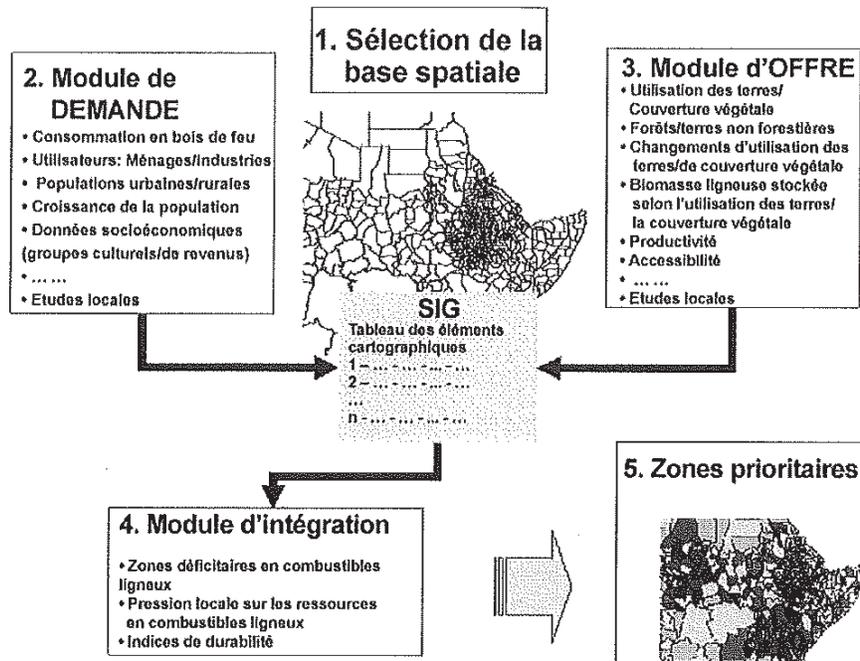
FIGURE 1 - FIVE STEPS OF WISDOM (FAO ROMA, UNDATED)

Specifically, the following steps will be carried out:

- Selecting the Region of Interest (RoI) and the minimal administrative mapping unit: The RoI chosen for the 2009 WISDOM study may no longer be relevant, as the deforestation front has progressed. The RoI for the upgraded WISDOM study may therefore be enlarged. As for the minimal administrative mapping unit, the WRI Forest atlas database[16] may provide various up-to-date shapefiles in that regard;

- Estimating demand: Data from the literature, from spatial analyses, and from field surveys are collected and cross-checked to identify (i) Users (rural/urban households, small industries, etc.), (ii) Uses (cooking, artisanal or semi-artisanal processing – bakeries, brickyards, etc.), (iii) Types of wood energy (firewood or charcoal, coming from forests, fallows, saw-mill cutoff and waste, etc.);

- Estimating offer: Data from the literature, from spatial analyses, and from field surveys are collected and cross-checked to identify (i) Types and locations of wood energy sources (forests, fallows, saw-mill cutoff and waste, etc.), (ii) Harvesting practices (collection of deadwood, green wood – eventually transformed into deadwood by the popular "heated nail" method, coppicing, pruning, thinning, etc.), (iii) Net biomass increment of the different types of wood energy sources;

- Comparing offer and demand: From the above, two main indicators are calculated for each minimal administrative mapping unit (i) Offer - demand gap (expressed in m^3/ha/year), (ii) Potential pressure on forests, i.e. demand / surface of forests (also expressed in m^3/ha/year);

- Identifying hot spots and upgrading the wood energy supply strategy for Bangui/Bimbo: Diverse statistical methodologies may be used to identify these hot spots (i.e. where the wood energy gap is critical): data aggregation, multiple component analysis, cluster analysis, etc. Finally, the Strategy for the development of the urban and peri-urban forests of Bangui may be upgraded, incorporating all the elements compiled in the WISDOM platform.

According to (DRIGO & SALBITANO, 2009), "the costs of performing a WISDOM analysis will vary considerably depending on (i) human resources and available materials at the start of the study and (ii) existence and access to databases, studies, censuses, and georeferenced maps [...] With an already operational GIS unit and full access to the needed socio-economic and environmental information, costs are limited... if a completely new GIS unit is to be created and operational and access to baseline data is rather

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[16] See http://caf-data.forest-atlas.org/

conflicting, then costs will be multiplied". It is therefore clear that there is no "standard budget" for such an analysis. Keeping in mind there is already a 2009 WISDOM Platform and considering that the costs incurred for setting up this Platform was around USD 430,000 (DRIGO, 2009) (NB: same cost for the WISDOM Platform in N'Djamena Chad, for the same size – 750,000 inhabitants (DRIGO, 2012)[17]), it is conservative to assume the upgrading may cost no more than half of the initial budget, i.e. USD 200,000.

<u>Deliverables:</u> upgraded WISDOM platform for Bangui/Bimbo; Upgraded Strategy for the development of the urban and peri-urban forests of Bangui/Bimbo. <u>Timeframe:</u> Second year. <u>Means:</u> Fees for two international experts and two national experts (45 man-days each); Fees for field investigators; Lumpsum for field expenses and local consultations; Three workshops (inception, mid-term, and validation).

➔ Output 1.2.3 – Fine-tuning the Forest Policy Statement and including FLR concerns

There is no Forest Policy in the CAR, but a process has been recently launched to prepare a Forest Policy statement and to upgrade the forest regulations (DINGA, 2016). As the present time, there is a 16-page document labelled as "draft V0". Much remains to be done to present in details the key issues to be addressed, the political vision to guide the forest policy, operational objectives and guidelines, etc. However, the draft document is a useful basis, touching upon the key weaknesses of the forest regulations and mentioning useful recommendations, notably:

(i) <u>Land-use planning:</u> Clarifying the borders of Permanent and Non-Permanent Forest Estates, taking into account rural infrastructures, mines, agriculture, livestock, etc.;

(ii) <u>Forest governance:</u> Improving the forest governance, in particular the transparency, participation, equity, and accountability of key stakeholders;

(iii) <u>Multilateral treaties/initiatives:</u> Better incorporating recent treaties/initiatives (e.g. REDD+, VPA FLEGT, Aïchi targets, AFR100, etc.) in domestic policies and measures;

(iv) <u>Biodiversity:</u> Strengthening the protection of biodiversity and fighting against unsustainable bushmeat hunting, especially in Protected Areas;

(v) <u>NTFPs':</u> Better promoting them;

(vi) <u>Community forest:</u> Operationalizing the concept.

(vii) <u>FLR and reforestation:</u> Encouraging forest restoration and multifunctional reforestation (wood energy, lumber, NTFPs, etc.), especially in urban and peri-urban areas;

All the issues listed above relate, directly or indirectly, to drivers of environmental threats, and therefore should be addressed in order to fully promote natural resources management in general, and FLR in particular. Support could help facilitate a multi-stakeholder reflection and dialogue, then further elaborate the draft document, to go beyond the declarations of intent and propose specific policy measures. To return to the listed measures:

(i) <u>Land-use planning:</u> The preliminary findings of the Regional Land Use Planning Scheme could feed the debate (Key land use conflicts? Practical recommendations to address these conflicts? Etc.) and could provide useful recommendations to be inserted in the draft document. The urgency of having the draft Framework Law on Land Tenure (FAO Bangui, 2015a) validated should be strongly stressed in the Forest Policy Statement;

(ii) <u>Forest governance:</u> The VPA FLEGT and REDD+ processes explicitly request the improvement of the forest governance, with specific guidelines and recommendations, that should be taken into account in the forest regulations, and therefore in the draft document;

(iii) <u>Multilateral treaties/initiatives:</u> Since the promulgation of the Forest Code, in 2008, many treaties/initiatives (e.g. REDD+, VPA FLEGT, Aïchi targets, AFR100, LDN target, etc.) have emerged and should be reflected in the forest regulations, and therefore in the draft document;

(iv) <u>Biodiversity:</u> A draft 2017-2019 National Plan for the Sustainable Management of Wildlife (MEDDEFCP, 2016a) is about to be validated and should be taken into account in the draft document, as it tries to address one of the major threats to the

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[17] DRIGO, R., 2012. *Appui à la formulation d'une stratégie et d'un plan d'action de la foresterie urbaine et périurbaine à N'Djaména. Plateforme WISDOM pour N'Djaména. Diagnostic et cartographie de l'offre et de la demande en combustibles ligneux. Document de travail sur la foresterie urbaine et périurbaine n°8.* Roma – FAO, 2012. 78p

animal biodiversity (poaching) and to the vegetation as a whole (biodiversity, soils, carbon), because of the common use of bushfires for hunting. The draft document should also reflect the findings of the Output 1.2.4 upgrading of the SNAP-DB.;

(v) NTFPs': The findings and recommendations of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the promotion of NTFPs (KONZI-SARAMBO et al., 2012) should also be reflected in the draft document;

(vi) Community forest: The current forest regulations – even the dedicated Ministerial ruling n°15-463 (CAR Gvt, 2015b)[18] - do not adequately define the concept of community forest or the operational modalities to set up such community forest. In addition, the concepts of "local collectivity forest" and "private forest" are only defined in the Forest Code, but not further detailed in a Decree or Ministerial ruling. On-going or soon-coming initiatives (PDRSO, Mining and Governance project, CoNGOs project) may set up pilot community forest and provide operational feedbacks, to be reflected in the draft document. As for the "local collectivity forest" and "private forest", a collective reflection seems necessary, to refine these concepts: what do we want to achieve through these types of forest? Who can practically bring them to fruition? Under which conditions?

(vii)   FLR and reforestation: The total reforested area was estimated at 1,848 ha in 2001 (BONANNEE, 2001) and 3,725 ha in 2015 (CAS-DF, 2015). Knowing that the reforestation activities started in 1972, the rate of reforestation is low: 83 ha/year in average over 1972-2015, 134 ha/year in average over 2001-2015. As for the FLR areas, there are close to nil (few ha here an then, e.g. at the Croisement Leroy in Lobaye). There are several issues to be addressed here:

- Fully recognizing the importance of FLR (which includes reforestation, but not only: ANR, agroforestry, herbaceous revegetation, etc.);

- Freeing private initiative, by officially recognizing private FLR/reforestation;

- Elaborating a coherent FLR/Reforestation Strategy. Presently, the CAS-DF establishes new plantations every year (mainly *Tectona grandis*), with a poor follow-up (and many damages, due to bushfires), and without clear idea of how to value these plantations.

- Better channeling domestic and external resources. Presently, the forest taxation is the main source of resources for the CAS-DF, but the taxation regime is challenged by private companies and should be revised (see. Output 3.5). As for the external resources, apart from a few projects (PDRSO, CAFI), they are poorly mobilized.

Deliverables: More than a final deliverable in the form of a document of Forest Policy Statement, what really matters here is the process of bringing together multiple actors at multiple scales and from multiple sectors and encourage a multi-stakeholder reflection and policy dialogue in order to mobilize actors. Workshop and meeting reports are key deliverables, though an upgraded/fine-tuned Forest Policy Statement is aimed for. Timeframe: Two years from 2018 (time lapse voluntarily long, allowing (i) the multi-stakeholder reflection and dialogue, and (ii) capturing lessons learnt from recently launched initiatives). Means: Fees for one international expert and one national expert (50 man-days each); 11 workshops (five in Bangui: one for inception, three for consultations, and one for validation / one for consultation in each of the six other Regions).

➔ Output 1.2.4 – Upgrading the SNPA-DB and including FLR concerns

The 2005-2015 SNPA-DB (MEEFCP, 2000) outlined the fact that the biodiversity and the agro-biodiversity are poorly known and recommended to exhaustively assess and inventory the fauna and flora, for both the biodiversity and the agro-biodiversity. Unfortunately, this exhaustive inventory was not done between 2000 and 2015 and, more generally, limited results were achieved under this SNPA-DB. The CAR Government decided in 2013 to update this SNPA-DB, in order to better reflect international commitments taken by the CAR (i.e. Aïchi targets, REDD+, VPA FLEGT, etc.) and to carry out an exhaustive inventory of biodiversity and agro-biodiversity. A roadmap was prepared for this update (BEINA et al., 2013), presenting a vision by 2020, five strategic priorities, and 20 specific objectives, as well as transversal recommendations. Till now, the updating of the SNPA-DB has not progressed and there is no evidence that it should start in the short term.

Two drivers of environmental threats are directly linked to the issue of biodiversity:

- Bushmeat hunting, often linked to bushfire: The draft 2017-2019 National Plan for the Sustainable Management of Wildlife (MEDDEFCP, 2016a) could lead to an improvement of the situation, notably by (i) Improving the scientific knowledge about wildlife in the CAR (axis n°1.1), (ii) Updating the legal texts related to this issue, especially the Code on Wildlife Protection (axis n°1.2), (iii) Strengthening the participation of local communities and indigenous

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[18] CAR Gvt, 2015b. *Arrêté n°15-463 portant modalités d'attribution et de gestion des forêts communautaires en RCA.* Bangui – Gvt de RCA, décembre 2015.62p

peoples in the management of wildlife (axis n°2.2). Findings and recommendations from the Plan could therefore be incorporated into an upgraded version of the SNPA-DB;

- Poor knowledge of ecosystems values: The SNPA-DB (2000) poorly reflects existing research in terms of biodiversity in the CAR, and does not elaborate on agro-biodiversity. Knowledge gaps in terms of biodiversity and agrobiodiversity could be partially filled, in particular through the research to be carried out in Output 1.1, and integrated into an upgraded SNPA-DB.

A support would be useful in facilitating a multi-stakeholder reflection and dialogue on the upgrading of the SNPA-DB, including the inclusion of FLR concerns into this SNPA-DB. It could follow the roadmap already prepared (BEINA et al., 2013), taking due consideration of the two drivers above-mentioned, and incorporating recent developments since 2013, notably related to land degradation and FLR (e.g. Bonn Challenge, AFR100, LDN, etc.). As for the Output 1.2.3 regarding the upgrading/fine-tuning of the Forest Policy Statement, more than a final deliverable in the form of an upgraded SNPA-DB, what really matters here is the multi-stakeholder reflection and dialogue: three workshop and meetings would be needed to incorporate views and ideas. This being said, the volume of effort to upgrade the SNPA-DB is slightly lesser than for the upgrading/fine-tuning of the Forest Policy Statement, as a roadmap clearly identifies issues at stake and as these issues have more focused implications.

Deliverables: Workshop and meetings reports; Upgraded SNPA-DB. Timeframe: Two year from 2018 (time lapse voluntarily long, allowing (i) the multi-stakeholder reflection and dialogue, and (ii) capturing lessons learnt from the Output 1.1). Means: Fees for one international expert and one national expert (45 man-days each); five workshops in Bangui (one for inception, three for consultations, and one for validation).

Component 2: Implementation of Restoration Programs & Complementary Initiatives

Outcome 2 - Integrated landscape management practices and restoration plans implemented by Government, private sector and local community actors, both men and women

Project activities under the Components 1, 3, and 4 are poised to having an impact at the national level, whereas demonstration activities under Component 2 will be implemented in selected pilot sites, in the South-West. This region has been targeted as a pilot area during the initial consultations of the project preparation phase, including a regional workshop held in Douala in November 2016 (FAO Roma, 2016a) and a national workshop held in Bangui in December 2016 (FAO Bangui, 2016a).

During the two field missions carried out in early 2017 in Bangui and the South West, many stakeholders have been consulted and five pilot areas have been identified (as shown in FIGURE 2): 1/ Peri-urban area of Bangui, 2/ Peri-urban area of Berbérati, 3/ Peri-urban area of M'Baïki, 4/ Surroundings of Bayanga (buffer area of the APDS) and 5/ Reforestation area of the SEFCA PEA, in the North of Mambéllé.

These pilot sites were selected taking into account the following criteria: (i) Importance of land and forest degradation, based on latest findings and notably FRM et al. (2016) (NB: degradation is mostly linked to higher density of population, reason why three of the pilot sites are in peri-urban areas: Bangui/Bimbo, Berbérati and M'Baïki), (ii) Proximity to protected areas (Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve for the pilot site of M'Baïki; APDS for the pilot site of Bayanga), (iii) Involvement of logging companies (pilot site of Mambéllé: SEFCA is willing to act as a pioneer and set up a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) gathering the State, local communities, and SEFCA), (iv) Diversity of agro-ecological conditions (from the humid evergreen forest in the pilot site of Bayanga to the dense forest/savanna transition in the pilot site of Mambéllé).
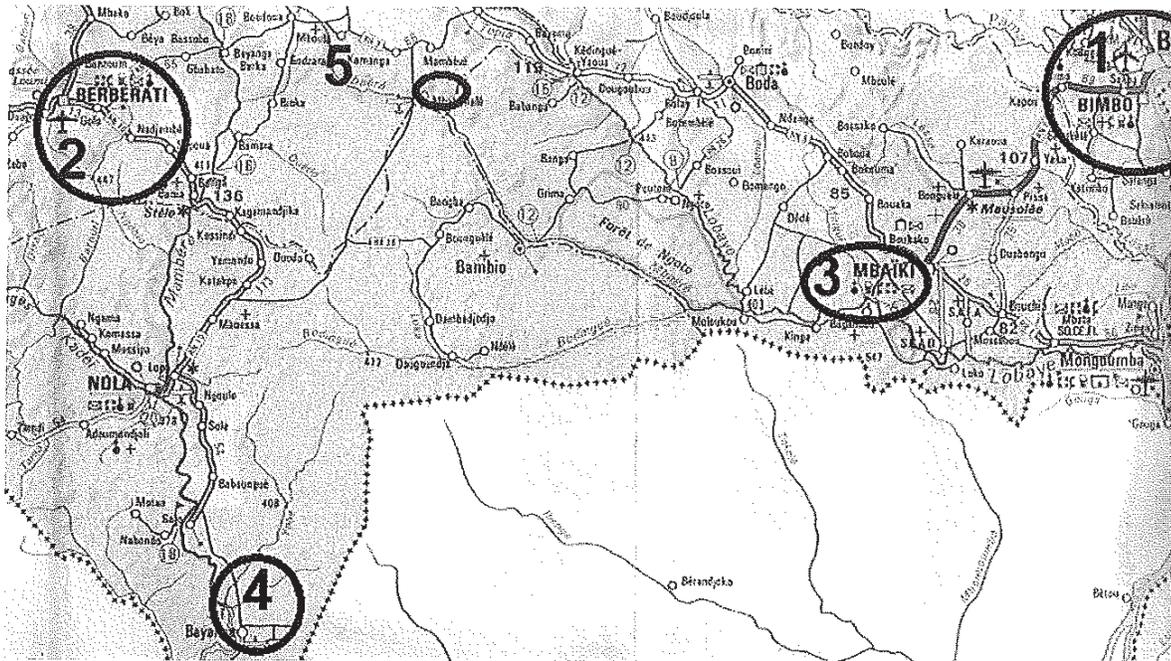
FIGURE 2 - PILOT SITES FOR FLR ACTIVITIES UNDER THE TRI CAR PROJECT (AUTHORS, 2017)

The profiles of these pilot areas are as follows:

- Peri-urban area of Bangui: High combined pressure for food crops, wood energy, NTFPs (incl. bushmeat), and lumber. Indeed, 1,115,000 inhabitants would live in the Bangui-Bimbo complex, according to 2015 estimate (UNOCHA, 2016). Pressure is now clearly visible on the South-Eastern part of the Bangui-Bimbo complex, where PEAs are in place. From the data gathered from the decentralized services of the MEDDEFCP and the MADR, the local authorities and local communities during the field missions (see details in the **Annex 11 of the Project Document**), the potential area to be restored is estimated at 1,130 ha;

- Peri-urban area of Berbérati: As for Bangui, there is a high combined pressure for food crops, wood energy, NTFPs (incl. bushmeat), and lumber. 96,000 inhabitants according to 2015 estimate (UNOCHA, 2016), but this hides the fact that many surrounding villages (not included in this estimate) are close to the chief town of Mambéré-Kadéï. Again, the importance of deforestation in this area is corroborated by FRM et al. (2016). There are two specificities here: (i) Existence of gullies, large in the inner city and smaller in peri-urban area, due to the presence of sandy soils, (ii) Frequency of large bushfires, especially on the road Berbérati-Carnot, mainly due to hunting, and favored by the presence of semi-humid forests, more prone to drought and bushfire . The potential area to be restored is estimated at 554 ha;

- Peri-urban area of M'Baïki: As for Bangui and Berbérati, there is a combined pressure for food crops, wood energy, NTFPs (incl. bushmeat), and lumber. 29,000 inhabitants according to 2015 estimate (UNOCHA, 2016), may be more if surrounding villages were included. Again, the importance of deforestation in this area is corroborated by FRM et al. (2016). There are two specificities here: (i) Presence of various institutions relevant for the project activities (ARF, ICRA, ISDR), (ii) Proximity of the Basse-Lobaye Biosphere Reserve (17,176 ha), and subject to encroachment (on-going monitoring by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization - UNESCO). The potential area to be restored is estimated at 184 ha;

- Bayanga: The village is rather small compared to the other cities, 12,000 inhabitants according to 2015 estimate (UNOCHA, 2016), but the population may increase a lot in the coming months/years, with the entry into operation of two forest companies, STBC and SINFOCAM, with new PEAs. SINFOCAM already settled a base camp in Bayanga. There are three specificities here: (i) Bayanga is very close to 174,240 ha of National Parks (Dzanga-Sangha and Dzanga-Ndoki) and a community hunting area (With the foreseen increase of population, further encroachment is feared), (ii) Even if official estimates are not available in this regard, it is well-known Pygmies /

Bay'Aka are frequent in this area, (iii) The Dzanga-Sangha National Park is the major ecotourism site of the CAR[19], as it hosts an iconic Central African wildlife (e.g. Elephants, Gorilla, Red Buffalo, etc.). The potential area to be restored is estimated at 100 ha;

- Reforestation area in the PEA SEFCA: SEFCA is the only forest company with a reforestation area foreseen in its PEA. This area is located 45 km North of Mambéllé. It is a savannah area, with a poor natural regeneration, due to frequent bushfires. The site itself is therefore specific and different from the other pilot sites in terms of natural vegetation and FLR needs. Furthermore, the project proponent is original: SEFCA is the largest forest company in the CAR, eager to innovate and to explore the opportunity offered by a PPP (State / local communities / SEFCA) to restore the land, while creating added-value. The potential area to be restored is estimated at 1,253 ha.

