

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC18730

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Central African Republic	Project ID:	P156721
Project Name:	Central African Republic REDD+ Readiness (P156721)		
Task Team Leader(s):	Emeran Serge M. Menang Evouna		
Estimated Board Date:			
Managing Unit:	GEN07		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	3.80	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source		Amount	
Borrower		0.00	
Readiness Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility		3.80	
Total		3.80	
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

The development objective is the design of a socially and environmentally sound national REDD+ strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to inform the development of a national reference emission level for REDD+.

C. Project Description

This REDD+ Readiness Preparation grant will provide financing for several of the major components of the R-PP to ensure a basic level of REDD+ Readiness. The R-PP approved by the FCPF in May 2013 is organized into six sections: 1) Organization and Consultation; 2) Development of the national REDD+ strategy; 3) Development of a baseline scenario; 4) Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Systems; 5) Budget and Timeline, and; 6) Monitoring Plan and Productive

Measurement Framework. Other partners are supporting key aspects of these elements (notably the EU and FAO on MRV and assessment of strategic options), however some budget is allocated to each aspect of REDD+ readiness to complement planned activities. Table 1 presents a consolidated view of funding under this grant for activities across the main sections as outlined in the R-PP. Activities to be financed by the proposed grant are explained in more detail below.

The evolution of REDD+ in the Central African Republic has been informed by past experience, including development and conservation projects, the development of the protected areas, the development of the R-PP, and the evolution of international dialogue about REDD+ over the past years. While the FCPF financing is not enough to cover all of the activities envisaged in the R-PP, it will be used to implement key components which represent strategic entry points to building capacity in certain areas. Other sources of funding from bilateral donors are being identified and will be used to enhance the ongoing activities. Particular attention will be given to the development of the institutional and governance framework for REDD+ readiness.

Resources from the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) will be used to develop a National Investment Framework for the implementation of activities that address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the CAR. Preparation resources of US\$ 1 million were agreed upon by CAFI's Executive Board on February 22 2016, and will be used complementarily to the readiness resources of this grant to identify strategic investments that are consistent with the national REDD+ strategy. Maximum effort will be used to harmonize the different resources so as not to duplicate work, while at the same time being consistent with the particular objectives of each funding source. Appropriate fiduciary mechanisms will be established in order to allow for clear and effective monitoring of the different resources. More details on the activities for CAFI preparation resources for the CAR are found in Annexes C and D.

Readiness Preparation Activity Components

Component 1: Institutional Arrangements for REDD+ Readiness (US\$ 1.3M). This activity corresponds to sections 1a and 1c of the R-PP. This component will support the structures that will lead the coordination and implementation of the REDD+ Readiness process in CAR. Notably this will include support for the operationalization and functioning of the REDD+ Technical Coordination agency (CT REDD+), including the hiring of staff and technical specialists; operational and travel costs; personnel management tools and training; office supplies (including computers), furniture and maintenance; technical trainings and other capacity building; communications. Support for institutional arrangements of the national strategy preparation process aims to complete the operationalization of the proposed entities responsible for REDD+ readiness process and also enable the implementation of the process of consultation and stakeholder participation. Component 1 activities are grouped into two sub-components.

Sub-component 1.1 - Support for governance structures for national REDD+ strategy development. This activity will provide resources for holding regular sessions of the National REDD+ Committee chaired by the Ministry of Planning, Economy and International Cooperation, (MEPCI) Inter Prefectural Committees at the sub-national level, and strengthening financial and technical functions of the REDD+ Technical Coordination agency. This activity will support the recruitment of technical consultants, fiduciary management consultants and the procurement of goods and materials to enable proper functioning of the CT REDD+. This activity will also support audits and monitoring and evaluation of the grant.

Sub-component 1.2 - Support for consultation and participation processes. This activity will support

the implementation of consultation and participation processes for REDD+ readiness. Resources will be used to strengthen the inclusive and participatory nature of the REDD + process in the CAR by funding the consultation and communication plans and the plan for capacity building of stakeholders (National Committee, Technical Coordination, Platform of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples and private sector). Specific actions will be funded to strengthen the integration of the gender approach and also ensure greater engagement of vulnerable groups and the private sector involved in REDD+ issues as a key partner in the implementation of development actions.

Sub-component 1.3 - Support for the design of a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism. During the Readiness preparation phase, numerous questions, inquiries, and grievances may arise about the REDD+ Readiness strategy and the process of developing it (i.e. process of consultation and participation processes). The consultative part of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) should help to identify issues and stakeholders and provide a forum for discussion. Nevertheless it is deemed important that during the Readiness preparation phase, effective mechanisms and capacity will need to be put in place to address grievances that may arise, and build the base for future forest investments. This will be done in alignment with the objectives identified in the RPBA under Pillar 1: Support peace, reconciliation and security, notably on the implementation of national mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of civil conflicts.

Component 2: Support for preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy (US\$ 2.5M), this activity corresponds to sections 2a, 2b and 3 of the R-PP. This component aims to supplement the actions already undertaken by the CAR and its partners in the process of building the national REDD+ strategy. Resources will be used to finance additional studies to deepen the understanding of strategic options for addressing the deforestation and forest degradation and conduct a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of the proposed policy options including the development of an Environmental and Social Management Framework. This component will also support and supplement, in synergy with the other technical and financial partners, the activities leading up to the proposal of a reference emissions level compliant with international requirements in this area. It is organized into three sub-components. To the extent possible these activities will be bundled into one or several large contracts to reduce the transaction costs of multiple procurement processes and to maintain consistent between the different outputs.

