



ACTION PLAN FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC WITH THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF)

Study report

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B. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

NDA: National Designated Authority
CC: Climate Change
NCC: National Climate Coordination
UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GSMEC: Group of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of the Central African Republic
PRSP: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
GEF: Global Environment Facility
NEF: National Environment Fund
GCF: Green Climate Fund
GHG: Greenhouse Gas
SMNRE: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment
CEA: Central African Employers' Association
GWP: Global Water Partnership
HDI: Human Development Index
MDGs: Millennium Development Goals
SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
NAPA: National Adaptation Programme of Action
GDP: Gross Domestic Product
SME: Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SMI: Small and Medium-sized Industries
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme
HIPC: Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
CAR: Central African Republic
NRPBP: National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan in the Central African Republic
REDD+: Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation
NCWFC: Network of Central African Women for Climate
PS: Private Sector
NUCEA: National Union of Central African Employers' Association
WWF: World Wildlife Fund.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Central African Republic (CAR), with a population of approximately 6.1 million ([ICASEES](#)), is a sub-Saharan African country identified as highly vulnerable and poorly prepared for climate change resilience. According to the University of Notre Dame's ND-GAIN Index (2021), the country ranks [184/185 countries](#) in terms of vulnerability and preparedness, underscoring the significant negative impact climate change could have on its development. The main climate risks are drought and flooding. Rising temperatures and increased aridity threaten to reduce water storage capacity, leading to drought on agricultural land, damage to infrastructure, and loss of life. Losses due to recurrent flooding in Bangui are estimated at USD 7 million (MEDD, 2021).

Faced with the threat posed by climate change to the preservation of its natural capital and economic growth, the Central African Republic (CAR) has committed to a path of low-carbon sustainable development. The country signed the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and various other international conventions on environmental protection (Rio Convention, Kyoto Protocol, etc.), produced its second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) document, which outlines objectives for achieving the Paris Agreement, CAR is developing strategies and plans with partner support to meet its climate change commitments by 2030.

The country's national vision on climate change states that: "By 2030, the country will be engaged in sustained, equitable, and sustainable socio-economic development, integrating climate change challenges across all social and productive sectors, thereby improving the overall well-being of its population."

Despite its strong commitment to implementing programmes and policies under the Climate Change Convention, CAR lacks sufficient resources to achieve its goals. Constraints prevent a significant allocation of domestic finances to the environmental sector. According to the Climate Policy Initiative, between 2019 and 2020, CAR mobilised an average of USD 100.69 million, with USD 97.71 million (97.05%) coming from international public resources and USD 2.98 million (around 3%) from private sources. The NDC (2021) estimates that USD 1,766.486 million is needed for climate action for the period 2020-2030, highlighting a significant financing gap. Budget contributions, estimated at USD 280.38 million over the same period, account for only 15.89% of the required financing, underscoring the challenge of meeting NDC targets.

Addressing the challenges of climate change cannot be the sole responsibility of the government, especially given the US\$1,483.48 million (84.11%) gap in funding required to implement the NDC. A coordinated effort from multiple stakeholders is needed, including local authorities, development partners, and civil society. Private sector investors and enterprises cannot be sidelined. Their contribution is crucial in closing this financing gap.

However, private sector operators have shown a low propensity to commit to projects and programmes prioritizing environmental issues in general and climate action in particular. It may stem from a lack of information about the climate action ecosystem and its potential benefits, as well as an underestimation (or lack of awareness) of the impacts of climate change on their

activities. Additionally, there is a shortage of qualified experts to develop bankable projects and programmes that could access climate finance through innovative financing windows, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The GCF, the most extensive financial mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), supports developing countries in reducing their GHG emissions and strengthening their capacity to adapt to climate change. It also aids in meeting the targets outlined in countries' NDCs, which are in alignment with the Paris Agreement. The GCF established the Private Sector Facility to promote climate change integration in private investments and encourage private sector involvement in mitigation and adaptation projects. This mechanism aims to catalyse clean investments and drive innovation from the private sector.

Following the identification of the private sector's limited involvement in climate change initiatives by the National Designated Authority (NDA) in Central African Republic, it was proposed to develop an action plan for private sector engagement as part of the implementation of the GCF Readiness Project with GWP as the implementing partner. This Plan aims to describe the main steps for integrating the private sector into climate finance activities, both generally and with the GCF at the national level.

The action plan highlights a framework for private sector engagement with the GCF in the Central African Republic and proposes strategies for involving the private sector in climate action. The report adopts a systemic and participatory approach and begins by presenting an overview of climate change, the status of the private sector in the country, and an analysis of the stakeholders involved. In its second part, the report outlines the challenges faced by stakeholders and proposes actions to enhance the private sector's commitment to climate change mitigation. These actions are aligned with key objectives set forth in national development policies such as the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan in the Central African Republic (NRPP), National Communications on Climate Change, the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and the Strategic and Operational Planning of Responses to Climate Change (SOP-CC). The action plan also considers international frameworks like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and the African Union's Vision 2065, among others.

1.1. OBJECTIVES

The main objective is to develop an action plan to engage the Central African Republic's private sector with the GCF, enhancing their involvement in climate change initiatives and enabling them to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the GCF. The plan outlines actions to address challenges and promote greater private sector participation in GCF projects.

1.2. METHODOLOGY

The development of this action plan incorporated several complementary approaches driven by the active role of the project team and its partners involved in the preparation process. The stage included:

- A literature review of the project, scoping meetings of the assignment,
- Preparation of an inception report detailing the methodology and data collection tools,
- Stakeholder mapping and analysis,
- Data collection through consultations with the identified actors,
- Qualitative analysis and drafting of the action plan, along with the development of coordination agreements for its implementation,
- Organising a consultation workshop to validate the action plan and agreements while also formulating recommendations,
- Finalisation of the action plan and coordination agreements.

