

The OACPS Research and Innovation Programme: Advancing the R&I landscape in Central Africa

The OACPS R&I Programme works in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries through the ACP Innovation Fund (IF) - for R&I capacity building, research uptake and policy advocacy, and the Policy Support Facility (PSF) - to enhance R&I policies and ecosystems



240 actors of the aromatic and medicinal plant sector trained in digital technologies, resulting in **30 new jobs**



100 representatives from **40 institutions** committed to supporting the development of a R&I strategy



165 innovations supported through patenting and/or commercialisation, fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship



7 Fab Labs to support innovation in digital manufacturing, waste management and sustainable development



300+ households benefited from commercialisation projects, improving livelihoods and strengthening economic resilience



500+ people trained in 3D modelling, 3D printing and electrical circuit prototyping



3 hubs for waste valorisation and entrepreneurship, engaging over **2,000 young people** and **300 women** in sustainable economic activities



40 scientific publications on sustainable materials, climate change, biodiversity conservation and valorisation of local resources



46 traditional knowledge practices related to climate change mitigation/adaptation documented, integrating indigenous knowledge into modern research frameworks



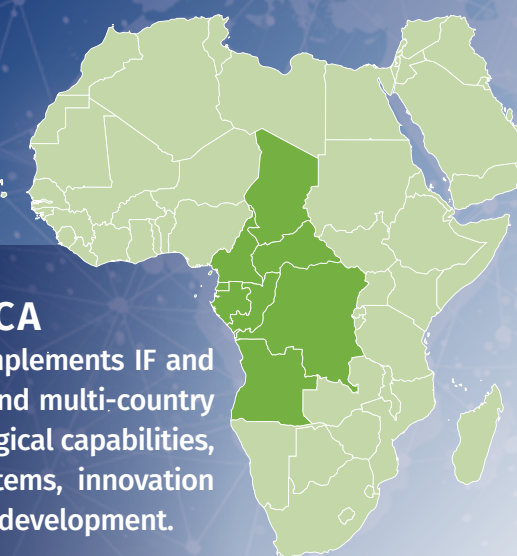
67 patent applications filed in various sectors, including agriculture, energy, agri-food, health and well-being



71,000 students trained in R&I and environmental technologies



164 teachers trained to use digital libraries and online teaching platforms



CENTRAL AFRICA

OACPS R&I Programme implements IF and PSF at country, regional and multi-country level to enhance technological capabilities, R&I policies, R&I ecosystems, innovation potential and sustainable development.



In Central Africa, **IF** finances two Projects:

Deployment of environmental technologies and innovations for sustainable development and poverty reduction ([PDTIE](#)) and **Promotion of Research, Innovation and Digital Culture in Central Africa ([PRICNAC](#))**



PDTIE

2021 – 2025

- ▶ **Implemented by:** Francophonie Institute for Sustainable Development ([IFDD](#)), Engineers Without Borders Cameroon ([ISF](#)), Entrepreneurship Development Educational Network in Africa ([EDEN](#)) and [University of Kongo](#).
- ▶ **Objective:** Creating an inclusive R&I environment in Cameroon and the DRC to support sustainable development. The project provides training and resources, and promotes scientific and technical innovations tailored to local needs, thereby increasing access to green technologies and enhancing the capacities of researchers and innovators.
- ▶ **Selection of Outputs:**
 - [State of R&I for Sustainable Development in Cameroon and the DRC](#) (French only)
 - [Annual Magazine 2022 Vol.1](#), [Annual Magazine 2023 Vol.2](#), [Annual Magazine 2024 Vol.3](#) (French only)
 - **30 in-person training sessions on R&I and ecological practices benefiting 1,273 participants**
 - **75 online training modules on environmental careers and technologies**
 - **71,000 students trained, including more than 8,000 from the two target countries**
 - **2 hybrid fairs on environmental science, technology and innovation planned in Kinshasa and Yaoundé**
 - **Effective scaling in the 6 Congo Basin countries (Cameroon, Congo, CAR, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, DRC)**

