



Altering the climate of poverty under climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa: Setting priorities and strategies for adaptation with the forests to climate change

20 Months Report

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IDRC Grant No: GF/DR/07/304/mjd
Center for International Forestry Research



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Research institution

Center for International Forestry Research

Countries for project implementation

1. Cameroon
2. Central African Republic
3. Democratic Republic of Congo

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Report period

March 2008–September 2009

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CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.1 Structure of the report	4
1.2 Objectives.....	4
2. PROJECT STATUS AND CURRENT PROGRESS	5
3. MAJOR PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS.....	8
3.1 Science-policy dialogue.....	8
3.2 Sharing knowledge.....	15
3.3 Project outputs and dissemination	17
3.4 Capacity building.....	19
3.5 Assessing vulnerability	23
4. FULFILLMENT OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES.....	26
5. PROJECT MANAGEMENT	31
5.1 Human resources (staffing, turnover etc)	31
5.2 Project schedule.....	31
5.3 Technical support and administration by IDRC	32
6. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT	33
6.1. Impact.....	33
7. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.....	33
8. CONCLUDING REMARKS.....	34
 Figure 1. A broad classification of project phases and outlines of major activities	 6
 Table 1. Timeframe for project tasks implementations.....	 6
Table 2. Taskforces construction and assignment of tasks to project team members or partner institutions.....	9
Table 3. Identified themes and task forces for the situation or background papers on climate change in the Congo basin.....	11
Table 4. Progress on the fulfillment of the project objectives.....	27
Table 5. Recruited project staff and their commencement dates	31
Table 6. Summary of expenditures for the period March 2008 - September 2009 (in US\$)	34

1. INTRODUCTION

This document contains the 20 months report for the project “Congo Basin Forests and Climate Change Adaptation in Central Africa-(CoFCCA).” The information herewith included covers the period March 2008 – September 2009, and elaborates on the information contained in previous progress reports submitted to IDRC. The financial report is also included and covers the same reporting period.

1.1 Structure of the report

This report is divided into 3 sections. Section 1 presents a short introduction to the project and to the report. Technical information is included in section 2. This section in fact contains a summary of the activities achieved by the project between for the period March 2008 – September 2009. Financial information for the same period and planned activities for the next steps are contained in sections 3.

1.2 Objectives

The main objective of the project is to contribute to national processes of adaptation to climate change through the development of policy-oriented adaptation strategies that also ensure sustainable use of forest resources in the Congo Basin Forests.

The strategic objectives (**SO**) of the project are:

- **SO1** The identification and prioritisation of forest-based sectors through a regional science-policy dialogue process, for the assessment of climate risks and the vulnerability of livelihoods linked to these prioritised sectors, for planning adaptation strategies to climate change and climate variability.
- **SO2** The development of adaptation strategies that emphasise the linkages between climate change, forest ecosystems and livelihoods and mainstreaming this into national development policies.
- **SO3** The assessment of vulnerability of gender and minority groups including indigenous communities, to highlight their special needs for climate change adaptation, and explore ways of engaging their participation in national adaptation planning processes and policy formulation
- **SO4** Capacity development of the local communities and other stakeholders through training and direct participation in the implementation of all phases of the project through

'learning by doing' process

2. PROJECT STATUS AND CURRENT PROGRESS

Activities during the first 20 months of the project were focused at enabling its regional implementation and the achievement of the specific objectives of the project. These included the search, identification and recruitment of staff, regional preparatory research, the development of a communication strategy, the setting to national priorities, links to governments, policy dialogue within countries & regions, development of methodologies, policy analysis, workshops, in-country and regional consultations using both national and international consultants as well as national partners, the development and launching of graduate students fellowship programme, etc.

Activities for these first 20 months of the project belong entirely to the first and the second phases (Figure 2) of the project, in accordance with the schedule included Table 1 below.

Phase 1 involves mobilizing the participation of stakeholders and the engagement of women, in identifying and prioritizing forest-based sectors on the basis of their importance to household livelihoods, national development, and their related vulnerability to climate change impacts.

Phase 2 consists of the utilization of the specific methodologies and the generation of vulnerability maps for each of the identified forest-based sectors, in each of the participating countries.

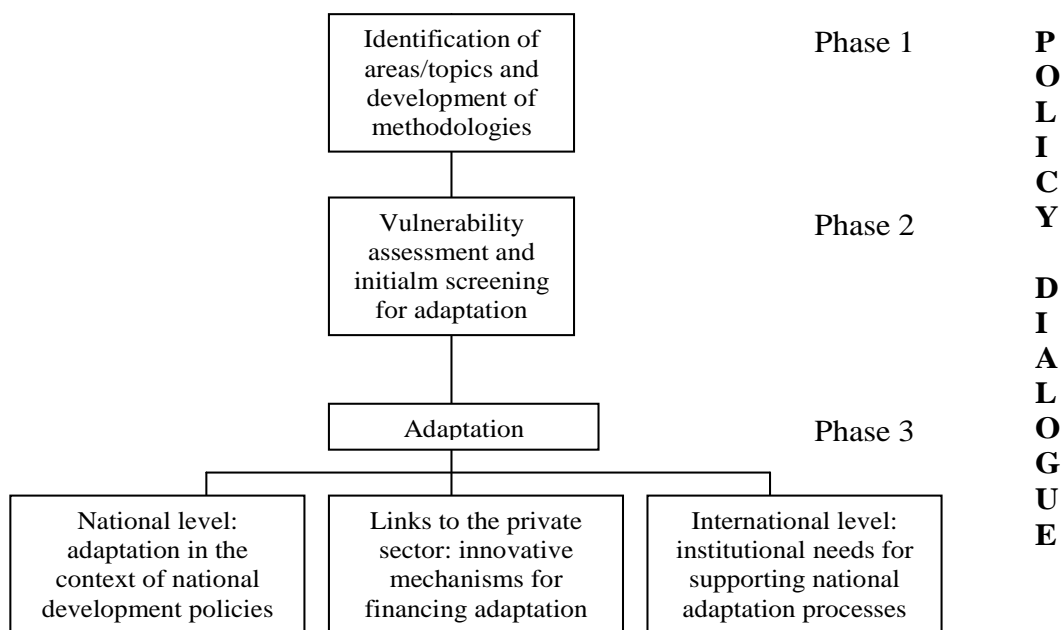


Figure 1. A broad classification of project phases and outlines of major activities

Phase 3 will deal with the following questions after the application of the methodology:

- Which forest systems need to be managed in what way to reduce vulnerability in for a specific development issue?
- What policy options are there to adapt?
- How could adaptation be incorporated in national policies?
- Which would be the role of different actors, in particular, for the national government and the private sector?
- What message can be sent to the international community, in particular, relating to vulnerability of biodiversity and feedbacks of climate change into carbon storage and sequestration?

