



# **UNOCA Climate, Peace and Security (CPS) Strategy**

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## 1. Context

Climate change is increasingly acting as a risk multiplier in Central Africa, intensifying existing challenges and heightening instability and communal violence. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather events worsen competition over scarce resources like land and water, fueling tensions, especially between farmers and pastoralists. Climate-induced displacement and declining agricultural productivity further undermine food security and livelihoods, pushing vulnerable groups (e.g., women, youth, etc.) toward negative coping strategies, including recruitment into armed groups. The region's limited capacity to anticipate and manage these climate risks increases the likelihood of armed violence at community-level, and social unrest and political instability.

Against this backdrop, UNOCA plays a vital role in integrating climate considerations and solutions into peace and security efforts across the region. Its renewed mandate for 2024-2027 (S/2024/649) rests on four core pillars: 1- Monitor political and security developments in Central Africa and carry out good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General in order to prevent and resolve conflicts, to help sustain peace; 2- Enhance subregional capacities for conflict prevention and mediation in countries of the subregion, with due attention to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including human rights and gender dimensions; 3- Support and enhance United Nations efforts in the subregion, as well as regional and subregional initiatives on peace and security, including from human rights and gender perspectives; and 4- Enhance coherence and coordination in the work of the United Nations in the subregion on peace and security.

In its Presidential Statement of 1 November 2024 (S/PRST/2024/7), the UN Security Council reaffirmed its support for UNOCA and emphasized the importance of long-term strategies based on comprehensive risk assessments to bolster stabilization and resilience. The Council also encouraged UNOCA to deepen its integration of climate-related risks into its work and recognized the growing momentum behind region-specific efforts in adaptation, mitigation, and resilience. Within its existing mandate and resources, UNOCA is further encouraged to advocate for increased international support, including humanitarian and development aid, technology transfer, resource mobilization, and capacity-building in critical areas such as renewable energy and energy efficiency, in line with global climate commitments.

Building on this momentum, UNOCA's Climate, Peace and Security (CPS) Strategy aligns with key global, continental, regional and national policy frameworks, notably the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), the African Union's Climate, Peace and Security Nexus Framework, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)'s Environmental Policy, the UN General Assembly Resolution (A/80/63) on the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs). While the "Pact for the Future," adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2024, does not explicitly reference CPS, it underscores the urgency of climate action as a global imperative. By embedding climate considerations into its peace and development programming, UNOCA seeks to address climate change as both a developmental and security issue, an integrated



approach that is essential for building resilience, fostering stability, and advancing sustainable peace across Central Africa.

**2. Mission** *(What we do today)*

*UNOCA serves as a regional catalyst for conflict prevention and sustainable peace in Central Africa by embedding climate dimensions into political, diplomatic, and mediation processes. UNOCA enhances regional cooperation, strengthens national capacities, and supports evidence-based decision-making to address climate-related.*

**3. Vision** *(Where we want to go)*

*A resilient, peaceful, and sustainable Central Africa, where climate-related risks and solutions are fully integrated into regional strategies for conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and development.*

**4. Geographic Areas**

UNOCA applies a context-specific approach to the CPS agenda across Central Africa, recognizing that each subregion faces distinct challenges shaped by its environmental, social, and political landscape. However, these challenges are increasingly interconnected, as climate change amplifies fragility, exacerbates existing conflicts, and drives displacement across borders.

**4.1 The Lake Chad Basin**

In close coordination with UNOWAS, UNOCA supports CPS efforts in the Lake Chad Basin through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2349 (2017), the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the broader UN system-wide response to the crisis in the region. Over 30 million people are affected by rainfall variability, persistent water scarcity, and land degradation. These climate-related stressors contribute to loss of livelihoods and intensify the risk of youth recruitment into armed groups, particularly in border areas where environmental pressures hinder cross-border recovery and peacebuilding initiatives.

**4.2 Eastern Chad**

Eastern Chad is a climate-peace-security hotspot marked by advancing desertification, dwindling water resources, and escalating tensions between farming and pastoralist communities. The presence of large numbers of refugees, returnees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) further strains already fragile local systems. Inadequate infrastructure, limited basic services, and recurring violence compound community vulnerabilities. These interlinked risks call for integrated CPS approaches that prioritize local resilience, social cohesion, and inclusive conflict prevention.



#### **4.3 The Congo Basin**

The Congo Basin, often described as “the second green lung of the planet,” is home to 60% of Africa’s rainforests and serves as a critical global carbon sink. However, the region faces accelerating deforestation, driven by extractive industries, agricultural expansion, and the activities of armed groups. These pressures not only threaten biodiversity and carbon storage but also destabilize forest-dependent communities and weaken governance. UNOCA works with regional actors to integrate environmental protection into peacebuilding efforts and strengthen natural resource governance.

#### **4.4 The Great Lakes Region, Including Eastern DRC**

The Great Lakes region, including eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, such as warming lakes, shifting rainfall patterns, and intensified competition over natural resources. These environmental pressures intersect with a long history of violent conflict and displacement. Weak transboundary water governance further exacerbates political and ethnic tensions. UNOCA promotes climate-sensitive peacebuilding, emphasizing regional cooperation and the sustainable management of shared natural resources.

#### **4.5 The Gulf of Guinea Region**

The Gulf of Guinea is experiencing rapid coastal degradation due to rising sea levels, with erosion rates reaching up to 5 meters per year in some areas. Densely populated coastal cities face increasing flood risks and infrastructure challenges. Meanwhile, illegal fishing and maritime piracy - often involving international actors - undermine food security, economic stability, and regional cooperation. UNOCA supports initiatives that enhance coastal resilience and promote joint maritime security responses.

