

MINISTÈRE DES EAUX, FORÊTS, CHASSE &
PÊCHE

CHARGÉ DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

DIRECTION DE CABINET

Convention Cadre des Nations Unies sur
les Changements Climatiques (CCUNCC)

Coordination des Programmes d'Action
Nationaux d'Adaptation (PANA)



République Centrafricaine

Unité - Dignité - Travail

N° 135 /MEFCPE/DIRCAB/CCNUCC/COORD-PANA.-

UNFCCC African regional workshop on adaptation

Accra, Ghana

21 to 23, September 2006

Central African Republic Presentation

« Evaluation of vulnerability and adaptation measures in the agriculture sector in the Central African Republic »

(Par Patrice PASSE SANAND, Expert Agriculture
et Dr. Aline MALIBANGAR, Coordinatrice PANA-RCA)

CAR ratified the UNFCCC in March 1994 and submitted its Initial National Communication (INC) in June 2003. Being a least developed country (LDC), it currently prepares its National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). It is within this framework that certain key sectors of the national development were the subject of studies, among them agriculture, in order to evaluate the vulnerabilities to current climatic variabilities and future climate changes.

The economy of the Central African Republic rests primarily on the primary sector which employed in 2003, 56% of the working population and contributed to a total value of 58% to the GDP. The agro-pastoral activities contribute at least 42% to the national economy and in fact are in first place before the Mines/industry and the forest sector. This is why the relaunching of the agro-pastoral sector constitutes one of the priority actions of the current Strategy of the Government in order to fight against poverty (CSLP) and to thus ensure the food security. However, agriculture still continues to encounter enormous difficulties due to *inter alia* the insufficiency of the means of financing, with the constraints related essentially to current climatic variabilities. Recent studies of vulnerabilities carried out within the framework of the NAPA show that in the event of abrupt climatic change this sector would be likely to become more vulnerable and thus to have serious incidences on the economy and the national development which depends on it primarily.

The studies undertaken within the framework of the development of the NAPA privileged a participative approach through a multi criteria analysis (MCA) and integrating the principal actors: Populations/NGOs/Local councillor; Decision makers/Policies; Institutions of research; Private sector.

With the present stage of the studies, we can retain that:

1*) with regard to the results of the studies:

- the sector agriculture presents real risks of vulnerability in the event of climatic change with serious incidences on food safety and in fact, the national development
- it is urgently necessary to envisage options of adaptation in the target areas located at the North and the South of the country
- Some priority actions of adaptation were proposed:
 - o To reinforce the human capacities as regards agricultural research related to the climatic risks: installation of a agro-climatic observer in the target zones;
 - o To help the populations of the zones target to adapt to climatic variabilities playing on the agricultural calendar
 - o To improve the technical and technological conditions of the local communities through the micro-projects of adaptation to the climatic changes.

2*) with regard to methodology:

- To always carry out a dialog with the recipients for choice of the methodology most adapted to the national context and by holding account of the availability of the data, characteristic of the country)
 - o Participative approach
 - o Multicriteria analysis

- Methodological frameworks (NAPA Guidelines)

3*) with regard to the role of the principal actors in the process:

- Population/NGOs and stakeholders local took part in the identification and the implementation of the priority actions
- Decision makers supported the integration into the policies of national development
- Research Institutions allowed the improvement of knowledge
- Private sector contributed to the financing of the actions through sponsorings

4*) with regard to the mechanism which can guarantee the effective participation of the principal actors, it is necessary:

- To imply beginning at the end of the process
 - To ensure itself of their effective participation has the identification of the objectives
 - To take part in sensitizing, training courses and participation in the validation of work

5*) constraints and difficulties encountered during the exercise:

Throughout this exercise of evaluation of vulnerability, we were confronted with difficulties (forced) which must be taken into account in the future, including:

- 1 - Insufficiency of human and institutional capacities
- 2 - Weak control of the tools/software
- 3 - Insufficiency and/or lack of data available for agriculture
- 4 - Weak involvement of research institutions in the process
- 5 - Time
- 6 - Insufficient financial resources

CONCLUSION

In CAR, vulnerability assessment was carried out (within the framework of NAPA), on a certain number of sectors, including agriculture. The studies revealed that this sector faces real risks regarding climatic change. Taking into account the prominence of this sector in the fight against poverty and in national development, urgent adaptation actions (short term) are proposed. However, difficulties in implementation are due to an insufficiency of financial resources and a little engagement of political decision makers.

With this intention, we request UNFCCC to:

- seek complementary funds (to those of the GEF) to improve and look further into sectoral studies
- provide technical support through the edition of a handbook and CD-ROMs (training and user manual) in languages of the country
- reinforce the human and institutional capacities in countries
- organize regional Workshop on Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment.