



Action Plan

For Implementation of the **Central Africa**

Gender Responsive Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation

Adopted by Ministers on 13 June 2012 and approved
by Heads of States and Government on the 25 May 2015

Kinshasa, 30 octobre 2015

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List of Acronyms

ACC	CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
ACP	ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
AGNU	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
BAD	AfDB	African Development Bank
CADRI	CADRI	Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Building Initiative
CAGR	ARC	African Risk Capacity
CAH	HFA	Hyogo Framework of Action
CAPC-AC	CAPC-AC	Central Africa Climate Change Application and Forecasting Center
CCAP2	CCAP2	Climate Change Action Plan 2
CCNUCC	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CdP	COP	Conference of Parties
CEDAW	CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEDEAO	ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
CEEAC	ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
CEMAC	EMCCA	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
CENUA	UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
CER	REC	Regional Economic Community
COMIFAC	COMIFAC	Central African Forestry Commission
CRMO	RIC	Regional Implementation Center
CSRRC	SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
CUA	AUC	African Union Commission
EBPC	PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
EFH	EFH	Gender Equality
FAO	UNFAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation
FICR	IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent
FME	GEF	Global Environment Facility
FPAMA	LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund

FVC	GCF	Green Climate Fund
GFDRR	GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction
GRC	DRM	Disaster Risk Management
GTA	AWG	African Working Group
IDH	HDI	Human Development Index
IGDH	GDI	Gender and Human Development Index
MARAC	MARAC	Central Africa Early Warning System
MASFAMU	MASFAMU	Ministry of Social Action, Promotion of the Family, and Women, Angola
NEPAD	NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NU	UN	United Nations
OCHA	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODD	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
OIEWG	OIEWG	Intergovernmental Expert Group on DRM indicators and terminology
OMD	MDG	Millennium Development Goals
ONG	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ONGI	INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
ONU	UN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
Femmes	Women	
OSC	CSO	Civil Society Organisation
PAG	GAP	Gender Action Plan
PEID	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
PFN	NFP	National Focal Point
PMA	LDC	Less Developed Country
PMR	RMC	Regional Member Country of the AfDB
PNUD	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
PPP	PPP	Public-Private Partnerships
PTF	TFP	Technical and Financial Partner
RCA	CAR	Central African Republic
RDC	DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
REDD+	REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REPARC	REPARC	Disaster Resilience Network for Central Africa
RNB	GNI	Gross National Income
RRC	DRM	Disaster Risk Management
SAP	EWS	Early Warning System
SCCF	SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SE	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

SIPC-ONU	UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
SUAESAF	GEWE	African Union Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
UA	AU	African Union
UE	EU	European Union
UNDAF	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDRM	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNFCCC	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN-SWAP	UN-SWAP	United Nations System-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VBG	GBV	Gender Based Violence
VIH	HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
WASH	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

1. Context and

Justification

1.1 International Context

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

At the 3rd World Conference on DRR held on 14-18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan, United Nations Member States representatives adopted the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030. This framework, which follows on from the Hyōgo Framework for Action (HFA 2005-2015), is the result of an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder process involving international organisations and civil society stakeholders, local governments, women, children and young people, people living with disabilities, the elderly, universities and the private sector.

The new framework is expected to yield a result by 2030 - «The substantial reduction of disaster related

losses and risks in terms of human lives ; affecting people's livelihoods and health, and damage to the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of people, businesses, communities and countries.

In order to be able to measure progress at the global level, the following seven objectives have been agreed upon at the international level:

(i) Reduce disaster-related mortality rates at the global level - by 2030 - so that the average global mortality rate per 100,000 inhabitants during the decade 2020-2030 is lower than the rate recorded between 2005-2015;

(ii) Significantly reduce the number of people globally affected - by 2030 - so that the average global rate per 100,000 population in the decade 2020-2030 is lower than the rate recorded between 2005-2015;

(iii) Reduce direct disaster related economic losses in

proportion to gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030;

(iv) Significantly reduce the disruption of basic services and damage caused by disasters to essential infrastructure, including health and educational establishments, by strengthening their resilience by 2030;

(v) Significantly increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2030;

(vi) Significantly improve international cooperation with developing countries by providing them with appropriate and continuous support to complement their national efforts for implementation of this Framework by 2030; and

(vii) Significantly improve people's access to multi-risk early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments by 2030.

In order to achieve the expected result by 2030, States were recommended to carry out targeted cross-sectoral actions at the local, national, regional and global levels with regard to the following four priority issues:

- Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk.
- Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.
- Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
- Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better"

The Framework's objectives include women's leadership, gender-sensitive policies, and a reference to sexual and reproductive health care services. However, women are often included with girls and marginalized groups - thereby advancing the "victim" paradigm; and the term "gender equality" does not appear in the text, nor does it refer to women's human rights.

This Framework, approved by the General Assembly on June 3, 2015 in resolution 69/283, addresses the main elements of a comprehensive approach putting people at the center of disaster risk reduction objectives, and applies to risk of natural or man-made disasters as much as those linked to environmental, technological and biological hazards.

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their Member States were invited to review their strategies and approaches in order to adapt them to this new roadmap - so as to effectively contribute to

the achievement of the objectives of the new framework which emphasizes risk management rather than disaster management.

1.2 Gender and Disasters

"Countries that do not actively promote the full participation of women in education, politics and working life will find it more difficult than others to reduce risk and adapt to climate change. "

*"Women are largely marginalized in disaster risk management policy-making and decision-making, and their voices are not heard."*¹

Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction

Natural disasters affect women, men, girls and boys differently due to socio-economic conditions, cultural beliefs and traditional practices that have often disadvantaged women.² In the same vein, men and women's adaptation strategies differ - as well as their participation in prevention, relief, recovery and reconstruction processes.³ Women are generally more vulnerable than men to the effects of natural disasters and climate

change. Research shows that in most crisis situations, women and children represent the majority of affected people (for example, more than 75% of those displaced by natural disasters, and around 70-80% of those in need of assistance during emergencies).⁴ As a result, disaster mortality rates are higher for women than for men, especially in countries where women's economic and social rights are limited. Some studies of women and children have shown that they are 14 times more likely than men to die during natural disasters.⁵

Women make an essential contribution to disaster risk and

¹ UNISDR, UNDP and IUCN, Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender-Sensitive: Policy and Practical Guidelines, 2009, p. 24.

² Eric Neumayer and Thomas Plümper, "The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: The Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy, 1981–2002," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, vol. 97, issue. 3, 2007, pp. 551–566. Neumayer and Plümper analyzed disasters in 141 countries and found that in countries where women and men enjoyed equal rights, mortality rates for both sexes were equal.

³ See for example: Elaine Enarsson, "Promoting Social Justice in Disaster Reconstruction: Guidelines for Gender-Sensitive and Community-Based Planning," in K.R. Gupta, ed., *Urban Development Debates in the New Millennium* (New Delhi, India: Atlantic Publishers and Distributors, 2005), pp. 25-33, and World Bank, *Gender and Climate Change: Three Things You Should Know*, 2011, p. 7.

⁴ These figures reflect the typical demographic percentage of populations in developing countries. Chew and Badras, "Caught in the Storm: The Impact of Natural Disasters on Women, Global Fund for Women," 2005, p. 4, www.globalfundforwomen.org/storage/images/stories/downloads/disaster-report.pdf. Lorena Aguilar, *Climate Change and Disaster Mitigation*, International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2004.

⁵ Ariana Araujo and Andrea Quesada-Aguilar, *Gender Equality and Adaptation*, International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2007, www.gdonline.org/resources/IUCN_FactsheetAdaptation.pdf; UNDP, *Gender and Disasters*, October 2010. See also: Neumayer and Plümper, op. cit.; Oxfam, *The Tsunami's Impact on Women*, Briefing Note, 2005, <http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/bn050326-tsunami-women>. However, men may be more likely to engage in risky behavior, owing to prevailing social norms, which may lead to higher male mortality rates, as in was observed in reactions to Hurricane Mitch. See for example: World Bank, "Hurricane Mitch: The gender effects of coping and crises," *Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Notes*, August 2007, No. 57.

climate change management.

Although women do not necessarily occupy visible positions of political leadership in large numbers, they are still essential to the social fabric of a society and consequently, to its resilience capacity. They shape behaviors and transmit culture and knowledge through family and social networks - essential for risk prevention and intervention efforts.⁶ Women's leadership in civil society organizations can also ensure their participation in more formal DRR, response and recovery processes.⁷ Women's work is important across the economic spectrum and must be taken into account in DRM efforts. Women often serve as

teachers, nurses, social workers, etcetera. As such, they are well placed to assess the needs of the community, and to implement disaster relief and recovery programs.⁸ In rural areas, women play a crucial role in agricultural and pastoral livelihoods, often assuming important responsibilities in the management of productive resources such as land, water, livestock, biodiversity, fodder, fuel and food. They also contribute to work and income generation, and fulfill a disproportionate amount of daily work in the household and community spheres.⁹

Significant evidence demonstrates that women are powerful agents of change

during and after disasters.

However, the challenge lies in translating policy into effective practice. *"A lot of actual work is being done by women, but not integrated into policies and the decision-making process. It's a challenge for women to be visible."* (Former Governor of Chiba Prefecture in Japan, Akiko Domoto).¹⁰ This gap is evident around the world.

Women's civil society organisations active in DRR felt excluded from national emergency preparedness and other disaster risk reduction programs.¹¹ This is the result of a survey carried out in 2009 by the Huairou Commission, in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, Africa and

the Middle East and North Africa region. Similarly, in terms of climate change negotiations, processes and institutions, the trend is a lack of women's formal participation, despite significant local-level engagement.¹²

1.3 Africa Regional Context

1.3.1 Recommendations of the African Working Group 7th Meeting

At the continental level, the 7th Meeting of the African Working Group was organized - from 21 to 23 July, 2015, in Yaoundé, Cameroon – by the African Union Commission (AUC), the Africa Regional Office for the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and the General Secretariat of the Economic

⁶ Brookings 2012. Brookings Institution: The Year of Recurring Disasters: A Review of Natural Disasters in 2012: Ferris, Petz, Stark: Chapter 4: DRM A Gender Sensitive Approach.

⁷ For example, research has found that women's groups played important roles in at least some peace processes even though women were not officially at the 'negotiating table.' See: Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, Addressing Internal Displacement in Peace Processes, Peace Agreements and Peace-Building, September 2007.

⁸ Brookings 2012. Brookings Institution: The Year of Recurring Disasters: A Review of Natural Disasters in 2012: Ferris, Petz, Stark: Chapter 4: DRM A Gender Sensitive Approach.

⁹ Christian Nellemann et al., (eds.), Women at the Frontline of Climate Change: Gender Risks and Hopes. A Rapid Response Assessment, United Nations Environment Programme, GRID-Arendal, 2011, p. 29, www.unep.org

¹⁰ UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, "Japanese experts call for gender equality," 2012.

¹¹ Huairou Commission (HC), "Women's Views from the Frontline," 2009.

¹² Christine Haigh and Bernadette Vallely, Gender and the Climate Change Agenda: The impacts of climate change on women and public policy, Women's Environmental Network, 2010; Christian Nellemann et al., (eds), Women at the Frontline of Climate Change: Gender Risks and Hopes. A Rapid Response Assessment, 2011, pp. 31-33; Streamlining Climate Change and Gender: Gender Equality, Climate Caucus, accessed 7 March 2013.

Community of the Central African States (ECCAS). The meeting was held to review the Expanded Program of Action for the implementation of the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in light of the Sendai Framework. The main objective of this continental meeting was to offer the RECs and AUC Member States an opportunity to decide on the new framework, and to advance its implementation in Africa.

African Ministers in charge of DRR invited Member States and Regional Economic Communities to align their strategies, programs and actions with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 through the Yaoundé Declaration. The Yaoundé Declaration was launched at the closing of the 4th Ministerial Conference on DRR, which took place on 23 July, 2015. It appealed to

States to include and integrate DRR into their economic development policies and programs taking account the importance of disaster risk reduction as a tool for resilience and sustainable development.

1.3.2 AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The 2018-2027 AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) lays out the implementation plan of Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063; and the principles enshrined in Article 4 (I) of the AU's Constitutive Act: "promotion of gender equality" as well key continental and global commitments. The strategy was adopted by the Executive Council in July 2018. This strategy is the organization's roadmap to meeting its commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment. According to

the Strategy, pockets of good practice show that rapid change is possible in the area of gender. For example, thirteen Africa countries are now among the world's leading countries on women's representation in national parliaments. This underscores the importance of temporary special measures in advancing gender parity in decision-making. The Strategy is organized under 4 main pillars, which are each then "unpacked" into four different tiers which include in descending order: Outcomes, Outputs, Interventions and Activities. The table below lists the top level "Pillar" with the desired "Outcome".

1.4 Central Africa Regional Context

Central African countries are increasingly exposed to the numerous risks from

disasters, especially geophysical, hydro-meteorological, health - thus hindering their development. Climate change further exacerbates the worsening of natural disasters, as the United Nations Secretary General pointed out a few years ago: "Climate change will increase the severity and frequency of natural disasters. As our large cities are increasingly vulnerable, these natural disasters are therefore likely to turn into more serious disasters than those we have thus far experienced. We simply have a moral, social and economic obligation to build resilience to disasters by 2015. Especially considering that implementation of the Hyōgo Framework for Action also helps us achieve the Millennium Development Goals".¹³

During the decade of the "Hyōgo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA): for nations and communities resilient in the face of disasters", the Central Africa

¹³ Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary General, 1217, 45

region experienced major natural disasters. These disasters were particularly linked to hydrometeorological phenomena which affected hundreds of thousands of people, and inflicted considerable economic losses on the States of the region. As an illustration, we can cite droughts in 2009 and June 2012, the floods of 2010 and from July to September 2012 in Chad, the devastating floods in the Central African Republic and in the north of Cameroon from 2010 to 2012.

Studies highlight the extreme vulnerability of communities and many other factors which contribute to this trend: population growth; poverty; development pressure in high-risk zones; weak disaster risk management plans; conflicts; environmental degradation; unsustainable patterns of development that often lead to higher levels of vulnerability; as well as rapid, chaotic and unplanned

urbanization. Climate change places a further strain on such vulnerability.

The climate challenge poses a growing threat to the livelihoods of people in the region. Water cycle disruptions can lead to water shortages and poor harvests. Rising sea levels directly threaten coastal areas and island countries (eg Sao Tome and Principe) with accelerated coastal erosion - and more frequent flooding.

The human and economic losses caused by natural disasters will be added to existing ones caused by epidemics (biological hazards) and armed conflicts.

1.4.1 Adoption of the Regions' Policy on the Environment and Natural Resources Management

It has been found through analysis of current photography of the region that the Central Africa Region and certain Member States have made significant progress in

monitoring the Hyogo Framework for Action. An example being adoption by the Heads of State and Government of ECCAS of the Regional Policy for the Environment and Natural Resources which included disaster risk management issues in four of the twelve strategic directions. These are strategic axes 1, 5 and 11 which deal respectively with the fight against land degradation, drought and desertification, the fight against climate change and the assessment and early warning for the management of natural or induced disasters. This is despite the late adoption of the overall vision of the 2005-2015 HFA in the region - due to political instability which characterized Member States during the said period.

1.4.2 Adoption of the Central Africa Regional Strategy by the Conference of the ECCAS

Heads of State and Government

The Conference of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS held in N'Djamena, on 25 May, 2015, approved by Decision No. 46 / CEEAC / CCEG / XVI / 15, the Regional Strategy for Central Africa for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation.