► PDTIE-financed projects

Country	Projects	Achievements
Cameroon	PDEMOPTRACCA	16 innovations incubated (in the agri-food sector), 350 innovative researchers , 15 technicians and 9 young innovators trained in R&I in the agri-food sector and financing mobilisation
	Fab Lab Polytech	1 Fab Lab , 394 students trained (prototyping, 3D printing), 10 pico-turbine prototypes developed and 1 rotor manufactured, 1 start-up incubated, 1 award won at the Wood and Furniture Forum
	PEPITA-UN	25 agro-industrial process micro-projects supported, 2 innovations patented, 30 patent applications filed with OAPI, 17 business models tested and validated, 3 start-up projects initiated, 10 scientific articles
	APAFReP	9 innovations in the process of being patented, 6 scientific articles , 26 researchers trained in research project development, 55 farmers trained in the use of innovations
	Innovations for eco-friendly constructions	17 innovators (5 women) supported in sustainable construction, 12 scientific articles , 7 patent applications and 10 industrial design protections filed with OAPI, 2 start-ups established, 6 new types of eco-friendly materials developed, 1 innovative road stabilisation process implemented, 1 thermal energy transfer software developed, 3 new prototypes of machines for sustainable construction manufactured, 500 people trained in the valorisation of innovations in sustainable construction
DRC	Fab Lab EcoWaste	1 Fab Lab on eco-friendly waste management, 10 innovations in waste management and valorisation in the testing phase, 121 young people trained, 2 partnership agreements to strengthen synergy with stakeholders in the digital ecosystem
	Waste valorisation	15 innovations in waste valorisation at the prototyping stage, 212 young people trained in project development
	CRITESS	Over 300 households involved in projects to commercialise their products, 13 innovations supported and 10 innovators certified in pharmacy, 1 market authorisation (antimalarial), 9 scientific articles , and 1 regional study on larvicidal and repellent plants
	PI-RAM	16 green technological innovations , 10 new doctors in pharmacy, 4 scientific articles , 1 national survey on antioxidant practices, over 2,000 people involved
	Plant Valorisation	15 innovations supported for the valorisation of plant properties: 3 cosmetics , 3 biological insecticides , 6 pharmaceutical products , 1 water purification , 1 food seasoning

Cameroon, DRC	<u>Studies on the private sector</u>	2 national studies on the private sector in sustainable development conducted in collaboration with the research center of the “Université Autre Son d’Afrique”
	<u>PROVID2</u>	9 videos, 60 posters, 5 podcasts broadcasted by community radios, 1 catalog to promote innovations supported by other third-party projects
	<u>Financial Capacity Assessment</u>	Analytical study on the productive ecosystem of the two countries, conducive to investments in innovators (3 reports, 2 training seminars, and 3 scientific publications forthcoming)
	<u>Messages for Sustainable Development</u>	Television and radio programmes to promote R&I results, 11 videos on innovations, 400 high-quality photos taken, and 1 documentary produced
	<u>Study on local knowledge and gender equality</u>	Studies on local knowledge regarding climate change and biodiversity conservation, 6 posters on women’s involvement, agricultural practices, and forest product collection, 2 scientific articles on traditional lifestyles and agriculture



[PRICNAC](#)

► **Implemented by:** Francophone University Agency ([AUF](#)), African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education ([CAMES](#)), Association of African Universities ([AAU](#)), Network of Experts in Training Engineering of Central Africa and the Great Lakes ([REIFAC](#)) and the Observatory of European Union - Latin America Relations ([OBREAL Global Observatory](#)).

► **Objectives:** Improving economic productivity and sustainable development by better aligning educational programmes with labour market needs, strengthening digital skills, and fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors. The project aims to establish a strong R&I ecosystem through training, digital transformation, and multi-stakeholder partnerships across the region.

► **Selection of Outputs:**

- The [PRICNAC network](#) for the promotion of R&I in Central Africa
- [INNOV'MAG](#), an information magazine on news related to R&I and entrepreneurship in Central Africa

