CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Bangui Declaration on Joint Actions

SDGs, CSR & ESG

Delivering for the people, Prefecture by Prefecture

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC · BANGUI DECLARATION ON JOINT ACTIONS

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SDGs, CSR & ESG

Why every stakeholder should adopt CSR and ESG principles

Read me › *Not SDGs 2.0 — Lord JD Waverley*

A comprehensive & well-executed CSR & ESG strategy supports sustainable development, enhances investor confidence, improves access to capital, and contributes to the long-term success of projects

Why Every Stakeholder in the Central African Republic Should Adopt CSR and ESG Principles

The Central African Republic is opening a new chapter. Interest is growing in the country's minerals, forests, agricultural land and energy potential. Whether that interest becomes lasting investment and shared prosperity depends on one thing above all: trust. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles are the common language through which that trust is built, and every stakeholder in CAR has a reason to adopt them.

Two principles, one purpose

ESG sets the standard for how an organisation is run and measured: its environmental impact, its treatment of people, and the integrity of its governance. CSR sets the standard for what an organisation gives back: lasting benefits for the communities in which it operates. ESG provides the evidence that investors can verify; CSR provides the benefits that communities can see. Together they turn economic activity into shared progress.

Why each stakeholder should adopt them

- Government and public institutions. Building ESG principles into regulation, concessions and procurement gives investors predictable rules and protects public revenues. It also helps formalise a sector on which an estimated 150,000 to 300,000 artisanal miners depend. Transparent revenue management strengthens the State's credibility at home and abroad.
- Investors and companies. In CAR the principal risks to any business, whether in mining, forestry, agriculture, energy, telecoms or construction, are social, security and governance risks. ESG makes those risks measurable and manageable. It also unlocks development finance and responsible capital on better terms and secures a licence to operate that no permit can grant alone.
- Financial institutions and development finance institutions. ESG criteria protect capital, improve the quality of the projects they finance and allow them to commit larger sums with confidence.

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- Development partners and donors. Aligning their programmes with private-sector CSR multiplies their impact. Aid and investment can then work towards the same national priorities instead of running in parallel.
- Local businesses and SMEs. Meeting recognised standards on safety, ethics and quality is the entry ticket to supplying international firms, to winning contracts and to accessing credit.
- Communities and civil society. CSR and ESG give citizens a voice in decisions on land, compensation and development priorities, and a recognised basis for holding companies and institutions to account. The benefits include jobs and skills for young people, enterprise for women, respect for indigenous peoples including the BaAka, and shared infrastructure. That infrastructure is badly needed in a country where fewer than one in five people have electricity.

A common standard for all

The principles are the same whoever applies them:

- Environment. Protecting water, forests and biodiversity, rehabilitating land, and using renewable energy where feasible.
- Social. Consulting early and continuously, respecting human rights in all security arrangements, eliminating child labour, and advancing gender equality.
- Governance. Controlling corruption, keeping supply chains traceable, and reporting publicly with independent audits.
- Community investment. Local employment and training, SME support, health, education and clean water, all delivered in partnership and aligned with national development priorities.

The collective dividend

Each stakeholder benefits from adopting CSR and ESG principles, but the greatest reward comes when all adopt them together. A country where government, investors, financiers, partners, businesses and communities work to the same standards becomes predictable, bankable and attractive. In CAR, that joint action is not a cost of development; it is the foundation on which a stable and prosperous future can be built.

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