Table 1. Timeframe for project tasks implementations

	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
	*Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6
Strategic Objective SO1: The identification and prioritisation of forest-based sectors through a regional science-policy dialogue process, for the assessment of climate risks and the vulnerability of livelihoods linked to these prioritised sectors, for planning adaptation strategies to climate change and climate variability.						
Task 1.1 – Consultations with stakeholders.						
Task 1.2 - Project Inception Meeting.						
Task 1.3 - At the start of this project a thorough review of literature will be						

undertaken in all countries.							
Task 1.4 - Situation analysis & baseline characterisation (stakeholders & network analyses, vulnerability analysis)							
Task 1.5 – Undertake visits of forest communities, finding out their perception of climate change coping and adaptation strategies.							
Strategic Objective SO2: The development of adaptation strategies that emphasise the linkages between climate change, forest ecosystems and livelihood and mainstreaming this into national development policies.							
Task 2.1 - Literature review of forest ecosystem services provision, livelihoods etc							
Task 2.2 - Consultations with key stakeholders in mapping out mainstreaming pathway & approaches (top-down versus bottom up)							
Task 2.3 – Participatory & Sector analyses							
Task 2.4- Consultations on climate risks perceptions							
Task 2.5 - Surveys for the identification & dis-aggregation of indigenous and innovative coping strategies							
Task 2.6 – Characterisation of other livelihood strategies							
Task 2.7 – Implementing Adaptation (See the steps in adaptation planning in the main text)							
Strategic Objective SO3: The assessment of vulnerability of gender and minority groups including indigenous communities, to highlight their special needs for climate change adaptation, and explore ways of engaging their participation in national adaptation planning processes and policy formulation							
Task 3.1-Situation analysis of women & indigenous groups using sustainable livelihood framework, learning platform alliance & innovative systems approaches							
Task 3.2 – Gender vulnerability analysis							
Task 3.3- Socio-economic analyses of climate impacts on women-dominated activities							
Task 3.4- Rights & resources, access, governance, tenure, equity and wellbeing for women & indigenous groups & implications on adaptive capacity							
Task 3.5- Building integrative activities (meetings, training workshops) and product demands of the different stakeholders							

Strategic Objective S04: Capacity development of the local communities and other stakeholders through training and direct participation in the implementation of all phases of the project through 'learning by doing' process						
Task 4.1 – Training of team members & key actors in participatory action research, and M&E						
Task 4.2 - Participatory M&E of capacity building strategies						
Task 4.3 - Development of strategies for sharing the lesson learning – this will include meetings annually between project partners in all three countries						
Task 4.4 - Graduate students annual fellowship program to contribute to project strategic objectives and to contribute in building scientific capacity of future scientists in each country						
Task 4.5 – Short training, workshops, field days etc will organised using successful cases for building local communities and other stakeholders' capacity to cope with/ adapt to climate change						

3. MAJOR PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 Science-policy dialogue

Since the starting of the e project activities in March 2008, three major science-policy dialogues have been held.

❖ **Project implementation planning and induction workshop**

This workshop was held in Yaoundé (Cameroon) on 24th - 27th March 2008 at Franco Hotel. This was the first meeting whereby all the project team members/partner institutions met after the funding approval and discussed about the project document in all its details:

- Review the project document;
- Re-evaluate the major aspects of the project ranging from the strategic objectives, the methodological framework, cross-cutting themes and activities;
- Define the spatial pattern across the landscape, and the roles of each project member; and identifying the potential stakeholders to be implicated in the project.

The specific objectives of this meeting were

1. To launch the project and assist the project team to understand the details of the project and take ownership and responsibilities of the project
 - To reviewing and unpacking the objectives of the project by

- Identifying the keywords and how to address them
2. Constituting the key groups & stakeholders surrounding each objective
 3. To identifying the spatial and temporal scales to undertake each objective
 4. To agree on the criteria for selecting research/pilot sites in the three countries
 5. Agree on project management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting that respond to the CCAA
 6. To agree on how to mainstream and integrate gender issues in the project
 7. To overview the participatory action research (PAR) which is the standard implementation approach for the project
 8. Undertake a critical review of the project Log frame and outcome mapping, and assigning responsibilities to participating institutions and team members
 9. Agree on how to develop project communication plan

In general, this meeting set up an implementation plan for the project that captured both the scope and spatial distribution of the activities and reflects the multidisciplinary team in a way that engaged the entire team in cross-disciplinary activities to allow proper management of cross-cutting themes. One of the outcomes of the meeting was the constitution of task forces with task leaders, and the allocation of their respective tasks following the project objectives and activities for their realization as well as the identification of themes and taskforces for the background or situation papers prior to the regional kick off meeting (Table 3). The full report of the workshop was submitted to IDRC and can be found at http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/cofcca/_ref/home/index.htm).

Table 2. Taskforces construction and assignment of tasks to project team members/partner institutions

Theme	Field of action	Task Force	sub theme	Members	Tasks in log frame
Situation & Vulnerability Analysis	Biophysical Science	1	Climate impacts and analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Clobite (Leader) • Dr Monica Idinoba • Prof. Amougou J • Mr Pouth • Prof Jean Pierre • Dr Felix Ngana • Prof Bernard Foahom • Research Assistants 	1.3 1.4 1.5 2.1 2.4

		2	Forests and impacts on forest types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Bernard (Leader) • Prof Jean-Pierre Mate • Guy Patrice (CARPE) • Valery (COMIFAC) • Research Assistants 	1.3 1.4 1.5 2.1 2.4
Situation & Vulnerability Analysis and Action research	Social Science	3	Vulnerability assessment / coping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monica (Leader) • Autres (CIFOR) • Felix • Laura • Jean Pierre • Danielle • Guy Patrice (CARPE) • Prof Bernard • Research Assistants 	1.3 1.4 1.5* 2.1 2.4 2.5*/2. 6 3.4*
		4	Gender integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle (Leader) • Monica • Laura • Jean Pierre • Felix • Others (CIFOR) • Research Assistants 	1.3 1.4 1.5 2.1 2.4 3.1/3.2/ 3.3 3.4
		5	Participatory Research Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura (Leader) • Janneke • Danielle • Research Assistants • Others (CIFOR) 	1.4 1.5 2.3 2.4 3.1 4.1/4.2
Policy Engagement / Policy Action Research	National Level	4	Same as above		
		5			
		7			
Coordination & Communications	All levels	6	Communication & visibility action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnson (Leader) • Janneke • Jean Pierre • Felix • Cyrie • Research Assistants • COMIFAC • CARPE 	4.3
		7	Stakeholders and institutional engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyrie (Leader) • Johnson (Co-leader) • Prof Amougou • Felix 	1.1/3.5 2.2 4.1/4.2* 4.3 4.4/4.5