Below are presented the Output directly linked to the implementation of field activities. The implementation of these field activities will start after a baseline assessment in each FLR perimeter (see Output 2.1), a thorough capacity-need assessment of involved stakeholders (see Output 3.1), and an initial capacity-building of field officers in charge of the day-to-day training and supervision of local populations (see Output 3.2). The implementation of field activities (see Outputs 2.2 and 2.3) will go hand-in-hand with regular capacity-building sessions of the local populations (see Output 3.3). This phased process will ensure basic capacities are there, social cohesion is guaranteeing local communities support and engagement, and FLR activities and IGAs to be implemented have been identified and agreed upon.

➔ Output 2.1 – Setting the baseline in each FLR perimeter, within the five pilot sites

During the first project year, the biophysical and socioeconomic situation will be determined in each FLR perimeter, within each pilot site and this well before any intervention. This baseline situation will allow the project team to quantify and qualify biophysical and socioeconomic impacts after intervention. Each pilot site may include several FLR perimeters, one perimeter being supervised by one local association (e.g. village / women / youth association…) and/or farmers' group. Useful guidance can be found from the methodology developed for FLR baseline setting by the National Great Green Wall Agency of Niger (*Agence nationale de la grande muraille verte* - ANGMV) (ANGMV, 2016)[20], knowing this methodology has been tested and uses an innovative tool, i.e. Collect Earth Open Foris (CEOF)[21].

As CEOF is at the heart of the methodology, it is useful to briefly describe it. It is a free on-line mapping tool using more than 40 years of satellite imagery data (Google Earth, Earth Engine, Bing Maps) coupled with user input data. The tool was initially developed by FAO to monitor landscape developments at national and regional scales. It draws its strength from the use of very high resolution satellite images available free of charge thanks to an agreement signed between FAO and Google in 2015, strengthened by an agreement between FAO and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) (FAO Roma, 2016b)[22].

Thanks to training courses on CEOF and under supervision of the Project Management Unit (PMU), the field agents from the MEDDEFCP and the local communities will carry out the biophysical assessment. In practice, they will create land use maps in the pilot site, following four steps:

- Entering biophysical information in CEOF from very high resolution images on the pilot site and visual determination of land occupations on a systematic grid of plots. Additional information can be gathered if necessary (e.g. socioeconomic information for example);

- Generation of provisional land-use maps, past trends and current state;

- Ground-truthing mission to confirm or not the interpretations and to validate land use maps;

- Statistical processing of spatial data to quantify the processes (with the Saiku tool)[23].

With regards to the socio-economic assessment, the field agents from the MEDDEFCP and the local communities will also receive a specific training in order to carry out a simple and participatory survey: population distribution and evolution, types of agro-sylvo-

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[19] See http://www.dzanga-sangha.org/fr/content/brochures-de-tourisme

[20] ANGMV, 2016. *Projet ACD - Termes de référence pour réalisation de la situation de référence sur les aspects biophysiques et socioéconomiques dans les zones d'intervention du projet.* Niamey – ANGMV, août 2016. 16p

[21] See http://www.openforis.org/tools/collect-earth/tutorials/key-features.html

[22] FAO Roma, 2016b. *Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the FAO and the NASA and Partnership Work Plan.* Roma – FAO Roma, November 2016. 8p

[23] See http://www.meteorite.bi/products/saiku

pastoral activities, income and employment related to these activities, land tenure rights, etc. Thus, the biophysical assessment must allow identifying the degraded land suitable for FLR: position on the topo sequence, type of soil, type of vegetation, main vocation: agriculture, agroforestry, plantations, etc. The socioeconomic assessment must allow identifying the alternative activities of the local populations on the restored sites (i.e. alternative to unsustainable practices), identifying the beneficiaries, and avoiding any possible land disputes. Restoration activities will be carried out only on old fallows with farmers having clear customary rights recognized by the community itself (e.g. "*Procès-verbal de palabres*").

Finally, the results of the baseline assessment can then be presented in a workshop before the local populations and their representatives (Special Delegation/Communal Council, customary chieftainship, associations and farmers' groups, etc.) and prospective scenarios in terms of FLR can be discussed and validated. After that, a simple action plan for FLR actions and IGAs can be prepared. Eventually, all the action plans (one per each FLR perimeter) can be gathered and copied to the Special Delegation/Communal Council, for community-based monitoring of progress and compliance (and possibly annex them to the Local Development Plan of the Commune, if it exits).

Deliverables: Baseline assessment reports for each FLR perimeter. Timing: First semester of 2018. Means: Fees for one expert in CEOF (30 man-days, for 2 training sessions in situ + hotline); Field agents of the MEDDEFCP and MDRA, in collaboration with the targeted local populations, under supervision and guidance from the PMU. A lumpsum is provided for field expenses (for both biophysical and socio-economic assessments), local consultations, etc. In Niger, based on given cases of similar assessment, the cost was around USD 9 per ha. Considering the landscapes are a bit more complex in the CAR (in most cases: small patches of degradation scattered into intact landscapes), this unit cost has been doubled in order to estimate costs.

➔ Output 2.2 – Implementing FLR activities with local populations

Based on the literature review and the field interviews with local population, its appears clearly that forest and landscape degradation is caused by a conjunction of diverse drivers, the main ones being the unsustainable practices in terms of slash-and-burn agriculture, wood energy harvest, hunting using bushfires, etc. Currently, rural households are regularly clearing new pieces of forest (0.9 ha every two years in average, according to TECSULT, 1994. These estimates are corroborated by our field observations and interviews) and tend to abandon land considered unproductive after several cropping cycles.

To address this issue, the main idea is to encourage households to "retrace their steps" and restore these abandoned lands, considered unproductive, instead of expanding the pioneer front away from the villages. This key idea was thoroughly discussed and the local populations consulted were generally willing to engage in such restoration activities, having realized the current "rush forward" was creating many problems and would not sustain their livelihoods in the long run. There was a general agreement on the negative impact of degraded natural resource: (i) reduced livelihoods (rarefaction of fertile lands, bush meat, NTFPs, etc.), (ii) increased travel time to farm land or forests to collect NTFPs, lumber, firewood, and (iii) land tenure problems in a context of population growth.

Thus, it appears local communities are aware of the potential impacts of forest and landscape degradation. This is a critical element of success of the project, as it helps guarantee support to FLR activities. This being said, when the local populations are questioned about the ways and means to implement these FLR activities, they face difficulty in responding, as FLR experiences have been very scarce in the CAR so far. They have very limited knowledge of technical agro-ecological options such as agroforestry based on fast growing N-fixing tree species (well-known in the DRC), direct sowing under crop cover, compost, etc. For that reason, they were generally very curious during the consultations to know what solutions the TRI CAR Project would bring…

In order to avoid misperceptions and manage expectations on what the Project can and cannot deliver, it was highlighted that the FLR activities would need to be (i) adapted to local conditions and the own objectives of each farmer, (ii) realistic (i.e. not over-sophisticated, both in terms of inputs or know-how), (iii) carried out in the long run (e.g. improving soil fertility is a matter of years or even decades, especially in the CAR context when most of the soils are ferralitic).

In line with the guidance from the FAO in terms of FLR and planted forests (FAO Roma and Bioversity International, 2014)[24] (FAO Roma, 2006)[25] (FAO Roma, undated)[26], agro-ecology in general, and agroforestry in particular, would be promoted through the TRI CAR Project. In agroforestry systems, perennial woody plants are deliberately integrated into crops and / or livestock for a variety of benefits and services. Integration can be done either spatially (e.g. crops grown with trees) or temporally (e.g. improved fallows,

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[24] FAO Roma and Bioversity International, 2014. The State Of The World's Forest Genetic Resources - Thematic Study: Genetic Considerations In Ecosystem Restoration Using Native Tree Species. Roma – FAO, 2014. 282p

[25] FAO Roma, 2006. *Responsible Management of Planted Forests: Voluntary Guidelines*. Roma – FAO, 2006. 84p

[26] FAO Roma, undated. *SFM Toolbox FAO SFM Toolbox - Module FLR (16p) and Module Forest Reproductive Material (8p)*. Roma – FAO, 24p

rotations). Agroforestry systems have great potential for diversifying food resources and sources of income. These can improve land productivity, halt and reverse land degradation through their ability to provide a favorable microclimate and permanent cover, improve organic carbon content and soil structure, increase infiltration, to improve soil fertility and biological activity.

Based on interviews carried out with 117 Associations/Groups during the preparation of this document, the most demanded plant species (20 identified) and tree species (65 identified) were listed. Some plant or tree species, not known to local populations, were also briefly presented during the field discussions, as they could be of interest for the FLR activities.

In practical terms, FLR activities would be implemented over 3,221 ha (as estimated during the field missions of the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase, early 2017) by local Associations/Groups, after signing a LoA with the TRI CAR Project. These Association/Group, gathering at least 20 members (to allow for a landscape approach and to avoid diseconomies of scale), would be supported by the local field agents at each step (baseline setting, implementation of FLR activities, maintenance after restoration). They would receive a financial support from the GEF corresponding to 60% of the cost of restoration, i.e. around USD 440 per ha as shown infra, the remaining part (USD 300 per ha or 40% of the costs) corresponding to the ex-post maintenance during the four first years (regular weeding and maintenance of firebreaks). These costs estimates are considered quite realistic, being derived from real figures compiled by the Eco-Makala project in DRC (WWF-EU funded). They are also in line with data gathered during the field interviews.

Tree nursery	100
Clearing	86
Ploughing	167
Picketing/pitting	34
Planting	34
Remedial fill planting	19
Weeding (2/year x 4 years)	300
TOTAL	740
If 40/60 cost sharing, cost for the TRI CAR Project	444

NB: Per hectare cost (USD) for the four first years (minimal weeding after that)

FIGURE 3 - COST AGROFORESTRY PLANTATION IN THE ECO-MAKALA PROJECT - GOMA, DRC (SALVATERRA, 2013)[27]

The Associations/Groups would manage village-based tree/plant nurseries (to be supplied with improved seeds by ICRA/ISDR, or using selected seeds from massal selection (i.e. community-based visual selection of vigorous trees and/or plants able to provide high quality cuttings or seeds) if the ICRA/ISDR is not able to supply the needed quantity/quality). They would also coordinate field activities at perimeter/block level. Finally, they would channel subsidies for their individual members. These subsidies could be released in two instalments: advance payment of 50% before start of field activities and final payment of 50% one year after planting, after verifying the agroforestry plantations are in place and well-managed (not more than 20% of trees lost, complete coverage of the soil with planted trees and/or plants). A detailed management plan of restoration activities will be developed during the project implementation phase.

In the specific case of the Mambéllé pilot site, the FLR activities will consist in a PPP between SEFCA, the neighboring communities and the CAR Government. A bit more than 1,250 ha would be planted, 80% of teak (most common specie used for afforestation in the CAR, notably by the CAS-DF) and 20% of local tree species for NTFPs production (fruits, caterpillars, etc.). The costs for this PPP were specifically estimated in a business plan, as the planting techniques would slightly differ from the other pilot sites (e.g. use of equipment from SEFCA to prepare the land, economy of scale regarding the area to be covered, etc.). In this specific case, the TRI CAR Project would only cover 30% of the costs, the remaining part being co-financed by SEFCA (redirection of its forest taxes normally paid to the CAS-DF, based on an ad hoc agreement signed between SEFCA/CAR Gvt/FAO Bangui). Expenses to be supported by the local communities and SEFCA are identified in the business plan. Based on that, local communities would receive subsidies from the TRI CAR Project (gathering GEF financing and SEFCA co-financing) under the same modalities as described supra (channeling through the Association/Group, two instalments).

[27] SalvaTerra, 2013. Evaluation finale du projet Eco-Makala : Viabilisation durable de l'approvisionnement en bois-énergie des populations rurales riveraines de la ville de Goma (RDC). Paris – SalvaTerra, juillet 2013. 139p

Deliverables: 3,221 ha restored in the five pilot sites. Timing: Lifetime of the Project. Means: Technical support to the local communities and partial co-financing of the FLR activities by the GEF (60% of estimated costs, apart from Mambéllé pilot site where it would be 30%).

→ Output 2.3 - Implementing complementary IGAs with local populations

Field activities supported by the TRI CAR Project will not be limited to the physical restoration of soils, forests and landscapes, but also the increase and maintenance of their productivity over the long term, allowing the cohabitation of various activities (agriculture, hunting, collection of NTFPs and firewood, etc.). Indeed, the CAR has experienced decades of instability and sluggish growth, and the 2013 crisis aggravated the situation even more. Most of the rural populations are living in extreme poverty and suffer from food insecurity, including in the South-West. The promotion of alternative and diversified livelihoods IGAs are therefore needed and aligned with the change theory of the TRI CAR Project.

As these IGAs will be precisely identified with the voluntary Associations/Groups (bottom-up and participatory process) when setting the baseline in each of the five pilot sites (see Output 2.1), there is no "positive list" of eligible IGAs at this stage, but rather a "negative list": the TRI CAR Project would not support IGAs that lead to an unsustainable use of natural resources (e.g. equipment for small-scale artisanal mining or artisanal logging leading to forest and soil degradation). Without prejudging what would come out of these participatory processes, here below are examples of eligible activities a priori:

- Agriculture: Support for the improvement of cassava processing (e.g. increase of processing yield, diversification of sub-products – flour, gari, couscous, chips, etc., reduction of storage loss, etc.), support for the diversification of food diet (e.g. supply of seeds, small equipment, and technical support for dry-season gardening, supply of breeding stocks and technical support for small breeding – poultry, pigs, etc.). By diversifying agriculture activities and adding value to the sub-products, the TRI CAR Project will improve the revenues, the food security (in quantity – improved yields - and quality – less cassava in the daily diet and more vegetables and animal/fish proteins) and contribute to reducing the pressure on forests for bush meat hunting;

- NTFPs: Support for the "domestication" of edible caterpillars (e.g. advising local populations on the diverse host trees and supporting them in good harvesting techniques to avoid the felling), mushrooms or *kökö* (e.g. supply of mushroom strains or *kökö* cutting, technical support for the production), dissemination of leaves or fruits with high nutrition potential but still poorly spread (e.g. moringa leaves, jack fruit, etc.);

- Wood energy: Support for the improvement of charcoal production in peri-urban areas (e. g. technical support for the design of simple management plans of fast-growing tree plantations, introduction of improved kilns, etc.) making this activity more profitable and sustainable, and contributing to the reduction of fuel poverty for peri-urban and urban households.

In practical terms, complementary IGAs would be implemented by local Associations/Groups, as part of their LoA signed with the TRI CAR Project. These Associations/Groups would be supported by the local field agents at each step (identification of IGAs and design of a simplified business plan, implementation with regular follow-up). To be eligible, Associations/Groups would have to prepare a simple and brief funding request, presenting the foreseen IGA and the associated business plan, to prove the IGA would strengthen the sustainable use of natural resources, be technically feasible, profitable and sustainable in the long run after the Project end.

Costs of inputs, equipment, etc. for these IGAs would be financially supported by the TRI CAR Project: each Association/Group could theoretically receive the equivalent of 50% of it FLR subsidies. For instance, an Association/Group restoring 10 ha would receive USD 4 400 as FLR subsidies and USD 2 200 as IGAs subsidies. Now, at the contrary to FLR where subsidies were granted, the TRI CAR Project would preferably channel these IGAs subsidies through additional credit lines created within the Resilience Funds (*Caisses de résilience*, CDR) created by the FAO since 2007 (FAO Bangui, 2016c)[28]. The Association/Group not yet registered under their local resilience fund as a Village Saving & Lending Association (*Associations villageoises d'épargne et de credit*, AVEC) would then be encouraged to do so, with the support of the local field agents, and the backstopping of the PMU.

The overall rationale is that FLR activities are supposed to be profitable for the local populations in the medium to long term, thus justifying the grants; Complementary IGAs are expected to be profitable in the short to medium term, thus justifying the choice of the CDR/AVEC approach.

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[28] FAO Bangui, 2016c. *La caisse de résilience, approche de la FAO et réalisations : « nouvel espoir de vie des communautés affectées par la crise en RCA »*. Bangui – FAO, 2016. 1p

Deliverables: Complementary IGAs identified and carried out by Associations/Groups in the five pilot sites. Timing: Lifetime of the Project. Means: Technical support to the local communities and partial co-financing of the IGAs by the GEF, through the AVEC/CDR approach (amount equivalent to 50% of FLR subsidies received by the Association/Group).