► PRICNAC-financed projects

Country	Projects	Achievements
Cameroon	OpenGovLoc	1 national study to identify development niches for local e-governance, 65 young people and 12 municipal communication officers trained in the use of digital tools to participate in local policy development
	I3DE	5 mini-Fab Labs for 3D printing installed in secondary and technical schools, 1 digital sharing platform , 55 teachers trained in 3D modelling and printing
	INFORM'ALL- CITY	1 digital platform and application for street vendors to register online, pay municipal taxes, conduct sales, and receive online training, with 300 women trained
Cameroon, Central African Republic	EUPER	2 new techniques for producing sustainable materials and 1 for road construction under development, 1 prototype of an energy-efficient and low-pollution household oven, 4 scientific publications submitted
Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad	REFUS-Carbone	Expected: 2 skills development models tested and validated, 3 methods aimed at improving inclusion in the workplace, 3 innovations for better policies and entrepreneurial practices for vulnerable women
Cameroon, Chad	CLINAC	Expected: 1 digital platform for connecting actors in the sciencepreneurial ecosystem, 4 agro-industrial innovation hubs , 3,000 actors from the agro-industrial research and innovation ecosystem trained
	E-entrepreneuses	Expected: 1 digital platform for e-learning, e-commerce, and networking for women entrepreneurs, 200 women entrepreneurs trained in using the platform
Cameroon, Chad, DRC	PDEAI	Expected: 4 prototypes of smart agricultural equipment (remotely programmable stove, smart mill, optical sorter, smart farming system), 3 patent applications for innovations

Cameroon, Congo, Gabon	SYNERIME	30 patent applications filed (agriculture, energy, agri-food, health, well-being) and submitted to OAPI, 24 innovative solutions adopted by companies, 3 student-researcher-entrepreneur forums organised, 1 guide on the valorisation of innovations and inventions in Central Africa , 120 young researchers/innovators supported and trained in the production of innovative solutions
Cameroon, DRC	Le réseau-FAB	2 physical innovation hubs and 1 digital innovation hub , over 2,000 young people made aware of entrepreneurship, 18 young entrepreneurs supported, 37 certification training programmes (mobility, energy, waste management, water, etc.) for 759 young people , 3 demonstration days and 3 business meetings
	HubNAFEVAD	Expected: 2 hubs (Fab Lab) for waste valorisation based on new digital technologies for women, 6 inventions and prototypes, 2 start-ups created by women
	ProDIDeDZR	Expected: 10 agricultural innovations adapted to the needs of rural populations, 3 experimental fields for cultivating agricultural innovations (biochar and biopesticides)
Cameroon, São Tomé and Príncipe	FLASH	1 directory of actors in the aromatic and medicinal plant sector, with 240 actors trained in digital technologies and 30 jobs (50% women) created in the sector, 4 professional associations created, 7 scientific articles , 10 product brands registered with OAPI
DRC	RSTPAC	1 study on traditional knowledge of local communities favourable to mitigating/adapting to the effects of climate change, 46 pieces of traditional knowledge identified, 10 farmers associations supported in using this traditional knowledge benefiting more than 2,000 people , 6 community radios and 10 traditional radios mobilised to disseminate this knowledge, with 50 journalists involved
	PRITP	Expected: 46 pieces of local knowledge from women vegetable farmers favourable to the preservation and processing of tomatoes and chili peppers into powder identified, with 1 value chain for preservation and processing developed by 200 women vegetable farmers
	RAQF	2 digital libraries (including more than 4,000 digital resources) and 2 online educational platforms (with over 600 courses) in the cities of Bukavu and Goma, 164 teachers trained to use these tools
	Entreprenariat vert	Expected: 10 young people trained in green entrepreneurship

In Central Africa, the [PSF](#) has delivered 3 Services at national and multi-country level

PSF at national level

[Cameroun \(June – November 2022\)](#)

Assisted the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation ([MINRESI](#)) in developing the first **national R&I strategy**

Expected achievements: Establishment of a new ‘special status for researchers’ (decree 2023/337), validation of the national R&I strategy, creation of a national fund and a specific financial scheme for R&I.

► More than **100** national **representatives** from over **50 institutions** committed to supporting the development of the R&I strategy

Products

- [Country Background Report](#)
- [Policy Recommendations Report](#)

PSF at multi-country level

[Mutual Learning Exercise on National R&I Funds \(February – October 2024\)](#)

[Facilitated R&I fund knowledge exchange in West Africa](#)

► **30 policymakers** from **17 countries**, including Cameroon, trained in establishing national funds for R&I

Outputs

Handbook on R&I Fund development
(*In preparation*)

[Mutual Learning Exercise on R&I Policies and Strategies \(February – September 2023\)](#)

[Collaborative initiative on effective R&I policy development and execution](#)

► **45 policymakers** from **15 countries**, including Cameroon, trained in R&I policies and strategies

Outputs

[OACPS Handbook on R&I Policy](#)