Early Warning System

WB-P512158

Central Africa Regional Digital Integration Program

Quick Facts

Countries	Central African Republic, Congo, Republic of, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon
Financial Institutions	World Bank (WB)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	A
Voting Date	2027-04-12
Borrower	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), and others
Sectors	Communications, Infrastructure
Investment Type(s)	Grant, Loan
Loan Amount (USD)	$ 213.01 million
Grant Amount (USD)	$ 52.50 million
Project Cost (USD)	$ 265.51 million

Project Description

According to the Bank’s website, the CARDIP MPA program development objective (PrDO) is: 'Increase the use of affordable internet and digital services, and integrate digital markets in participating countries.

The Central Africa Regional Digital Integration Program (CARDIP) is a multi-phase programmatic approach (MPA) that aims to accelerate digital transformation and deepen regional integration by addressing key constraints in connectivity, digital adoption, and fragmented markets across Central Africa. Its Program Development Objective is to increase affordable internet access and use of digital services, and integrate digital markets in participating countries. To achieve this, CARDIP supports coordinated investments in resilient and affordable broadband infrastructure - including cross-border connectivity - while strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks, data governance, and cybersecurity to enable trusted data exchange and interoperability.

Crucially, the program places a strong emphasis on driving digital adoption by expanding the availability and usability of high-impact digital services, scaling Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) such as digital ID, payments, and data exchange platforms, and investing in digital skills, awareness, and user-centric design to ensure that individuals, businesses, and governments not only have access to connectivity but are able and incentivized to use digital technologies productively. The program places strong emphasis on inclusion, ensuring that underserved populations - particularly women, youth, rural communities, and refugees and host communities - can access connectivity, build relevant skills, and translate digital access into tangible economic opportunities and improved access to services.

Early Warning System Project Analysis

The environmental risk of Phase 1 of the Central Africa Regional Digital Integration Program (CARDIP) is rated **Substantial**, reflecting the combination of physical digital infrastructure investments and the sensitive and capacity-constrained contexts of the participating countries (Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon). Phase 1 will finance terrestrial backbone and cross-border connectivity, network redundancy, and foundational digital infrastructure, which entail construction-related activities that may result in land disturbance, vegetation clearing, waste and e-waste generation, localized air and noise pollution, and occupational health and safety risks. These risks are heightened by the region's high environmental sensitivity, including extensive tropical forests and biodiversity-rich ecosystems, as well as FCV conditions particularly in the Central African Republic where baseline data, access, and environmental oversight are often limited. In addition, uneven institutional capacity for environmental management and contractor supervision, combined with the multi-country and cross-border nature of the investments, increases the likelihood of cumulative and coordination-related environmental risks during early implementation.

The social risk associated with the Central Africa Regional Digital Integration Program (CARDIP) is assessed as **Substantial**. This rating reflects the combination of (i) the fragile and conflict-affected contexts in which the project will be implemented; (ii) the regional, multi-country nature of the operation; (iii) the scale and geographic dispersion of infrastructure investments; (iv) significant capacity constraints among Borrowers and implementing agencies; and (v) the presence of vulnerable populations, including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), women, youth, and marginalized rural communities. These risks include potential for social exclusion, risks associated with moderate labor influx into vulnerable communities including SEA/SH, economic and physical displacement, and labor issues.

Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)

Total Project Cost: US$ 265.51 million
World Bank Group Financing:
Loan: US$ 213.01 million
Grant: US$ 52.50 million

Contact Information

CONTACT POINT - World Bank

Task Team Leader: Camila Mejia Giraldo
Title: Senior Digital Specialist
Email: cmejiagiraldo@worldbank.org

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Bank Documents

- Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) - Central Africa Regional Digital Integration
- Concept Project Information Document (PID)