**GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)**



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# General Project Information

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Title: | Climate Adaptation and Resilient Agriculture in Plateau Central, Burkina Faso | | |
| Region: |  | GEF Project ID: |  |
| Country(ies): | Burkina-Faso | Type of Project | Full-sized project |
| GEF Agency(ies): | BOAD | GEF Agency Project ID: |  |
| Anticipated Executing Entity(s) and Type: | Ministry of the Environment, Water and Sanitation (MEEA) |  | |
|  |  | |
| GEF Focal Area(s): | Climate Change | Submission Date: |  |
| Type of Trust Fund: | LDCF | Project Duration (Months) | 60 |
| GEF Project Grant: *(a)* | 9,000,000 | GEF Project Non-Grant *(b)* |  |
| Agency Fee(s) Grant: *(c)* | 810,000 | Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant: *(d)* |  |
| Total GEF Financing: *(a+b+c+d)* | 9,810,000 | Total Co-financing: | 52,100,000 |
| PPG Amount *(e):* | 175,000 | PPG Agency Fee(s) *(f)*: | 15,000 |
| Total GEF Resources (a+b+c+d+e+f) | 10,000,000 | | |
| Project Tags: | CBIT  NGI  SGP  Innovation | | |
| Project Sector  (CCM only) |  | | |

### Project Summary\*\*\*

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. *(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)*

### The project tackles urgent challenges in Burkina Faso’s Central Plateau region, characterized by escalating climate-induced environmental degradation and food insecurity. Climatic adversities, including rising temperatures and dwindling rainfall, exacerbate land degradation, impacting agricultural productivity and the livelihoods dependent on farming.

### Aiming to instill a climate-resilient agricultural ecosystem and bolstered food security, the project's transformative approach incorporates climate-smart agricultural innovations, augments community capacities, and promotes policy enhancements to underpin and sustain climate adaptation strides.

### Realization of these goals hinges on a composite strategy: training 5,000 farmers (3,000 women inclusive) in climate-adaptive practices; restoring 15,000 hectares with climate-resilient species; initiating climate-smart food storage facilities; and instituting efficient water management systems. The restoration efforts, particularly, are poised to enhance Central Plateau's carbon sequestration capacity, transforming it into a significant carbon sink capable of absorbing an estimated 150,000 tons of CO2 emissions from the atmosphere annually.

### Innovative financing models, such as microfinancing, insurance schemes, and climate-resilient investment funds, are introduced to reduce economic barriers farmers face, ensuring they have the resources to innovate, adapt, and thrive amidst climate challenges. These financial instruments facilitate the wider adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices, exemplifying a forward-thinking approach to sustainability and resilience.

### The strategic establishment of 5 integrated farms and engagement of 40 community groups in Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) harvesting programs exemplifies a comprehensive strategy to bolster biodiversity, productivity, and income for rural communities. In this orchestrated effort, women's rural entrepreneurship is catalyzed, offering female farmers and business owners tailored support, resources, and platforms to thrive. The farms, embodying mixed farming systems, serve as a tangible testament to the project’s commitment to sustainable and resilient agricultural practices. In tandem, the development of 10 value chains for climate-resilient agricultural products is a calculated initiative to enhance market access and elevate farmers' income. This multifaceted approach ensures that communities, particularly women, are not only equipped with innovative agricultural practices but also anchored in robust market systems that optimize their income generation potential. A synergistic collaboration with the private sector underpins this approach, weaving technology, and innovation into the fabric of these initiatives and amplifying the project’s impacts.

### Anticipated outcomes encapsulate augmented agricultural productivity, curtailed land degradation, refined water management, and bolstered food security. Global Environmental Benefits will manifest in enhanced biodiversity, elevated land quality, and escalated carbon sequestration, aligning with Burkina Faso's environmental and climate aspirations.

### Financing and alignment with the GGW initiative: The project, backed by an $10 million GEF grant, aims to mobilize an additional co-financing of $33 million. It harmonizes with Burkina Faso’s local, regional, and national development blueprints and resonates with the broader objectives of the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGW). This alignment signifies the project’s contribution not just to national interests but also to regional and continental objectives of climate resilience and sustainable development.

### In essence, this project emerges as a comprehensive antidote to the intertwined quandaries of environmental degradation and food insecurity in the Central Plateau. It intricately weaves technology, capacity enhancement, ecosystem rejuvenation, policy advancement and innovative financing to usher in a resilient, food-secure, and environmentally robust region.

