



Project Information Document/ Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 23-Apr-2018 | Report No: PIDC146828

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Environmental Assessment Category	Project Name
P166648		B - Partial Assessment	Strengthening DRM Capacity in ECCAS
Region	Country	Date PID Prepared	Estimated Date of Approval
AFRICA	Central Africa	23-Apr-2018	
Financing Instrument	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency	Initiation Note Review Decision
Investment Project Financing	Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)	ECCAS DRR unit	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

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Financing (in USD Million)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	0.00
Total Financing	0.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS**B. Introduction and Context**

Country Context

Africa is highly vulnerable to natural disasters like volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and particularly meteorological and hydrological hazards such as droughts, floods, storms, and heat waves. The continent is highly exposed to industrial hazards and infectious epidemics. The incidence and severity of these events in the region have been increasing in recent years, resulting in increased economic, social and environmental damages and losses at national, local and community levels. There are concerns that climate change could exacerbate the intensity of meteorological and hydrological hazards in many parts of Africa in near future.



Vulnerabilities to natural hazards are compounded by rapidly evolving economic, social, and environmental processes.

From South Sahara in the north to the south of Angola, Central Africa region is bordered by the West-African shield in the east and by the Great Rift Valley in the west. ECCAS comprises 11-member states: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda and Sao Tome & Principe, covering a population of around 181 million inhabitants. Due to its wide geographic scope, Central Africa region is particularly vulnerable to a large variety of disaster risks such as floods, droughts, volcanic eruptions, landslides, earthquakes, sea level rise as well as fires and industrial hazards particularly linked to the petroleum and mining industry and epidemics such as malaria, cholera, and Ebola. One of the unique features of the Central Africa region is the strong link between exposure to natural hazards and environmental degradation. The high rate of deforestation increases vulnerability to the risk of floods, landslides and drought. For examples, CRED-EMDAT reported one flood in DR Congo and two in Angola causing respectively 50 and 54 deaths in 2016, while a flash flood resulted in 154 deaths in DR Congo in 2014. On the economic side, the flood in DR Congo in 2015 caused a damage and loss of US\$15 million while the economic cost of the 2008 earthquake in DR Congo has been estimated at US\$ 8 million.

ECCAS Countries are highly vulnerable to a changing climate and most disasters are climate-related with flooding being the most prevalent, Droughts have also afflicted the sub-region, severely impacting North Cameroon and Burundi in recent times. Chad has experienced the drying of rivers and lakes in recent years, most notably of Lake Chad.

Seven of the ECCAS member states are coastal (Angola, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome & Principe). In these, sea level rise poses a great risk and increases the vulnerability of people living in the coastal areas. For example, sea level rise represents a serious flooding risk for Cameroon's coastal region, and adaptation strategies are key to reduce the risk of coastal flooding. Additionally, these sea level rise affects mangrove ecosystems and can cause saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifers impacting the use of this water resource for agricultural irrigation.

Consequently, weather-related events regularly affect economic activities including transport, tourism, and agriculture. In the coming years, many Central African countries could experience more severe droughts and declines in water supply, which would put food security at stake in the region, which also exacerbates social discord, conflict and fragility.



Sectoral and Institutional Context

The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) is one of the African Union's eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Since its creation in 1983, ECCAS' mandate is the promotion of regional economic co-operation in Central Africa. It has mainly focused on regional collaboration for peace and stability in the region, which remains a major challenge. The community aims to achieve collective autonomy, raise the standard of living of its populations and maintain economic stability through harmonious cooperation.

The aim of ECCAS as stated in Article 4 of the ECCAS Treaty is to “promote and strengthen harmonious cooperation and balanced and self-sustaining development in the fields of economic and social activity, in particular in the fields of industry, transport and communication, energy, agriculture, natural resources, trade, customs, monetary and financial issues, human resources, tourism, education, skills development, culture, science and technology and the movement of people with a view to achieving collective self-reliance, raising the standard of living of the population, increasing and maintaining economic stability, strengthening the close peaceful relations between the Member States, and contributing to progress and development of the African continent”.

With the help of its development partners (EU, AfDB, AU, UNISDR, UNOCHA, WB), ECCAS is investing in programs that should help accelerate regional integration in Africa as per the objectives “ECCAS Strategic Vision 2025”, adopted in October 2007 by the 13th Conference of ECCAS Head of States and Governments in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. In particular, regarding the environment, ECCAS pursues the overall objective of taking advantage and enhancing the regional natural resources to increase their contribution and added value in the respective national economic development in a sustainable and climate-resilient manner, and to improve decision-making through the observation of ecosystems and climate variability. Because of the importance of the Congo Basin, the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) is the main body responsible for the conservation and sustainable management of the forest ecosystems and savannas of this basin.