The literature review provided a broad understanding of the barriers and challenges undermining the private sector engagement in climate action in CAR. It focused on various documents, including (1) international, regional, and national legislation and guidelines relevant to climate policies, (2) public and private sector reports on climate change adaptation and development, and (3) reports from public, development, and private platforms, networks, and academic sources (some of the documents reviewed are referenced). The stakeholder analysis identified key actors and facilitated discussions to pinpoint their needs and roles in implementing the plan. The consultations highlighted gaps and opportunities for private sector engagement with the GCF as identified by the stakeholders interviewed. The signing of the agreements will strengthen the collaborative framework, enhance private sector engagement with the GCF, and help overcome barriers to mobilising climate finance.

II. NATIONAL CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

2.1. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

A signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and the Paris Agreement in 2016, the Central African Republic (CAR) has developed several plans, programmes, and strategies to advance its vision for climate change mitigation. long-term goal is to “Become an emerging country, built on a diversified, sustainable economy, harmoniously distributed across the national territory, and a modern state open to the world, committed to ethics and technological innovation.” Initiated in 2012 during a period of politico-military crisis and finalised in 2016, the Central African Republic (CAR) developed the Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCPCA), a strategic framework aimed at guiding the country’s recovery and development efforts over the 2017-2021 period. The RCPCA is structured around three priority pillars and six cross-cutting objectives, one of which focuses on ensuring environmental sustainability and the sustainable use of natural resources. The extension of the RCPCA through 2024 will culminate with the launch of the National Development Plan (NDP 2024-2028).

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) is responsible for implementing national policy and planning actions related to climate change. A National Climate Coordination was established within this Ministry in 2017 to oversee and coordinate national climate change initiatives.

Although there are several national frameworks and policies supporting climate action (Table 1), the involvement of the private sector remains low, and their roles in combating climate change have been minimally defined or not defined at all. One reason for this could be the underestimation of the private sector’s contribution to the country’s development. According to an OECD Study (2021), the business environment in the Central African Republic is one of the least attractive in Africa, primarily due to recurrent crises and significant security challenges. The World Bank’s *Doing Business 2017* Report ranks the Central African Republic 185th out of 190 countries. The recurring crises have prevented the establishment of a solid foundation for the country’s industrialisation. Additionally, the private sector is primarily composed of small and medium-sized enterprises, with the majority operating within the informal economy.

Table 1: List of Policies and Strategies in force in the Central African Republic for Climate Change Mitigation.

No.	Institution	Policy/Strategy/Plan
1	MEDD/National Climate Coordination	Environment Law Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021 (NDC), National Sustainable Development Strategy (2021-2025), National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in CAR REDD+ National Investment Framework 2020-2025 in CAR, Initial National Climate Change Adaptation Plan of the Central African Republic, Central African Republic Country Programme to engage with the Green Climate Fund, Strategic and Operational Planning Document for Climate Change Responses, Environment Law
2	Government-Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Cooperation/RCPCA	National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan for the Central African Republic (RCPCA)
3	United Nations System/Institutions	United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2018 - 2021) United Nations New Framework Document-UNNFD
4	Other sectoral ministries	Investment Charter Forestry Law Land Law Mining Law

Both strategic and operational, the documents listed in Table 1 support the coordinated and holistic implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and will serve as a foundation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Central African Republic. The regulatory framework for national climate action is primarily based on Law No.

07/018 of 28 December 2007, known as the Environmental Law,¹ which prioritises the protection of air, water, and soil as critical areas of intervention.

As part of the Initial National Adaptation Plan, national sectoral priorities for adaptation measures were established following an assessment of the vulnerability of various sectors. These priorities include agriculture and food security, forestry, water resources, energy, health, and the natural disasters sectors. Additionally, mitigation and adaptation policy priorities were outlined in the Central African Republic’s 2019 country programme for the Green Climate Fund.

However, the private sector’s approach and involvement in addressing the effects of climate change remain absent in the Central African Republic. It is primarily due to the external challenges faced by the sector, including political instability and an unfavourable business climate.

2.2. CLIMATE FINANCING FRAMEWORK

Between 2010 and 2020, despite its favourable carbon capital, the Central African Republic (CAR) was able to mobilise only USD 715 million, accounting for just 9.38% of the resources secured by CEMAC countries and 0.58% of the climate funds received by Africa during the same period (AfDB, 2022).

Within this total, the CAR mobilised an average of **USD 100.69 million** between 2019 and 2020, with USD 97.71 million (97.05%) **from international public resources** and USD 2.98 million from **private sources**. Thematically, approximately 56% of the funding was directed towards adaptation actions, 37% towards mitigation efforts, and 8% to address loss and damage. Investors primarily provide private financing, while public financing comes from multilateral institutions (56%), followed by public authorities (26%), bilateral financing bodies (11%), and multilateral climate funds (5%). On the private side, the resources are sourced from private institutional investors. The energy sector was the primary beneficiary of these funds (32.6%), followed by the agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFAT) sector (27.5%).

Despite a sizeable portion of funding coming from public sources, it is often observed that even when funds are available, the few centralised national institutions responsible for distributing funding and planning adaptation frequently lack the capacity to implement new climate resilience strategies at the community level. This situation does little to encourage further donor commitments.

The urgent need to explore diverse funding sources is evident, and the private sector must play a key role in addressing this gap. Public funding alone will not be sufficient to effectively limit global warming to 1.5°C and reduce the impacts of climate change.

