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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC*

<u>Programme period</u>	<u>Actual resources programmed</u>	\$
1987-1991	IPF for 1987-1991	20 618 000
	Third cycle IPF balance	(539 000)
	Other resources programmed	<u>2 200 000</u>
	Total	22 279 000

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* Detailed listings of projects and other related data prepared as part of the country programming exercise are available on request. These listings include (a) ongoing projects; (b) proposed projects; (c) distribution of resources by objective; (d) planned activities of operational funds and programmes under the authority of the Administrator; and (e) distribution of new country programme by sector.

I. DEVELOPMENT TRENDS, STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

A. Current economic trends

1. The late 1970s and early 1980s were a time of marked decline in the economy of the Central African Republic, which led to serious internal and external problems; a drop in the production of cash crops such as coffee and cotton; sluggish food-crop production while population increased; a disorganized transport system; and insignificant growth in gross domestic product (GDP), resulting in a decline in real per capita income.

2. Thanks to the Government's Recovery Plan for 1982-1985, there has been some improvement since late 1982, despite the drought of 1983-1984, which affected agricultural production, hydroelectric power generation and river transport in particular. The downward trend now seems to have been reversed: financial stability has been attained; the balance of payments has improved; the trunk-road network has been partially restored; and the economy is gradually picking up, offering the prospect of a return to positive per capita income growth such as was experienced in the 1960s.

3. The Government has embarked on a series of actions to encourage sustained economic growth in the short and medium terms. These actions are part of a structural adjustment strategy to be supported by a programme with World Bank funding under the terms of an agreement signed on 9 September 1986, which calls for a series of measures affecting economic management, the agricultural sector, the forestry sector, small and medium-sized businesses, the mining sector, the civil service and the semi-public sector. The aim of the structural adjustment strategy is to correct the situation inherited from the country's recent past by enhancing and improving governmental decision-making processes, increasing the volume and effectiveness of investments, increasing agricultural output and exports, and streamlining and improving the management of public utilities and finances by redefining the role of the State in the economy.

4. While it applies itself to making these adjustments, which are regarded as an essential first step, the Government also needs to address the permanent obstacles to the development of the country, which can be smoothed away only by long-term measures. These obstacles are:

(a) The land-locked situation of the country and the inaccessibility of certain inland regions, which raises import costs and makes exports less competitive;

(b) A small population (put at 2.3 million in mid-1985) scattered over a vast area (4.1 inhabitants per square kilometre), which poses problems with development that are aggravated by relatively high population growth (estimated at 2.6 per cent annually between 1980 and 1990), necessitating special efforts in the areas of health and education, and tending, in the current economic climate, to put a check on growth by reducing national savings;

(c) The limited domestic market afforded by a small population and low living standards (per capita income of approximately \$280 in 1983) makes industrialization difficult; the problem is compounded by the fact that it is virtually impossible to protect nascent industries against smuggled imports because the country's borders are long and easy to penetrate;

(d) Low income-levels account for the lack of available savings to invest for development purposes. Where savings do exist, the banking system can do little to mobilize them in what is hardly a money economy at all. In recent years, in fact, gross fixed capital formation has stood at no more than roughly 10 per cent of GDP and has come entirely from foreign aid, underscoring the country's dependent financial status;

(e) The economy is disjointed: on one side, there is the small, modern, export-oriented sector; on the other side, the population at large, still self-sufficient for the most part;

(f) The education and training system is ill-suited to the needs of the economy and cannot turn out the skilled men and women needed to develop the country;

(g) The bloated bureaucracy (accounting for 50 per cent of the country's wage-earners) is ill-prepared for the role it must play in promoting growth.

5. All these obstacles represent formidable challenges for the country. On the other hand, the Central African Republic has natural resources - arable land, forests and minerals - and considerable hydroelectric potential, which are largely untapped. Observers, notably the World Bank, share the Government's conviction that, given sound financial and economic policies - macro-economic and sectoral - as well as a nation-wide effort and the judicious use of technical and financial assistance, it would be possible to achieve in the medium term and to sustain a GDP growth rate of 4 per cent a year, which would represent a modest but real increase in per capita income (based on annual population growth of 2.6 per cent).

B. National development strategies

6. In view of the constraints mentioned above and the kind of development the Government wishes to promote, it has set a number of major targets for the period 1986-1990; these will appear in the development plan for the period, which will be published in late 1986.

7. The quantitative targets are:

(a) Average annual GDP growth on the order of 3 per cent in real terms over the period;

(b) Public investment equivalent to 15 per cent of GDP by the end of the period, with domestic resources accounting for a growing share. Investment over the period 1986-1990 will have to total 275 billion CFA francs if the 15 per cent target is to be met; 90 per cent of this total is expected to come from external funding;

(c) An even and constant balance of payments thanks to increased exports and lower amounts paid in fees to outside agents for international transport and insurance.

