

Summary of the Central African Republic's National Gender and Climate Change Strategy for 2023–2030

Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development

November 2023



Introduction

In 2005, the Central African Republic (CAR) adopted its National Policy for the Promotion of Equity and Equality, and in 2016, it established gender parity in public, semi-public and private employment and in decision-making bodies (Law No. 16.004). These strong national commitments to gender equality must now be operationalized in the country's policies, especially those that deal with climate change. These efforts have become even more crucial now that gender mainstreaming in climate policy is enshrined in the Paris Agreement, which stipulates that parties must respect, promote and consider gender equality when implementing climate actions (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2015) and given that gender mainstreaming leads to more effective climate policy (Pörtner et al., 2022).

CAR has already included these issues in its revised nationally determined contribution (NDC), in which it highlights the importance of ensuring equitable access to economic opportunities for people of different genders (Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, 2021). Meanwhile, the initial national adaptation plan (NAP) has raised gender sensitivity to the level of a guiding principle and suggested a number of concrete actions to promote the mainstreaming of gender into adaptation policies and programs over the years to come (Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, 2022). Yet despite institutional progress, gender inequalities

continue to exist, and the means deployed in women's programs and in initiatives to support gender mainstreaming in national and sectoral strategies have not always been commensurate with the results desired (Ministry of the Promotion of Women, Families and Child Protection et al., 2021).

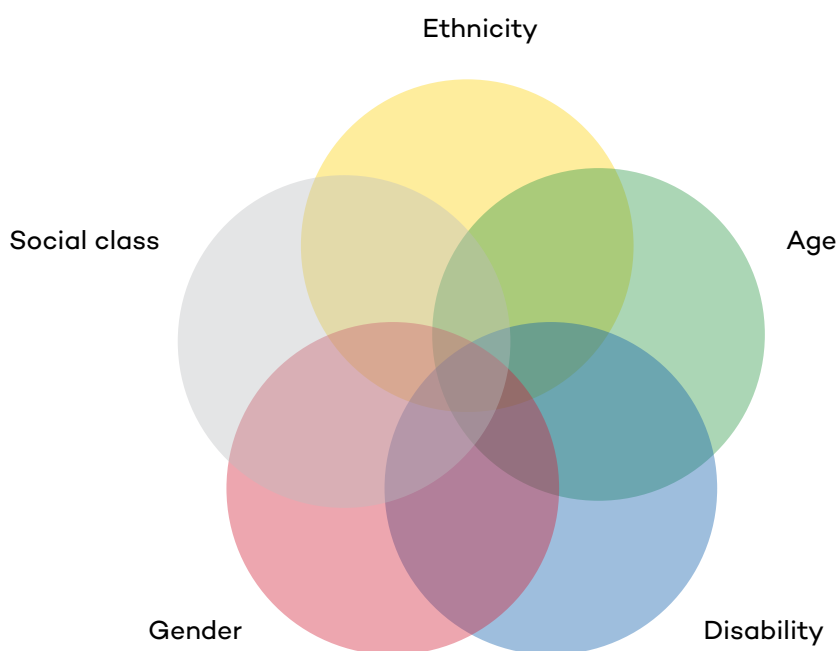
The National Gender and Climate Change Strategy (NGCCS) was designed to address these weaknesses and contribute to faster implementation of gender mainstreaming actions in climate policy. Developed through a participatory process, the NGCCS reflects the consultations carried out in Bangui, Boali and Mbaïki. It covers the period from 2023 to 2030 and will be jointly led by the National Climate Coordination of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and the Directorate-General for Gender Promotion of the Ministry of Gender Affairs and the Protection of Women, Families and Children (MPGPFFE), but many stakeholders must take part in its implementation if the expected results are to be achieved. This document presents the vision, objectives, areas of focus, priority actions, key actors, and monitoring, evaluation and learning mechanisms of the NGCCS. The strategy was written by Dr. Valérie Kouassi Konin and Boris Bemokolo.

Approach, Vision, Objective, and Strategic Areas of Focus

As shown in Figure 1, vulnerabilities to climate change, as well as the level of adaptive capacity and access to mitigation and adaptation solutions, are exacerbated by inequalities and marginalization processes related to gender, but also to other factors such as poverty level, age, ethnicity, disability and religion (Dev & Manalo IV, 2023; Pörtner et al., 2022). In order to take all of these factors of discrimination into account, the NGCCS promotes an approach that connects the issues of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and enables the reduction of inequalities between men and women while considering the differences within these groups. This approach thus recognizes that some people can experience several forms of discrimination simultaneously and that neither women nor men form a homogeneous group.