Table 2: Central African Republic: Incoming Climate Finance Flows by Theme and Sector of Activity, 2019-2020

Areas of Intervention	Amount in USD	Percentage
Adaptation	55.97	55.59%

¹ Page 19 NDC, CAR September 2021

Mitigation	37.05	36.80%
Cross-cutting Actions	7.66	7.61%
Total	100.69	100.00%
Sectors of Activity	Amount in USD	Percentage
Agriculture, Forestry, Other Land Use, and Fisheries	27.68	27.50%
Building and Infrastructure	3.68	3.65%
Energy Systems	32.80	32.58%
Industry	0.00	0%
Information and communication technology	0.27	0.27%
Others and inter-sectorals	35.83	35.59%
Transportation	0.00	0%
Water, water uses and waste	0.42	0.42%
Total	100.69	100.00%
Source of Funds	Amount in USD	Percentage
Public	97.71	97.05
Private	02.98	02.95
Total	100.69	100.00%

Source: Climate Policy Initiative (2023) cited by AfDB, pp 20 Country Focus Report 2023, Mobilising Private Sector Financing for Climate and Green Growth.

Under the trend scenario, the NDC shows a rise in greenhouse gas emissions from 10,040 GgeCO₂ in 2010 to 14,141 GgeqCO₂ in 2025 and 17,644 GgeqCO₂ in 2030, with a sequestration capacity over the same horizons of 730,714 GgCO₂ and 733,607 GgCO₂ respectively². Although the financing needs of the NDC are estimated at USD 1,766.49 million for the 2020-2030 period, international modelling for the same period estimates these needs at an average of USD 2,610.03 million or an annual requirement of USD 237.28 million. Regarding the needs outlined in the NDC, the state expects to contribute approximately USD 280.38 million (15.89%), with the remaining USD 1,483.48 million anticipated from the international community. Given that only USD 100.69 million (see Table XX) was mobilised between 2019 and 2020, it is evident that there is an urgent need to increase funding and private investment for climate action. The massive mobilisation of private financial resources is critical to bridging the funding gap, as shown in Table 2, where the share contributed by the private sector represents only 3%.

2.3. MACROECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

Economic activity in the Central African Republic is primarily concentrated in the primary sector, while marketing and distribution are centred in the tertiary sector. The primary sector employs approximately 80% of the workforce and contributes around 45% to the country's GDP. This sector is highly susceptible to climatic conditions, including floods, droughts, and rising temperatures. Traditional and artisanal practices used in agriculture and mining,

² Revised NDC CAR, October 2021, page 3.

unfortunately, worsen the country's environmental challenges, contributing to soil degradation and increased pollution, which negatively undermine efforts to reduce its carbon footprint. This primitive and highly polluting method of production and exploitation is a significant threat to food security in CAR.

These practices must be improved to pursue green growth. In 1990, forest cover represented 37% of CAR's territory, but by 2020, forest cover steadily declined by 19,400 hectares per year compared to 1990 levels (World Bank, 2022). To the Global Forest Watch Open Data Portal, between 2001 and 2021, the CAR lost 1.9% of its forest cover, or 910,000 hectares, resulting in emissions equivalent to 426 million metric tons of CO₂. Primary drivers of deforestation are anthropogenic, including the conversion of forests into agricultural land, the extraction of firewood and construction timber, and industrial logging. Additionally, there is no established mechanism or national institution responsible for reforestation efforts or the promotion of modern agroforestry practices (FAO, 2021).

As a result, the Green Growth Index (GVI) for the Central African Republic (CAR) is exceptionally low, falling below both the median and average for Central African countries. The country does not publish sufficient data on various green growth indicators. Overall green growth performance, which earned a score of 43.1, is due to solid performance in sustainable land use (96.9), cultural and social values (94.4), and biodiversity and ecosystem protection (74.8). However, the country needs to make significant improvements in areas such as green trade (3.7), social protection (13.7), and access to essential services and resources (16.5)³.

III. MAPPING OF MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

The mapping presented is the outcome of in-depth, semi-directive interviews with crucial resource persons across various sectors. These sectors include public administrative establishments, public enterprises, non-state stakeholders (such as employers' organisations, trade unions, and civil society organisations), and international cooperation organisations in the CAR and have missions that align with the relevant areas targeted for private sector involvement in environmental and climate change activities. These discussions will address both the "macro-environment" and the "micro-environment" of the targeted sectors.

In the Central African Republic, the nature of public-private dialogue is complex. It involves three main groups: members of the employers' association, including the Interprofessional Group of CAR (GICA), which includes multinationals and, more recently, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); the National Employers' Union of CAR (UNPC), representing Central African economic operators, and groups like CPMEC, AFAC and ONFR, alongside independent economic operators who are not affiliated with any organisation. Companies that belong to these employers' associations or groups are better structured and more active in the public - private dialogue platform. However, the dialogue is lagging, and the organisation is struggling to effectively overcome the mistrust between public institutions and the private sector.

³ AfDB, Country Focus Report 2023, pp 18

Stakeholders are categorised into the following groups:

- Descriptive: It includes the types of stakeholders, their location (country), the location of their headquarters (city), and their geographical scope (local, national, or regional).
- Analytical: Level of influence (low, medium, or high), level of interest (low, medium, or high), level of involvement (low, medium, or high) and its corresponding response and,
- Additionally, the stakeholder analysis incorporates key concepts defined by the UNDP as part of its conceptual framework (UNDP, 2017)⁴. The types of stakeholders to be engaged are summarised in Table 3.)

