CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL STRATEGY
FOR RISK REDUCTION, DISASTER MANAGEMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTION
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Vulnerability to natural or human-induced disasters is a factor of aggravation of poverty in developing States among which those of Central Africa.

The impact of these extreme events on mostly poor populations usually living on very fragile or sterile lands or in urban areas built in a disorderly manner and exposed to any kind of hazards is increased by the absence or insufficiency of resources for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of their environments.

These disasters cause major damage to assets and ruin the achievements in poverty alleviation. Their economic, social and environmental consequences are rather difficult to quantify.

Images of distress and suffering that the affected populations were often familiar with reflect the seriousness and the magnitude of the damage caused by disasters, not to mention the damage to social stability.

The most recurring hazards in Central Africa are climatic ones and most of all hydrometeorological ones.

Strategies, frameworks, programmes and policies were adopted at the global, regional, subregional and national levels.

In Central Africa, a strategy for the environment and the management of natural resources was adopted in 2007 with 12 areas of intervention including combating land degradation; drought and desertification, combating climate change, the assessment and early warning for natural or human-induced disaster. For the purpose of implementing these areas of intervention, this strategy was approved by means of the decision No. 46/CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15 at the 16th Conference of Heads of State and Government.

It defines a common vision and mission, provides a framework for the support to national actors taking into consideration the multisectoral aspect of the issue, and addresses the Region’s relevant challenges as part of the negotiations on the climate, the development and the implementation of global frameworks on vulnerability reduction.
The ECCAS commends the continually increasing support from the EU Commission, the General Secretariat of the African-Caribbean-Pacific countries group, the World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the World Meteorological Organisation for the development of Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change activities in the subregion.

It calls for other development partners for their involvement in the implementation of this strategy paper.
FOREWORD
Dominique KUITSOUC
Regional Coordinator of Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation Programs in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Libreville, Gabon

FOREWORD
Central Africa is exposed to various types of hazards and risks which trigger a great number of disasters as well as other emergency situations. Among the consequences of these phenomena, we can mention losses in human lives, the destruction of ecosystems, natural habitat and cultural heritage, community and family dislocations, unemployment, massive displacements of populations looking for better conditions of living and wellness…

Most of these phenomena are climate-related as demonstrated by the impact of recurring flooding in almost all the States, the severity and magnitude of the damage caused by drought in Chad, North Cameroon and Burundi, just to mention few. The impact of drought on economic activities and, most of all, on agriculture on which most of the economies in the subregion depend, is huge.

In Cameroon it is estimated that losses and damages associated with low water level in 2015 led to a decline of 1% in the economic growth (Sandra ARDOIN-BARDIN, Doctorate dissertation, University of Montpellier). It reflects the severity of the risk associated with unusual climate change. It is therefore essential for securing the financial survival and wellness of people and communities.

In face of a rundown economy, partly as a result of social instability, the migration of unfortunate rural populations to urban areas is increasing and constitutes a factor of the aggravation of vulnerability in cities, most of which are developing in an unplanned manner and confronted with a staggering growth of population and an uncontrolled development of squatter settlements.

In addition to that situation nothing less than uncomfortable, most of the countries within the community still have poor prevention and management mechanisms.

However, the major challenge today remains the effective synergy between the different actors at the local, national, regional and international levels which need to play a role in the process of reducing the populations’ vulnerability in a context of a multisectoral collaboration and dialogue. They include decision-makers, the experts and officials responsible for climate, hydrology, agriculture, urban development, transportation, health, environment, etc., from the civil society organisations, media, research institutions, international institutions and organisations.
The Post Hyogo Framework for Action which, since 18th March 2015, has become the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 for Disaster Risk Reduction, along with the Yaoundé African Ministerial Declaration of 23 July 2015, reflects Central Africa's concerns on this issue. In addition to this framework and the commitment of the continent, the current mobilisation of the international community faced with climate change issues as well as the implementation of the ACP/EU Programme for Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities, represent unexpected opportunities towards reducing the level of exposure of the populations in our subregion to these hazards.

Though, all these commitments that call for the attention of the decision-makers should result in concrete actions since actors need a new dynamic and a high-level genuine political support to deal with the issues that call out to us. Through this prism, how should Central Africa act to improve in this new hint from the global and African communities? What is the way forward and what are the actions to take as part of these new commitments?

- **As regards the knowledge and understanding of risk;**
  What needs to be done to have the stakeholders recognise the need for establishing the achievements of development on sound foundations?

What needs to be done to integrate the security issue into the analysis patterns of future and current actors building our economies?

How do we go about increasing the interest of decision-makers in the various questions on a strategic, logical and integrated vision of the future of our economies and of resilient and sustainable development that remained unanswered?

Whose responsibility is it to raise decision-makers awareness at all levels on the poignant issue of vulnerability and resilience to disaster on which depends the continuance of our wellbeing and development?

- **As regards governance**
  What are the national, regional, multisectoral and plurisectoral frameworks of dialogue and coordination on an issue which interdisciplinarity and importance in each endeavour to sustainable development does no longer allow any doubt?

What needs to be done to achieve that now compelling involvement of all ministries, sectors (security, agriculture, climate, meteorology, research, training, education, farming, planning, economy, finance, health, property, urban, social, etc.), institutions and organisation at the national and local levels in the interest of an integrated and more resilient development?
What needs to be done to definitely suppress sectoral and institutional silos?

How do we go about achieving the genuine involvement of high-level legislative powers (Parliamentarians) in the provision of resilient bills and the calling out of sectoral decision-makers?

How do we go about developing, adopting and implementing general, sectoral, cross-border, decentralised, thematic, holistic and integrated plans, programmes and strategies on risk reduction?

- **As regards investing in resilience**
  Which strategy of awareness-raising and advocacy should be used with development actors for them to consider Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and resilience to disaster as essential tools for sustainable development and priority areas of the strategies for development and economic growth?

Which galvanising thematic should be developed on the issue of risk financing?

- **As regards disaster preparedness**
  How do we go about shifting from an approach of crisis response more costly in terms of investment and losses to an approach of disaster preparedness through upstream investment and in a sustainable ex-post recovery and reconstruction?

  This is, in my opinion, the heart of the issues that absolutely need to be addressed for a successful implementation of DRR activities in Central Africa, in particular, and in Africa, in general, in the decades ahead.
LIBREVILLE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION
Libreville, this 13th of June 2012.

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for Disaster Reduction and Management in Africa, having met in Libreville, Gabon, on 13 June 2012 on the occasion of the Ministerial Session for the Adoption of the Strategy for risk reduction disaster management and adaptation to climate change and the programme of action for disaster preparedness and response in Central Africa;

We reiterate our sincere condolences and solidarity with the people and communities affected by disasters in Africa particularly the one which occurred on 4 March 2012 in Mpila, Brazzaville;

We commend the efforts made by the Government of the Republic of Congo, as well as the subregional, regional and international communities;

We are convinced that disasters seriously undermine the results and prospects of development. In this regard, preventing disaster risks is one of the major challenges regularly facing Central Africa nowadays.

We are aware of the need to establish common disaster reduction and management mechanisms;

Considering the commitment of the international community towards a sustainable development as per the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

Considering the conclusions and recommendations from the world conference held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan from 18 to 22 January 2005;

Considering the Declaration of the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 16 April 2010;

Considering the strategic guidelines 1, 5 and 11 on the combat against drought, desertification, soil degradation, combating climate change and the assessment and early warning for the management of natural or induced disasters in Central Africa, the general policy of the ECCAS on environment and natural resources management adopted in October 2007 by the Conference of Heads of State or Government;

Recalling the conclusions and recommendations from the subregional workshop on emergency preparedness and familiarisation with the United Nations system on disaster assessment and coordination(UNDAC) held in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 20
to 25 September under the patronage of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS);

**Recalling** as well the conclusions and recommendations of the first regional consultation on flood other natural disaster preparedness in Central Africa held from 18 to 20 April 2011 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, including the need to provide the subregion with an operational programme of action on natural disaster and other emergency preparedness and response;

**Recognising** the positive efforts that the subregional governments made by integrating disaster reduction and management in national development policies and strategies, including relief and recovery/rehabilitation interventions;

**Considering** the need to strengthen disaster reduction and management at the national and subregional levels;

**Considering** that the ECCAS is the main intergovernmental organisation for subregional cooperation in Central Africa and that its mandate consists mainly in the promotion, integration and harmonisation of subregional socioeconomic development policies at subregional level;

**Stressing** the need for the ECCAS Member States to strengthen cooperation with various development partners, including the United Nations System. Therefore, we declare the following:

**We recognize** that the ECCAS Member States are exposed to a variety of risk categories with a high prevalence of natural and/or man-made disasters;

**We recognise** the need for promoting and developing a common strategy for disaster reduction and management in Central Africa at national and subregional levels;

**We declare** that the ECCAS Member States’ main responsibility is to define and implement disaster reduction and management policies at national level.