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura • Research Assistants • COMIFAC 	
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* = Areas requiring in-depth research through student theses

Table 3. Identified themes and task forces for the situation or background papers on climate change in the Congo basin

	Theme	Leader	Task Force
1	Magnitude of climate change in the region	Clobite/Amougou	1
2	Impacts of CC on forest ecosystems <i>(in a broad sense)</i>	Bernard & JP Mate	2
3	Effects of CC on Local Communities and Adaptive Capacity	Felix, Monica and Laura	3, 4, 5

The first complete drafts of the situation papers are available and are still been reviewing internally, but was used to develop chapter that will be inserted in the Proceedings of the kick off meeting. During the recent CoFCCA annual meeting in September in Bangui, it was proposed that those drafts be transformed into working papers while exploring the possibility of publishing them as peer review papers

The draft background documents on “climate change and national forest: impacts, vulnerability and adaptation” have been completed for the three project countries and will be submitted for external review for potential publication initially as working paper

❖ **CoFCCA kick off meeting in Yaounde**

This meeting was held from the 23 to 25 June 2008 in Franco Hotel in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The kick off meeting main object was to introduce the project to local, national and regional partners and to strengthen the working relationship between national institutions and the project staff.

The objectives of the meeting were

- To formally launch CoFCCA project in the Central Africa Region,
- To jointly undertake stakeholders’ identification and prioritization of highly vulnerable forest goods and service sectors to climate change at both national and regional scales,

- To share views and experiences in response strategies to climate change impacts in the region especially on a shared trans-boundary resource-base like the Congo Basin Forests, and
- To initiate a regional policy dialogue on climate change adaptation

The kick-off meeting was fundamental to define the direction of the project. It also served as a platform for the coordination of climate change related projects in the region, as several organizations and projects attended the meetings. During this meeting, a presentation on funding opportunities on climate change in Central Africa has been delivered. This opens a new opportunity for CoFCCA to engage in the formulation of adaptation projects that fall within its general framework. In this line, a concept note on “climate change in Central Africa: synergies between mitigation and adaptation” has been submitted to the African Development Bank. The concept note has been accepted for full project proposal development. The development of the full proposal development is ongoing. The project will be for 5 years and will cover all the six countries of the Central Africa and an extension and an expansion of the CoFCCA project.

In line with the objectives of the meeting, several outcomes were achieved:

- Identification and prioritization by stakeholders of the forest-based sectors that constitute the research focus of the project for vulnerability assessment and identification of adaptation options. These sectors include: (1) **Bioenergy** with emphasis on fuel wood and Charcoal; (2) **Water** principally quality, quantity, accessibility, etc.; (3) **Food (Non Timber Forest Products)** linked to human and animal nutrition, and (4) **Health** linked to healthcare products (medicinal plants). Establishment of links with local partners as well as the objectives and coordination of these links.
- Exchange of climate change activities and experiences so far in the region provided the background for the planning and focus for the project.

❖ **CoFCCA team members meeting in Yaounde**

Immediately after the kick off meeting, a two days meeting with the project team members followed. The objectives of this meeting were

To identify collaboration strategies with ACMAD in Niamey, Niger for eventual technical support to the project especially with regard to climatic data for climate change scenarios in central Africa.

- To reflect on the kick off meeting and identify areas of weaknesses and strengths for further meeting organizations
- To evaluate progress of the project since the implementation and induction workshop
- To discuss about the situation paper on climate change in the Congo basin
- To identify ways of communication and dissemination of project activities
- To develop the selection criteria for pilot research sites for participatory action research (PAR) within the three countries of the project implementation.

One major outcome of this meeting was the development a road map for further activities within the project with specific tasks assigned to team members for sort term accomplishment.

❖ **Project meeting in Bangui**

According to CoFCCA project document, a regional meeting has to be held in each of the three implementation countries of the project. In this line and following other meetings held in Yaoundé the first year of the project, a regional meeting of the project was held in Bangui in Central Africa Republic from 14 to 19 September 2009.

The objectives of this meeting were

- To evaluate the progress of the project since the start to date
- To communicate the project findings
- To develop implementation strategies for year two activities for better achievement of the objectives, and
- To develop a road map for further activities of the project within the project log frame

The meeting brought together 48 participants from Central Africa especially from the three project countries and Congo. Participants were representatives of the government institutions, regional organizations, universities, research institutions, international and national nongovernmental organizations, community groups, indigenous communities etc. Through a participatory approach, stakeholders discussed climate change issues in the Congo basin as

well as prioritized forest-based sectors for climate change adaptation that constitute the primary research focus of the project.

The first meeting report has been drafted and will be submitted to IDRC once finalized.

❖ **CoFCCA media workshop in Bangui**

From 24-25 September 2009 was held in Bangui in Central African Republic a two days media workshop. The main objective of this workshop was to strengthen the capacity of central African journalists on climate change issues by sharing with them basic information relative to forest and climate change adaptation. The idea was also to put together scientists, policy makers and communicators so that they exchange on the difficulties related to the communication on forest and climate change and explore strategies for helping each other for better communication on the topic.

The specific objectives of the workshop were

- To familiarize or widen journalists knowledge on climate change terminology
- To explain how IPCC develops scenario models for climate change and the dynamics behind the production of IPCC reports
- To share the strategies of the international communities with regards to climate change adaptation
- To present the links between forest and climate change adaptation
- To present the role and the action of NAPA, and
- To identify strategies for incorporating forest and climate change in the media space

The key target participants were journalists from public and private Medias, radios, televisions, newspapers, community radios, and journalists in charge of communication in various ministries.