Table 3: Types of Stakeholders to Mobilise

Institutions of the stakeholder	Description
International Cooperations	International financial and technical support institutions that provide bilateral or multilateral support for climate change mitigation and intelligent agriculture.
Binational Institutions	They are specific institutions created by binational integration efforts between countries.
National Public Institutions	They are bodies that fulfil a public interest function assigned in national structures.
Private Institutions	These are private companies in various productive sectors. They include private joint ventures and associations. They include second-level social organisations (including chambers, federations, associations, cooperatives, etc.).
Research Institutions	They include academic institutions dedicated to research and the production of knowledge.
NGO	They include non-governmental organisations independent of the public administration.
Regional Integration Organisations	They are organisations whose primary function is political and economic integration at the sub-regional or regional level.
Social Organisations	They include bodies established based on common interests (e.g. women’s groups, disabled people’s groups, youth groups, etc.).
Indigenous People	They are officially recognised organisations that represent the interests of certain Indigenous peoples and defend their cultural, territorial, and human rights.

Source: Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement Plan: Stakeholders Analysis and Engagement Plan Marta Pérez de Madrid, Consultant IWRM Sept 2020.

3.1. IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

For the purposes of this document, “stakeholders” refers to all critical actors involved in the development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and, most importantly, the provision of technical and financial support in the context of climate change. These stakeholders, who are

⁴ UNDP, 2017

crucial to climate change initiatives and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), are outlined in Table 4. The main stakeholders can be categorised into three groups:

1. Ministries/Sectorals/Private Sector Support Structures

They include national public institutions responsible for the development and implementation of government policy. However, there is often a lack of political will, reflected in a weak or poorly enforced regulatory framework. Policymakers need to develop national policy and strategy documents that encourage private sector participation and, more importantly, to ensure that the instruments are fully enforced so that all stakeholders, including the private sector, can actively contribute to climate change financing.

Furthermore, the employers' organisations representing the private sector deserve to have their capacities strengthened so that their influence in the formulation and implementation of climate change policies, particularly those in favour of SMEs, is more significant in a spirit not of competition with the government but of collaboration and consultation.

As a result, they include:

- Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development (*National Climate Coordination, National Biodiversity Coordination, National Desertification Coordination*),
- Minister for Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources,
- Ministry of Finance and Budget (*National Trade Facilitation Committee (CNFE)*),
- Minister for Water Resources, Forests, Hunting and Fishing,
- Minister of Mines and Geology,
- Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development,
- Minister of Arts, Culture and Tourism,
- Minister for Territorial Administration, Decentralisation and Local Development (*Civil Protection Department to consider Disaster Risk Management*),
- Association of Lord Mayors of the Central African Republic,
- Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Crafts (CCIMA),
- Chamber of Agriculture and Tourism (CAT),
- Joint Consultative Framework for the Improvement of the Business Climate (CMCAA),
- One-stop Business Formalities Office (GUFE).

2. Technical and Financial Partners

It involves international cooperation, which supports the country in mobilising resources, building capacity, developing technologies, and drawing up policies to combat climate change so that the country can meet the commitments it has set itself. The institutions include:

- European Union (UE),
- World Bank (WB),
- African Development Bank (AfDB),
- Development Bank of Central African States (BDEAC),
- United Nations Agencies (FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, IFAD...),
- Bank of Central African States (BEAC),
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF),

- Global Water Partnership (GWP),
- Green Climate Fund (GCF),
- Global Environment Facility (GEF),
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS),
- Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC),
- Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa (RAPAC),
- International Commission of the Congo-Ubangui Sangha Basin (CICOS),
- International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

Initiatives that regularly bring together regional stakeholders to stimulate investment and access to climate funds—such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF)—must be established. These initiatives should foster dialogue, encourage experience-sharing, and create genuine partnerships necessary for advancing regional integration towards sustainable development. Furthermore, it is essential to continue and enhance efforts aimed at improving environmental protection in response to the challenges posed by Climate Change.

3. Employers’ Organisations/Civil Society/Research Centre

They are platforms set up to defend the interests of their members. They must become genuine partners with the states and regional integration institutions, serving as a driving force for proposals. These organisations include:

- Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment (GDRNE),
- Organisation of Women of CAR (OFCA),
- Organisation of Rural Women (ONFR),
- Association of Businesswomen (AFAC),
- Central African Women’s Climate Network (REFECC),
- Association of Professionals of Loan Institutions in CAR (APECCA),
- National Youth Council (NYC),
- Association of Young Entrepreneurs of CAR (COJEC),
- National Pioneering Youth (JPN),
- Central African Inter-NGO Council (CIONGCA),
- Central African Interprofessional Group (GICA),
- National Union of Central African Employers (UNPC),
- Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of CAR (CPMEC),
- Association of Boubanguérés (street sellers),
- Association of Koli et Wali Garas,
- Programme Development Associates International (DAI),
- Centre for Studies and Research on Economic Analyses and Policies (CERAPE),
- Study and Research Group on Democracy and Economic and Social Development (GERDDES).

Successive crises have severely impacted most businesses, yet they remain the driving force behind the economy. It is essential that **the government, in agreement and collaboration with**

employers’ and professional organisations, develops a support plan for the private sector that incorporates climate change considerations. Once adopted, this plan must be effectively implemented to strengthen the resilience of private sector businesses, most of which are concentrated in agro-industry, industry, and commerce—sectors with limited capacity to adapt to climate change.

Organising the private sector into clusters will facilitate access to best practices and information on the institutional arrangements of the Green Climate Fund. Working independently is not sufficient for lobbying or influencing public policy. Fostering networking skills enhances a company’s ability to leverage the value chain and improve its chances of survival.

Table XX presents a list of stakeholders along with an analysis of their influence and interest in climate change issues.

