

### Regional Indicative Programme for Central Africa Region 2014-2020

The Central African region refers to the geographical zone made by member states of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), namely Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad and São Tomé and Príncipe.

Regarding the indicative financial resources for the period 2014-2020, an amount of EUR 350 million is planned.

| Financial Overview  |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Component 1: Regional Political Stability and democratic governance</b>  | <b>43 MEUR</b>  |
| <i>SO1: To develop the planning and management capacity of the Secretariat to increase the commitment of ECCAS in conflict prevention and crisis management and increase its cooperation with international institutions in the field</i> | 13 MEUR         |
| <i>SO2: Reducing structural factors of instability in the region</i>  | 30 MEUR         |
| <b>Component 2: Trade and economic integration (including economic infrastructure)</b>  | <b>211 MEUR</b> |
| <i>SO1: Strengthening the capacity of regional institutions to ensure the construction of an integrated regional market and the implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) accompanying measures</i>                      | 26 MEUR         |
| <i>SO2: Strengthening the capacity of national authorities to implement at national level, and give effect to the decisions taken at regional and multilateral levels to stimulate trade and consolidate markets</i>                      | 30 MEUR         |
| <i>SO3: Improving the functioning and interconnection of regional economic infrastructure networks (transport, energy, ICT)</i>   | 155 MEUR        |
| <b>Component 3: Sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity</b>  | <b>88 MEUR</b>  |
| <i>SO1: Increased sustainable management of natural resources</i>   | 28 MEUR         |
| <i>SO2: More effective conservation of biodiversity and fragile ecosystems</i>  | 60 MEUR         |
| <b>Other support measures – Technical cooperation</b>   | <b>8 MEUR</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>350 MEUR</b> |

#### Component 1: Regional Political Stability and democratic governance

SO1: to develop the planning and management capacity of the Secretariat to increase the commitment of ECCAS in conflict prevention and crisis management and increase its cooperation with international institutions in the field.

Budget: 13 MEUR

Activities:

- The General Secretariat of ECCAS mobilize the human resources needed to achieve the goal and make the necessary recruitment. including the leadership of the Department of human integration, peace, security, stability (DIHPSS);
- The General Secretariat of ECCAS develop and propose texts relating to the revision of the Council for Peace and Security protocol (COPAX);
- The General Secretariat of ECCAS redefine the missions and will restart the work within the Committee of Ambassadors to strengthen dialogue with Member States;
- The General Secretariat of ECCAS introduce international standards in terms of administrative, financial and human resources;
- The General Secretariat of ECCAS seek synergies and complementarities with the Pan-African level and intra-ACP, especially with the Peace Facility for Africa for example regarding the operationalization of the Multinational Force of Central Africa (FOMAC) and strengthening the terms of cooperation and coordination with the African Union;

## SO2: Reducing structural factors of instability in the region

Budget 30 MEUR

### Activities:

- The capacity of national administrations are strengthened and enable the effective implementation of ECCAS strategies in the Framework Agreement for peace, security and cooperation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the region;
- States subject to strong tension or crisis situations are supported to ensure the security of their territories and their populations. This component will contribute significantly to the implementation of the national control system for illegal hunting in Central Africa, to its migration policy as in the fight against drug trafficking, the fight against money laundering and trafficking of small arms;
- The capacity of national authorities in charge of maritime safety and the fight against illegal fishing are strengthened.

## Component 2: Trade and economic integration (including economic infrastructure)

SO1: Strengthening the capacity of regional institutions to ensure the construction of an integrated regional market and the implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) accompanying measures.