### Indicative Project Overview

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Objective: | Improve the quality of life of local communities and strengthen food security in the Central Plateau region through resilient agriculture and restored ecosystems. | | | | | |
| Project Components | Component  Type | Project Outcomes | Project Outputs | Trust Fund | (in $) | |
| GEF Project Financing | Co-financing |
| **Component 1:**  Climate-Smart Community Training, Capacity Building & and Policy Influence Institutional Strengthening | Technical Assistance | - Enhanced community capacity for climate adaptation and agricultural practices and food security.  -Integrated specific modules on crop diversification, water harvesting, and efficient irrigation techniques within the training programs  -Highlighted success stories of similar practices from other regions to inspire and educate the local farmers.  Innovation Example: Incorporate agroforestry and sustainable land management practices into training curriculums, using case studies from successful implementations in similar arid environments.  - Empowered women through entrepreneurship  -Integrated climate adaptation into communal and regional development plan  Policy environment strengthened for climate adaptation | -5,000 farmers trained in climate adaptation (3,000 women, 2,000 men). 500 women supported in climate-focused entrepreneurship  -1,000 farmers trained on 3 climate-resilient agricultural practices  - 500 women complete entrepreneurship training modules  -40 communal development plans integrate climate adaptation strategies  -100 local and regional authorities trained on climate policies, climate risks  -2 Private sector collaborations established to support training and capacity building initiatives. | LDCF | 350,000 | 3,000,000 |
| **Component 2:**  Climate-Resilience Ecosystem Restoration | Investment | -Improved Ecosystems  -Restored activities included establishing demonstration plots for climate-resilient crops as part of the ecosystem restoration efforts. These plots can serve as practical, hands-on learning sites for farmers.  Innovation Example: Utilize innovative water conservation techniques such as zai pits and half-moons in the restored areas, demonstrating their effectiveness in improving water retention and soil fertility. | - 15,000 hectares restored with climate-resilient species  - 10 structures built for preventing soil erosion and floods  -Collaboration with 4 private enterprises for innovative restoration technologies and practices | LDCF | 3,900,000 | 18,000,000 |
| **Component 3:** Resilient Agriculture, Food Security, and Water Management | Investment | - Established Climate-resilient water conservation  -Enhanced access to finance for smallholder farmers, enabling them to invest in climate-resilient technologies and practices.  -Reduced vulnerability of farmers to climate risks  -Developed partnerships with seed banks and agricultural research institutions to ensure access to climate-resilient seeds.  -Promoted use of digital tools and climate information services to make farming decisions more data-driven.  Innovation Example: Implement pilot projects for integrated farms that combine crop production, livestock, and agroforestry, demonstrating the benefits of a mixed farming system for resilience and income diversification.  - Diversified income sources for rural communities | -2 climate-smart food storage facilities built and operational  - 40 climate-resilient community water points serving 2,000 individuals  - 5 integrated farms established  - 3 agricultural product storage and marketing systems operational  - 40 community groups supported in NTFP harvesting programs  - Developing 10 value chains for climate-resilient agricultural products, increasing market access and income for farmers  -Collaboration with 5 private sector partners for technology and market access | LDCF | 3,400,000 | 25,337,222 |
| **Component 4:** M&E | Technical Assistance | -Enhanced monitoring and Evaluation for Climate and Food Security Initiatives  -Incorporated indicators to measure the adoption rate of climate-resilient agricultural practices and the impact on crop yields and water efficiency.  -Use of geo-spatial technologies for real-time monitoring of land use changes and restoration efforts.  Innovation Example: Leverage mobile technology to collect feedback directly from farmers on the ground, enhancing the adaptive management of the project based on real-time data and insights. | -A detailed M&E plan is developed and operationalized to systematically track, assess, and optimize the project’s performance, impacts, and outcomes  -Digital tools and platforms are incorporated for real-time data collection, analysis, forecasting and reporting, enhancing the project’s adaptability and decision-making processes  -Yearly climate and food security evaluation reports are produced, offering rich, data-driven insights and actionable recommendations for project refinement and enhancement  -Local communities, stakeholders, and project implementation teams are trained and empowered to effectively utilize M&E tools, ensuring a broad-based, inclusive, and insightful monitoring process  -A systematic approach to capturing, analyzing, and disseminating knowledge is integrated, fulfilling the GEF requirement and contributing to the global body of knowledge on climate resilience and food security  -The project’s adaptability is heightened, with dynamic strategies responsive to real-time data and insights, ensuring that interventions are optimized for maximal impact and sustainability. | LDCF | 700,000 | 2,000,000 |
| Subtotal | | | | LDCF |  |  |
| Project Management Cost (PMC) (if this is an MTF project, please report separate PMC lines for each TF). \*\*\*If amount requested is above limits, a pop-up menu should open for the Agency to provide an explanation\*\*\* | | | | LDCF | 650,000 | 3,763,778 |
| **Total Project Cost** | | | |  | **9,000,000** | **52,100,000** |