### **5. Objectives**

UNOCA is actively integrating CPS considerations into political dialogue, diplomacy, and mediation across Central Africa. Through strategic partnerships with UN Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs), UN Country Teams (UNCTs), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and ECCAS member states, UNOCA is reinforcing regional cooperation to address climate-related security risks. It also supports evidence-based decision-making by advancing climate-conflict risk assessments that inform policies and programming. To mobilize resources for climate-resilient peacebuilding, UNOCA collaborates with international donors and UN agencies. It is also leveraging established platforms such as the CPS Community of Practice in Central Africa and the Farmers-Herders Community of Practice that spans Central and West Africa to foster dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. These entry points enable UNOCA to engage more deeply with regional stakeholders and align interventions with local dynamics and needs. Building on these foundations, UNOCA’s CPS Strategy is structured around five key objectives aimed at advancing climate considerations into conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, and regional cooperation efforts:

- Advance data-driven analysis and decision-making on CPS across Central Africa by leveraging tools such as the UNOCA CPS Dashboard.



- Strengthen regional and national capacities to embed CPS into governance, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts.
- Enhance financial and technical support for CPS initiatives through partnerships with climate finance institutions and donors.
- Implement high visibility- high impact projects that address the specific CPS challenges in high-risk areas such as eastern Chad, the Lake Chad Basin, the Great Lakes Region, the Gulf of Guinea, and the Congo Basin.
- Position UNOCA as a regional leader in climate, peace security through cutting edge research and analysis, advocacy, knowledge-sharing, and international engagement.

### **6. Methodological Approach**

To effectively implement UNOCA's CPS Strategy, a methodological approach that integrates the Women, Youth, Peace and Security (WYPS) and Human Rights (HR) agendas is essential. This approach begins with inclusive risk assessments and conflict analyses that capture the intersecting vulnerabilities faced by women, youth, and marginalized communities due to climate change, in collaboration with RCOs and UNCTs. By leveraging disaggregated data and rights-based indicators, UNOCA will design targeted interventions that address both environmental and social drivers of conflict. Inclusive governance mechanisms, such as participatory planning platforms and community dialogues, will ensure that these groups are meaningfully engaged in shaping peace and climate responses. Simultaneously, capacity-building initiatives and joint training programs for regional and national actors will foster a shared understanding of how climate risks interact with human rights violations and gender inequalities.

Furthermore, the integration of WYPS and HR into CPS efforts requires robust monitoring systems, advocacy strategies, and partnerships. A human rights-based M&E framework will track not only outcomes but also equity and participation processes, helping UNOCA demonstrate accountability and impact. Strong partnerships with regional institutions, civil society, and WYPS networks will institutionalize the inclusion of diverse voices in CPS programming. Finally, advocacy at the local, national, regional, continental and global levels will enhance policy coherence and resource mobilization, ensuring that CPS funding and actions are gender-responsive, inclusive, and rooted in international human rights standards. This comprehensive, intersectional approach strengthens UNOCA's ability to promote resilience, social justice, and lasting peace across Central Africa.

### **7. Challenges**

Despite growing momentum, several obstacles continue to hinder CPS efforts in Central Africa:

- Misconception of climate fragility in Central Africa - Despite being significantly affected by climate-related risks, Central Africa is often not recognized as a climate-vulnerable and conflict-prone region, leading to inadequate prioritization in global CPS discussions and funding allocations.
- Divergent views within the UN Security Council -The lack of consensus among Security Council members on the scope and relevance of CPS further hampers



progress. While some members recognize climate change as a threat multiplier and support integrated responses, others question the Council's mandate to address climate-related issues, limiting the coherence and strength of international support.

- Weak institutional coordination - The lack of structured collaboration among ECCAS and its Member States, other regional institutions, the scientific community, and UN entities results in overlapping efforts, inefficiencies, and missed opportunities for joint action on CPS.
- Capacity deficiencies - Policymakers, UN Country Teams, and civil society organizations often lack the necessary technical knowledge, expertise, and resources to effectively integrate CPS into their planning, decision-making, and implementation processes.
- Insufficient programmatic funding - Sustainable and impactful CPS interventions require long-term, dedicated financial support for research, capacity-building, and advocacy. However, limited access to funding constrains the ability to scale up initiatives and implement long-term strategies.
- Human resource constraints - The growing complexity of CPS challenges demands a stronger workforce with specialized skills in CPS. However, the current staffing level within UNOCA is limited, making it difficult to effectively oversee programs across the 11 ECCAS member states, conduct in-depth research, and drive advocacy efforts.

## **8. Opportunities**

Despite these challenges, several opportunities exist to advance CPS efforts in Central Africa:

- Growing global recognition of CPS - International entities, including the UN Security Council, the African Union, and regional and international organizations, are placing greater emphasis on climate-related security risks, creating a more supportive policy landscape.
- Central Africa's strategic role in climate action - As home to the Congo Basin, the world's second-largest carbon sink on land, the region plays a crucial role in global climate efforts, positioning it as a key recipient of climate finance.
- Leveraging regional institutional frameworks - Established sub-regional organizations and mechanisms such as ECCAS and UNSAC provide structured platforms to integrate CPS into governance and security policies.
- Expanding financial and donor support - Organizations such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union (EU) and donors (*Belém Call to Action for the Congo Basin Forest*) are increasingly committing resources to climate-peace-security initiatives.
- Emerging regional and continental policy guidance - Libreville Call To Action (November 2025) and the upcoming African Union Common Position on Climate, Peace and Security present a timely opportunity for UNOCA to align its strategy with regional and continental priorities, offering clear guidance, practical entry points, and a strengthened foundation for regional cooperation.
- National-Level Engagements: Instruments such as UNSDCFs and Common Country Analyses (CCAs) developed by UN Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) and UN



Country Teams (UNCTs) help integrate CPS into national strategies and planning processes.