➔ Output 2.4 - Day-to-day supervision and support by field agents and PMU

After consulting the local populations, the MEDDEFCP (central services and deconcentrated services), the MDRA (idem), diverse technical and financial partners (NGOs, donors, etc.), the general opinion was that it would be adapted and effective to share the responsibility of the field supervision between seconded civil servants from the MEDDEFCP and the MDRA, and agents from local NGOs:

- On the one hand, it is important to say that the MEDDEFCP and the MDRA (and other stakeholders) are fully aware of their weaknesses, in terms of capacities and ability to deliver adequate services to the population. After years of politico-military crises, there is a ray of hope with the recent launching of the RCPCA and the progressive return to normal. For most of the peoples consulted, it is therefore time to re-invest and remobilize the technical ministries, to strengthen their capacities along with the local populations in a learning-by-doing process;

- On the other hand, in some of the pilot sites (e.g. Mambéllé and M'Baïki pilot sites), there are unfilled positions of field agents from the MEDDEFCP and the MDRA, while local NGOs are operating in the environment or rural development sector. Even if the field agents of these local NGOs also often lack of capacities in terms of FLR and or IGAs, at least they have a practical experience of the rural areas where they operate.

For these reasons, field agents will be recruited, on site by site basis, at the Project inception after an open and competitive selection process, jointly supervised by the MEDDEFCP and the FAO. The academic background, professional experience, motivation to work on an innovative Project together with local populations will be the key criteria for the selection. Field agents from the MEDDEFCP and the MADR will have to be seconded and covered by an overall LoA between the FAO and their supervising Ministry. Field agents from local NGOs will also be covered by a LoA between the FAO and their NGO. The TRI CAR project will strengthen capacities of all these field agents and will also support them in the day-to-day supervision of field operations.

The numbers of field agents in each of the pilot sites will depend on the number of final beneficiaries and FLR perimeters to supervise. The preliminary estimates, from the field missions carried in early 2017, suggest there would be 3,221 ha subject to FLR in total. Assuming an average ratio of 100 ha monitored by field agent, there would be a need of 32 agents. Divided by the estimates of FLR areas by pilot sites, there would be a need of 11 agents in Bangui, 6 agents in Berbérati, 2 agents in Mbaïki, 1 agent in Bayanga and 13 agents in Mambéllé. Knowing FLR actions and IGAs relate as much to agriculture as to forestry, both agronomists and foresters will be selected, with an exact balance dependent on the needed skills, to be determined site by site.

These field agents will be supervised by a local project coordinator. In Bangui, Berbérati and M'Baïki, the local project coordinators will be seconded senior officers (at least 15 years of work experience) from the MEDDEFCP, jointly selected by the MEDDEFCP and the FAO. They will be based in the Regional office of the MEDDEFCP and work on a daily basis with the services of the MEDDEFCP, but they will directly report to the PMU in Bangui.

In Bayanga and Mambéllé, the field agents will be supervised, respectively, by the APDS staff in Bayanga, by the technical direction of SEFCA in Mambéllé. In all cases, the field agents will be regularly involved in field monitoring missions with their local project coordinator / APDS supervisor / SEFCA supervisor, as well as the PMU. These missions will give them the opportunity to directly exchange views and recommendations.

Deliverables: Semi-annual brief reports of activity for each field agent. Timeframe: Lifetime of the project. Means: a 125 cc motorcycle, inherent fuel and maintenance costs, a computer with printer, office supplies and telephone / internet charges. These basic equipment are essential for both seconded field officers from the MEDDEFCP and MADR, and field agents from local NGOs: after decades of under-financing of the rural development, aggravated by the 2013 crisis, the support structures (public and private) for rural development are very weak and need to be rebuilt. The TRI CAR Project, as all other projects in the rural sector of the CAR, will operate in a post-emergency context and it needs to be duly reflected in the results matrix and the budget.

Component 3: Institutions, Finance and Upscaling

Outcome 3 - Strengthened institutional capacities and financing arrangements in place to allow for and facilitate large-scale restoration and maintenance of critical landscapes and diverse ecosystem services

Before presenting the outputs in details, it seems useful to briefly present the rationale of this component:

- The output 3.1 is about assessing capacity-needs of key stakeholders (namely: field officers, local populations and academic institutions) and outputs 3.2 to 3.4 are about providing specific capacity-building support to these three groups of stakeholders. These outputs should contribute to a better implementation of field level FLR activities, thus contributing to the outcome 3: more technical and institutional capacity to implement and upscale FLR activities;

- The output 3.5 is about mobilizing domestic and external funding for FLR, thus contributing to the outcome 3: more financing to implement and upscale FLR activities;

- The output 3.6 is about improving the coordination of stakeholders involved in FLR activities, thus contributing to the outcome 3: a better coordination to implement and upscale FLR activities.

➔ Output 3.1 - Capacity needs assessment of key stakeholders

As recalled in the FAO Corporate Approach and Strategy[29], effective capacity development approaches are essential to enhance the impact and sustainability of GEF project results through deepening country ownership and leadership of the development process. It is particularly important to address all three capacity development dimensions systematically: (i) Individual capacities (e.g. knowledge, skills and competencies), (ii) Organizational capacities (e.g. performance of organizations, cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder coordination), and (iii) Enabling environment (e.g. sound regulatory and policy frameworks, institutional linkages and enhanced political commitment and will). The issues related to the third dimension, enabling environment have been addressed in the description of Component 1. This Output 3.1 will therefore focus on the two other dimensions.

There are few successful experiences in the CAR in terms of:

- Reforestation: Poor success of reforestation perimeters from the CAS-DF (lack of means, as the forest taxation regime is challenged by forest companies / poor follow-up). In addition, there is few experience of local communities and field officers in terms of reforestation, and no national capacity at ICRA to produce forest seeds/plants at scale;

- FLR actions: Field experiences in terms of ANR and FLR are rare, put in place on tiny surfaces, and have rarely been monitored in the long term (i.e. put in place by the Technical Centre on Tropical Forestry (CTFT), the ARF project and the CIRAD in the 1970's to 1990' near M'Baïki, at Carrefour Leroy and ISDR Campus.);

- Agroecology: The PNIASAN focuses on "conventional agriculture" to develop food crops and there is little or no experience of local communities, field officers, and academic institutions in terms of agroecology, despite the concept is included in the INDC submitted in 2015. In addition, the agriculture sector has been deeply impacted by the recent crisis and rural development projects have been replaced by emergency and post-emergency projects, which have not allowed promoting agriculture innovations.

As a consequence, individual and organizational capacities of academic institutions (ICRA, ISDR), field agents (from the MEDDEFCP and MDRA, and local NGOs), and local populations are quite low, and need to be strengthened, as these thematic areas are at the heart of the TRI CAR Project. During the PPG phase of this project, the project team met with many persons representing the stakeholder groups mentioned above. Their capacity development needs have been briefly assessed. Now, following guidance from the FAO in terms of capacity development (FAO Roma, 2012)[30] (FAO Roma 2015b)[31], a three-step process is recommended: jointly assessing capacities with stakeholders, designing appropriate actions, and effectively tracking results.

This Output 3.1 relates to the first step, allowing fine-tuning the capacity development needs assessment. It will follow guidance described in CD Learning Module 2 - Chapter 2 "*Analyzing and Understanding the Context*". The Outputs 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 relate to the second step, and focus respectively on the field officers and Local Project Coordinators, the local populations in the pilot sites, and the academic institutions. The Output 4.5 relates to the third step. It will follow guidance described in CD Learning Module 2 - Chapter 3 "*Tracking Capacity Development Results*".

In practical terms, for the first step, a team will carry out the assessment regarding individual capacities and organizational capacities with the decentralized services of the MEDDEFCP and the MDRA, and local NGOs operating in the five pilot sites, with the academic institutions in M'Baïki (ISDR, ICRA), and with the local populations in the five pilot sites (mobilizing APDS staff in Bayanga and SEFCA staff in Mambélé).

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[29] See http://www.fao.org/capacity-development/en

[30] FAO Roma, 2012. *FAO Capacity Development. Learning Module 2 – FAO approach to capacity-development in programming: processes and tools.* Roma – FAO Roma, 2012. 149p

[31] FAO Roma, 2015b. *FAO Capacity Development. Capacity-development brief.* Roma – FAO Roma, 2015. 2p

The tools for the assessment will be designed in an ad hoc fashion (e.g. problem/solution tree tool, stakeholder mapping tool, capacity development questionnaire, etc.) and used through individual surveys, focus groups, etc. Thematically, they will target the following issues: reforestation in particular and FLR in general / agroecology / IGAs in the rural sector (including in particular the promotion of NTFPs) / structuration-strengthening of associations-farmers' groups) / CEOF and Ex-Act tool / Etc. (other themes to be determined after the assessment). Based on the findings, specific capacity development roadmaps (site by site, and stakeholder by stakeholder) will be jointly designed and validated.

Deliverables: An overall capacity development needs report, gathering all the findings and the capacity development roadmaps. Timeframe: First semester of 2018. Means: Fees for two international experts in capacity development (30 man-days each); Project Manager, Local Project Coordinators, academic institutions (ISDR, ICRA), targeted local populations. A lumpsum is provided for field expenses, local consultations, etc.; Five workshops (two in Bangui: inception and validation; three for pre-validation: Bangui / Berbérati / M'Baïki).

→ Output 3.2: Capacity-building of field officers and Local Project Coordinators

Based on the initial assessment described under Output 3.1, specific capacity development roadmaps will be prepared for each the field officers and Local Project Coordinators in each of the pilot sites (idem). Themes to be covered will be precisely defined in these roadmaps, but may cover the following issues (non-exhaustive list): reforestation in particular and FLR in general / agroecology / IGAs in the rural sector (including in particular the promotion of NTFPs) / structuration-strengthening of associations-farmers' groups) / use of CEOF and Ex-Act tool / Etc.

In order to be flexible and not to pre-empt the results of the capacity development needs assessment, a certain amount of days of training has been earmarked: (i) 40 man-days per year for trainers (10 days per training session in average), thus 200 man-days of trainers in total (ii) 20 participants per training session in average, thus 800 man-days/year and 4,000 man-days of trainees in total. Expertise from various partners will be sought, such as on agro-ecology and improved fallow management in central African moist forests, for which the International Institute for Tropical Agronomy (IITA) or the CIRAD may have an added value (see Output 3.4).

Deliverables: Preparation, facilitation, and reporting for each specific training session, notably mentioning the follow-up measures to ensure the sustainability of the capacity-building activities. Timeframe: Lifetime of the Project. Means: Fees for experts specialized in the themes of interest (40 man-days per year x five years); Project Manager, Local Project Coordinators, field agents. A lumpsum per trainee (FCFA 10,000 per man-day or USD 16 per man-day) is provided for room rentals, coffee breaks, lunches, transports, etc.

→ Output 3.3: Capacity-building of targeted local populations

The reasoning is nearly the same as for the Output 3.2. Based on the initial capacity-building needs assessment described under Output 3.1, as well as the baseline assessment described under Output 2.1, specific capacity development needs roadmaps will be prepared for the local populations in each pilot site: village / women / youth associations and/or farmers' groups. Themes to be covered will be precisely defined in the specific capacity building roadmaps, but may cover the following issues (non-exhaustive list): reforestation in particular and FLR in general / agroecology / IGAs in the rural sector (including in particular the promotion of NTFPs) / structuration-strengthening of associations-farmers' groups) / Etc.

Training sessions will be organized and facilitated by the field officers already trained by the external experts, as described under Output 3.2. Training sessions may have diverse settings: indoor training, on-the-job training (notably involving farmer field schools), community-listening clubs, etc. A certain amount of days of training has been earmarked: 20 participants per training session in average, and 120 days of training per year, thus 2,400 man-days/year and 12,000 man-days of trainees in total.

Deliverables: Preparation, facilitation, and reporting for each specific training session, notably mentioning the follow-up measures to ensure the sustainability of the capacity-building activities. Timeframe: Second semester of 2018 onward. Means: Local Project Coordinators and field officers. A lumpsum per trainee (FCFA 5,000 per man-day, approx. USD 8 per man-day) is provided for room rentals, coffee breaks, lunches, transports, etc.

→ Output 3.4: Capacity-building of academic institutions (ICRA and ISDR)

The reasoning is nearly the same as for the Outputs 3.2 and 3.3. Based on the initial capacity-building needs assessment described under Output 3.1, specific capacity development roadmaps will be prepared for the academic institutions. Thematic areas to be covered will be defined in the specific capacity building roadmaps, but may cover at least two specific issues (non-exhaustive list): Reforestation in particular and FLR in general; agro-ecology.

Public services in the agriculture sector (MDRA, ICRA, ISDR, ACDA, etc.) are weak. In particular, ICRA and ISDR have received marginal support from the State and the donors for the last years (apart from the NGO Welthungerhilfe which recently supported the

renovation of ICRA research stations). Yet, national capacities in terms of plants and seeds production are needed, as well as locally adapted agro-ecology itineraries. Therefore, this Output 3.4 is crucial for the overall success of the TRI CAR Project.

In terms of FLR in general: As recalled in Output 3.1, there are limited experiences in terms of reforestation, and even less experience in terms of FLR in the CAR. In addition, the organizational capacities of ICRA and ISDR are quite weak in this regard, as these institutions have for long been understaffed and underfinanced. Capacity-building should therefore aim at supporting the development of a basic, coherent and effective R&D joint-program in terms of FLR in general. Such a R&D program would lead to the following:

- Basic and advanced training courses in terms of FLR, in the context of the dense humid forests: key-concepts, baseline assessment, design of FLR actions, implementation and follow-up;
- Identification and stock-taking of past experiences in terms of FLR, in the CAR and in the sub-region;
- Identification of main types of tree species (i.e. multi-purpose species: production of NTFPs, lumber, wood-energy, N-fixing, etc.) most demanded by the rural populations, as well as main types of annual or perennial N-fixing cover crop (unfortunately poorly demanded by local populations, as they have not yet been promoted at large scale);
- In-situ collection of the related trees and plants seeds (through massal selection), or Material Transfer Agreement (MTA)[32] to be concluded with sub-regional National seed services or research centers (e.g. CIRAD, PRASAC, IITA, ICRAF, etc.);
- Production of basic seeds of the identified trees and plants;
- Upgrading of the ISDR curricula in terms of FLR, topic currently not well addressed.

In terms of agro-ecology: As recalled in Output 3.1, there are little or no experiences in terms of agro-ecology in the CAR. Similarly to FLR, capacity-building should therefore aim at supporting the development of a basic, coherent and effective R&D joint-program in terms of agro-ecology. Such a R&D program would lead to the following:

- Basic and advanced training courses in terms of agro-ecology, in the context of the Central African dense moist forests: key-concepts, baseline assessment, design of agro-ecology actions, implementation and follow-up;
- Identification and stock-taking of past experiences in terms of agro-ecology, in the CAR and in the sub-region;
- Launching of basic in-station tests and/or farmers' field tests to develop innovative cropping systems, alternative to the traditional slash-and-burn cropping systems;
- Support to the promotion of such innovative cropping systems, in collaboration with ICRA, MDRA, MEDDEFCP and interested partners (e.g. farmers' groups, NGOs, projects, etc.), taking advantage of the network of Farmer Field School (FFS)[33] supported by the FAO in the CAR;
- Upgrading of the ISDR curricula in terms of agro-ecology, topic currently not well addressed.

Initiating and implementing such R&D programs, in FLR and agro-ecology, will require a high-level scientific support over the lifetime of the TRI CAR Project. The CIRAD is an historical partner of the ICRA and ISDR: it collaborates with them since 1988, especially through the ARF project in M'Baïki (still on-going, notably with funding from the PDRSO), and a relationship of trust exists between these institutions. Furthermore, the CIRAD has the required skills to implement such a support. In particular, two CIRAD research units could be mobilized:

- Forests and Societies (*UR Forêts et sociétés*)[34]. This Unit gathers 38 researchers. It studies tropical forests as ecological and social systems subject to local or global changes that may arise from natural, economic or political determinants. Its main objective is to conserve tropical forests through the development of sustainable management practices that ensure, on the one hand, the maintenance of key environmental services (biodiversity, carbon storage), the production of goods and, on the other hand, improvement of the living conditions of local populations and of society in general. The Forest and Societies Research Unit may then support the R&D Program on FLR.

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[32] See specimen at http://visacane.cirad.fr/content/download/2305/17909/file/MTA_2017%20specimen.pdf

[33] See http://www.fao.org/agriculture/ippm/programme/ffs-approach/en/

[34] See http://ur-forets-societes.cirad.fr/

- Agroecology and Sustainable Intensification of Annual Crops (*UR Agroécologie et intensification durable des cultures annuelles* – Aïda)[35]. This Unit gathers 60 researchers. It focuses on the intensification and sustainability of the production of annual crops in quantity and, when relevant, in quality, in a particularly stressed tropical environment. To this end, its research aims at the full exploitation of available resources, by mobilizing the ecological processes that govern their dynamics within agro-systems.

The initiation and implementation of the two R&D Programs could be estimated as follow, for each one: 40 md of CIRAD expert in 2018 (fine-tuning of capacity-development needs and R&D objectives, based on the capacity-development needs assessment done under Output 3.1) and 20 md/year of CIRAD experts from 2019 to 2022 (in-situ capacity-building, backstopping and hotline). In addition, a lumpsum would be budgeted for each R&D program for diverse investments (equipment, travels to sub-regional National seed services or research centers, purchase of seeds through MTA, etc.). A UN Volunteer (UNV) would also be hired and based in the ICRA station of Boukoko, near M'Baïki, in order to relay the supports of the CIRAD and collaborate on a daily basis with ICRA and ISDR staff.

Deliverables: Design and implementation of two R&D Programs, FLR and agro-ecology, leading to basic and advanced capacity-building of ICRA and ISDR staff, stock-taking of relevant experiences in terms of FLR and agro-ecology in the CAR and the sub-region, identification of most demanded seeds/plants of trees and cover crops, production of basic seeds, identification and test of innovative cropping systems, support to the dissemination of such cropping systems. Timeframe: Second semester of 2018 onward. Means: Fees for CIRAD experts (for each R&D program: 40 md in 2018 and 20 md/year from 2019 to 2022); UNV; A lumpsum for investments under each R&D program (equipment, travels to sub-regional National seed services or research centers, purchase of seeds through MTA, etc.)

➔ Output 3.5: Mobilizing domestic and external funding for FLR

The current domestic resources for FLR are limited to the forest taxes paid to the CAS-DF, which use part of these resources to establish a limited surface of reforestation every year, i.e. 134 ha/year in average over 2001-2015 according to BONANNEE (2001) and CAS-DF (2015). In addition, this tax regime is questioned by forestry firms, who accumulated a large amount of arrears over the past few years. Presently, the CAS-DF itself is suggesting to transform its status (CAS-DF, 2017), to widen its scope of operation and get financial autonomy. These requests are questionable.

The PDRSO and the Mining and Governance Project are suggesting to upgrade the forest taxation regime. Finally, official documents suggest that other funds could be used to channel domestic resources: the R-PP (MEEDD, 2013b) quotes the existing National Environmental Fund (*Fonds national pour l'environnement* – FNE), while the INDC (CAR Gvt, 2015a) suggests creating a National Climate Fund. Both the sourcing and the channeling of domestic resources for FLR are thus to be clarified.

In terms of external funding for FLR, available resources are limited to a few projects, aiming to set up pilot actions (notably the PDRSO and the Mining and Governance Project). As for the USD 1.5 million CAFI funding, it is earmarked primarily for REDD+, but FLR could be considered when preparing the REDD+ National Investment Framework to be prepared for an upscaling of CAFI resources (Comm. pers. I. TOLA KOGADOU – REDD+ Focal Point, February 2017). In any case, it would be worth exploring other sources of funding for FLR, either from public sources (e.g. Green Climate Fund - GCF, Land Degradation Neutrality Fund - LDNF, etc.) or private sources (e.g. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) investments, commercial investments, etc.).