1.4.3 Progress in Central Africa

Addressing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation has resulted in the following achievements:

- The progressive and significant allocation of resources specific to the field of risk prevention; strategic and operational cooperation with development partners for strengthening the internal capacities of the institution with a view to better supporting the States; the establishment of a regional platform to be held annually. It has already held three sessions, one in Douala, Cameroon; the second in Libreville, Gabon; the third in

Yaoundé, Cameroon; and the fourth in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo respectively in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015;

- The organisation of annual seasonal climate forecast forums for risk prevention;
- The organisation of annual regional consultations on disaster preparedness and response;
- The creation of a regional climatological center during the XVIth ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government held in N'Djamena in Chad on May 25, 2015. Based in Douala, Cameroon, this center benefits from the support of the African Development Bank with financing from the Intra-ACP 47 funds of the European Union; and finally
- The implementation of a capacity building program, support for political dialogue and coordination, assessment of hazards and vulnerabilities, with the

support of the World Bank / GFDRR (Global Facility for Prevention Disasters and Recovery), financed by Intra-ACP funds from the European Union.

1.4.4 Ndjamena Declaration

The 2014 N'Djamena Declaration was signed to reaffirm ECCAS regional and international commitments (including Resolution 1325) to women, peace and security. It is a commitment to promote women's leadership and political participation and mainstream gender equality, empower women in a number of activities of the respective parliaments, and undertake institution building for good governance as an important factor in preventing conflicts in the sub-region.

1.4.5 ECCAS Gender Policy

- The ECCAS Gender Policy envisages a community in which men and women enjoy equal rights, develop their skills and contribute as equal

partners to the construction of a just and prosperous society for all, and to the sustainable development of Central Africa. The Policy recommends increasing the effectiveness of regional, national and community dialogues and encourages the expansion of gender-based planning and budgeting tools, as well as broad participation in the ratification, integration and effective application of legal and political instruments aimed at eliminating structural and systemic constraints. These constraints erect and continue to create barriers to equality and the empowerment of women. Three of the specific objectives of the ECCAS Gender Policy are:

- Promote the effectiveness of policies through the institutionalization of gender and the economic

and political empowerment of women;

- Improve women's health and care for people living with HIV;
- Improve the capacities and results of peace and security mechanisms to respond to gender-based violence (GBV), stereotypes, and harmful practices.

Strategic Axis 4 of the ECCAS Gender Policy "Mobilization of Resources for Gender Integration in Sustainable Development and Climate Change" arising from Objective 1 on the Effectiveness of Policies through the Institutionalization of Gender, is directly linked to DRR and presents opportunities for gender mainstreaming in DRR.

Legislative frameworks for DRR are being put in place at member country level. We can note the progressive integration of issues related to disaster risk management and climate change in growth and poverty reduction strategy papers, or in national development plans.

Four out of eleven member countries have national DRR platforms, and three have developed national risk prevention strategies. Efforts to decentralize the activities of the platforms have been noted in the countries that have them.

The entire region has limited knowledge of hazards and vulnerabilities, and the associated risks; teamed with absence of data. Some sectoral efforts should be noted, but there remains a lack of capacity in these areas, particularly with regard to understanding the risks.

Almost all member countries have a more or less formal disaster response mechanism. A few have developed contingency plans and are working to organize simulation exercises. But while most states have humanitarian response mechanisms, the integration of disaster risk reduction into account is still lacking.

It should be noted that there has been an early involvement and awareness of the role of media in DRR for some member countries; the celebration of annual international commemorative events such as the International Day of Disaster Prevention as a mass awareness and training platform in most member countries. Initiatives are underway in a few countries to integrate DRR into primary and higher education programs.

1.4.6 Major Challenges to be Addressed in Central Africa

Disaster risk management, as a multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder process, is still a major challenge in Central Africa today. It requires strong political commitment from States, and national and regional institutions. It calls for the integration of risk prevention into all public policies and all sectors, by following a participatory approach involving all stakeholders.

The region does not have a database of hazards, risks and vulnerabilities, which does not allow the establishment of a system of collection, documentation and data analysis – thus hindering its understanding of disaster risks.

In terms of governance, Central Africa needs high-level advocacy to generate effective political commitment from decision-makers.

The development of the process at the grassroots level is not yet effective due to delays - the mobilization of resources for implementation of disaster risk reduction activities is one of the major challenges faced by member countries in the region. The same is true for integrating DRR into development programs and into all sectors of activity.

Many member countries have limited strategy and

coordination mechanisms which makes planning and advocacy difficult, notwithstanding some field missions.

In terms of disaster preparedness and response, difficulties still persist in the transformation of meteorological data into viable products for risk prevention.

This revised version of the Framework for Action for the Implementation of the Central Africa Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation, is based on the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015- 2030, as well as the recommendations of the 4th African Ministerial Conference on DRR. This Framework underlines the firm commitment of ECCAS to align with the new orientations of the Sendai Framework, which not only sets objectives to be achieved during the next 15 years, with priorities for action to achieve this - but also defines the roles of

stakeholders in its
implementation.

2. Action Plan for the Implementation of the Central Africa Gender Responsive Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation

Sendai Priority Area	Recommendations of the 4th Yaoundé Ministerial Conference		Priority Actions for Central Africa	Deadline	Actors	Outcomes
Priority 1 : understanding disaster risk	At the regional level	Generate and disseminate risk information and knowledge for decision-making, including cross-border and intercultural issues	Develop gender responsive databases of weather-induced events	2020-2030	CAPC-AC Private sector	Creation and of updates of databases
			Conduct a study on access of women and men to disaster and risk information	2020-2030	ECCAS CAPC-AC Universities	Study prepared and disseminated
			Make CAPC-AC operational for centralizing meteorological data	2020-2022	ECCAS CAPC-AC	Data centralised, collected and disseminated
			Integrate gender into MARAC (Central Africa Early Warning Mechanism) plans	2020-2024	ECCAS MARAC	MARAC plans updated
			Support States for the establishment of a system for collecting and managing gender-based data in the field of DRR	2020-2030	ECCAS Member States	System for collecting, managing, and updating operational gender data

Sendai Priority Area	Recommendations of the 4th Yaoundé Ministerial Conference		Priority Actions for Central Africa	Deadline	Actors	Outcomes
			Develop and update the gender-sensitive disaster risk profile for Central Africa	2020-2030	ECCAS	Risk profile developed and updated
			Support and provide guidance to Member States on how to carry out gender-responsive risk profiles, and develop DRR strategies and action plans. (Include a full assessment of the different challenges faced by women and men and an assessment of national DRM budgets on the protection of women in disasters)	2020-2023	ECCAS	Guidelines for developing gender-sensitive DRR strategies and action plans developed and available
			Update and animate the ECCAS website in order to share good gender-responsive DRR practices, the ECCAS 2020-2030 Action Plan; the updated database of focal points in charge of DRR and Gender; member states' gender, DRR policies, strategies and action plans	2020-2030	ECCAS	A functional website is developed and available
	At the national level	Institutionalize risk assessment and analysis for informed decision	Organize public information, education, awareness and communication campaigns on gender-responsive DRR	2020-2030	ECCAS Member States TFP Civil Society Actors	Campaigns are carried out and local communities and indigenous

Sendai Priority Area	Recommendations of the 4th Yaoundé Ministerial Conference		Priority Actions for Central Africa	Deadline	Actors	Outcomes
		making, taking risk into account in all sectors			Local Communities Media	populations sensitized
			Support advocacy and lobbying on gender-responsive DRR vulnerabilities, capacities, needs and concerns	2020-2030	ECCAS Member States Civil Society Actors Local Communities	Stakeholders supported in their advocacy and lobbying activities
			Develop and / or update the gender-responsive disaster risk profile at the national level, based on the regional profile	2020-2030	Member States	The national disaster risk profile developed and / or updated, and available
			Training of instructors for gender focal points, DRR focal points, REPARC, the private sector and civil society	2020-2022	ECCAS	Training completed
			Set up a national mechanism for collecting and analyzing data for decision-making (technicians, researchers, scientists, academics, administrations, civil society, local communities, etcetera)	2020-2030	ECCAS Member States TFP	Mechanism created and operational

Sendai Priority Area	Recommendations of the 4th Yaoundé Ministerial Conference		Priority Actions for Central Africa	Deadline	Actors	Outcomes
Priority 2 : strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk	At the regional level	Establish mechanisms for the exchange of DRR best practices, lessons learned and experiences between Member States	Align ECCAS Human Resources Policies within the DRM framework with AU initiatives on gender equity: survey of the number of staff; use of special measures; parity during meetings	2020-2022	ECCAS	Human Resources Policies aligned with AU initiatives
			Continue the organization of platform sessions and other meetings on risk management in terms of DRM and Gender with the member states focal points	2020-2030	ECCAS	Platform sessions and other meetings on DRM and gender organised
			Develop training and education programs focused on gender-responsive DRR and incorporate them into training curricula (school, secondary, university, technical and vocational)	2020-2030	ECCAS Educational institutions, universities and technical and vocational	Training and education programs focused on gender-responsive DRR are developed and taught
			Develop gender-responsive national DRR strategies and action plans	2020-2030	Member States	National Strategies and action plans developed and implemented
	At the national level	Develop policies, strategies, plans	Integrate gender into DRR political, institutional and legal frameworks	2020-2022	ECCAS Member States	Political, institutional and

Sendai Priority Area	Recommendations of the 4th Yaoundé Ministerial Conference		Priority Actions for Central Africa	Deadline	Actors	Outcomes
		and institutional and legal frameworks for DRR				legal frameworks developed, revised and adapted
Priority 3: investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience	At the regional level	Establish a functional risk transfer mechanism and a financial support mechanism	Evaluate investment needs for gender-responsive DRR and advocate for resource mobilization	2020-2030	ECCAS	Investment needs for gender-responsive DRR assessed, advocacy carried out and resources available
			Strengthen collaboration with donors and private sector companies working in insurance and reinsurance products to protect women and men against disaster risks	2020-2025	Member States Donors Insurance and Reinsurance Companies Private Sector	Disaster risk insurance and reinsurance products available to women and men
			Establish strategic partnerships with TFPs and philanthropists, NGOs and the private sector to promote investment in building gender-sensitive resilience	2020-2030	Member States TFPs and philanthropists NGOs	Reinforced gender-responsive resilience
			National Fund for DRM created	2020-2030	ECCAS Member States	Fund operational, and resources mobilised and

Sendai Priority Area	Recommendations of the 4th Yaoundé Ministerial Conference		Priority Actions for Central Africa	Deadline	Actors	Outcomes
					FTP	available
	At the local level	Implement microinsurance and income protection programs	Encourage communities to take out microinsurance	2020-2030	Member States	Microinsurance subscribers
Priority 4: enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to « Build Back Better » in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction	At the regional level	Establish / strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems for rapid and timely action	Design a gender-sensitive post-disaster needs assessment framework using the disaster risk profile developed in accordance with priority 1	2020-2030	ECCAS Member States FTP NGO CSO Research Institutions	Gender mainstreaming in post-disaster needs assessments (PDNAs)
			Design a gender-responsive early warning system based on the priority 1 disaster risk profile	2020-2030	ECCAS CAPC-AC Member States FTP AGEOS NGO	Early warning system informing women, men, girls and boys designed and available
			Strengthen humanitarian logistics by adding vital products integrating the needs of women, men, girls and boys based on the risk disaster risk profile developed in accordance with priority 1 and SPHERE standards	2020-2030	ECCAS Member States FTP CSO	Reinforced humanitarian logistics and needs taken into account

Sendai Priority Area	Recommendations of the 4th Yaoundé Ministerial Conference		Priority Actions for Central Africa	Deadline	Actors	Outcomes
			Promote the participation of women and girls at decision-making levels in prevention, preparedness, response and reconstruction	2020-2030	ECCAS Member States FTP CSO	Women integrated at decision-making levels
	At the national level	Set up / strengthen emergency coordination center	Mainstream gender into all disaster preparedness and response policies, plans and programs using the disaster risk profile developed in accordance with priority 1	2020-2030	ECCAS Member States	Disaster preparedness policies, plans and programs gender-mainstreamed
			Develop operational mechanisms that meet the specific needs of men, women, girls and boys in emergencies using the disaster risk profile produced in accordance with priority 1. (Improve support for survival for women, men, girls and boys; make sure to plan and budget for protection against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), socio-economic empowerment, ...)	2020-2030	ECCAS Member States FTP CSO	Gender integrated into operational mechanisms

Yaoundé Action Plan 2015 - 2017

Objective 1 : Strengthen knowledge of risks and vulnerabilities at the sub-regional level					
Focus Areas	Activities	Results	Actors	Partners	Deadline
Identify, collect and analyze data on risks and vulnerabilities for countries of the sub-region and integrate the results into programming	Support member states to take stock of existing risk surveys and analyses in the sub-region	An inventory of available resources is carried out	ECCAS with support from Member States and National Focal Points	UN Agencies, Universities, NGOs	2016 - 2017
	Encourage states to set up and revitalize a risk observatory	Risk reduction analysis available	ECCAS with support from Member States and National Focal Points	UN Agencies, Universities, NGOs	2016 - 2017
	Establishment of a database on risks and vulnerabilities at state level	Risk and disaster directory available	Member State/National Focal Points	ECCAS and technical partners	2016 - 2017
	Development of risk and vulnerability maps at sub-regional and state level	Risk mapping available	Member State/National Focal Points	ECCAS and technical partners	2016 - 2017
Objective 2 : Update prevention and alert mechanisms					
Focus Areas	Activities	Results	Actors	Partners	Deadline
Communicate and exchange on real-time alerts between local and national level	Evaluate and strengthen existing early warning systems (EWS) at local and national level	Local et national SAP updated and strengthened	National DRR Focal Point (through the identified national structure)	UN Agencies, national and regional technical institutions	2016 - 2017
	Strengthen the early warning system at regional level by risk type	Regional SAP strengthened	ECCAS General Secretariat	Regional technical institutions	2016 - 2017
An operational provincial and national DRR platform	Create a local / municipal, provincial / regional and national DRR platform	National DRR platforms created	An Inter-Ministerial Committee + stakeholders	UN Agencies, national and regional technical institutions	2016 - 2017

Objective 3: Increase preparedness and response capacities at national and regional level					
Focus Areas	Activities	Results	Actors	Partners	Deadline
Ensure minimum national capacities for disaster management	Analysis of preparedness and response capacities for two priority countries based on risk analysis	A capacity analysis is conducted in two priority countries	Under the coordination of the National DRM Focal Point	CADRI (United Nations)	2016 - 2017
Strengthen the preparation and response of civil protection teams and authorities as well as populations	Create awareness-raising tools on preparedness / response for populations	Awareness-raising tools are created, and the population is made aware of DRR through targeted actions	Under the coordination of the National DRM Focal Point	UN Agencies, NGOs	2016 - 2017
	Organization of training for national teams in charge of disaster management and authorities	Training sessions are organized for disaster management teams as well as sensitisation sessions with the authorities	Under the coordination of the National DRM Focal Point	UN Agencies, NGOs	2016 – 2017
	Development and review of national multi-risk and operational contingency plans	National multi-risk contingency plans developed	Under the coordination of the National DRM Focal Point	UN Agencies, NGOs	2016 - 2017
	Creation of a sub-regional disaster management team	Team members are selected and trained	ECCAS and member countries	OCHA, other regional institutions	2016 – 2017
	Updating and monitoring election preparation actions	Activities related to the preparation of elections carried out	ECCAS and member countries	OCHA, other regional institutions	2016 - 2017

Objective 4 : Strengthen and improve the institutional and legal framework relating to risk reduction and disaster management					
Focus Areas	Activities	Results	Actors	Partners	Deadline
Strengthen the legal and institutional framework for disaster management	Take stock of existing legal frameworks	Existing legal frameworks collated	National Focal Point Disaster Managers SN Other humanitarian actors	FICR, ECCAS, network of parliamentarians	2016 - 2017
	Establish a disaster management legal framework	A legal framework for disaster management established	National Focal Point	FICR, ECCAS, network of parliamentarians	2016 - 2017
	Strengthening the disaster management legal framework	Disaster management legal framework strengthened	National Focal Point	FICR, ECCAS, network of parliamentarians	2016 - 2017
Developing an appropriate coordination framework for disaster management at the state level	Process of creating a single agency for disaster management at the national level initiated	Creation of a dedicated disaster management agency in each member state	National Focal Point	UNOCHA	2016 - 2017
Strengthening the capacities of the ECCAS structural unit	Provide additional human and financial resources in support of the structural unit	The structural unit is operational	ECCAS General Secretariat	TFP	2016 - 2017
	Establishment of a monitoring mechanism for the Yaoundé plan	Monitoring mechanism is established	ECCAS General Secretariat	TFP	2016 - 2017

Objective 5 : Increase financing capacities of crisis preparedness and response mechanisms

Focus Areas	Activities	Results	Actors	Partners	Deadline
Mobilise resources to strengthen ECCAS and member states crisis preparedness and response capacities	Set up a resource mobilization commission, and define its role and responsibilities	Creation of a resource mobilisation commission	Member States	TFP	2016 - 2017
	Develop long-term national resource mobilization strategies and prepare the communication plan	National and regional strategies developed Communication plan prepared	Member States	TFP	2016 - 2017
	Develop a directory and identify technical and financial institutions (AfDB, CADRI, EU, etc.), to promote long-term partnerships.	ECCAS has signed memoranda of understanding with several identified institutions	ECCAS	TFP	2016 - 2017
	Set up a monitoring mechanism		ECCAS	TFP	2016 - 2017

3. Mechanisms for implementing the Action Plan for the Central Africa Gender Responsive Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation

The effective implementation of the ECCAS Gender Responsive DRR Strategy and Action Plan, requires an integrated approach that recognizes the roles of the various stakeholder groups at continental, regional, national and sub-national/local levels. This section outlines the functions, roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders involved in implementation.