- Enhanced cross-regional learning - Experiences from the Sahel, West Africa, and the Horn of Africa offer valuable insights that can inform and strengthen CPS strategies in Central Africa.

## **9. Strategic Priorities and Actions**

Aligning the strategic priorities and actions with peacebuilding interventions - and with the overall support provided by UN Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) - is essential to effectively sustain peace in the region.

### **9.1 Key Priorities**

To translate the UNOCA CPS Strategy's objectives into concrete and sustained action, six strategic priorities are identified. These priorities will form the backbone of UNOCA's approach to advancing CPS across Central Africa, offering a clear and actionable roadmap to guide engagement across political, technical, and operational levels. Designed to be both responsive and forward-looking, they reflect an integrated strategy that balances immediate conflict prevention needs with long-term investments in resilience and stability. Collectively, they will shape UNOCA's CPS interventions across the region over the short, medium, and long term.

#### **Priority 1: Strengthening Climate-Conflict Early Warning and Risk Assessment**

- Develop a regional CPS Risk Assessment Framework to systematically analyze climate-related threats to peace and stability.
- Integrate climate-conflict indicators into early warning systems used by ECCAS, national governments, and UN agencies.
- Enhance data-sharing and monitoring mechanisms across borders to track environmental stressors, migration patterns, and security risks.

#### **Priority 2: Enhancing Capacity Building and Awareness on Climate, Peace and Security**

- Develop training programs for government officials, security personnel, civil society, and local communities (women, youth, etc.) on climate, peace and security linkages.
- Raise awareness through advocacy campaigns, knowledge-sharing platforms, and high-level dialogues.
- Invest in research and innovation to improve policy responses to CPS threats.

#### **Priority 3: Mainstreaming Climate, Peace and Security in Peacebuilding, Mediation, and Preventive Diplomacy**

- Ensure climate-conflict risks are considered in all political and diplomatic engagements conducted by UNOCA and its partners.
- Train climate negotiators, peacebuilders, and political advisors on integrating climate dimensions into conflict resolution processes.
- Support climate-sensitive peace agreements and natural resource governance frameworks to address disputes over land, water, and displacement.

#### **Priority 4: Strengthening Regional Cooperation on Climate Peace and Security**



- Support ECCAS in developing and operationalizing a regional CPS Coordination Mechanism, including ECCAS conflict sensitive climate strategy and the draft regional protocol on transhumance.
- Promote regional dialogue and cooperation on climate-security risks related to desertification, land degradation, and resource-based conflicts, including through initiatives such as the *One Desert Summit*.
- Strengthen the role of the AU and UN agencies in aligning CPS efforts across the region.

#### Priority 5: Expanding Climate-Resilient Peacebuilding and development Initiatives

- Promote community-based climate adaptation projects led by women and youth that also contribute to conflict prevention.
- Ensure that DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration) and stabilization programs integrate CPS considerations.
- Strengthen food security and livelihood resilience as a strategy to prevent resource-based conflicts.

#### Priority 6: Mobilizing Climate Finance for Peace and Security Initiatives

- Advocate for increased access to climate finance for security-related interventions, including adaptation and resilience-building.
- Strengthen partnerships with donors, the private sector, and financial institutions to integrate CPS into development investments.
- Support national governments in applying for climate financing to address security-related climate risks.

### 9.2 Needs for Implementation

Realizing these strategic priorities will require dedicated resources, institutional support, and strong partnerships. Four core enablers are identified to support effective delivery:

#### 9.2.1. Human and Institutional Capacity

- Expand UNOCA's expertise in CPS by hiring technical specialists and strengthening the existing team (e.g. with a JPO for instance).
- Support ECCAS in establishing a dedicated Climate, Peace and Security Unit.
- Build national and local capacities to integrate climate considerations into security governance, and development policies.

#### 9.2.2. Financial Resources and Funding Mechanisms (refer to Section 12 for more details)

- Increase access to CPS funding from global mechanisms such as:
  - Green Climate Fund (GCF)
  - Adaptation Fund
  - Peacebuilding Fund
  - Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Leverage bilateral and multilateral partnerships (e.g. embassies, the private sector, civil society, etc.) to secure financing for climate-sensitive peacebuilding initiatives.

#### 9.2.3. Data, Research, and Technology



- Invest in advanced data collection and predictive modeling to analyze climate-conflict risks.
- Strengthen partnerships with universities, think tanks, and research institutions to conduct joint CPS assessments and support evidence-based policymaking.
- Promote uptake and use of the UNOCA CPS Dashboard for real-time CPS monitoring.

#### 9.2.4. Strengthening Coordination and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

- Establish a regional CPS Task Force involving ECCAS, AU, UN agencies, governments, and civil society.
- Facilitate multi-sector collaboration across peace, security, climate, and humanitarian actors.
- Promote partnerships with private sector actors to advance sustainable investments in climate resilience.

#### 9.3 Means for Implementation

To bring the strategic priorities to life, UNOCA will implement a series of concrete actions designed to translate the strategy into measurable results:

- Develop an annual work plan: Create a comprehensive annual roadmap for the CPS Advisor, with clearly defined objectives, deliverables, and timelines.
- Convene strategic dialogues: Host high-level forums and expert consultations to enhance policy coherence and strengthen regional collaboration on CPS.
- Launch pilot initiatives: Roll out targeted pilot projects in climate-affected, conflict-prone areas to demonstrate effective models of climate-sensitive peacebuilding.
- Apply a robust M&E framework: Implement a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation system to track progress, assess impact, and guide adaptive programming.