To summarize, three main studies could be included under this Output 3.5, focusing respectively on domestic funding, external funding from private sources, and external funding from public sources. These would contribute to the needed upscaling of FLR actions, knowing that financing needs are huge, as highlighted in the report "Reaping the reward – Financing Land Degradation Neutrality" (UNCCD & Global Mechanism, 2015)[36]. The contents of these studies are described below.

Domestic funding: In collaboration with the stakeholders directly involved (Ministry of Finance, MEDDEFCP, CAS-DF, FNE, Forest Companies, etc.), and in liaison with the PDRSO and the Mining and Forest Governance Project, the study could review the following issues and makes recommendations in that regard: (i) Forest taxation regime (tax basis and levels, link to the refundable VAT to the forest companies, etc.), (ii) CAS-DF benefit-sharing system (between the Communes, the AAGRDF, and the CAS-DF), (iii) Sources of revenue for the FNE, (iv) Benefit-sharing system for the FNE, (v) Disbursement modalities for the two Funds (in particular, explore alternative modalities for the CAS-DF, allowing incentivizing private / decentralized authority / community-based FLR.

External funding / private: NTFPs are of considerable importance in the daily diet of the Central Africans. The daily diet of 72% of rural people in the CAR would depend partly or entirely on NTFPs. It would even be greater for the marginalized groups, such as

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[35] See http://ur-aida.cirad.fr/

[36] UNCCD & Global Mechanism, 2015. *Reaping the Reward: Financing Land Degradation Neutrality.* Bonn – UNCCD, 2015. 32p

Pygmies / Bay'Aka (KONZI-SARAMBO et al., 2012). The PNIASAN gives harvest estimates for the two most well-known NTFPs: 500 t/year for *kökö* (*Gnetum spp*) and 540 t/year for caterpillars (notably *Imbrasia spp)*. However, despite this socio-economic importance, offer, demand, and economic returns from most NTFPs remain largely unknown and they are not subject to large-scale trading.

Furthermore, some NTFPs are presently marginally produced in the country, but could be further developed in the CAR, potentially to access export markets, as there has been an increasing demand. It is the case for cocoa or rubber for the dense moist forest area; cashew nut or shea nut for the savanna area. These fruit trees also have the great advantage to be suitable for degraded forests and/or landscapes (NB: cashew nut plantations were even introduced in Sub-Saharan West Africa in the 1960's for this purpose: fixing the soils prone to erosion and stopping bush fires). This being recalled, based on the Market and Development Analysis (MDA) approach (FAO Roma, 2011a)[37], the study would aim at identifying a promising NTFP's supply chain and to promote it together with local populations and a private company, either interested in investing in a commercial business or to fulfill its CSR commitments.

External funding / public: Multilateral donors and funds for the environment are diverse. In particular, new Funds expected to leverage considerable amounts of resources for FLR have recently been created: CAFI, LDNF, GCF, etc. Accessing these Funds requires preparing a complete dossier, including undertaking consultations, analyzing data from the literature and field surveys, fulfilling administrative and financing requirements, preparing a coherent and relevant program of work, etc. Human resources are there in the CAR to prepare such elements, but they could benefit from guidance and backstopping of international experts, specialized in the design of project proposals for various multilateral donors.

Deliverables: Report on upgrading domestic funding mobilization and disbursement for FLR; Report and bankable project on mobilizing external private funding from FLR; Report and bankable project on mobilizing external public funding from FLR. Timeframe: Two years from 2018. Means (for each study): fees for one expert in FLR financing and one national experts (40 man-days each); Lumpsum for field expenses and local consultations; Two workshops (inception and validation).

➔ Output 3.6: Support to the National Coordination on FLR

FLR issues are of multi-sectoral nature, and the multi-sectoral coordination needs improvement in the CAR. The Pilot Regional Land Use Planning Scheme to be elaborated under the Output 1.2.1 aims at facilitating this multi-sectoral coordination, by providing up-to-date and geo-referenced data in terms of land use and land degradation. The present output goes further, as (i) it will promote a broader participation of stakeholders, at national level and not just for the South-West, (ii) it provides logistical means and facilitation for quarterly meetings. The current members of the National Coordination on FLR are representatives from the following groups (i) Ministries/Agencies (Central and deconcentrated services), (ii) Civil society organizations, (iii) Private sector, (iv) Academic institutions, (v) Technical and Financial Partners.

The National Coordination on FLR will be very useful for exchanging information quickly and efficiently, and avoiding that the "grey literature" produced by Ministries/project/NGOs, as well as the empirical knowledge of certain key people, are not valued. In addition to exchanging information, this National Coordination could monitor the activities carried out by the TRI CAR Project, assess, amend, and technically validate its draft deliverables. To insure a continuity of action, in addition to the quarterly meetings, daily exchanges could be possible via a dedicated mailing list.

Deliverables: Quarterly meetings; Minutes of meetings. Timeframe: Lifetime of the Project (meeting every quarter). Means: Logistics (room rental, lunch, coffee break, local transport). An allowance per participant (FCFA 30,000 per man-day, approx. USD 48 per man-day) is provided.

Component 4: Knowledge, Partnership, Monitoring and Assessment

Outcome 4.1 - Increased effectiveness of project investments among project stakeholders

➔ Output 4.1.1: South-South exchanges on FLR and agro-ecology

South-South exchanges and group discussions in the field are useful means to rapidly and effectively raise awareness on innovations such as FLR and agro-ecology. Fortunately, two neighboring countries sharing the same agro-ecological systems are also part of the TRI Program: Cameroon and the DRC, which would facilitate the logistical aspects and guarantee a convergence of interests. They could thus be prioritized for the organization of South-South exchanges. In terms of content, the following exchanges could be organized, based on crossed-presentations at the office, field visits, and exchanges between stakeholders:

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[37] FAO Roma, 2011a. *Community-based Tree and Forest product enterprise: Market Analysis and Development*. Roma – FAO, 2011. 111p

- Political aspects: Integration of FLR concerns into relevant policies and legal texts, highlighting strengths, weaknesses, and foreseen improvements; On-going efforts in terms of international commitment (i.e. REDD+, Aïchi targets, Bonn Challenge, AFR100, LDN, etc.)

- Scientific aspects: Existing results, knowledge gaps, on-going R&D efforts, in terms of valuation of environmental services, FLR techniques, agro-ecology cropping systems, production of selected trees and cover crops seeds, etc.

- Technical aspects: Field visits of pilot sites.

In terms of pilot sites of interest, they are many in both DRC and Cameroon to be visited. Here below are listed a few of them for Cameroon:

- Nkolbisson Station of the Agricultural Research Institute for Development (*Institut de recherche agricole pour le développement* – IRAD)[38] : located in the dense moist forest part of Cameroon, it is specialized in testing innovative agroforestry systems, integrating cocoa, coffee, rubber, etc. with food crops. It has also successfully developed a cassava selection program;

- Biotropical Agriculture Development Company (BADC)[39]: A pioneer in the production and exportation of high-value double certified organic/fair trade products (dried and fresh). The key fruits are wild mango, pineapple, passion fruit, banana, papaya, but BADC also produces more than 60 other tropical fruits, some of them poorly known or even unknown in Sub-Saharan Africa (e.g. Accrola - *Malpighia emarginata*, Durian - *Durio zibethinus*, Jackfruit - *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, etc.). In its 150 ha of agroforestry plantations located near Douala, BADC employs top-of-the-art agro-ecological practices (e.g. integrated biological control, vermicomposting, green manure, improved bee-keeping for better fructification, etc.);

- The Agricultural and Tree Products Program in Cameroon[40]: Launched in West and Northwest Cameroon in 1999, it is now working with over 10,000 farmers and 50 entrepreneurs in 485 communities. It has established more than 40 nurseries where tree propagation techniques are studied and disseminated among farmers.

Here below are listed a few of them in the DRC:

- Makala ("charcoal" in Lingala) Project[41]: Thanks to an EU funding, it had been implemented by the CIRAD from 2009 to 2014 in peri-urban areas of the DRC (Kinshasa and Kisangani) and Congo (Brazzaville). The aim was to reduce pressure on peri-urban forests through the promotion of improved fallow systems, ANR, plantation of fast-growing N-fixing trees to produce charcoal and food crops, etc. Therefore, this project successfully addressed drivers of environmental threats very similar to the ones encountered in the vicinity of Bangui, Berbérati, etc. Last but not the least, this project produced an impressive amount of field guides, notes, etc.[42], that help to precisely understand what has been done in the field;

- Ibi-Batéké agroforestry scheme ("Ibi carbon sink")[43] : Started in 2005 and registered under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol in 2008, more than 4,200 ha of agroforestry plantations (mainly *Acacia spp* intercropped with cassava and maize) have been planted on degraded savanna. It is a PPP led by Novacel Sprl, with support from BioCarbon Fund, FCPF, Forest Investment Program (FIP), Danone Livelihood Fund, etc. It aims at sustainably producing charcoal, cassava, as well as carbon credits;

- Musia Bikui / Ibi biodiversity incubator: Led by the Congolese NGO GI-Agro[44], at seven km from the Ibi carbon sink, it includes a conservatory of natural and agricultural biodiversity over 30 ha, showing nine different agroforestry systems and an arboretum with more than 100 natural and introduced tree species. Led by a retired Professor of agronomy of the Brussels and Kisangani University, GI-Agro aims at (i) testing innovative agriculture cropping systems, (ii) building capacities of young Congolese, hosted them as young farmers (incubator put in place

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[38] See http://iradcameroun.cm/fr/centre-r%C3%A9gional-nkolbisson

[39] See http://www.biotropical.com/interactif/

[40] See https://www.oaklandinstitute.org/agricultural-and-tree-products

[41] See http://makala.cirad.fr/

[42] See http://makala.cirad.fr/les_produits/publications

[43] See http://www.forestcarbonportal.com/project/ibi-bateke-sink-plantation-project

[44] See http://www.giagro.online/

for them), trainees, and PhD students. It has allowed publishing an impressive amount of internship reports, PhD thesis, and scientific articles[45].

Deliverables: Field mission reports, summarizing exchanges made, pilot sites visited, and useful recommendations for the TRI CAR Project and the involved stakeholders. Timeframe: Lifetime of the Project. Means: Travel costs for 15 participants/exchange x five exchanges (one per year).

→ Output 4.1.2: Participation in the annual knowledge meetings and the bi-annual finance events

The aim is to make the PMUs and key stakeholders of all the TRI Child Projects aware of progress, difficulties, lessons learned, etc. in all the TRI Child Projects. The TRI Global Project will coordinate and organize such meetings.

Deliverables: Field mission reports, summarizing exchanges made and useful recommendations for the TRI CAR Project and the involved stakeholders. Timeframe: Lifetime of the Project. Means: Travel costs for two participants/exchange x seven exchanges (five annual knowledge meetings and at two bi-annual finance events).

→ Output 4.1.3: Monitoring & Evaluation of the Project

The Monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of the TRIC CAR Project relies on the set of indicators and targets identified in the Results Matrix in **Annex A**.

Deliverables: Regular reporting (PPR, PIR, etc.) allowing for an adaptive and efficient management of the TRI CAR Project; Mid-term and final evaluations. Timeframe: Lifetime of the Project. Means: Lumpsum for the mid-term evaluation and the final evaluation (amount in line with estimates for the TRI Program (IUCN, 2016)[46]).

→ Output 4.1.4: Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The PSC will be made of representatives of the involved stakeholders (26 members maximum) and be chaired by a representative of the MEDDEFCP. It will meet once a year, to guide and oversee the project. Technical Committees will be set up at local level, for each of the Pilot sites, gathering local stakeholders involved in field activities. These Technical Committees will be limited to 10 members maximum and will have a consultative and advisory role, to inform the PSC about the progress and challenges faced locally. The meetings of these Technical Committees will be organized twice a year, notably in advance of the PSC meetings.

Deliverables: Yearly Technical Committees' meetings and PSC meetings, resulting on information and recommendations (Technical Committees), and Decisions (PSC). Timeframe: Lifetime of the Project. Means: Lumpsum for Technical Committees' meetings and PSC meetings.

Outcome 4.2 - Improved knowledge of best practices on restoration among key external audiences

→ Output 4.2.1: Facilitation of technical days, gathering practitioners and policy-makers

The FLR activities and IGAs implemented in the different pilot sites would hopefully be successful for most of them, but may present weaknesses in certain conditions (e.g. bushfires, inadequate tree or plant species, etc.). Both cases, successes of weaknesses, can be interesting case studies and be demonstrative. Visits to relatively close sites will be organized every four months or so, highlighting one or more specific themes, e.g. agroforestry plantations mixing N-fixing fast growing tree species and cassava, domestication of NTFPs' (*kökö* cutting, caterpillars on Essessang, etc.), tree nursery and production of high-value grafted fruit trees, etc.

Three technical days will be organized every year, gathering approximately 30 peoples from different groups (local populations, policy-makers, field officers, local NGOs, etc.). The organization of the technical days will be on a revolving basis, from one pilot site to another, so that projects participants can visually assess progress made elsewhere and create emulation when back to their locality. The technical days will be organized under the responsibility of the Local Project Coordinator and the field officers in charge of the pilot site. The FFS approach of the FAO could be used to organize these technical days: organizing successive field visits over the same FLR perimeter would give the participants a thorough understanding of FLR dynamics.

Deliverables: Field visits and presentations, with key findings and recommendations compiled into a technical report and/or short film. Timeframe: Three times a year from the second semester of 2018 onward. Means: Reprography of supporting documents, lunch, coffee break, transport costs.

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[45] See http://www.giagro.online/academiques/

[46] IUCN, 2016. *GEF-6 Program Framework Document. TRI – Fostering innovation and integration in support of the Bonn Challenge.* Gland – IUCN, November 2016. 48p

➜ Output 4.2.2: Creation and diffusion of technical materials and awareness-raising, to promote FLR and IGAs

Globally, and at the sub-region level, there is a large number of documented good practices on FLR and IGAs, adapted for the specific conditions of the CAR. The related training materials are equally numerous and diverse (notes, posters, slideshows, radio programs, small films, etc.). This output aims at collecting the maximum number of materials, classifying them according to themes and audiences (policy-makers, technical agents, local populations, etc.) and refining them as necessary, depending on the capacity-building needs, which will be finely identified after the capacity building needs assessment.

Of course, these training materials, which are primarily targeted at the local stakeholders directly involved in the TRI CAR Project (local populations in the first place, but also field officers, members of the National FRL Platform, etc.), should be made freely available to any other local institutions, projects (such as the PDRSO or the Mining and Forest Governance Project), NGOs, etc. In particular, it could be used to reinforce the integration of FLR concerns into the network of Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) that has been set up by the FAO in the CAR. Indeed, the FFS team of FAO Headquarters "re-invigorates" the FFSs network, to bring them back to their original philosophy (collective R&D sites, not just "demonstration" sites) and is obviously anxious to integrate the FLR concerns, which are perfectly in line with their objective to help sustainably intensify agro-sylvo-pastoral production. (Pers. comm. A.-S. POISOT - FFS / FAO Coordinator - October 2016).

Once training materials compiled/produced, comes the time of their diffusion. Some of them (slideshows or posters in French for example) can be broadcasted widely at low cost. Others, on the other hand, may require certain means (production/broadcasting of radio programs, short movie making, etc. with translation in Sango or other vernacular languages). Finally, beyond the means needed for the diffusion of training materials themselves, means could be provided to support community-listening clubs (FAO Roma, 2011b)[47], based on the DIMITRA[48] approach. Such community-listening clubs allow sharing broadly and effectively information about rural development issues among local communities, with a special focus on gender, as women play a key role in this domain.

To support the PMU in achieving this Output 4.2, external expertise may be requested both in terms of compilation/upgrading of training materials and diffusion of these training materials. Therefore, resources are budgeted for the occasional support of an international expert and a national expert, to be recruited on the basis of a call for tenders.

Deliverables: Database of training materials on FLR and IGAs; broad diffusion of training materials, attested by semi-annual reports of the Local Project Coordinators (at pilot sites level) and the PMU (at national level). Timeframe: From the second semester of 2018 onward. Means: PMU, with support from an international expert and a national expert (20 man-days each); Lumpsum for diffusion (flyers, posters, notes, radio programs, short movies, community-listening clubs, etc.)

➜ *Output 4.2.3: Elaboration of a Guide of Good Practices in terms of FLR & IGAs*

As recalled in Output 4.2.2, at global and/or sub-regional levels, there is a large number of documented good practices on FLR and IGAs, adapted for the specific conditions of the CAR. It would be useful to organize these existing data in a specific manner, linking the choices of such and such good practices to such and such biophysical and/or socioeconomic conditions of the different parts of the CAR. Indeed, as most of the aforementioned documented good practices are generic, readers may face difficulty knowing when and how to use them. To do so, two sources of information could be mobilized: (i) Results of the assessment of restoration opportunities (ROAM study) at national level (see Output 1.1.2), (ii) Results of the baseline assessments at local level (see Output 2.1), to illustrate local diverse conditions prevailing in the dense moist forest area of the South-West.

By triangulating these three sets of information, the Guide should help answering these questions: what are the crucial biophysical and socio-economic conditions for the success of FLR actions and accompanying IGAs? The Guide should cover the different biophysical areas of the CAR, but a detailed focus could be put on the South-West, as (i) more information will be available there, (ii) the recommendations contained in the Guide could directly be used for the implementation of field activities foreseen in Component 2. It will be necessary to organize this information in a simple and readable form, so that it can be easily exploited by field practitioners (field officers of the MEDDEFCP and MDRA, technical staff of NGOs, Associations and Farmers' Groups, etc.). Furthermore, the Guide, as well as the training materials to be developed under Output 4.1.2, could be integrated in the ISDR curricula.

Organizing information in the form of a flow chart with successive determination keys can be an interesting solution, as illustrated in the flow chart on the next page (CRPF Bretagne, 2006)[49]. This flow chart is only an illustration: (i) Consideration may be given to the

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[47] FAO Roma, 2011b. *Clubs d'écoute communautaire : tremplin pour l'action en milieu rural.* Roma – FAO, mai 2011. 5p

[48] See http://www.fao.org/dimitra/a-propos-de-dimitra/fr/

[49] CRPF, 2006. *Code des bonnes pratiques sylvicoles de la Région Bretagne - Document approuvé par Madame la Préfète de la Région Bretagne le 23 juin 2006 après avis de la Commission régionale de la forêt et des produits forestiers.* Rennes – CRPF Bretagne, 24p. juin 2006

advantages of determining keys (e.g.: soil types, average rainfall, existing vegetation, terrain position on the toposequence, main objective of the restoration, etc.), (ii) Additional guidance may be provided to the readers (e.g. a simplified soil classification grid so that it can be classified with a simple test with an auger and an examination of the horizons, their colors, their textures; a simplified classification grid for the vegetation, using indicator plants).

Deliverables: Guide of Good Practices in terms of FLR actions and IGAs, enabling practitioners to quickly and efficiently determine when and how to restore lands in their area of intervention, and allowing ISDR students to get a background on these issues. Timeframe: Second semester of 2018. Means: PMU and Local Project Coordinators, with support from an international expert and a national expert (40 man-days each); two workshop (inception and validation).

4) Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF and co-financing

The total cost of the TRI CAR Project will be USD 16,361,638, to be financed through a USD 5,961,638 GEF Trust Fund grant and USD 10,400,000 co-financing. The tables below show the costs by component and by source of financing. The FAO will, as GEF Agency, only be responsible for the execution of the GEF resources.

Project Components	GEF Financing		Co-Financing		Total ($)
	($) a	%	($) b	%	c=a+ b
Component 1	875,750	37%	1,500,000	63%	2,375,750
Component 2	3,071,311	35%	5,670,000	65%	8,741,311
Component 3	1,003,148	24%	3,180,000	76%	4,183,148
Component 4	727,542	100%	0	0%	727,542
Project management	283,887	85%	50,000	15%	333,887
Total Project Costs	5,961,638		10,400,000		16,361,638

	PDRSO (AFD/FFEM)			For. & Min. Project			CAFI			FAO			Total co-financing		
	In-kind	Cash	Total	In-kind	Cash	Total	In-kind	Cash	Total	In-kind	Cash	Total	In-kind	Cash	Total
Component 1															
Subtotal		1.00	1.00		0.50	0.50								1.50	1.50
Component 2															
Subtotal		3.00	3.00		2.40	2.40					0.27	0.27		5.67	5.67
Component 3															
Subtotal					1.90	1.90		1.00	1.00		0.28	0.28		3.18	3.18
Component 4															
Subtotal															
PMC															
Subtotal										0.05		0.05	0.05	-	0.05
TOTAL		4.00	4.00		4.80	4.80		1.00	1.00	0.05	0.55	0.60	0.05	10.35	10.40

Below is a synthesis, component by component, of the baseline and co-financing, and the GEF technical and financial support:

Component 1: Policy Development and Integration.

Baseline and co-financing: The PDRSO and the Forest & Mining Governance Project support the MEDDEFCP and other stakeholders in the forestry sectors to adopt and implement SFM policies and measures. Their actions are mostly focused on the industrial logging activities carried out in the productive forests of the South-West: promotion of Operation and Management Permit (PEA), renewal of industrial equipment, promotion of timber traceability and forest certification, etc. This is estimated to be the equivalent of US$1,500,000 input provided through the MEDDEFCP.

GEF support and financing: In the baseline, actions are targeted towards the productive forests of the South-West. There is little though and financing to promote FLR and include this concern into key policies and regulatory frameworks, dealing with forestry, but also land planning, land tenure, bioenergy, biodiversity, etc. GEF will provide the technical and financial support to improve the knowledge on forest ecosystem services, assess FLR opportunities, develop a South-Western Land Planning Scheme, and upgrade the national strategies and policies in terms of bioenergy, forestry and biodiversity. GEF support to this component is US$875,750.

Component 2: Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives.

Baseline and co-financing: The PDRSO, the Forest & Mining Governance Project and the FAO contribute to the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, through diverse types of action, targeting rural households, farmers' groups, forest companies, etc.: capacity building, trainings, granting of equipment, promotion of sustainably harvested timber and NTFP, etc. This is estimated to be the equivalent of US$5,670,000 input, mainly provided through the MEDDEFCP.

GEF support and financing: In the baseline, there is little or no support to FLR (apart from small-scale pilot activities) and the focus is mainly on avoiding the degradation/deforestation, rather than restoring forests and landscapes. GEF will provide the technical and financial support to design and implement FLR actions at significant scale, with different types of stakeholders (communities, farmers, private enterprises, etc.). In particular, GEF will support the restoration of degraded and unproductive fallows with rural households, thus proving it is possible and relevant to restore these lands, instead of flying forward and destroying the natural capital of the CAR. GEF support to this component is US$3,071,311.

Component 3: Institutions, Finance and Upscaling.

Baseline and co-financing: The Forest & Mining Governance Project, the CAFI and the FAO aim at building capacities of diverse stakeholders in terms of agro-ecology, agroforestry, and, more generally, alternative activities to slash-and-burn agriculture. Their actions are generally focused on certain pilot areas, not well coordinated by ad hoc institutional arrangements at national level, and the upscaling of these actions is therefore challenging. This is estimated to be the equivalent of US$3,180,000 input, mainly provided through the MEDDEFCP.

GEF support and financing: GEF will provide the technical and financial support to strengthen and facilitate coordinated national and sub-national action on restoration, to establish and run field-level support entities (i.e. nurseries, restoration value chain businesses, etc.), and attract private and public funding to support FLR actions on the ground. GEF support to this component is US$1,003,148.

Component 4: Knowledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment

Baseline and co-financing: The CAR does not have a national monitoring system of FLR activities, nor the opportunity to exchange about FLR with other developing countries. As at now, there is no support planned to address these issues. Furthermore, good practices in terms of FLR are scattered worldwide and efforts to capitalize these good practices and raise awareness at global level are still needed.

GEF support and financing: GEF will provide the technical and financial support to organize South-South exchanges on FLR, to design a national monitoring system on FLR, to develop TRI knowledge products, and to raise awareness at global level on the issues related to FLR. GEF support to this component is US$727,542.

5) Global environmental benefits

The project intends to deliver the following global environmental benefits:

- **Biodiversity**: Under the component 2, a set of indigenous species that promote biodiversity and soil restoration will be planted in priority sites and conservation activities will be undertaken. The corresponding target of the TRI child project at the Objective level is at least 3,221 ha of degraded agro-ecosystem and degraded forest landscapes moved to sustainable land management regimes in the South-West of CAR. In particular, part of the project interventions will be implemented in the buffer zone of Dzanga Sangha National Park (Bayanga). These interventions aim to reduce the dependence of local communities – including indigenous communities – on natural resources within the park boundaries thereby preventing future degradation of Dzanga Sangha National Park natural resources.

- **Climate Change Mitigation**: The project interventions will contribute significantly to this CCM objective through the SLM practices on at least 3,221 ha of degraded land and avoided degradation of at least 2,265 ha. Another expected target is 3,185,597 tCO2eq emissions avoided/sequestered in targeted landscapes as a direct result of the project interventions and 12,005,914 tCO2eq emissions avoided/sequestered as indirect impact of the project in the South West of Central African Republic.

- **Land degradation**: The FLR approach will be promoted in all interventions of the FAO child project. The integration of FLR into policy frameworks will be increased under Component 1, stakeholders' capacity to use the FLR approach will be strengthened under Component 3 and awareness and knowledge on this approach will be raised under Component 4. These interventions will all be gender-sensitive. For example, the participation of women to each

training and awareness-raising events will be monitored in order to reach a final target of approximately 50% of women participation. The on-the-ground interventions to be implemented under Component 2 will focus on the actual adoption of FLR practices by local communities. This will be measured as part of the M&E strategy. The corresponding gender-sensitive targets are 3,000 households including 50% of women are directly benefiting from project activities (including capacity building events and trainings). The effects of the adoption of sustainable management practices using an FLR approach on annual household income will also be measured. The exact target will be defined during the inception phase of the TRI child project.

- **Sustainable Forest Management**: In addition to the on-the-ground interventions to be implemented under Component 2 for the sustainable management of natural resources including forests which will contribute to this SFM Outcome, the project interventions under Component 3 will focus on building institutional and financial capacity to enable government institutions to implement large scale FLR plans. By the end of the project, at least two bankable projects will prioritize FLR interventions. The project will support the development of these two bankable projects and their submission to appropriate funding sources. The project will also improve the mobilization of domestic funds in the context of the National Forest Funds. The project-specific M&E system for FLR interventions will provide all the relevant tools and information to government institutions to identify and replicate successful interventions. The component 4 will also contribute to achieving this SFM Outcome through increasing knowledge sharing within CAR and between countries to further facilitate the development and successful implementation of FLR plans in and beyond CAR.

6) Innovativeness, potential for scaling up, and sustainability

➔ Innovativeness

Overall, the TRI CAR Project will be very innovative, in the sense it will support FLR actions that have received little to no support till now. In addition to that, the Project will develop innovative tools and methodologies:

- Biophysical and socio-economic assessment of degraded sites, using the Collect Earth Open Foris tool developed by the FAO;

- Identification of restoration opportunities, using the ROAM developed by IUCN and WRI;

- Mapping of wood energy fluxes in Bangui/Bimbo, using the WISDOM Platform;

- Awareness-raising and diffusion of training materials through the Farmer Field School network and the community-listening clubs DIMITRA, both supported by the FAO;

- Promotion of agro-ecology, climate-smart agriculture (and ecosystem-based approach), through a joint collaboration between ICRA and CIRAD.

This Project provides the means by which local innovation and best practices can be identified and shared. It will seek to increase the linkages between local communities to ensure that communication and learning occurs horizontally rather than following a more traditional top-down method. It will also seek to support the National Coordination on FLR, for increased cooperation between research, Government, local communities, and other interested stakeholders. These horizontal ways of communication, at the contrary to the frequent top-down approach of most rural development projects, will also be innovative aspects.

➔ Potential for scaling up

The FLR pilot activities will be implemented in the South-West (Component 2). However, overall, the TRI CAR Project will provide useful elements in terms of Policy development and integration (Component 1), Institutional strengthening, finance mobilization, and upscaling (Component 3), and Knowledge sharing among stakeholders (Component 4), thus contributing to the successful scaling-up of FLR actions in the CAR.

Most of the Outputs under the Component 1 will be of national interest: Valuation of ecosystem services (Output 1.1.1), ROAM study (Output 1.1.2), Upgrading of the Forest Policy Statement (Output 1.2.3), Upgrading of the SNPA-DB (Output 1.2.4). The two remaining output, namely elaboration of a Regional Land Planning Scheme (Output 1.2.1) and Upgrading of the WISDOM Platform

for Bangui/Bimbo (Output 1.2.2) will be first focused towards the South-West of the CAR, but they will provide useful lessons for a potential scaling-up in other parts of the CAR.

Similarly, most of the Outputs under the Component 3 will provide useful elements in terms of capacity-building needs assessment (Output 3.1), as well as capacity-building of the MEDDEFCP and the MDRA (Output 3.2), local populations (Output 3.3), and academic institutions (Output 3.4) in terms of FLR and agro-ecology. These capacity-building activities would help to upscale FLR activities at national level. In addition to capacity-building, the support to the National Coordination on FLR will strengthen inter-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination (Output 3.5). Last but not the least, the studies to be carried out in terms of FLR funding (Output 3.6) will allow identifying additional and innovate funding for such an upscaling.

Finally, the Output 4.1.1. South-South exchange and Output 4.1.2 Annual knowledge meetings and bi-annual finance events under Component 4 will allow exchanging information/experiences in terms of FLR at international level. Under the same Component, the Output 4.2.1 Technical days, Output 4.2.2 Training materials on FLR, and Output 4.2.3 Guide of Good Practice in terms of FLR, will also provide useful elements for a possible upscaling of FLR actions at national level.

➔ Sustainability

Since the publication of the BRUNTLAND Report *"Our Common Future"* in 1987, the Sustainable Development agenda upheld by the United Nations is based on three pillars: Environmental sustainability, Social Development, and Economic Development. Environmental sustainability refers to a situation in which the demands placed on the environment can be met without reducing its capacity to allow all people to live well, now and in the future.

The TRI CAR Project will contribute to strengthening the environmental sustainability in the CAR, by (i) improving efficiency in the use of resources, and (ii) contributing to conserving, protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems:

- Improving efficiency in the use of resources: Most of the key drivers of global environmental threats relate to the unsustainable use of natural resources (i.e. slash-and-burn agriculture, harvest of wood energy, bushfire for hunting, etc.) and are characterized by a low efficiency in the use of resources.

For instance, traditional slash-and-burn implies clearing a piece of forest every year or two to three years (depending on the soil fertility and the types of crops), and then leaving it for many years to reconstitute the soil fertility, sometimes forever when the "red line" is crossed (i.e. irreversible situation with the means available to the household: degraded soil, encroachment of weed like Laos herb, etc.).

By promoting FLR and agroecology practices, the TRI CAR Project will allow identifying and testing innovative cropping practices (i) maintaining soil fertility and limiting weed invasion, thus reducing the need for clearing, (ii) reducing environment threats to the forests and landscapes, and (iii) improving efficiency in the use of resources. The same reasoning applies to the other drivers of environmental threats identified;

- Contributing to conserving, protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems: In the traditional system, local populations create a pioneer front, separating degraded landscapes from intact landscapes. Once the needed natural resources are getting rare or even exhausted (i.e. soil fertility, NTFPs, wood energy, etc.), the pioneer front moves forward.

It is particularly clear from the past satellite images used to prepare the WISDOM Platform for Bangui, with a pioneer front advancing at 300 m/year! (DRIGO, 2009). It is sometimes more diffuse when the urban centers are reduced, then translating into mosaic deforestation, with many patches instead of a frontline. In any case, restoring degraded forests and landscapes, that can be used to produce agriculture products, wood energy, lumber, NTFPs, etc. will contribute to conserving, protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems. It is particularly relevant in the South-West, where some of the pilot sites are very close to Protected Areas of high interest.

A.2. Child Project

The TRI CAR Project is part of the broader TRI Program. As such, its components will contribute to the overall program impact:

- Component 1: Under Outcome 1.1, the CAR would confirm its commitment towards to Bonn Challenge, thus increasing the overall commitment made under the TRI Program. Under Outcome 1.2, policies and measures aiming at strengthening the FLR in the CAR will be upgraded and/or fine-tuned, and lessons learnt could be shared with other TRI countries;

- Component 2: FLR activities will be implemented in the dense humid forest of the South-West, where unsustainable practices are common (slash-and-burn agriculture, harvesting of fire-wood, bushfire for hunting, etc.). The key

objective is to restore degraded old fallows, and intensifying/diversifying agriculture practices, through the promotion of agroforestry and agro-ecology. Lessons learnt could also be shared with other TRI countries facing the same issues;

- Component 3: A capacity needs assessment will be carried out and capacity building sessions will be organized. CB tools and materials could be shared among TRI countries;

- Component 4: Under Outcome 4.1, South-South exchanges, annual knowledge meetings and bi-annual finance events will be organized, gathering all the TRI countries. Under Outcome 4.2, lessons learnt from FRL activities (technical days, Guide of good practices, etc.) will be compiled and shared with other TRI countries.

For more information on the linkages between this Child project and the overall program, please refer to Annex 2 and 3 of the ProDoc.

A.3. Stakeholders Identify key stakeholders and elaborate on how the key stakeholders engagement is incorporated in the preparation and implementation of the project. Do they include civil society organizations (yes ☒ /no☐)? and indigenous peoples (yes ☒ /no☐)? [50]

The TRI CAR Project key stakeholders (directly involved in the implementation of activities) are the following: local communities (including indigenous peoples – Pygmies / Bay'Aka) gathered in associations and farmers' groups, Special delegations/Communal councils, central / regional / prefectural / local services from the MEDDECFP, the MDRA, and the Ministry of Energy, APDS staff, SEFCA, local NGOs, ICRA, ISDR. Their main roles in the project can be summarized as follows:

Stakeholders	Main roles
MEDDEFCP (central and decon-centrated services)	It is responsible for the sustainable management of natural resources, and hosts the GEF Focal Points. It will be the institutional anchor of the Project: it will host the PMU and chair the PSC. In operational terms, its deconcentrated services (seconded officers) will be fully involved in the preparation, support, M&E of field activities.
MDRA (central and deconcentrated services)	In charge of the agriculture sector, the MDRA is directly interested in developing alternative to slash-and-burn. It will be mostly involved through its deconcentrated services (seconded officers), in the preparation, support, M&E of field activities.
Ministry of Energy	Mostly focused on hydroelectricity and electrification, the energy policy is marginally addressing the issue of wood energy. The Ministry of Energy would be directly interested in upgrading the WISDOM Platform for Bangui/Bimbo.
Local NGOs active in the rural sector	In pilot sites where they already operate and/or where there are unfilled positions of field agents from the MEDDEFCP and MADR, they will be involved in the preparation, support, M&E of field activities.
ICRA (esp. Boukoko Station)	Lead agricultural research institute administered by the MDRA, it lacks resources and capacities in terms of FLR and agro-ecology. It would be involved in R&D programs on these two issues, in collaboration with the CIRAD
ISDR M'Baïki	Central African only graduate-level school of agriculture and forestry, it will be involved in the R&D Programs with ICRA and CIRAD, and training materials / Guide on good practices for FLR and IGAs will be integrated into the curricula.

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[50] *As per the GEF-6 Corporate Results Framework in the GEF Programming Directions and GEF-6 Gender Core Indicators in the Gender Equality Action Plan, provide information on these specific indicators on stakeholders (including civil society organization and indigenous peoples) and gender.*

Rural households in pilot sites, including Indigenous Peoples	Main beneficiaries and key partners. They are highly dependent on natural resources and generally suffer from the forest and land degradation caused by unsustainable practices. They will be invited to "re-invest" their degraded fallows and implement small-scale FLR actions, accompanied by IGAs.
Special delegations/ Communal councils	Theoretically responsible for implementing rural development activities at communal level, they are very weak. In the 21 forest Communes supported by PDRSO and the WB project, field activities will be coordinated within the LDP.
APDS staff	Based in Bayanga, one of the staff will act as a Local Project Coordinator for the FLR actions / IGAs implemented in this area. As Pygmies / Bay'Aka are frequent in this area, the experiences of APDS staff in that regard will be of added-value.
SEFCA company	Operating two PEAs in the surroundings of Mambéllé, SEFCA is willing to establish a PPP with the communities and the State to reforest a degraded area, part of its PEA. A staff from SEFCA will also act as a Local Project Coordinator.

Figure - Stakeholders directly involved in the TRI CAR Project (authors, 20A7)

FAO is committed to ensuring meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of FAO programs and projects. This process seeks to enhance transparency, two-way communication, information provision and enable fair and representative participation of all sections of affected populations, including the most vulnerable and marginalized. It also deepens country ownership and is in line with effective development principles. Having these in mind, interviews were carried out in Bangui during the PPG phase with key partners and field surveys were carried out in the South-West.

In Bangui, interviews were made in small groups, in order to have focused exchanges on specific issues. Obviously, an overview of the TRI Program was presented and general comments and recommendations were also captured, in addition to the specific comments and recommendations.

In the field, meetings were first organized with the decentralized services of the MEDDEFCP and MDRA, in order to get an overview of the local context. Then, local NGOs and local populations were mobilized and focus groups were organized to present an overview of the TRI Program, to exchange about practices and difficulties faced by local communities in terms of food crop production, supply of wood energy, harvest of NTFPs, bushmeat hunting, etc. Global environmental changes were also touched upon and questions/answers helped the attendance to liaise forest and land degradation / loss of biodiversity / climate changes (at global and local level) / loss of soil fertility / encroachment of invasive weed in the farmers' plots / etc.

During the PPG phase, 1,073 local stakeholders were met, including representatives of 117 local associations/groups gathering 8,079 members (out of which 3,721 women – 46% of membership). Local stakeholders were in general very enthusiastic about the Project, and many useful information were collected in terms of capacity needs, priorities in terms of FLR activities and IGAs, preferred trees and/or plant species for FLR, etc. They also raised concerns and the most frequent ones are listed infra, as well as the answers given:

- Individual vs collective restoration perimeters: During the focus groups, participants explained that farm plots are usually contiguous, and so are the degraded fallows to be restored. Farm plots generally have a reduced area. It was therefore agreed that it would be inefficient to work at plot level, and preferable to work at block (of plots) level. Some misunderstandings then appeared: some participants understood the restoration activities would be done collectively and the perimeters would be collectively-managed. As it is not common practice in the South-West to crop collectively, others often responded directly that restoration would be done on block of fallows, each household being responsible for his own fallow/farm plot. It was further added that it would simplify bushfire management (collective firebreaks), supervision by field officers, create emulation between households, etc.