3.1 Regional level implementation and coordination

The primary actors at this level is ECCAS, their organs and other specialized agencies and institutions, such as the

Central African Early Warning System (MARAC) based out of ECCAS, and acting in collaboration with and through Member States, the CAPC-AC, the ECCAS programme for meteorology. The primary accountability lies with the Disaster Risk Management Unit, in cooperation with the Gender unit.

Below outlines the role and responsibilities of ECCAS for implementation of the Action Plan.

3.1.1 Coordination with Member States

- ECCAS will provide strategic guidance to member states and will facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan;
- The ECCAS Regional Platform for DRR will function as the primary regional mechanism to coordinate the implementation of gender responsive DRR strategies and programs at the sub-

regional and national levels, monitor progress, and facilitate coordination and information sharing between different actors;

- The Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee will coordinate operational programs of ECCAS Departments with reference to disaster reduction and ensure the incorporation of gender responsive DRR measures into ECCS programs.

3.1.2 Regional implementation through the ECCAS Commission

- Facilitate the incorporation of gender responsive DRR measures into ongoing thematic ECCAS programs;
- Support coordination and harmonization of national DRR practices and capacities
- Initiate and coordinate financial resource mobilization to support the implementation of activities in

the Action Plan (2020–2030);

- Support capacity building and knowledge exchange among member states;
- In collaboration with member states and regional organizations conduct and support risk assessments and establish operational early warning systems of a specific regional dimension;
- Operate as a clearinghouse of disaster management information in the sub-region and run the CAP-AC
- Establish in collaboration with member states and regional organizations policy frameworks, guidance notes and regional programs;
- Support the ECCAS Humanitarian Division and Emergency Response Team in carrying out gender responsive relief operations in the sub-region in collaboration with affected national governments and partners and support recovery planning.

3.2 National level implementation and coordination

The aim of the ECCAS Gender Responsive DRR Strategy and Action Plan, is to guide Member States in how to design and implement gender-responsive DRM. The primary actors are national government and statutory agencies, including sub-national/local government entities, in conjunction with civil society organizations, professional communities, the private sector, higher education, scientific and research organizations, and communication bodies and other stakeholders.

National governments will lead the process of implementing the Plan at national level, with the full engagement of all State institutions of an executive and legislative nature, through advocacy and support for institutional capacity development for mainstreaming gender and enhancing gender equity in disaster risk reduction and

sustainable development strategies. They will also ensure the establishment of enabling environments, including policies, strategies, legislation, programmes, institutions and other instruments that direct, guide, coordinate and regulate the integration of gender into DRM as well as the provision of financial and other resources for effective gender mainstreaming into DRM at the national and sub-national/local levels.

Local level implementation and coordination of the Action Plan emanate from and are conditioned by implementation actions at the national and other levels. The primary actors are subnational / local government agencies. However, many structures exist at the local and community level (such as traditional authorities, local governments, community-based organizations, women's groups, neighbourhoods associations, higher education

institutions, cultural groups, mutual assistance cooperatives, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations and private sector entities) that will play various roles in implementing the Plan through participatory approaches that enhance their sensitization, empowerment and mobilization to contribute to gender-responsive DRM activities at the community level.

The engagement and inclusion of people of all income groups, inclusive of sex, age, ethnicity, and disability, women, children and youth, along with vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as internally displaced people, nomad herders and indigenous groups, in these processes is essential, to ensure that all community members/sectors have an opportunity to articulate their needs as well

as a voice in decision-making that impacts their lives and livelihoods. To ensure gender and social inclusion is effectively integrated throughout risk mitigation, preparedness, relief/response and recovery requires partnership and collaboration with all actors of society, including academia, CSOs, women's organizations, private sector and international organisations.

3.3 Stakeholder Groups

An inclusive approach of multi-stakeholder participation and involvement is necessary and important for the effective implementation of the Plan. Major stakeholder groups with implementing roles include civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, women's organizations, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), academic, scientific, research and technological institutions and

networks. Other groups include international and regional organizations, community leaders, indigenous groups, civil society networks, faith-based organizations, persons with disabilities, children and youth, women's groups, private sector and professional associations and the media, including social media networks and practitioners. Stakeholder groups are encouraged to enhance and strengthen their active and joint collaboration with governments and inter-governmental institutions, within the context of participatory and inclusive processes they jointly develop, for implementation of the Plan by undertaking the following roles and responsibilities:

- a) Providing knowledge, guidance and resources for development and implementation of gender responsive DRM

frameworks, standards and plans;

- b) Participating in the implementation of gender responsive DRM strategies and plans at all levels in accordance with relevant frameworks, policies, laws and regulations;
- c) Helping to develop and support public awareness and culture of prevention and education on gender and disaster risk;
- d) Advocating for all-of-society approach to gender responsive DRM within Member States (including with sectors concerned with resilience-building, including agriculture, health and social protection) that strengthens synergies across groups and programming;
- e) Enhancing their engagement with the Action Plan through their voluntary commitments to the Plan.

The Action Plan recognises the media as an integral part of equitable and inclusive disaster

risk reduction processes and should assume responsibility for fair, accurate, timely, comprehensive and widespread reporting and education on gender-sensitive vulnerabilities and capacities in disasters and gender-specific needs and concerns in disaster risk reduction and management. It also acknowledges the key role played by academic, scientific and technical institutions, particularly that of Central Africa's higher education institutions. Their engagement is crucial for systemically improving skill sets, research and knowledge for gender responsive DRM, across all scales. This applies to both the institutional level as well as from the partnership and network perspective.

3.4 Partnerships

Effective implementation of the Plan requires cooperation and partnerships with a wide range of partners including

the media, civil society organizations, academic research organizations, and the private sector. The GSAP offers opportunities for development of joint programming actions through multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships that can synergize resources and actions with other development actors to enhance gender responsive DRM in Central Africa. The requisite areas of partnership for implementing the Plan include:

- a) Capacity development, education and training;
- b) Science, research, innovation and technology application in gender-responsive DRM;
- c) Advocacy, awareness raising, and sensitization for gender-responsive DRM governance internationally and within Member States;
- d) Collection, analysis, management and use of sex-disaggregated data in all stages of DRM (sex, age, disability, ethnicity);
- e) Involvement of women in decision-

- making/governance and representation structures
- f) Knowledge management, information exchange and sharing best practices for gender responsive DRM,
 - g) Gender-Responsive budgeting, auditing, and resource allocation
 - h) Other thematic elements highlighted in the African Union Plan of Action, namely:
 - (i) Gender and Urban DRM,
 - (ii) Integration of gender and DRM into climate risk management,
 - (iii) Support for gender-equitable resilience,
 - (iv) comprehensive school safety,
 - (v) environmental management, and
 - (vi) private sector.

3.5 Resource Mobilisation

The successful implementation of the Action Plan will require the mobilization of adequate, predictable and timely

resources and capacities, including non-financial support, of relevant national, regional and international sources. This requires the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. Potential sources of funds include international partners and donors, adaptation finance and the private sector.

3.5.1 Technical Partners and International Donors

There are many and varied sources from international partners and donors to support different aspects of DRM. Different tools used by international organisations and donors including co-financing, grants and technical assistance to support DRR must be explored and exploited. Some potential funders include the European Union, United Nations Agencies, The World Bank/GFDRR, the DRM Funds/Africa Climate Change Fund/Clim-Dev Africa of the AfDB, NEPAD, as well as private foundations. The annex outlines some potential funding sources from

international partners and donors

3.6 Monitoring and Evaluation

The activities and expected results in the Action Plan provide a framework for the monitoring of its implementation and progress. Progress of the implementation of the Action Plan will be assessed using annual monitoring systems and mechanisms, and reported in line with existing global and regional monitoring systems and mechanisms, as coordinated by the DRM Unit in cooperation with the Gender Unit. In addition, annual reports submitted by each Member State under the SFDRR will be updated, reflecting commitments outlined herein. Space for more informal feeding back and reporting on good practice will be provided during the annual Gender Responsive DRR Platform.

3.6.1 Learning and sharing of lessons

Gender-responsive DRM requires an effective and interactive knowledge base to disseminate information about best practices, research, strategies, recommendations, and case studies on inclusive disaster governance between Member States. Reviews, assessments and evaluations are important, and it is the responsibility of all stakeholders and actors to allocate resources for this and share findings and recommendations.

The regional and national platforms for DRM are important vehicles for peer exchange and review to share progress from the Secretariat and Member States on the implementation of the Action Plan. In addition, transnational knowledge networks of science, technology, experience, academic actors and the media, are key vehicles for promoting, disseminating and sharing of knowledge, technology, experience and practice of gender-responsive DRM to propel the

implementation of the Action Plan to contribute to Agenda 2063, relevant SDGs and the Sendai Framework.



Annex

Annex 1 : Key Definitions on Gender and Gender Equality

Gender is expressly integrated into the region's commitment to disaster risk reduction. This is in-keeping with international, continental and regional commitments to gender equality. It is also in recognition of the evidence that disaster impacts show gender differences, reflecting the roles, duties or responsibilities which are culturally or socially ascribed to women, men, girls and boys. The ECCAS Gender Mainstreamed DRR Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030 enables equal opportunities for participation of women and men in decision-making processes, and mandates sex-disaggregated data to monitor the effects of initiatives on women, men, girls and boys in order to equitably reduce disaster risk.

ECCAS also aims to go one step further, taking a gender-responsive approach that not only recognizes and works with gender differences but, in so doing, actively tries to address the root causes of inequality. This often requires an equitable approach that is different for women, men, girls and boys, and positive discrimination and women's empowerment to redress existing inequality. When gender-responsive attempts at DRM have been successful in reducing inequality and the inequity of benefits of risk reduction activities, future iterations of the GSAP will be able to take a more nuanced and intersectional approach to disaster risk reduction.

Table 1: Gender-related definitions

Term	Definition
Affirmative action	A policy, programme or measure that seeks to redress past discrimination through active measures to ensure equal opportunity and positive outcomes in all spheres of life.
Discrimination	Unequal treatment that can be institutionalized by gender differences in legislation. Situation of depreciation, oppression on individuals or groups.
Gender	Social relationships - or socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes - between men and women, girls and boys, or social relationships between the sexes. They may vary according to culture and time, depending on the evolution of society, from one culture to another, or within the same culture.
Equality	State of being equal in terms of enjoyment of rights, treatment, quantity or value, access to opportunities and outcomes, including resources.
Gender equality	Conditions that are ensured for all to enable women and men to fully exercise their rights in accessing and controlling resources and to contribute to the political, economic, social and cultural development of their society, by being able to give their best and benefit from the results achieved.
Gender equity	The just and fair distribution of benefits, rewards and opportunities between women, men, girls and boys.
Gender approach	<p>1. As an objective, the gender approach promotes equal opportunities, rights, equitable sharing of resources and responsibilities between women and men.</p> <p>2. As a methodology, the Gender approach produces a comparative cross-sectional analysis of the situation of women and men from a social, economic, cultural and political point of view in all areas and sectors of development.</p>
Gender mainstreaming	The process of identifying cross-cutting issues and relationships of gender inequality and inequality factors in all public policies, actions and projects.
Gender sensitive	Acknowledging and taking into account the specific gender needs of both men and women at all levels of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
Sex	The biological differences between females and males.

Source : ECCAS Gender Policy

Annex 2 : Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Management in ECCAS

Introduction

The Central African Region has long faced disasters emanating from hydro meteorological hazards, such as droughts and floods. Floods and droughts are the most frequent disasters, affecting all Central African states and the greatest number of people, with impacts ranging from mass displacement and human losses, damage to critical infrastructure and the natural environment, the destruction of herds and crops and the subsequent loss of livelihood. Although floods happen most often, droughts are also common in Central Africa, with far-reaching impacts on food security, water availability, people's

livelihoods, particularly for those sectors most heavily dependent on water, such as rain-fed agriculture and livestock, aggravating pervasive issues of food insecurity, chronic poverty, and protracted conflict.

Reflecting a global trend, the incidence of extreme weather events and disasters in Central Africa has increased significantly over the past two decades.¹⁴ Hydro meteorological hazards, exacerbated by climate change, such as higher temperatures and changing rainfall patterns, will exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, stemming from high levels of poverty, the dependence on rain-fed

subsistence agriculture, and generally low capacities to plan for, cope with and respond to climate change and extreme weather events. Actual and potential disaster risk remain a serious challenge to socio-economic development for the region in the foreseeable future. Disasters can destroy years of development efforts, wipe out significant investments in productive natural resources, perpetuate poverty, and severely test the stability of states; presenting setbacks to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among which are the goals of no poverty, zero hunger and gender equality.

The effects of disasters are not gender-neutral, but rather reflect socially constructed gender roles and

behaviours.¹⁵ Frequent and more intense climate-related extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, and associated impacts have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, and have the potential to exacerbate existing gender inequalities. In most crisis situations, women and children account for the majority of those affected (e.g., more than 75 per cent of those displaced by natural disasters, and typically 70-80 per cent of those needing assistance in emergency situations).¹⁶ A gendered analysis of disaster risk reduction in all its stages – risk mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery—is therefore essential to highlight the differential impacts of women, men, girls and boys, based on their vulnerability and capacity to adapt to disasters.¹⁷

¹⁴ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), *The Human Cost of Natural Disasters – A Global Perspective*, 2015.

¹⁵ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Gender Equality and UNDP*, April 2009.

¹⁶ These figures reflect the typical demographic percentage of populations in developing countries. Chew and Badras, "Caught in the Storm: The Impact of Natural Disasters on Women, Global Fund for Women," 2005, p. 4, www.globalfundforwomen.org/storage/images/stories/downloads/disaster-report.pdf.

¹⁷ Lorena Aguilar, *Climate Change and Disaster Mitigation*, International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2004.