**We agree** to recognize that building local communities capacities, especially women and youth organisations in order to reduce their vulnerabilities, is a categorical imperative. Furthermore, we acknowledge that providing individuals affected by disasters with physical and legal protection is the responsibility of governments;

**We reassert** our adhesion to the international, regional and subregional commitments on disaster reduction and management policies and strategies as well as related instruments.
In doing this, we adopt the following instruments:

1. the Strategy for risk reduction, disaster management and adaptation to climate change in Central Africa complemented by the related framework for action;


We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for Disaster Reduction and Management in the ECCAS Member States, commit to:

• implement the instruments above-mentioned;

• ensure that the activities are monitored and assessed on a regular basis

• establish a Regional Climate Centre in Central Africa;

• build the training capacities of the Yaoundé-based Regional Centre of Emergency response;

• establish operational mechanisms and facilities such as national platforms, national contingency plans and other related tools for Member States which do not have them.

We urge the Secretary General of the ECCAS to conduct a regular monitoring of the implementation of the subregional strategy for disaster risk reduction and the Yaoundé programme of action on disaster preparedness and response.

We commit the Secretary General of the ECCAS to establish a network of institutions for training, research, information management and exchange at national, subregional and regional levels in cooperation with external partners.

We call upon development agencies and humanitarian partners to build capacities at national and subregional levels and support governments’ efforts.

We call upon external partners to support the ECCAS Member States and Secretary General with the promotion and development of prevention, preparedness, and response, rehabilitation and reconstruction initiatives.

Done on this 13th of June 2012 in Libreville.
DECISION N°46/CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15
On the Central Africa Regional Strategy for Risk Reduction, Disaster Management and Adaptation to Climate Change

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

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), including its articles 43 and 44;

Considering the Declaration of the Ministers responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction made on 13 June 2012 in Libreville, Gabon;

Acknowledging the mobilization of development partners regarding the field of Disaster risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change in Central Africa;

ON PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

DECIDES

Article 1:
The approval of the Central Africa Regional Strategy for Risk Reduction, Disaster Management and Adaptation to Climate Change as well as its implementation instruments.

Article 2:
This decision shall become enforceable automatically in Member States thirty (30) days after its publication in the Official Journal of the Community in the English, Spanish, French and Portuguese languages

Done on this day 25th of May 2015 in Ndjamena, Chad

For the conference,
The President of the Republic of Chad,
Acting Chairman of the ECCAS

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SUMMARY

The Central African Region is the scene of an impressive range of emergency situations. They include flooding, epidemics, earthquakes; volcanic eruptions, landslides, contaminations, toxic fumes, wars, movements of internal (displaced) and external (refugees) populations, accidents, shipwrecks, precipitation deficits resulting in droughts, erosions, high winds and tropical cyclones... to mention only few hazards.

For the past two decades, these disasters which result from the combination of natural hazards and vulnerabilities have been increasing in frequency and intensity; and pose a threat on the life and means of subsistence of populations. They put the States’ stability to severe test, dent the socioeconomic infrastructures and therefore significantly reduce the chances to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) among which halving extreme poverty and hunger is on the top of the priority list, hence the need for methodical action and the commitment of the Economic Community of Central African States to make disaster risk management one of its environmental areas of intervention. The aim is to prevent if possible the occurrence of risks (prevention), limit if possible the intensity of hazards (mitigation), take measures to deal with the hazards adverse impacts (preparedness) and respond efficiently to disasters (response and assistance) through effective support (recovery-rehabilitation-reconstruction) to the victims and build safer basis for the development achievements and opportunities.

So far and in most of all Central African States, disaster response is organised on a ad hoc basis and activated lately in the post disaster period. It therefore did not give rise to an approach of anticipation of foreseeable events and preparedness to deal with them. This shortcoming reflects the lack of policies and/or strategies, legislations, institutional frameworks, allocation of necessary resources, trained staff and relevant coordination structures.

A political strategy building on the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the Central Africa Regional Strategy and its Programme of Action will need to reflect the vision of the Central Africa Region which will be centred on a plan of action for disaster preparedness and response as well as risk reduction plans.

It is the responsibility of the institution to provide with strategic directions which will allow all the States of the region and all the stakeholders delivering their services in an efficient and effective manner.

With this in mind, this Strategy determines the areas of intervention and formulates the priority actions to take.
It is indeed in this context that its formulation, which lies within the “Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters” intends to match the Africa Regional Strategy with the Central Africa Region realities.

The Central Africa Regional strategy is centred on the following three sections:

The first section (Part One) deals with the contextual aspects associated with the issue of disaster management which prevails around the world and in Africa, before focusing on the situation of disaster in the Region. Moreover, it provides a summary table of recurrent risks, the shortcomings observed in the implementation of disaster risk reduction and the factors of vulnerability which affect the populations of the Region.

The second section (Part Two) sets out the purpose and the objectives of the strategy and intends to formulate the strategic directions in line with the Africa Regional Strategy and the HFA prior to setting for each the strategic directions, the priority actions in the Central African Region.

The first section (Part Three) gives an overview of the mechanisms for its implementation through institutional frameworks, the financing mechanisms and the monitoring factors.

1. CONTEXT

1.1. International Context
As the Central Africa regional strategy for risk reduction of and disaster management is being developed, the world is experiencing with full force an unprecedented financial crisis which adverse impacts significantly affect the economies of the least developed countries among which those of Central Africa.

The subsequent economic slowdown has somewhat adverse impact on the wellbeing of the populations of the countries considered.

This situation came along with a variety of challenges facing the planet, from global warming to demographic explosion via including the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the resurgence of diseases eradicated in the past, food crisis, and difficult access to drinking water, human rights violations and migratory flows. These challenges affect every country without exception and increase their vulnerability.

Moreover, for more than two decades, the whole world has been confronted with highly increased risks characterised by the depletion of natural resources, drastic
climate modification, disasters, wars, the flow of refugees, etc. Apart from HIV/AIDS, natural disasters have the higher prevalence, especially in Southern countries where according to statistics, more than 200 million people per year have been affected by this scourge or technological accidents since 1990 and more than 60,000 people are killed each year according to the Red Cross.

The issue of human vulnerability has become a constant concern within the whole international community. Risk reduction and disaster management incidentally form part of the inherent priorities of the target 7 of the Millennium Development Goals listed by the United Nations (UN). On 22 December 1989, this august institution decided through the resolution 44/236, to celebrate on every second Wednesday of October the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction. The period from 1990 to 1999 was also called the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), with the aim of participating at the world level in a constant effort towards preventing natural disasters, including disaster preparedness and the mitigation of their impacts.

Climate change is one the main causes of the disasters that Africa in general and particularly Central Africa is victim of. These disasters result in droughts and flooding with adverse social, economic and environmental impacts.

Since 2009, through the participation of over hundred of Heads of State and Government in the COP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark, the international community has increasingly mobilised to combat climate change. At the end of the COP 16 and 17 held respectively in Cancun, Mexico and Durban, South Africa, major decisions were taken, including: the establishment of a committee of adaptation, the support to countries for the formulation of national plans of adaptation, the recognition of the REDD+ process as a means to combat climate change.

Having met in Yokohama from 23 to 27 May 1994 during the 1st World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction and as part of the IDNDR, with the support of nongovernmental and international organisations along with the representatives of the scientific and business communities, the private sector and media, the UN Member States and many other states adopted the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a safer world in the 21st century.

These major measures were followed in 2000 by the establishment of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) which inter-agency Secretariat is the organ of coordination of the programmes of action as part of reduction measures. This vision was also presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002, as an essential issue to sustainable development.
During the 2\textsuperscript{nd} World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR II) held in January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan which conclusions are now the roadmap for disaster risk management, the international community set themselves the main goals of putting forward the importance of reducing disaster risks not only to promote strategic and systematic approaches to address vulnerabilities but also to reduce natural risks. It stressed on development planning and practice through the facilitation of the establishment of networks and the sharing of good practices among the actors working in the field. At the end of the forum, the 2005 Hyogo Declaration and Framework for Action for 2005-2015, which guidelines highlight the five thematic challenges to take up during the decade, were adopted.

The Regional Economic Communities were assigned responsibilities in the implementation of such global priorities.

\textbf{1.2. Regional Context}

According to the 2001 World Disasters Report, 573,245 people deceased further disasters that occurred in Africa during the 1981-1990 decade. In addition, thousands of people died each year in road accidents.

Deeply concerned by the suffering and disruption in development activities resulting from disasters in Africa and inspired by the new interplanetary context, the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit held in Ethiopia from 6 to 8 July 2004 favourably welcomed the Africa Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction, developed in collaboration with the New Partnership for Africa's Development Secretariat (NEPAD), with the support of the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the ISDR and the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as the African Development Bank (AfDB).

This document which presents the strategy established by African countries for disaster risk reduction towards achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication by integrating disaster risk reduction to development initiatives was ratified during the 10th African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. It suggests a number of major action areas which are in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and that may facilitate disaster management in the continent.

African Union Executive Council at its 8\textsuperscript{th} ordinary session held from 16 to 21 January 2006 in Khartoum, Sudan, through the resolution EX.CL/Dec.250-VIII, approved the African Programme of Action 2006-2010 on disaster risk reduction developed in line with the strategy, and urged all the Member States of the Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to implement it.

The extension and enrichment of the Programme of Action in order to cover the period until 2015 was discussed and approved at the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Consultative Meeting of the
regional platform in May 2009 and adopted by the Conference of the Ministers responsible for DRR and approved by the AU Executive Council in 2010.

The RECs are responsible for coordinating initiatives between States as part of the Africa Regional Strategy and implementing the Programme of Action based on their regional strategies for disaster risk reduction.

This is the prism with which this ECCAS Regional Strategy for risk reduction and disaster management is in line. It is based on the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action and consistent with the road mapped by the African Union.