In addition, ECCAS has the mandate to lead the general political dialogue on disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change. Its recently created DRM and CCA unit, thanks to the ACP-EU Result 2 Program, is housed in the Department of Physical, Economic and Monetary Integration (DIPEM). Its capacity remains very weak with only one staff coordinator for the unit and a technical assistant funded by UNISDR. Disaster Risk Management is one of the twelve strategic areas of the ECCAS General Policy on environment and natural resources management. Important formulations on DRM have been enshrined in ECCAS policy or strategic frameworks: The “ECCAS Strategic Vision 2025” addresses 3 strategic priorities: (i) the assessment and early warning for the management of natural and manmade disasters, (ii) the fight against climate change, and (iii) the fight against desertification, drought and land degradation.

In June 2012, in line with the AU/NEPAD (New Partnership for African Development) and the Africa strategy for DRR and Plan of Action, a regional strategy “Central Africa Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation (SRPRGC)”, was adopted by the Ministers in charge of DRR, and



a framework for action for the DRR regional strategy implementation was developed. In 2015, ECCAS has aligned its Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation Plan to the four priorities of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030: (i) Understanding disaster risk (ii) Strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk (iii) Investing in DRR for resilience, (iv) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The Strategy was adopted by ECCAS Member states during the 3rd DRR Conference of Ministers in October 2017.

Nonetheless remaining key regional challenges are still to be addressed, such as: identification of regional and national hazards and vulnerabilities and related risk, development and harmonization of DRM legal frameworks, improvement of DRR and climate change integration into sectoral policies, and reinforcing capacities on post-disaster needs assessment and recovery framework.

Relationship to CPF

The project is aligned with the World Bank Africa Strategy (“Striving towards disaster resilient development in SSA – Strategic Framework 2016-2020”, World Bank, 2016 and “Africa’s future and the World Bank’s support to it”, World Bank, 2011), which address vulnerability and resilience. The strategy emphasizes building resilience to the negative effects of climate change and natural disasters. It further identifies the need for “enhancing the ability of African countries to cope with current climate variability.” This response is centered around having better understanding of risks and vulnerability, strengthening the capacity for managing disaster risks, improving preparedness and early warning systems, mainstreaming risk reduction in all development policy, programs and investments, and establishing effective risk financing strategies.

C. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The development objective is to strengthen DRM coordination, planning and policy advisory capacity of the ECCAS through regional collaboration and knowledge dissemination capacity of ECCAS. The project will accelerate the effective implementation of a comprehensive disaster risk reduction and risk management framework in the ECCAS region.

Key Results

The project expects to achieve the following results:

1. Enhanced regional knowledge on natural hazards and risk information
2. DRM Capacities on are strengthened at national and regional for DRR/CCA mainstreaming (including mainstreaming gender, Indigenous Peoples and traditional local communities and occupational safety aspects) in national strategies and plans.
3. Regional DRR policy dialogue is reinforced and national strategies, policies and plans of action aligned with the Sendai Framework for DRR



4. Regional capacities are improved to support post disaster needs assessments and recovery/reconstruction planning
5. Implementation and coordination capacity at the ECCAS Secretariat is strengthened

D. Preliminary Description

Activities/Components

The project is part of the European Union (EU) Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) cooperation program “**Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities**”, so-called “Building Disaster Resilience in SSA” financed under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF). The overall objective of this program is to **strengthen the resilience of sub-Saharan African regions, countries and communities to the impacts of natural disasters**, including the potential impacts of climate change, to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. To achieve this objective, five Result areas[1] were identified, to be implemented by several partners, including the African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), managed by the World Bank.

Result area 2 – “*R2 - African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have disaster risk reduction (DRR) coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective member states and regional and sub-regional programs*” – is implemented by the GFDRR through an additional EU contribution of EUR 20 million to the ongoing “ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Single Donor Trust Fund (SDTF) in its regional/sub-regional component (Window 1), with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa.

The **specific objective** of Result 2 is to **strengthen and accelerate the effective implementation of an African comprehensive disaster risk reduction and risk management framework at regional level**. This will be achieved by providing targeted support to African RECs to strengthen their capacities for improved coordination, planning, policy advisory and knowledge dissemination to advance the regional Disaster Risk Management (DRM) agenda and better support their respective member states in taking informed decisions in building resilience to disasters. Activities are supporting and are aligned with the strategic approach articulated by the AUC’s Program of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa - *PoA*, the RECs strategies and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Special attention will be given to indigenous peoples and local communities who are especially vulnerable to, and disproportionately impacted by, climate change and natural disasters. They also play an important role in climate mitigation and adaptation. The role for traditional/local knowledge is also to be included in such strategies as stipulated in the Sendai Framework.

Result 2 is targeting four African RECs, namely the **Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS)**; the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**; the **Intergovernmental Authority on**



Development (IGAD); the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as well as their key partners such as African universities and research centers, river basin authorities or technical organizations.

The ECCAS specific project will be implemented in two phases - the first phase is from the effectiveness of this Grant till December 31, 2019 and the second phase will be from 1st January 2019 to 31 December 2019. This Recipient-Executed grant complements an existing Bank-Executed project (P154341). The Bank-Executed project has the same components as the Recipient-Executed but implements different complementary activities under the same program. The total budget available for ECCAS activities is US\$ 5 million among which US\$ 2,205,000 will be Recipient Executed.