❖ **Understanding the institutional context**

One of the strategic objectives of the project is policy analysis in the Congo basin. To contribute to the achievement of this objective, the project entered into partnership activities with other institutions. One such partnership is with the Global Environmental Change Group, Department of Geography University of Guelph in Ontario (Canada) where Dr Carolyn Peach Brown is looking at institutional dynamics and climate change in the Congo Basin Forests in

Central Africa. The disciplinary focus of the research is primarily on policy. One key finding of the research is that though it is evident that awareness of climate change is high, a concrete response to climate change is only in the beginning stages in Cameroon, as it is in many countries. In the area of forests, and climate change in particular, given the importance of the Congo Basin forests to the national economy and the livelihoods of millions of local people, it is imperative that there be a coordinated response on climate change. Therefore, the weak linkages between government departments nationally and between different levels of government will need to be strengthened. Additionally, linkages need to be strengthened with other actors in society such as private industry and non-governmental organizations. While actors in international organizations and civil society may have a role to play in strengthening the capacity of government on responding to climate change, further analysis may provide insight into how this may be best accomplished. Out of this work, two papers have been submitted for publications and presentations made at international conferences and symposia (e.g. conference on climate change in Poznan, etc).

The same is to continue from next November for the two other implementation countries of the project (i.e.; Central Africa Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo).

3.2 Sharing knowledge

As a scientific outreach, the project encourages participation in scientific meetings to contribute to the knowledge base on adaptation, sharing research results, learning and acquiring new skills and information from peers.

The followings are some of the major national, regional and international seminars and conferences project team members participated since the launching of the project in June 2008. Participation to these meetings has included a presentation of the project and its preliminary activities

- National events

- Active participation in project planning meeting organized by the Government of Cameroon for project development in order to obtain necessary funding for the elaboration of the Second National Communication to UNFCCC. May 2009
- Participation in meeting planning on climate change activities in Cameroon in collaboration with UNDP experts. August 2009
- Members of parliamentarian support network on question related to climate change

- Presentation made by project members at the Cameroon National Assembly during the Panafrican parliamentarian conference on climate change in Yaounde, Cameroon. 23-26 June 2009

- International conference

- International Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Albertan Rift, Kigali, Rwanda, 9–11 July 2008
- International Conference on Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Changing Climate with Emphasis on Forest Health: A Review of Science, Policies and Practices, 25–28 August 2008, Umeå, Sweden
- International Conference on Sustainable Forest Management in Africa: African Solutions to African Problems in Natural Forest Management, 3–7 November 2008, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- CarboAfrica Open Science Conference on Africa and Carbon Cycle, 25–27 November 2008, Accra, Ghana
- Atelier International sur la Recherche Action Participative et Adaptation au Changement Climatique en Afrique, Cotonou, Benin, 6–10 October 2008
- 15eme Conférence du Comité Camerounais de Biosciences Theme «Biosciences et Changement climatique», Université de Yaoundé, Cameroon, 4–6 December 2008
- TroFCCA Regional meeting on “Knowledge and Action on Forests for Climate Change Adaptation in Africa November 18-20, 2008 Ghana
- International EcoHealth Forum (IEF): Healthy Environments, Healthy People. Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico. December 1st through 5th, 2008
- UNFCCC CoP14, 1–12 December 2008, Poznan, Poland
- Forest Day 2 during UNFCCC CoP14, 6 December 2008, Poznan, Poland
- Fifth European Geosciences Union Alexander von Humboldt International Conference on African Terrestrial Systems and Climate Change, Somerset, South Africa, 10–16 January 2009.
- World Congress in Agroforestry. Nairobi, 23-28 August 2009

- International Conference on Global Change in Africa: Projections, Mitigation, and Adaptation. Cologne/Germany, 02-05 June 2009

- CoFCCA Proceedings

Some presentations made during the project kick off meeting in June 2008 in Yaoundé were selected for full papers. 8 draft papers out of the 10 are ready and are undergoing internal review by other team project members. After the internal review, the papers will be sent to external reviewers for better consideration for publication

- Sectors analysis and livelihoods

The report of a situation paper on “assessing climate risks of indigenous communities, their local adaptive capacity and special needs for adaptation to climate impacts on the Congo Basin Forests” prepared by a consultant has been completed. A key finding of the paper is that there were race-based and place-based differentiated vulnerabilities of forest-dependent communities in the Congo Basin Forests. The indigenous Pygmy race was overwhelmingly more vulnerable than the Bantu settlers. Furthermore, communities living in the forest were more vulnerable to climate change impacts than those living at forest fringes irrespective of race. Two papers have been drafted from this report and submitted to journals for publication.

In addition, a work has been commissioned to a consultant to carry out in-depth vulnerability analysis of priority sectors sensitive to climate change. The work is ongoing and the completed report is expected by the end of 2009.

3.3 Project outputs and dissemination

CoFCCA as a regional project has a range of partners and thus has been designed to have outputs that are likely to be of different categories based on the various boundary partners. Basically, there are three types of boundary partners in the project following the outcome mapping approach.

- Forest communities (forest-dependent communities, indigenous people, logging companies, nongovernmental organizations, women’s groups, traditional authorities etc)
- National government official and policy makers (Ministries of environment, forestry etc)
- Regional organizations (COMIFAC, Central African Regional Program for the Environment)

In order to meet the interests of different stakeholders/partners, the project uses different dissemination strategies to reach its target. This in fact requires a communication plan for the project that guides packaging of outputs and style of communication. As a regional project with team members widely distributed across the region, the project has developed a strong and active internal communication plan for team members and project collaborators.

Following the dissemination plans stated in the project, the followings have been achieved with regard to communication and outreach:

- Newsletters

A quarterly project newsletter is distributed through the established e-mail group lists of team members and stakeholders.

- Website

The project website which provides highlights of research activities, outputs, documents, meetings, etc has been developed. The URL of the website is http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/cofcca_ref/home/index.htm. But due to the fact that there was not communication officer at the CIFOR Central Africa Office for some times, this website has not been updated. With recent recruitment of a communication officer at the regional office, the website will now be updated and enriched with news related to the project. CIFOR also has a new dynamic team of communication at the CIFOR headquarter in Bogor (Indonesia) that is willing to put more emphasis on communication through innovative website. This will be very useful for CoFCCA project

- Flyers

Brief documents containing general and specific information on the project have been prepared with different objectives. A flyer in two different languages (English and French) provides information on the objectives, expected results and methodological framework of CoFCCA. The flyer has been widely distributed and continues to be distributed at local, national, regional and international meetings. It has also been added to the CoFCCA website.

- Brief(s) (information and policy)

The project considers briefs for policy and information as strategic forms of dissemination targeting decision-makers for policy and operational activities. The project prepared a brief

circulated during the Fourteenth Conference of Parties (CoP14) of the UNFCCC, 1–12 December 2008, Poznan, Poland to summarize preliminary research on adaptation and vulnerability concepts.