Table 4: Matrix for Identifying Stakeholders in Climate Change Mitigation

Description	Actor	Role	Participation	Level of Influence	Level of Interest
National Public Institutions	Ministry of Economy and Planning	Allocate financial resources to relevant sectors with sound budget execution. Consolidate bilateral and multilateral partnerships	Prioritise investment and mobilisation of financial resources Mobilise and allocate resources Information and communication on country programmes with partners	High	High
	Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	Normalisation, regulation, and coordination (NCC, GDRNE...)	Environmental and Social Impact Monitoring	Very High	Very High
	Ministry of Finance and Budget (CNFE)	General provisions relating to resources, expenditure, and procedures for implementing public expenditure	Management of financial resources, including the GCF	Very High	Very High
	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS)	Provides training and research/ (LaSBAD), monitoring and evaluation of agricultural policies and programmes (Lavoisier's Laboratory)	Training and research	Medium	Medium
	Ministry for Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources	Oversees the government's water policies and strategies Ensures the mobilisation of financial resources and project planning	Contribution to the dissemination of drinking water supply technologies and coordination with the private sector in the implementation of water projects Manages water resources in an integrated manner Provides the population with access to quality drinking water Develops surface springs and aquifers	Very High	Very High
	Ministry of Agriculture (Government)	Implementation of agricultural policy, including support, advisory services, training, and monitoring & evaluation through implementing agencies (ICRA, CADA, ANDE)	Ownership of agriculture and climate change-related projects, including awareness-raising, implementation, training, dissemination, and maintenance. Promotion of climate-adapted cropping systems and enhancement of soil fertility.	Very High	Very High

Description	Actor	Role	Participation	Level of Influence	Level of Interest
	Ministry of Water Resources, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing	Ensure governance of sectors in alignment with government policy	Promote sustainable forest management through the involvement of Indigenous peoples Enforce forest management legislation	Very High	Very High
	Minister of Mines and Geology	Regulate mining activities to promote investment in the sector	Oversee the prospecting, exploration, and exploitation of mineral deposits, as well as the possession, transportation, processing, and marketing of minerals	Medium	Medium
	Minister of Arts, Culture and Tourism	Organise and manage activities across three sectors, with tourism being the primary one related to environmental protection	Protect the environment by promoting ecotourism activities and sustainable development initiatives	Medium	Medium
	Minister for Territorial Administration, Decentralisation and Local Development	Public safety and disaster management	Department of Civil Protection for the consideration of disaster risk management	Medium	Very High
	Local Authorities	Mobilisation of resources to implement projects, decision-making on the choice of project areas, Integration of programmes into local development plans Raising awareness, providing information	Facilitate access to project sites, project beneficiaries Monitoring - evaluation of projects implemented	Weak	Very High
Private Institutions and Private Sector Support Structures	Central African Association of Credit Institution Professionals (APECCA)	An umbrella organisation for national commercial banks and microfinance institutions aimed at facilitating representation and participation in specific platforms.	Advocating for the interests of microfinance institutions	Medium	High
	National Union of Central African Employers (UNPC)	Bodies implementing the strategy and mobilising resources for Central African businessmen	National Private Sector advocating for the interests of Central African businessmen	Medium	High
	Central African Interprofessional Group (GICA)	Implementation bodies responsible for executing the strategy and mobilising resources, expertise, and knowledge to	Many operators within GICA are subsidiaries of major international groups GICA is a member of UNIPACE, which can help relay specific concerns to the public	High	High

Description	Actor	Role	Participation	Level of Influence	Level of Interest
		provide a significant boost to the Central African private sector	authorities, particularly in terms of investment facilitation		
	National Water and Sanitation Agency (ANEA)	Supervises dam management and the utilisation of water bodies	Oversees the implementation bodies responsible for the water sector strategy	High	High
	Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Crafts (CCIMA)	House of businesspeople provides support by assisting or representing them in negotiations with public authorities or institutions to foster their growth and development.	Sectors of activity include trade, industry, mining, crafts, and services.	Very High	Very High
	Chamber of Agriculture and Tourism (CAT)	Consultative and professional organisation representing the rural world	Sectors of activity: Agriculture, Livestock, Water, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Tourism.	Very High	Very High
	Joint Consultative Framework for Business Improvement (CMCAA)	Platform for dialogue between components of the Private Sector and the Public Sector	The mission of the CMCAA is to create a climate of trust and security that promotes investment and the development of the private sector.	High	High
	Sectoral and Project Strategy Management Unit (CGSSP)	Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Programme, established in 1997, provides trade-related technical assistance to the least developed countries (LDCs). It is a global partnership between LDCs, donors, and international organisations aimed at helping LDCs overcome trade barriers and play a more active role in the global trading system.	EIF activities are funded by a multi-donor trust fund, the EIF Trust Fund (EIFTF)	High	High
	Association of Businesswomen of CAR (AFAC)	Platform for dialogue between businesswomen with the aim of facilitating procedures relating to their activities	Advocating for the interests of members	Medium	Medium
	One-stop shop for business formalities (GUFÉ)	Facilitating company start-ups	Maintains a database on business sectors and locations.	Medium	Medium