Box 1 presents the vision, main objective and five strategic areas of focus of the NGCCS, along with some examples of indicators used in the full NGCCS. CAR hopes that by 2030, the GESI approach will be institutionalized in all of the country's policies, programs, and projects dealing with climate change mitigation and adaptation for the purpose of achieving sustainable, equitable, and inclusive outcomes.

Figure 1. Examples of factors of discrimination that can be cumulative and can affect the level of vulnerability, adaptive capacity, and access to adaptation and mitigation solutions



Source: Authors.

Box 1. Vision, main objective, strategic areas of focus, and examples of activities for the 2023–2030 NGCCS of CAR

Vision

By 2030, the GESI approach is institutionalized in all of CAR’s climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, programs, and projects, with the aim of achieving sustainable, equitable, and inclusive outcomes.

Indicators

Number and percentage of projects incorporating an objective related to social inclusion or gender equality; number of climate strategies or laws taking gender and social inclusion into account.

Main objective

To efficiently and effectively promote the mainstreaming of the GESI approach into all climate actions in CAR through the involvement of men, women, and vulnerable groups and through the reduction of all types of inequalities in their relationships and activities dealing with adaptation and mitigation, with due attention paid to sustainability.

Indicator

Number of organizations for women, youth, disabled persons, and Indigenous People consulted during the planning or implementation of the projects and programs related to the NDC and to the NAP.



AREA 1: Governance, coordination, and climate finance

Strengthen the institutional framework and mobilize the funding necessary to mainstream gender and social inclusion into all climate change action.

Indicators

Number and percentage of qualified persons working on gender issues in the National Climate Coordination.

Existence of a coordinating body specializing in gender and climate issues.



AREA 2: Specific actions for the priority sectors involved in the fight against climate change

Mainstream the GESI approach into the design, implementation, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning stages of the mitigation and adaptation programs and projects implemented by the priority sectors.

Indicator

Number of women and men implementing or benefiting from climate change adaptation techniques.



AREA 3: Capacity strengthening and knowledge transfer

Strengthen the capacities of the various stakeholders with regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation approaches that are gender responsive and socially inclusive.

Indicator

Number and percentage of sectoral gender focal points who are trained and competent in matters relating to climate change.



AREA 4: Information, awareness-raising, and communication

Improve the knowledge and understanding of all stakeholders regarding the linkages between gender and climate change in order to promote their awareness of climate change impacts and differentiated capacities, but also of the importance of mainstreaming gender and leadership by women and vulnerable persons into all mitigation and adaptation policies, strategies, and programs.

Indicator

Number of projects and initiatives whose implementation was informed by data emanating from a primary or secondary gender analysis.



AREA 5: Empowerment and climate leadership of women and vulnerable groups in a secure environment

Support the empowerment and leadership of women, girls, Indigenous People, and other vulnerable groups in the fight against climate change.

Indicator

Number of men, women, young people, and Indigenous People involved in the management and conservation of natural resources (e.g., water, forests).

Source: Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, 2023.

Priority Actions

In total, 112 actions were identified in the full NGCCS. The participants in the validation workshop prioritized the 31 activities below, for a total cost of USD 575,000.

Table 1. Priority activities for the NGCCS of CAR

Objectives		Activities
Strengthen coordination among gender and climate change actors	1	Signature of an agreement between the MPGPFFE and the MEDD.
	2	Official establishment of gender and climate change focal points in each ministry.
	3	Creation of a multistakeholder, multi-sectoral network that focuses on gender, social inclusion and climate change and includes institutional players, including gender focal points and civil society actors—particularly women’s associations—Indigenous Peoples, and actors working on GESI issues in the broader sense.
	4	Creation of a pool of experts on GESI and climate change. Capacity strengthening of these experts on facilitation techniques and training needs analysis. Provision of support to help them conduct their own training sessions on gender and climate change.
	5	Creation, dissemination, and use of a database of gender experts to facilitate the hiring of gender and climate change experts for various projects.
	6	Creation of strategic partnerships with local and international institutions experienced in practices related to gender and climate change.
Create a legal framework that supports gender and climate change issues	7	Advocacy for the existence of a law on gender and climate change.
	8	Development and adoption of an approach to gender equality, social inclusion, and climate change at the national level.
	9	Advocacy for the completion of the process of the framework law on land tenure, following a prior validation workshop.
Train key actors in the areas of gender and climate change	10	Develop a capacity-strengthening program that integrates gender and differentiation issues in order to improve technical expertise in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluation of risks and vulnerability to climate change • definition of adaptation options • costing of adaptation options • mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into development planning and budgetary processes.
	11	Strengthen the capacities of teacher-researchers on climate change and gender.

