GOVERNING COUNCIL
Thirtieth session
June 1983
Agenda item 5 (b)

COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

UNDP assistance requested by the Government of the Central African Republic for the period 1983-1986

Illustrative IPF for 1983-1986: $29.5 million

INTRODUCTION

1. The third country programme for the Central African Republic has been drawn up by the High Commission for Planning and Economic and Financial Co-operation, a national agency which is responsible to the Office of the President and co-ordinates all the country's development activities. A series of close consultations took place among government authorities, UNDP and other United Nations specialized agencies to determine the nature and content of the country programme.

* In accordance with decision 81/15, adopted by the Governing Council on 27 June 1981 (E/1981/61/Rev.1, annex I), the third country programme for the Central African Republic is being submitted to the Council without an accompanying note by the Administrator. The previous country programmes for the Central African Republic and the accompanying notes by the Administrator were issued under the document symbols DP/GC/CAF/R.1-DP/GC/CAF/R.2 and DP/GC/CAF/R.1/RECOMMENDATION- DP/GC/CAF/R.2/RECOMMENDATION, respectively.
2. Following evaluation of the 1977-1981 programme, the programming exercise proper began on 4 January 1982 with the submission to the Government of the resident representative's note suggesting possible ways in which UNDP could assist the development of the country. On 12 January 1982, a general meeting called by the Government brought together representatives of the various technical ministries, the chief technical advisers of ongoing UNDP-assisted projects and UNDP field staff, to identify the main lessons of past assistance and recommend measures to enhance the programme's effectiveness during the third cycle.

3. As a follow-up to this meeting, UNDP, at the request of the Government, organized several sectoral missions during 1982 for multidisciplinary teams from the United Nations and from various specialized agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Office, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). Other United Nations specialized agencies such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) had already sent missions in 1981. These missions made it possible to analyse the main economic sectors of the Central African Republic and identify a number of projects which could be submitted for financing by UNDP, or perhaps by other donors at the donors' round table scheduled for the end of 1983. This round table, which is being organized with UNDP assistance, will be a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1981. Concurrently with the sectoral missions, and in compliance with the request made by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 35/87 of 5 December 1980, the Secretary-General drew up a special programme of emergency assistance for the Central African Republic, which helped the Government in selecting its projects.

4. Finally, on 10 October 1982, an inter-ministerial meeting, held under the auspices of the High Commission for Planning, identified the areas to which UNDP should accord priority in keeping with the needs described and defined by the Government in its National Programme of Action for 1982-1985. The main headings under which projects were selected are: (a) integrated rural development and community development; (b) strengthening of economic infrastructures; (c) development of human resources. The global priorities agreed by the international community and the African community were taken into account and several projects reflect the strategies for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, the United Nations Decade for Women, the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, and the WHO programme "Health for All by the Year 2000". Technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) and the main guidelines of the Lagos Plan of Action received particular attention. Several of the projects selected are likely to attract future investments.

6. The illustrative indicative planning figure (IPF) for the third cycle (1982-1986) has been set at SUS 29.5 million, 20 per cent or $5.9 million for the mandatory non-programmable reserve. The previous IPF cycle balance of $1,372,000 and the 1982 estimated expenditure of $3,858,000 should also be deducted. Consequently, the total funds available to finance the UNDP programme in the period 1983-1986 amount to $18,370,000.

7. It is also worth noting that UNDP is helping the Government to mobilize additional resources from the United Nations system: (a) UNCDF (about $5 million for 1983-1984); (b) the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) ($200,000 for 1983); (c) the World Food Programme (WFP) (approximately $12 million for 1983-1986); (d) the IPF of the regional, interregional and global programme. In addition to this, there are regular programmes of certain United Nations specialized agencies, namely, FAO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), WHO and UNESCO.