Description	Actor	Role	Participation	Level of Influence	Level of Interest
	National Organisation of Rural Women (ONAFR)	An association of women farmers in specific regions in the west of the country	Advocating for the interests of members	Medium	Medium
	Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of CAR (CPMEC)	A group of businessmen engaged in several fundamental sectors of the national economy	Advocating for the interests of members	Medium	Medium
	Association of Boubanguérés (street sellers)	A group of businessmen involved in import-export, wholesale and retail trade, or suppliers to large units at the national level.	Advocating for the interests of members	Medium	Medium
	National Association of Central African Entrepreneurs and Craftsmen (ANEAC)	Group of entrepreneurs working in the business and craft sectors	Advocating for the interests of members	Medium	Medium
	Association of Koli-Wali Garas	Local market businessmen	Advocating for the interests of members	Medium	Medium
NGO and Research Centre	Non-governmental organisations (Water for Good)	Awareness-raising, monitoring, and evaluation	Training, decision support, mobilisation of resources to implement climate change-related activities	High	High
	Central African Women's Climate Network (REFECC)	Includes several organisations in a variety of sectors, from agri-food processing and trade to catering and hotels.	Advocating for the interests of members	High	High
	Association of Young Entrepreneurs of CAR (COJEC)	Brings together young professionals working across various sectors of activity	Advocating for the interests of members	Medium	Medium
	National Pioneering Youth (JPN)	Pioneers from the various prefectures of CAR: theoretical and practical training (apprenticeship and economic reintegration)	Structure under the Presidency of the Republic	Medium	Medium
	Central African Inter-NGO Council (CIONGCA)	Acts as an effective and coherent mechanism for information, communication, and consultation	Structure for advocacy, implementation of concrete projects, and capacity-building activities, serving as a recipient of funding	High	High

Description	Actor	Role	Participation	Level of Influence	Level of Interest
		between CSOs, as well as between CSOs and their partners			
	Centre for Studies and Research on Economic Analyses and Policies (CERAPE),	A research unit with five years of experience and several scientific publications	Sub-Regional Research Centre	High	High
	Programme Development Associates International (DAI) c/o FATEB	Provides training in research and leadership aimed at influencing the achievement of common goals.	Faculty and Research Centre	High	High
International Cooperations	European Union	The EU and its Member States are the largest global providers of public funds for climate action	Mobilising financial and private capital flows for green investments Support for the development of road infrastructure Support the Conservation of the Biodiversity Support forestry governance Support civil society organisations	High	High
	World Bank	Promotes the mobilisation of funds to finance projects	Offers longer-term loans to finance climate change projects	Medium	Medium
	African Development Bank	Promotes the mobilisation of funds to finance projects	Facilitate increased public and private sector climate investment Ensure that our development programmes consider climate risks and opportunities Environment and climate change Contributing to security and peace through budget support Support for the development of sustainable agriculture Governance in the mining sector Infrastructure development (health, electricity, and energy)	Very High	Very High
	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Accredited entity responsible for submitting funding requests to the GCF, supervising, and managing all projects and programmes	Promotes access to climate finance by strengthening institutional capacities, governance mechanisms and planning and programming frameworks in line with NDCs,	High	High

Description	Actor	Role	Participation	Level of Influence	Level of Interest
		approved by the Fund and monitoring them.	national adaptation plans (NAPs) and other national climate change strategies Support for the development of agriculture, livestock, and fisheries Forest and landscape restoration, REDD+, Agroforestry, Development of resilience funds, Governance, and social cohesion.		
	Development Bank of Central African States (BDEAC)	Promotes the mobilisation of funds to finance projects Finance the development of CEMAC member countries	Provides financing to member states to conduct projects	High	High
	Bank of Central African States (BEAC)	Contributes to the monetary and financial stability of the CEMAC member states, which helps to preserve purchasing power and create conditions favourable to public and private investment and, therefore, to the general interest of the populations and countries of the sub-region.	In the Central African Republic, two institutions can be identified as playing the role of monetary authority: the Ministry of Finance via the National Economic and Financial Council (CNEF, formerly the National Credit Council) ⁵ and the Central Bank, which is the Bank of Central African States (BEAC). According to the Central Bank's classification, financial institutions include credit institutions, microcredit institutions and insurance companies.	High	High
	Fonds Mondial pour la Nature/ World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Conservation and Management of Natural Resources	Involvement in the implementation of the GCF Restoring forest landscapes with a view to the sustainable supply of wood energy to towns and cities Sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation Reducing deforestation and ecosystem degradation	High	High
	Global Water Partnership (GWP)	Ensuring sustainable and equitable management of water resources	Technical support to access climate finance Capacity building on CC	High	Very High

⁵ New name following a reform of the CEMAC in 2022.

Description	Actor	Role	Participation	Level of Influence	Level of Interest
			Developing the institutional and regulatory framework for CC		
	Green Climate Fund (GCF)	UNFCCC financial mechanism	Financial support for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects	High	High
	Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial (FEM)/ Global Environment Facility (GEF)	Financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other environmental conventions	It is the primary source of funding for efforts to protect biodiversity worldwide and is the only multilateral fund that addresses all aspects of environmental health	High	High
	Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)	Political cooperation to guarantee peace and security in the region	Harmonious and sustainable socio-economic development; economic and financial integration	High	High
	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)	Developing an integrated area and promoting harmonious development within it	Sharing of views and influential decision-making by the community with a view to facilitating climate procedures	High	High
	Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa (RAPAC)	Ecotourism and community-based tourism for Central African Protected Areas	Network of all actors involved in the sustainable development of tourism through protected areas in the sub-region, in collaboration with RAPAC members and all partners involved in the conservation of natural resources and the development of local communities in Central Africa.	High	High
	International Commission of the Congo-Ubangui Sangha Basin (CICOS)	Strategic Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management in the Congo Basin	Programme document for the promotion of ecotourism in the Congo Basin	High	High
	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)	The regional action plan was drawn up based on the general guiding principles	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the fundamental principle of leaving no one behind, and Agenda 2063: the Africa we want and its aspirations, objectives, and priority areas	High	High
	UNDP	UNDP helps developing countries access climate finance	Supports countries and CSOs in the availability and updating of national climate change strategy papers and provides advice on how to access the growing climate finance markets	High	High