2. STATUS

2.1. Overview of risk mapping at the ECCAS States level:

   1. Types of risks in the Central Africa Region
   Central Africa is exposed to various types of disaster risks resulting in a high prevalence of vulnerability which hampers the efforts that States are making to emerge from underdevelopment.

   Over the last thirty years, the Central African Region has gone through a variety of disasters of which the most significant have been, inter alia, toxic fumes, volcanic eruptions, floods, landslides, fires and refugee influx. Moreover, it has been facing storms, epidemics and a vast number of public road accidents. These populations have been exposed to risks associated with the following hazards:

   Geological hazards: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, gas fumes, mudslides;

   Climatic and ecological hazards: tropical cyclones, floods, droughts, tornadoes, storms, thunders, locust infestation, erosion, tsunamis;

   Environmental hazards: environmental pollution or deforestation.

   Health hazards: various epidemics, pandemics and epizootic diseases.

   Human-induced or technological hazards: fires, chemical, nuclear and pollution risks, air; marine, train and road accidents, terrorism-related risks and armed conflicts with their hordes of refugees.

2. Disaster risk reduction issues in Central Africa and main challenges.
   The studies conducted at various levels and more specifically the ones conducted by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) maintain
that disasters are a threat to Africa’s development. The difficulties identified concern
the Central Africa Region particularly because of the shortcomings the States are
facing for the establishment of institutional frameworks, the performance of
assessments and the establishment of early warning systems which better match
with their realities, the development of knowledge and local initiatives in line with new
technologies, addressing risk developing factors and appropriate preparedness to
disaster response.

These shortcomings are mainly related to the following priority areas:

1) Integration of disaster risk reduction into the priorities and establishment of
   institutional frameworks

2) Improvement and strengthening of risk and early warning systems assessments

3) Use of knowledge, innovations and education to promote disaster risk reduction
   within communities

4) Reduction of risk development factors

5) Strengthening of preparedness and response

The ECCAS Member States acknowledge the need to establish a proactive, world-
inclusive and supported approach of disaster risk management so as to prevent them
and reduce the negative impact of hazards on lives and the socioeconomic
development of the people in the region.

2.2. Factors of vulnerability to disasters in Central Africa

Central Africa is characterised by geological, climatic, ecological, ethnic diversity and
a biodiversity which trigger natural and human-induced disasters

Certain circumstances amplified by the development of natural phenomena or not
result in the sensitivity of the community to the impacts of threats.

The analysis of States significant elements, physical and socioeconomic aspects, the
essential department capacity as well as sound local and traditional mechanisms of
response highlights the extreme vulnerability of the populations from that part of the
African continent.

The proliferation of the factors of such vulnerability is doubly related to a plurality of
debilitating factors and the populations social conditions, since, among the wounding
factors, the physical and human components of environments with natural
dispositions (climates, geology, etc.) and anthropic aggravating factors, there is an
intimate cohesion. The prevalence of risk combined with vulnerability is behind the occurrence of disasters and setbacks that populations experience.

Disasters are therefore reliant on a perfect combination of natural hazard and vulnerability. They contribute to the degradation of people’s conditions of living and thereby are a brake on growth.

It must be noted that the level of vulnerability increases with technological progress and that in the absence of any initiative to fill in the lack of prevention and operational capacity, disasters may constitute a serious handicap to efforts to improve people’s conditions of living.

3. Basis for the Central African Strategy on risk reduction and disaster management

3.1. The Africa Regional Strategy for disaster risk reduction

The development of the Central Africa Regional Strategy on risk reduction and disaster management was decided in June 2003 during the African consultative meeting on disaster risk reduction in Africa.

This initiative was preceded by an assessment of disaster risk reduction in Africa which conclusions indicated shortcomings in the following areas: institutional framework, risk identification, knowledge management, governance and emergency response.

At the end of the consultative process which involved RECs and the States, the Strategy was officially recognised in July during the African Union Conference held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Africa Regional Strategy for disaster risk reduction had set itself a certain number of strategic directions to achieve these objectives:

1) increase political commitment to disaster risk reduction;

2) improve identification and assessment of disaster risks;

3) enhance knowledge management for disaster risk reduction;

4) increase public awareness of disaster risk reduction;

5) improve governance of disaster risk reduction institutions; and

6) integrate disaster risk reduction into emergency response management
For the purpose of its implementation, institutional provisions were arranged and RECs are responsible for, inter alia:

- Providing guidance on the Regional Strategy and the extended programme of Action Member States;

- Facilitating the implementation of the subregional strategies and programmes in line with the Africa Regional Strategy, the Programme of Action and the HFA;

- Coordination;

- Promoting the implementation of the Central Africa Strategy on risk reduction and disaster management through the establishment of platforms;

- Preparing programmes for resource mobilisation;

- Facilitating the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in sustainable development initiatives.

3.2. Provisions (priorities) of the Hyogo Framework for Action


The Hyogo Framework for Action, drawing on (i) a number of considerations, including: an increasing commitment to disaster reduction, the States' primary responsibility for their own development although they are in a context of cooperation based on consultation, the determination to integrate DRR in sustainable development policies, plans and programmes, - the integration of gender perspective into policies, plans and programmes, cultural diversity, age and vulnerable groups, access communities and local authorities to the necessary information and resources, enhanced international and regional cooperation and assistance, the promotion of a culture of prevention and the establishment of risk and early warning assessment mechanisms, etc. (ii) the conclusion of the review of the Yokohama Strategy and on the basis of deliberations at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, had adopted the following 5 priorities for action:

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.

5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

In order to attain the goals of Hyogo Framework for Action, the RECs are requested to provide all the relevant facilities.


This programme was developed and adopted in 2005 during the First African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy. It was then approved through a Decision at the eighth ordinary session of the Executive Council of the African Union in January 2006 in Khartoum, Sudan. It was revised to cover the period until 2015 during the Second Consultative Meeting of the Regional Platform in May 2009, adopted by the Conference of Ministers responsible for DRR and approved by the Executive Council of the African Union in 2010.

The Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction reassign RECS the same responsibilities to interpret the Strategy, facilitate the implementation of the subregional strategies and programmes, coordinate, promote platforms, mobilise resources and facilitate the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in sustainable development initiatives.

3.4. The ECCAS political vision on risk reduction and disaster management

The issues on disaster risk management are at the heart of the mission of the ECCAS and are included in four of the twelve directions of the ECCAS general policy on the environment and the management of natural resources.

It includes the strategic directions 1, 4, 5 and 11 which dealt with combating land degradation, drought and desertification, conservation and sustainable management of Central Africa coastal resources, combat climate change in Central Africa and assessment and early warning for the management of natural or human-induced disasters.

In this field, ECCAS encourages Member States to establish long term DRR policies and early warning mechanisms as well as response systems.

4. Purpose, objectives and strategic directions
4.1. Purpose of the strategy
The purpose of the ECCAS Strategy for risk reduction and disaster management in Central Africa Region is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication through the substantial reduction of social, economic and environmental impacts of disasters in line with the Africa Regional Strategy and the Hyogo Framework for Action.

4.2. Objectives of the strategy
According to the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and the Africa Regional Strategy as well as its Programme of action for the implementation of the Strategy, the Economic Community of Central African States, through its General Secretariat and the governments of its Member States, should:

1) provide conditions for a stronger political commitment in order to strengthen DRR legal and legislative frameworks;

2) encourage governments and all the stakeholders to provide and increase resources for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes, laws and regulations on DRR within all sectors and at all levels;

3) improve the identification and assessment of disaster risks;

4) establish and/or strengthen early warning systems;

5) promote the use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at States levels;

7) promote public awareness of disaster risk reduction in order to contribute to reducing the underlying risk factors;

7) improve disaster preparedness for early, coordinated and effective response.

4.3. The major strategic directions and priorities
Generally, many Central African States do not have an effective strategy for disaster management, despite the efforts made by some of them. In various countries, the organs established exist in name only without any effective intervention on the field. Yet, some organs play a primary role in the reduction as well as the management of certain disasters.

There is a need to coordinate the efforts of the States, the national and international organisations, the civil society and the communities while indicating the way forward through strategic directions.
The ECCAS subregional strategy for risk reduction and disaster management includes the following five strategic directions:

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1: INCREASE POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

Integrating disaster risk reduction in development policies and strategies is reliant on the political will of the leaders and decision-makers at the subregional as well as the States’ levels to:

- make disaster risk reduction a priority;

- build a culture of disaster risk reduction;

- establish or create favourable institutional conditions;

- facilitate the establishment of national frameworks and the promotion or strengthening of national platforms;

- Strengthening the capacities of the institutions and the communities at risk.

Political commitment only is not enough. The implementation of related activities requires the provision of the necessary human, material and financial resources.

**Priority 1.1.**: Integrate DRR in the documents of the Member States’ strategy for poverty reduction.

**Priority 1.2.**: Establish and/or strengthen institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction;

**Priority 1.3.**: Develop a national legislation on disaster risk reduction;

**Priority 1.4.**: Build the ECCAS managerial and operational capacities on disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change by providing the necessary human, technical and financial resources. Moreover, developing and adopting a Strategy depend on adequate financial resources for its implementation. The ECCAS’ General Secretariat and governments have the responsibility to take the adequate measures for mobilising the necessary resources to be allocated to the fields and sectors relating to DRR.