8. The principal aim of the structural reforms will be development with a regional focus and closer to the grass roots, reform in the civil service and education/training systems, and an increased role for the private sector as the State withdraws from certain production activities.
9. Central and sectoral planning capacity will be strengthened so as to improve economic management, ensure a better match between sectoral policies and programmes and the overall strategy, and rationalize the selection of public investments.
10. Improvements in the production system will result from the promotion of integrated rural development and from efforts to meet the general public's basic food, health and educational needs.
11. External relations will be developed with a view to strengthening co-operation with neighbouring countries in such areas as agriculture and live stock-breeding, and, on the other hand, drawing on foreign assistance for the financial and technical resources the economy must have for sustained development.

C. Technical co-operation priorities

12. According to data gathered every year by the Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangui, technical assistance outlays in recent years have amounted to roughly 30 per cent of all assistance received by the Republic, e.g., some 13 billion CFA francs in 1984. The United Nations system is the second largest supplier of such assistance. Education absorbs almost 40 per cent of the total; health care, 18 per cent; rural development, 12 per cent. Technical co-operation staff number around 500.
13. Requirements in coming years are likely to remain at the same order of magnitude, although no quantitative estimate is available pending the completion of a number of ongoing exercises, the results of which will be extremely important. They include the preparation of the Five-Year Plan for 1986-1990, one goal of which is civil service reform, both to cut back on surplus staff, whose salaries take up an excessive share of the budget, and to reorganize ministries which are too unwieldy and not efficient enough.
14. New manning tables being prepared for the key ministries will call for the abolition of many posts, precise descriptions of those that remain, and a description of the qualifications for employment. When this task is completed, it will be possible, through comparison with the qualifications of current staff, to determine what supplementary training is needed and, where necessary, what outside expertise must be obtained to make good any temporary shortfalls. This effort to deploy the available human resources more rationally will be accompanied by an increase in managerial and planning personnel and further training for operational staff.

15. During the preparations for the 1987 donors' round table, the need to programme technical co-operation requirements and priorities was found to be a matter of concern to the principal donor countries.

16. The Central African Republic is one of seven African countries where, at the Government's request, a NaTCAP (National Technical Co-operation Assessment and Programmes) exercise is taking place. The aim of this exercise is to analyse the ability of the administrative apparatus to put the national development programme into effect and establish qualitative human resources requirements, in particular for priority sectors. An initial report, prepared in July 1986, concentrated on the general issues relating to technical assistance in the country and on difficulties and shortcomings, and reviewed the situation in four strategic departments: the Ministry of Rural Development; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Public Administration, Vocational Training, Labour and Social Security; and the Ministry of Planning, Statistics and Economic and Financial Co-operation.

17. The assessment mission did not complete its work, but its initial report contains provisional observations and recommendations of great value for the fourth-cycle programming exercise; the proposals provide for highly pragmatic improvements in the management of national human resources, and outline criteria for the use of technical assistance, means of adapting it to requirements, and means of making training more effective. The mission was able to draw up an initial estimate of the expertise required in each of the four Ministries reviewed, and this has been taken into account in the selection of projects for the new programme proposal (see sect. II.B). Its suggestions should be kept in mind when the documentation for new projects is drafted. The conclusions of the NaTCAP mission should also be taken into account by the SAPAM (Special Action Programme for Administration and Management in Africa) mission, with a view to identifying one or more project proposals or other measures that could help to improve the use of national human resources in enhancing efficiency and productivity in selected institutions and ministries.

D. Aid co-ordination arrangements

18. The need for better co-ordination of aid provided to the Central African Republic, a need recognized by the Government as well as donors, has prompted them to assign UNDP a central role in co-ordination matters. Owing to the preparations for the 1987 round table, 1985 and 1986 will have been particularly busy years in this respect. All bilateral and multilateral donors attended the consultative meeting held in Bangui from 11 to 13 March 1986, and will attend the round table itself.

19. The project entitled "Support for planning activities" (CAF/85/002) is strengthening the Ministry of Planning, Statistics and Economic and Financial Co-operation, which is responsible for co-ordination on the Government side. A new project for the fourth cycle will be formulated in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the NaTCAP mission, whose terms of reference specifically include the question of co-ordinating technical assistance.

20. The preparation of the fourth country programme provided an opportunity for regular contacts between the Government, UNDP and other donors with representatives in Bangui. As co-ordinator of the operational activities of the United Nations system, UNDP has sought through its Bangui Office to improve the scheduling of the many missions dispatched by United Nations institutions, in order to smooth and ease the task of the local authorities receiving them.

II. THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

A. Assessment of previous country programme

21. The third country programme was reviewed at a meeting held in Bangui from 9 to 14 December 1985 under the chairmanship of the Minister of Planning, with the participation of the chief United Nations institutions and agencies operating in the Republic. For the third cycle, the country had an indicative planning figure (IPF) of \$16,157,000, distributed among four priority sectors: rural and community development, 48 per cent; strengthening of economic infrastructures, 22 per cent; human resources development, 25 per cent; and intersectoral activities, 5 per cent. During the execution of the programme, it was found necessary to reorient a small number of projects, and 10 new projects were added to the initial list, but overall cohesiveness was maintained. As at 30 September 1986, 109 per cent of the funds had been committed, the percentage breakdown being very similar to that indicated above. In other words, the programme displayed both continuity and flexibility.

22. The project implementation record was not one of unalloyed success, and some projects (Rural roads (CAF/83/008), Assistance for secondary and technical education (CAF/82/013)) ran into serious difficulties which prevented them from reaching their goals. The Government had problems with the quality and quantity of its counterpart contributions in terms of personnel, logistics and financial resources. The United Nations institutions and agencies, for their part, were not always able to send in experts quickly enough, and did not always provide adequately qualified candidates. Project documents sometimes left something to be desired in terms of the accuracy of the descriptions of various aspects of the projects concerned. Procurement also gives grounds for concern: the lengthy procedures involved often cause delays in project execution.

B. New programme proposal

23. During the fourth cycle, it is the Government's intention to direct UNDP assistance towards three objectives: institution-building, human resources development, and production support. Its selection of these objectives is justified by reference both to its own priorities and to the catalogue of technical assistance requirements resulting from such exercises as the NaTCAP mission. Institution-building falls under the top two priority categories (structural reform, and planning and management capacity), areas in which the NaTCAP report in particular has already provided an assessment of aid requirements.

24. The second objective meshes with the Government's top three priorities, since more effective institutional structures, a better managed economy and a revitalized productive system depend on the availability of enough high-quality, properly trained planning and operational staff, whether in the public, the private or the mixed-economy sector. The Government and observers alike recognize that the country is still suffering from a grave shortage of managerial and technical staff, and the NaTCAP report explicitly recognized the need for a considerable training effort. UNDP assistance will be directed towards advanced instruction and retraining for people already in employment. The conclusions of the NaTCAP mission, combined with the ministry manning tables now being drawn up by the Government in co-operation with UNDP and the World Bank, will be used to determine what kinds of retraining and advanced instruction are necessary to enhance the efficiency of the public and semi-public sectors. UNDP assistance will also provide support in the form of retraining for officials unable to remain in the civil service and expected by the Government to take up other careers.

25. The third objective ties in with the Government's remaining priorities, which are to improve the productive system and develop external relations, the latter to be achieved by increasing food exports to neighbouring countries. This is an objective which should yield very tangible results, improving nutritional standards among the population at large and increasing the quantities of produce available for the domestic market and for export.

26. The three objectives that have been identified for UNDP assistance are fairly general, but the projects proposed are sure to yield excellent results, given the other assistance available within the country. In accordance with the Governing Council's instructions, a special effort has been made to enhance the effectiveness of the proposed programme by concentrating on a small number of projects. With an IPF of \$16 million, a total of 38 projects were funded during the third cycle. With an appreciably higher IPF (\$20,618,000), only 30 projects are proposed for the fourth cycle. It should also be noted that the 15 projects now under way and due to continue beyond 31 December 1986 account for only \$4,983,000 of the IPF, significantly less than one third of programmed resources. A relatively high proportion of them will be completed by the very beginning of the fourth cycle. The six new projects account for a total of \$4,741,000 of IPF funds, to which should be added 9 projects included under the programmed reserve (\$7,981,500 of IPF funds).

Institution-building

Ongoing projects

Strengthening of the Agricultural Engineering Department and construction of rural roads (CAF/83/008)

27. It is imperative to repair and expand the rural road network (approximately 11,500 kilometres) in order to open up the interior of the country, develop agriculture and market agricultural produce intended for the domestic market or for export. This priority has long been recognized by the Government and also by many foreign institutions which provide considerable financial aid in this regard.

Under this project, UNDP is providing technical assistance to strengthen the Agricultural Engineering Department, more specifically its Official Rural Roads, and to enable it to draw up and carry out a programme for constructing and maintaining rural roads. The project is specifically designed to repair 500 kilometres of roads, with financing provided by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) (CAF/82/001), and to set up a road maintenance fund. The resources available under this IPF cover the services of experts, equipment, fellowships and on-site training courses. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$1,500,000 (total budget: \$1,945,000); the UNCDF budget is \$1.9 million.

Organization and development of the Agroclimatology and Hydrology Service of the National Meteorology Office (CAF/84/007)

28. The aim of the project is to strengthen the Agroclimatology and Hydrology Service, which has been attached for several years to the National Meteorology Office of the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation. Quite clearly, the purview of the Service goes far beyond the areas of competence of the Ministry of Transport (river and air navigation), and includes agriculture, hydroelectric power and public water supply. The agroclimatological and hydrological data are required by a very large number of users and are essential to many sectors which are at the centre of the Government's development strategy. The Agroclimatology and Hydrology Service will be strengthened through the training of specialists and the establishment of a more concentrated observation network, a service for processing, storing and disseminating data collected, and a maintenance and repair workshop for meteorological and hydrological instruments. UNDP provides the services of international experts, support personnel, training fellowships and equipment. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$165,000. (Total budget: \$619,000.)