- Choices of tree and plant species: Participants often asked about the species the Project would "bring". It was responded that the Project was not prescriptive in that regard, the only requirements being to avoid invasive tree or plant species, that would prevent the natural regeneration of the agro-ecosystem. It was also outlined that households should think about the tree and plant species that they would favor, in order to prepare collective tree nurseries and order crop seeds. Finally, the fact that ICRA has not yet the capacity to produce tree and plant material at large scale was not hidden. Exchanges came to the conclusion it would still be possible to get locally-produced seeds by "massal selection".

- Type and channeling of support: Questions were raised about it: Cash or in-kind support? Total or partial subsidies? By which channel? It was responded that :

o **In terms of FLR:** Support would be provided through technical assistance (field officers, trainings, field visits, etc.), supply of seeds, but also cash payments (for restoration and maintenance), based on performance (minimum survival rate after one year). The amount to be paid would be estimated based on normal costs engaged for such activities (including labor costs, valued at the prevailing price in the South-West), and 60% of this cost would be covered;

o **In terms of IGAs:** Technical assistance (field officers, trainings, field visits, etc.) would also be provided. Then, if the local communities are covered by a Resilience fund, financial support would be channeled through this fund and made available to the local associations through small-scale credits. If not, then financial support would be granted directly by the Project to the local associations. The amount of financial support, either credit or grant, would depend on the targeted IGA and be estimated when preparing the micro-project.

Finally, the project area coincides in part with Pygmies / Bay'Aka territories. Following FAO guidance and GEF guidance, it is necessary to undertake an analysis and obtain their consent following good faith consultations and a thorough process of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) before any activity can be implemented in that area. This was done during the field missions carried early 2017, and will continue during the lifetime of the Project, as the FPIC is an iterative concept. Some Pygmies / Bay'Aka households were interviewed. The Project objectives and activities were explained, and their views and recommendations were captured. They did not raise specific concerns, but they insisted on the fact they would be interested in NTFPs (e.g. cropping of *kökö* cutting or mushrooms, planting of Essessang to host edible caterpillars, etc.)

A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Elaborate on how gender equality and women's empowerment issues are mainstreamed into the project implementation and monitoring, taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men. In addition, 1) did the project conduct a gender analysis during project preparation (yes ☐ /no ☒)?; 2) did the project incorporate a gender responsive project results framework, including sex-disaggregated indicators (yes ☒ /no☐)?; and 3) what is the share of women and men direct beneficiaries (to be determined during project inception)? [51]

Gender equality is when women and men enjoy equal rights, opportunities and entitlements in civil and political life. For FAO, gender equality is equal participation of women and men in decision-making, equal ability to exercise their human rights, equal access to and control over resources and the benefits of development, and equal opportunities in employment and in all other aspects of their livelihoods.

According to the PNIASA (MDRA, 2013), women make up 50.2% of the total population and 53.7% of the workforce. They provide more than 74% of the labour force directly associated with agricultural production, including production, processing, and marketing. In particular, their efforts represent 90% of crop weeding, 80% of field-village transport, 60% of harvest work, and 90% of processing. They also participate in many off-farm activities: rodent hunting, small-scale fishing, picking of mushroom, caterpillars and termites for self-consumption, petty trade, etc.

The analysis of human development performance reveals strong gender differences. Women are more affected by poverty than men: in rural areas, 81% of women against 69% of men are affected by poverty. Although women have a higher average life expectancy than men, women are at greater risk of dying between the ages of 15 and 49 because of maternal mortality due to complications of childbirth and early marriages (*Ibid*).

The illiteracy rate is higher among women (68%) than among men (46%). The proportion of women with no access to education is particularly high in rural areas (80% of women aged 15-49). The primary school enrolment rate is 55% for girls, compared to 71% for boys in 2009, and school leakage is worsening as girls reach puberty. Overall, the Gender disparity is very high: CAR is ranked 153rd out of 177 countries in terms of Gender Development Index (*Ibid*).

This being said, one can see the contribution of the TRI CAR Project in terms of gender equality. The restoration activities will allow increasing (i) crop productivity, as well as food crops and NTFPs diversity, through agro-ecology practices, thus reducing women labour engaged in agriculture, (ii) wood energy supply, through fast-growing tree species plantations, thus reducing women efforts and time engaged in wood energy collection. In addition to that, women groups will benefit from capacity-building activities and awareness raising activities (notably through the Dimitra Club).

A.5. Risks

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[51] Same as footnote 8 above.

No major risk (i.e. ranked "High", with an impact estimated as "High" or "Medium High", and a likelihood estimated as "High" or "Medium High") has been identified. This being said, the likelihood of the "Recovery Process" (RCPCA) to be successfully implemented, and to bring back peace and socioeconomic growth, could be questioned (see risk#1 infra): the fact that that USD 2.5 billion have already been pledged at the CAR Donor conference in Brussels in November 2016 and the Government has started implementing the RCPCA leads to be optimistic and to consider the risk of failure of the RCPCA as "Medium Low".

#	Risk statement	Impact*	Likelihood**	Ranking***	Mitigating action	Action owner
1	The RCPCA is not successfully implemented, not bringing back peace and socioeconomic growth	H	ML	ML	Out of reach of the project, as it depends on the overall political situation in the CAR.	CAR Gvt
2	Poor improvement of the business climate, unable to attract more private and public resources into FLR activities	H	L	ML	Idem: Out of reach of the project, as it depends on the overall political situation in the CAR.	CAR Gvt
3	Topic no more of high relevance to national policy-makers and international stakeholders	H	L	ML	MEDDEFCP and PMU to raise awareness and maintain the political momentum regarding FLR	MEDDEFCP & PMU
4	Poor appropriation of the Project objectives by the local communities and poor interest in implementing field activities	H	L	ML	MEDDEFCP and PMU to raise awareness among communities and to develop ad-hoc FLR activities and IGAs, based on local needs	MEDDEFCP & PMU
5	A long dry spell and/or extreme temperatures, the reported effects of climate change – could exacerbate existing human-induced pressures on natural resources, such as impact, intensity and extension of forest fires.	H	L	L	The project focuses on restoration and sustainable management, and therefore makes the ecosystems more resilient and consequently less prone to fire. Also, the project works in different ecosystems, tackling a number of different drivers of degradation. The impacts of one exacerbated climate event would unlikely impact all ecosystems to the same extent.	MEDDEFCP

*effect on project if risk were to occur: H, MH, ML, or L   **estimate of likelihood: H, MH, ML, or   *** Red/Amber/Green

A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

The FAO will be the GEF Agency responsible for the supervision and provision of technical guidance during the implementation of the TRI CAR Project. The MEDDEFCP will be the lead national executing partner: (i) it will chair a multi-stakeholder PSC, and (ii) it will host the PMU. Here below are described the implementation arrangements regarding the PSC and the PMU.

The PSC will bring together various institutions and representatives: 26 Representatives are proposed in the Project Document (6 from Ministries of Environment / Agriculture / Finance / Home Affairs; 2 from FAO; 10 from local populations, at least 5 should be women and at least 2 should be Pygmies / Bay'Aka; 2 from local NGOs; 4 from technical partners: ICRA, ISDR, APDS, SEFCA; 2 from collaborating Projects: PDRSO/AFD-FFEM and Forest and Mining Governance Project/WB). This has to be discussed and validated at the first meeting of the PSC, together with the detailed rules of operation of the PSC. It is worth noting that other institutions may be invited to take part occasionally to the PSC, if need be: e.g. Ministry in charge of Land Planning if foreseen discussions on the Regional Land Planning Scheme for the South-West, Ministry in charge of Energy if foreseen discussions on the WISDOM Platform, etc.

The PMU staff will be present and act as Secretariat of the PSC. The PSC will meet at least once a year to ensure: Oversight and assurance of technical quality of outputs; Close linkages between the TRI CAR Project and other ongoing Programs and Projects relevant to the TRI CAR Project; Timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support; Sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication; Effective coordination of Government partner work under the TRI CAR Project; and Approval of the Annual Project Progress and Financial Reports, as well as the Annual Work Plan and Budget.

The members of the PSC will each assume the role of a Focal Point for the TRI CAR Project in their respective institutions or communities (in the case of the Representatives from the local populations). As Focal Points, 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 institutions/communities and the TRI CAR Project, (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the TRI CAR Project activities and the work plan of their institutions/communities, and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the TRI CAR Project.

Technical Committees will be set up at local level, for each of the Pilot sites, gathering local stakeholders involved in field activities. These Technical Committees will be limited to 10 members maximum and will have a consultative and advisory role, to inform the PSC about the progress and challenges faced locally. The meetings of these Technical Committees will be organized twice a year, notably in advance of the PSC meetings. Their exact composition will be defined precisely a few month after the launching of field activities, in an ad hoc manner (adapted to the local conditions in each of the pilot sites).

A PMU will be established and hosted in Bangui by the MEDDEFCP. It will include:

- One Project Manager (PM, international/full-time), leader of the PMU, from year 1 to 3;

- One National Counterpart (national/full-time), Deputy-PM from year 1 to 3, and PM from year 4 to 5;

- One Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist (national/full time);

- Three Local Project Coordinators (Local PCs, national experts/full-time). Two will be based in Bangui and one in Berbérati. NB: the day-to-day field activities in the Mambéllé pilot site and the Bayanga pilot site will be respectively coordinated by a SEFCA staff and an APDS staff. They will not be paid by the TRI CAR Project, but they will operationally be part of the PMU and will follow the same terms of reference that the three Local PCs;

- One United Nations Volunteer (UNV, international expert/full time) based in M'Baïki. He/she will act as a Local PC for the M'Baïki pilot site, and in addition, coordinate and supervise most of the activities planned under the Component 3, including the joint ICRA-ISDR-CIRAD R&D Programs on agro-ecology and FLR;

- 32 field agents from the MEDDEFCP and the MDRA. As explained in Output 2.4 under Component 2, these field agents would be distributed as follows: 11 in Bangui, 6 in Berbérati, 2 in Mbaïki, 1 in Bayanga and 13 in Mambéllé. Knowing FLR actions and IGAs relate as much to agriculture as to forestry, these field agents will be selected from both the MEDDEFCP and the MDRA, with an exact balance dependent on needed skills and assessed site by site. The field agents will be supervised by the local PCs.

NB: The finance and administrative management of the TRI CAR Project will be directly handled by the FAO Bangui Office and be supported by the Project Management Costs (PMC).

The terms of references of the PMU staff (as well as finance and administrative tasks to be carried out by the FAO Bangui Office) are provided in the Project document. The PMU staff will be recruited by the TRI CAR Project and will send regular technical and financial update reports (through the PM) to the FAO Representative in Bangui (Budget Holder – BH). Some key functions of the PMU are:

- Technically identify, plan, design, and support all activities;

- Liaise with Government agencies and regularly advocate on behalf of the TRI CAR Project;

- Prepare the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B) and monitoring plan;

- Be responsible for day-to-day implementation of the TRI CAR Project in line with the AWP/B;

- Ensure a results-based approach to TRI CAR Project implementation, including maintaining a focus on results and impacts as defined by the results framework indicators;

- Monitor TRI CAR Project progress;

- Be responsible for the elaboration of FAO Project Progress Reports (PPRs) and the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); and

- Facilitate and support the mid-term and final evaluations of the TRI CAR Project.

The organogram of the TRI CAR Project is presented below:
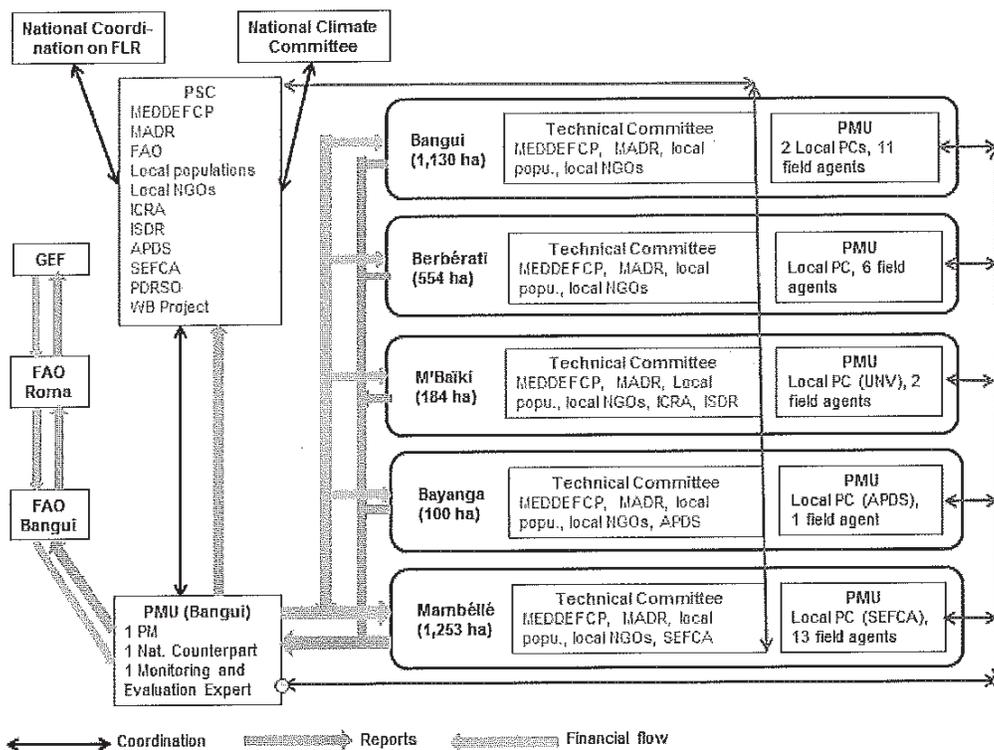
A.7 Benefits

With regard to the Right to Food, the TRI CAR Project will provide valuable contributions. Indeed, it aims at restoring degraded peri-urban fallows, and thus increasing crop productivity, as well as food crops and NTFPs diversity, through agro-ecology practices. As the food insecurity is widespread in the CAR, ranging from 26% to 77% in late 2015 (WFP, 2015), and as the current PNIASAN promotes "conventional agriculture" which may not be accessible to many households (poorly equipped for ploughing/harrowing, having little to no access to improved seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.), the TRI CAR Project will address a major concern with innovate approaches.

With regard to Decent Rural Employment, the TRI CAR Project will strengthen existing employments (agriculture, harvesting of wood energy, of NTFPs, etc.) and promote the creation of new employments, through the promotion of innovative IGAs. Overall, the TRI CAR Project will provide incentives for allowing rural households to overcome technical, cultural or financial adoption barriers, and thus strengthening employments, food security, and revenues.

Specifically, the TRI CAR Project will comply with the six priority dimensions that are crucial to achieving Decent Rural Employment: (i) Respects the core labour standards (no child labour, no forced labour, freedom of association, no discrimination), (ii) Adequate living income, (iii) Adequate employment security and stability, (iv) Risk mitigation measures, (v) No excessive working hours, (vi) Access to adapted technical and vocational training.

A.8 Knowledge Management

The Component 4 "Knwoledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment" of the TRI CAR Project focuses on this issue. In particular, the following Outputs are foreseen: 4.1.1 South-South exchange for a mixed audience (civil servants, asso/groups, ICRA/ISDF.ARF): FLR actions / FRM; 4.1.2 Participation in the annual knowledge meetings and the bi-annual finance events; 4.2.1 Facilitation of technical days on FLR, gathering practitioners and policy-makers; 4.2.2 Creation and diffusion of technical materials and awareness-raising, to promote FLR and IGAs; 4.2.3 Elaboration of a Guide of Good Practices in terms of FLR & IGAs.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 Consistency with National Priorities

The project is fully aligned with the national development goals and policies, thoroughly described in the Project document:

- Forest: It will contribute to fine-tuning the Forest Policy Statement, with which it shares most concerns (e.g. FLR, NTFPs, wood energy, community forest, etc.);

- Agriculture and food security: It aims at improving soil fertility, crop productivity, and food security and diversification. At the contrary to the PNIASAN, which focuses more on the "conventional agriculture", the Project will aim at promoting agro-ecology and will support ICRA in setting an R&D Program in that regard. However, it will contribute to attaining the final objectives set by the PNIASAN;

- Environment / Biodiversity: It also aims at protecting biodiversity, by restoring degraded habitats and connectivity. It will also contribute to the upgrading of the SNPA-DB;

- Environment / Climate change: By promoting FLR, the Project will avoid further deforestation and help remove more carbon in restored fallows. It will also contribute to ecosystem-based adaptation. It is therefore fully in line with the PANA, the R-PP for REDD+, and the INDC;

- Environment / Land degradation: In line with the PAN-LCD, it will contribute to the fight against land degradation, for which the CAR received little support till now while it has committed to an ambitious pledge under the Bonn Challenge. Supporting the elaboration of bankable projects in terms of FLR, as planned in Output 3.5, it will also contribute to the upscaling of FLR actions, beyond the present Project;

- Land Planning: It will contribute to the elaboration of the South-Western Land Use Planning Scheme, and put in place innovative tools and methodologies that could be replicated elsewhere in the country.

As detailed in **Part I-A supra**, the Project is fully aligned with the GEF6 Objectives, in terms of Land Degradation (LD-2 and LD-3), Biodiversity (BD-4), and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM-3 and SFM-4).

The Project is also fully aligned with the SDG 15.3 aiming at halting land degradation by 2030, as well as the related international objectives, such as the Bonn Challenge (to restore 150 Mha by 2020), Aïchi target 15 (to restore 15% of degraded ecosystems by 2020), the UN Declaration on Forests (to restore 350 Mha of forests by 2030). More generally, the Project will contribute to the SDG 1 (fighting extreme poverty and food insecurity), 3 (reducing gender inequality), and 7 (preserving the environment).

