"NATIONAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (2025- 2031)"

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Keywords - Tourism, sustainable development, Central African Republic

Abstract - National Tourism Development Policy in the Central African Republic (2025- 2031)
By 2030, the challenges for tourism in the Central African Republic (CAR) will focus on promoting its rich ecotourism and hunting potential(like the Dzanga-Sangha reserve) while tackling major security, infrastructure, and institutional issues to boosted sustainable development and economic diversification. In July 2024, the Central African Republic approved its new national tourism development policy for the 2025- 2031 period, marking a strategic shift to put tourism at the heart of the country's economic, social, and environmental development. In July 2024, the Central African Republic approved its new national tourism development policy (2025- 2031), aiming to turn tourism into a key sector for economic recovery, social cohesion, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The National Development Plan (NDP) of the Central African Republic includes tourism as a strategic lever for economic, diversification, ecotourism, and strengthening social fabric, aiming to turn the country's natural and cultural wealth into drivers of sustainable and inclusive growth.

I. STRAIGHTS AND ECOTOURISME FOCUS

Richness of wildlife and plants

Promotion of ecotourism (national parks like Manovo-Gounda-Saint-Floris and the Dzanga-Sanngha reserve).
Protection of biodiverity and highlighting local cultural heritage

II. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

This policy replaces a document that is nearly 30 years old and is part of the National Plan for Recovery and Peace building (RCPCA), which identifies tourism as a driver for economic recovery, social cohesion, and national reconciliation.

It aims to:

1. Turn tourism into a strategic sector for growth and employment.
2. Highlight cultural and natural heritage as a driver for international recognition.
3. Contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. Diversify the tourism offer and improve sector governance.

According to the Ministry of Arts, Culture, and Tourism, the main focus areas include:

1. Strengthening tourist infrastructure (sites, cultural centers, roads, services).
2. Developing cultural industries (cinema, crafts, literature) and creating jobs for young people.
3. Promoting sustainable tourism that respects the environment and cultural diversity.

International cooperation with partners like UNDP, the International Organization of La Francophonie, and local NGOs.

Supporting artists and creators through infrastructure, up-to-date salaries, and copyright protection.

Among the concrete actions

Renovation of the National Cultural Center through a public-private partnership.

Opening of Reading and Cultural Activity Centers in several cities.

Tourist events such as World Tourism Day, under the theme 'Tourism and Peace'.

Artistic projects (murals) to strengthen cultural visibility.

Challenges

This policy addresses an urgent need: modernizing a sector long neglected, overcoming governance, infrastructure, and diversification challenges, while integrating tourism into the country's peace and recovery strategy. In summary, the 2025-2031 program positions tourism as a driver of sustainable development, combining heritage promotion, job creation, international cooperation, and environmental respect, with technical and financial support from partners.

Objective 1.2: Implement a marketing strategy for the CAR destination

Objective 1.2.1: Establish an effective institutional framework, capable of fulfilling its regulatory role and protecting the rights of all users.
- Commission a marketing strategy study.
- Promote and highlight major cultural and historical events.

Identified actions:

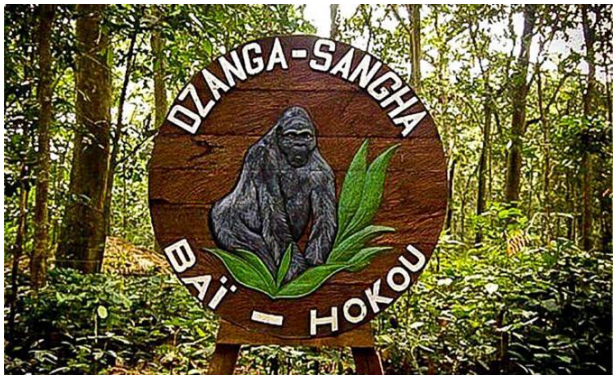
1. Promote tourism in protected areas by providing them with development and management plans that consider tourist expansion zones and safety measures.
2. Reorganize the existing institutional framework and services;
3. Develop a water resource management strategy.
4. Ease the conditions for obtaining a Central African visa.
5. Produce provincial tourism guides.

Objective 1.2.2: Ensure quality public service.

1. Set up practical arrangements for delegating public service management.
2. Strengthen the standardization of the tourism environment.
3. Promote urban, memorial, and heritage tourism.
4. Rehabilitate, secure, and develop tourist infrastructures through PPPs.







DZANGA-SANGHA
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