

Preliminary integration of forest and adaptation to climate change into the forestry landscape of Central Africa

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Introduction: Central African forest and climate change links

- Forest resources play key roles in socio-economic and ecological contexts in Central Africa.
- Poor communities in the region depend on forest resources as a safety net.
- The Congo basin forests are important for the 'stability' of the global climate
- These forests and dependent communities need to be protected from climate variability and climate change.

The challenge

- Perceptions of climate change links with forests generally refer to protecting carbon stocks in forest stands in Central Africa.
- Thus there are very narrow experiences working with forests and climate change adaptation in the region.
- Climate change is not always taken into consideration in sectoral development policies in the region.
- This leads to a lack of coherent policy on climate change adaptation that integrates sectoral development in the region.

CoFCCA: Contributing to solving a serious problem

- The project takes into consideration the human–environment interaction during planning and implementation
- It informs 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.
- It is supported by CIFOR and IDRC global research efforts on forest and adaptation to climate change

Box: Climate change Adaptation and Forest research in CIFOR

- Climate change for Forest
- Forest as safety net for adaptation to climate change

- Poster Objective: Present preliminary efforts to integrate forest and climate change adaptation in forest landscapes of Central Africa

Some key actions in 2008 and 2009

Science policy dialogue

- The dialogue brings together scientists and policy makers from climate and forest sectors
- The dialogue uses participatory approaches to involve stakeholders including indigenous and rural community leaders as well as staff from regional and international organisations.

Table 1: Priority domains identified during our science policy dialogue after in-country discussion following by regional exchanges

DR Congo	Central African Republic	Cameroon	Regional
Food	Agriculture and animal husbandry	Food	Food
Energy	Water	Water	Water
Water	Biodiversity	Research	Energy
Health	Health	Energy	Health

Methodological workshop in using Participatory Action Research to assess vulnerability and to develop adaptation strategies with communities at the local level.

- A road map for participatory action research activities was developed during the workshop.

Climate change modeling using Congo basin landscapes

- The aim is to have more precise information on climate variability at the Congo basin scale

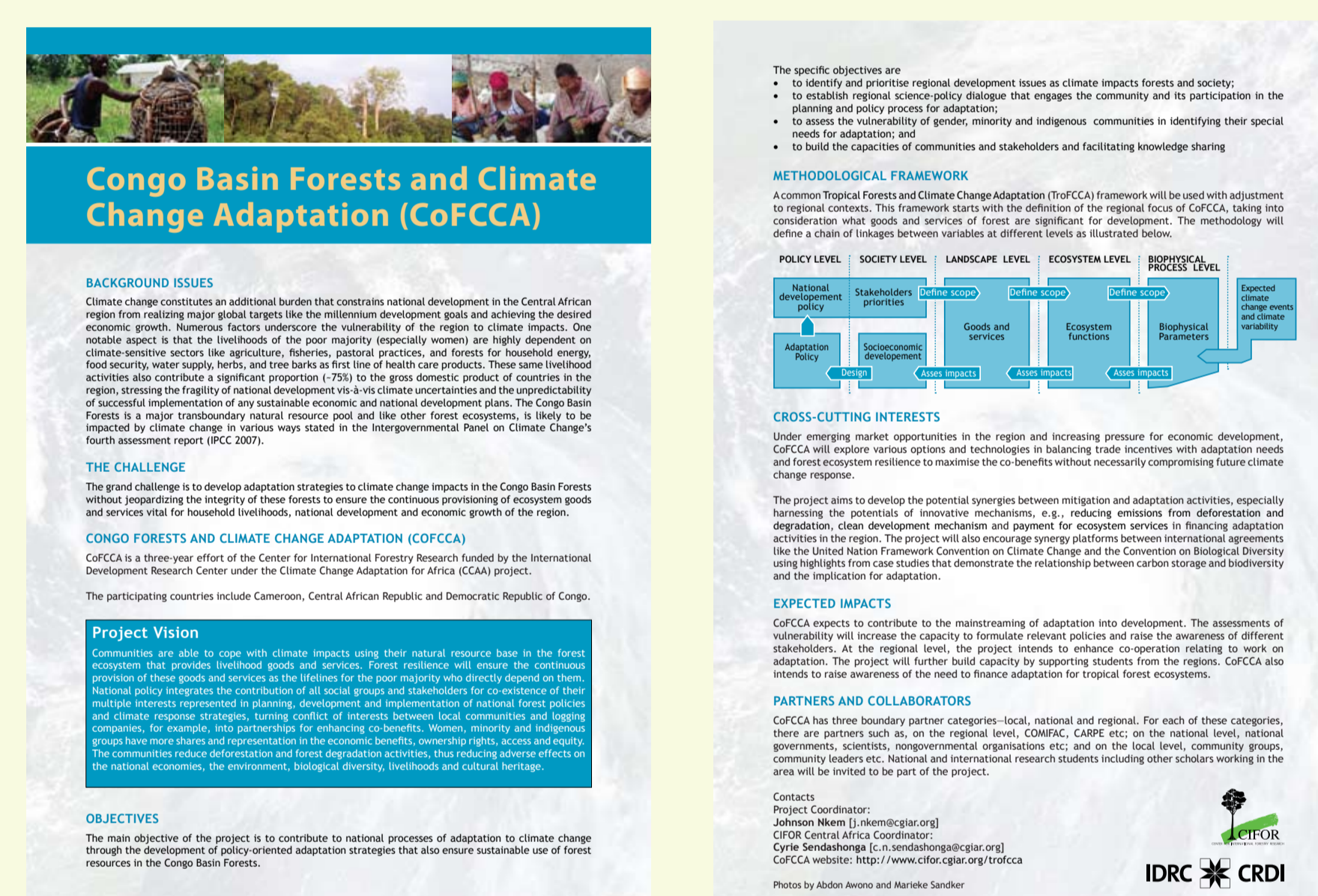
Capacity building through research activities for master's students

- Providing scientific and funding support to master's students of the region

Table 2: Research topics initiated

Country	Area of research
Cameroon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests, health and climate change vulnerability • Mangrove and sea level variation
Central African Republic	Forest landscapes, water and climate change
DR Congo	Edible mushrooms in and around protected areas and climate change

Reviewing and communicating findings during national, regional and international scientific and policy forums



Conclusions

- The links between forests and climate change adaptation have been mainstreamed into policy agendas of decision makers, scientific institutions and other stakeholders in Central Africa
- Next steps of the project build on previous achievements (forest-related priorities identified in the science policy dialogue; methodological workshop, and others) to advance the research–policy dialogue to ensure that forests are sustainably managed incorporating the perspective of climate change adaptation



Workshops in Cameroon at CIFOR and in the local community of Nkol-Evodo