UNDP TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ENVISAGED IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

8. The overall development policy of the Government of the Central African Republic as set forth in its National Programme of Action for 1982-1985 is in keeping with the main objectives of the Economic and Social Recovery Plan and the overall development strategy for the years 1980-1990 submitted to the September 1981 United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. These main objectives include the attainment of self-sufficiency in food and the promotion of balanced and self-sustained development. In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the Government has decided: (a) to develop the country's economic activities by boosting and diversifying production and exports and by rationally exploiting the full potential of the economy; (b) to promote integrated rural development on the basis of effective popular participation, with a view to improving living standards and conditions; (c) to ensure the balanced economic development of the regions by, inter alia, narrowing the disparities between town and country and promoting more equitable income distribution; (d) to develop human resources in order to satisfy the population's basic needs.

9. The programming of UNDP third-cycle resources has reflected these objectives, as well as the priority targets which have been set because of the constraints imposed on the country. In this connection, the Government has requested UNDP to concentrate on projects likely to have a direct impact on production or to be supportive to the productive sector.

A. Integrated rural development and community development

($8,775,000 programmed)

10. In accordance with the priorities set by the Government in its National Programme of Action for 1982-1985, a major part of the UNDP programme for the period 1983-1986 is devoted to rural development. The third country programme will
be oriented towards integrated-objective projects which have community development as their focal point. Every integrated development programme must include very diverse activities aimed at increasing agricultural production, improving health, education and housing, and developing communications. To that end, the Government has decided to introduce programmes of action involving a judicious mix of activities which vary according to the needs of the regions and the priorities set on the basis of their level of development. Since all agricultural development is contingent on the number and quality of the cadres in charge, some resources will be allocated for the training, either at regional schools or on the job, of the cadres needed for the various rural development activities.

1. **Agriculture**

**Food crop and vegetable promotion centre(s) (CAF/83/004) (new)**

Since 1972, the Government has been receiving UNDP technical assistance in developing selected seeds for the main food crops through applied agronomic research, under the following projects: "Production of selected seeds" (CAF/72/003); "Agronomic research on food crops and vegetables" (CAF/72/006); and "Agronomic research and production of seeds for food crops, vegetables and fruits" (CAF/77/003). The third project was a follow-up to the other two. After evaluating the assistance provided under the various consecutive projects, the Government requested that assistance for the third programming cycle should focus on disseminating among farmers the results of the various projects relating to agronomic research and seed production. Although the project objectives still have to be worked out, it is already quite clear that, under the new project, a major effort will have to be made to establish an institution capable of playing a role in the main food-crop production centres, with a view to enhancing the involvement of farmers in production.

**Pedological service (CAF/82/007) (ongoing)**

With the aim of promoting agricultural development on a rational and scientific basis, the Government has established a pedological and soil conservation service, which is attached to the Agricultural Engineering Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. UNDP assistance is a follow-up to two small-scale assistance projects under FAO's technical co-operation programme, the first of which began in November 1979. The project objectives are: (a) to train staff; (b) to develop soil-analysis techniques; (c) to supplement equipment and pedological documentation; (d) to carry out pedological research for immediate needs.

**National agricultural census and support for agricultural statistics (CAF/84/002) (new)**

Concerned about the need to evaluate, on the basis of viable statistical data, the various modernization programmes in the agricultural development sector, the Government has requested further United Nations assistance in strengthening the Statistical and Documentation Service of the Ministry of Agriculture. Although the
Government received UNDP assistance during the period 1965-1981 under various projects ("Agricultural census" (RAF/81/186), "Agricultural statistics" (CAF/75/017) and "Strengthening of the Bureau for Research and Co-ordination" (CAF/78/004)), the Statistical and Documentation Service still suffers from a shortage of qualified staff and is paralysed by a lack of logistical resources. The situation has been aggravated by the political and economic crises of recent years, which have weakened the capacity of the public sector. The assistance requested by the Government would help the Service to conduct the national agricultural census within the framework of the world census for the 1980s. The immediate project objectives still have to be worked out.