#### 9.4 Ways for Implementation

To ensure effective and sustained delivery of the CPS Strategy, UNOCA will establish a dedicated CPS Implementation Team. This team will serve as the operational backbone for coordinating, executing, and scaling CPS initiatives across the Central African region. It will comprise key personnel with complementary expertise and responsibilities, working collaboratively to deliver results.

At the core of this team will be the CPS Advisor, with plans to be supported by a Junior Program Officer (JPO), a United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Coordinator and a Climate Finance Specialist. Together, these roles will form a cohesive unit, ensuring strategic leadership, analytical grounding, and operational effectiveness in implementing the CPS strategy.

### **10. Potential Entry Points for Advancing CPS in Central Africa**

UNOCA will strategically leverage key entry points to advance the CPS agenda in the region by aligning its mission, vision and initiatives with existing regional platforms, partnerships, and political momentum. Each entry point offers unique opportunities for engagement, coordination, and influence:

#### 10.1 UNSAC processes and sessions



UNOCA will leverage the UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) as a strategic platform to engage senior representatives from ECCAS and its member States, with the objective of systematically integrating the CPS agenda into regional governance and security frameworks. To foster leadership and reinforce accountability, one member State will be designated as the *Porte-Drapeau* (Flagbearer) of the CPS agenda. In this regard, UNSAC has recommended Gabon to take on this role, in coordination with ECCAS, UNOCA, and other partners. Gabon is invited to present a regional CPS roadmap at a future UNSAC session to guide collective action and ensure CPS remains a regular item on the agenda. This will be supported by consistent sharing of data, risk assessments, and initiatives to strengthen regional coordination and climate resilience.

#### 10.2 The Lake Chad Governors' Forum

The Lake Chad Governors' Forum is a regional platform that brings together governors and local authorities from border regions of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria affected by the Lake Chad crisis. Facilitated by the United Nations and key partners, the Forum fosters cross-border cooperation, joint planning, and dialogue to address the region's interlinked challenges of insecurity, displacement, and environmental degradation. UNOCA will use this platform as a model and operational entry point for subregional action on CPS by:

- Strengthening regional cooperation on shared climate-security challenges such as water scarcity, displacement, and livelihood insecurity.
- Facilitating cross-border dialogue and joint planning among local authorities, thereby reinforcing the peace-development-humanitarian nexus.
- Promoting climate-informed peacebuilding initiatives through targeted support for resilience programming, conflict-sensitive natural resource management, and local capacity-building.
- Showcasing best practices from this forum to inform regional mechanisms under ECCAS or national policies in other high-risk border zones.

#### 10.3 The Regional Communities of Practice

UNOCA will use the established CPS Community of Practice in Central Africa and the Farmers-Herders Community of Practice in Central and West Africa to anchor its CPS work in regional realities and local knowledge by:

- Supporting dialogue and peer exchange among practitioners, policy actors, and civil society across Central and West Africa, especially around farmer-herder dynamics and transhumance governance.
- Facilitating the co-production of knowledge through joint assessments, learning events, and context-specific policy guidance on climate-security risks.
- Promoting inclusive participation by amplifying community voices, especially youth, women, and marginalized groups, within regional CPS responses.
- Linking grassroots insights to policy discussions, ensuring that interventions are informed by lived experiences and contribute to sustainable peace and resilience.

#### 10.4 The IEG of Members of the Security Council on Climate and Security



UNOCA's engagement with the IEG will advance its strategic positioning at the global-regional interface by:

- Providing regional evidence and briefings on climate-security dynamics in Central Africa, strengthening the IEG's deliberations and influencing Security Council engagement.
- Advocating for climate-responsive peace operations and mandates that reflect the environmental drivers of conflict in UNOCA's area of responsibility.
- Enhancing technical collaboration with UN agencies, expert institutions, and member states to improve early warning systems, scenario planning, and risk-informed programming.
- Mobilizing international support and political momentum for ECCAS-led and country-level initiatives addressing climate-related security risks.

#### 10.5. The Group of Friends on Climate and Security

This diplomatic platform offers UNOCA a vehicle for multilateral advocacy and partnership-building by:

- Engaging like-minded Member States to raise the visibility of Central Africa's climate-security challenges in global forums.
- Facilitating coordinated donor support for regional CPS strategies and field-level initiatives, including transboundary climate resilience projects.
- Strengthening policy coherence between peace, climate, and development actors through regular dialogue and shared messaging.
- Linking global commitments to regional implementation, particularly through support to ECCAS, national governments, and civil society partners.

#### 10.6 Improved and Equitable Access to Climate Finance (IEACF) Network

UNOCA's collaboration with this emerging network - particularly through the involvement of Chad and Burundi - offers a strategic opportunity to:

- Amplify a collective regional voice in global climate, peace, and security dialogues by highlighting the unique vulnerabilities and priorities of Central African states.
- Enhance coordination with the UN Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) and other partners to strengthen analysis, programming, and advocacy tailored to fragile and conflict-affected contexts.
- Support Chad and Burundi in hosting dialogue and partnership initiatives, such as technical roundtables or high-level summits, addressing CPS in climate-vulnerable conflict zones.
- Align multilateral and regional resources with locally driven, conflict-sensitive climate resilience efforts.

