Readiness Proposal

with UNDP for Central African Republic

29 January 2016 | NDA Strengthening & Country Programming
Executive Summary (in one page)

Country (or region)  Central African Republic

Submission Date  15/12/2015

NDA or Focal Point

Cross-sectoral team, represented by the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Sustainable Development (NDA)
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Readiness Area/s

- 1. Establishing and strengthening National Designated Authorities (NDAs) or Focal Points
- 2. Strategic frameworks for engagement with the Fund, including the preparation of country programmes
- 3. Selection of implementing entities or intermediaries, and support for accreditation
- 4. Initial pipelines of programme and project proposals

CAR, as a party to the UN Convention on Climate Change, has opted to submit this readiness proposal to the Green Climate Fund (the Fund) to access the readiness resources required for the country's NDA to launch the engagement process with the Fund. This engagement process will be undertaken with a view to meeting the country's mitigation requirements and also its strong needs of adaptation initiatives, given it has a low adaptive capacity and is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. For twenty years, it is facing serious military-political crises that have shaken its socioeconomic foundations and all its weakened institutional structures. This places it in an inability to use its scarce internal resources to finance activities related to strengthening the capacity of its "Designated National Authority" and the process of developing its framework for engagement with the Green Climate Fund. Therefore, it requests the support and the financial support of the Green Climate Fund.

Request Summary (in 200 words)

Anticipated Duration  11/05/2016 – 10/05/2018 (24 months)
Estimated total cost  Up to US$ 300,000
SECTION A: RATIONALE FOR REQUEST

A.1 Background

Central African Republic (CAR) is a vast country, landlocked and sparsely populated country (only 4.7 million people over an area of 623,000 km²). Despite great natural resources (e.g., a dense hydrographic system, large forest areas, huge mineral resources, etc.), the country remains one of the poorest in the world (CAR’s human development index was estimated at 0.341 in 2013). More than half of the population lives in poverty, threatened by food insecurity and lacking basic social services. Endogenous factors and geopolitical issues in particular, account for a great deal of this paradoxical situation. For the last twenty years, the CAR has been facing serious military and political crises that have shaken its socioeconomic foundations and weakened its institutional structures.

The CAR economy still relies on a primary agricultural sector with low value added and intensive use of poorly qualified and essentially rural manpower. To the various internal constraints to the country’s development, including the low level of industrialisation and the land-locked nature of the country, are added the ongoing changes in the climate, which are reflected in different impacts: slow and gradual changes in the environment, variation in the seasons and on occasions extreme climate events (floods, droughts, tropical storms etc.) that may result in natural disasters. For reasons highlighted above, the CAR has a low adaptive capacity and is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change.

In terms of response to climate change, the CAR ratified the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol in 1995 and 2008 respectively. The country also developed a number of documents that provide strategic policy guidance in the implementation of the Convention. These include:

- The national adaptation programme of action (NAPA) in 2007;
- The first and second generation Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP I and 2) for the period 2007-2011 and 2012-2016 respectively;
- The Environmental Code in 2007;
- The national programme to combat desertification and land resource degradation in 2009;
- The Environmental Policy in 2011;
- The preparatory document for the REDD + strategy and its implementation through the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) project;
- The second national communication in 2013 on the assessment of emissions by sector;
- The Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) in September 2015, which includes an adaptation component.

The CAR has neither developed its National Adaptation strategy nor its Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA). It is expected that the NAMA’s agenda will be developed with funding from the African Climate Change Fund (ACCF) and its national adaptation strategy will be developed with financing from the World Bank.

The Central African Republic nominated its National Designated Authority to the GCF in January 2015.

A.2 Justification for request

As a post-conflict country, the Central African Republic’s reconstruction needs are enormous. The country combines socio economic vulnerability, vulnerability to climate change and low adaptive capacity. This malefic combination poses severe threats to social cohesion, stability and sustainable development.

Given the Green Climate Fund is a new Fund, the country's institutions count with only a limited knowledge and understanding of the Fund, its operational modalities and investment priorities. The implementation of activity 1 will build the capacity of the NDA, across all its institutional teams, for a better understanding of the GCF processes. It will also allow the NDA to develop and sustain communications with different groups of relevant stakeholders.