An article was recently submitted to ETFRN (European Tropical Forestry Research Network) and is currently prepared for the next COP15 in Copenhagen.

Another action (susceptible to impact on one of the boundary partners) at the regional level included the elaboration of the research proposal that was submitted to the African Development Bank (ADB). CoFCCA team members actively contributed to the development of the project concept note which has already been accepted. The development of the full proposal is ongoing.

3.4 capacity building

Capacity building is one of the key strategic objectives of the project (strategic objective 4). Within the CoFCCA project, various levels of capacity development were planned in the project targeting both project team members and the public operational and policy capacities. In this line, training and direct participation of staff and team members of the project as well as local communities and other stakeholders have been emphasized in the implementation of all phases of the project through 'learning by doing' process. In addition to various workshops attended by staff and other team members of the project (Project first annual report 2008), the followings trainings have been undertaken within the project since January 2009 to date:

- Training of staff and other members of the project on PAR

This workshop, held at the Central Africa Regional Office of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Yaoundé in Cameroon from the 23-27 February 2009. The main objective of this workshop was to build the capacity of the project national managers (research assistants) on Participatory Action Research (RAP).

The specific objectives were

- To reflect on the progress of the project,
- To improve the implementation of the CoFCCA project in Central Africa based on the experience of Tropical Forests and Climate Change Adaptation (TroFCCA) in West Africa

- To revisit the stages and the tools of RAP and testing some of these tools with local communities,
- To exchange on the process leading to the selection of pilote sites in the three countries of the implementation of the project, and
- To develop a road map for the implementation of the project in the three countries of the project.

Experts on climate change adaptation from CIFOR Headquarter (Indonesia), West Africa Regional Office and Central Africa attended this workshop. CoFCCA research assistants as well as students and lecturers from Cameroon Universities also attended this workshop.

During this workshop, CoFCCA staff and other team members knowledge was widened on the study of the vulnerability and participatory approaches used in other projects relative to climate change adaptation. The approach and stages of the Participatory Action Research were presented and some PAR tools tested with local communities in the two days fieldwork at Nkol-Evodo (Lekie Division, Center Region of Cameroon). In addition, a road map of the participatory action research was developed with a chronogramme. This road map is actually helping in carrying out the project related PAR activities in the three countries of the project implementation.

- Monitoring of the project staff in the implementation of PAR

This workshop organized by the project was held recently in Bangui in Central African Republic from 15 to 19 Sept 2009. The main objective of this workshop was to monitor the project research assistant capacities in using PAR tools with local communities in order to identify and strengthen their capacities wherever there is any gap. Other field assistants as well as some lecturers from the University of Bangui attended this workshop.

- Research Fellow Training

Following selection of CIFOR's Forests and Climate Change Adaptation research activities in West and Central Africa as host institution for the African Climate Change Fellowship Programme (ACCFP) funded by IDRC and coordinated by Pan African START Secretariat and International START Secretariat Washington, DC, USA, the project is hosting for six months a research policy fellow who is looking how government agencies at the meso-level (Provincial level) can coordinate their efforts together in

implementing adaptation to climate change. The fellow is currently working on his final report. During his stay in the project, the fellow has attended two major international conferences on climate change adaptation in Bonn (Germany) and on natural resource management in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

The project also succeeded in obtaining from the Netherland cooperation a position for a Junior Professional Officer (JPO). Interview was conducted and a JPO was selected to work on the project at the regional level. The work of the JPO is focusing on institutional analysis at the regional level. He is also a registered PhD at the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands.

- Graduate students capacity building

The project hosted two students both from Dschang University in Cameroon. Mr. Germain Bock, a 4th year student from the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Dschang (Cameroon) spent a one-month internship in the project. The student's research during the period looked at the role and use of forest for adaptation to climate change using CIFOR research activities addressing these issues and compiled a list of potential ministries department at national levels in Cameroon that could be related to the implementation of forest and climate change adaptation in this country. In addition, Mr. Bruno Bokoto, CoFCCA Research Assistant in Central African Republic, completed a Master thesis in CRESA Forêt-Bois of the University of Dschang (Cameroon). His research focused on the vulnerability analysis and identification of climate change adaptation strategies of rural communities in forest ecosystems of South-West of Central African Republic. Furthermore, a student of the University of Buea (Cameroon) was also supported to complete a field work on mangrove vulnerability in the coastal area of Cameroon.

- Graduate students' annual fellowship selection

Graduate students' annual fellowship program is fully embedded into the project strategic objectives in order to contribute in building scientific capacity of future scientists in each country of the project. Three sets of students were to be selected within the project corresponding to three year of the implementation of the project. For the academic year 2009/09, there were calls for applications made through major media outlets in the three project countries for the project's graduate fellowship awards. From a total of 44 applications received from the project countries, three students each per country were finally selected to

work on areas requiring in-depth research through theses as identified during the project planning and induction meeting in March 2008 (see the meeting report of March 2008). These fellows are currently carrying out their field work on different research topics and are expected to complete their work by the end of this year. However, it is worth mentioning that the student from DRC is lagging behind the two other fellows (from Central Africa and Cameroon) due to changes in his University academic year calendar coupled with the problem of money transfer from CIFOR Central Africa Regional Office to DRC. Fortunately, these difficulties have gradually been solved and the student will soon fully embark on field work.

The second calls for graduate students' annual fellowship will soon be launched for the academic year 2009/10. The actual plan is to select two students per country in order to meet up with the project objectives relative to graduate students' capacity building before the end of the project which is due in 2011.

- Journalist training workshop

This workshop was held recently during the project annual meeting in Bangui in Central African Republic from 24-25 September 2009. This workshop aimed at sharing with Medias the basic information on forest and adaptation to climate change. 15 journalists from all media horizons in Central African Republic attended this workshop. The specific objectives were to

- To explain how IPCC develops prevision scenarios and the dynamics associated with the IPCC report production;
- To present the international community's plan for adaptation to climate change;
- To presenting the links between forest and adaptation to climate change;
- To explain how actors at the level of politics could coordinate their efforts to evaluate vulnerability and designing appropriate adaptation options
- To facilitate a network of journalists interested in forest and climate change

- Conference to Master students of CRESA-Forets Bois and high schools

Project team members were invited by CRESA foret Bois to give presentations on climate change to professional forest students and high school people during the International Day of Tree (*Journée Internationale de l'Arbre*). The project was presented to these students and also to secondary students and their professors during the International Day of Tree. CRESA foret

Bois is an international school with student coming from different countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

3.5 Assessing vulnerability

- Participatory Action Research activities

Given the fact the project main emphasis is on the importance of forest ecosystems in national development and for climate change adaptation, this can only be achieved in a participatory gender sensitive approach that engages local communities and minority groups, in establishing a framework that connects research, business and policy in a multi-stakeholders platform throughout the processes of setting the climate risks, identification and prioritization of forest-based sectors, and in the development and implementation of adaptation strategies. In this line, the main approach used in the project is the participatory action research (PAR) since the beginning of the project and will be used throughout the whole life cycle of the project. PAR thus entails regular evaluation of each activity during the implementation of the project, in order to make adjustments where necessary, and to align the project in meeting its goals. This approach creates a learning alliance for both the research team and the stakeholders in learning through cycles of concrete experiences, reflective observation, abstract conceptualisation and active experimentation, with the ultimate aim of developing the collective commitment and capacity to turn ideas and plans into action.