Whilst current gender roles lead to them experiencing greater vulnerability, when empowered women can play a key role in building broader community resilience.¹⁸ However, women's voices tend to be excluded from decision-making processes in preparation, response, relief and recovery.¹⁹ Without express consideration of gender differences, and attempts to ensure inclusion, approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) tend to be gender-blind. As a result, solutions do not differentiate gender-based differences and needs, and are therefore not effective, having the potential to exacerbate gendered inequalities and disparities between women and men in terms of poverty, labour, and access to resources.

The Economic Commission of Central African States (ECCAS) Secretariat, with the participation and involvement of the Member States, relevant regional and international organisations and partners, elaborated a Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in 2015. However, there is much work to be done to strengthen coordination across Central African states for effective DRM in the region. As it stands, disaster response remains ad-hoc, often starting late in the post-disaster period, with limited, if any, work done to prevent and mitigate potential risk or anticipate and prepare for effective disaster response. To date, the explicit inclusion of women's views, and greater gender-responsiveness during planning, implementation and follow-up has been limited.

Recognizing the need for a deliberate strategy and

technical interventions to address the differential vulnerabilities of men, women, boys and girls before, during and after a disaster event, ECCAS, in cooperation with Member States, has developed this Gender Strategy and Action Plan (GSAP) for mainstreaming gender into Disaster Risk Reduction to equitably reduce disaster risk for women, men, girls and boys. The GSAP is closely aligned to international and continental DRM commitments, including the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2030 and with the African Union Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction; as well as international and continental gender commitments, including the Convention on Elimination of

Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action and the AU Gender Strategy. The implementation of the GSAP will also build closer links between the ECCAS DRM Unit and Gender Cell.

Regional Risk Profile

The Central African region is subject to a range of hydro meteorological hazards, including floods, droughts, rising sea levels, tropical rains, and wildfires, which can give rise to secondary hazards such as landslides and health epidemics such as malaria and cholera.²⁰ Floods and droughts are the most frequent disasters, affecting all Central African states and the greatest number of people. Seasonal flooding is often triggered by torrential seasonal rains, such as in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Chad, and

¹⁸ Kinkini Hemachandra, Dilanthi Amaratunga and Richard Haigh, Role of Women in Disaster Risk Governance, *Procedia Engineering* 212 (2018) 1187–1194.

¹⁹ Maureen Fordham and Suranjana Gupta with Supriya Akerkar and Manuela Scharf, *Leading Resilient Development – Grassroots Women's priorities, Practices and Innovations*, GROOTS International, 2011.

²⁰ The focus of the GSAP is on hydrometeorological hazards and disasters.

Cameroon; where riverine flooding often arises from transboundary river basins. Impacts range from mass displacement and destruction of critical infrastructure and the natural environment, to the destruction of crops and livelihoods which hampers recovery. Although floods happen most often, droughts are also common in Central Africa, particularly in Chad, Burundi, Angola, Cameroon and the Central African Republic (CAR); the impacts of which are far-reaching, with often devastating consequences on food security, water availability, and livelihoods of women, men and children, compounding existing food insecurity, extensive poverty, and protracted conflict. High rates of deforestation, due to legal and illegal logging has resulted in severe land degradation in recent years,

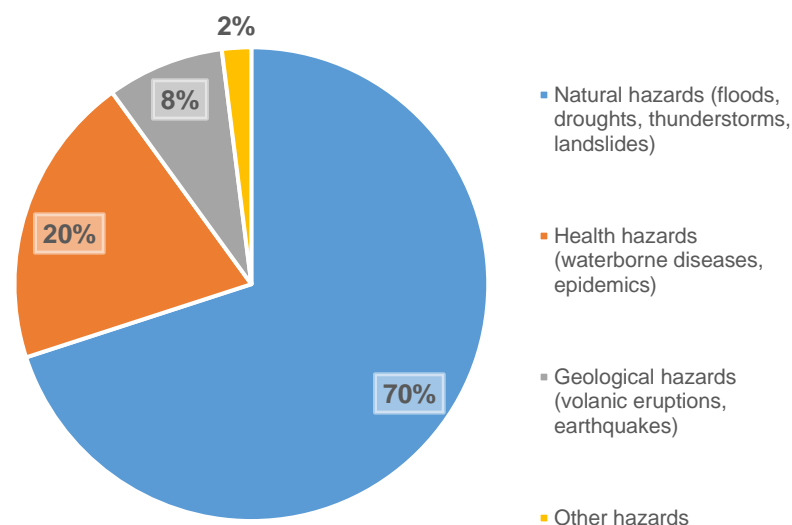
and has increased levels of vulnerability to floods, landslides and drought.

Disaster risk is a function of high levels of exposure to a hazard, vulnerability, and lack of adaptive capacity. The disaster risk situation in the Central Africa region was reviewed during the 7th DRM Central Africa Platform, held in January 2019, the results of which are illustrated in **Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable..**

Accordingly, approximately 70 per cent of disasters in the ECCAS region are climate-related. As such, increased climate variability, including higher temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns, will exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, stemming from high levels of poverty, the dependence on rain-fed subsistence agriculture, and generally low capacities to plan for, cope with and

respond to climate change and extreme weather events. High rates of poverty and social inequality are pervasive throughout the region and are compounded by extreme hydro-meteorological events, the magnitude of which is likely to increase under climate change.²¹

Figure 1: Frequency of disasters in Central Africa



²¹ IPCC, 2012: Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation. A Special Report of Working Groups I and II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Field, C.B., V. Barros, T.F. Stocker, D. Qin, D.J. Dokken, K.L. Ebi, M.D. Mastrandrea, K.J. Mach, G.-K. Plattner, S.K. Allen, M. Tignor, and P.M. Midgley (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 582 p

According to the INFORM Global Risk Index, the ECCAS region is among the most vulnerable regions in the world to disasters, with the Central African Republic, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of Congo among the top 10 highest ranking countries in the world at risk from humanitarian crises and disasters that could overwhelm national response capacity, comprising of three dimensions – hazards and exposure, vulnerability and lack of coping capacity.²² The Central African region is also one of the poorest in sub-Saharan Africa, with the highest number of people living below the poverty line.²³ The poverty rate is high in most countries in the sub-region. According to a report produced by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

(UNECA) and the African Union (AU) assessing the region's overall progress towards meeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets, the sub-region faced an average poverty incidence of nearly 50 per cent in 2015— with Cameroon, Gabon and São Tomé and Príncipe the only countries in the sub-region where less than one-third of the population earns under \$1 a day.²⁴ The tragic consequences of these high poverty rates in human development terms are also apparent from available data, with women particularly affected. Central Africa has the highest maternal mortality rate across different African sub-regions.

Tablea 1: Risk Index and Human Development Index (HDI) of ECCAS Member Countries

Country	2019 Global Risk Index	Risk Category	2017 HDI/187	2017 GDI Index*	2017 GNI Rank/160
Angola	5.2	High	147
Burundi	6.1	High	185	1.002	114
Cameroon	6.0	High	151	0.866	141
CAR	8.6	Very High	188	0.780	156
Chad	7.3	Very High	186	0.775	158
Congo	5.4	High	137	0.934	143
DRC	7.0	Very High	176	0.852	152
Equatorial Guinea	4.1	Medium	141
Gabon	4.2	Medium	110	0.911	128
Rwanda	4.7	Medium	158	0.941	85
São Tome & Príncipe	2.3	Low	143	0.892	131

²² <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index>

²³ UNDP, Central Africa: a Sub-Region Falling Behind?, UNDP Sub-Regional Strategie Assessment Report No. 1, March 2017.

²⁴ UNECA, AUC, AfDB, Africa Regional Report on the Sustainable Development Goals, 2015.

The Gendered Nature of Disaster Risk in ECCAS

Whilst the exposure to natural hazards is place-based, there are differences in levels of vulnerability and adaptive capacity. Vulnerability and adaptive capacity differs between women, men, girls and boys, reflecting gender, or the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes and social relationships between the sexes. Vulnerability is particularly high among women and girls, who are often disproportionately dependent on small-scale natural resource-based livelihoods which are contingent on favourable climate conditions.²⁵ In the Central African Republic, Burundi and Chad, for example, an average of 88 per cent of the working population is dependent on

agriculture,²⁶ with upwards of 60 per cent of the agricultural workforce being women, who continue to take over a growing share of responsibility for agriculture as able-bodied men and boys have joined the rural exodus in the face of rural unemployment.²⁷

This is further complicated by higher poverty rates among women, and cultural and behavioural restrictions, affecting women's mobility as well as socially ascribed roles and responsibilities. Persistent challenges confronted by women across Central Africa include illiteracy, barriers issuing from customs and traditions, lack of gender sensitivity in macro-economic policies and budgets, and limited access to governance and land rights (particularly for rural women), as well as productive resources.²⁸ These endowments and human

capital in the form of access to health, education and social protection programmes affect how women and girls are able to access information related to disaster risk and early warning systems, as well as relief and recovery, affecting both disaster preparedness and response.

Based on extensive stakeholder consultations to support the preparation of this GSAP for DRM; it is understood that there is much work to be done to strengthen coordination across Central African states for effective DRM. As it stands, disaster response remains *ad-hoc*, often starting late in the post-disaster period, with limited work done to prevent and mitigate potential hazards or anticipate or prepare for effective disaster response.

This weakness reflects a lack of policies and/or strategies, legislation, institutional frameworks, allocation of necessary resources, trained staff, and coordination structures to establish effective disaster management and response. When Member States *do* have a DRM strategy in place, it often fails to fully integrate gender or treat it as a cross-cutting issue. Despite the existence of international, continental and regional frameworks for the integration of gender; the integration of gender in national governmental plans, policies and institutional structures for DRM or CCA is often rudimentary even where policies exist.

This is a common issue also with gender policies, strategies and plans in Member States. Although the concept of gender is mentioned on paper in many policies and strategies,

²⁵ UNEP (2002). Africa Environment Outlook. Past, present and future perspectives. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi.

²⁶ World Bank – World Development Indicators, ILOSTAT database. Data retrieved in September 2018.

²⁷ IFAD, Gender and Rural Development Brief – West and Central Africa, May 2015.

²⁸ UN WOMEN, An Empowered Future - Corporate evaluation of UN Women's contribution to women's economic empowerment, New York, December 2014.

implementation remains a challenge. Within institutions, gender human resources are often standalone departments, usually with one gender expert responsible for gender mainstreaming within the entire institution. Often gender focal points outside of the gender ministry are assigned to that role without sufficient training. As two cross-cutting issues, DRM and gender often experience the same challenges—lack of coordination between ministries and focal points responsible for gender mainstreaming, from inadequate technical capacity in understanding gender issues, weak accountability mechanisms, and inadequate resources to fully mainstream gender within institutions and programming for DRM, CCA and other sectors. In general, efforts for DRM are fragmented among different stakeholders working across government, the UN, NGOs and academia; and not fully

interlinked with women's empowerment related efforts. As a result, gender is often pigeonholed, and is not fully mainstreamed within institutions and programming for DRM and other sectors.

There is a clear recognition by member state DRM Focal Points of the need for legal and institutional frameworks in this regard, based on the four priorities of the Sendai Framework for Action, as well as appropriate tools for the collection and production of sex disaggregated data and statistics. There is also widespread acknowledgement of the need for capacity strengthening at all levels, for DRM especially, and gender integration.

Overall, the general approach to DRM in the region remains masculine and lacks women's voices, resulting in gender-blind DRM strategies and responses. As a result, solutions often reinforce and perpetuate inequalities

between women and men. There is a need to proactively address the lack of women's voices in disaster governance at all levels, to echo women's voices in DRM both in disaster risk planning and response. Despite the differences between women and men in how they view hazards and their potential effects, this is seldom considered and translated into nuanced policy. In terms of response structures, women's voices are also negligible, often limited to the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse clusters—but not integrated (if at all) in any of the others. As well as proactively providing equal opportunities for participation of women and men in formal government structures, there is also a need to address the barriers that women face in actively participating in decision-making and involvement in disaster risk reduction activities at community level. To address

this, there is a need to better understand the position of women and girls as well as men and boys – in terms of understanding differences in knowledge, capacity, and priorities.

The abstract nature of the concept of gender is often a barrier. For most government stakeholders, gender is abstract and is therefore often missing from planning and policy. For example, in reference to strategies, there needs to be greater clarity on what is meant by gender-sensitive so that all parties have a common understanding of how to implement gender-sensitive programming. It was noted in consultations with national Gender Focal Points that gender is not just about women, but also considers the needs of diverse and vulnerable groups and communities.

In addition, sex- and age-disaggregated data is still not the norm. Although it is widely recognized that there is a need

for sex-disaggregated data and indicators, this information is typically not being collected. Even when rapid assessment forms are disaggregated for gender, disability, and age in line with the Sendai Framework, this disaggregation does not translate into application at the local level. Data collection often remains aggregated at the community level, and does not account for differences between sex, as well as age or disability.

Other barriers that women face include control over resources, and legislation that restricts women's access to property and finance and impedes longer term efforts at risk reduction and resilience building. For example, in post-disaster settings and even with legislation in place, women face challenges when trying to acquire or access land.

Recognizing this context and aspirations for more gender-

responsive disaster risk management to be enabled through deliberate policy and technical interventions that equitably reduce risk for women, men, girls and boys before, during and after a disaster event, the ECCAS, in cooperation with Member States, has developed this GSAP.

Case Study – Climate change adaptation for the social and ecological system of oases

In Chad oases are essential to enable agricultural livelihoods in the desert. In the oases of Chad, women have often become heads of household owing to the migration of men to the cities. These women must assume responsibility for the cultivation of land with low agricultural productivity. However, they are faced with significant constraints relating to gender roles and relations: lack of social recognition, land problems and risks of sexual, physical and psychological violence, which are barriers to their resilience. Additional climate change stresses require adaptation to build diverse and resilient production systems that contribute to food security, social equity and environmental regeneration. For these initiatives to be sustainable, they need to include women's voices in decision-making. Leadership for the Environment and Development in Chad (LEAD CHAD) has played a key role in the inclusive promotion and protection of the inhabitants of oases with the support of different donors.

Presentation given by Colette Bénoudji, Lead Coordinator of the Chad Lead Reference Association (RADDO) (Network of Associations for the Sustainable Development of Oases)

Droughts

Droughts have severely affected Central Africa in recent years, particularly in northern Cameroon, Burundi, the Central African Republic, and central Chad, located in the Central African Sahelian zone, which has experienced an increased frequency of droughts since the late 1960s.²⁹ Prolonged dry spells, drought conditions, and strong winds are often the causes of uncontrolled wildfires, which can destroy large areas of pastureland and compound issues such as famine, acute malnutrition, and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people.³⁰ Prolonged droughts and the high temperatures that accompany them, have severe consequences on agriculture and water availability, leading to

economic losses, increased food and nutrition insecurity, and loss of livelihoods, all of which have a disproportionate impact on women and girls.³¹ Droughts are often exacerbated by land degradation, population pressures, poor water conservation practices as well as political instability and poor economic growth; this contributes to desertification, environmental degradation and deforestation which, in turn, can further increase vulnerability to droughts and floods.

For women in the agricultural sector, droughts demand longer hours in the fields as farmers try to save their crops, or replant seeds to ensure a sufficient harvest, with women having to re-seed sometimes up to seven times during the

growing season owing to erratic rains.³² Women and girls also typically bear the brunt of the effects of droughts on food production as they reduce their calorie intake in favour of the male head of the household and boys. The risk of malnutrition and disease is higher for the most vulnerable population groups due to the lack of food and deteriorating hygiene and sanitation conditions. This is especially true for children, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly and the chronically ill.