Budget: 26 MEUR

### Activities:

- Establish and maintain a dialogue and cooperation to develop measures to identify and compensate, including tax reforms, possible revenue losses caused by the elimination or substantial reduction of customs duties provided for in the agreement;
- Drive the negotiations of a comprehensive economic partnership agreement for its early conclusion and propose the necessary economic reforms to facilitate the achievement of the EPA objectives and promote its ownership by the states as well as the emergence of a shared regional vision (government, private sector, civil society, etc.).
- Capacities of CEMAC and ECCAS to conduct actions are reinforced (strengthening analytical capacity and negotiations on trade, internal compliance standards and procedures with international standards of governance);
- The free trade area (FTA) at ECCAS is effective, allowing better movement of goods and increased intra-regional trade.
- CEMAC Customs Union is consolidated, to accompany the process of liberalization of intra-Community trade.
- Access of Central African goods and services to international markets, particularly the EU, is facilitated. In this context, the master plan for developing services and regional policies to accompany economic integration, especially in the fields of vocational training, industry, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and transport are also implemented.

SO2: Strengthening the capacity of national authorities to implement at national level, and give effect to the decisions taken at regional and multilateral levels to stimulate trade and consolidate markets

Budget: 30 MEUR

### Activities:

- Encourage the structuring and upgrading processors (particularly those contributing to the development of the green economy, including wood industry) so that they can meet European market requirements and support towards higher added value production;
- Improving the quality of infrastructure to enable companies to comply with standards, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and thus deal with technical barriers to trade;

- Accompany the courses in the identification and exploitation of niche markets in the EU market in order to promote exports. The support will include the development of marketing strategies and channels on search strategies and market development for specialized and distinctive products of Central Africa;
- Promote public-private partnerships in developing a common regulatory framework at the regional level, to be transposed into national contexts, and contributing to exchanges of best practices.
- Improve the legal and judicial security of the productive sector and promote greater independence and efficiency of the judiciary.
- Support activities to encourage market entry, via the increase in the number of registered businesses and general investments. The focus will be on supporting businesses to move from the informal to the formal sector through the Organization for the Harmonization in Africa of Business Law (OHADA) activities at regional and national levels.
- Making tax systems favorable to investment and inclusive growth. This will be to promote tax reforms needed to trade openness, including by broadening the tax base;
- The priority productive sectors are more competitive, allowing an upgrade of enterprises and improving the quality of infrastructure so in overall terms the business climate has improved.

SO3: Improving the functioning and interconnection of regional economic infrastructure networks.

Budget: 155 MEUR

Activities:

**Transport infrastructure:**

- The establishment of a regional system of land transit. This will include supporting the harmonization of taxation for the use of road corridors (particularly favoring the transit of goods to landlocked countries). This could also include the development of a system of single checkpoints to simplify border crossing procedures, and ensure smooth and rationalization in road services.
- Modernization of the transport sector, including the establishment of a regional regulatory framework for freight transport companies, by harmonizing highway codes, standards harmonization and signaling practices and support the implementation of innovative practices. The support could target the association of road maintenance fund for Central Africa (ARMFA).
- The sustainable management of transport on priority corridors by, among others, the establishment of a regional observatory of road transport on abnormal practices.
- Strengthening the administrative and regulatory framework of inland waterway transport in order to promote sustainable exploitation of inland waterways, where appropriate in conjunction with infrastructure development projects. Technical support could target the regional bodies supported, including:
  - 1) the International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (JRCC),
  - 2) the grouping of economic interest for the common service maintenance of waterways (GIE-SCEVN),
  - 3) the authority of the Lake Tanganyika basin.
- Capacity building to increase the level of aviation safety in collaboration with EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency). This will further support financed in the framework of the activities PACIE (10th EDF) for the establishment of Regional Aviation Safety Agency (ARSA) and the Regional Academy of Civil Aviation Central Africa and even complete the device by targeted support of air navigation equipment and / or to improve airport safety, supervision and security of air transport in the region, according to the Air Transport Action Plan 2008- 2015.