Multisectoral assistance by the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) (CAF/85/001)

29. The aim of this project is to help the Government strengthen certain institutions by providing, through the United Nations Volunteers programme, qualified personnel in fields which have been given priority, until such time as the services of nationals are available. The project provides 14 volunteers: mathematics and science teachers, statisticians, mechanics and workshop managers. The recipients are the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Planning, Statistics and Economic and Financial Co-operation, the Ministry of Water and Forests and the Ministry of Mines and Geology. Since many of the volunteers come from the third world, there is an aspect of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) to the project. The UNV programme covers some of the project's costs. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$281,500 (total budget: \$395,000). The UNV programmed budget is \$160,000. (The contribution from the UNV programme to this project actually amounts to \$70,000. This has been supplemented by contributions from the UNV programme to various projects (often only one volunteer) which are too small to be considered separately - see para. 36.)

Support for planning activities (CAF/85/002)

30. The activities of the Ministry of Planning, Statistics and Economic and Financial Co-operation are essential in implementing the Government's structural adjustment and development policy and in making better use of foreign aid, since this Ministry in particular is the direct official partner of UNDP. In actual fact, it is encountering great difficulty in carrying out this second aspect of its responsibilities, because of the country's very limited human resources. Project CAF/85/002 is a programme-support project: for a limited period - coinciding with the UNDP programming exercises, the NatCAP mission, the preparation of the Plan, and arrangements for the round table - it is providing the Ministry of Planning with administrative and logistical support and arranging for adequate documentation and information services both for experts and consultants and for the Ministry's project headquarters, which is being set up with assistance from the World Bank. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$81,000 (Total budget: \$274,500).

Assistance in implementing the wildlife management programme in the Central African Republic (CAF/86/001)

31. In the sparsely populated areas of the north, east and south-west of the country, where there is limited agricultural potential, the exploitation of wildlife resources is one of the few regional-development assets. By making rational use of such resources, it is possible at the same time to produce game meat as a way of improving nutrition, promote tourism through recreational hunting, and protect certain species subjected to widespread poaching. The aim of this project is to enhance the ability of the State to draw up and implement a wildlife management programme in order to increase the income of local inhabitants and, at the same time, State revenue. The project is part of the Bamingui-Bangoran integrated rural development process, and its contribution should be viewed in connection with similar measures concerning wildlife carried out by the Government with the assistance, *inter alia*, of the European Economic Community (EEC). The UNDP contribution finances the services of international experts, training and a small amount of equipment and materials. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$248,000. (Total budget: \$390,000.)

Survey activities and preparation of a master plan for village water-supply systems (CAF/86/003)

32. Village water-supply systems are a key element in satisfying the needs of rural communities (which account for 90 per cent of the population), both with regard to human consumption and with regard to stock-breeding and, to a certain extent, agriculture. Approximately 50 billion CFA francs will have to be invested between now and the year 2000 for drilling village wells. Since this is a considerable amount of money, careful programming is warranted. The National Water and Sanitation Committee, under the supervision of the Ministry of Planning, is responsible for the water strategy and policy. Its four divisions are for the most part adequately staffed, but lack specialists in a small number of fields. Under the project, four fellowships are being offered to four of the nation's officials, and the services of five consultants are being provided. The result expected by mid-1989 is a master plan for village water-supply systems which will determine the

priority areas for drilling and list all the drilling projects to be carried out, with due regard for geological characteristics, costs and yields. This plan will be the basic document and will serve to attract investors to this sector, which is crucial for the welfare of the rural population and for rural development itself. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$262,000. (Total budget: \$364,000.)

Follow-up and co-ordination of the structural adjustment programme (CAF/86/007)

33. In September 1986, the Government concluded an agreement with the World Bank on a structural adjustment programme, whose objectives are briefly summarized in paragraph 3. In order to ensure the smooth implementation of this programme, the Government has set up an interministerial follow-up committee, which is headed by the Minister of Planning and has a technical secretariat directed by a co-ordinator. The committee is supposed to co-ordinate programme-related activities, prepare quarterly progress reports, ensure that the work schedule is observed and, if necessary, propose corrective measures. This project lays the necessary foundation for the launching of the technical secretariat by furnishing the services of a national co-ordinator, an administrative support structure, and office equipment and supplies. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$22,000. (Total budget: \$44,500.)

New projects

Assistance in conducting a general population census (CAF/86/015)

34. The Government and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) have concluded an agreement (project CAF/85/PO3) to conduct a general population census in 1988 in order to have reliable and up-to-date demographic data. The UNFPA contribution (\$803,000) basically covers the cost of international project-management staff, but does not finance local-personnel costs or building repairs. Under project CAF/86/015, UNDP will assume some of the costs of local temporary staff (cartographers, census-takers and codifiers) and of repairs to the building made available by the Government to the Central Census Office. This contribution complements the considerable financial commitment made by the Government. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$561,000.