**Priority 1.5.**: Establish a Fund for disaster risk reduction in order to attract donors as well as other partners.
**Priority 1.6.** Sensitize governments towards the planning and/or increase of DRR budget allocations.

**Priority 1.7.** Promote the establishment of new and original financial instruments and strengthen the existing ones to manage disaster risks and promote their implementation.

**Priority 1.8.** Promote and develop partnerships between the private sector and intergovernmental and international organisations for resources mobilisation.

**Priority 1.9.** Promote and develop partnerships between public authorities, the civil society and NGOs for a more effective management of disaster risk reduction.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2: STRENGTHEN RISK CONTROL AND ENHANCE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS**

In order to properly understand disaster risks, one needs to assess the level of threat associated with the hazard, the value of the assets in human lives and assets exposed to such threat, the sensitivity to hazard in terms of vulnerability and action skill and the measures taken to protect humans values. The terms which are mostly associated with disasters are: natural hazards (dangers), vulnerability and risk.

Taking the dynamic nature of hazards and the factors of vulnerability into account, the Strategy intends to develop and periodically update the maps of high risk areas through the organisation of workshops and the collection of basic general information which allow localising threats.

The process for the identification and assessment of risks will be participatory, and for the purpose of being efficient, the strategy will promote enhanced knowledge and practices for the assessment of risks and vulnerabilities as well as the promotion of best modern and traditional early warning systems.

The implementation of the following priorities requires building organisational capacities and developing partnerships with centres and institutions conversant with research, the provision of products, the interpretation and dissemination of data on disaster risk reduction.

**Priority 2.1.** Develop maps of hazard-prone areas within the Central Africa Region and at the States’ level.

**Priority 2.2.** Improve the knowledge, techniques and practices for the identification and assessment of risks and vulnerabilities and develop guides for procedures.
Priority 2.3.: Support the development of advanced monitoring and early warning methodologies and scientific tools through research.

Priority 2.4.: Develop formal partnerships with research centres, meteorological services, national data centres, national observatories for risks and any other similar institutions with the aim of sharing information, processing and disseminating DRR data.

Priority 2.5.: Establish advanced systems for the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information on disasters, their consequences and the losses they cause;

Priority 2.6.: Build and develop the ECCAS organisational capacities through the establishment of an observatory for disaster reduction and a database for Central Africa.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3: BETTRE USE OF KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In Africa, local communities and populations develop initiatives towards reducing disaster risks. It is essential to ensure that the local perspectives on the issue are not lost of sight and that the international and regional priorities are developed by taking the opinion and know-how of those who are involved in risk reduction at the local level into account. This is particularly necessary in Africa where local organisations, NGOs and actors from the civil society play a pivotal role in this field through the development mechanisms for preventing these risks.

Knowledge management covers four areas: information and communication management, education and training, public awareness and research.

As far as information management is concerned, the Strategy will ensure the timely dissemination of the information through the media and appropriate networks.

Education and Training activities deal particularly with the integration of DRR in school curricula and the dissemination of rational knowledge and community training programmes.

As regards awareness, it will include promoting the use of knowledge, innovations, best practices and sharing information in order to make communities resilience to disaster a reality and build a culture of hazard, risk and consequently increase their resilience. These measures may be considered as part of media campaigns, forums and practical training which must involve decision-makers and opinion leaders. The use of new information and communications technologies as well as geographical information systems may be associated with them.
In the field of research, the Strategy will ensure the improvement of the quality and availability of data while promoting communication and cooperation between scientists and professionals involved in disaster risk reduction. It will highlight the collaboration on research at the national and regional levels.

**Priority 3.1.**: Promote the role of the media in order to improve and strengthen the dissemination of information on DRR and promote the culture of resilience to disasters and increase the participation of communities.

**Priority 3.2.**: Encourage and/or facilitate the promotion of the integration of risk reduction in formal and informal education and research systems.

**Priority 3.3.**: Promote certain local communities knowledge and practices which take specific cultures, gender sensitivity and vulnerable groups into account;

**Priority 3.4.**: Promote the use all the technologies available for the dissemination of information;

**Priority 3.5.**: Promote and improve dialogue and cooperation among the scientific and technological communities involved in disaster risk reduction and promote the establishment of partnerships between the stakeholders including those dealing with socioeconomic aspects;

**Priority 3.6.**: Promote and encourage any initiative aiming to facilitate the integration of the scientific data provided by research institutions, data centres and other similar organisations;

Priority 3.7.: Build the capacities of the universities and research institutions which develop initiatives in the field of disaster risk reduction and management as well as adaption to climate change.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4: REDUCE UNDERLYING RISK FACTORS**

Natural disasters have a high cost of losses in human lives and a deep impact on economic and social infrastructures within an ecosystem which is already fragile.

Although natural hazards form integral part of our environment, there are a good reason to recognise that human activity results in increased or reduced vulnerability of communities to such hazards and the disasters they trigger.

The development pattern, especially regarding the persistence of mass poverty, the fast pace of an uncontrolled urbanisation and the degradation of threats.
Rapid growth and increased poverty in urban areas. It is noted that, in Central Africa, urban expansion is rapid and uncontrolled, the use of land as well as the building of infrastructures are unplanned. Migration to urban areas or to areas prone to natural disasters where land is cheap increases significantly the hazards that threaten cities and their populations. The regulation on land-use control does not generally prevent illegal settlements with poorly designed buildings with the use of poor-quality materials.

Poverty and environmental damage in rural areas. Number of poor people live in rural areas and rely significant on natural resources for their survival. Consequently, the degradation of the environment and natural resources caused by the population pressure, deforestation, the destruction of river banks, wild crops on hillsides reduce the natural protections against hazards. Examples include soil erosion and the destruction of the vegetative cover which reduce the soil ability to absorb heavy rains and contribute to landslides and flooding.

Poor political choices. In most of the high risk areas, there are serious deficiencies in land-use planning and guidelines on construction. More often than not, the resources necessary for the maintenance for the purpose of guaranteeing the capacity of the infrastructures to resist to natural disaster are not even provided for.

The Central Africa Subregional Strategy is striving to achieve a balance between the objectives towards disaster risk reduction and those of the sustainable development global vision. It will ensure the integration at all the levels on DRR into sustainable development policies and strategies.

Priority 4.1.: Promote the integration of risk reduction associated with existing climate variability and future climate change into DRR strategies.

Priority 4.2.: Encourage the sustainable use and management of ecosystems, including through better land-use planning and development activities to reduce risk and vulnerabilities;

Priority 4.3.: Promote food security as an important factor in ensuring the resilience of communities to hazards;

Priority 4.4.: Promote the integration of disaster risk reduction into the health sector

Priority 4.5.: Protect and strengthen critical public facilities and physical infrastructure, particularly schools, clinics, hospitals, water and power plants, communications and transport lifelines.
**Priority 4.6.** Strengthen the implementation of social safety-net mechanisms to assist the poor, the elderly and the disabled, and other populations affected by disasters;

**Priority 4.7.** Incorporate disaster risk assessment into rural development planning and management, in particular with regard to mountain and coastal flood plain areas.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5: IMPROVED DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

Preparedness to disaster is one of the essential components of the disaster management process. A community living in a hazard-prone area and well prepared can substantially reduce disaster impacts and their resulting losses.

The ECCAS and its Member States’ operational capabilities may be strengthened through the provision of training for response teams at the subregional and States levels, experts in the field of risk assessment, contingency plan and emergency response plans development and volunteers for relief operations in each State.

National governments must establish civil protection facilities and equip them with specialised material for disaster response.

The priorities of this direction 5 are detailed in the Programme of Action for disaster preparedness and response in Central Africa 2012-2016 called the “Yaoundé Programme of Action” which supplements the Strategy by focusing on the priority 5 of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Its priorities include:

**Priority 5.1.** Establish coordinated mechanisms with harmonised response plans and communication systems which allow the Central Africa Region to build its capacities and ensure rapid and efficient disaster response in situations that exceed national coping capacities

**Priority 5.2.** Promote the exchange of information and effective coordination among decision-makers, disaster response and risk reduction bodies and early warning institutions with the aim of fostering a more appropriate and rapid response to emergency;

**Priority 5.3.** Promote the development of disaster preparedness and emergency response plans and policies at all levels with a particular focus on the most vulnerable areas and groups.
Priority 5.4.: Build responders’ capacities in disaster preparedness and response through the adoption of common tools, upgrading of response plans and the response organisation and regular training with simulation exercises;

Priority 5.5.: Promote the establishment of emergency funds, where and as appropriate, to finance preparedness, disaster response and recovery measures;

Priority 5.6.: Promote the establishment by States of policies to engage the active participation of volunteers and the civilian service with clear definition of responsibilities for their training, supervision and retention;

5. IMPLEMENTATION, FINANCING AND MONITORING FRAMEWORKS

5.1. Institutional frameworks for implementation
Implementing the Strategy does in no way mean breaching the established institutional framework. All the subregional frameworks and organisations with specific roles to play in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction remain stakeholders in its implementation based on a multisectoral approach.

The ECCAS General Secretariat, the Member States’ governments, the local authorities within the communities, civil and private societies, international development partners, the specialised agencies of the United Nations system, local associations, the scientific community and the private sector, etc. have an essential role to play at all levels.