2. Community development

Strengthening of the Community Development Department (CAF/83/006) (new)

14. Community development in the Central African Republic began in 1972. Until 1977, technical assistance was received from the United Nations through its regular programme, under the project entitled "Community development" (CAF/75/R40). This was followed by the project entitled "Community development programme - Phase II" (CAF/77/004), which was financed by UNDP until 1979. The Government considers community development to be the cornerstone of its policy of promoting the country's socio-economic progress. Having decided to take community development services to all parts of the territory within 10 years, the Government has requested UNDP assistance for the following purposes: (a) to strengthen the Community Development Department; (b) to establish village development committees; (c) to train community development workers and leaders; (d) to extend activities to new areas; (e) to introduce community development methods in the training of staff attached to other government departments, with respect to grass-roots development activities. UNDP assistance will be part of an expanded programme for the strengthening of community development. Contributions will be made by several multilateral and bilateral sources of assistance, namely, UNCDF, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP and the French Government's Assistance and Co-operation Fund (FAC).

Assistance to village leagues in the marketing of foodstuffs (CAF/83/007) (new)

15. Since one of the major constraints to the development of village leagues is the marketing of agricultural produce, the Government has requested UNDP assistance in setting up a system for the collection and marketing of agricultural produce and for the supply of basic consumer goods to the villages. UNCDF assistance has been requested for the construction of 14 co-operative shops and the establishment of a working capital fund for the supply of agricultural inputs. As a corollary to UNCDF assistance, UNDP assistance will initially be provided in the prefectures of Kémo Gribinqui and Gribinqui Economique, and will then be extended to the regions of Ouham and Basse Kotto. This will be in close co-ordination with the other assistance projects for integrated rural development, namely, "Strengthening of the Community Development Department" (CAF/83/006) and "Food crop and vegetable promotion centre(s)" (CAF/83/004). The immediate project objectives still have to be worked out, but training is expected to focus on the organization and management...
of the shops to be constructed with UNCDF funds. A study on the establishment of a credit fund for the development of village leagues will also form part of the project.

Appropriate technology and the promotion of women in rural areas (CAF/83/005) (new)

16. Recognizing that women have a major role in agricultural production and in processing, preserving and marketing foodstuffs, the Government has requested UNDP assistance in making their task easier and in using technological advances to improve the lot of rural women. To that end, a project is to be worked out with the following main objectives: (a) development and dissemination of simple techniques suited to the rural environment and, in particular, to women, with a view to making their task easier by improving environmental sanitation and the preservation, processing and marketing of foodstuffs; (b) increase in agricultural productivity, especially for food crops. Project activities will be closely co-ordinated with the work of departments dealing with rural health and maternal and child health, and with the work of agricultural development societies and rural promotion and community development services. In this area, the emergence of a "female perspective" will be the aim.

3. Livestock

Development of small-scale stock-breeding in the Bangui region (CAF/84/003) (new)

17. With a view to improving market supplies in the capital, the Government is seeking to develop poultry-farming and pig-breeding at the La Landjia agricultural station, near Bangui. In addition to technical assistance to be provided by UNDP, the Government has requested UNCDF assistance in setting up the appropriate infrastructure. Project objectives still have to be worked out.

4. Fish culture and inland fisheries

Extension services in fish culture and self-financing of main stations (CAF/80/002) (ongoing)

18. Since 1968, UNDP has been providing assistance for the development of fish culture under the regional project entitled "Training and research in fish culture" (REG/54) and, later, under two projects financed from the national IPF: "Extension services in fish culture - Phase I" (CAF/72/002) and "Extension services in fish culture - Phase II" (CAF/76/007). In view of the remarkable development of fish culture in rural areas, after its introduction in 1982 to 8,000 trained fish farmers with nearly 6,500 ponds, the Government has requested continuing UNDP assistance for the strengthening and modernization of the existing infrastructure. The aim is to achieve self-financing for the centres which are to serve as bases for extension services in rural areas. Assistance provided since 1980 under the present project (CAF/80/002) has been for the following objectives: (a) self-financing of stations with a regional focus; (b) extension services in regions downstream from the dams constructed with UNCDF assistance; (c) training of supervisory staff; (d) establishment of two fish-nursery stations in the priority
region of Basse Kotto; (e) development of small-scale fish culture on the outskirts of major centres, through the introduction of a credit system. UNDP assistance will form part of an expanded programme for the strengthening of fish culture. Contributions will be provided by several multilateral and bilateral sources of assistance, namely, UNCDF, UNICEF, the European Development Fund (EDF), the Government of the Netherlands and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Peace Corps).