Many environmental programmes that were elaborated in the past did not have a strong link with climate change and mitigation and adaptation measures. Thus, the Central African government has to present a new proposal that takes into account these new concepts and needs. Because of the critical financial situation the country is facing, however, the priorities of the government have been established on the security and the
election issues. Because of that, Central African Republic does not hold the financial and technical resources required to address strategic frameworks and develop a country programme for its strategic engagement with the GCF, and hence requires readiness support from the Fund.

SECTION B: SCOPE OF WORK

B.1 Description of activities (Please provide detailed logical framework as an annex. See Annex I for content to build from).

If consultancy service is required to undertake proposed activities, please also include a brief terms of reference of the service in this section or as an annex.

The initial phase of the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme will focus on the standardised readiness package for (i) the strengthening of the NDA (activity 1), and (ii) the development of strategic frameworks for engagement with the Fund, including the preparation of a country programme (activity 2). These activities are described below, with an initial logical framework included as Annex I.

Activity 1: Strengthening the Focal Point

Recruiting national and international experts (with good command of English language) as required to provide technical and management assistance to the NDA in order to:

1. Strengthen the knowledge and capacities of the NDA’s coordination team to fulfil its roles and responsibilities;
2. Coordinate and liaise with other ministries, relevant departments and agencies on key issues relating to the GCF, including consultations on the development of a country programme; and
3. Build the capacity of the NDA and their team to engage stakeholders and organise multi-party consultations.

The NDA may also add other activities in accordance with the Fund’s defined resource envelope and scope of work in the Standardised Package for NDA or Focal Point Strengthening, available at: http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/Accreditation/Scope_of_Work_Package_1_NDA_Strengthening.pdf.

Activity 2: Strategic Engagement Framework with the Fund

The NDA and their team will develop a country programme by undertaking a number of activities, including:

1. Identifying the government's mitigation and adaptation priorities in accordance with its strategic policy documents, other sectoral programmes and the Fund’s Initial Results Management Framework;
2. Identifying a list of programmes and projects, including public-private partnerships, consistent with the Fund’s Initial Investment Framework;
3. Organising trainings, workshops and consultations with relevant non-state actors from the civil society (including reps of indigenous people), academia and private sector (micro, small, medium enterprises) on GCF-related issues, including consultations on the development of a country programme;
4. Identifying opportunities to engage the private sector, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and to leverage their capacity to implement programming priorities;
5. Identifying the roles of prospective public and private sector entities that may be accredited by the Fund in implementing the Central African Republic's programming priorities with respect to the Fund;
6. Identifying how the GCF can build on the ongoing work of other development partners in the country, and deliver its support in a manner complementary to the efforts of other partners; and

The NDA will develop a plan to manage any conflict of interest that may arise in delivering this particular activity and may add other elements of the country program and will also undertake stakeholder consultations in a manner that is consistent with the Fund’s defined resource envelope and scope of work in the Standardised Package for Country Strategic Frameworks, available at: http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/Accreditation/Scope_of_Work_Package_2_Country_Programme.pdf.

B.2 Expected results
Activity 1: Institutional capacities of the NDA are built to effectively fulfill its roles and responsibilities in relation to the Fund.

Activity 2: Development, through a stakeholder engagement process, of a country programme to include elements provided in the Fund’s Initial general guidelines for country programmes, which will include programming priorities and programme/project concepts consistent with the Fund’s Initial results management framework and Initial investment framework.

SECTION C: BUDGET (include total cost and share of GCF funding)

Please use the separate budget template provided to detailed relevant line items.

A detailed budget will be provided with the inception report. Based on the guidance from the standardised package for activities 1 and 2, the following high-level, indicative budget breakdown is envisaged:

Activity 1 & 2 combined: US$ 300,000
- Consultants’ fees: .............................................................. US$125,000
- Consultants’ travel and per diems: ....................................... US$ 35,000
- Workshops (venue, catering, travel, per diem, materials, etc.): ...... US$ 90,000
- Other costs (including audit costs):...............................US$9,600
- Contingency:................................................................. US$ 13,200
- Project Management costs (UNDP)……………………………. US$ 27,200

Note: please refer to the Fund’s guide on indicative budgets for the standardised packages for activity 1 and activity 2.

SECTION D: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

D.1 Implementation arrangements

Please include information on delivery arrangements.