The impacts of drought on agriculture similarly heighten water stress and compound challenges for the use of water for irrigation or domestic consumption in already water-scarce

environments. Due to socially constructed gender roles which dictate water collection to be a female task, women and children again suffer the most severe consequences of water shortages. In the context of increased water stress and the prevalence of drought, women and girls are forced to travel farther distances to collect water, placing a greater burden on women's productive time and labour, and increasing the risk of gender-based violence as their travel time and distance away from home increases.³³

Similarly, droughts can precipitate the pace of deforestation, partly through natural death of trees and also due to increased pressure on a diminishing biomass base. Fuel wood collection, charcoal production, and, to a lesser

²⁹ Thian Yew Gan, Mari Ito, Stephan Huelsmann, 2013. Drought, climate and hydrological conditions in Africa: An assessment based on the application of remotely sensed geospatial data and various models, United Nations University Institute of Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources, Dresden, Germany.

³⁰ Boulanodji, E., Analyse et compréhension des liens existant entre le changement climatique, les aires protégées et les communautés au Tchad. UNEP-WCMC technical report, 2014.

³¹ IFAD- Gender and Rural Development Brief, op. cit.

³² C. Murungweni. M. T. Van Wijk, E. M. A. Smaling. K. E. Giller. Climate-smart crop production in semi-arid areas through increased knowledge of varieties, environment and management factors. *Nutr Cycl Agroecosyst* (2016) 105:183–197.

³³ Virginie Le Masson, 2016. Gender and Resilience: from Theory to Practice, BRACED. Working paper, 60 p.

extent, livestock grazing in forests are the most important human drivers of degradation in large parts of Africa, especially in the Congo River basin, home to the second largest rainforest in the world.³⁴ In 2007, biomass constituted over 80 percent of the energy used in many Central African countries such as Burundi (91 per cent), Rwanda and the Central African Republic (both 90 per cent respectively). Production and consumption of fuel wood is said to have doubled in the last 30 years of the 20th century, and is rising by 0.5 percent every year.³⁵ As women and girls are also usually responsible for fuel wood collection, droughts and deforestation can increase the time and labour necessary to

bring back enough to their household.³⁶

Harmful practices, including domestic violence, child marriage, courtship rape and female genital mutilation/cutting, have also been observed to spike during droughts and prolonged dry spells as coping mechanisms.³⁷

Floods

Flooding is common throughout Central Africa, which is often caused by torrential seasonal rains, such as in Rwanda, the DRC, Equatorial Guinea, and the trans-border regions of south-western Chad and north-eastern Cameroon and in the Central African Republic. Flooding is also common in the more humid and rural areas of Central Africa, especially where

Case Study – Angola drought 2012-2016

During the 2012-2016 drought in Angola, women and girls faced challenges in addition to the ones listed above. In households involved in livestock production, livestock sales are a livelihood adaptation to a variability in resources. In the case of the long-term drought in Angola however, sales in combination with livestock death meant that many households were completely divested of livestock. The reconstitution of assets was particularly challenging for women who, traditionally, do not have *de facto* ownership of productive assets.

Many key informant interviews and focus groups with women also identified and underscored the relationship between drought-related stress and increases in domestic violence. Data in Huila province from the Ministry of Social Action, Family Promotion and Women (MASFAMU) indicated an increasing trend in cases of domestic violence, reported between 2012 and 2016. While the increase cannot be directly attributed to the drought, it is well documented in the literature that domestic and gender-based violence often increases in times of economic and social stress.

³⁴ Gabrielle Kissinger, Martin Herold, Veronique de Sy, Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation – A Synthesis Report for REDD+ Policymakers, Lexeme Consulting, Vancouver Canada, August 2012.

³⁵ ECOSOC, Economic Commission for Africa, Africa Review Report on Drought and Desertification, Fifth Meeting of the Africa Committee on Sustainable Development (ACSD-5) Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) for CSD-16 Addis Ababa 22-25 October 2007.

³⁶ Virginie Le Masson, 2016, op. cit.

³⁷ Virginie Le Masson, Sheri Lim, Mirianna Budimir, Jasna Selih Podboj, Disasters and Violence Against Women and Girls – Can Disasters Shake Social Norms and Power Relations?, Overseas Development Institute, London, November 2016.

forests and natural vegetation have been cleared for cultivation or human settlements. Urban floods are a constant threat throughout the sub-region—rapidly growing urban areas that are situated in riversides, low-lying river deltas, or coastal areas directly exposed to sea-level rises, coastal surges, and inundation. Intense storms often trigger flooding, flash floods, and landslides in urban settings; destroying homes, crops, and isolating entire neighbourhoods due to damage to critical infrastructure, such as bridges, or power and communication lines.

Floods can have far-reaching impacts, including damage to infrastructure, to housing, and to agriculture. The impacts of floods are particularly pronounced for women, who comprise the vast majority of

subsistence farmers in the sub-region, and especially for female-headed households. As a result, women have limited access to safe deliveries, increasing their risk of unsafe pregnancies, exposing pregnant women to life threatening complications. In addition, it is common for flooding to be associated with outbreaks of epidemics and waterborne diseases, such as cholera, typhoid, and diarrhoea. Women and children are often the most affected by these outbreaks, due to limited access to water and sanitation facilities, often leaving women and girls exposed to a greater gender-based violence risk, as they have to travel more often and/or farther to distant and unsafe locations, such as water collection points, sanitation facilities and health centres.

Women and girls are more likely than men to die during a disaster due to cultural and behavioural restrictions, affecting women's mobility and socially ascribed roles and responsibilities (e.g. caring for children, the elderly and the sick).³⁸ Depending on the culture, restrictive dress codes affect the mobility of women in a way that may prove deadly during sudden disasters, particularly floods, as skills that could be essential to survival, such as tree climbing and swimming, are masculine gender roles and thus often taught only to boys.

As rapid onset events, the speed of arrival of floods often necessitates the need for evacuation and shelter.³⁹ However, early warning systems rarely take into account gender roles and

how they affect accessibility to information. Women may not receive early warnings since they are transmitted only to men in public spaces.⁴⁰ Moreover, even if they do receive early warning information, women tend to be reluctant to go to safe shelters during disasters for fear of losing their children and their household assets, such as livestock. In disaster relief situations, displaced women and girls are at heightened risk of experiencing sexual gender-based violence at aid distribution points; in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities; in unsafe shelter arrangements such as communal tents; and in areas where lighting is poor. The perpetrators are often in positions of authority (police, security officials, community leaders, teachers, employers, landlords, humanitarian workers); requesting sexual

³⁸ Women and children are 14 times more likely to die during a disaster (Peterson, 2007)

³⁹ Neumayer, E., & Plumper, T. (2007). "The gendered nature of natural disasters: the impact of catastrophic events on the gender gap in life expectancy, 1981- 2002. *Annals of the Assoc. of American Geographers* / 8.

⁴⁰ UNDP (2012). Overview of linkages between gender and climate change. Gender and Climate Change Training module 1, Capacity Development Series.

favours in return for humanitarian aid, such as food and medicine.

There are also gendered differences in options for the post-flood recovery period. Due to women's socio-economic marginalization, limited access to credit, control over household financial resources and lack of property or inheritance rights. The recovery burden is difficult for female-headed households, including widows, who are the sole source of income and care for their children. When disasters strike, men often migrate to urban areas to seek unskilled labouring jobs to finance their recovery. This has had negative effects, such as weakening traditional livelihood networks and conflicts with other communities due to competition for resources. Comparatively, women and

girls are not as mobile given socially ascribed roles and responsibilities; with expectations to remain in the home to care for the family. In addition, inequities in governance and access to land negatively impact the ability of women, particularly in the rural areas, to rebuild 'better' in the aftermath of a disaster. For example, rules governing property and the transfer of land (via traditional means, commercial acquisition or inheritance for instance) are less favourable to women. As a result, when a man dies, his widow and family can be left without property and support networks, and with both formal and informal protection mechanisms often shattered, leaving them highly vulnerable to falling into poverty in the aftermath of a disaster and perpetuating inequalities between women and men.⁴¹

⁴¹ Virginie Le Masson, Sheri Lim, Mirianna Budimir, Jasna Selih Podboj, Disasters and Violence Against Women and Girls – Can Disasters Shake Social Norms and Power Relations?, Overseas Development Institute, London, November 2016.

Annex 3 : Global and Continental Policy Frameworks for DRM and Gender

AU Gender Strategy: Pillars for Gender Equality			
1. Maximising outcomes, opportunities & tech	2. Dignity, Security and Resilience	3. Effective Law, Policies and Institutions	4. Leadership, Voice and Visibility
1.1 Education and Work: Compulsory and free education for girls and women from age 3 to 18; market- oriented vocational training and literacy programmes for youth and women	2.1 Health, SRH and RR*, Harmful Traditional Practices: Women and girls achieve higher chances of survival, improved nutrition and wellness and their bodily integrity is protected	3.1 The Maputo Protocol: National laws & judicial systems protect and fulfil women's ownership and inheritance rights, education, wage equality, civil liberties and physical integrity as provided for by the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women	4.1 Leadership: Equal participation and demonstrated influence of women and girls in all leadership and decision-making positions.
1.2 Economic Empowerment: Income autonomy and social protection for women and girls	2.2 Ending Violence Against Women (VAW): All forms of violence against women and girls is reduced, criminalised and condemned by society; women participate equally in peace processes	3.2 Norm Setting: National laws and policies protect and enable women's full access and enjoyment of the opportunities and benefits of Agenda 2063 and other continental projects	4.2 Voice: Women and girls have equal voice and exercise agency in the home, community and public spaces
1.3. Digital Inclusion: <i>Women and girls become more active users and influencers of the technological space and gender enabling ETech solutions are funded</i>	2.3 Human Security: Commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action, migration and COP Plan of Action for women achieve higher levels of implementation	3.3 Institutional Gender Governance Systems: Institutions and organs of the AU, Member States, RECs and civil society have the capacity to implement existing commitments; pro-actively forecast and address new challenges and demonstrate accountability	4.3 Visibility: Women and girls are more visible and portrayed as equal contributors to society in the media, literature and cultural resources.
Cross cutting strategies: Identify scalable high impact programmes synergized and owned at regional and national levels; Accelerate financing and institutional capacity building, including CSOs**; Identify strategic partnerships and synergies; Undertake innovative campaigns and continuous dialogues to transform social norms; Remove contradiction between statutory provisions and practices; Enforce existing commitments; Mobilization; Enhance political and social accountability; Adopt and advocate for temporary special measures to level the playing field; Evidence-based decision making; Document and share what works; Find new and innovative ways of measuring success and affirming good practice.			

Global Policies for Gender-Responsive DRM

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (which updated the Hyogo Framework for Action HFA 2005-2015) was adopted by 187-member states at the 3rd UN World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. The adoption of Sendai galvanized AU Heads of State and Governments to express their strong commitment to disaster risk reduction. The Framework includes women's leadership goals, gender-sensitive policies and a reference to sexual and reproductive health care services. However, women are often included together with girls and marginalized groups, furthering the 'victim' paradigm; the term 'gender equality' does not appear in the text, nor is there a

reference to women's human rights.

The four priorities of the SFDRR are:

1. Understanding disaster risk.
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Gender Action Plan

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted its first-ever Gender Action Plan (GAP) at the 2017 Conference of Parties (COP). The UNFCCC GAP was created under the Lima Work Programme on Gender—seeking to advance women's full, equal and meaningful participation, and promote gender-responsive

climate policy. The GAP aims to support and enhance the implementation of gender-related decisions and mandates so far adopted in the UNFCCC process through a set of specific activities.

Beijing Platform for Action

The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) is one of the most comprehensive global policy frameworks and blueprints for action and continues to be a source of guidance and inspiration to realize gender equality and the human rights of women and girls. The Platform for Action covers 12 critical areas of concern: poverty; education and training; health; violence; armed conflict; economy; power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms; human rights; media; environment; and the girl child. For each critical area of concern, strategic objectives

are identified, as well as a detailed catalogue of related actions to be taken by Governments and other stakeholders, at national, regional and international level.

Other Relevant ECCAS Policies

- The 2006 Multilateral Agreement on Regional Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa was prepared in partnership with ECOWAS to develop a common front to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons through international cooperation.
- The Strategic Plan on the Fight against HIV & AIDS (2014-2018) comprises five main pillars, which include mother-to-child transmission as well as the supply and availability of ARVs.

- The Gender and Agriculture Action Plan was prepared in partnership with UN FAO to ensure that the second generation of Regional and National Agricultural Investment Plans better respond to women's needs and priorities.
- The (currently draft) Sub-Regional Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Congo Basin (2017 – to be approved) by the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC) will aim to (i) Create an enabling environment and a common vision for gender/EFH mainstreaming and its priorities within COMIFAC; (ii) Strengthen the organizational and programmatic capacities of COMIFAC and its gender partners; (iii) Establish a more innovative approach to partnership and resource mobilization; (iv) Reduce violence against women as a transversal strategic objective.
- The 2013 Gender strategy for REDD+ and adaptation to climate change in Central Africa considers gender and the effective involvement of women in REDD+ processes and adaptation to climate change in the COMIFAC region. This strategy aims to strengthen the role of women and other populations at high risk of vulnerability in the development, implementation and monitoring of national and sub-regional REDD+ and adaptation policies and strategies. It gives women and men equal opportunities for participation and access to the benefits and opportunities offered by the policies, programmes and projects put in place. In particular, the strategy provides a framework for rural women to take advantage of the benefits of REDD+ and the opportunities offered by climate change adaptation programmes to contribute to the fight against poverty.

Annex 4 : ECCAS Stakeholder Consultations: Current Situation of Gender-Responsive DRR

To *update* and *enhance* its DRR Strategy and Action Plan with lessons learned to date, and the incorporation of a gender lens; ECCAS DRM and Gender staff, with oversight by the World Bank, managed an international consultant team based across the region, to conduct stakeholder consultations. As part of this analysis, member state focal points for DRR and Gender gave critical feedback and in puts during a five-day conference—the first to fully combine DRM with Gender. In addition, the team also consulted with relevant government agencies, NGOs and donors active in supporting disaster risk reduction and women' empowerment efforts in ECCAS member states. The findings of these consultations offered many insights into the barriers and opportunities for gender-responsive disaster risk

reduction. (For a full list of interviewees, see Annex)

Lessons Learned on the Role of ECCAS in Gender-Responsive DRR

ECCAS can assist Member States to adapt the Sendai Framework to the national context, and to define standards for implementation.

There is a gap between Sendai, the AU Strategy and national level DRR efforts. ECCAS should support member states in developing their own DRR strategy and action plan, and ensure that strategies are harmonized across member states. Ideally, member states should cascade their strategies from the ECCAS one presented here.

As a coordinating body ECCAS should be able to assess standards—so member states would have an agreed standard for how to respond to disasters (and how to do so in a gender-responsive way)—and so that standards can keep on being improved e.g. gender analysis, resilience building, mandate the collection of sex-disaggregated data in assessments; develop checklists/standards for contingency planning, emergency response, and relief and rehabilitation.

Establish coordination structures and mechanisms for responding to cross-border and transboundary disasters, working collaboratively to reduce cross-border risks. This would operate at a different level from member states, concentrating more on disasters at the regional level—establishing mechanisms to coordinate regional response and preparedness.

ECCAS is best placed for regional knowledge management strategic communications:

ECCAS should build technical know-how at the regional and national level. This could be in the form of supporting the creation and implementation of DRR programmes in academic institutions in the region; monitoring the implementation of DRR frameworks and the development of emergency and contingency plans for all member states; holding workshops to monitor, update and validate DRR plans; and organizing simulations to test them and create opportunities for learning.

It was recommended for ECCAS to provide support to the establishment of an inter-service communication system for crisis management, and for the organization of a training seminar for public and

private media personnel on Disaster Risk Reduction. This would improve communications on DRR and disaster risks as the regional level.