Following the vulnerability map for each country of the project and the PAR road map developed during the methodological workshop in February 2009 in Yaoundé in Cameroon, RAP activities are currently ongoing in the selected sites in the three countries of the implementation of the project. Two studies sites were selected for each project country.

The activities are directly in line with specific objectives 2 and 3 (SO3) of the project. In fact, these activities aimed at assessing vulnerability of gender and minority groups including indigenous communities, to highlight their special needs for climate change adaptation, and explore ways of engaging their participation in national adaptation planning processes and policy formulation.

In the three project countries, PAR activities have been successfully ongoing with the kind mentorship of Dr Anne Marie. Planification and management of change (*gestion de changement*) phases are the next steps in the three countries of the project.

The major preliminary finding in the three project countries is that climate change is real and local communities are already been affected and that forest is not so affected as other sectors such agriculture and livestock husbandry and thus can be used for safety net during difficult periods. However, agriculture is the sector the most in need of adaptation options as agriculture is the first top livelihood activity for more than 80 percent of the rural populations in the project countries. One of the main difficulties during this period is the financial limit of funding initially planned for PAR. Therefore, during the next steps of PAR, the intention is to combine some of the activities of the project with PAR activities together with other project activities on the sites to have a broader picture of the situation in them. The project is doing its best to collaborate with development partners that will help in the implementation of the identified adaptation options and ensure the follow up after the project.

- Master student work

The research projects of the students selected for the first call of the of the graduate students annual research fellowship all centered around the vulnerability assessment of local communities to climate change and identification of adaptation strategies put in place or to be put in place. These research topics fall within the four priority sectors identified by stakeholders during the kick off meeting in June 2008 in Yaoundé in Cameroon. Theses sectors include: (1) Bioenergy with emphasis on fuel wood and Charcoal; (2) Water principally quality, quantity, accessibility, etc.; (3) Food (Non Timber Forest Products) linked to human and animal nutrition, and (4) Health linked to healthcare products (medicinal plants). The student projects focus on the impacts of climate change on local communities and their coping strategies in the Congo basin region in Central Africa. However, with the exception of bioenergy sector, all the other three sectors are covered. The intention would be to covered all the sectors during the second calls for graduate student research fellowship for the academic year 2009/10 and will be taken care of during the second calls.

The three student topics are:

1. *Hydroclimatic variability and local adaptations in forest ecosystems in the South-West river basin of Mpoko in Central African Republic.*

The objectives of this project are

- To get a situation of the hydro climatic variability of the Mpoko river and determine forest vulnerability and related populations to the consequences of climate oscillations;

- To determine and analyze current local adaptation strategies to these climatic crises; and
 - To orientate local knowledge towards appropriate adaptation to climate change while ensuring the sustainable use of forest resources in the river basin of Mpoko
2. *Climatic rhythms, pathologic rhythms and adaptation of south eastern forest populations of Cameroon.*

The main objective of this project is to determine the link between the variability of climatic parameters and seasonality of malaria and respiratory infections in three localities in the Sud-East of Cameroon.

The specific objectives are

- To describe the situation of the localities of the study (background situation);
- To determine monthly and seasonal evolution of the pathologies in the three localities of the study
- To determine the demographic and ethnic structure of the patients; and
- To determine the means of treatment and the perspectives

3. *Climate change and mushroom availability for food and medicinal purposes for local populations around the National Park of Kahuzi-Biega (South-Kivu, Congo DR)*

The objectives of this project are to evaluate the evolution of mycology richness and the role of mushrooms for food and medicinal purposes in the livelihoods of local populations at the vicinity of the National Park of Kahuzi-Biega.

The specific objectives are

- To gather information on the uses of mushrooms in the study site;
- To carry out inventories of edible and/or medicinal mushrooms in the study area;
- To collect vouchers specimens for the herbarium collections
- To evaluate the importance of mushrooms on food, health and income of populations in the study area;
- To identify possible modification of the phenology on mushrooms and their availability using existing herbarium specimens; and

- To evaluate the consequences of rarity or the disappearance of important mushroom species to local populations in the study area.

4. FULFILLMENT OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the project is to contribute to national processes of adaptation to climate change through the development of policy-oriented adaptation strategies that also ensure sustainable use of forest resources in the Congo Basin Forests. This objective is surrounded by four strategic objectives, each with tasks for implementation over the three years of the project. The corresponding tasks under each of the strategic objectives are listed with the extent of fulfillment of the objective.

Table 4. Progress on the fulfillment of the project objectives

Task	Progress	Remark
Strategic Objective SO1:	Identification and prioritization of forest-based sectors through a regional science-policy dialogue process for the assessment of climate risks and the vulnerability of livelihoods linked to these prioritized sectors, for planning adaptation strategies to climate change and climate variability	
Task 1.1 – Consultations with stakeholders.	This task has always been ongoing and began immediately after the funding of the project.	The consultation with various stakeholders is done at the various levels and stages of the project through a participatory approach. Up to now, this approach culminated in the identification and prioritization of forest based sectors for adaptation, participatory action research, and other policy-dialogue workshops.
Task 1.2 - Project Inception Meeting.	The project inception meeting successfully achieved	Report available at http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/cofcca/_ref/home/index.htm)
Task 1.3 – National review on climate change adaptation	The literature reviews for a situation analysis for each project country were undertaken by the research assistants for the corresponding countries.	Complete drafts of the three reports are available and will soon undergo CIFOR review before they are released
Task 1.4 - Situation analysis & baseline characterization (stakeholders & network analyses, vulnerability analysis)	Completed for Cameroon	The same work will soon continue in DRC and in CAR from November 2009
Task 1.5 <i>Visits to forest communities to find out their perception of climate change coping and adaptation strategies.</i>	Ongoing	Field visits to selected forest communities for participatory action research in each of the project countries have fully started and will continue during till the end of the project for the different phases of the PAR.
Strategic Objective SO2:	The development of adaptation strategies that emphasize the linkages between climate change, forest ecosystems and livelihood and mainstreaming this into national development policies.	
Task 2.1 - Literature review of forest ecosystem services	Ongoing	Some features of this task are found in the prepared documents mentioned under strategic objective 1.