**Energy infrastructure:**

- Actions to support regional initiatives to move towards the harmonization of national legislation and administrative procedures in the field of energy (code of the Community electricity transmission modalities and harmonized tariff structure etc.)
- Promote access to sustainable energy and energy efficiency and encourage investment from the private sector (local, national and international). The actions also include technical support to the Economic Community of

Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) to continue to revitalize the energy sector as part of the organization of the energy of the Great Lakes (EGL) and the establishment of authority the basin of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River (ABAKIR).

- Supports the appropriate national entities may also be provided to enable them to effectively manage the interconnection.

#### **ICT infrastructure:**

- Actions relating to support regulatory and institutional reforms, including the management of interconnections to create fair operating conditions for domain companies. Support could be provided to strengthen the capacity of human resources for national and regional authorities.
- Actions may also be carried out to establish a regional information system of ICT in Central Africa (ICT Observatory). Within the support for the development of infrastructure in particular, a priority will be given to the interconnectivity of various infrastructures (see transport, energy, telecommunications).
- Particular attention will be paid to the implementation of ICT adapted to the local context in the identification of concrete actions to fully exploit the potential of ICT to provide and / or facilitate effective and sustainable solutions.

### **Component 3: Sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity**

#### **SO1: Increased sustainable management of natural resources**

Budget: 28 MEUR

##### **Activities:**

- Support the General Secretariat of ECCAS will aim to strengthen its capabilities in terms of design, coordination, monitoring and advocacy proposals. It will include technical support to clarify and specify the roles and mandates of different regional institutional players active in the environmental sector and especially in the management of forest resources and ecosystems (COMIFAC, RAPAC, etc.) and management integrated water resources with a view to setting optimal application of texts in force.
- ECCAS will support the development of integrated green economic policies at the macro level, enabling the development of a coherent regulatory framework, increased monitoring capacity and support the economic development of local communities (including indigenous peoples). In other words, support will aim to increase the transparency of supply chains and to promote trade "responsible".
- Support to the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC) seek to strengthen its capacity to boost the proper management of forest resources, including the implementation of the convergence plan in the forest areas and biodiversity conservation, including its monitoring capacity all activities at the regional level in the forest sector / biodiversity and impacts.
- Three major sectors are considered: Wildlife crime, trafficking of timber and smuggling of minerals. The support will include support to national authorities for the development of investigative capacity, criminal prosecutions and collaboration / coordination among States, including their judicial authorities, and between them and international organizations.
- The fight against money laundering, the large cross-border crime (involving area beyond the ECCAS countries) specifically related to natural resources, concerted actions with the countries 'consumers' of such illegal resources will be further processed in the focal sector political integration / peace and security.
- Support for forest management training and environment protection to provide support to specialized training centers to develop and upgrade specific skills at regional and national level.

#### **SO2: More effective conservation of biodiversity and fragile ecosystems**

Budget: 60 MEUR

##### **Activities:**

- Support for the management of protected areas and to strengthening their management. The actions may include infrastructure rehabilitation of protected areas and the development of management and protection tools. Protected areas support will be selected based on their wealth of biodiversity, the threats facing them, their financing needs and the qualitative level of their management. Protected areas primarily considered for support are those in key transfrontier landscapes (Greater Virunga Odzala Tri-National Dja Minkébé / Tri National Sanga, Gamba-Mayumba-Conkouati) and individual protected areas of high priority (Lope, Garamba, Okapi, Kahuzi -Biega, Salonga, Lomako-Yokokala, Lomani, Zémongo R / Chinko Mbari watershed, Gounda St Floris, Koryp, Mt Cameroon, Bouba-Ndjuda & Benue, Takamanda, Zakouma).
- Technical support to national structures in charge of protected areas. The support will take into account the prevailing business model in the country and will cover the various aspects of management, such as protected areas themselves, their peripheral areas, the involvement of local populations, illegal hunting and partnerships with specialized organizations (public-private partnership, PPP). The activities may also cover technical support for the establishment of multinational executives together to optimize the management of transnational protected areas.