#### 10.7 Regional Champions

UNOCA will proactively identify and engage with regional champions across political leadership, civil society organizations, regional institutions and UN entities to act as influential drivers of CPS agenda in Central Africa. These regional champions will be selected based on their demonstrated commitment to climate action, peacebuilding, human rights, and inclusive governance, as well as their ability to influence policy at national, regional, and continental levels. This includes visionary political leaders who can mobilize political will and



resources; dynamic civil society actors, including women's and youth-led organizations (e.g., Network of Youth for Central African Forests – REJEFAC; Youth Network of the Member States of the Congo Basin Climate Commission – JEBAC), who can translate community-based experiences into policy advocacy; and regional institutions that can shape and harmonize CPS policies across ECCAS member States. UNOCA will support these regional champions by strengthening their leadership roles in regional and global platforms such as ECCAS forums, African Union engagements, and UN climate-peace-security dialogues.

### **11. Key Actors, Roles and Responsibilities**

Effective implementation of UNOCA's CPS Strategy requires coordinated action across political, security, environmental, humanitarian, and development sectors. The following actors have distinct yet complementary roles, **with the CPS Advisor playing a central role in linking strategy, technical guidance, and implementation.**

#### **11.1 Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and UNOCA Leadership Key Role:**

The SRSG for Central Africa leads preventive diplomacy and mediation efforts on climate-related security risks and ensures that CPS is integrated into regional peace and stability initiatives.

#### **Responsibilities:**

- High-level advocacy: Promote CPS in regional and international diplomatic engagements (e.g., with ECCAS, AU, UN Security Council).
- Policy leadership: Ensure that climate-conflict risks are included in UNOCA's political analysis, mediation efforts, and security dialogues.
- Regional coordination: Strengthen collaboration with ECCAS, AU, UN Country Teams, and other regional stakeholders.
- Resource mobilization: Advocate for funding from climate finance mechanisms and peacebuilding funds to support CPS initiatives.
- Conflict prevention and response: Lead climate-sensitive mediation and dialogue efforts that address the root causes of conflict linked to natural resource competition, transhumance, climate-induced migration, and environmental degradation.

#### **11.2. UN Climate Security Mechanism (CSM)**

##### **Role:**

The CSM serves as a global support platform for enhancing the UN system's capacity to address climate-related security risks. It provides analytical, technical, and programmatic support to UNOCA and its regional partners to strengthen the integration of CPS across peace, security, and development efforts.

##### **Responsibilities:**

- Technical and Policy Support: Provide expert guidance and tailored technical assistance to UNOCA, ECCAS, and national partners on assessing and addressing climate-related security risks.



- **Risk Analysis and Knowledge Generation:** Develop and disseminate climate-security risk analyses, policy briefs, and good practice documents relevant to Central Africa, drawing on global evidence and regional insights.
- **Capacity Development:** Support training and capacity-building initiatives for UN personnel, regional institutions, and member states on climate-security linkages, tools, and approaches.
- **Coordination and Partnerships:** Strengthen coordination across UN entities and facilitate cross-regional knowledge exchange to ensure coherence and synergy in CPS efforts.
- **Resource Mobilization and Programmatic Design:** Assist UNOCA in designing and mobilizing resources for integrated climate, peace, and security programs, including through access to climate finance and peacebuilding funds.
- **Mainstreaming CPS:** Promote the systematic integration of climate-related security considerations into UN conflict prevention, mediation, peacebuilding, and development planning frameworks.

### 11.3 Climate, Peace, and Security (CPS) Advisor

#### Role:

The CPS Advisor provides technical expertise on climate-related security risks, ensuring that UNOCA integrates CPS into its policies, programs, and diplomatic engagements. The CPS Advisor also plays a pivotal role in mobilizing resources to support the implementation of climate, peace, and security initiatives in Central Africa.

#### Responsibilities:

- **Climate-Conflict Risk Analysis:** Lead and coordinate assessments of climate-related security risks across the Central Africa region, providing strategic insights to inform policy development, operational planning, and preventive action.
- **Advisory Support:** Serve as a key advisor to UNOCA leadership, ECCAS, and member States by offering tailored guidance and evidence-based recommendations on CPS policies, strategies, and response mechanisms.
- **Capacity Strengthening:** Design and deliver targeted trainings, workshops, and technical exchanges to enhance institutional knowledge and operational capacity on climate, peace, and security among UNOCA staff, ECCAS stakeholders, and national authorities.
- **Early Warning and Risk Monitoring:** Collaborate with regional data platforms and early warning systems to improve the tracking of climate-conflict dynamics and support timely, preventive interventions.
- **Programmatic Design and Integration:** Contribute to the development and implementation of climate-informed conflict prevention and peacebuilding programs in close coordination with UN agencies, regional bodies, and implementing partners.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Identify funding opportunities and support the preparation of proposals to access climate finance, peacebuilding funds, and other relevant financial mechanisms, ensuring sustainable support for CPS priorities in the region.

### 11.4 UN Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs)

#### Role:



UN Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) serve as key champions in translating regional CPS strategies into tangible national and local action. Positioned at the intersection of UNOCA, national governments, and the broader UN system, RCOs play a critical convening and coordination role - ensuring that CPS is effectively mainstreamed into national policies, peacebuilding efforts, and development planning.