# project outline

## Project Rationale

**Geographical and Climatic Overview of Burkina Faso**

Burkina Faso, positioned in the heart of West Africa, encompasses a land area of 273,187 km². The country grapples with varying climatic conditions across its territory, segmented into Sahelian, Sudano-Sahelian, and Sudanese zones. These climatic variances stem from a range of natural phenomena, including the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the West African Monsoon, both of which are being affected by global climate change (Climatology Journal, 2022[[1]](#endnote-2)). The Great Green Wall (GGW) zone remains the part of Burkina Faso most vulnerable to desertification, as illustrated by the map below. The decline concerns the entire GGW area, aggravated by its geographical position, which makes it more vulnerable to climate change.

In the Central Plateau, for example, there has been a decline of 1,314 km² in 11 years (2002-2013), or 15.28% of the region's territory. In the Eastern region, degradation in 11 years (2002-2013) extended over 3,434 km2, or 7.35% of the regional territory. In the Sahel region, between 2002 and 2013, the decline was most marked by the almost total disappearance of 98.1% of forests. The Centre North region recorded a decline of 2,658 km² in 11 years (2002- 2013), or 13.54% of the region's territory. As for the Northern region, the negative trend has resulted in the transformation of forests, which have regressed by 294.67 km2 or 1.80% of the territory (*FAO & Fonds Verts Climat, 2019*) [[2]](#endnote-3).

**A map of different colors

Description automatically generated**

**Figure 1**: Levels of sensitivity of areas to land degradation Source: FAO- FVC, 2019, "Strategic analysis of adaptation and mitigation potential in the Great Green Wall area of Burkina Faso".

**Global Environmental Problems and Climate Vulnerabilities**

Land Degradation: Land degradation is a global catastrophe that has caught the world in a vicious cycle of environmental decline and socio-economic deterioration. A chilling one-third of Earth's land surface is currently degraded, affecting over 1.3 billion people, according to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (*UNCCD Global Land Outlook 2022*)[[3]](#endnote-4). This challenge is not only ecological but also humanitarian and economic, causing significant productivity drops as over the last two decades, approximately 20% per cent of the Earth’s vegetated surface showed persistent declining trends in productivity.

Africa is the continent most vulnerable to and most affected by land degradation and desertification, with around 45% of Africa’s land area impacted by desertification and 55 % of this area at high or very high risk of further degradation (*ELD Africa Report 2015*[[4]](#endnote-5)).

The Sahel has experienced recurrent severe droughts and deterioration of soil quality and vegetation cover in the last decades. These have become pressing environmental issues with far-**reaching consequences including food insecurity, loss of biodiversity, displacement of communities but also exacerbating decade-long tensions between farmers and herders.**

In Burkina Faso, the northern regions in the Great Green Wall belt (including Central Plateau), have for decades been suffering the consequences of desertification, soil degradation and increasingly frequent droughts.

As a pan-African solution designed to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, GGW aims to be a bulwark against land degradation, desertification, and the ensuing poverty and migration. Given that degraded lands store 50% less carbon, GGW's focus on land restoration is also a strategic move against the rising tide of climate change.

The project in Central plateau comes at a pivotal time, addressing multiple facets of the degradation crisis. According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, just a 5% restoration of degraded lands could boost agricultural yields by 10%. Given GGW’s scope, it could dramatically change the agricultural landscape, offering a lifeline to vulnerable communities. More so, the initiative could indirectly contribute to global water security, as a 10% increase in vegetation can lead to a 40% increase in water resources.