Last but not the least, it is aligned with the FAO Country Programming Framework 2016-2017. This framework breaks down in three priority areas, with a total budget of USD 133 billion (out of which USD 23 billion were secured as at November 2015):

- Institutional support and capacity-building of agricultural and rural actors (USD 45 billion): upgrading of the institutional framework in the agriculture sector, capacity-building of 30 governmental services, setting up one National Chamber of Agriculture and seven Regional Chambers of Agriculture, capacity-building of 16 local authorities and 160 local communities;

- Supporting Livelihood Resilience (USD 53 billion): facilitating the meetings of a national working group on rural development and food security, supporting 20 NGOs and Governmental services in using micro-credit to strengthen Resilience Funds (*Caisses de résilience*), supporting 100 communities to face food insecurity, reinstalling 200,000 rural households, supporting 30,000 people with food aid;

- Supporting the recovery in the agricultural sector (USD 35 billion): preparing guidelines in terms of management and restoration of ecosystems threatened by climate change, increasing food crop production by 6%, increasing the share of NTFP in the Agriculture GDP to 15-20%.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Costs (USD)
Inception Workshop (IW)	PMU in consultation with the LTO, BH, PSC	Within 1 month after start-up	10,000
Results-based AWP/B	PMU in consultation with the FAO Project Task Force	3 weeks after start-up and annually (with the reporting period July to June)	Salaries and expendables / non-expendables for PMU

Project Inception Report	PMU in consultation with the LTO, BH. Report cleared by the BH, LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and uploaded to FPMIS by the BH	1 month after start-up	staff
Project M&E Plan	M&E Specialist	1 month after start-up onward	
Finalization of baseline information, and reassessment at mid-term and Project closure	M&E Specialist	During project year 1, 3, and 5	
Supervision Visits	FAO	Annually	Fees
Project Progress Reports (PPRs)	PMU, based on the monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the Project's Results Matrix. PPR submitted to the BH and LTO for comments and clearance. BH to upload it to the FPMIS.	No later than one month after the end of each six-monthly reporting period (30 June and 31 December)	Salaries and expendables / non-expendables for PMU staff
Project Implementation Review reports (PIRs)	LTO (in collaboration with the PMU) to prepare a PIR covering July (previous year) through June (current year) to be submitted to the BH and the TCI GEF FLO	August 1, of each reporting year	Fees
Co-financing Reports (Disbursement, Output)	PMU	On a semi-annual basis (as part of the semiannual PPRs)	Salaries and expendables /non-expendables for PMU staff
GEF Tracking Tools	PMU, reviewed by LTO	At midterm and end of Project	
Technical Reports	Project staff and consultants, with peer review as appropriate	As appropriate	
Mid-term Evaluation	External consultant, FAO Office of Evaluation in consultation with PMU, GEF Coordination Unit and other partners.	At midterm	30,000
Independent Final Evaluation	External consultant, FAO Office of Evaluation in consultation with PMU, GEF Coordination Unit and other partner	Three months prior to terminal review meeting	40,000
Terminal Report	PMU with assistance of other project staff and the LTO	Two months before Project end	7,000
Lessons Learned workshop and impact assessment	Project Staff, short-term consultants and FAO	At Project end	10,000
		Total	97,000

PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)

A. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

> This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies (NB: GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and CBIT) and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Alexander Jones Director, Climate and Environment Division	*(signature)*	17 April 2018	Christophe Besacier	+39 06 570 55508	Christophe.Besacier@fao.org
Jeffrey Griffin Senior Coordinator GEF Unit, Climate and Environment Division, FAO Rome			Maude Veyret-Picot	+39 06 570 52362	Maude.VeyretPicot@fao.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The TRI CAR Project results matrix was elaborated taking into account the guidance received from TRI Coordination Unit (FAO-UNEP-UICN, 2017)[52]. Regarding the targets a), b), and c), the explanations are as follow:

a) The field activities of the TRI CAR Project will take place in the South-West, i.e. an area estimated at 10,068,500 ha (see Part 1.1.3 supra). During the field missions carried out for the preparation of the TRI CAR Project, households were met in the pilot sites of Bangui, Berbérati, M'Baïki and Bayanga, and they have pledged a total of 984 ha (see Annex 12 infra). As the consultations were carried out after a limited notice, it can conservatively be assumed that twice this surface could be restored, i.e. 1,968 ha. Adding the 1,253 ha of the Mambéllé site, the total of surface to be restored by the TRI CAR Project would be 3,221 ha. The project will also directly avoid deforestation on 2,665 ha (see Part 2.2.1 supra).

b) It can be considered that the indirect impact of the project will extend on 16,346 ha.

c) Applying the Ex-Act methodology, these restoration activities would translate into 3,185,597tCO2eq of direct lifetime GHG emission avoided during 20 years and **12,674,856 tCO2eq** of indirect lifetime GHG emission avoided.

Results chains	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of Verification (MoV)	Assumptions
Global Environmental Objective: Biodiversity conservation, protection of climate and other ecosystem services through restoration of critical landscapes in the CAR and complementary SLM.	a) Area (ha) of deforested and degraded landscapes in restoration transition, stratified by land management actors (communities, farmers, private enterprises, and others).	a) Nearly nil for the last decades, apart from few ha restored mainly from the 1970's to the 1980's in the Lobaye (Croisement Leroy near Boukoko and M'Baïki), by CTFT and ARF.	a) 3,221 ha of degraded agro-ecosystem and degraded forest landscapes moved to sustainable land management regimes.	• Annual Project Progress Reports • Field monitoring reports • Joint monitoring missions • GEF Tracking tools	The RCPCA is successfully implemented, bringing back peace and socioeconomic growth
	b) tCO2eq avoided emissions/increased removals in the CAR landscapes as a result of TRI interventions.	b) 15,002,800 tCO2eq/year of emissions in the South-West [0.13% of deforestation over 3,313,419 ha, with an average loss of 3,483 tCO2eq/ha, according to [FRM et al., 2016]]	b) 3,185,597 tCO2eq avoided emissions/increased removals over the Project's impact period.	• Activity baseline and monitoring survey • Application of Ex-ACT methodology • GEF Tracking tools	Topic remains of high relevance to national and international stakeholders The Project is adopted and supported by the national, regional and local stakeholders
Program Development Objective: Poverty reduction, strengthened food security, and human well-being and livelihoods enhanced in the CAR through restoration of critical landscapes and complementary SLM.	c)Number of households directly benefiting from the project (from jobs, revenue and income, sustainably harvested timber, NTFP, improved livelihoods, etc.)	c)Nil	c)3,000 households will benefit from capacity building, trainings, equipment, jobs, revenue and income, products such as sustainably harvested timber, NTFP, improved livelihoods etc linked to FLR	• Field monitoring reports • Joint monitoring missions • SenseMaker or customized existing socioeconomic surveys using Collect Mobile • GEF Tracking Tools	Private and public investors see an interest in investing in FLR actions

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[52] FAO-UNEP-IUCN, 2017. *The Restoration Initiative (TRI) information document: Making Use of the TRI M&E Framework in Developing Child Project M&E Logframes and Systems.* Roma – FAO, February 2017. 8p

	Baseline	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions
d)Value from restored landscapes (including jobs; livelihoods from production, sale and consumption of wood and non-wood products; crop yields from agroforestry; cultural and ancillary values, etc.)	d)Restoration is generally weak and inadequate in the forest and agricultural sectors of the CAR as characterized by perverse incentives that encourage deforestation and degradation resulting in economic inefficiency.	d)Increased contribution of sustained forest and agro-forest ecosystem services to national economies and local livelihoods of both women and men	• National jobs data in relevant sectors • National and sub-national poverty-level data • Revenue amount distributed to communities • Surveys of key livelihood indicators (e.g. income, employment, school enrolment rates, etc.) for communities linked with the Project	

Program Component 1: Policy Development and Integration

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Outcome 1.1) Increased national and sub-national commitment to forest and landscape restoration;	1.1) New/additional Bonn Challenge commitments from TRI countries.	1.1) 3.5 million ha of current pledge to Bonn Challenge by the CAR	1.1.1) xx million ha* of deforested and degraded land newly committed to restoration by the CAR, in support of the Bonn Challenge. *to be defined by the LDN National Coordination	www.Bonnchallenge.org	

OP 1.1.1 Filling of knowledge gap: ecosystem service valuation

OP 1.1.2 Filling of knowledge gap: assessment of restoration opportunities

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Outcome 1.2) National and sub-national policy and regulatory frameworks are increasingly supportive of restoration, sustainable land management, maintenance and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest and other land uses, and reduced emissions from LULUCF and agriculture.	1.2) Policies and regulatory frameworks in the CAR that support forest and landscape restoration while incorporating biodiversity conservation, accelerated low GHG development and emissions reduction, and sustainable livelihood considerations; degree to which governments implement relevant regulations and programs.	1.2) Existing policies and regulatory frameworks with certain gaps: (i) Knowledge gap for ecosystem valuation (ii) Knowledge gap for restoration opport. (iii) No Land Planning Scheme at any level (national/regional/prefectural/communal) (iv) Poor knowledge and consideration of wood energy in the energy and forest policies (v) No forest policy as such and on-going elaboration of a forest policy statement (vi) Outdated SNPA-DB, not mentioning FLR concerns	1.2.1) Key policies and regulatory frameworks strengthened (scale 1 to 4: 1=Above expectations, 2=On target, 3=Below expectations, 4=Completed) (i) Improved knowledge: (agro)biodiversity, soil fertility, C storage, C/B of ecosystem services (ii) ROAM study (iii) South-Western Land Planning Scheme (iv) Upgraded WISDOM Platform / Strat. for (peri)urban forests in Bangui (v) Fine-tuned forest policy statement developing new concepts, incl. FRL (vi) Upgraded SNPA-DB, including FLR concerns 1.2.2) 2,000 women and men providing input to policy planning	• Respective Governments' policy documents and regulatory frameworks • Gender disaggregated participation tracking data • GEF Tracking Tools	Political impulse sufficient to support the processes and validate the final documents

OP 1.2.1 Elaborating a Land Planning Scheme for the South-West area

OP 1.2.2 Upgrading the Wood Energy Supply Plan (WISDOM) for Bangui/Bambio

GEF6 CEO Endorsement /Approval Template–August2016

OP 1.2.3 Fine-tuning the Forest Policy Statement and including FLR concerns

OP 1.2.4 Upgrading the SNPA-DB and including FLR concerns

Program Component 2: Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Outcome 2) Integrated landscape management practices and restoration plans implemented by government, private sector and local community actors, both men and women.	2.1) Area (ha) of deforested and degraded landscapes in restoration transition, stratified by land management actors (communities, farmers, private enterprises, and others) in the CAR.	2.1) 37 ha/year of reforestation at national level from 2001 to 2015 [134 ha/year from 2001 to 2015, and 27.5% of reforestation in the South-West, according to BONANNEE (2001) and CAS-DF (2015)]	2.1.1) 3,221 ha under restoration in the landscape, stratified by land management practices and actors such as communities, farmers, private enterprises, etc., and progress on restoration (*Index of Restoration Progress*, 1-5) 2,665 ha of avoided deforestation, and 22.232 ha under improved land management practices. In total, 3,185,597 tCO2eq avoided emissions/removals in TRI target landscapes as a direct result of TRI interventions.	• Annual Project Progress Reports • Field monitoring reports • Joint monitoring missions • Collect Earth complemented with biophysical survey and using Collect Mobile • Application of Ex-ACT methodology • Bonn Challenge Progress-Tracking Protocol • Gender disaggregated participation tracking data • GEF Tracking tools	Appropriation of the Project objectives by the local communities and strong interest in implementing field activities Appropriation of the Project objectives by the field officers and regional staff of the MEDDEFCP and MADR, and officers fully dedicated to their tasks in a result-based approach
	2.2) Number of households directly benefiting from the project (from jobs, revenue and income, sustainably harvested timber, NTFP, improved livelihoods, etc.)	2.2) Nil	2.2.1) 3,000 households will benefit from capacity building, trainings, equipment, jobs, revenue and income, products such as sustainably harvested timber, NTFP, etc. to be engaged in restoration activities	• Field monitoring reports • Joint monitoring missions • SenseMaker or customized existing socioeconomic surveys using Collect Mobile • GEF Tracking Tools	

OP 2.1 Baseline setting in each FLR perimeter, within the five pilot sites

OP 2.2 Implementing FLR activities with local populations

OP 2.3 Implementing complementary IGAs with local populations

OP 2.4 Day-to-day supervision and support by field agents and PMU

Program Component 3: Institutions, Finance and Upscaling

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	3.1) Number of cross-agency mechanisms and/or frameworks established and maintained to strengthen and facilitate coordinated national and sub-national action on restoration.	3.1) Little to no coordination of actions on restoration	3.1.1) National Coordination mechanism on FLR (the overall coordinating framework on FLR)	GEF Tracking Tools	
Outcome 3) Strengthened institutional capacities and financing arrangements in place to allow for and facilitate large-scale restoration and maintenance of critical landscapes and diverse ecosystem services in the CAR.	3.2) Establishment/ functioning of field-level support entities (i.e. nurseries, restoration value chain businesses, etc.); number of TRI-supported trainings, workshops, and capacity-building/learning events; demonstrated increase in knowledge and capacity to plan for and manage restoration.	3.2) Little to no field-level capacities in terms of FLR and agro-ecology	3.2.1) Capacity-building needs assessment carried out and ad hoc capacity-building actions implemented for (i) MEDDEFCP and MADR (esp. Field officers), (ii) Targeted local populations, (iii) Academic institutions (ICRA and ISDR), in the following areas: FLR, agro-ecology, IGAs, structuration-strengthening of associations-farmers' groups, CEOF and Ex-Act tool, etc.	• UN Environment Capacity development scorecard • Knowledge, Attitude, Practice (KAP) methodology • GEF Tracking Tools	Political willingness to share information and discuss/resolve cross-sectoral issues Right adequation of capacity-building support activities to a wide range of stakeholders, with different views and skills Improvement of the business climate, able to attract more private and public resources into FLR activities
	3.3) Value of resources (public, private, development partners) flowing into restoration initiatives in TRI countries.	3.3) None (PDRSO recently started with marginal funds for micro-projects in terms of restoration; Forest and Mining Governance Project and CAFI not yet started)	3.3) by the end of the Project, 7 million US$ of additional funding (in addition to TRI CAR Project) flowing into restoration and complementary SLM initiatives from diverse sources and innovative mechanisms	• Enabling Investment Rapid Diagnostic tool • GEF Tracking Tools	
	3.4) Number of bankable restoration projects developed in TRI countries through inclusive development process and meeting industry standards for quality and financial viability.	3.4) Nil	3.4) Two bankable restoration projects developed (one with external private funding, one with external public funding) as well as a study on domestic channelling and disbursement of forest taxes and others	• Scorecard matrix for status of bankable projects • Technical reports on domestic channelling and disbursement of forest taxes and others	

OP 3.1 Capacity needs assessment of key stakeholders

OP 3.2 Capacity-building of field officers and local project coordinators

OP 3.3 Capacity-building of targeted local populations

OP 3.4 Capacity-building of academic institutions (ICRA and ISDR)

OP 3.5 Mobilizing domestic and external funding for FLR

OP 3.6 Support to the National Coordination on FLR

Program Component 4: Knowledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions

Outcome 4.1) Increased effectiveness of Program investments among Program stakeholders;	4.1 Participation in TRI Annual Knowledge Sharing events, Biennial Restoration Finance events, and TRI sponsored South-South exchanges that address restoration	4.1) Nil	4.1.1) Participation in at least 1 event sponsored by TRI annually	• Project Implementation Reports and meeting minutes. • # of TRI exchange events held, attendance at events (f/m)	Willingness from TRIC child project stakeholders in the three countries (the CAR, Cameroon and the DRC) to share views and information regularly
	4.2) Program monitoring system successfully developed and supporting implementation of Project	4.2) Nil	4.2.1) Program monitoring system successfully developed and supporting implementation of the TRI CAR Project.	• Meeting minutes • Adaptive management scoring tool • GEF Tracking Tools	Balanced M&E system, (i) detailed enough to capture a wide range of information, (ii) but simple enough to be concretely used by concerned project stakeholders

OP 4.1.1 South-South exchange for a mixed audience (civil servants, asso/groups, ICRA/ISDF,ARF); FLR actions / FRM

OP 4.1.2 Participation in the annual knowledge meetings and the bi-annual finance events

OP 4.1.3 Monitoring & Evaluation of the Project

OP 4.1.4 Project Steering Committee (PSC)				Adequate facilitation of the PSC, to ensure a right representation of all views, incl. from local communities and indigenous peoples
Outcome 4.2) Improved knowledge of best practices on restoration among key external audiences.	4.3) Development of timely and relevant TRI knowledge products that capture lessons learned, and supporting tools for accessing and communicating TRI results to practitioners and global community.	4.3) Nil	4.3.1) TRI-related best practices and lessons-learned published on TRI web portal and shared with environmental and development agencies and organizations, in particular (i) Reports/short movies re: technical days (three/year), (ii) Training materials on FRL and IGAs, (iii) Guide on good practices in terms of FRL and IGAs	• Knowledge products developed • Distribution records (mailing list, physical distribution records) • Download records • Event attendance records	
	4.4) Development of effective global awareness campaign increasing public awareness and support for FLR.	4.4) Nil	4.4.1) Increased number of people equipped with new knowledge related to forest and landscape restoration through communications from the TRI CAR Project.	• Online platform metrics (likes, retweets, followers, page hits, views, comments) • References to FLR in global media	Balanced training / capitalization / communication materials, (i) detailed enough to capture a wide range of information, (ii) but simple enough to be concretely used by concerned project stakeholders

OP 4.2.1 Facilitation of technical days, gathering practitioners and policy-makers

OP 4.2.2 Creation and diffusion of technical materials and awareness-raising, to promote FLR and IGAs

OP 4.2.3 Elaboration of a Guide of Good Practices in terms of FLR & IGAs

ANNEX B - PROJECT MITIGATION BENEFITS – EX-ACT METHODOLOGICAL BASIS OF CARBON BENEFITS QUANTIFICATION

The EX-ACT results file are available separately.

The table below is a summary of the planned restoration activities both direct and indirect.

Type	Area	Activity Type	Direct Ha	Indirect Ha	Notes
Restoration operations	Bangui	Agroforestry (1)	1,130	565	As indirect, it is estimated that the same kind of activities will be replicated, by other partners involved in FLR and inspired by the project, on a surface equivalent to half of the original one.
	Berberati	Agroforestry (1)	554	277	
	M'Baiki	Agroforestry (1)	184	92	
	Bayanga	Agroforestry (1)	100	50	
	SEFCA	Agroforestry (1)	253	759	As indirect it is estimated that the system put in place will inspire 3 other concessions to have the same type of activities. So the surfaces have been multiplied by 3.
	SEFCA	Replantation Tech (2)	1,000	3,000	
Sub Total			3,221	4,743	
Avoided deforestation		Avoided deforestation (3)	2,665	2,091	Avoided deforestation direct : Considering (i) 2,221ha of land to be directly restored (3,221ha minus 1,000ha plantation), (ii) each households has in average 1.5 ha of degraded fallows under his control in the South-West (TECSULT, 1994), (iii) the households engaged in the TRI CAR Projects could reasonably restore half of the degraded fallows under their control, i.e. 0.75 ha/household, then the TRI CAR Project would mobilize 2,221 / 0.75 = 2,961 households. Normally, each household would clear 0.9 ha of forests every two years for cropping, i.e. 0.45 ha/year (TECSULT, 1994). In the lifetime of the TRI CAR Project, it is reasonable and conservative to assume that the households engaged in the Project would avoid clearing for at least two years, thus avoided the deforestation of 2,665 ha (0.45 ha/year x 2 years x 2,961 households), out of the 6,662 ha (0.45 ha/year x 5 years x 2,961 households) that would have been normally cleared. Avoided deforestation indirect : Following the same reasoning and considering 1,743 ha of land to be indirectly directly restored (4,743ha minus 3,000ha plantation), the TRI CAR Project would indirectly mobilize 1,743 / 0.75 = 2,324 households. Normally, each household would clear 0.9 ha of forests every two years for cropping, i.e. 0.45 ha/year (TECSULT, 1994). In the lifetime of the TRI CAR Project, it is reasonable and conservative to assume that the households indirectly engaged in the Project would avoid clearing for at least two years, thus avoided the deforestation of 2,091 ha (0.45 ha/year x 2 years x 2,324 households), out of the 5,229 ha (0.45 ha/year x 5 years x 2,324 households) that would have been normally cleared.
Avoided deforestation (after the end of the project)				9,512	For this we followed the same reasoning as above for another 10 years following the project. As we are outside of the project life, everything is considered as indirect. We consider, as above, that the households (previously directly or indirectly) engaged in the Project would avoid clearing for at least for years over a 10 years period. This would mean that out of a total of (6,662+5,229)*2=23,782ha which would have been cleared in the scenario without project, (2,665+2,091)*4=9,512ha won't be cleared
Total			5,886	16,346	

EXACT			
	(1) Agroforestry we consider that we are going from annual crop system to agroforestry systems (3.2.2 in EXACT with Tier 2 information)		
	(2) Replantation from set aside to planted forest (2.2 in EXACT with Tiers 2 information for Teak plantations)		
	(3) Avoided deforestation (2.1 in EXACT)		
Total GHG direct	3,185,597		
Total GHG indirect	12,005,914		
Total	15,191,511		

The carbon benefits from the project are estimated in terms of lifetime direct as well as consequential GHG emissions avoided over the default time horizon of 20 years under the IPCC guideline and the guidance of the GEF Tracking Tools. For this project, the duration of the implementation phase and the capitalization phase are defined as respectively 5 years and 15 years. The carbon benefits are calculated using EX-Ante Carbon Balance Tool (EX-ACT).