Continue efforts to develop a cartography of risks in the region and support efforts for the development of national risk mapping. Encourage the sharing of maps for disaster risks between countries and regions. Support the collection and analysis of disaster loss data to assess costs (economic, social, financial), including sex-disaggregated data.

Member States look to ECCAS to Support Gender-Responsive DRR in...

⇒ **Improving understanding of gender responsive DRR:** Gender Focal Points pointed to the lack of buy-in from some government stakeholders on issues relating to gender and its crucial importance for effective DRR: improve understanding on how women and men's

livelihoods are affected by specific hazards; how could gender-based differences in decision-making and ownership of/access to assets affect people's vulnerability; and, how it leads to differential abilities to respond to hydro-meteorological hazards.

⇒ **Coordination** : Gender focal points raised the question of having a Platform on Gender Issues in Central Africa to share and review best practices integrating gender and DRR. This would help disseminate good practice examples for gender responsive DRR and knowledge on practices, mechanisms, and structures that support its implementation.

⇒ **Capacity Building** : Develop tools and train focal points on key topics such as: Responses to Climate Change (risk management) and Climate Change and Gendered vulnerability to climate change; and Gendered

climate change adaptation and mitigation.

⇒ **Data collection and dissemination** : Support Member States by building their capacity in the collection, production and use of sex-disaggregated statistics in planning DRR interventions and investments. ECCAS can disseminate relevant information in DRR and how disasters differentially impact based on gender and factors affecting vulnerability.

⇒ **Promote gender inclusion in disaster response:** so that women participate in the process of developing strategies, plans of action, Gender and Risk reduction programmes, and in concrete actions in case of a disaster event.

Good Practice Examples

From consultations with donors and NGOs, several good practice examples for mainstreaming gender in DRM were identified, ranging from internal procedures to programming. For example, CARE International organized a Climate Change and Resilience Information Center and the Climate Change and Resilience Platform, participated in the COPs since the COP21 in 2015, and in 2016 developed the Gender-sensitive Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (GCVCA). This is a practitioners' guidebook based on field experience in Mozambique that provides a framework for analyzing vulnerability and capacity to adapt to climate change and build resilience to disasters at the community level, with a particular focus on social dynamics and in particular, gender dynamics. Although the guidebook is based on

field level insights on Mozambique, this offers many insights into the linkages between gender and DRM for consideration in the Central African context.

The IFRC organized the Climate Center in 2007 and issued their Climate Guide in the same year. The guide presents five years of different experiences from more than 30 National Societies, particularly those of developing countries in understanding and addressing the risks of climate change. The IFRC Central Africa Regional Office in Cameroon, Disaster Risk Reduction is part of the regular program while Protection, Gender and Inclusion are transversal themes that are included in both development projects and emergency operations within the Central Africa sub region. As part of their regular activities, the IFRC strengthens the capacities of National Societies in Central Africa to enable better understanding of the project cycle, including problem

identification, planning, resource mobilization, communications, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting, in order to meet the program indicators. The UNDP and UNICEF Regional and National offices in Central Africa have for the last ten years employed the Human Rights-Based Approach and organized Gender Thematic Groups in their own offices with regular monthly meetings for monitoring human rights and gender mainstreaming in all projects and activities as normative principles. The GIZ financed and organized Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) training sessions for government agencies, NGOs and university academic staff.

Angola: The “Plano Estratégico de Gestão do Risco de Desastres”(Strategic Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction) includes the adoption of an approach to the theme of risk and disaster from the perspective of gender equity in the context of the

National Civil Protection System, as a specific objective. This approach prompts measures to promote gender equality and traditional knowledge in risk analysis and planning processes.

Rwanda: The Government of Rwanda has adopted a sectoral approach for all ministries. Disaster Risk Reduction/Prevention concepts do not directly come out as such in all sectoral plans; however, different sectoral policies include disaster risk reduction as an integral part in their respective area of intervention (water resource management, poverty reduction, climate change, education, development planning). A national body is in charge of coordination and multi-sector aspects (National Service for Disaster Management) and consists of services from the Presidency Office, the Prime Minister’s

Office and line ministries, including the Ministry of Gender and Women in Development.

Chad: following droughts and floods in Chad that affected more than 20 percent of the population, the 2015 Humanitarian Action Plan was developed following a gender sensitive approach, recognizing the gender inequality and social exclusion experienced by women and girls in Chad. An advisor on gender was available to support humanitarian organizations and clusters in the design and development of their programmes. The average

score for the “gender marker” was 1.39.⁴²

Instruments for Implementation

The Gender Responsive DRR Action Plan 2020-2030 updates the 2015 Action Plan focusing at the REC level. As such, its strategy is guided by the Sendai Framework, as translated to the Central African context by the Yaoundé communiqué. Lessons learned from the Stakeholder Consultations are applied to the activity framework, to ensure that ECCAS responds to the most pressing needs of its member states. In addition, activities are fully gender-mainstreamed to comply with the African Union’s Gender Strategy.

While there is often some mystery around *how* to conduct gender mainstreaming in practice; the Action Plan takes the simple approach of applying a gender lens to the *usual*

activities carried out by ECCAS to support disaster risk response. These activities are:

- i. Advocacy and public awareness campaigns
- ii. Formulation of Regional Policy Frameworks and Guidance to Member States
- iii. Data Sharing Protocols
- iv. Knowledge Management and Capacity Building
- v. Regional Early Warning Mechanisms
- vi. Regional Level Risk Assessment
- vii. Contingency Funding

Across the four priority areas for Sendai, and its corresponding ECCAS DRR Strategy, a Gender Lens can be applied, to ensure compliance with the African Union’s policies for gender⁴³

Table 2: Gender-Responsive DRR: Points to Consider

Sendai Pillar/Yaoundé Communiqué	Gender Lens
1. Understanding disaster risk	Technical analysis needs to consider gendered risks and the unique needs of women and men, girls and boys. <i>Get the facts</i> by undertaking gender analysis and collect sex disaggregated data.
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk	Empower women to fully participate within institutional arrangements and policy formulation: the African Union conducts a year survey of gender balance within its organization.
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience	Ensure equitable resource allocation: targeted actions to promote gender equality need to be adequately funded and mainstreamed in recovery budgets. Monitoring and evaluation are essential to ensure gender equality principles trickle down to implementation.
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better”	The immense contributions women make to recovery need to be amplified up to the national and local policy levels.

⁴² Humanitarian Community in Chad, 2015 Plan de Réponse Humanitaire Tchad, February 2015. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/chad_srp_20150520.pdf (accessed on October 7, 2019)

⁴³ UNISDR, UNDP and IUCN, Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender-Sensitive: Policy and Practical Guidelines, 2009

Annex 5 : Key Findings on ECCAS DRR Strategy: By Sendai Priority Area

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk

Success

⇒ **Centre d'Application et de Prévision Climatologique de l'Afrique Centrale (CAPC-AC):** as planned, the center has been set up in Cameroon, and conducts climatological forecasts for the Central Africa region.

⇒ **To understand Gender-Responsive DRR:** ECCAS managed an extensive stakeholder consultation process over 6 months, to improve the baseline understanding of the issue, and contribute to an updated Strategy and Action Plan for Gender-Responsive DRR.

Existing Challenges

⇒ **Understanding Gender and DRR:** Apart from the existence of national gender policies in the Member

States, gender considerations in DRR do not seem to be well developed or considered in mainstream DRM activities: current strategies and actions plans could benefit from systematic gender-based analyses before carrying out prevention and response activities. There is a lack of appropriate tools for the collection and production of sex disaggregated data and statistics to understand all aspects of DRR.

⇒ **Working with Academia:** The role of science and technology in analyzing and understanding climate change, disasters and disaster risk reduction continues to be vital and can inform policy and practices that respond to the Central African context. Filling current gaps in knowledge and applying new technologies for gender-responsive DRR, and

enhanced resilience are ways in which science and technology can contribute to saving lives. Academics who participated in the consultation

recommended that the ECCAS conduct studies to understand women's unique experiences during disaster periods, to gain a better appreciation of their needs.

Priority 2 : Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk

Success:

⇒ **DRR and Gender Governance:** At the 4th Ministerial Conference for Risk Reduction in Central Africa held in Kinshasa, DRC; the ECCAS convened both DRM and Gender with focal points from Member States for the first time in its history. This enabled a substantive discussion between country practitioners in both Disaster Risk and

Gender, and an informal list of key activity areas.

⇒ **DRR Training:** ECCAS continues to provide DRR training for its member states on Risk knowledge; Identification of hazards, vulnerability assessment and risk analysis at Community level; Mapping and risk atlas in Central Africa; Development of Contingency plans and simulation exercises. Specific trainings included i) Training of members of national platforms (NP) in Chad and in DRC; ii) Training of members of the Parliamentary Network for Disaster Resilience in Central Africa (REPARC) iii) Training of 28 experts from ECCAS Member States on the Methodology of Emergency Response.

⇒ **Capacity building:** Support of the development and the capacity building of national committees in charge of climate and DRR

National platforms, ideal framework for multi stakeholders, discussions and experience sharing for a resilient and sustainable development.

Existing Challenges

⇒ **Capacity Building:** As ECCAS DRR activities become increasingly gender responsive, there will be a need to expand training and capacity building and the crucial need for a gender lens in DRR activities.

⇒ **Strategy Development:** Although all ECCAS member states have national DRR Platforms and national DRR Focal Points, most do not have a specific DRR policy or strategy, nor a Ministry dedicated to DRR and humanitarian action. None have a specific policy on gender and DRR.⁴⁴

⇒ **Best Practice dissemination and Scale-up:** Member State Gender Focal Points recognize that there is hardly anything being implemented at the national level beyond the mention of gender in policies, strategies and plans.⁴⁵ Not only must member state Gender Focal Points often fight misconceptions around gender, they usually lack the capacity to build institutional memory and impetus on gender and DRM within their own government. For almost all ECCAS countries, there is only one member state Gender Focal Point responsible for the integration of gender in DRR across all departments. Member state Gender Focal Points also lack a regional platform to share best practices on DRR and gender integration in Central Africa,

expressing the need for a platform to communicate data and information openly.

Priorité 3 : Investing in Disaster Reduction for Resilience

Success

⇒ ECCAS have dedicated DRM and Gender staff who collaborated on the update and enhancement of the 10-year Strategy and Action Plan.

⇒ The ambitious goals of a dedicated fund for DRR and Insurance products have not been met.

Existing challenges

⇒ **Investing in Disaster Preparedness:** In the event of a disaster, member state DRR Focal Points admitted that

disaster response on the part of most governments, have always been organized on a case-by-case basis, in reaction to events, without planning or prior organization. As a result, most national responses remain ad-hoc in the absence of a coherent or sustainable strategy to guide activities. This may well be the reason that disasters, disaster risk prevention, training and humanitarian actions are usually taken up by international donors.⁴⁶

⇒ **Private Sector Engagement:** The private sector primarily provides donations for disaster relief. However, it is mainly the telecommunications companies that provide tangible technical

⁴⁴ For example, while Burundi has in place a national disaster risk prevention and management strategy since 2012, Chad since 2015 and the Republic of Congo since 2017, it was only this year (2019) that the Government of Gabon drafted a law on disaster prevention and management; and although other ECCAS countries may have plans for emergency situations, the full DRM cycle is not always considered (Equatorial Guinea, DRC, Cameroon, Central African Republic).

⁴⁵ INGOs and international agencies are far ahead of governments in DRR, climate change and gender considerations and their contributions are numerous. As a result of these broad efforts over a number of years, local-level NGOs have been able to participate in training and capacity strengthening and have benefited as local sub-contractors for projects focused on gender and DRR. Over time, they have developed their own projects independently, directly in response to the needs of local populations.

⁴⁶ Such as the United Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), the German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ) and the World Bank, and INGOs such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and CARE International.

assistance in disaster relief and mitigation, through SMS early warning systems, help messaging and cash transfers of assistance (via cellphone networks) to individual beneficiaries, which not only saves time and money, it also ensures that only the targeted beneficiary receives the transfer.

Priorité 4: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective REsponse, and to « Build Back Better » in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

Success

Coordination activities:

- ⇒ Holding of six annual consultations to strengthen disaster preparedness and response
- ⇒ Holding of four sessions of Central Africa platforms for DRR (CAPF-DRR)
- ⇒ Holding of two Ministerial Conferences on DRR
- ⇒ Holding of two Ministerial Conferences on Meteorology

- ⇒ Creation of a Parliamentary Network for Disaster Resilience in Central Africa (REPARC)
- ⇒ Establishment of a sub-regional emergency response teams

Existing Challenges

- ⇒ **Gender-Responsive Protocols and Procedures for DRR:** Overall, local-level NGOs insisted on the need to consider women as actors for DRM rather than victims of disasters. Indeed, participants generally recognized that women have important connections to the environment, linked to livelihood activities affected by disasters and climate change (such as water collection or agriculture), or those that exacerbate its impacts such as activities that contribute to land degradation (collection of fuelwood). Activities that aim to promote DRM therefore need to consider these relationships, and include

women in awareness and prevention activities.

Annex 6: Potential Funding Opportunities

Table 6: Potential funding opportunities from international partners and donors

Organisation/fund	Summary of funding opportunity
European Development Fund African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and European Union Development Cooperation (ACP-EU) https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/african-caribbean-and-pacific-acp-region_en	Holistic approach to disaster resilience based on accurate risk information and improved design support systems. Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities Program. Result Area 2: DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities of African RECs operational to support respective member states and regional and sub-regional programmes
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (World Bank) https://www.gfdrr.org/en/gender	Grant funding mechanism that supports DRM projects worldwide. Implementation of Sendai - helping countries to integrate DRM and climate-change adaptation into development strategies and investment programmes for greater resilience.
Global Environment Facility https://www.thegef.org/	Established to tackle the planet's environmental problems - by providing new and additional grants and concessional funding to cover supplementary costs associated with transforming a project with national benefits with one with global environmental benefits. Accreditation as a GEF implementing partner requires demonstrated efforts to analyse gender considerations in GEF projects. The gender capacity of prospective implementing agencies is a criteria for GEF accreditation
European Investment Bank https://www.eib.org/en/index.htm	European Union non-profit long-term lending institution. SheInvest initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion of investment for closing the access to finance gender-gap. Promotes gender-responsive climate financing - investment will target climate and gender responsive infrastructure projects, such as projects enhancing women's access to water, clean, reliable and affordable energy, as well as sustainable public transport
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction https://www.unisdr.org/	Focal point of the United Nations system for disaster risk reduction and the custodian of the Sendai Framework, supporting countries and societies in its implementation, monitoring and review of progress. The Agency ensures regular reporting on the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), which tracks progress against 15 common-system performance indicators
The Citi Foundation https://www.citigroup.com/citi/foundation/	Works to promote economic progress and improve the lives of people in low-income communities around the world. Co-designed and funded 'Disaster Risk Reduction for Financial Service Providers: Promising Practices for Building Resiliency.' Components include Women's Economic Empowerment which is dedicated to addressing systematic gender-gaps through knowledge mobilisation
Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) (World Bank) https://we-fi.org/	International partnership supporting women entrepreneurs in developing countries by addressing systemic barriers they face – linking policy, legal, and regulatory reforms with public and private investments. We-Fi has allocated over two financing rounds \$249 million to programs supporting women's entrepreneurship – 42.8% of which was allocated to Sub-Saharan Africa

Adaptation Funding

Given the complementarity between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, particularly with regard to extreme events, there is scope to access the international adaptation funds available under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), for example the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund (see Table 7). Resources from these funds have already been successfully accessed by countries across the region to support adaptation across various sectors.