Climate Change: As the Earth warms, climate change is no longer a theoretical threat but a current, ongoing crisis with tangible impacts that can be measured and quantified. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (*IPCC*)[[5]](#endnote-6), the planet has already warmed by approximately 1.2°C since pre-industrial times. This seemingly modest increase has precipitated a host of extreme weather events, from unseasonable floods to prolonged droughts, affecting billions of people globally. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) states that between 2010 and 2019, extreme weather events resulted in $1.38 trillion of economic loss globally, a 74% increase from the previous decade (*The Global Climate 2011-2020*).[[6]](#endnote-7)

In GGW areas, the impacts of climate change and anthropogenic pressure constitute a serious threat to the sustainability of ecosystems exploited by herders and farmers. Indeed, the comparative evolution of the climatic situations of the last thirty years has highlighted revealing signs of a strong worsening of the climate which has led to aridification and the destruction of the biological potential of the land.

The situation in Burkina Faso is particularly concerning. Since 1975, annual average temperatures have been observed to increase by 0.6oC (*USAID Climate Change Profile Burkina Faso 2017*[[7]](#endnote-8)). There has been an increase in the average yearly temperatures of approximately 0.10oC per decade from 1901-2013. Reports suggest a warming of 0.26oC per decade over the last 30 years. By 2050, a 1.4-1.6oC temperatures is expected in Burkina Faso (*UNDP 2021[[8]](#endnote-9)*). Temperature is projected to increase by 3-4oC by 2080-2099, this is substantially higher than the global average (*World Bank 2021*[[9]](#endnote-10)).

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**Figure 2:**

In terms of precipitation, observations from weather stations taken since 1902 depict an expansion of the dry zone, which has been moving southward over the last century. A high level of uncertainty exists regarding projections on precipitation in the region. Projections range from a decline of 10% to an increase of 16% in precipitation by 2100. IPCC estimates show a potential increase in rainfall in the West African region under a high emissions scenario of 1% by 2035, 2% by 2065, and 5% by 2100 (*Crawford et al. 2016*[[10]](#endnote-11)).

Climate Intensification: The initial global temperature has increased by approximately 1.2°C since the pre-industrial era. By 2050, temperatures in Burkina Faso are expected to rise by an additional 1.4-1.6°C. Projections for 2080-2099 indicate an increase of 3-4°C above current levels in Burkina Faso. This information suggests a significant intensification of climate conditions in Burkina Faso, with total projected increases potentially exceeding 5°C by the end of the century when considering the pre-industrial baseline. The increase in extreme temperatures (maximum and minimum) lead to a high demand for water (evapotranspiration) not compensated by drastically decreasing rainfall. Moreover, the increasingly frequent appearance of exceptional phenomena such as droughts, floods, high winds, and sandstorms, etc. strains the productive ecosystem and the living environment of the populations.

Natural resources destruction and environmental pollution: The very rudimentary production techniques still used in the 5 GGW regions are very destructive for natural resources. This is the case of uncontrolled clearing, of the practice of agriculture of the “mining, itinerant slash, and burn, wandering animals, bush fires etc. “All these elements combined with the strong dependence of populations on the use of wood energy is leading to a decrease in plant cover and the appearance of bare areas. Also, the anarchic development of gold panning - especially in Burkina Faso where over 2 million people are directly or indirectly engaged in artisanal gold mining in over 800 sites - is nowadays a source of destruction of natural resources and environmental pollution (water and soil). This is due to the absence of rehabilitation techniques and the uncontrolled use of chemicals including mercury; all of which are contributing to the weakening of the natural environment and the decline of natural resources.

Deforestation: In the Sahel overall, between 2002 and 2013, the deforestation trend was mainly marked by the almost total disappearance of forests up to 98.1% according to the SP/CNDD (*January 2020*[[11]](#endnote-12)). The phenomenon is observed in the entire area of the Great Green Wall, aggravated by its geographic position that makes it more vulnerable to climate change.

From the reference situation drawn up by Burkina’s Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development SP/CNDD (*January 2020*[[12]](#endnote-13)), we can note the situation of the regions in Burkina, which are covered by the Great Green Wall. At the national level, studies on the evolution of land use reveal an increase in the surface area of agricultural areas to the detriment of wooded areas. Therefore, the surface area of forests and semi-natural environments dropped from 84.98% in 1992 to 82.95% in 2002, i.e., a decrease of 2.03% in ten years (*REB 2016[[13]](#endnote-14)*). The deforestation appears more severe in the Central Plateau region where this project is located., with degradation in the order of 1314 Km² in 11 years (2002-2013), i.e., 15.28% of the area size of the region. This compares with 7.35% (3,434 km2) in the Eastern region, 13.54% (2,658 km²) in the Center North region and 1.80% (294.67 km2) in the Northern region.

