

Bêkou Trust Fund

Concept note — EcoFaune II¹

1. Background

The project ECOFAUNE-RCA was launched in 2012, for a duration of three years and is the direct successor of the joint actions implemented with regional organisations in the framework of the ECOFAC² regional programme III and IV and, therefore, it constitutes the most important programme dealing with management of natural resources and biodiversity in the CAR. Its overall objective is to improve governance and sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity, in the perspective of fighting against poverty by safeguarding specific ecosystems in the north-eastern area of the country threatened by anthropogenic pressure and the political and security instability.

The project is implemented in a context of increased pressure on land and natural resources due to demographic and economic growth, the relatively new but consistent impact of transhumance, poaching, etc. The environmental consequences of this pressure is accelerated by: (a) globalisation and unsustainable use of natural resources, (b) the socio-political instability in the CAR and in neighbouring countries, (c) the proliferation of communication, transport and arms technologies, and (d) climate change. Thus, while some progress has been made so far, such as the extension of the presence of national institutions in some neglected parts of the country and the development of livelihoods of targeted population, the 2013/2014 crisis has significantly increased the pressure on these areas, particularly due to the activities of armed groups. It is therefore crucial to ensure that the findings and assessments made by previous programmes are capitalised on in order to increase the scope of future actions for the targeted populations.

In this context, the Bêkou seems to be the most appropriate instrument and the only one capable of ensuring the financing of a new programme, starting in November 2015, thanks to its operational flexibility that enables a rapid and appropriate response, adapted to the crisis context in which the project will be deployed. The programme ECOFAUNE perfectly integrates the Bêkou Fund regional mandate aiming at the resilience of the country and of the whole region. Currently, two actions are being carried out to respond to the regional impact of the CAR crisis, both in relation to the question of transhumance, closely linked to the conservation of ecosystems, and for which an effort of synergy will be achieved in an integrated perspective of recovery and sustainable development of the Central African Republic.

2. Overall objectives of the intervention

The general objective of this programme is to improve governance and the participatory and sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity with the goal of combating poverty.

Specific goals are therefore:

I. The participatory and sustainable planning throughout the territory, including various subsets and thematic instruments (protected areas, Village Hunting Areas, areas of transhumance, etc.).

¹ "North-East CAR fauna ecosystems of the car" (in French: "Ecosystèmes fauniques du nord-est de la RCA")

² "Programme for the Conservation and upgrading of vulnerable ecosystems of Central Africa" (in French: "Programme de conservation et de valorisation des écosystèmes fragilisés d'Afrique centrale")

II. Social support to expand a formative economic and institutional base (human and social capital), where the areas concerned can have local sustainable development.

III. Sustainable and participatory management of ecosystems and wildlife resources supported by a renewed strategy and new instruments anti-poaching (LAB/MIST).

3. Intervention strategy

This action will initially last for two years and will consist of three parts:

Component 1: Participatory and sustainable land management (including protected areas, Village Hunting Areas, transhumance corridors, etc.)

Component 2: social support measures for populations

Component 3: Management of ecosystem and wildlife /prevention of poaching

These components will be implemented in close synergy and coordination with the ECOFAC regional programme VI and RAPAC.³

In terms of strategy, the last ECOFAUNE project evaluation report (25 March 2015) provided a set of valuable information and recommendations that will be taken into account for this programme.

This programme should allow to facilitate the presence and proximity of the State with the populations in north-eastern region of the country; to continue a monitoring action at a national and sub-regional level, in order to reduce the pressure of local and cross-border users on natural resources; to foster recovery of tourism activities and safari to support and revitalise the Village Hunting Areas and the local economy; to contribute to regional dialogue around the issue of transhumance with actors in Chad and Sudan, and continue the process of professional training among young people aiming at their integration into working life.

4. Implementation

This programme will be implemented in the prefecture of Bamingui-Bangoran (cities of Banmingui and Ndélé), extended to the Vakaga prefecture (at least the western part) and the prefectures of Haute-Kotto/Mbomou (more precisely Chinko, the protected area in the framework of a public-private partnerships (PPP) with the African Parks Network (APN)) while paying particular attention to coordination and synergy of actions at the regional level (in particular in Chad and Sudan). It should thus be extended to those areas currently covered by the social support component, but especially by the component of planning and management of ecosystems and wildlife.

5. Budget

The estimated budget of this programme is 5 million euro.

³"Network of protected areas of Central Africa" (in French: "*Réseau d'aires protégées d'Afrique centrale*")