**Development and promotion of inland fisheries in the northern region (CAF/84/001) (new)**

19. The northern region of the country offers good prospects for the development of fisheries, with an annual potential catch of approximately 25,000 tons. In order to overcome the constraints which now limit the catch to 5,000 tons, the Government has requested UNDP technical assistance and UNCDF assistance with equipment. The project objectives are as follows: (a) to improve fishing, processing and storage techniques; (b) to increase the income of fishermen by modernizing their methods through the organization of co-operatives; (c) to train extension workers; (d) to strengthen the Fisheries Department.

5. **Wildlife**

**Wildlife development (CAF/78/006) (ongoing)**

20. UNDP assistance is a follow-up to another project, which was financed during earlier cycles: "Wildlife studies in the northern area" (CAF/72/010). With a view to helping the Government to carry out a programme for the development and rational exploitation of wildlife resources, while enhancing their economic viability in the northern area of the country, UNDP has been providing assistance since 1979 for the following purposes: (a) introduction of new legislation; (b) establishment of a training centre for gamekeepers at Bamingui; (c) completion of studies concerning wildlife resources at the Bamingui-Bangoran national park; (d) initiation of pre-investment activities for the Bamingui-Bangoran national park; (e) preparation of development and study plans for the Bamingui-Bangoran national park, according to demand. In addition to UNDP assistance, the Government receives aid from WFP, FAC and USAID.

6. **Support for the food aid programme**

**Support for the Food Aid Management Service (SEGAL) (CAF/82/003) (ongoing)**

21. The Government has requested UNDP assistance in order to strengthen the support services for food aid management, which are short of operational funds for the handling and inland transport of foodstuffs. UNDP assistance, which is on a small scale, will strengthen the government agency responsible for transporting, storing and handling food received under the WFP aid programme, especially at regional centres, by providing training and supplying some means of transport.
B. Strengthening of economic infrastructures

($4,006,000 programmed)

22. The Central African Republic is land-locked in two ways: it is far from the channel of international trade, the sea, within its frontiers, the communications network is in very poor shape and makes communications difficult and prohibitively expensive. This is one of the basic concerns of the Government's recovery programme. The Government's policy is also intended to stimulate the decentralization of economic activity throughout the territory of the Central African Republic by establishing small enterprises and promoting cottage industry.

1. Transport and telecommunications

Development of postal services (CAF/80/003) (ongoing)

23. Because of the facilities they offer, postal services give a powerful impetus to national unity and economic, commercial and social development. At the same time, they have an administrative function and afford a means of communication with the outside world. They work against the isolation of rural communities and help to curb the exodus towards large towns. The aims of this project, which got under way in 1982, are: (a) to establish post offices with a view to developing a system of money orders, postal orders and post-office savings throughout the country; (b) to ensure the delivery and collection of all kinds of mail at all post offices; (c) to design a master plan for the development of postal services that would be attractive to eventual investors.

Telecommunications planning (CAF/81/001) (ongoing)

24. Within the context of activities for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, the aim of this project is to help open up, and thus develop, the hinterland. Moreover, in view of its geographical position at the centre of the continent, the Central African Republic is well placed to serve as a transit point for the various countries of the subregion. In this respect, the project is consistent with the recommendations of the Lagos Plan of Action. The project's potential for attracting secondary investments is worth mentioning.

Civil aviation fellowships (CAF/82/004) (ongoing)

25. Since 1968, the Government has been benefiting from a civil aviation training programme. The term of the last fellowship awarded under this project will end in 1983.