Establishment of a permanent agricultural statistics system (CAF/86/017)

35. The project entitled "National agricultural census" (CAF/84/002) (described below) is making it possible to conduct a general agricultural census, which in principle is carried out every 10 years. Between such censuses, it is necessary to collect, analyse and publish certain circumstantial data, such as those relating to output, surface area and prices, conduct specific surveys and set up an early-warning and harvest-forecast system. To carry out these tasks, the Statistical Service of the Ministry of Rural Development will have to be strengthened in accordance with the recommendations of the NaTCAP report. The new project (CAF/86/017) will provide a statistical expert, consulting statisticians, funds for on-site training 12 man-months of fellowships and equipment. As a result of the project, it is expected that each year planners and decision-makers will have at their disposal reliable data on the development of the agricultural sector, which is the Government's top priority. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$820,000.

Maternal and child health - Family planning (CAF/86/019)

36. The situation in the Central African Republic, as in many other African States, is characterized by rapid population growth. The Government decided that mother and child health care and family planning would constitute a priority objective in the Five-Year Plan for 1986-1991. It will receive, as indicated above, considerable assistance from the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in improving the nutrition of vulnerable groups (pregnant or nursing women, infants) and combating the diseases which affect them. The immediate objectives of UNFPA project CAF/82/PO2, which has a budget of \$720,000, are the administrative and technical strengthening of the National Department of Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning, the expansion of the health network providing maternal health care (after the consolidation of the existing infrastructure) and the improvement of maternal health care coverage through, *inter alia*, an education system for dealing with emergency maternity cases. In the third cycle, UNDP financed the project entitled "Maternal and child health - Family planning" (CAF/83/001), which ceased to be operational at the beginning of 1985. The contribution for the fourth cycle will be determined in the near future, in the light of the final shape of the UNFPA project. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$695,000.

Support for planning activities (CAF/86/013)

37. Better planning is one of the objectives of the Five-Year Plan. It is taken into account in the World Bank's structural adjustment programme and in the NatCAP report, which points out the need for technical assistance in this area. Such technical assistance would be provided not only to the Ministry of Planning, Statistics and Economic and Financial Co-operation, but also to the principal technical ministries, in order to strengthen their planning units and make them qualified counterparts of the Ministry of Planning. The anticipated project cannot be usefully defined until the NatCAP exercise has ended and specific preliminary recommendations have been made; until new manning tables have been prepared by the ministries concerned, which will make it easier to pin-point qualitative and quantitative needs; and until the Ministry of Planning team has drawn its conclusions, in a few months' time from preparation of the plan and has examined the problems of implementation and follow-up. A mission to formulate the new project may be organized towards the end of 1986. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$1,250,000.

Linkages

38. UNCDF has committed \$1.9 million under the project entitled "Strengthening of the Agricultural Engineering Department" (CAF/83/008). The UNV programme is providing co-financing of up to \$70,000 for the multisectoral assistance project (CAF/85/001), and is co-operating in several projects, often by donating a single volunteer, at a total cost of \$160,000. UNFPA is financing the general population census project concurrently with the UNDP project in the same area. UNICEF is providing funds for the drilling of village wells, as an extension of project CAF/86/003 and as a means of achieving its objectives in the field. It has contributed \$0.8 million to this project, and will contribute \$1.6 million to the

maternal and child health project (CAF/83/001). WFP, for its part, will contribute \$5 million, or approximately 40 per cent of its resources, towards achieving the objectives of the UNDP and UNICEF projects. Moreover, a link has been established between the projects in the UNDP programme and the World Bank's structural adjustment programme, particularly as regards projects CAF/85/002 and CAF/86/007. For the wildlife project (CAF/86/001), substantial financing is being provided by EEC for a programme to build more than 2,000 kilometres of roads inside the areas concerned.

Programmed reserve

39. Pending the outcome of administrative reforms now under way, and the results of the NatCAP exercise and the round-table conference planned for early 1987, \$850,000 has been placed in the programmed reserve.

Human resources development

Ongoing projects

Pilot training (CAF/85/005)

40. Civil aviation can play a vital role in opening up the country by establishing trade links with neighbouring countries and among the various towns of the Central African Republic. The Government is in the process of restructuring the national airline, and has recognized that two pilots must be trained in connection with plans to expand services. The project was approved with this goal in mind and is expected to provide appropriate training resources, specifically two 24-month fellowships. However, since the candidates selected were not accepted by the Multinational Centre for Training in Civil Aviation (UNDP regional project) operating in Gabon, the emphasis of the project has been shifted to basic and advanced training of aircraft mechanics, another priority need. The Multinational Centre will therefore train the mechanics in the maintenance of the existing fleet. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$105,000. (Total budget: \$138,000.)