Table 3: Potential international adaptation fund sources: Potential international adaptation fund sources

Fund	Summary of funding opportunity
Climate Investment Funds https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/	Accelerates climate action by empowering transformations in clean technology, energy access, climate resilience, and sustainable forests in developing and middle income countries. The CIF's large-scale, low-cost, long-term financing lowers the risk and cost of climate financing. The CIF pays attention to the role women can play as change agents and decision-makers in resilience-building activities. 27% of MDB-approved CIF funding was allocated to Africa
Green Climate Fund https://www.greenclimate.fund/home	Is a fund created to support developing countries' efforts to respond to the climate challenge by reducing GHG emissions and adapting to climate change. The GCF's investments can be in the form of grants, loans, equity or guarantees. The GCF has gender as a key element of its programming architecture, and is the first climate finance mechanism to mainstream gender perspectives from the outset of its operations (with all projects having to submit a gender assessment and gender action plan).
Adaptation Fund https://www.adaptation-fund.org/projects-programmes/project-sectors/disaster-risk-reduction/	Finances projects and programmes that help vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt to climate change. The Fund systematically integrates key principles elaborated on its own environmental and social policy, especially regarding equity and access. Gender equality is a goal that the Fund aims to achieve through its processes
Least Developed Countries (LDC) Fund https://www.thegef.org/topics/least-developed-countries-fund-ldcf	Provides funds to help LDCs plan their adaptation needs (for example in supporting National Adaptation Programmes of Action and National Adaptation Plans) and implement their adaptation priorities with a ceiling of US\$30 million per LDC. Works on the principle of additionality (i.e. supports additional financing to climate proof existing development interventions).
Special Climate Change Fund https://www.thegef.org/topics/special-climate-change-fund-sccf	Provides funding for non-Annex 1 countries under the UNFCCC to address adaptation needs consistent with development priorities through adaptation or technology transfer. Works on the principle of additionality (i.e. supports additional financing to climate proof existing development interventions).

Private sector

The role of the private sector in DRM is significant yet, to date, their contributions have largely been outside of the regional coordination frameworks, despite recognition in SFDRR. In addition to contributing directly to relief and response, there is also a potential role for communications companies to play a role in distributing early warning messages and to capitalise on growing access to financial services, including (micro) insurance. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for gender-responsive DRR are a good alternative, particularly for building resilient infrastructure. Table 8 outlines some potential private sector funding sources.

Table 4: Potential funding opportunities from the private sector

Organisation	Summary of relevance to funding opportunities
Tigo (Millicom) https://www.millicom.com/our-company/brands/tigo/	Building digital highways that connect people, improve lives and develop communities. Through fixed and mobile, communications services, cable and satellite TV, mobile financial services and local content available in 13 markets in Africa and Latin America. Tigo country operations are committed to the Connected Women Initiative, which strives to reduce the mobile use gender-gap. Gender-responsive mobile money initiative in Tanzania by tracking gender across its subscriber base in order to ensure products ensure women's needs; and marketing campaigns communicate the right messages
MTN https://www.mtn.com/	Emerging market mobile operator at the forefront of technological and digital changes. MTN Mobile Money partnership with GSMA Mobile for Development mAgri programme for the mAgri pilot. It is a mobile based tool that enables digitization of the agricultural value chain – focusing on the agricultural last mile ⁴⁷ . Partnership with Ghana National Insurance Commission, MicroEnsure and MFS Africa – provides users with the opportunity to buy micro life-insurance via their mobiles – convenient for women
GSMA https://www.gsma.com/aboutus/	Represents interests of mobile operators worldwide in the broader mobile ecosystem – handset and device makers, software companies, equipment providers and internet companies. Connected Women Initiative works to close the gender gap in mobile ownership and usage in low-and middle-income countries.

⁴⁷ GSMA Digitising the agricultural last mile in Ghana: MTN Mobile Money's mAgri (2019)

<https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/resources/digitising-the-agricultural-last-mile-in-ghana-mtn-mobile-moneys-magri/>

Annex 7 : National policies in support of DRM, Climate Change and Gender in Member States

Table 1: National policies in support of DRM

National policies in support of DRM

Country	DRM		Gender		Climate		Other
	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	
Angola	National Commission for Civil Protection (under the Ministry of Interior)	Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Reduction of Disaster Risk (2011)	Ministry of Family and Woman Promotion	National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity (2013)	Ministry of Urbanism and Environment	National Adaptation Programme of Action (2011)	
		National Disaster Preparedness, Contingency, Response and Recovery Plan (2014 – 2019)					
Burundi	Public Safety Department	National Strategy for Risk Prevention and Disaster Management and National Action Plan (2012-2015)	Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender	National Gender Policy (2003)	Ministry of Water, Environment, Land Use Planning and Urban Development	National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (2007)	National communication strategy for climate change adaptation and early warning of extreme weather events (2014-2018)
		National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management (2017-2030)					
		National Contingency Plan					
Cameroon	Department of Civil Protection	National Contingency Plan (2011)	Ministry for the Advancement of Women and the Family	National Gender Policy (2014)	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development	Cameroon: National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2015)	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2008)
Central African Republic			Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation	National Policy for the Promotion of	Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development,	National Adaptation Programme	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2009)

Country	DRM		Gender		Climate		Other
	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	
				Equality and Equity (2005)	Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing	of Action (2008)	
Chad	Ministry of Territorial Administration	National Capacity Building Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness and Response (2015-2020)	Ministry of Women, Early Childhood Care and National Solidarity	National Gender Policy (2011)	Ministry of Environment, Water and Fisheries	National Action Programme for Climate Change Adaptation (2009)	Planned Contribution Determined at the National level (2015)
							National Action Plan Against Desertification (2003)
							National Strategy for Poverty Reduction (2008)
Republic of the Congo	Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action	National REDD+ Strategy (2016)	Ministry of the Promotion of women, and the integration of women into development	National Gender Policy (2008)	Ministry of Tourism and Environment Ministry of Forest Economy	National Action Plan for the Environment (2017)	Poverty Reduction Strategy (2007)
		National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Prevention (2017)					National Action Programme against Desertification (2006)
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Minister of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity	ORSEC Plan (2012)	Ministry of Gender, Family and the Child	National Gender Policy and Action Plan (2009)	Ministry of Planning	National Adaptation Programme of Action (2006)	
Equatorial Guinea			Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality	National Policy for the Advancement of Women (2012)	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and Environment	National Adaptation Action Plan (2013)	National Economic and Social Development Plan (2016-2020)
							National Action Programme to

Country	DRM		Gender		Climate		Other
	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	
							Combat Deforestation and Land Degradation (2006)
Gabon			Ministry of the Promotion and Integration Of Women in Development	Ten Year Plan for the Empowerment of Gabonese Women (2015-2025)	Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food	National Climate Plan (2010)	“Gabon Emergent” Strategic Plan (2012-2016)
Rwanda	Ministry of Disaster Management	National Disaster Management Policy (2012)	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion	National Gender Policy (2010)	Ministry of Environment	National Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon Development (2011) National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (2006)	Basic housing construction instructions for protection against natural and manmade disasters in rural areas (2012)
		National Disaster Risk Management Plan (2013)					Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2008-2012)
		National Contingency Matrix Plan (2016)					
São Tome and Principe	Ministry of Infrastructure, Natural Resources, & Environment	Multi-sectoral investment plan to integrate climate change resilience and disaster risk into São Tomé and	National Institute for Promotion and Gender Equity (under the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity, Family and Vocational Training)	National Strategy on Gender Equity (2014)	Ministry of Infrastructure, Natural Resources, & Environment	National Adaptation Strategy on Climate	Second National Poverty Reduction Strategy (2012-2016)

Country	DRM		Gender		Climate		Other
	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	Lead ministry	Policies, strategies and plans	
		Príncipe's coastal zone management (2017)				Change (2006)	National Social Protection Policy and Strategy (2014)

Annex 8: Stakeholder Consultations

Tableau 1: ECCAS Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points or Nominated Representatives.

	Country	Name of DRR Focal Point	Designation	Telephone No:	Email
✓	Angola	Edson Fernando	Director of Civil Protection in the Deputy Commander's office	+(244) 924183708	edsonedtrez@gmail.com
✓	Burundi	Antoine Ntemako	Director General for Civil Protection and Risk Reduction	+(257) 79151414 +(257) 79920387 +(257) 69711767	antoinentemako2@gmail.com ntemantony@gmail.com
✓	Cameroon	Mariatou Yap	Director for Civil Protection	+(237) 22214605 +(237) 66193221 +(237) 22214606	yapmariatou@yahoo.fr
✓	Central African Republic	Marguerite Ramadan	National Director for Protection and DRR Focal Point	+(236) 75043708	marguerite.ramadan@gmail.com
✓	Chad	Mme MABILO Tesse Mbia	Directrice de la protection civile	+(235) 66386089 +(235) 95001133	tessemabilo@gmail.com
✓	Congo	Edmond Paul Makimouha	Coordonnateur du Centre National de Prévention et de Gestion des Catastrophes, Direction Générale du Développement Durable	+(242) 066646084	mak_edmond@yahoo.fr
✓	Congo (Democratic Republic)	Jean Kitambala K'Onganga	National Director for Protection and DRR Focal Point		jeankitambala2005@yahoo.fr
✓	Equatorial Guinea	Mariano Efua Nsue Ada	Responsable Technique, Direction Générale de l'Environnement, Ministère des Forêts et de l'Environnement	+(240) 222256743	efuamariano@yahoo.es
✓	Gabon	Hortense Togo	Coordinatrice de la Plate-forme Nationale pour la Prévention et la Réduction des Risques de Catastrophe, Ministère de l'Intérieur, de la Justice, Garde des Sceaux	+(241) 06137888	hortense.togo@yahoo.fr
	Rwanda	Philippe Habinshuti	Director of Planning, Response & Recovery Unit, Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA)	+(250) 788554124	phabinshuti@minema.gov.rw
✓	Sao Tome and Principe	Cecilio Quaresma da Graca	National Adviser for Prevention and Response to Risks - DRR Focal Point	+(239) 9907919	cquaresm1@hotmail.com

✓ indicates consultation completed.

Table 2 : Gender Focal Points or Nominated Representatives

	Country	Name of Focal Point	Designation	Telephone No:	Email
✓	Angola	Cesaltina Romero	Directeur de integration Genre		cesaltinaromer@gmail.com
✓	Burundi	Mme Claudine AHISHAKIYE	Directrice de la Promotion et de l'Autonomisation de la Femme	+(257) 76800870 +(257) 72046811	claudineahishakiye@yahoo.fr
✓	Cameroon	M. MVOGO MFOMA Jean	Expert en Genre et Développement		cab_minproff@yahoo.fr jmfomo2017@gmail.com
✓	Central African Republic	M. Cyprien Serge MANGUELET	Directeur général des affaires sociales et de l'action humanitaire		mangueletcyprienserger@gmail.com
✓	Chad	Madame ASNGAR Née MBAIASSEM LATOI Lydie	Directrice Genre et Developpement		lydielatoi@gmail.com
✓	Congo	Mme Arlette Raymonde BAKOU	Directrice Générale de l'Intégration de la Femme au Développement		bakouarlette@yahoo.fr
✓	Congo (Democratic Republic)	Madame Esther KAMWANYA BIAYI	Directeur, Chef de service		estherkamwanya@yahoo.fr
✓	Equatorial Guinea	Mme Esther Restituta NSUE MIKO	Directrice de la promotion du Genre		estherrestitutamiko@autlook.es
✓	Gabon	Mme Ghislaine ITEMBO	Direction Générale de la promotion de la Femme et du Genre		itemboepella@yahoo.fr
✓	Rwanda	M. Harelimana Frederic	Directeur Executive de Action for Gender Equality		Freddyhar505@yahoo.fr
✓	Sao Tome and Principe	Ernestina PONTES MENEZES NEVES	Directrice de la promotion du Genre		ernestina81@live.com.pt

✓ indicates consultation completed.

Table 3: Other Stakeholders Consulted

Country	Name	Role - Organisation	Type of Organisation	Telephone No:	Email
Cameroon	Monique Yigbedek	Coordonnatrice Régionale ONG REFADD (Réseau de Femmes Africaines pour le Développement Durable)	NGO	+ 237 675-44-86-26 +237 699- 85-74-69	moniquevigbedek@yahoo.fr
Cameroon	Marie Tamoifo Nkom	Coordonnatrice Régionale, ONG REJEFAC (Réseau de Jeunes des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale)	NGO	+237 699-84-61-13	tamoifo@gmail.com ajvc2010@gmail.com
Cameroun	Tabi H. JODA	Leader Associatif / Green Aid	NGO		tabijoda@gmail.com
Chad	Tourde Berringar N.	Leader Associatif /MANDOUL Environnement	NGO		berringar2014@gmail.com
Chad	Nadja Gothybe	Chef de service de la Femme et de l'Equité de Genre Leader Associatif	NGO		nadjairene@yahoo.fr igothybe@gmail.com
Chad	Naomie NGUEMADJIBAYE	Coordonnatrice ONG PAGE VERTE	NGO		naongueba@yahoo.com
Chad	Dr. Robert MADJIGOTO	Enseignant-Chercheur, Département de Géographie Université de N'Djaména	University	+235 66-29-06-88 / +235 99-68-88-03	rmadiigoto@yahoo.fr
Chad	Colette Benoudji	Coordonnatrice, Association LEAD Tchad, N'Djaména, Tchad	NGO	+235 22-51-82-64 / +235 66-23-49-02	colette_issa@yahoo.fr
Chad	Ismael Adoum Hamid	Directeur Général de l'Equité de Genre, Ministère de la Femme, de la Protection de la	Government	+235 66 24 05 05	ismaeladoum1@gmail.com

		Petite Enfance et de la Solidarité Nationale			
Congo (Democratic Republic)	Scolastique Mahindo	Expert Woman Empowerment – UN WOMEN	Multilateral		Scolastique.mahindo@unwoman.org
Congo (Democratic Republic)	Ercic Mballa ZINDOG	Expert PFN RRC	Government		verimbala@yahoo.fr
Congo (Democratic Republic)	Joel NDimbo	Magistrat	Government		joellndembo@gmail.com
Congo (Democratic Republic)	Kasindé FURAHA Eveline	Ministère Action Humanitaire	Government		Evelynkasindé6@gmail.com
Congo (Democratic Republic)	Albert Wahola	Expert	Government		waholabaron@yahoo.fr
Congo (Democratic Republic)	M. Richard NGOÏ TAMBA	Juriste Jeunesse RRC	NGO		richardoavocat@live.fr
Congo (Democratic Republic)	Gloria LOMBO POLO	Chef de Division Genre & Diversité Croix-Rouge	NGO		gloria.lombo@croixrouge-rdc.org
Congo (Democratic Republic)	Roger PHOLO MVUMBI	Director ASSA (Agir pour la Souveraineté et la Sécurité Alimentaire)	NGO	+(243) 998218472	rogerpholo@yahoo.fr
Congo (Democratic Republic)	Martine KANKOLONGO	Point focal pour le REFADD	NGO		kanko2018martine@gmail.com
Congo (Democratic Republic)	Eulalie BASHIGE	Directrice REFADD	NGO		elbashige44@hotmail.com
Congo	Gnelélé KINTOMO Arsene	Coordonnateur ONG AESI Congo	NGO		arseneguelele@gmail.com
Central African Republic	Derom Pamela Audrey	Conseil National de la Jeunesse Centrafricaine	Semi-government		p_derom@yahoo.fr
Angola	Keita Sugimoto	Programme Manager for Crisis Prevention and Recovery	Multilateral		

		programme at UNDP Angola			
Gabon	Gildas Parfait DIAMONEKA	Vice-Président du RECEIAC (Réseau d'Experts en communication en Afrique Centrale)	Multilateral	+(241) 07288804	gildas_parfait@yahoo.fr
Gabon	Médard OYAL TORDEG	Director of the Central African Early Warning Centre	Multilateral		
Gabon	Dr. Nadine N. Ndonghan Iyangui	Laboratoire de Géomatique, de Recherche Appliquée et de conseils (LAGRAC), Université Omar Bongo	University	+241 07 96 65 14	n_iyangui@yahoo.fr
Regional	Ajmad Abbashar	Head of Office, UNDRR Africa office	Multilateral		ajmad.abbashar@un.org
Regional	Julius Kabubi	Programme Officer, UNDRR Africa office	Multilateral		Julius.kabubi@un.org
Regional	Maria Martinez	Disaster Law Programme Coordinator, Africa Region, IFRC	NGO		maria.martinez@ifrc.org
Regional	Phoebe Shikuku	Climate services officer, IFRC	NGO		Phoebe.shikuku@ifrc.org

✓ indicates consultation completed.