Direct lifetime GHG emission avoided

In the GEF Tracking Tool for Climate Change Mitigation projects, direct lifetime GHG emissions avoided, direct lifetime GHG emissions avoided are the emissions reductions attributable to the investments made during the project's supervised implementation period, totaled over the respective lifetime of the investments. The estimated values of direct lifetime GHG emission avoided during 20 years (5 years of implementation phase and 15 years of capitalization phase) are **3,185,597tCO$_2$eq** as follows:

Project Name	TRI Forest and Landscape	Climate	Tropical (Moist)		Duration of the Project (Years)	20
Continent	Africa	Dominant Regional Soil Type	LAC Soils		Total area (ha)	9,885.25

Components of the project	Gross fluxes Without	Gross fluxes With	Gross fluxes Balance	Share per GHG of the Balance CO$_2$ Biomass	Soil	Other	N$_2$O	CH$_4$	Result per year Without	With	Balance
	Positive = source / negative = sink										
Land use changes											
Deforestation	5,365,519	3,220,756	-2,144,763	-1,937,321	-208,967		-1,017	0	268,276	161,038	-107,238
Afforestation	0	-711,343	-711,343	-684,200	-27,143		0	0	0	-35,567	-35,567
Other LUC	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture											
Annual	0	0									
Perennial	11,578	-317,914	-329,492	-292,154			-19,459	-17,879	579	-15,896	-16,475
Rice	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Grassland & Livestocks											
Grassland	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Livestocks	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0
Degradation & Management	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Coastal wetlands	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Inputs & Investments	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Fishery & Aquaculture	0	0	0						0	0	0
Total	5,377,096	2,191,499	-3,185,597	-2,913,675	-236,110	0	-20,475	-17,879	268,855	109,575	-159,280
Per hectare	544	222	-322	-294.8	-23.9	0.0	-2.1	-1.8			
Per hectare per year	27.2	11.1	-16.1	-14.7	-1.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	27.2	11.1	-16.1

Figure - Ex-Act tool: estimate of direct lifetime GHG emission avoided (authors, 2017)

Consequential (indirect) lifetime GHG emission avoided

According to the Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Accounting and Reporting for GEF Projects (GEF/C.48/Inf.09, 7 May 2015), indirect emissions reductions have been re-defined as "consequential emissions". Consequential GHG emission reductions are those projected emissions that could result from a broader adoption of the outcomes of a GEF project plus longer-term emission reductions from behavioral changes. Broader adoption of a GEF project proceeds through several processes including sustaining, mainstreaming, replication, scaling-up and market change. The explanation of the indirect effects of the project is given in the table above and in the text part 2.2 And 2.3. The consequential GHG emission mitigation potential during 15 years (5 years of implementation phase and 10 years of capitalization phase) from the project is estimated as **12,674,856 tCO2eq** in the considered biome and time frame.

Project Name: TRI (Forest and Landscape)	Continent: Africa	Climate: Tropical (Moist)	Dominant Regional Soil type: LAC Soils			Duration of the Project (Years): 20	Total area (ha): 33,754				
Components of the project	**Gross fluxes** All GHG in tCO2eq Positive = source / negative = sink			**Share per GHG of the Balance** All GHG in tCO2eq CO2			N2O	CH4	**Result per year**		
	Without	With	Balance	Biomass	Soil	Other			Without	With	Balance
Land use changes											
Deforestation	24,036,169	14,422,861	-9,613,308	-8,434,797	-909,811		-73,027	-195,673	1,201,808	721,143	-480,665
Afforestation	0	-2,134,028	-2,134,028	-2,052,600	-81,428		0	0	0	-106,701	-106,701
Other LUC	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture											
Annual	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Perennial	9,086	249,493	-256,579	-229,277	0		-15,271	-14,031	454	-12,475	-12,929
Rice	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Grassland & Livestocks											
Grassland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Degradation & Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coastal wetlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inputs & Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fishery & Aquaculture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	24,045,255	12,039,341	-12,005,914	-10,716,674	-991,238	0	-88,298	-209,704	1,202,263	601,967	-600,296
Per hectare	712	357	-356	-317.5	-29.4	0.0	-2.6	-6.2	35.6		-17.8
Per hectare per year	35.6	17.8	-17.8	-15.9	-1.5	0.0	-0.1	-0.3	35.6	17.8	-17.8

Figure - Ex-Act tool: estimate of direct lifetime GHG emission avoided (authors, 2017)

ANNEX C: ADDRESSING STAP AND GEF COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS ON THE TRI PFD IN TRI CHILD PROJECT SUBMISSIONS

Council member and/or STAP comment	TRI Agency response
Germany – "Child projects appear to stand alone with no conceptual input from the program. It is difficult to derive how the program framework will guide the child projects in core issues of institutional and operational sustainability, such as extension and service systems, technical education, land tenure and incentives."	*To support the integrated design of child projects:* Building upon early consultations with all TRI countries and continuing throughout the PPG phase, TRI Implementing partners have worked to strengthen understanding and ownership of the TRI Program among child project development teams and key partners. Activities included training events and workshops beginning with the *TRI Global Launch Workshop* held in Douala, Cameroon, October 31-Nov 2, 2016, and that was attended by representatives from all 12 TRI child projects, as well as bilateral meetings and follow-up activities conducted by all Implementing partners with their respective TRI national child project development teams. The TRI theory of change, Program design, M&E systems, and key elements of TRI, particularly those focused on enhanced learning and collaboration, were a key part of the agenda of these meetings and activities. Through these efforts, stakeholder understanding of TRI and their ability to design child projects well-aligned with the TRI PFD was enhanced.
GEF STAP – "It is difficult to see how the list of projects and potential global benefits represents anything more than a set of individual projects unrelated to each other and not deriving any inputs from the Program Framework. How do the components in the PFD inform these projects?"	While the TRI PFD provides sufficient flexibility to allow countries to tailor interventions to meet their specific challenges and needs, a high degree of overlap exists among TRI countries in so far as the existing key challenges to implementation of FLR. As a result, the overall four-component thematic structure of TRI has been prioritized and adopted by all child projects, and will provide a firm basis for South-South learning and collaboration across the portfolio of TRI projects that, upon initial reading, may appear unrelated to one another.
"PFD represents a good starting point for a coordinated effort at FLR. However, there remains the significant concern of how the Program Framework will provide the necessary guidance for child projects, other than in broadly general rhetorical terms? This includes the following elements for a truly innovative and integrative Program: • Project design and development • Analysis of costs and benefits of different restoration approaches *[see Council comment and Agency response below]* • Intended use of tools across child projects *[See STAP comment and Agency response below]* • Contributions to a learning platform, and • Exchange of lessons and project experience"	The design of the TRI Global Child, through which integrated support will be provided to national child projects along each of the four TRI PFD components, was informed by extensive stakeholder surveying, consultation and analysis of the highest-value support best provided from the Global child project in partnership with national projects. *To support enhanced learning, collaboration, and partnership* To facilitate the enhanced learning, collaboration and partnership among TRI program partners and relevant external partners and initiatives that is essential to realization of enhanced programmatic benefits, all TRI child projects include the following design elements and features:

	- Dedicated funding and support for annual participation of at least 2 child project team members in all *TRI Annual Knowledge Sharing Workshops*. - Support for participation of project stakeholders in *TRI FLR Communities of Practice*, to be established, coordinated and supported in large part by the TRI Global Child project under Component 2 of the Global Child. The TRI Global Child will support the systematic capture, enhancement, and sharing of FLR knowledge through development and dissemination of harmonized tools and processes for capture of information; development of case studies and policy briefs and other informational materials; enhancement of the existing body of FLR knowledge to make these resources more useful and widely accessible; and sharing of experiences via facilitated online Communities of Practice, the *Annual TRI Global Knowledge Sharing Workshops*, other events, workshops and trainings, as well as through Program and Agency partner web platforms. ***To support coordination and adaptive management of TRI*** The TRI Global Child project will play a principal role in overall Program coordination, monitoring, and facilitation of adaptive management. Key functions and services provided by the Global Child in this capacity include support for a Program Advisory Committee, Global Coordinating Unit, Program portal, harmonized TRI GEF tracking tool, and midterm Program review and terminal evaluation. All TRI child projects, in their respective project documents, have clearly defined institutional linkages to key TRI Program partners. These include operational and reporting linkages between all national child project and the TRI Global Child project and its Global Coordination Unit, the TRI Program Advisory Committee, and between TRI child projects themselves.
Germany – "Germany suggests further clarification, how the program is meant to encourage political will for governance reform and investment into restoration approaches. Political will appears as an assumption rather than a purpose of the program."	***To support strengthening of political will for FLR-related policy and governance reform*** All TRI national child projects have developed tailored interventions aligned with Component 1 of the TRI PFD, *Policy Development and Integration*, and that are intended to strengthen political will and support for governance reforms supporting FLR. Examples of these efforts include: - Assessments of national and sub-national policy and regulatory frameworks and how they may be enhanced and/or strengthened to further support FLR - Support for identification and uptake of FLR supportive policies through filling in of knowledge gaps, awareness and outreach campaigns, and through support for robust cost benefit analysis of FLR benefits and costs through use of ROAM or other similar methodologies (8 of 11 TRI national child projects include support for use of ROAM, including the CAR).

	The Global child project will work in tandem with national projects to support in-country efforts to enhance the enabling in-country policy environment for FLR. Work will include development of relevant case studies and policy briefs, high-level workshops, and an awareness-raising campaign featuring restoration champions from within and outside TRI countries.
Germany – "Economic models on costs and benefits of landscape restoration need to be exemplified in order to underpin the plans for private investment generation."	*To support scaled-up investment in FLR, including from the private-sector* TRI partners have encouraged the incorporation and use of robust methodologies for estimating the cost and benefits of proposed restoration interventions. For CAR specifically, this includes support for use of ROAM. Component 4 (Output 4.1.1) of the TRI Global Child project includes support for the generation of case studies examining relevant FLR interventions, and that will include assessment of the associated cost and benefits.
Germany – "Germany recommends incorporating coordination and networking with existing initiatives and programs in the field of landscape restoration at international as well as national levels more systematically."	*To support coordination and networking with relevant external initiatives* The Global Child project, through its Global Coordinating Unit, will work to capture synergies among and between national child projects and relevant external initiatives, and capitalize on emerging opportunities presented over the course of TRI implementation. Work will include development and implementation of a *TRI Communications strategy* and *TRI Partnership strategy* for effective engagement and partnership with external programs, projects, institutions, and potential donors/investors that helps foster achievement of TRI objectives. The Global child will present a *Restoration Finance Workshop* in year 3 to connect potentially interested donors and investors with in-country FLR investment opportunities. All TRI national projects have dedicated funding and support for participation of at least 2 child project team members in this event that will take place in tandem with the year three TRI Knowledge Sharing workshop. The TRI child project in CAR, will closely collaborate with other child projects under the TRI initiative in general, but also with its baseline projects as identified in the ProDoc. The Global TRI Steering Committee (Program SC) will ensure alignment and synergies within the program during the implementation of the child projects The project will collaborate with other on-going or upcoming relevant projects in the CAR and the modality for this collaboration has been developed in the ProDoc.
GEF STAP – *Comment from above regarding PFD and how Program will*	*How Program will provide guidance and support for use of FLR tools* The Global Child project, together with the larger project support teams of the TRI Implementing Agencies, will provide a number of key FLR-

*provide guidance for "…*intended use of tools across child projects"	related support services to child projects, including support for the use of FLR-relevant tools. This includes: • Technical support for implementation of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), to be provided by IUCN's Global Forest Programme and Regional FLR hubs. • Technical support to all national child project teams in the development of bankable proposals and other mechanisms to mobilize increased funding for FLR, to be provided by UN Environment's Finance Initiative. Support for mobilization of finance will also include development and delivery of an online course on FLR finance in partnership with Yale University (Output 3.1.2). • The FLR Communities of Practice will be supported from within Component 2 of the Global Child project, under management by FAO. • As noted above, Component 2 of the TRI Global Child will also include support for the systematic capture, enhancement, and sharing of FLR knowledge through development and dissemination of harmonized tools and processes for capture of information (Outputs 2.1.1, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.5.1). • Component 1 of the TRI Global Child project includes support for the development of a *TRI Global Communications and Outreach strategy*, with substantive inputs and participation from TRI country project teams. The strategy will codify objectives and approaches in communicating about the TRI program with internal and external audiences. The strategy will be accompanied by a 'TRI Communications Toolbox,' to include templates and flyers and other communication tools, regularly updated by the Global Child GCU, to help facilitate consistent and coordinated communication on TRI by all national child project. The Global Child project will provide continual support to all national child projects in the use of these communication resources. • Component 3 of the TRI Global Child includes support for development of an *Enabling Investments Rapid Diagnostic Tool* (Output 3.1.1). The Tool will allow actors in each TRI country (and others) to identify key in-country policy, regulatory, institutional, and/or financial obstacles that currently stand in the way of investing in restoration activities. It will likewise provide suggested measures for reform, depending on the bottlenecks identified. • Component 4 of the TRI Global Child includes support for the development, refinement, and use of a tool for assessing impacts to biodiversity from FLR (Outputs 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3). Guidance and support will be provided to all national teams on the use of this tool. • Other targeted assistance, including support for the design and establishment of effective and harmonized FLR monitoring systems, will also be provided through the Global Child project to all national child project teams.

	In addition, TRI Agencies will support the sharing of independent evaluation teams (using same evaluation team for 2 or more TRI child projects) and methods in the undertaking of mid-term and terminal evaluations, to facilitate cost savings and increase cross-compatibility of evaluations (further information on this is provided in Section 5.5 of the Global Child project document).
Japan – "When considering a target country in GEF projects, it is important to take into consideration the impact of externalities and scale of economy (GDP, foreign currency reserves etc.) of each country, with a view to effective utilization of limited GEF resources. In general, while we acknowledge that the GEF allocates fund along with the STAR system, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), lower income countries and less developed region in these countries should be prioritized in allocating GEF resources. Accordingly, the funding for the projects that take place in countries with larger economic scale should be covered by co-financing of related institutions instead of GEF resources. From these points of view, GEF secretariat may wish to reconsider whether the target countries and regions"	*On the selection and composition of countries in TRI* TRI implementing partners acknowledge the comments from Japan regarding the composition of TRI countries. When the TRI program was being developed through the work of TRI countries, TRI Implementing Partners, and the GEF Secretariat, extensive efforts were made to notify countries with potential restoration opportunities about the emerging GEF-6 TRI program, and whether participation in the Program might be of interest. This occurred largely through the extensive networks of the three TRI Implementing Partners, and also via communications between GEF-eligible countries themselves. The selection process for TRI was largely a country-driven process, and entirely voluntary. As noted above, despite significant differences among TRI countries, a high degree of overlap exists in so far as the existing key challenges to implementation of FLR. As a result, a firm basis exists for South-South learning and collaboration across the portfolio of TRI projects.
France – "The initiative targets 9 countries, from which 5 in Africa (CAR, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Tanzania) and 3 in Asia (China, Myanmar and Pakistan). These countries have very different economic and political situations. The program consists mainly in 9 national projects put together. The national experiences could be useful for the 3 GEF agencies to benefit from the diversity of national contexts in order to promote same approaches in other countries and to feed general approaches and goal setting in the general monitoring of the Bonn Challenge. It would be therefore useful to apply participative approaches and not	*On the benefits of country diversity to TRI and the importance of learning from and sharing what works, including contextual factors and other country/project-specific variables* TRI partners agree that the diversity of countries participating in TRI, while presenting certain technical challenges, also affords a significant opportunity to test, refine, and share findings from country experiences on FLR that will, if successfully supported, benefit both TRI countries and other FLR initiatives. Related support would necessarily include support for robust knowledge capture of TRI experiences, thorough analysis of findings including contextual factors and other country- and project-specific variables that may be at play, and South-South knowledge sharing. As noted above, these are key components of TRI, integrated in the design of all TRI national child projects, and supported through dedicated work of the TRI Global Child project – particularly Global Child Components 2-4.

only international top down approaches of "best practices" or "monitoring tools."

"The implementation of concrete actions (for land management and restoration) represents 48% of the GEF contribution. The methodology for these actions is not presented (the monitoring tools, type of projects, "best practices" are described instead). A list of national resources requests is provided with about 40 projects. The approaches of how to improve land management and restore degraded land on each of these 40 individual projects will probably be the key issue of success of the initiative and, if successful, it will be the most useful lesson to be learned and shared. It would be then useful to understand how the actions will be implemented and with what kind of support (local structures, capacity building)."

"On the public policy level, it will be important that (i) the intended use of 4 tools are not replacing national approaches and policies, and that (ii) they will be used to the extent that there are considered by countries as appropriate to the countries' policies and at the right institutional level.""

In particular, all TRI child projects include the following design elements and features:

☐ Dedicated funding and support for annual participation of at least 2 child project team members in all TRI Annual Knowledge Sharing Workshops.

☐ Support for participation of project stakeholders in TRI FLR Communities of Practice, to be established, coordinated and supported in large part by the TRI Global Child project under Component 2 of the Global Child.

In addition, the TRI Global Child will support the systematic capture, enhancement, and sharing of FLR knowledge through development and dissemination of harmonized tools and processes for capture of information; development of detailed case studies and policy briefs and other informational materials with robust analysis of contextual factors; enhancement of the existing body of FLR knowledge to make these resources more useful and widely accessible; and sharing of experiences via facilitated online Communities of Practice, the Annual TRI Global Knowledge Sharing Workshops, other events, workshops and trainings, as well as through Program and Agency partner web platforms.

On the importance of ensuring that support provided (tools, approaches, capacity building, etc.) is not replacing national approaches and that support provided is demand-driven and appropriate to country context and involving participatory approaches

TRI partners agree that, both from an efficiency standpoint and also in terms of supporting uptake and sustainability, successful achievement of TRI country FLR objectives will depend in large part on ensuring that supported work does not duplicate or replace existing country efforts and approaches on FLR that are working, and that the kinds of support provided from TRI are appropriate to country context and targeted at the right institutional level(s). For this reason, as noted above, the TRI PFD affords country partners the flexibility to tailor interventions to meet their specific challenges and needs. This flexibility is in turn reflected in the diversity of projects, approaches, and targeted stakeholders of the 11 TRI national child projects. Moreover, the design of child project interventions is informed by robust stakeholder analysis to ensure that interventions are targeted at, and include the participation of stakeholders at the appropriate intentional level and department, including relevant external stakeholders.

ANNEX D: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: **USD165,000**			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	**GETF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Amount ($)**		
	Budgeted Amount	**Amount Spent To date**	**Amount Committed**
5011 Salaries professionals	$ 7,857	$ --	$ 7,857
5013 Consultants	$ 100,150	$ 105,705	$ 6,176
5021 Travel	$ 40,550	$ 19,806	
5023 Training	$ 14,000	$ 7,070	$ 10,394
5024 Expendable Procurement	$ 2,443	$ -	$ 2,443
5028 GOE	$ -	$ 5,549	
Total	$ **165,000**	$ **138,130**	$ **26,870**

ANNEX E: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS

N/A