Sub-component 2.1 - Analysis of strategic options to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. This activity will finance analytical studies on addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in order to inform the national REDD+ strategy. This will improve the understanding of the dynamics of developing agricultural and livestock activities at national level, to better understand the pressures such as the issues associated with fuelwood as well as the development of the mining sector. Additionally, analysis will be conducted to better understand how to increase the economic performance of the forestry sector so that it can contribute to sustainable economic growth and development that provides local and national benefits in line with recommendations from the Forest Sector Policy Note. A full list of the studies to be carried out can be found in Annex D.

Sub-component 2.2 - Development of an environmental and social management framework adapted to REDD+-This activity will finance the preparation of a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) of the strategic options of the national REDD+ strategy with all the instruments that will be used in the implementation of this strategy. The activity will also finance analyses and studies for the establishment of benefit sharing mechanism for potential revenues from REDD+ and will also be used to develop a feedback and grievance redress mechanism to handle complaints that

might arise from the implementation of REDD+ activities in the country.

Sub-component 2.3 - Support for the development of a national Reference Emissions Level (REL)
 ➤ (This activity will be used to complement actions already undertaken by the REDD+ Technical Coordination agency as well as all technical and financial partners for the development of a REL.

D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

This activity is a predominantly a technical assistance activity that will not involve localized investments. The focus on consultations and future planning will focus on the Prefectures with the most significant forest cover, namely: Southwest, Southeast, and North.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

Borrowers institutional capacity for implementing safeguards is weak, as is overall implementing capacity. The Bank team will reinforce this capacity through a capacity strengthening program that is an integral part of the overall implementation support.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Cheikh A. T. Sagna (GSU01)

Erik Reed (GEN07)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>In line with the nature of the REDD+ Readiness preparation activities, the Government of Central African Republic will use a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) as the applicable safeguards approach. The strength of the SESA for REDD+ is that it will combine analytical work and consultation in an iterative fashion to inform the preparation of the REDD+ strategy. The SESA will help ensure compliance with the Bank's safeguard policies by integrating key environmental and social considerations relevant to REDD+ including all those covered by the safeguard policies.</p> <p>The SESA will help the Government of Central African Republic formulate its REDD+ strategy in a way that reflects inputs from key stakeholder groups and addresses the main environmental and social issues identified. The SESA will be accompanied by an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) as a distinct output, which provides a framework for managing and mitigating the environmental and social risk related to investments and carbon finance transactions in the context of the future implementation of REDD+. Certain future REDD+ investments will still require</p>

		specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), but these will benefit from the SESA and ESMF, which will include standard methods and procedures, along with appropriate institutional arrangements for screening, preparing, reviewing, implementing and monitoring specific ESMPs to prevent adverse impacts as well as cumulative impacts.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	This policy seeks to ensure that all options proposed in the National REDD+ Strategy should take into account the conservation of biodiversity, as well as the numerous environmental services and products that natural habitats provide to human society. Overall, REDD+ activities are expected to have significant positive impacts on natural habitats, as the country puts in place an effective strategy to reduce loss of natural forests. The SESA will address issues related to natural habitats and potential impacts of the National REDD+ Strategy.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	Overall, REDD+ activities are expected to have significant positive impacts on forests, in that the main goal of the program is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, while contributing to the well-being of forest-dependent communities. Potential impact of the National REDD+ Strategy on natural forests will be assessed through the SESA and included in the ESMF. The SESA and associated ESMF will reflect the requirements of the Bank's Operational Policy regarding forest management, in particular as these relate to the establishment of plantations.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	This project involves planning and technical assistance, and will not directly involve any pest management activities. Nevertheless, the ESMF and SESA will address potential pest management needs in subsequent (post-project) REDD+ follow-up activities involving forestry plantations or agricultural intensification.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	This project does not include civil works and no physical cultural resources are anticipated to be affected. Nevertheless, the ESMF and SESA will provide criteria and procedures for properly addressing physical cultural resources (including sacred forests, trees, and shrubs) in future REDD+ implementation activities.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP	Yes	It is possible that some of the activities to be

4.10		implemented as part of the National REDD+ Strategy would take place in areas inhabited by Indigenous Peoples. This policy underscores the need for the government of the Republic of Central African Republic to identify Indigenous Peoples in the project area, consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner at each stage of project preparation and implementation, and ensure that they participate in, and benefit from, REDD+ activities. Adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples will be avoided. Drawing on the SESA, an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework will be prepared, and integrated into the ESMF.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/ BP 4.12	Yes	This project does not plan to undertake on-the-ground investments that would involve involuntary land acquisition and/or new restrictions of access to protected forest areas. However, all project-supported land use and forest conservation planning activities will take measures to avoid involuntary resettlement or adverse social impacts upon forest-based livelihoods to the extent feasible, consistent with the guidance provided by OP 4.12 during up REDD+ implementation. Through the SESA process, any issues related to land acquisition or involuntary resettlement will be identified and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared. In terms of restriction to natural resources a Process Framework (PF) will be prepared to account for any eventual restriction of access to natural resources of protected areas.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The REDD+ activities do not involve the construction of new or use of existing dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The REDD+ activities do not involve international waterways.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/ BP 7.60	No	The REDD+ activities under this project do not involve disputed areas between countries, as defined in OP 7.60.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 29-Dec-2018

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing¹ should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:

It is anticipated that the SESA and ESMF studies and activities will be launched within the first 12 months of the projects effectiveness and be developed by the end of 2018

IV. APPROVALS

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.

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<i>Approved By:</i>		
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