Description	Actor	Role	Participation	Level of Influence	Level of Interest
			Implementing CC projects		
Social Organisations	Platform of Central African civil society organisations for the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment (GDRNE)	Integrating women into the management of natural resources in CAR and involving them in disaster risk prevention in the country	Training, decision support, funding recipients, project implementation actors	High	High
	Network of Indigenous and local populations for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALCA)	Supports forest peoples and Indigenous organisations in promoting an alternative vision of how forests should be managed and controlled based on respect for the rights of the peoples who know them best	Structure for advocacy, implementation of concrete projects, and capacity-building activities, serving as a recipient of funding	High	High
	Organisation of Women of CAR (OFCA)	Women's participation and decision-making in mitigation measures and awareness-raising for climate finance and gender-sensitive funding allocations	Structure for advocacy, implementation of concrete projects and capacity-building activities related to gender, serving as a recipient of funding	Medium	Medium
	National Youth Council (NYC)	A structure that brings together the most critical non-state actors to take climate action while unlocking development opportunities for the next generation	Mobilisation in climate markets, commitment to the environment by taking part in events or volunteering in associations	High	High

The classification of businesses according to the major employers' groups also recognises a category of formal private sector players who do not belong to any group and a category of so-called informal players, most of whom are organised in associations with a view to making their voices heard by the public authorities. In this group, we have the Boubanguéré or businessmen and women who operate without belonging to a group, farmers producing food for sale on a local market. The strategy aims to ensure that each stakeholder feels involved and empowered to share their opinions through the dialogue platform, where consular chambers can intervene for the general interest.

From this analysis, all stakeholders should play a significant role in securing the private sector's commitment. International cooperation partners should focus on capacity building and supporting the creation of an enabling environment while Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) mobilise financing for climate transition and green growth in the Central African Republic. Support should include:

- Aiding through simplified mechanisms and procedures,
- Strengthening the capacity of institutional actors at strategic levels,
- Funding specific studies related to the sustainable economy across various sectors, including agriculture, energy, industry, transport, housing, water, and sanitation,
- Establishing mandatory certification training programmes to assess carbon markers in activities and projects within CAR.

IV. DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The exchanges and discussions with stakeholders helped identify the main obstacles preventing the private sector's involvement and commitment to the fight against climate change. These discussions also allowed for the identification and refinement of specific actions to strengthen private-sector engagement. The discussions took place bilaterally with each stakeholder, as well as in plenary sessions during the Private Sector Training Workshop on GCF procedures, held from 20 to 22 September 2023 at the 20,000-seat Sports Complex. The workshop aimed to engage the private sector in GCF projects and clarify the responsibilities of all parties.

Institutional Framework: The discussions and review revealed that the private sector is a crucial partner in the development of CAR. It can contribute through its activities and by exploring emerging financing opportunities, such as green and climate finance. However, the sector is not significantly involved in the fight against climate change. Policy documents, such as the NDC, do not adequately include the private sector, as seen in the process of developing the document, where their expectations and contributions were not considered. The GCF country programme, which outlines the country's commitment to the fund, was approved in 2019, yet none of the project ideas identified in it have progressed into approved proposals. There is still no national entity with direct access to GCF funds; all current initiatives are channelled through international organizations.

Technical Capacity: At the institutional level, the identified actors have limited capacity to manage the impacts of climate change and lack awareness of current initiatives or the

opportunities for private sector involvement in addressing climate change. For the Central African private sector, climate change is perceived as having no direct impact on their activities, and investments are made primarily through subsidies, as they are not seen as profitable. There is an urgent need to shift the understanding of the private sector and other stakeholders towards recognising the opportunities presented by climate change.

Data Availability: Currently, there is a lack of evidence on climate risks and the benefits of investing in climate change initiatives to present to stakeholders, particularly the private sector. Assessing the overall climate risk of an institution's portfolio is still a new concept. There is also limited understanding of climate risks and how to assess, price, and manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate change impacts. Financial institutions, such as banks and insurance companies, could capitalise on this but lack the necessary capacity. The failure to develop expertise in climate finance has prevented financial institutions from reducing their vulnerability to climate impacts and has led to missed opportunities to understand the economic value of resilience better.

Communication: Employers' organisations in the Central African Republic are finding it difficult to establish themselves as critical partners with the government when decisions that directly affect them are being made. However, efforts are being made to set up support structures. In many cases, decisions are made without prior consultation, leaving companies and their organisations faced with a done deal. Additionally, communication is often ineffective in ensuring the participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process. The weakness of the private sector, its limited capacity to lobby public administrations, the presence of multiple competing employers' organisations, and the tendency of these organisations to prioritise corporatist interests are all significant challenges. Also, some companies focus solely on maximising profits, neglecting their potential role in the country's economic, social, and environmental development. Furthermore, the administration's perception of the private sector as merely a source of tax revenue hinders the establishment of a meaningful dialogue between the public and private sectors.

The involvement of civil society, consumers, entrepreneurs, employees, citizens, associations, and other stakeholders in the development of public policies is crucial for the state and government to establish their legitimacy by enhancing the transparency, quality, and effectiveness of their policies. In the specific context of economic policymaking, private companies and the business community, whose essential role in generating national wealth is now widely acknowledged, must be included—especially given the current global crises.

Dialogue between the government and non-state (i.e., private) actors in the economy fosters transparency and trust among stakeholders, helping to address the market failures commonly highlighted in neo-institutional literature. It is in the interests of both parties.

V. PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was established to finance ambitious climate action, representing a significant shift in policies, procedures, and funding requests, with a vision that goes beyond investments made by existing multilateral mechanisms and other climate funds. The GCF explicitly addresses the urgent needs of developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. The Fund aims to allocate its financing equally between mitigation and adaptation. Under the adaptation category, at least 50% of funding is reserved for especially vulnerable countries, such as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and African nations. Furthermore, the GCF has created the Private Sector Facility (PSF), a dedicated channel to enhance private sector involvement and mobilise additional financing for climate-related projects and programmes.

At the national level, the private sector has encountered various challenges. A set of actions is proposed (see Table 5), which breaks down the strategies to overcome these difficulties as follows:

- Strengthen collaboration and coordination with the private sector,
- Enhance communication,
- Build the capacities of both the private sector and the government,
- Define private sector roles in supporting climate action,
- Promote direct access for national entities to funding,
- Share knowledge and ensure the sustainability of the framework.

It is important to note that the actions outlined in Table 5 form a dynamic plan that evolves based on stakeholder feedback, aiming to guide the vision toward sustainable development. This roadmap for private sector engagement in the Central African Republic is designed to cover the short, medium, and long term, with the goal of assessing current initiatives and jointly developing a new action plan. Meetings planned as part of the implementation process may result in revisions or adjustments to the action plan as work progresses.

TABLE 5: ROADMAP OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR ENGAGING THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC’S PRIVATE SECTOR WITH THE GCF

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	PERIOD		
			AN1	AN2	AN3
AXE 1: STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR					
Identify critical sectors to engage the private sector in climate action.	+ 50 companies from critical sectors are interested in climate action	Number of companies identified	X		
Involve the private sector in the NCC	The private sector is represented on the NCC	Number of institutions represented	X		
Formalise the existence of the Private Sector Platform for Climate Action	The formal private sector platform for climate action is created	Legal documents available		X	
Organise meetings and gatherings to review the regulatory framework	The regulatory framework for the private sector is strengthened	Number of enhanced frameworks	X	X	X
Promoting PPPs in the fight against climate change	Roundtables and forums are organised to promote collaboration between the Private and Public Sectors	Number of Forums and Round Tables		X	X
AXIS 2: IMPROVING COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR					
Building a database	A system for making information available is developed	Database (available)	X	X	X
Implement Communication Strategy	Strategy developed and implemented	A communication strategy available	X		
AXE 3: CAPACITY BUILDING					
		Number of modules designed		X	X

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	PERIOD		
			AN1	AN2	AN3
Strengthen the capacities of stakeholders on topics such as climate finance, climate risk management, carbon accounting, mitigation/adaptation strategies, and consequences of climate change.	Training modules are designed and available Stakeholder capacities are strengthened	Number of stakeholders trained			
Organise seminars, webinars, and training sessions on climate action issues to raise awareness and inform private sector actors	Seminars, webinars, and training sessions are organised	Several seminars, webinars and training sessions are organised		X	X
Conduct risk assessments/vulnerability analysis for the private sector and facilitate their understanding	The sector has a good knowledge of climate risks	Number of analyses performed		X	X
AXE 4: DEVELOPMENT OF READINESS TO SUPPORT PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION					
Identify readiness needs to strengthen private sector engagement in climate action	Readiness needs are identified in collaboration with the members of the platform	Number of Readiness Needs Identified		X	X
Develop Readiness to strengthen their commitment to climate action	Readiness measures to strengthen their commitment to climate action are developed	Number of Approved Readiness		X	X
AXIS 5: GCF ACCREDITATION					

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	PERIOD		
			AN1	AN2	AN3
Identify the relevant private sector project leaders eligible for the Green Climate Fund	The relevant actors from the private sector with eligible projects for the Green Climate Fund are identified	Number of projects eligible for the Green Climate Fund		X	X
Provide technical and financial support to prepare accreditation applications and facilitate the process of accessing the Green Fund	Technical and financial support to prepare accreditation applications and facilitate the process of accessing the Green Fund is provided	Number of accreditation requests submitted to the GCF		X	X
AXIS 6: KNOWLEDGE SHARING/SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FRAMEWORK					
Strengthen linkages with other regional and international initiatives to share best practices and foster continuous learning	Linkages with other regional and international initiatives are strengthened	Number of regional and international meetings related to the platform	X	X	X

VI. CONCLUSION

With the stabilisation of the security situation, CAR has significant potential to seize climate finance opportunities and would benefit from greater involvement of the private sector in climate change initiatives, particularly those involving the GCF. The main limiting factor in harnessing this opportunity stems from the lack of qualified human resources and appropriate technology for evaluating, pricing, and accounting for emissions, as well as ensuring compliance with installations and accessing innovative financing mechanisms. Climate change presents both risks and opportunities for businesses and financial institutions. Revenue streams, financial operations, and business activities are vulnerable to these climate risks. This economic vulnerability depends on the type of industry and its location, but today, most market players are experiencing its impact.

Discussions have revealed that engaging the private sector with the GCF in CAR will not be easy. Not only are the capacities of the NDA and the private sector limited, but the political and regulatory framework also requires revision to allow for effective participation from both parties.

Currently, several support mechanisms exist to boost private sector engagement in CAR, notably the readiness window and the Private Sector Facility (PSF), both of which are mechanisms provided by the GCF to help countries access funds more efficiently. Due to the financial challenges in implementing this engagement, the NDA could prioritise these two mechanisms to implement the proposed roadmap.

For the country, this presents a sustainable development financing opportunity to support climate action as part of its economic recovery.

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