5.2. Financing the Strategy

5.2.1. Financing sources
Implementing this Strategy would be pointless without the financial resources required for the effectiveness of the operations to be performed. Establishing a fund for disaster risk reduction will be the best alternative to address this major shortcoming. This fund will allow attracting donors as well as other partners which support will be essential for implementing projects.

Training in management

At the States and ECCAS levels, promoting partnerships with the private sector, international and intergovernmental organisations may act as a major backup for public financing efforts.

5.2.2. Strategies for mobilising resources
The ECCAS General Secretariat, States, within the bounds of their financial capabilities, and other regional and international organisations, through appropriate
multilateral, regional and bilateral coordination, are requested to establish or strengthen the mechanisms to mobilise the necessary resources to support the implementation of this Strategy.

These different stakeholders of the Strategy may, at various levels:

- Request from national, regional and international organisations, including from the United Nations System, the provision of the necessary resources and means;
- Support this Strategy through bilateral and multilateral channels, including through:
  - financial and technical assistance,
  - new technology transfer on mutually agreed terms,
  - public-private partnerships, and encourage North-South and South-South cooperation;
- Mainstream DRR measures appropriately into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes including those related to poverty eradication, natural resource management, urban development and adaptation to climate change;

6. Monitoring mechanisms

6.1. Responsibilities

6.1.1. At the Government level
Governments will monitor the attainment of the objectives and the outcomes achieved at the national and local levels and address the ECCAS periodic activity status reports through their national focal points. To this end, they will define a number of common indicators and harmonised monitoring mechanisms in line with the objectives of the Strategy.

6.1.2. At the ECCAS level
The ECCAS will monitor the attainment of the objectives and the outcomes achieved at subregional levels and publish periodic reviews on progress in the national strategies based on the annual reports prepared by the Governments according to the directions of the Strategy.

Implementing the Strategy requires the establishment of an implementation and monitoring system for each of the strategic directions adopted. This implies that the
priorities adopted and taken into account in the Framework for Action are attained timely and the pending ones are reviewed periodically.

Monitoring the strategy at this level includes:

- monitoring the progress made in a timely manner by the States;

- collecting statistical data allowing the analysis of factors that determine or impede the outcomes;

- providing decision-makers with the information collected by the relevant organs on the efficiency or the inadequacy of the measures taken and the corrective actions to be taken to achieve objectives.

Assessing the Strategy at this level includes:

- comparing the outcomes achieved with the objectives set initially

- drawing the necessary lessons

- uncompromisingly proposing the required corrective measures

- contributing to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of programmes

6.2. Monitoring indicators

This Regional Strategy for disaster risk reduction in Central Africa aims to strengthen and align the relevant provisions of the Africa Regional Strategy at the ECCAS and its Member States levels. As such, it is bound to contribute to the attainment of the objectives and outcomes. In addition to direction-specific programmes of action, monitoring reports should highlight the outcome and impact indicators, including:

- Governance indicators
- Indicators for risk and early warning identification and assessment
- Risk management indicators
- Response capabilities and emergency management indicators

6.3. Means of verification

The means below will be used to verify indicators:

- National statistical series
- The World Bank reports
- The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction reports
- Any other data from international sources
KINSHASA MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

Kinshasa Ministerial Declaration on the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Central Africa

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC) in Central Africa, having met in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the 30 October 2015 on the occasion of the 2nd Session of the Central Africa Ministerial Conference on DRR on the theme “Ownership and commitment for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR in Central Africa” further to the Meeting establishing the Parliamentarians Network for Resilience to Disasters in Central Africa (REPARC) and the 5th annual consultation of the ECCAS to strengthen the Disaster Preparedness and Response in Central Africa, followed by the 4th session of the Regional Platform on DRR held from 21 to 29 October 2015 in Kinshasa, DRC.

Considering that disaster risk reduction is a key major tool for resilience and sustainable development in our States;

Recalling the Sendai Framework for disaster Risk reduction 2015-2030 adopted during the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan and its consecutive approval by the resolution A/69/L.67 of the UN General Assembly having met for its sixty ninth ordinary session;

Recalling Yaoundé Declaration on the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa, as adopted by the 4the High level session of the African Ministers responsible for DRR organised on 23 July 2015 further to the works of the 7th Meeting of the Working Group on DRR held on 21 and 22 July 2015 in Yaoundé;

Recalling the Decision No. 46/CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15 of the sixth Session of the Conference of the Heads of State and Government held in May in Ndjamea, Chad, and on the approval of the Africa Central Regional Strategy on Risk Reduction, disaster Management and Adaptation to Climate Change:

1. Approve the recommendations adopted by the 5th Annual Consultation for the strengthening of disaster preparedness and response, the 4th Session of Central Africa Regional Platform for disaster risk reduction held in Kinshasa on 28 and 29 October 2015;

2. Acknowledge the establishment of the Parliamentarians Network for Disaster Resilience in Central Africa as the support instrument for Central Africa Parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate change;

3. Request the General Secretariat of the ECCAS to coordinate, at each State’s level, the alignment of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Central Africa Strategy for Risk Reduction, Disaster Management and Adaptation to Climate Change with the Sendai Framework for Action 2015-2030 according to the recommendations of the 7th African Working Group on DRR as approved by the 4th Meeting of African Ministers held in Yaoundé;

4. Request Member states to develop their strategies, and/or align them with the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030;
5. **Call** for States to mainstream disaster risk reduction in the development, implementation and assessment of sustainable development policies and programmes;

6. **Stress** the need for the Economic Community of Central African States to build the (institutional and human) capacities of its organ/institution responsible for Disaster Management and Adaptation to Climate Change;

7. **Recommend** the establishment as soon as possible of a Regional Disaster Response System;

8. **Recommend** States to establish a single Agency for disaster management covering the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery aspects under the authority of the Presidency of the Republic;

9. **Call** upon States for a wide dissemination of the Sendai Framework with the aim of fostering its ownership among all the actors including local communities;

10. **Propose** the submission of this Declaration to the favourable consideration of the Conference of Heads of state and government of the Economic Community of Central African States

    **Done on this 30th of October 2015 in Kinshasa.**

**For the Democratic Republic of Congo**

Evariste BOSHAB  
Vice Prime Minister, Minister for Home Affairs and Security

Alain Guillaume BUNYONI  
Minister of Public Security  
Republic of Burundi

**For the Republic of Gabon**

Dr. Henri DJOMBO  
Minister for forest economy and sustainable development

Guy Maixent MAMIKA  
Minister Delegate for Home Affairs, Decentralisation, Security and Public Health

**For the Republic of Cameroon**

H.E. Mr CHUNGONG AYAFOR  
Ambassador of Cameroon to the Democratic Republic of Congo

For the Republic of Sao Tome

Kyla Fatinha TROVOADA BOA  
Director of Decentralisation  
Minister of the Home Administration
3rd Ministerial Conferences and 1st Central Africa Joint Conference on
Meteorology and Disaster Risk Reduction

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

On 13 October 2017, the hotel RADISSON BLU in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, hosted the 3rd Ministerial Conferences and the 1st Central Africa Joint Conference on Meteorology and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), under the presidency of Mr. Alphonse Nsilou, the Minister for Commerce, Consumption and Procurement, representing the Prime Minister, Head of the Government of the Republic of Congo.

The participants in these conferences in their capacities as Ministers or Representatives of Member States included:

On behalf of the Democratic Republic of Congo:

Mr. José MAKILA, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Transports and Communications;

Mr. Bernard BIANDO SANGO, Minister of Solidarity and Humanitarian Actions

On behalf of the Republic of Congo:

Mr. Fidèle DIMOU, Minister of Transports, Civil Aviation and Merchant Marine;

Ms. Rosalie MATONDO, Minister of Forest Economy;

On behalf of the Central African Republic:

Ms. MBAIKO Virginie, Minister of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation;

Mr. Jacques GOMAIAM, Cabinet Director, Representative of the Minister of Transports and Civil Aviation
On behalf of the Republic of Burundi:
Mr. Simon SINDAYIHEBURA, Permanent Secretary of the Minister of Water, the Environment, Land and Town Planning;

On behalf of the Republic of Cameroon:
His Excellency KOMIDOR NJIMOLUH, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cameroon to the Republic of Congo, Representative of the Minister for Local Government and Decentralisation and the Minister of Transports;

On behalf of the Republic of Chad:
Her Excellency KALZEUBE NELDIKINGAR Madjimta, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Chad to the Republic of Congo, Representative of the Minister of Civil Aviation and National Meteorology and the Minister of Local Government and Governance;

On behalf of the Republic of Gabon:
His Excellency René MAKONGO, Ambassador of the Republic of Gabon to the Republic of Congo, Representative of the Minister of Transports and Logistics and the Minister of the Interior, Security in charge of Decentralisation and Local Development;

On behalf of the Republic of Rwanda:
His Excellency Jean Baptiste HABYALIMANA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda to the Republic of Congo.

The other attendants included:
Ms. MFOULA Marie Thérèse Chantal, Deputy Secretary General of ECCAS in charge of Physical, Economic and Monetary Integration, Representative of ECCAS’ Secretary General

The formal inaugural ceremony was marked by the address of the Secretary General of ECCAS and the opening remarks of the Minister of State, Personal Representative of the Prime Minister and Head of the Government of the Republic of Congo.