**Responsibilities:**

- **Policy integration:** Champion the incorporation of CPS risks and response strategies into Common Country Analyses (CCAs), UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs), and national development plans.
  - *Supporting Policy Integration at National Level: The Advisor will collaborate with RCOs to ensure that climate-related security risks are reflected in CCAs, UNSDCFs, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), etc. This includes providing regional analysis, technical inputs, and conflict-sensitive climate data to guide national-level planning and ensure alignment with ECCAS and UNOCA's regional CPS priorities.*
- **Implementation support:** Provide strategic and technical support to governments in operationalizing climate-sensitive peace and security policies.
  - *Joint Implementation and Advisory Services: The CPS Advisor will act as a strategic technical partner to RCOs and UNCTs by helping design and implement climate-sensitive peacebuilding and development programs. This includes advising on project design, risk analysis, and the integration of climate-fragility considerations into field-level activities, especially in fragile or conflict-affected areas such as the Lake Chad Basin, eastern Chad and eastern DRC.*
- **Resource mobilization:** Lead engagement with donors, international financial institutions, and development partners to secure funding for CPS initiatives.
  - *Facilitating Resource Mobilization: In partnership with RCOs, the CPS Advisor will co-develop proposals for climate and peacebuilding funding (e.g., PBF, Green Climate Fund, or bilateral donors). The Advisor will contribute regional narratives, evidence, and strategic framing to strengthen the case for investment in CPS programming.*
- **Early warning and response:** Enhance national capacities for climate-conflict early warning, fostering data-driven decision-making and timely interventions.
  - *Enhancing Early Warning and Analysis Capacities: Leveraging UNOCA's regional scope and partnerships (e.g., ECCAS Situation Room), the CPS Advisor will provide analytical support to help RCOs strengthen national early warning systems. This involves integrating climate and security indicators into UNCT risk assessments, and ensuring national systems are informed by regional trends and cross-border risks.*



- **Capacity development:** In partnership with UNOCA, deliver technical assistance and training to strengthen CPS competencies of government institutions, civil society actors, and local communities.
  - *Coordinating Capacity-Building Initiatives: Together with RCOs, the CPS Advisor will lead technical training and institutional support to build national and local capacities on CPS. This includes tailored support for line ministries, local authorities, civil society organizations, and UN staff, with tools and methodologies adapted from regional best practices.*
- **Multi-stakeholder coordination:** Facilitate inclusive dialogue and collaboration among government bodies, civil society, private sector actors, and development partners to build coherent and resilient climate responses.
  - *Promoting Inclusive, Multi-Actor Engagement: The CPS Advisor will support RCOs in facilitating dialogue and coordination platforms that bring together government, civil society, traditional leaders, and the private sector. This is critical in contexts where environmental stressors intersect with social tensions (e.g., transhumance, land disputes, or resource competition).*

#### 11.5 ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States)

##### Role:

ECCAS serves as the primary regional coordination body for CPS policies and interventions in Central Africa. As a Regional Economic Community (REC), ECCAS plays a critical role in formulating, harmonizing and advancing policies, facilitating cross-border cooperation, strengthening institutional capacity, and integrating CPS into regional peacebuilding and development efforts.

##### Responsibilities:

- **Regional strategy development:** Strengthen and implement the ECCAS Climate and Security Framework
  - *Technical Support for the Climate and Security Framework: The CPS Advisor will provide strategic guidance to operationalize ECCAS's Climate and Security Framework by supporting its implementation and alignment with UNOCA's priorities. This includes advising on conflict-sensitive climate strategies and ensuring regional coherence in peacebuilding and adaptation efforts.*
- **Policy harmonization:** Support member States in aligning national policies with regional CPS goals.
  - *Policy Dialogue and Harmonization: The CPS Advisor will engage with ECCAS and its member States to promote coherent climate-security policies, facilitate cross-border cooperation, and ensure national policies reflect regional goals. This includes supporting ECCAS in advocating for climate-security integration at the AU and global forums.*
- **Capacity building:** Train government officials, security forces, and local stakeholders on climate-related security risks.



- *Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening: Working with ECCAS, the CPS Advisor will help design and deliver targeted training for government, security forces, and civil society to better understand and respond to climate-related security risks. The Advisor will also support institutional mainstreaming of CPS within ECCAS departments.*
- **Data and early warning systems: Enhance regional CPS monitoring and risk assessment mechanisms.**
  - *Early Warning, Analysis, and Data Sharing: The CPS Advisor will contribute to strengthening ECCAS's Situation Room by integrating climate risk analysis into early warning systems. This involves promoting joint data platforms, improving risk monitoring tools, and fostering coordination between ECCAS, member States, and UN actors.*
- **Resource mobilization: Engage donors and financial institutions to secure funding for climate peace and security initiatives.**
  - *Joint Programming and Resource Mobilization: The CPS Advisor will collaborate with ECCAS to design and implement regional CPS projects, particularly on transboundary issues like transhumance and natural resource management. Joint efforts will also focus on mobilizing climate and peacebuilding finance to sustain regional initiatives.*

#### 11.6. ECCAS Member States

##### Role:

ECCAS member States are responsible for translating regional and continental climate security frameworks into national strategies, ensuring that climate-related security risks are addressed through effective governance, policy implementation, and community engagement.

##### Responsibilities:

- **National policy development: Develop and implement climate-sensitive national security and peacebuilding strategies.**
  - *Strategic policy guidance: The CPS Advisor will offer expertise in integrating climate risk analysis into national peacebuilding and security policies, ensuring coherence with regional and global frameworks.*
- **Cross-border collaboration: Strengthen regional cooperation on transboundary climate risks, including water governance, land management, and migration.**
  - *Facilitation of cross-border initiatives: the CPS Advisor will provide technical support for joint planning and dialogue among neighboring states to manage shared climate-security risks.*
- **Climate security financing: Access climate finance mechanisms to fund resilience-building initiatives at the national and local levels.**