Retraining of chief labour supervisors (CAF/86/016)

41. In the medium term, the Ministry of Public Administration, Vocational Training, Labour and Social Security is expected to play a leading role in the promotion and firm establishment of social peace under the Government's new economic policy. Since this Ministry does not have qualified human resources to assume this new role, the purpose of the project will be to retrain approximately 10 chief labour supervisors, who at the end of an 18-month advanced training course at the Bangui Centre for Advanced Training of Administrative Personnel, will become Assistant Labour Inspectors. They will be responsible for implementing the new social policy, so vital to the success of the various economic adjustment programmes. The UNDP contribution will cover the fees of local instructors, training expenses and teaching materials. Officials of the International Labour Office will provide a consultant supervisor service. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$25,000. (Total budget: \$35,000.)

Accelerated training of secondary-school science and technology teachers
(CAF/85/003)

42. Despite government initiatives, the teacher shortage remains serious. The Teacher Training College has difficulty in turning out five to seven science and technology teachers a year, which is far from satisfactory. As there is no room in the budget to create the necessary posts, the Ministry of Education has taken to training practising teachers who, upon being selected, take a one-year refresher course, followed by a one-year practicum. With the aid of 27 United Nations volunteers, this project will train 80 science and technology teachers in three years for the second basic cycle of the secondary-school curriculum. It is providing funds for the services of a consultant and the 27 volunteers, and for miscellaneous allowances. The contribution from the UNV programme is being put towards the so-called external expenses. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$846,000. (Total budget: \$1,446,000.) The UNV programme budget is \$140,000.

New projects

Multidisciplinary training (CAF/86/021)

43. A proposal has been made for an umbrella training project under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Administration, Vocational Training, Labour and Social Security. An International Labour Office multidisciplinary mission on sectoral programming in training/employment, which spent February and March 1986 in Bangui, mentioned in its report that the training now offered in the country generally cannot accommodate the real number of job-seekers. There is no system for analysing the demand for jobs; collaboration between training institutes and users of trained personnel is insufficient; and not enough attention is paid to the private sector and to the informal sector. Under the project, it might be possible to consider improvements to the existing training system with a view to rationalizing it and adapting it to current needs and available financial resources. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$625,000.

Assistance in rehabilitating the Centre for Vocational Training and Retraining in Telecommunications (CAF/86/009)

44. The national telecommunications master plan has identified ways to develop and modernize the country's telecommunications network: new telephone exchanges, electronic switch-gear, satellite transmission and the use of solar energy. Commitments have already been made to invest in this modernization effort, which, at the same time, calls for more competent and more skilled technical personnel if quality service is to be provided, and equipment maintained regularly. The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications believed that in order to have such personnel available, it must rehabilitate the old National Postal and Telecommunications School and turn it into a multi-purpose centre for training and retraining. In a two-year advanced training course, the project would retrain technicians already employed by the telecommunications services to use new techniques for the operation and maintenance of the equipment the Government is installing in an effort to modernize the telecommunications network. The proposed project should help to define and implement a methodology for improving and

developing retraining activities in various specialized areas. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$580,000.

Support for vocational training and management of enterprises (CAF/86/010)

45. The project entitled "Basic and advanced training in management" (CAF/82/011), whose main purpose was to satisfy the demand for economic managers as soon as possible, has only partially succeeded, having concentrated on advanced training programmes for accountants. Implementation of the Government's new economic policy, however, will require a large number of sufficiently qualified economic managers. It has been suggested that this project should focus on the advanced training of managers of enterprises (in the private, public or semi-public sector) in very specific areas: accounting, data processing, personnel management and management of supplies and stocks. This advanced training programme will rely on a local network of free-lances, and the input of one international expert, three international consultants and three United Nations volunteers. As a result of ideas discussed during the International Labour Office multidisciplinary mission on training/employment in March 1986, the Office was invited to submit proposals for restructuring the National Intervocational Office for Vocational Training. The project will be carried out within the National Intervocational Office for Basic and Advanced Training, which will be strengthened. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$900,000.

Advanced training, retraining and agriculture extension services (CAF/86/012)

46. Under the government strategy, agriculture must be the driving force behind economic growth on the basis of increased income from a sector which provides 60 per cent of the nation's jobs. The structural adjustment programme is aimed, inter alia, at reorienting activities to make them more cost-effective and to focus them on three essential areas: coffee, cotton and foodstuffs. This effort will be supported by fundamental institutional reforms to provide the right instruments for the policy pursued. One such instrument will certainly be the availability of the desired qualified personnel, essentially the operatives who will have to be trained. Advanced training/retraining of rural development workers already on assignment under this project will be strengthened by assistance in the area of extension services for farmers with respect to new techniques. As part of this project, for which preparatory assistance has been requested, an attempt will be made to analyse needs and examine ways to meet them, taking into account the institutional framework to be established. A training plan consistent with the overall policy the Government intends to apply in the agricultural sector will be proposed. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$1.7 million.