During the inaugural ceremony, additional statements were delivered by the Representatives of the following organisations: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNSDIR), African Development Bank, European Union and the World Bank.
The Joint Ministerial Conference was preceded by the Experts’ meetings, held from 9 to 12 October 2017 in the conference rooms of the Ministry of Forestry Economy and the National Office for Civil Aviation respectively for the Central Africa Platform for DRR and the meteorology section.

During their deliberations, the Ministers took note of two reports of the Experts’ meetings and started the discussions on the points below:

1. Review and approval of the Experts’ reports;
2. Review of the statutory texts of the Climate Application and Prediction Centre of Central Africa (CAPC-AC),

At the end of their successful discussions, the Ministers:

i. Adopted the principle of the temporary appointment of the CAPC-AC management team meanwhile the final appointment by the Conference of the Heads of State and Government subject to the payment of its officials by means of the budgets from their respective countries;

ii. Shortlisted the RCA and the Republic of Congo for the positions of the CAPC-AC’s Executive Secretary and Deputy Executive Secretary respectively;

iii. Instructed ECCAS General Secretariat to develop a plan for financing CAPC-AC;

iv. Urged the States to pay at least one year of their contributions for the purpose of providing ECCAS General Secretariat with the resources to implement its missions;

v. Requested that ECCAS Secretary General initiate a cooperation agreement with the CAEMC for the purpose of making its contribution to CAPC-AC effective;

vi. Extended by two weeks the closing date of the invitation to tender for the Management Unit of the Satellite and Weather Information for Disaster Resilience in Africa (SAWIDRA-CA);

vii. Approved the experts’ reports on the meteorological sections and the 6th Central Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (CAPDRR-06);

viii. Approved the revised 2015-20300 Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Africa;
ix. Recommended the ECCAS to define a joint roadmap between the department of risk and disaster management and that of meteorology for the purpose of having it reviewed during the next session of the Council of Ministers;

x. Favourably and enthusiastically greeted the commitment of the Democratic Republic of Congo to host the meeting of the next annual platform on DRR;

xi. Approved the statutes proposed for the CAPC-AC for their submission at the Conference of Heads of State and Government;

xii. Agreed on the Central African Sub-regional Platform on DRR to be held annually and the Ministerial Conferences on Meteorology and DRR to be held every two years;

xiii. Recommended ECCAS General Secretariat to react with its presence by supporting any member States affected by a major disaster.

The Ministers expressed their gratitude to the technical and financial partners for their support and recommended that they keep supporting ECCAS and member States efforts in combating the adverse effects of climate change and reducing disaster risks.

At the end the meetings, the Ministers extended their deep appreciation to His Excellency Denis Sassou Nguesso, the President of the Republic of Congo for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to participants, for the excellent facilities made available to them during their stay in Brazzaville as well as the excellent management of the meetings.

Done on this 13th October 2017 in Brazzaville.

THE PRESIDENT
ECCAS

ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF

Mr. José Makila, Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Transports and Communications
Ms. Marie Thérèse Chantal Mfoula, Deputy Secretary General/DPEMI
PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SRPDM
Adopted by the

2nd Central Africa Ministerial Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR),
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, 30 October 2015

Reviewed according to the Programme of Action for the implementation of the
2015-2030 Sendai Framework in Central Africa
And approved by the 1st Central Africa Joint Ministerial Conference on
DRR and Meteorology of 13 October 2017
I. CONTEXT AND BASIS

1.1 INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
During the third United Nations World Conference held on 14 to 18 March, 2015 in Sendai, Japan, the member States adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. This framework, which is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA 2005-2015), is the outcome of an intergovernmental process and multiple stakeholder consultation involving international organisations and stakeholders from the civil society, local governments, women, children and youth, people with disabilities, older persons, universities and the private sector.

The expected outcome of this new framework by 2030 is “The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries”

To support the assessment of global progress in achieving the outcome and goal of the Framework, seven global targets have been globally agreed as follows:

(i) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015;

(ii) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015;

(iii) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030;

(iv) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among which health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030;

(v) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;

(vi) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030;
(vii) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

In order to achieve the outcome expected by 2030, States were recommended to implement a focused action within and across sectors at the local, national, regional and global levels in the following four priority areas:

· **Priority 1**: Understanding disaster risk.

· **Priority 2**: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.

· **Priority 3**: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.

· **Priority 4**: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

This framework, which was approved by the General Assembly on 3 June 2015 in its resolution 69/283, is built on the main elements of a people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk and applies to disasters caused by natural or human-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks.

Regional economic communities (RECs) as well as member States where requested to review their strategies and approaches so as to adapt them to this new roadmap in order to efficiently contribute to achieve the objectives of the new framework which focuses on risks rather than on disaster management.

### 1.2 THE AFRICAN REGION CONTEXT

**The recommendations of the 7th meeting of the African Working Group**

At the continent level, the African Union Commission (AUC), The Africa Bureau of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the General Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), organised in Yaoundé from 21 to 23 July 2015 the 7th Meeting of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to review the Extended Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy on disaster reduction in the light of the Sendai Framework. The main objective of this continental meeting was giving RECs and the African Union Commission’s Member States the opportunity to agree/decide on the new framework and pursue its implementation in Africa.

On 23 July 2015, at the end of the subsequent 4th conference of Ministers on DRR, the African Ministers responsible for DRR, through the Yaoundé Ministerial Declaration, requested African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities to align their strategies, programmes and actions with the Sendai
Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and called for States to include and integrate disaster risk reduction in their economic development policies and programmes as the most important tool for resilience, sustainability and human and capital development.

1.3 CENTRAL AFRICA CONTEXT

1.3.1 The situation in Central Africa
Central Africa countries are increasingly exposed to a variety of disaster risks including geophysical, hydrometeorological, health risks which make them more vulnerable. In addition to that comes the climate change phenomenon which contributes to the aggravation of natural disaster as highlighted years ago by the UN Secretary General as follows: “climate change will theoretically increase the severity and frequency of natural hazards. As our major cities are more and more vulnerable, these natural hazards may from now on result into disasters more serious than those we have experienced so far. We have the morale, social and economic duty to establish resilience to disasters by 2015 since the implementation of the HFA also supports us with the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals”.

In fact, over the decade of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, the Central Africa region experienced major natural disasters related more particularly to hydrometeorological phenomena/events which affected hundreds of thousands of people and caused significant economic losses in the region States. Few examples include the droughts in 2009 and June 2012, the flooding in 2012 and from July to September 2012 in Chad, and the devastating floods in the Central African Republic and in the north of from 2010 to 2012.

The analysis highlight the extreme vulnerability of populations and many other factors which contribute to this trend: population growth, poverty, pressure on development in areas at risk, shortcomings in disaster risk management, conflicts, environment degradation, unsustainable development patterns qui often result in higher levels of vulnerability, as well as rapid, uncontrolled and unplanned urbanisation. Such vulnerability is increased by the effects of climate change.

This climate change may pose an increasing threat to the region’s population means of subsistence. Disturbance in water cycle may result in water shortages and poor harvests. Rise in sea level threatens directly coastal area and island countries (e.g. Sao Tomé and Príncipe) with phenomena of accelerated coastal erosion and more frequent floods.

The human and economic losses caused by these natural disasters add to those related to epidemics (biologic hazards) and armed conflicts.
1.3.2. The adoption of the region’s general policy on the environment and the management of natural resources

Despite the late alignment of the Region with the global vision of the HFA 2005-2015 due, inter alia, to the political instability which characterised the States of the region during such period, it emerges from the analysis of the current situation in Central Africa that the Region and certain States have made significant progress with the implementation/follow up of the HFA as demonstrated by the adoption 2007 in Brazzaville by the ECCAS’ Heads of State and Government of the Region General Policy on the environment and the management of natural resources which integrates the issues related to disaster risk management in four of the twelve strategic directions. It include the strategic guidelines 1, 5 and 11 which cover respectively the combat against drought, desertification, soil degradation, combating climate change and the assessment and early warning for the management of natural or man-induced disasters.

1.3.3. Approval of the Central African strategy for the reduction of risks, the management of disasters and adaptation to climate changes by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States

The Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States held in Ndjamena on May 25, approved through the decision No. 46/CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15, the Central African strategy for the reduction of risks, the management of disasters and adaptation to climate changes.

1.3.4. Progress recorded in Central Africa

As regards achievements, the integration of disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change resulted in the following progress:

- the progressive and significant allocation of resources specific to the field of risk reduction, strategic and operational cooperation with development partners to build the internal capacities of the institution for a better support to the States,

- the establishment of a regional platform held every year. It already held three sessions of which one was in Douala, Cameroon and the second in Libreville, the third in Yaoundé, Cameroon and the fourth one in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo respectively in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

- the organisation of annual forums of seasonal climatic forecast for risk reduction,

- the organisation of annual and regional consultations on disaster preparedness and response, and finally

- the establishment of a regional climate centre during sixth ordinary session of the Conference of the Heads of State and Government held in Ndjamena, Chad, on 25
May 2015. Based in Douala, Cameroon, the centre is supported by the African Development Bank with the financing from the European Union’s intra-ACP funds

- the establishment of a programme of capacity building, support to the political dialogue and the coordination, the assessment of hazards and vulnerabilities with the support of the World Bank/GFDRR (the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery), with the financing from the European Union’s intra-ACP funds.