- *Financing advisory services: The CPS Advisor will assist governments in identifying and preparing funding proposals for international climate finance mechanisms, and in aligning national strategies with donor requirements.*
- Disaster preparedness and response: Enhance disaster risk reduction (DRR) and crisis response mechanisms to mitigate climate-induced displacement and conflicts.
  - *Crisis response planning: The CPS advisor will support the development and strengthening of early warning systems, DRR strategies, and contingency plans that address the security implications of climate hazards.*
- Local governance and community engagement: Ensure that climate security strategies include decentralized governance structures, involving local governments, civil society, and vulnerable communities in decision-making.
  - *Capacity-building and stakeholder engagement: The CPS Advisor will deliver training and facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue to enhance the capacity of national institutions to implement inclusive, conflict-sensitive climate policies.*

## **12. Partnerships & Resource Mobilization**

The effective operationalization of the CPS strategy will require sustainable partnerships and the mobilization of predictable financial resources at both UNOCA and RCO/UNCT levels. This dual engagement, anchored in collaboration between regional and country-level mechanisms, will be essential to sustaining long-term financing, strengthening institutional ownership, and ensuring that climate-responsive peacebuilding initiatives are both scalable and transformative.

### **12.1. Partnership Architecture**

UNOCA will promote a coordinated partnership framework that leverages both multilateral and bilateral financing mechanisms. It seeks to support resource mobilization from global climate funds, bilateral donors, and technical partners to finance transformative initiatives that address the interconnected challenges of environmental degradation, fragility, and conflict.

- **Multilateral Climate Finance Mechanisms**

UNOCA will work with ECCAS, UN agencies, partners and national governments to access:

- Green Climate Fund (GCF): Multi-country adaptation and resilience programs.
- Global Environment Facility (GEF-9): Support for climate-risk governance, conflict-sensitive ecosystem restoration, and data systems.
- Adaptation Fund: Local-level community resilience pilots in high-risk areas (eastern Chad, Lake Chad Basin, eastern DRC).
- Peacebuilding Fund (PBF): Funding for climate-informed peace mediation, early warning, and stabilization programs.

- **Bilateral Donors and Development Partners**



- Promote a “CPS Donor Compact” to coordinate funding streams for cross-border projects.
- Co-develop a CPS regional investment framework.
- AFD, GIZ, NORAD, FCDO, EU, USAID, JICA: Joint programming on CPS and climate resilience.

### 12.2. Priority Entry Points for resource mobilization

Resource mobilization will target regional hotspots where climate and stability challenges intersect. The following priority entry points align with ongoing initiatives led by the LCBC and ECCAS, while leveraging global climate finance mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), African Development Bank (AfDB), and the European Union’s Global Gateway:

- Central Africa: Integrate CPS into climate policy processes: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), etc.
- Lake Chad Basin and Eastern Chad: Integrate CPS into ongoing and forthcoming regional adaptation and stabilization programs supported by the LCBC, GCF, and AfDB.
- Congo Basin Forests: Support resource mobilization for peace-sensitive forest management under GEF9 and REDD+ partnerships.
- Gulf of Guinea: Support coastal resilience and blue economy initiatives financed by the EU Global Gateway and the GCF.
- Transhumance Corridors: Partner with FAO, IOM, and ECCAS to pilot climate-sensitive governance of mobility routes.
- Regional Data and Early Warning Systems: Secure financing from the GCF and GEF for the UNOCA–ECCAS CPS Dashboard and risk monitoring platforms.

### 12.3. Resource mobilization roadmap

Phase	Timeframe	Key Deliverables
Phase 1 – Preparation & Partnerships	2025-2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a resource mobilization note, including mapping of funding windows.</li> <li>• Establishment of CPS Donor Group.</li> </ul>
Phase 2 – Design & Submission	2026–2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional investment framework finalized.</li> <li>• Co-development of multi-country project concepts.</li> <li>• Submission of project proposals to GCF/GEF/AF.</li> </ul>
Phase 3 – Implementation & Scaling Up	2028–2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Execution of funded projects.</li> <li>• Knowledge dissemination and Outreach.</li> </ul>



Phase	Timeframe	Key Deliverables
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication of finance tracking reports and lessons learnt.</li> </ul>

### 12.3. Roles and responsibilities

- UNOCA: Strategic leadership, advocacy, and resource mobilization coordination.
- ECCAS: Implementation of leadership and regional policy alignment.
- UN RCOs/UNCTs: Country-level integration and donor engagement.
- UN Agencies: Technical support, proposal co-development (accredited institutions to GCF; GEF and AF), and co-implementation.
- National governments: endorsement, proposal co-development, and co-implementation.

## 13. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework

The M&E Framework tracks progress, assesses impact, and guides strategic decision-making related to the CPS agenda. The framework is designed to capture both short- and long-term results by integrating climate-conflict indicators, real-time data systems, and field-level analysis. It also supports evidence-based programming, informs policy engagement, and enhances coordination across regional actors. Further technical details and tools are provided in **Annex 1**.

### 13.1 Monitoring CPS Trends and Program Progress

- Establish climate-conflict indicators to track resource conflicts, displacement, environmental stress, and security risks.
- Develop a real-time data collection system in collaboration with ECCAS, AU, UN agencies, and research institutions, utilizing tools such as UNOCA CPS Dashboard.
- Conduct regular field assessments to analyze and report on the impact of CPS interventions.
- Use remote sensing, GIS mapping, and community reporting to monitor CPS hotspots.

### 13.2 Evaluation of Effectiveness and Impact

- Implement baseline, mid-term, and final evaluations of CPS programs.
- Use quantitative and qualitative indicators to assess progress on:
  - Reduction in climate-induced conflicts.
  - Increased regional cooperation on CPS.
  - Improved resilience of communities to climate shocks.
  - Increase in climate finance for CPS - related interventions.
- Conduct case studies and impact assessments to document success stories and challenges.