Linkages

47. WFP is contributing a total of \$3.5 million for human resources development. The UNV programme is providing \$140,000 for the project entitled "Accelerated training of secondary-school science and technology teachers" (CAF/85/003).

Programmed reserve

48. The Government is engaged in dialogue with its major financial partners in order to determine the most cost-effective arrangements for the Ouaka sugar complex now under construction. As yet, there is no final estimate of the manpower needed for the complex. A consultant has recommended a plan for hiring and training nationals. The authorities of the Central African Republic plan to enlist UNDP co-operation later on, in order to meet the goals of their sugar-production training project. It is also quite possible that the NaTCAP exercise and the administrative reforms will bring out additional and urgent personnel training and retraining needs. A programmed reserve of \$810,000 has been allocated, pending specification of such training needs.

Production support

Ongoing projects

Development of the Pedological and Soil Conservation Service (CAF/82/007)

49. The role of the Pedological and Soil Conservation Service is to provide essential pedological information to land development bodies. It contributes directly to the country's agricultural development, a priority government objective. Upon completion of this project in mid-1987, it will have attained its goal of making the Pedological and Soil Conservation Service a fully operational modern tool through:

- (a) A new mandate, enabling it to serve as a government agency but also to provide services to users for a fee;
- (b) A new building for the laboratory and services;
- (c) Provision of pedological maps;
- (d) Acquisition of new methods of photo-interpretation as applied to soil studies;
- (e) Better qualified local staff.

The project offers expert and consultant services, fellowships to Europe and Africa, cross-country vehicles and cartographic material. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$305,000. (Total budget: \$979,000.)

Seed production and distribution (CAF/83/004)

50. In its 1982-1985 Programme of Action, as in its 1986-1990 Five-Year Plan, the Government has attached importance to the resumption of food-crop production in order to meet the basic needs of the population, export foodstuffs to neighbouring countries and supply small-scale agro-industrial establishments. There are many techniques for increasing food-crop production, one of the most reliable and most economical being the distribution of selected and tested seeds in order to increase

crop yields by 15 to 50 per cent, as demonstrated by past research and experiments, conducted partially with UNDP assistance, on ground-nuts, maize, rice and sorghum. Under this project, basic and high-grade seeds for the four above-mentioned crops would be produced on seed-propagation farms and by farmers on a contractual basis, in order to meet approximately one third of the country's needs. It would also provide for the storage and plant-health control of the seeds produced, and for seed distribution in rural areas by public, semi-public and private bodies. A national seed-control service will be established, together with a national plan to co-ordinate all seed projects. Local managers and technicians must be trained to direct and strengthen the agencies. The project is providing an expert, specialized consultants, United Nations volunteers, technicians for the Bambari-Grimari propagation and control stations, assistance in the construction of a seed-preparation unit, 10 fellowships for study abroad, and on-site training. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$572,000. (Total budget: \$1,243,000.)

Agricultural census (CAF/84/002)

51. Despite the importance attached to rural development and food self-sufficiency, very little is known about the agricultural sector, as the only available information dates back to the agricultural census taken in 1972-1973. In order to update information vital to the elaboration of an enlightened policy, an agricultural census of the structures themselves is conducted every 10 years. Under project CAF/84/002, such a census was taken in January-February 1986, following a pilot survey conducted in August-September 1984. The census results, to be published in April-May 1987, will be a source of reliable statistics, providing a comprehensive inventory of human resources, land, inputs, materials and means of production in the agricultural sector. The training component of the project has also led to an upgrading of the Agricultural Statistics Service, which should have a positive effect on the quality of current agricultural statistics regarding, for example, production, prices and marketing. The project is providing a statistician, a data-processing consultant, survey staff, facilities for processing results by computer, and training seminars, along with survey supplies and cross-country vehicles. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$118,000. (Total budget: \$559,000.)

Promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Central African Republic (CAF/84/004)

52. The Five-Year Plan reaffirms the Government's commitment to continue restricting the areas of State intervention by giving freer rein to the private sector. Implementation of that policy calls for the development and promotion of the country's enterprises - in particular, small and medium-sized enterprises - which come within the purview of the High Commission for the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and the cottage industry, which is responsible to the Office of the President of the Republic, and the Centre for Assistance to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and the Cottage Industry, which is administered almost like a private enterprise. This project has benefited from preparatory assistance and a long gestation period which has made it possible to ensure co-ordination with the activities planned in that area with financing from the World Bank - that is, the creation of a macro-economic framework and the generation of investments. The

aim of the project is to promote new activities, broaden the range of activities and improve the management, or the organization of production, at about 100 small and medium-sized enterprises. It provides for the training of teams of national advisers of the High Commission, the Centre, the Chamber of Commerce and the banks. It will involve a study of the legal and sociological environment with a view to revising legislation in a way which would promote small and medium-sized enterprises. The project is providing international and national expertise, fellowships and study tours, as well as office supplies and means of transport. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$726,000. (Total budget: \$951,000.)