Institutional support for transit transport (CAF/83/002) (new)

26. The objective of this project is to promote trade in the Central African Republic by reducing transit transport costs and improving the country's access to the sea and to world markets. The plan behind the project is to assign to the country a specialist in transit transport problems. His mission will be to carry out a continuous evaluation of the conditions under which goods move through the access corridors, to identify the related problems, to promote the formulation of solutions and to co-operate in applying such solutions.
Strengthening of the Agricultural Engineering Department and the Public Works Department (CAF/83/008) (new)

27. Since the deterioration of the road network has contributed to the stagnation of agricultural production, the Government is appealing to UNDP and UNCDF to strengthen the human and material resources of its technical services, in particular the Agricultural Engineering Department and the Public Works Department. UNCDF assistance will go to the agricultural engineering sector, over a three-year period, for construction, the improvement of 500 kilometres of secondary roads and country paths, and the repair of nearly 225 metres of roads. UNDP assistance is aimed at strengthening the Departments concerned through staff training when the UNCDF-financed construction programme is being implemented. The immediate objectives of UNDP assistance still have to be worked out.

2. Hydrological network - Meteorology

Organization and development of the National Meteorology Office - National studies of hydrological needs (CAF/82/015) (ongoing)

28. This project is expected to promote the rational use of the country's natural resources. Project activities will lead to a better understanding of climatic conditions and to the introduction of water resources planning. By way of preparatory assistance, fellowships are being awarded so that the country will have qualified national personnel to undertake the expected tasks. The project objectives are related to activities for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.

3. Small enterprises and cottage industry

Promotion of small enterprises (CAF/84/004) (new)

29. Because of the more than 20 per cent drop in the gross domestic production (GDP) in five years, the reduction in paid employment outside the civil service and the low standard of living among the population (especially in the provinces), the Government has decided to give a boost to economic activity by promoting small enterprises and cottage industry. This new project seeks to pursue that goal by strengthening existing small enterprises and establishing new viable ones. The immediate project objectives still have to be worked out.

Promotion of cottage industry (CAF/84/005) (new)

30. This project is supposed to stimulate the cottage industry in the provinces with a view to facilitating rural development and increasing agricultural productivity through the manufacture of small tools. The development objectives are tailored to a long-term programme; the details and the modalities for application will be worked out during an initial design phase.
Construction in rural areas (CAF/83/003) (new)

31. The Government intends to execute, with UNCDF assistance, several projects which have a construction component: "Fish culture" (CAF/82/002), "Development of inland fisheries in the north" (CAF/82/003), "Development of small-scale stock-breeding in the Bangui region" (CAF/82/004), "Co-operative shops" (CAF/82/005), "Integrated rural development" (CAF/82/006), on the basis of the community development structures, and "Construction of rural primary schools" (CAF/76/C31).

C. Development of human resources

($4,612,000 programmed)

32. The National Programme of Action is intended to develop human resources by a more rational and more efficient use of available means. There is expected to be a redefinition of the goals, methods and content of the educational and training system, with a view to making it development-oriented. At the same time, in the interest of sustained and balanced economic development, better health coverage to meet the population's basic needs is indispensable.

1. Employment

Intervocational Centre for Basic and Advanced Training (CIFP) (CAF/79/001) (ongoing)

33. After an initial phase of assistance to the National Institute for Basic and Advanced Vocational Training (CAF/75/010), this project, during a second phase, assisted the Government in establishing a national agency, known as the Intervocational Organization for Basic and Advanced Training (ONIFOP), responsible for planning and co-ordinating all vocational training activities. Since the start of the project, the Intervocational Centre for Basic and Advanced Training (CIFP), the operational arm of ONIFOP, has carried out a number of training and advanced training activities relating specifically to industrial and commercial techniques. According to a recent project appraisal, the objectives have been attained as expected. The Government is considering requesting further assistance from other donors.