The following section describes the five components of the project with corresponding budget and the respective implementation as Recipient (including phase 1 for the present project) and Bank executed activities.

Component 1: Regional Hazards/vulnerability identification and Risk mapping (RE US\$200,000 with no allocation in phase 1; BE US\$620,000)

This component will first provide ECCAS with a regional hazards/vulnerability identification and risks mapping with a focus on major trans-boundary hazards. A geoportal “Water and Disaster risks” combining the ECCAS Water Information System and the regional risk information database will be developed as well as a regional Atlas. A pilot project will be further developed to address trans-boundary flood risks, including EWS and a Contingency Planning simulation.

Intermediate Result Indicators:

- A Database is developed and uploaded, and geo portal is operational, and atlas published
- A Regional validation workshop has been organized
- At least one contingency plan for transboundary flood risks is developed
- ECCAS Expert is trained on Geoportal and GIS

Component 2: Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Change Adaptation (DRR/CCA) (RE US\$580,000 including phase 1: US\$430,000; BE US\$960,000)

This component will mainly provide support to ECCAS in (i) reinforcing member states capacity building and institutional strengthening ensuring that member states capacity on DRM/CCA is enhanced and awareness is raised to improving DRM measures implementation, (ii) building regional practice research and capacity building collaboration with Academic/Technical centers of excellence, including internships for students, (iii) creating a DRM/CCA website page to strengthen communication on DRR on the ECCAS, develop communication tools, and (iv) supporting Gender mainstreaming of ECCAS Gender Action Plan in the DRR/CCA plan of Action.

Intermediate Result Indicators:



- At least 3 students have done internships within ECCAS HQ
- At least 8 countries have received support on office equipment and human capacity improvement and training for users
- Training modules on DRM and CCA are developed and conducted for ECCAS Sct and MS
- Communication tools and developed and disseminated, Social media communication campaigns are developed
- A web site page for DRM/CCA is developed
- At least 5 ECCAS FP have been facilitated on knowledge exchange missions for national platform or coordination mechanisms
- Gender action plan mainstreamed in national strategies and plans

Component 3: Strengthening of Policy Dialogue and legislation on DRM (RE US\$425,000 including phase 1: US\$265,000; BE US\$650,000).

The component will include the review of national and regional policies and legislations on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to promote regional harmonization and coordination at regional level. Workshops and seminars on sensitization of ECCAS Parliamentary Network for Disaster Resilience (REPARC) will be organized to promote DRR in National legislations; an ECCAS Hydromet Forum will be organized; and Central Africa DRR Platform events will also be organized under this component.

Intermediate Result Indicators:

- An action plan for modernization of hydromet services at regional and national levels is developed
- At least 4 countries have their strategies drafted or aligned to SF
- REPARC is reinforced and DRM advocacy is made in MS national parliaments

Component 4: Enhance Regional Capacity for Preparedness, Response & Post Disaster Assessment and Recovery/Reconstruction Planning (RE US\$200,000 including phase 1: US\$100,000; BE US\$563,000)

The component will consist of enhancing ECCAS coordination capacities thru training national sectoral experts on assessment, planning and coordination of post-disaster needs and recovery framework, develop national contingency plans and undertake a study on ECCAS Regional and Member States' hydromet and flood/drought Early warning systems and services.

Intermediate Result Indicators:

- At least 4 PDNA/DRF trainings have been undertaken
- At least 2 countries have developed National contingency plans and validated it
- A detailed Regional Technical Report is produced on HydroMet EWS institutions and capacities and a clear set of recommendations for strengthening is provided



Component 5: Implementation technical and coordination capacity at the ECCAS Secretariat is strengthened (RE US\$802,000 *including phase 1: US\$470,000*)

- The component will include the general administrative costs of the Project Implementation Unit, staffing and equipment, including a Senior DRM Specialist, an Administrative and Financial Specialist, a Procurement Specialist, an Accountant, a DRM Junior expert and a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist.

Intermediate Result Indicators:

- The PIU is set up and operational
- Trainings for Administrative and Financial Specialist and a Procurement Specialist have been undertaken

[1] R1 - Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction operational (PoA). To be implemented by the AUC and the UNISDR.

R2 - African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective member states and regional and sub-regional programs. To be implemented by the GFDRR.

R3 - Core capacities of the specialized national and Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) are improved, to meet the needs of DRM agencies and socio-economic sectors for effective use of weather and climate services and Community-focused and real-time Early Warning Systems (EWS). To be implemented by the AfDB.

R4 - African countries have improved knowledge of risks through, the compilation of historical disaster related data to inform the assessment and modelling of future risks. To be implemented by the UNISDR.

R5 – Multi-risk financing strategies are developed at regional, national and local levels to help African countries make informed decisions and to mitigate the socio-economic, fiscal and financial impacts of disasters. To be implemented by the GFDRR.

SAFEGUARDS

E. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	X		



Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		X	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		X	
Pest Management OP 4.09		X	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		X	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		X	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		X	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		X	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		X	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		X	

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