Development of small-scale fish culture (CAF/85/004)

53. Until December 1985, UNDP had contributed to the strengthening of the Fish Culture Service and the National Fish Culture Centre as part of the Government's efforts - always of a priority nature - to improve nutritional standards by providing more protein, and to increase financial resources by marketing some of the fish. Until that time, attention had been concentrated on family fish culture. This project marks a movement to the stage of small-scale fish culture, in ponds covering 3 to 10 acres, through the application of considerably more productive methods to be provided by extension services, through a fish culture credit system and through commercial exploitation aimed at supplying urban markets. At the outset, those operations will affect about 250 small-scale fish-breeders and will be of an experimental nature, making it possible to test the credit system and assess the benefits and profitability of broader activities. The project, which is being executed directly by the Government, is providing services of consultants in the fields of management, credit and fish-culture techniques; administrative support; facilities for on-site training; and means of transportation for extension workers. Those contributions are being made available to the National Fish Culture Centre, which also receives assistance from UNICEF, the European Development Fund (EDF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Peace Corps. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$221,000. (Total budget: \$346,500.)

New projects

Technical support for the village water-supply programme (CAF/86/004)

54. The National Water and Sanitation Committee, which receives support under project CAF/86/003, is responsible for strategy and policy, while the State Secretariat for Water Resources plays a technical role in physically establishing and following up projects directly in the field. The 1986-1990 Five-Year Plan provides for some 2,000 village drilling projects, with financing from UNICEF, the Central African States Development Bank/Central African Society for Agricultural Development, the Agency for Technical Co-operation of the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and Scandinavian non-governmental organizations. The State Secretariat for Water Resources must therefore accelerate its drilling programme, even though it does not have at its disposal the required number of technicians. The aim of this project is to help fill that gap with two international experts as well as United Nations volunteers, who will provide assistance in the ground-plan studies and in monitoring borehole yields; however, their main task will be to

train about 25 drilling mechanics and 10 hydrogeologists/geophysicists. The training will be provided at Bangui and in the field. Sixty-four man-months of fellowships will be offered for the training of several engineers and senior technicians at the Ouagadougou Inter-State School. The project will also provide some on-site training materials and geophysical field equipment. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$1.6 million.

Plant protection (CAF/86/018)

55. The war against diseases and destroyers of crops and harvested products plays an important role in the effort to achieve the goal of food self-sufficiency and increase the productivity of small farmers. It involves the application of measures in the field, as well as the supervision and control of plant health. This project is aimed at protecting plants before harvest and provides the necessary technical assistance for creating national plant-protection mechanisms available to the small farmer, with a view to establishing effective plant-health control and setting up a crop-protection and quarantine laboratory. The fourth-cycle IPF budget is \$830,000.

Linkages

56. WFP contributes \$4 million for production-support activities, and UNICEF contributes \$0.6 million. USAID is involved with the protection of plants after harvest, and the Peace Corps is engaged in family and small-scale fish culture, as well as small-scale village bee-keeping projects. Aid from the Federal Republic of Germany has a village water supply component (drilling) and agricultural micro-projects of the community-development type.

Programmed reserve

57. Considering the high priority given to increasing the production and self-sufficiency of the rural population, an allocation of \$1.5 million is reserved for the programme of activities involving village co-operative leagues as well as community activities. UNCDF is seeking to identify a series of projects which would be closely linked and would complement the projects provided for in the IPF reserve.

C. Unprogrammed reserve

58. The unprogrammed reserve amounts to \$2,375,000.

Annex

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

I. ACTUAL RESOURCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROGRAMMING

A. UNDP-administered sources

	\$	\$
Third-cycle IPF balance	(539 000)	
Fourth-cycle IPF	20 618 000	
Subtotal IPF		20 079 000
Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries	-	
Special programme resources	-	
Government cost-sharing	-	
Third-party cost-sharing	-	
Operational funds under the authority of the Administrator	2 200 000	
UNDP special trust funds	-	
Subtotal, UNDP non-IPF funds	<u> -</u>	<u>2 200 000</u>

B. Other sources

Funds from other United Nations agencies or organizations firmly committed as a result of the country programme exercise	-	
Parallel financing from non-United Nations sources	-	
Subtotal, other sources		<u> -</u>
TOTAL ACTUAL RESOURCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROGRAMMING		<u><u>22 279 000</u></u>

II. USE OF RESOURCES

Ongoing projects	7 183 000	
New project proposals	9 561 000	
Programmed reserve	3 160 000	
Subtotal, programmed resources		<u>19 904 000</u>
Unprogrammed reserve		<u>2 375 000</u>
TOTAL USE OF RESOURCES		<u><u>22 279 000</u></u>