provision, livelihoods etc		
Task 2.2 <i>Consultations with key stakeholders in mapping out mainstreaming pathway and approaches</i> (top-down versus bottom up).	Ongoing	As in task 1.1, there are ongoing consultations with key stakeholders that would be vital for mainstreaming
Task 2.3 <i>Participatory and sector analyses</i>	Ongoing	This task has been commissioned and the draft reports are available
Task 2.4 <i>Consultations on climate risks perceptions.</i>	There have been consultations on climate risks with national level stakeholders for Cameroon in collaboration with Guelph University	The same work is expected for the other two countries of the project (DRC and CAR)
Task 2.5 <i>Surveys for the identification and disaggregation of indigenous and innovative coping strategies.</i>	Ongoing	This task has already been addressed in the report prepared by a commissioned study addressing the special needs of indigenous communities for adaptation. The idea is to develop this as peer-review paper or working paper.
Task 2.6 <i>Characterization of other livelihood strategies.</i>	ongoing and will be completed by the end of the second year of the project (i.e. this year 2009)	Some of the related information so far is included in the completed draft reports (country situation reports, situation paper 3 of the task force, and the report on indigenous communities and adaptation to climate change).
Task 2.7 <i>Implementing adaptation.</i>	Nothing done on this task during this reporting period	PAR activities have just fully started in the three project countries and the next phases will lead of the identification of adaptation options their implementation
Strategic Objective SO3:	The assessment of vulnerability of gender and minority groups including indigenous communities, to highlight their special needs for climate change adaptation, and explore ways of engaging their participation in national adaptation planning processes and policy formulation	
Task 3.1 <i>Situation analysis of women and indigenous groups using sustainable livelihood framework, learning platform</i>	Ongoing	A commissioned study looking at the special vulnerability of indigenous groups in the Congo Basin Forests has been undertaken and a completed report has been produced.

<i>alliance and innovative systems approaches.</i>		
Task 3.2 <i>Gender vulnerability analysis.</i>	Ongoing	PAR activities will help contribute to the achievement of this task. However, this task may be commissioned for in-depth analysis
Task 3.3 <i>Socio-economic analyses of climate impacts on women-dominated activities.</i>	Not yet started during the time of writing of this report	Will be commissioned for in depth analysis
Task 3.4 <i>Rights and resources, access, governance, tenure, equity and wellbeing for women and indigenous groups and implications on adaptive capacity.</i>	Ongoing	Some of the aspects in the tasks are addressed in the consultancy report on indigenous people and their special needs for adaptation. However, this task will be commissioned for in depth analysis
Task 3.5 <i>Building integrative activities (meetings, training workshops) and meeting product demands of the different stakeholders</i>	ongoing	This is a cross-phase task that commenced with the kick-off meeting, prioritization of the forest sectors, and the project annual meeting. The task will continue till the end of the project
Strategic Objective S04:	Capacity development of the local communities and other stakeholders through training and direct participation in the implementation of all phases of the project through 'learning by doing' process	
Task 4.1 <i>Training of team members and key actors in participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E).</i>	Ongoing	Project members participated in various workshops on participatory action research (PAR) organized by Climate Change Adaptation for Africa (CCAA) in Addis Ababa and Cotonou respectively. They also participated in other workshops on PAR organized by the project in Yaoundé and in Bangui
Task 4.2 <i>Participatory M&E of capacity building strategies.</i>	Still to be started	This task just started with the M&E of the project and is intended to continue till the end of the project
Task 4.3 <i>Development of strategies for sharing the</i>	Ongoing	Project partners from all three countries have met and shared lessons learned during the annual meeting of the project in Bangui (CAR).

<i>lesson learning.</i>		
Task 4.4 <i>Graduate students' annual fellowship programme</i> to contribute to project strategic objectives and to building scientific capacity of future scientists in each country.	Ongoing	The first batch of three graduate students each per project country has been selected and they are currently collecting data in the field for their MSc. They are expected to complete their research by the end of this year. In addition, as a host institution, the project has hosted two other graduate students from Cameroon Universities well as a research fellow under the African Climate Change Adaptation Fellowship Programme coordinated by the global SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training (START) and the African Academy of Science. Furthermore, the second calls of graduate students research fellowship will soon be launched for the academic year 2009/10 after which two students per country are expected to be selected instead of one in order to meet up with the number of students initially planned before the end of the project which is due in 2011
Task 4.5 <i>Short training, workshops, field days etc</i>	Ongoing	This task is currently undertaking in the three project countries and is expected to continue till the end of the project

5. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

5.1 Human resources (staffing, turnover etc)

CoFCCA project has three full-time research assistants, one for each project country and an international scientist based at the CIFOR regional office in Yaounde in Cameroon. He is actually the general manager of the project. Research assistants are directly responsible for project implementation and representation, and serve as national liaison persons between the project and the home government and other institutions. Nkem Johnson who initially was the general manager of the project was asked by CIFOR management reduce his workload and to give more time on TroFCCA project on which CoFCCA was built. However, he is actively backstopping the project implementation from the headquarter.