### 13.3 Indicators for the M&E Framework

Short-Term Indicators (2025-2026):



- Number of pertinent CPS risk assessments conducted.
- Number of climate-conflict reports integrated into political analyses and peacebuilding processes.
- Number and effectiveness of regional CPS coordination mechanisms established (e.g., ECCAS Climate Peace Security Unit).
- Number of capacity-building sessions on CPS for policymakers and peacebuilders.

**Medium-Term Indicators (2027-2029):**

- Reduction in resource-based conflicts in priority regions.
- Increase in cross-border cooperation on CPS issues.
- Number of climate finance projects supporting peace and security initiatives.
- Improved community resilience indicators (e.g., access to climate adaptation resources, livelihood security).

**Long-Term Indicators (2030+):**

- Sustainable integration of CPS into national policies and regional peacebuilding frameworks.
- Significant reduction in climate-induced displacement and migration-related conflicts.
- Increase in government and regional investments in climate resilience and peacebuilding.
- Improved institutional coordination on CPS governance.

#### **14. Conclusion**

The multifaceted nature of CPS - related risks and solutions in Central Africa demands a structured, forward-looking, and results-driven response. Beyond raising awareness, UNOCA plays a pivotal role in embedding CPS considerations into regional peace and security agendas, mobilizing the necessary resources, and strengthening institutional capacities. Through the implementation of this Strategic, UNOCA will help foster greater stability, resilience, and sustainability in the region - cementing its position as a regional leader in advancing climate-security solutions.



  
Abdou Abarry

**Special Representative of the Secretary-  
General and Head of the United Nations  
Regional Office for Central Africa**



### Annex 1: CPS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Priorities	Actions	Lead Entities	Timeframe	Expected Outcomes	Indicators
<b>1. Strengthening Climate-Conflict Early Warning and Risk Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop regional CPS Risk Assessment Framework.</li> <li>- Integrate climate-conflict indicators into early warning systems.</li> <li>- Enhance cross-border monitoring and data-sharing.</li> <li>- Conduct CPS training for officials, CSOs, communities.</li> <li>- Run advocacy campaigns and awareness initiatives.</li> <li>- Support CPS-related research and policy innovation.</li> </ul>	UNOCA, ECCAS	Short-Medium Term (2025-2028)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhanced regional capacity to anticipate and respond to climate-security threats.</li> <li>- Operationalized early warning mechanisms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CPS risk framework adopted by ECCAS.</li> <li>- # of systems integrating climate-conflict indicators.</li> <li>- # of cross-border data-sharing mechanisms.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Enhancing Capacity Building and Awareness on CPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrate CPS in political/diplomatic engagements.</li> <li>- Train negotiators and peacebuilders on CPS.</li> <li>- Support CPS-sensitive peace agreements and governance.</li> </ul>	UNOCA, RCOs	Short-Medium Term (2025-2028)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved understanding of CPS linkages among stakeholders.</li> <li>- Stronger policy response capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of CPS trainings conducted.</li> <li>- # of stakeholders trained.</li> <li>- # of CPS research outputs influencing policy.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Mainstreaming CPS in Peacebuilding and Preventive Diplomacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrate CPS in political/diplomatic engagements.</li> <li>- Train negotiators and peacebuilders on CPS.</li> <li>- Support CPS-sensitive peace agreements and governance.</li> </ul>	UNOCA, RCOs, ECCAS	Ongoing (2025-2030)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CPS risks addressed in peacebuilding and diplomacy.</li> <li>- Stronger linkages between climate resilience and political solutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- % of diplomatic engagements incorporating CPS.</li> <li>- # of peacebuilders trained on CPS.</li> <li>- # of peace agreements reflecting CPS dimensions.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Strengthening Regional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support ECCAS in launching CPS</li> </ul>	UNOCA, RCOs, ECCAS	Medium Term (2026-2029)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinated regional response to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CPS Coordination Mechanism</li> </ul>



Priorities	Actions	Lead Entities	Timeframe	Expected Outcomes	Indicators
Cooperation on CPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination Mechanism.</li> <li>Promote regional CPS dialogue platforms (e.g., One Desert Summit).</li> <li>Align AU–UN–ECCAS CPS efforts.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPS challenges.</li> <li>Shared strategic frameworks and actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>operational.</li> <li># of regional CPS initiatives/dialogues.</li> <li>CPS integrated into ECCAS/AU policies.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Expanding Climate-Resilient Peacebuilding Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch community-level climate adaptation for conflict prevention.</li> <li>Mainstream CPS in DDR and stabilization programs.</li> <li>Strengthen food and livelihood security.</li> </ul>	UNOCA, RCOs, UNDP, FAO, UNHCR, National DDR Commissions	Short - Long Term (2025-2030)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased community resilience and social cohesion.</li> <li>Reduced local conflicts over resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of CPS-sensitive local adaptation projects.</li> <li># of DDR/stabilization programs with CPS integration.</li> <li>Community resilience indicators improved.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Mobilizing Climate Finance for CPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for CPS funding within climate finance frameworks.</li> <li>Build partnerships with donors and financiers</li> <li>Support countries in submitting CPS-aligned proposals.</li> </ul>	UNOCA, RCOs, ECCAS, National Governments	Short - Medium Term (2025-2028)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased financial resources for CPS interventions.</li> <li>CPS mainstreamed in national climate finance agendas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$ mobilized for CPS-related projects.</li> <li># of CPS finance proposals submitted/approved.</li> <li># of national actors trained in climate finance for CPS.</li> </ul>