At the States levels, legal frameworks for DRR are being established. We note the progressive integration of issues related to disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change in the growth and poverty reduction strategy papers or in the national development plans.

Four states out of eleven have a national platform for DRR and three developed a national strategy for risk reduction. Efforts to decentralise the activities of the platforms were noted in the countries with platforms.

As regards hazard and vulnerability knowledge as well as related risks, the lack, even the absence of data is common in the whole Region. Some sectoral efforts need to be noted. However, insufficient capacities in these fields, especially as regards risk understanding persist.

Almost every State has a more or less formal disaster response mechanism. Some developed contingency plans and are doing their best to organise simulation exercises. However, if most of the States have humanitarian response mechanisms, the integration of disaster risk reduction still remains very insufficient.

We must note onsets of media involvement and awareness in some States concerning the role they must play in DRR, the use of international commemorative events celebrated each year such as the International Day for Disaster Reduction as an intermission for mass awareness and training in most countries. Initiatives are being undertaken in few countries to integrate DRR in primary and higher education curricula.

1.3.5. Major challenges to take up in Central Africa

Today, disaster risk management as a multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder process remains a major challenge calling for a strong political commitment of the States and national and regional institutions. They call for the integration of risk reduction in all the public policies and within all the sectors in line with a participative approach involving all the stakeholders.
As far as disaster understanding is concerned, the Region does not have any database on hazards, risks and vulnerabilities. This does not allow the establishment of a system for data collection, documentation and analysis.

As regards governance, Central Africa needs a high level advocacy to foster the actual political commitment from decision-makers.

Implementing the process at the grassroots communities' level has not started yet because of the delay experienced and the mobilisation of resources for the implementation of DRR activities is one of the major issues within all the States of the region. The same applies to the integration of DRR in development programmes and within all the sectors.

The lack of coordination strategy and mechanism in most of the countries persists and impede the coordination and the advocacy, despite few field missions.

Uncontrolled and increasing urbanization will undoubtedly be an actual/genuine development issue for future generations if no action is taken today. The difficulty lies in the ability of politicians to understand the phenomenon which increases from day to day.

As regards disaster preparedness and response, difficulties persist in the conversion of meteorological data into usable outputs for risk reduction.

This revised version of the Framework for Action for the implementation of the Central Africa Regional Strategy for risk Reduction, Disaster Management and Adaptation to Climate Change derives from the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 as well as the recommendations of the 4th Conference of African Ministers on DRR and reflects the strong commitment of the ECCAS to align with the new guidelines of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which not only set the objectives to attain during the next 15 years as well as the priorities if action to achieve them, but also defines the roles of the stakeholders involved in its implementation.
# PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK IN CENTRAL AFRICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sendai Framework Priorities</th>
<th>Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework</th>
<th>Priority Actions for Central Africa</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk</td>
<td>Regional level: Generate and disseminate risk knowledge and information for decision making, including for cross-border and cross-cultural issues</td>
<td>Effectively commission the Regional Centre of Climatology based in Douala, Cameroun (Set up the functional organization, adequate equipment and disaster risk information system)</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National level: Institutionalise risk assessment and analysis for risk-informed decision making in all sectors</td>
<td>Support Member States in establishing DRR data collection and management systems</td>
<td>2016-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Share best practices and successful experiences</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Establish and operationalise DRR/ACC platforms</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Establish a national data collection and analysis mechanism for decision-making (technicians, researchers, scientists, academics, administrations, civil society, local communities, etc.)</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Build stakeholders capacities for risk management</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Establish insurance mechanisms for disaster prevention and management</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

**Regional level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Set up mechanisms for DRR coordination and exchange of DRR/M best practices, lessons learnt and experiences among Member States</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a database of good practices within the ECCAS</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organize workshops for experience sharing between States</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote town/city twining in the field of DRR</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a DRR Centre of Excellence and Reference (Regional Centre for Civil Preparedness)</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a DRR information centre</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Local level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engage and sensitize communities in risk profiling, monitoring and assessment for decision making</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish relaying institutions to assist the national platform</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform community vulnerability and capacity assessments</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop local risk managers capacities in community-based disaster risk management</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draw up risk maps</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise risk prevention awareness in communities</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Develop DRR training and education programmes and integrate them in (school, secondary, university, technical and vocational education and training courses)**

2018

**Establish a database of good practices within the ECCAS**

2016

**Establish a DRR Centre of Excellence and Reference (Regional Centre for Civil Preparedness)**

2016

**Establish a DRR information centre**

2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National level</th>
<th>Develop policies, strategies, plans and legal frameworks for DRR</th>
<th>Assess the political, institutional and legal frameworks for DRR</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review national institutional frameworks towards a single model of national agency for emergency preparedness</td>
<td>Review the laws on DRR for a stronger legal framework</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assess the technical, financial and administrative capacities for the management of the identified disaster risks</td>
<td>Establish a National Disaster Risk Management Fund</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establish a DRR Information Centre</td>
<td>Incentivise and support the parliamentarians’ network for the implementation of DRR measures.</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop national contingency plans</td>
<td></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local level</td>
<td>Decentralize powers and resources to catalyze actions at the local level</td>
<td>Organise DRR emergency responders roster at the local level and allocation of adequate resources for its operation</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Promote the development of participatory DRR programmes at the community level</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Equip local DRM authorities with capacities for cooperation and coordination between all stakeholders</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Develop contingency plans</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 3:</td>
<td>Establish a functional mechanism for the transfer of risks and financial projection</td>
<td>Build capacity in human resources</td>
<td>follow-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional level</td>
<td></td>
<td>Establish a special regional trust fund for DRR</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilience</td>
<td>National level</td>
<td>Establish a disaster risk reduction investment plans</td>
<td>Promote the initiative for national insurances for DRR</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Establish a special trust fund for DRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Establish community insurance companies to secure people means of subsistence</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Build human capacity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Establish insurance mechanisms for DRR.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local level</td>
<td>Implement micro-insurance and social protection mechanisms</td>
<td>Encourage people to take out micro-insurances</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Develop a DRR community awareness programme in the community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation</td>
<td>Regional level</td>
<td>Establish and strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems and regional mechanisms for early action and response.</td>
<td>Establish operational mechanisms for early and efficient disaster preparedness and response interventions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Develop and disseminate operational guidelines and others guidance material for improved coordination of the action as per of disaster preparedness and response</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Establish sub-regional multi-hazard early warning systems that are compatible with national mechanisms, as appropriate, in line with the global framework for climatic services and better exchange of information between</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Timeframe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Establish and strengthen the emergency coordination centre</td>
<td>Establish a humanitarian facility with emergency equipment and material.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop and/or update disaster preparedness and response policies, plans and programmes in conjunction with the relevant institutions, all the sectors and stakeholders while considering climate change scenarios.</td>
<td>1st quarter of 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establish people-centred multi-hazard and multisectoral prediction, surveillance and early warning mechanisms as well as communication systems.</td>
<td>1st semester of 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promote resistant water, transportation and telecommunications infrastructures, school facilities, hospitals and other health facilities to keep them safe, efficient and operational during and after disasters in order to guarantee the provision of life and emergency services.</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review and strengthen national laws and procedures on international cooperation based on guidelines on the facilitation and national regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance.</td>
<td>1st semester of 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promote the establishment of emergency funds where appropriate and necessary for the purpose of financing disaster preparedness and response as well as recovery measures</td>
<td>2nd semester of 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promote States establishment of policies for volunteers and civil service mobilization with clear definition of roles for their training, supervision and retention</td>
<td>1st semester of 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Establish and strengthen multidisciplinary local disaster</td>
<td>Establish community facilities for improved people awareness and storage of the equipment required for rescue and emergency procedures.</td>
<td>2nd semester of 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Management Mechanisms</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide the existing staff and volunteers with education and training on disaster response and build technical and logistical capacities for a more efficient emergency response</td>
<td>2nd semester of 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organise periodic simulation exercises and establish local support mechanisms for early and efficient disaster response in case of displacement including for access to safe locations and provision of food supplies and additional basic relief</td>
<td>Each term of 2016 et 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase local authorities resources for evacuating people living in areas exposed to disasters</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a mechanism for file registration and a database of disaster mortality for better prevention of morbidity and mortality</td>
<td>2nd semester of 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve recovery mechanisms for the purpose of providing psychological support and health services to anyone who needs.</td>
<td>2nd semester of 2016</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK IN CENTRAL AFRICA