In this context, the GGW emerges not merely as a restoration project but as a critical defense mechanism against the compounding impacts of climate change. The GGW aims to establish a vast green belt across the African continent, from Senegal in the West to Djibouti in the East. More than just a wall of trees, the initiative is about holistic land management that integrates forestry, agriculture, and water conservation—key elements that will build resilience against climate-induced vulnerabilities.

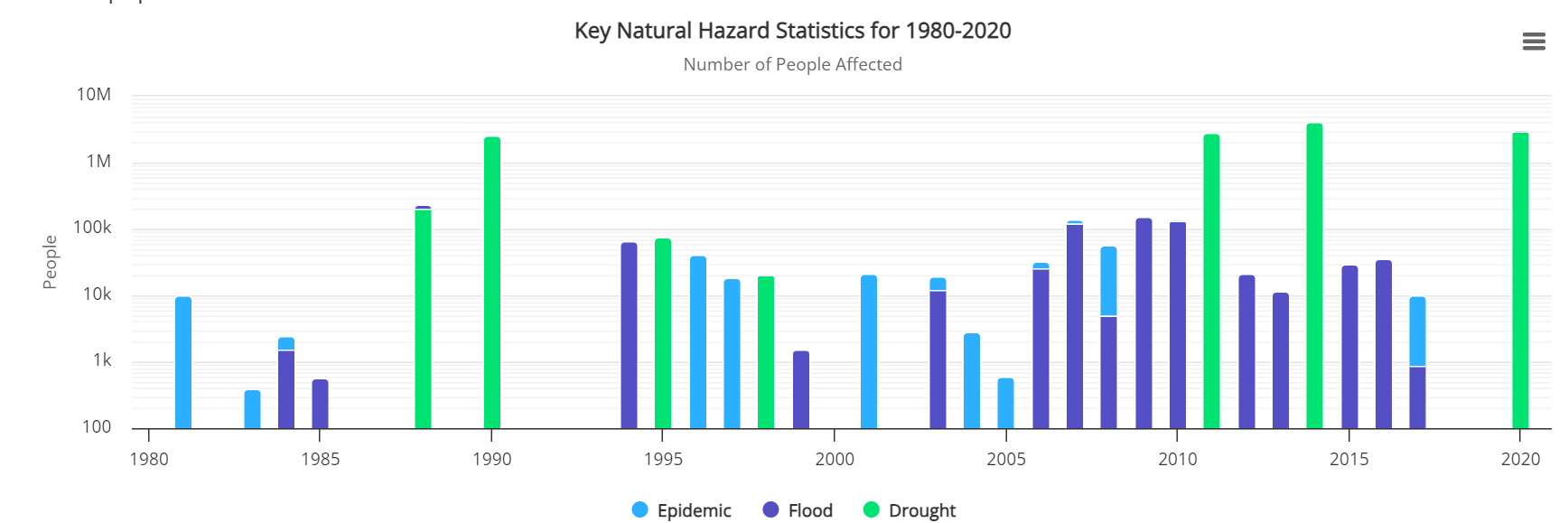
The rationale for the initiative gains more weight when we consider the data on regional impacts. The Sahel, where the GGW is largely concentrated, has experienced a 25% uptick in extreme weather incidents over the last 20 years, according to the *African Climate Policy Center*[[14]](#endnote-15). These are not mere statistics but represent the loss of livelihoods, displacement, and increased poverty for millions. The GGW can help ameliorate these impacts; models by the UN Environment Program predict that successful implementation could help absorb up to 250 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, thereby contributing to climate mitigation efforts.

Droughts and Water Scarcity: In an increasingly interconnected and urbanized world, water scarcity is becoming one of the most pressing environmental crises of our time. According to the United Nations, nearly two-thirds of the global population face severe water scarcity for at least one month each year (*Mekonnen and Hoekstra, 2016[[15]](#endnote-16)*). In monetary terms, the World Bank estimates that water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change, could cost some regions up to 6% of their GDP by *2050*[[16]](#endnote-17). Economically, water scarcity has a domino effect. It first impacts agriculture, causing lower yields, which in turn amplifies food insecurity. The National Committee for the Fight Against Desertification (NCAD) indicates that water scarcity exacerbates soil degradation and reduces agricultural productivity, contributing to an increase in poverty rates. When water is scarce, the socio-economic fabric of the community is frayed, causing ripples that lead to increased unemployment and reduced economic output. These ripple effects also extend to the public health sector. Reduced water availability often results in poor water quality, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. According to the World Health Organization, the burden of diseases like cholera and dysentery can rise dramatically in areas experiencing water scarcity[[17]](#endnote-18).