Table 5. Recruited project staff and their commencement dates

Name	Position	Country	Commencement Date
Yousoufa Bele	Research Assistant	Cameroon	17 March 2008
Bruno Bokoto De Semboli	Research Assistant	Central African	01 August 2008
Mulotwa Masumbuko	Research Assistant	DRC	01 August 2008
Denis Sonwa	International Scientist	Cameroon	01 July 2008

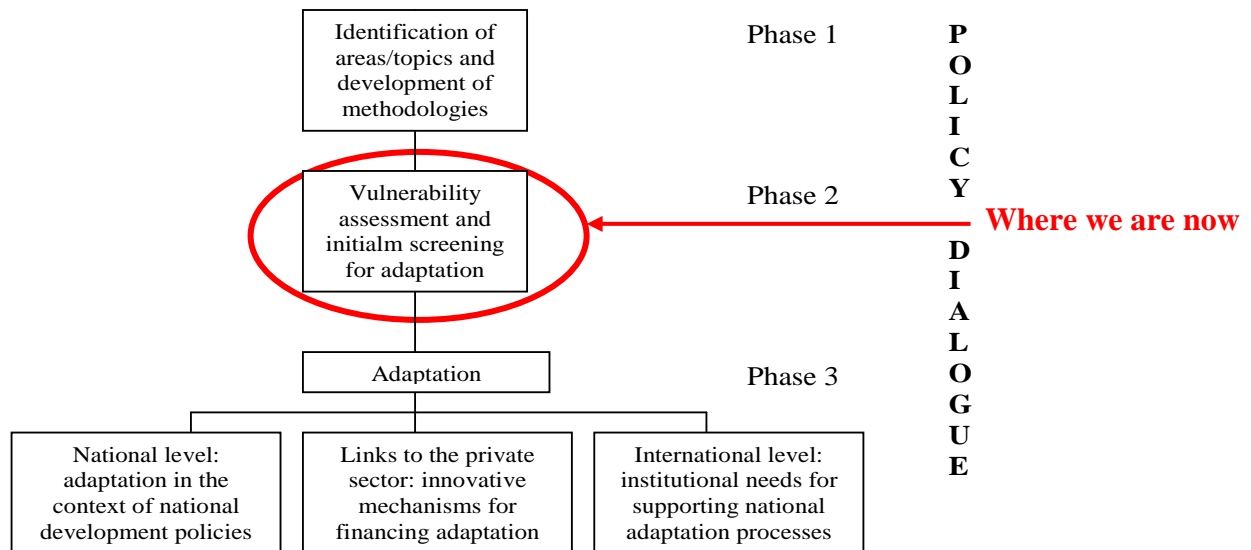
5.2 Project schedule

The project schedule remains unmodified as stated in the project document submitted for the grant award. An excerpt is presented below.

The project consists of three phases, which will be implemented over three years and undertaken in six semesters of six months duration, in addressing the strategic objectives of the project as already mentioned above.

Phase 1. This phase involves mobilizing the participation of stakeholders and the engagement of women in identifying and prioritizing forest-based sectors on the basis of their importance to household livelihoods and national development, and their related vulnerability to climate change impacts. There will also be the elaboration of a conceptual scientific framework of the project, and the development of specific methodologies to address the selected forest based sectors relevant for national development.

Phase 2. The second phase of the project consists of the utilization of specific methodologies and the generation of vulnerability maps for each of the identified forest-based sectors, in each of the participating countries.



Phase 3. The last phase will concentrate on planning adaptation strategies in response to the needs and priorities identified during the policy dialogue and on the basis of a sectoral policy analysis and the assessment of vulnerability. Monitoring indicators will be identified to provide feedback signals in order to make adjustments where necessary, and in judging the achievement of the project.

5.3 Technical support and administration by IDRC

The project is receiving several categories of technical reports through CCAA. A series of workshops on various relevant aspects for project implementation (such as climate impacts and vulnerability assessment, outcome mapping, gender, policy, PAR etc) have been frequently organized by CCAA where which project team members take parts. All these workshops provide technical capacity improvements to the project. In addition, IDRC Office in Dakar has appointed a focal person that oversees the project implementation and especially provides technical support on Participatory Action Research (PAR).

IDRC provides several categories of technical support to the project through CCAA. First, there is a focal person from the IDRC office in Dakar overseeing the project, who

technically supports the project. There is a supporting unit created by CCAA for M&E and also for outcome mapping. Furthermore, CCAA has been organising series of workshops on various relevant aspects of project implementation such as climate impacts and vulnerability assessment, outcome mapping, gender, policy, PAR etc.

6. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT

Preliminary findings from PAR activities in all the project countries clearly shows that, there is great potential in the project for promoting forest for adaptation as it constitutes a safety net for local communities in traversing difficult periods. In addition, there is an upsurge in global interest in forest for mitigation framed in market instruments with financial incentives capable of dissuading policy on any other use of forest. Furthermore, the lack of capacity in the region and the urgent need for adaptation where livelihood and national development are largely dependent on forest resources ensures the relevance of the project and the worthiness of the time, effort and funding involved.

6.1. Impact

If there is nothing hindering its implementation, the project is likely to ultimate achieve impacts through change in behaviour, practices and policies towards forests that reduce vulnerability of forest users and facilitate forest ecosystem and human adaptation to climate change. However, impact could only be achieved if the followings are addressed:

- Assess risk and vulnerability and design of adaptation options based on the needs of local communities
- Enhance the role of sustainable forest management and its associated biodiversity is enhanced,
- Mainstream climate change into forest management
- Support capacity development
- Create local employment
- Create and maintain science policy dialogue

7. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The financial management report covers the reporting period of the project, i.e. March 2008-September 2009. Due to delay observed in the recruitment of project staff coupled with institutional procedure related to developing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with partners institutions and research assistants in other project implementation countries (Central Africa and DR Cong), there was also delay in the implementation of some of the

project activities especially during the first year of the project. For this reason, the level of expenditure up to date remained relatively low. However, it should be noted that the granted extension could be initiated to cover the delay in implementing some project activities. With the full start of field activities using PAR in all the three countries of the project and major tasks to be commissioned for consultation, expenditures are expected to be high for the next phases of the project implementation. However, for better success of PAR in the study sites, more time and money is needed as PAR activities were underestimated in the overall project budgeting.

Up to 30st September 2009, only US\$ 435,048 has been used out of the total budget of US\$ 1,637,800.

Table 6. Summary of expenditures for the period March 2008 - September 2009

(in US\$)

Budget category	Budget	Expenditure	Balance
Personnel	291,000	141,053	149,947
Consultants	70,500	14,696	55,804
Evaluation	115,000	-	115,000
Equipment	44,750	13,528	31,222
International travel	140,100	26,466	113,634
Training	90,000	-	90,000
Research expenses	703,180	189,255	513,925
Indirect project costs	183,270	50,050	133,220
Total in project currency Total in US\$	1,637,800	435,048	1,202,752

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Considering the vulnerability of tropical forests to climate change especially those of the Congo basin, sustainable forest management in the Congo basin should include a climate change focus that has the potential not only to avoid any adverse effects on forest resources and conservation of biodiversity but also to provide opportunities for greater, more sustainable rural development and poverty alleviation through income generation

and employment opportunities. In addition, forest related sectors prioritized by stakeholders are those that are consistently associated with community development underlining the urgency of mainstreaming forest into national development and climate change adaptation programmes. These same sectors will also provide guidelines for further activities of the project