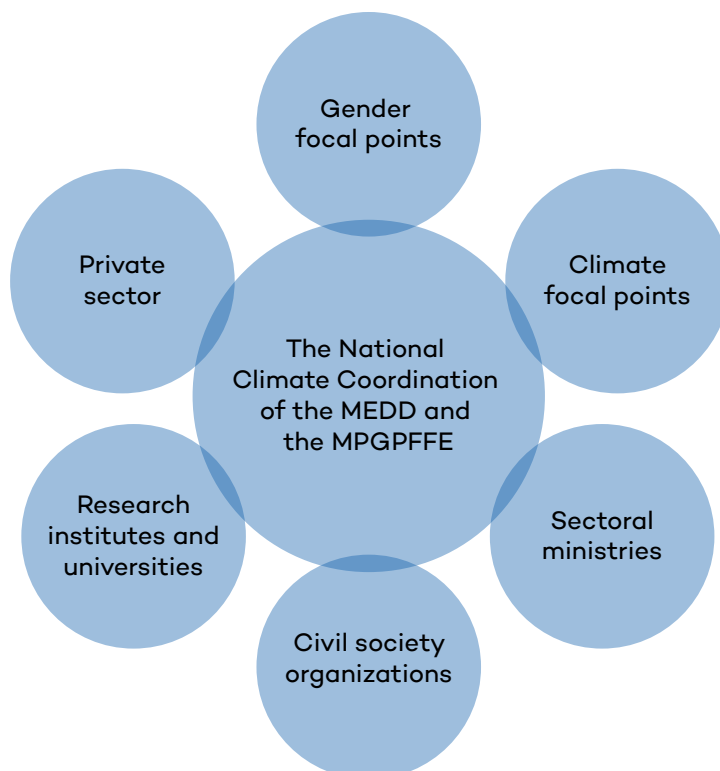
Objectives		Activities
	12	Train key actors in the mainstreaming of gender into sectoral, territorial, and institutional policies related to climate change.
	13	Train journalists in gender and climate change issues and in the writing of articles that take gender into consideration.
Raise awareness among communities on issues related to gender and climate change	14	Facilitate the organization of women and vulnerable groups into village savings-and-loans associations to empower them and strengthen their adaptive capacity with regard to climate change adaptation.
	15	Conduct communication and information campaigns about the relationships between gender, waste, and climate change.
	16	Conduct awareness-raising and outreach campaigns about the laws and strategies related to gender and climate change.
	17	Conduct communication and information campaigns about gender, fossil fuels, renewable energy sources, improved cookstoves, and other energy-efficient equipment.
	18	Conduct awareness-raising campaigns about health, gender, and climate change.
	19	Raise awareness among decision-makers, religious leaders, and community stakeholders about gender and climate change.
Conduct studies on gender and climate change	20	Conduct a GESI and climate audit aimed at the priority technical ministries.
	21	Create a gender-disaggregated database on gender and climate change, to be updated yearly, that includes data for each sector and the areas in which women and youth are most involved.
	22	Create a database of vulnerable persons in order to carry out common and concise actions to facilitate their adaptation.
	23	Conduct a national assessment of the barriers affecting women, men, and vulnerable people in terms of access to natural resources and participation in their management.
	24	Develop a gender-sensitive early warning system that takes local knowledge into account, meets the needs of all people, and provides understandable and useful messages for all.
	25	Conduct a survey of the men and women involved in agriculture and livestock farming in order to better manage the effects of climate change on their activities.
Promote gender-sensitive budgeting in climate finance	26	Promote the household use of improved cookstoves.
	27	Build the capacity of national women's organizations to access climate funding.

Objectives		Activities
	28	Provide financial support to women's associations involved in forestry (deforestation, forest conservation, and agroforestry) through subsidies or scholarships.
	29	Supply the MPGPFFE and MEDD with logistical resources that allow them to implement and monitor the activities listed in this strategic plan.
Undertake monitoring and evaluation	30	Evaluate the knowledge and skills of the following people in order to develop the training plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GESI actors (in climate change) • climate change actors (in GESI) • sectoral actors (in both themes)
	31	Hold an annual meeting of the network, during which each member will present a report on gender and climate change.

Source: Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, 2023.