Table 4 : List of ECCAS Staff Consulted

	Name	Title	Email
✓	Semingar Ngaryamngaye	DRM Specialist, ECCAS	semingarn@grc-ceeac.org
✓	Isabelle Boukinda Nzaou	Head of Gender Unit, ECCAS	boukinda.isabelle@yahoo.fr
✓	Gloriose Nzinahora	Social Affairs Expert, ECCAS	nzinahoraglory@gmail.com
✓	Celine Keubou Kuematsa	DRM Young Professional, ECCAS	keuboucel@grc-ceeac.org
✓	Ahmat DJIBIA	Researcher DRM, ECCAS	djibiaahmat@gmail.com
✓	Placide IBOUANGA NDINGA	Chief, Communications Services, ECCAS	placide.ibouangandinga@gmail.com
✓	Dominique KUITSOUC	Director, DRM unit, ECCAS	dkuitsouc61@gmail.com

✓ indicates consultation completed.



(E.C.C.A.S.)

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GENERAL SECRETARIAT

.....

XVITH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE

OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

.....

DECISION N°72/CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15

**On the establishment of the Central Africa Climate Prediction and Application Centre in
abbreviated form "CACPAC"**

The Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States;

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS);

Having regard to the Decision N°26/CEEAC/CCEG/XIII/07 of 30 October 2007 on the adoption of the ECCAS general policy on the Environment and the Management of Natural Resources;

Having regard to the Decision N°25/CEEAC/CCEG/XIII/07 of 30 October 2007 on the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD for Central Africa;

Considering the Declaration of the African Ministers responsible for Meteorology made in April 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya;

Considering the strategic vision of the ECCAS for 2025;

Having regard to the Decision made in October 2012 during the Conference of the African Ministers responsible for Meteorology held in Harare, Zimbabwe;

Considering the report of the Council of the ECCAS Ministers held in November 2014 in Ndjamen, Chad;

Considering the final communiqué of the Conference of the Ministers responsible for Meteorology in Central Africa held on 24 April 2015 in Yaoundé, Cameroon;

Recognising the positive impacts of the integration/mainstreaming of meteorological, hydrological, and climatic information, products and services in different sectors of socioeconomic development, including in disaster risk reduction;

ON PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

DECIDES:

Article 1: Establishment of the Centre

The establishment of the Regional Climate Centre referred to as Central Africa referred to as Central Africa Climate Prediction and Application Centre, in abbreviated form "CACPAC".

Article 2: Head Office of the Centre

The head office of the Central Africa Regional Climate Prediction and Application Centre shall be located in Douala, Republic of Cameroon.

Article 3: Provisions

This decision shall become enforceable automatically in Member States thirty (30) days after its publication in the Official Journal of the Community in the English, Spanish, French and Portuguese languages

Done in Ndjamen on this day 25th of May 2015

\ \ For the conference,

The President of the Republic of Chad,

Acting Chairman of the ECCAS

Idris Deby Itno





ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

We, the Parliamentarians:

Country	Names and first names	Parliamentary commissions
R.D. Congo	KATAMULIKO TSONGO MAHA Richard	Environnement et Ressources Naturelles
Guinée Équatoriale	NZE MICO Enriqueta	Agriculture, Bonne gouvernance et Environnement
RCA	OUANIKOLO ZOROKARA Lié ARCADIUS	Commission production environnement, Ressources naturelles et développement durable
Gabon	MOUDOUMA Adonis Apollinaire	Environnementt et Développement Durable
Burundi	BANYIKWA Adolphe	Affaires sociales, du genre du rapatriement, de l'égalité des chances et de la lutte contre le sida
Tchad	DJOUGA DJODDI Mahamadou	Plan et Économie
Cameroun	ETOUNDI Vincent de Paul EMAH	Droits de l'homme

Meeting in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the banquet facility of the People's Palace/ Great Hall of the People, on 21st to 23rd October, 2015 ,

1. Considering the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risks Reduction 2015 -2030 adopted by 187 States on 18 March 2015 call for the integration of risk reduction in all the public policies and in all the sectors;

2. Considering the Africa Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction, its programme of action for the implementation and the Declaration made in Yaoundé on 23 July 2015 by the African Ministers responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 ;

3. Considering the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) general policy on the environment and natural resources management adopted in

October 2007 by the 13th Conference of Heads of State and Government;

4. Considering the Decision No. 46/ CEEAC/CEEG/XVI/ 15, on the approval of the Africa Regional Strategy on Risk Reduction and Disaster Management and its framework for action adopted by the ECCAS 16th Conference of Heads of State and Government held on 25 May 2015;

5. Considering the level of vulnerability of the populations and States of the community to the hazards and risks of various types;

6. Considering the amount of disasters has been increasing for various decades including: disaster from epidemiologic, climate, geophysical, ecological and anthropic, etc. origins;

7. Aware of the various damages resulting from the occurrence of disasters en their negative effect on the development efforts of the States in the subregion;

8. Acknowledging the Agreement adopted during the 19th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 19), on the institutional arrangements on the losses and damage incurred by developing countries as a result of global warming due to few commitments made by countries in the annex I for reducing green house gas from which this problem originates, and is one of the aggravating factor for the communities extreme poverty, the decline of economic activities having as a consequence the development of conflicts, massive displacement of individuals, starvation and the increasing vulnerability of people to hydrometeorological hazards;

9. Aware of the need for strengthening the institutional mechanisms and the quality of human and technological resources, to

establish public policies which adequately integrate risk and disaster management;

10. Considering that Parliaments are responsible for making laws inter alia related to disaster risks management, and monitoring the action of the Government on the implementation of related policies;

11. Considering that as public policies, those relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) imply a sound cooperation between the executive and legislative powers supported by a better engagement from all the stakeholders and the support of development partners;

12. Adopt the resolution to establish the Parliamentarians Network for Resilience to Disasters in Central Africa;

13. Adopt the articles of association which contents are as follows:

CHAPTER I : NATURE, PURPOSE AND DURATION

Article 1: The Parliamentarians Network for Resilience to Disasters in Central Africa, REPARC in abbreviation, is a specialised institution of the ECCAS which is composed of Parliamentarians from Member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) for the purpose of addressing issues on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Combating Climate Change in Central Africa. It is an information and decision-making instrument for Parliaments.

Article 2: The REPARC is aimed at accelerating the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Combat issue in the policies, strategies and development programmes of the ECCAS Member States.

Article 3: The head office of the REPARC rotates among capital cities of Member State according to the election of the President of the Executive Board.

Article 4: The REPARC has an unlimited duration. However, it may be dissolved under the conditions defined in the article 13 thereof.

CHAPTER II: OBJECTIVES

Article 5: The REPARC aims at:

- promoting the integration of DRR and CCC issues in national legislations;
- organizing training and capacity building actions for Members;
- promoting experience exchanges and solidarity between Parliamentarians from ECCAS Member States;
- contributing to the development of a resilient community based on democracy, social justice and peace in Central Africa;
- leading on political advocacy for the integration of DRR and CCC in States national policies.

CHAPTER III : THE NETWORK ORGANS

Article 6: the main organs of the REPARC are:

- A-** at regional level: A General Assembly and a subregional Executive Board.
- B-** within the parliaments of each State: A Focal Point with its active members.

Article 7: the following organisations below are ex officio members of the REPARC: ECCAS, the Central Africa Economic and Monetary Community and the parliamentarians networks responsible for these issues at the subregional and State levels.

CHAPTER IV : FUNCTIONING OF THE NETWORK ORGANS

Article 8: The General Assembly meets once every two (2) years on notification of the ECCAS Secretary General.

Article 9: The Subregional Executive Board rules over the REPARC. It is established by the subregional General Assembly for a term of two years renewable once. The Executive Board meets in ordinary session once a year. However, it may be called in extraordinary session as appropriate.

The Board of the REPARC is composed of:

- A President;
- A Vice-president responsible for programmes;
- A Secretary General;
- A Deputy Secretary General responsible for monitoring, assessing and implementing programmes;
- A Treasurer;
- Two (02) auditors.

Article 10: The Focal Point is appointed according to specific conditions defined by each Parliament.

CHAPTER V : MEMBERS

Article 11: The REPARC includes founding and ordinary members.

a- The REPARC founding members include the parliamentarians represented by the States signing these articles of association on the date of their adoption.

b- Each parliamentarian in office, complying at the national level with the requirements defined by each parliament and takes part in the activities conducted by the REPARC national Focal Point, is considered as an ordinary member.

CHAPTER VI : FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 12: The REPARC resources derive from:

- contributions from State Parliamentarians;

- contributions from ex officio member organisations (ECCAS, CAEMC, other specialised parliamentarians networks);

- support from technical and financial partners to conduct certain activities;

- contributions from international or national financial foundations and institutions;

- donations and legacies.

CHAPTER VII: MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 13 : a. The dissolution of the REPARC may be decided by an extraordinary General Assembly in case of necessity admitted by the ECCAS.

b. In the event of dissolution, the General Assembly may appoint a liquidator.

c. The assets of the REPARC are transferred to an organisation appointed by the

ECCAS and which has the same purpose.

Article 14: The languages used by the REPARC are the official languages of the ECCAS.

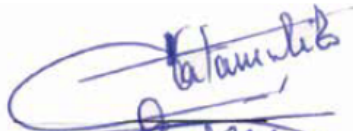
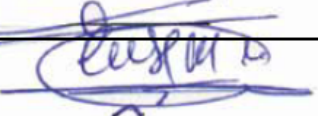

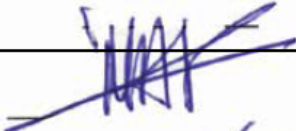


Article 15: These articles of association may be amended on proposal of the subregional Executive Board or on the initiative of not less than 2/3 of the General Assembly members.

Article 16: Rules of procedure shall be adopted for supplementing and clarifying certain provisions of these articles of association.

Article 17: These articles of association come into force upon their adoption and signature by the representatives of the signatory parliamentarians.

Reforestation programme in North Cameroon

Ainsi adopté à Kinshasa, le 22 octobre 2015

PAYS	NOMS ET PRÉNOMS	COMMISSIONS PARLEMENTAIRES	SIGNATURE
R.D. CONGO	KATAMULIKO TSONGO-MAHA Richard	Environnement et Ressources Naturelles	
GUINÉE ÉQUATORIALE	NSE MICO Enriqueta	Agriculture, Bonne gouvernance et Environnement	
RCA	OUANIKOLO ZOROKARA Lié Arcadius	Commission environnement, production, Ressources naturelles et développement durable	
GABON	MOUDOUMA Adonis Apollinaire	Environnement et Développement Durable	
BURUNDI	BANYIKWA Adolphe	Affaires sociales, du genre, du rapatriement, de l'égalité des chances et de la lutte contre le sida	
TCHAD	DJOUGA DJODDI Mahamadou	Plan et Économie	
CAMEROUN	ETOUNDI Vincent de Paul EMAH	Droits de l'homme	



REGIONAL MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR RISK REDUCTION AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AFRICA

TERMS OF REFERENCE VERSION 24/06/2016

1. PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Regional Monitoring Committee is a collaboration, consultation and coordination framework for the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on risk reduction and disaster management in Central Africa.

2. MISSIONS

Regional monitoring committee for risk reduction and disaster management in Central Africa's mission is to:

- work towards strengthening preparedness and disaster risk reduction actions in order to:

- promote the synergy between, on one hand, governmental agencies responsible for disaster management, and strategic partners such as the organisations of the UN system, the International Movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, the private sector and the civil society (national and international NGOs, associative networks), on the other hand ;

- support and strengthen information sharing mechanisms among the members of the Regional Monitoring Committee and specialised regional institutions such as climate centres, observatories, research centres, river and forest basin bodies, etc. ;

- identify and share the lessons learnt during disaster response and risk reduction activities;

- identify capacity building and training needs, including in coordination mechanisms, response/contingence plans, simulation exercises.

- Support and promote a coordinated response in case of disaster in order to:

- establish and strengthen the mechanisms and tools of coordination between key partners;
- promote the establishment and/or strengthening of regional disaster response teams such as

UNDAC/INSARAG, ECCAS, IFRC/RDRT;

-support regional and national disaster response initiatives.

- sensitize and foster the mobilization of financial resources for disaster reduction and management, especially for the implementation of the strategy for risk reduction and related operational plans.

- promote the effective implementation of Oslo guidelines on the use of military and civil protection resources and encourage member States to establish internal civil and military cooperation and coordination mechanisms in cases of natural disasters.

3. COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL MONITORING COMMITTEE

The Regional monitoring committee for risk reduction and disaster management in Central Africa comprises an Executive Board and members.

Members of the Regional Monitoring Committee:

- One representative of each Member State of the ECCAS

(responsible for the body dealing with disaster management at national level);

- One (1) representative of the national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies within each Member State of the ECCAS ;

- The Focal Point responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in each Member State;

- The Focal Point responsible for Climate Change in each Member State;

- Two (2) representatives of the Secretariat of the ECCAS.

The Executive Board of the Regional Monitoring Committee:

The Executive Board of the Regional monitoring committee for risk reduction and disaster management in Central Africa forms integral part of the steering committee.

For this purpose, it is responsible for:

- monitoring the implementation of operational programmes for risk reduction and disaster

preparedness and response strengthening;

- developing the documentation on meeting, including the annual consultation of the Regional Monitoring Committee and the Conferences of the Ministers responsible for disaster reduction and management.

The Executive Board is composed of:

- One (1) president
- One (1) vice-president
- The president and vice-president are elected for two (2) years by the representatives of the Member States of ECCAS (the body responsible for disaster management at national level or equivalent) among which they are selected.
- Two (2) technical advisers coming from the members appointed of the Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies of the Member States elected.
- One (1) representative of the ECCAS.

The Regional Monitoring Committee is assisted and technically supported by:

- One representative of the ECCAS;
- One representative from the regional representation of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) societies for Central Africa and;
- One representative of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Regional Office for West and Central Africa (UNOCHAROWCA).
- The Regional Monitoring Committee also requests the expertise of specialised institutions and platforms as well as the United Nations system.
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- The Regional Monitoring Committee also requests the expertise of specialised institutions and platforms as well as the United Nations system.

4. FREQUENCY

The members of the Executive Board meet not less than twice a year. The Regional Monitoring Committee meets on an annual basis. However, it may meet on extraordinary session when required.

Flood in the South of Cameroon

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES
C.E.E.A.C - E.C.C.A.S
P.O. Box 2112 Libreville - GABON
Tel. (+241) 01 44 47 31 - Fax:
(+241) 01 44 47 32

Email: secretariat@ceeac-eccas.org
Website: www.ceeac-eccas.org









COMMUNAUTÉ ÉCONOMIQUE
DES ÉTATS DE L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE



BP. 2112 Libreville - GABON
Tél. (+241) 01 44 47 31 - Fax : (+241) 01 44 47 32
Email : secretariat@ceeac-eccas.org - Web : www.ceeac-eccas.org