### Analysis of the distribution of priority actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sendai Framework Priorities</th>
<th>Distribution of actions by Sendai Framework priority</th>
<th>Maximum timeframes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number by level</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECCAS</td>
<td>Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority 1</strong>: Understanding disaster risk</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority 2</strong>: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority 3</strong>: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority 4</strong>: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>42</strong></td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Objective 1: Strengthen knowledge on risks and vulnerabilities at regional level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority needs</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Lead/Primary institutions</th>
<th>Partner institutions</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify, collect and analyse data on risks and vulnerabilities for the countries in the subregion and integrate the results/outcomes in the planning/programming</td>
<td>Support Member States in assessing the surveys and analyses on the existing risks at the subregional level</td>
<td>An assessment of the available capacities is performed/undertaken</td>
<td>ECCAS with the support of States/National Focal Points</td>
<td>United Nations agencies, Universities, NGOs</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Encourage States to establish and enhance a risk observatory</td>
<td>Analysis of risk reduction available</td>
<td>ECCAS with the support of States/National Focal Points</td>
<td>United Nations agencies, Universities, NGOs</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establish a risk and vulnerability database at the States level</td>
<td>Inventory of risks and disasters available</td>
<td>State/National Focal Points (NFP)</td>
<td>ECCAS and technical partners</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop risks and vulnerabilities maps at the subregion and States levels</td>
<td>Risk maps available</td>
<td>State/NFP</td>
<td>ECCAS and technical partners</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 2 Improve/Enhance reduction and warning mechanisms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority needs</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Lead/Primary institutions</th>
<th>Partner institutions</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 3: Increase capacities in crisis preparedness and response at national and regional levels</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority needs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Activities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Results</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lead/Primary institutions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Partner institutions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Timeframe</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide minimum national capacities for disaster management</td>
<td>Assessment of preparedness and response capacities for two priority countries based on the risk analysis</td>
<td>An assessment of capacities is performed in two priority countries</td>
<td>Under the coordination of the National Focal Point on disaster management</td>
<td>CADRI (United Nations)</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop/Strengthen the emergency response teams, authorities as well as</td>
<td>Develop people awareness products/material on preparedness/response</td>
<td>Awareness products/material are developed and people awareness on DRR is raised through targeted actions</td>
<td>Under the coordination of the National Focal Point on disaster management</td>
<td>United Nations agencies, NGOs</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority needs</td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Lead/Primary institutions</td>
<td>Partner institutions</td>
<td>Timeframe</td>
</tr>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks for disaster management</td>
<td>Assess the existing legal frameworks</td>
<td>The existing legal frameworks are listed</td>
<td>National Focal Point Disaster managers Other humanitarian actors/players</td>
<td>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS), ECCAS, Parliamentarians network</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 4: Increase capacities in crisis preparedness and response at national and regional levels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a legal framework for disaster management</td>
<td>A legal framework for disaster management is established</td>
<td>National Focal Point</td>
<td>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS), ECCAS Parliamentarians network</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen the legal framework for disaster management</td>
<td>The legal framework for disaster management is strengthened</td>
<td>National Focal Point</td>
<td>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS), ECCAS Parliamentarians network</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop an adequate State-based coordination framework for disaster management</td>
<td>The process for the establishment of a single agency for disaster management at the national level is initiated</td>
<td>A single agency for disaster management is establish in each Member State</td>
<td>National Focal Point</td>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen the capacities of the ECCAS structural unit</td>
<td>Provide additional human and financial resources to support the structural unit</td>
<td>The structural unit is operational</td>
<td>Secretary General of ECCAS</td>
<td>FTP</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establish a monitoring mechanism to follow up the implementation of the Yaoundé plan</td>
<td>A monitoring mechanism is established</td>
<td>Secretary General of ECCAS</td>
<td>FTP</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 5: Increase capacities in crisis preparedness and response at national and regional levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority needs</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Results/Outcomes</th>
<th>Lead/Primary institutions</th>
<th>Partner institutions</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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**CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL STRATEGY**

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**ECOMOMY CROMIENCY OF CENTRAL AFRICA**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mobilize resources to build ECCAS and Member States capacities for crisis preparedness and response</th>
<th>Establish a Committee responsible for mobilizing resources and define its role and powers/responsibilities</th>
<th>A committee for the mobilization of resources is established</th>
<th>Member States FTP 2016-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establish a Committee responsible for mobilizing resources and define its role and powers/responsibilities</td>
<td>A committee for the mobilization of resources is established</td>
<td>Member States FTP 2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop national strategies for a long term mobilisation of resources and develop a communication plan</td>
<td>National and regional strategies are developed. A communication plan is developed</td>
<td>Member States FTP 2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop and inventory technical and financial institutions (AfDB, CADRI, EU, etc.) for the purpose of promoting long term partnerships</td>
<td>ECCAS signed MoUs with various identified institutions</td>
<td>ECCAS FTP 2016-2017</td>
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<td>Establish a monitoring mechanism</td>
<td>Establish a monitoring mechanism</td>
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ANNEXES

(E C. C. A .S.)

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

XVITH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

DECISION N°72/CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15
On the establishment of the Central Africa Climate Prediction and Application Centre in abbreviated form “CACPAC”

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

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

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


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

Considering the strategic vision of the ECCAS for 2025;

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

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

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

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

ON PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

DECIDES

Article 1: Establishment of the Centre
The establishment of the Regional Climate Centre referred to as Central Africa Climate Prediction and Application Centre, in abbreviated form “CACPAC”.

Article 2: Head Office of the Centre
The head office of the Central Africa Regional Climate Prediction and Application Centre shall be located in Douala, Republic of Cameroon.

Article 3: Provisions
This decision shall become enforceable automatically in Member States thirty (30) days after its publication in the Official Journal of the Community in the English, Spanish, French and Portuguese languages.

Done in Ndjamena on this day 25th of May 2015.

For the conference,
The President of the Republic of Chad,
Acting Chairman of the ECCAS

IDRISS DEBY ITNO
ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK FOR RESILIENCE TO DISASTER IN CENTRAL AFRICA

PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK FOR RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

We, the Parliamentarians:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Names and first names</th>
<th>parliamentary commissions</th>
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<tr>
<td>D. R. of Congo</td>
<td>KATAMULIKO TSONGO</td>
<td>Environment and Natural Resources</td>
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<td>MAHA Richard</td>
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<td>CAR</td>
<td>OUANIKOLO ZOROKARA</td>
<td>Production, environment, natural resources and sustainable</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lié ARCADIUS</td>
<td>development Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>MOUDOUMA Adonis</td>
<td>Environment and sustainable Development</td>
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Meeting in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the banquet facility of the People’s Palace/ Great Hall of the People, on 21st to 23rd October, 2015,

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

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

3. Considering the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) general policy on the environment and natural resources management adopted in October 2007 by the 13th Conference of Heads of State and Government;


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER 1: NATURE, PURPOSE AND DURATION

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER II: OBJECTIVES

Article 5: The REPARC aims at:

• promoting the integration of DRR and CCC issues in national legislations;
• organizing training and capacity building actions for Members;

• promoting experience exchanges and solidarity between Parliamentarians from ECCAS Member States;

• contributing to the development of a resilient community based on democracy, social justice and peace in Central Africa;

• leading on political advocacy for the integration of DRR and CCC in States national policies.

CHAPTER III: THE NETWORK ORGANS

Article 6: the main organs of the REPARC are:

a- at regional level: A General Assembly and a subregional Executive Board.

b- within the parliaments of each State: A Focal Point with its active members.

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

CHAPTER IV: FUNCTIONING OF THE NETWORK ORGANS

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

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

The Board of the REPARC is composed of:

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

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

**CHAPTER V: MEMBERS**

**Article 11**: The REPARC includes founding and ordinary members.

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

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

**CHAPTER VI: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 12**: The REPARC resources derive from:

- contributions from State Parliamentarians;

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

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

- contributions from international or national financial foundations and institutions;

- donations and legacies.

**CHAPTER VII: MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

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

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

**c.** The assets of the REPARC are transferred to an organisation appointed by the ECCAS and which has the same purpose.
Article 14: The languages used by the REPARC are the official languages of the ECCAS.

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

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

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

Reforestation programme in North Cameroon
Adopted on this 22nd of October 2015 in Kinshasa

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>SURNAMES AND FIRST NAMES</th>
<th>PARLIAMENTARIANS COMMITEES</th>
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1. PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE
The Regional Monitoring Committee is a collaboration, consultation and coordination framework for the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on risk reduction and disaster management in Central Africa.

2. MISSIONS
Regional monitoring committee for risk reduction and disaster management in Central Africa’s mission is to:

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

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

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

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

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

• Support and promote a coordinated response in case of disaster in order to:
  - establish and strengthen the mechanisms and tools of coordination between key partners;
  - promote the establishment and/or strengthening of regional disaster response teams such as UNDAC/INSARAG, ECCAS, IFRC/ RDRT;
  - support regional and national disaster response initiatives.
• sensitize and foster the mobilization of financial resources for disaster reduction and management, especially for the implementation of the strategy for risk reduction and related operational plans.

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

3. COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL MONITORING COMMITTEE
The Regional monitoring committee for risk reduction and disaster management in Central Africa comprises an Executive Board and members.

**Members of the Regional Monitoring Committee:**
- One representative of each Member State of the ECCAS (responsible for the body dealing with disaster management at national level);

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

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

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

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

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

**For this purpose, it is responsible for:**
- monitoring the implementation of operational programmes for risk reduction and disaster preparedness and response strengthening;

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

**The Executive Board is composed of:**
- One (1) president
- One (1) vice-president
• The president and vice-president are elected for two (2) years by the representatives of the Member States of ECCAS (the body responsible for disaster management at national level or equivalent) among which they are selected.

• Two (2) technical advisers coming from the members appointed of the Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies of the Member States elected.

• One (1) representative of the ECCAS.

*The Regional Monitoring Committee is assisted and technically supported by:*

• One representative of the ECCAS;

• One representative from the regional representation of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) societies for Central Africa and;

• One representative of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Regional Office for West and Central Africa (UNOCHAROWCA).

• The Regional Monitoring Committee also requests the expertise of specialised institutions and platforms as well as the United Nations system.

4. FREQUENCY

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

Flood in the South of Cameroon