Early Warning System

WB-P508320

Central African Power Pool Regional Interconnection and Access (CAPP-RIA) - Phase 1

Quick Facts

Countries	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Republic of, Gabon
Specific Location	Central African region: Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Gabon, Republic of Congo, and Cameroon
Financial Institutions	World Bank (WB)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	A
Voting Date	2026-12-07
Borrower	CAPP Secretariat; Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation; and others
Sectors	Energy, Infrastructure
Investment Type(s)	Grant, Loan
Loan Amount (USD)	$ 167.50 million
Grant Amount (USD)	$ 113.00 million
Project Cost (USD)	$ 280.50 million

Project Description

According to the Bank’s website, the objective of this project is to (i) increase regional electricity trade in Central Africa, and (ii) increase access to electricity in participating countries.

The proposed Central African Power Pool Regional Interconnection and Access (CAPP-RIA) Program is a Multi-Phase Programmatic Approach (MPA) operation that aims to expand regional electricity trade and increase access to electricity services in the Central African region. Supporting the establishment of a regional electricity market will enhance energy security, reduce costs of electricity supply and improve the resilience of the energy system. CAPP-RIA comprises two phases that focus on three thematic pillars: 1) augmenting regional integration, 2) expanding electricity access, and 3) strengthening institutional capacity.

Over the next 10 years, CAPP-RIA will support regional integration in Central Africa through investments and technical assistance in developing the regional transmission network, reinforcing and expanding national and cross-border transmission and distribution systems, and strengthening the enabling institutional and regulatory environment for efficient power trade. Phase 1 includes preparing and implementing on-grid access projects in the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Gabon, Republic of Congo, and Cameroon, as well as Medium-Voltage (MV) cross-border projects. It also involves pre-investment studies for High-Voltage (HV) interconnections. The estimated budget for the first phase is US$330.5 million. For Phase 1, the CAPP Secretariat will be the implementing agency for the technical assistance aspects of the project whilst the national power utilities in the involved countries shall execute the on-grid access and MV cross-border investments.

Early Warning System Project Analysis

The program Environmental Risk is considered **high** due to its large scale, cross-border nature, diverse ecosystems, and the range of natural resources potentially impacted by project activities. These environmental concerns are typical for regional power interconnection efforts, highlighting the need for comprehensive assessment and mitigation planning. All five beneficiary countries are contiguous Central African states and members of the Congo Basin Forest, recognized for his unique and rich biodiversity. The program will operate nationally across urban, peri urban, rural, and forested border regions. In Phase 1, Technical Assistance (TA) will address high voltage (HV) transmission lines, which could have several downstream environmental effects, as early decisions on routing, corridor width, and technology choices may lock in future impacts on biodiversity, land use, and ecosystems. Phase 1 also funds medium- and low-voltage (MV/LV) distribution investments and household connections, choosing from vetted sub-projects. Future HV corridors (Phase 2/3) and associated facilities imply large right of way clearing and associated impacts on vegetation, fauna, landscapes, land acquisition, pollution risks, community resettlement, cumulative environmental issues, and transboundary effects.

Key social risks include: (i) land acquisition and economic or physical displacement, potentially complicated by customary land tenure systems; (ii) impacts on vulnerable groups, including risks of exclusion and livelihood insecurity; (iii) labor influx risks, such as pressure on local services, GBV/SEA/SH risks, and community–worker tensions; (iv) potential impacts on cultural heritage; and (v) community health and safety risks related to construction activities, traffic, and work sites. Under Phase 1, the MPA will finance project preparation and Environmental and Social (E&S) studies for high voltage transmission lines. An assessment of the Project Management Unit indicates no prior experience with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). Given the limited institutional capacity and the nature of anticipated risks, the project's social risk rating is **High**.

Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)

Total Project Cost: US$ 280.50 million
IDA Credit: US$ 113.50 million
IDA Grant: US$ 113.00 million
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development: US$ 54.00 million

Contact Information

CONTACT POINT - World Bank

Task Team Leader: Momodou A K Njie
Title: Senior Energy Specialist
Email: maknjie@worldbank.org

TTL Contact: Anna Aghababyan
Job Title: Senior Operations Officer
Email: aaghababyan@worldbank.org

TTL Contact: Monyl Toga
Title: Senior Energy Specialist
Email: mtogamakang@worldbank.org

TTL Contact: Yang Liu
Title: Senior Energy Specialist
Email: yliu41@worldbank.org

TTL Contact: Daniel Camos Daurella
Title: Senior Energy Specialist
Email: dcamos@worldbank.org

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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Bank Documents

- Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) - Central African Power Pool Regional Interco
- Concept Project Information Document (PID)
- Official Documents- Agreement for Advance No. V5680-CG.pdf (English)
- Official Documents- Disbursement and Financial Information Letter for No. V5680-CG.pdf (English)
- Western and Central Africa - WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA- P508320- Central African Power Pool Regiona