UNDP will serve as the delivery partner and will work under the leadership and guidance of the cross-sectoral team, represented by the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Sustainable Development (NDA). The NDA will have oversight of the technical aspects in implementing the programme. With the guidance of the NDA, UNDP will hire the consultants and procure other services to deliver Activity 1 and 2. The detailed implementation arrangements including the procurement plan and a detailed implementation plan will be further elaborated in the inception document.

D.2 Disbursement and implementation schedule

The funding will be transferred to UNDP, who will act a delivery partner, in three tranches:
- The first disbursement, which amounts US$ 135,000 will be transferred upon the submission of an inception document from the Focal Point to the Fund, in form and substance acceptable to the Fund, which includes detailed implementation plan, procurement plan and budget;
- The second tranche of US$ 135,000 will be transferred upon submission of an interim progress report and financial report, in form and substance acceptable to the Fund, including an certified financial statement; and
- The final disbursement of $30,000 will be made upon submission of a completion report and a certified Financial Statement on the use of Grant proceeds in form and substance acceptable to the Fund.

D.3 Procurement plan

UNDP, under the guidance of the NDA, will competitively procure services consistent with its procurement policies:
- The terms of reference of consultants will be developed under the guidance of the NDA to include the tasks outlined in the request summary above.
• Items such as venues and travel for stakeholder workshops to be organized will also be procured consistent with the UNDP, procurement policies.

Information on the process of procurement to undertake will be included in the inception document where such information can be provided in advance, and in any case, the process and the results will be included in interim progress and completion reports once such procurement has been undertaken and completed.

SECTION E: MONITORING & REPORTING PLAN

The reports to be submitted will be as per what is included in section D.2, and will include reporting against the logical framework included in annex 1

SECTION F: RISK & MITIGATION MEASURES

Please describe the expected risks (external and internal) that could influence the timing and quality of the.

The main risks are associated with the political crisis that has been going on over the last 2 years, resulting in a violent conflict that has affected the entire population of the CAR. As a mitigation measure, the start date has been slated to May 2016, after the elections. More detailed risk assessments may be made and presented in the Inception Document.
## Annex I. Logical Framework

### PROJECT SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>1. The NDA’s capacity to undertake Fund-related responsibilities and engage national stakeholders strengthened</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Strategic framework for engagement with the Fund developed</td>
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### INDICATORS

| 1.1 Capacity to coordinate across stakeholders and facilitate effective consultation and communication |
| 1.2 Knowledge on climate and finance priorities strengthened |
| 1.3 System for reviewing proposals and issuing recommendations (or no-objections) established |
| 1.4 Capacity and systems to monitor, evaluate and report on the activities of the Fund and other relevant finance mechanisms and institutions established |
| 1.5 Information, including in local languages, on procedures of the Fund to disseminated to country stakeholders |
| 2.1 Engagement of private sector, civil society, government and local government stakeholders on priorities for engagement with the fund |
| 2.2 Priorities for project and concepts to be developed for accessing the fund |
| 2.3 Country programming document developed and published in adherence with the initial guidance from the Fund |

### OUTPUTS

| 1.1 A process for supporting coordination across stakeholders and facilitating engagement (including periodic meetings / workshops) |

| 1.1.1 Write up of the coordination process, and convening schedule |
| 1.1.2 Meeting minutes and participant lists documenting engagement of at least xx groups |
| 1.2 | Annual report on activities of the Fund and other relevant funding mechanisms and institutions in the country |
| 1.3 | Information materials on the operational procedures of the Fund in local languages (where relevant) and distribution lists of recipients |

| 1.2.1 | Electronic copy of the annual report, and details of public dissemination channels |
| 1.3.1 | Links to electronic copies of presentations, information materials, climate and development information disseminated to distribution lists where relevant. |
| 1.3.2 | At least xx information materials on the fund developed and disseminated to at least xx people |

| 2.1 | Country programme, including elements provided in the Fund’s Initial Guidelines for Country Programmes |
| 2.2 | Summaries of meetings of multi-stakeholder engagement, including list of participants |

| 2.1.1 | Copy of country programme, completed using the initial guidance on country programmes prepared by the GCF secretariat |
| 2.1.2 | Background documentation on the programme, and links to public dissemination channels |
| 2.2.1 | Agendas and summaries from workshops convened as part of the country programme process |
| 2.2.2 | Short note on lessons learned from country programming, and good practices in stakeholder engagement |