Basic and advanced training in management (CAF/82/011) (new)

34. As part of the activities of the project entitled "Intervocational Centre for Basic and Advanced Training" (CAF/79/001), there have been management training programmes for auditors and accountants of State corporations. This provoked much interest among the corporations and led them to make increased demands to ONIFOP for basic and advanced training in management. In response to this great demand, the Government has requested further assistance in establishing, within CIFP, a unit capable of designing and executing the whole range of management training programmes.
2. **Education**

**Emergency assistance for secondary and technical education (CAF/82/013) (ongoing)**

35. The shortage of local teachers for scientific and technical subjects led in 1980 to the launching of the project entitled "Emergency assistance for secondary and technical education" (CAF/80/008), which was executed by 10 United Nations volunteers. Since the Government has not been able to find replacements and is mindful of the increased demand for teachers, it has expressly requested an extension of the project. This emergency assistance will end in August 1984, by which time the Government expects the present staff to be replaced by nationals who are now being trained.

**Reform of the educational and training system (new)**

36. Under two consecutive projects, "Assistance to the National Institute of Pedagogy (IPN)" (CAF/73/004 and CAF/77/001), UNDP and UNESCO have, since 1973, been providing assistance to the education sector with a view to the reform of the system. The government authorities reaffirmed their desire to promote a total reform of the educational system when they held the national seminar on education and training (March-April 1982). Pursuant to the recommendations made, an interdisciplinary UNESCO mission is scheduled to identify and formulate projects for implementation.

3. **Health**

**Maternal and child health - Family planning (CAF/83/001) (new)**

37. Since UNFPA assistance, which began in 1975, is drawing to a close, the Government has requested further assistance from UNDP in order to strengthen and expand health coverage for mothers and children, with a view to providing nation-wide primary health care. The project objectives are: (a) to reduce the mortality rate among infants and mothers and promote family welfare; (b) to expand communicable disease control (inoculation); (c) to strengthen birth-spacing programmes; (d) to introduce anti-sterility diagnostic and treatment programmes; (e) to train and retrain maternal and child health personnel and family planning workers.

**D. Intersectoral activities**

($977,000 programmed)

**Organization of a donors' round table (CAF/82/012) (ongoing)**

38. With a view to improving the co-ordination of all the development activities undertaken with the assistance of the international community and increasing the funds available to the country, the Government has requested UNDP assistance in organizing a conference of donors, which will probably be held towards the end of 1983. This project, partly financed from the special measures fund for the
least developed countries and from the project entitled "Organization of a donors' round table" (RAF/82/017), is consistent with the recommendations set forth in the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s, adopted at the September 1981 Paris Conference.

Programme support (CAF/82/009) (new)

39. The aim of this project is to enhance the effectiveness of UNDP's programme of co-operation with the Government. Support is being given to all the UNDP projects and programmes, with a view to facilitating project execution and helping national institutions which have difficulty in providing the necessary logistical support because of their very limited resources.

Fellowships, conferences, consultations (TCDC)

40. With a view to meeting training requirements and facilitating, when the time comes, the recruitment of consultants in areas to be identified later, the Government has requested the establishment of a certain IPF reserve. TCDC will be facilitated by the participation of nationals in conferences where experiences can be shared.
Annex

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. Resources

(a) IPF and other resources

(i) Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986 29 500 000

(ii) Less unprogrammed balance a/ (5 900 000)

(iii) Less authorized budget level for 1982 (3 858 000)

(iv) Previous IPF cycle balance (1 372 000)

Total resources available for programming 18 370 000

B. Use of resources

(a) Programmed

(i) Ongoing projects 4 083 000

(ii) New projects and new phases of ongoing projects included in the country programme 12 260 000

(iii) Earmarked for specific objectives and activities for which projects are to be worked out at a later stage 1 500 000

Subtotal 17 843 000

(b) Reserve 526 000

Total programmed plus reserve 18 370 000

a/ Representing 20 per cent of the illustrative IPF which has not been taken into account for programming.
### C. Financial distribution of programme, by sector

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<th>Sectoral earmarkings $</th>
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b/ According to ACC classification.