Key Players for the Implementation and Monitoring of the NGCCS

Figure 2. Key stakeholders in the NGCCS



Source: Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, 2023.

All of the stakeholders presented in Figure 2 have a role to play in the implementation of the NGCCS. Both the MEDD and the MPGPFFE, in particular, must play a leading role in the implementation of the strategy in order to raise stakeholder awareness, train and involve the different key players, set up and lead the multistakeholder platform, and coordinate the various activities while ensuring their consistency. They must also establish and propose a harmonized approach to GESI issues, as well as standards and tools to facilitate their mainstreaming into climate change actions.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

The responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the strategy will be shared between the MEDD and the MPGPFFE. Twice-yearly internal monitoring of activities is planned in order to track the progress made in the implementation of the activities. A meeting of the various stakeholders should be planned at least once a year to discuss this progress and the lessons learned, define the priorities for the year to come, and update the action plan based on the items discussed by the participants.

At its midway point, the strategy should undergo an external evaluation focusing on the progress made and on the overall relevance and consistency of the strategy. The information gleaned at this halfway mark should inform the NAP 2, which is planned for 2026, and be included in an updated action plan for the strategy.

A final external evaluation should be undertaken in 2029–2030, at the end of the implementation period.

Twenty-eight overall indicators have been defined to allow an assessment of the changes brought about through the implementation of the actions identified. In particular, they will make it possible to evaluate whether the adaptation initiatives have benefited men and women equitably, measure the level of participation of women and other vulnerable groups in the design, planning, and implementation of NDC and NAP initiatives, assess the gender sensitivity of procurement processes, and, finally, evaluate the improvement in the institutional framework for gender-responsive climate actions.

Conclusion

CAR's NGCCS is a tool for reducing gender inequalities, but its implementation also institutionalizes gender in the area of climate change. Gender-responsive approaches that consider the needs and capacities of different groups, especially the most vulnerable, will promote inclusive and participatory action and lead to better results for adaptation and emissions reduction.

Acronyms

CAR	Central African Republic
GESI	gender equality and social inclusion
MEDD	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development
MPGPFFE	Ministry of Gender Affairs and the Protection of Women, Families and Children
NAP	national adaptation plan
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NGCCS	National Gender and Climate Change Strategy

References

- Dev, D. S., & Manalo IV, J. A. (2023). Gender and adaptive capacity in climate change scholarship of developing countries: A systematic review of literature. *Climate and Development*, 15(10), 829–840. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2023.2166781>
- Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. (2021). *Contribution déterminée au niveau national (CDN) (Version révisée)*. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/CDN%20Revis%C3%A9%20RCA.pdf>
- Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. (2022). *Plan national initial d'adaptation aux changements climatiques de la République centrafricaine*. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/CAR-NAP-FR-web.pdf>
- Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (2023). *Stratégie Nationale Genre et Changements Climatiques de La République Centrafricaine, 2023–2030*. <https://napglobalnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/napgn-fr-2023-strategie-nationale-genre-et-changements-climatique-de-la-republique-centrafricaine.pdf>
- Ministry of the Promotion of Women, Families and Child Protection, UN Women, & United Nations Development Programme. (2021). *Profil genre de la RCA*. <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/cf/79e97ff2839400eb393b85a5a099a47d0bfec7cc4a5caf0812df29966c13741c.pdf>
- Pörtner, H.-O., Roberts, D. C., Poloczanska, E. S., Mintenbeck, K., Tignor, M., Alegría, A., Craig, M., Langsdorf, S., Löschke, S., Möller, V., & Okem, A. (Eds.). (2022). Summary for policymakers. In H.-O. Pörtner, D. C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E. S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, & B. Rama (Eds.), *Climate change 2022: Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (pp. 3–33). Cambridge University Press. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2015). *Decision 1/CP.21. Adoption of the Paris Agreement*. https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/FCCC_CP_2015_10_Add.1.pdf

This summary is the result of a joint initiative between the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, through the National Climate Coordination, and the NAP Global Network. It was prepared with the financial support of Global Affairs Canada and incorporates the main components of the National Gender and Climate Change Strategy. This initiative was developed by a team of two consultants: Dr. Valérie Kouassi Konin, regional consultant on gender and development, and Boris Bemokolo, national consultant.

Suggested citation: Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Central African Republic. (2023). *Summary of the Central African Republic's National Gender and Climate Change Strategy for 2023–2030.*

© Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Central African Republic, November 2023



This project is undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :

Secretariat hosted by:
Secrétariat hébergé par :