The number of people without access to water is growing in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is the only region of the world where this is happening. About 387 million people lived without access to basic drinking water services in the region in 2020, up from 350 million people in 2000, according to a WHO/ UNICEF progress report[[18]](#endnote-19). The Sahel region, where the GGW is most active, relies heavily on rain-fed agriculture; more than 95% of its water sources are climate-dependent. Most of the water resources of the GGW areas come from rainwater that feed surface water (rivers, ponds, dams) and groundwater. Over the past 30 years, over 75% of the West African population has been affected at least once every two years by droughts. Four major drought-related emergencies have been reported in less than 10 years in Burkina Faso and Mali, causing decreases in yields of 25% on average and increases in staple crop prices of up to 50%. Furthermore, the cost of responding to the severe drought events experienced in Burkina Faso has been estimated at over US$20million.

In view of the essential nature of water for life and good health, for the development of human activities and the preservation of ecosystems, an analysis of the state of resources in water in Burkina Faso shows that the country is already in a situation of quasi-permanent water stress. According to World Bank data[[19]](#endnote-20), drought has been the biggest natural hazard risk in Burkina Faso since the 1990s, affecting almost half the population between 2010-2020.

**Figure 3**: Number of people affected by various types of natural hazards between 1980-2020. Source: World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal – Burkina Faso". [Online]. Available at [https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/ country/burkina-faso/vulnerability the Great Green Wall area of Burkina Faso".



This is largely due to the adverse effects of the climate (long dry seasons, high water demand, long-term decline in rainfall annuals, etc.). Anything that causes a drop in groundwater levels, an early drying up of natural water bodies, dams. This phenomenon is even more pronounced as one goes up to the north of the country and negatively influences production agricultural.

Given this scenario, the water management goals of the GGW are not just complementary but essential to its land restoration aims and efforts within the GGW framework to introduce sustainable water management can significantly benefit local communities. For example, in agriculture, several reports and studies have found that sustainable water management practices play a crucial role in enhancing agricultural yields in arid and semi-arid regions like the GGW Sahel regions. By utilizing water resources efficiently, implementing technologies like drip irrigation, mulching, rainwater harvesting, and adopting drought-resistant crops, farmers can improve crop productivity while conserving water. A study by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) through their TIARA (Transforming Investment in Africa’s Rainfed Agriculture)[[20]](#endnote-21) project have found that sustainable water management could increase agricultural yields by 20% and water efficiency by up to 35% in arid and semi-arid regions, like the Sahel. This is not just an environmental win but a socio-economic one, reducing the vulnerability of marginalized communities who are most affected by water scarcity.

Moreover, GGW’s focus on water management aligns with larger international objectives. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 explicitly calls for clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. International climate financing directed towards water management has increased by 25% from 2015 to 2020, according to the Global Environment Facility[[21]](#endnote-22).

Moreover, according to the Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2023[[22]](#endnote-23), the water and wastewater sector received almost half of tracked adaptation finance (USD 31 billion) in 2021/2022. This high share is partly due to the capital-intensive nature of large water and wastewater treatment and desalination plants, but also underscores the relevance of such infrastructure to building resilience against floods and drought. At the sub-sectoral level, adaptation finance largely went to water supply and sanitation projects (USD 15 billion), and wastewater treatment (USD 7.5 billion).

In such context, the GGW finds itself in a ripe funding environment for multi-faceted impact.

**Fig. 2: Analysis of Vulnerability of exposed sectors in Burkina**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Resource / Sector** | **Degree of Impact** | **Duration of Impact** | **Severity of Impact** | **Importance of Resource / sector** |
| **Water** | High | High | High | Very High |
| **Agriculture** | High | High | High | Very High |
| **Livestock Farming** | High to  moderate | High to moderate | High to moderate | High |
| **Forestry** | High to  moderate | High to moderate | High to moderate | High |

***Source: Burkina National Adaptation Plan 2024-2028 (2023).***

The most recent vulnerability analysis of exposed sectors in Burkina Faso, as outlined in NAPA presents a detailed assessment across various sectors. Here is a summary of the findings regarding the degree of impact, duration, severity, and the overall importance of the affected resources or sectors:

**Water:** This sector is facing a high degree of impact, with both the impact and its severity assessed as high over a long duration. The importance of this sector is considered very high due to its critical role in supporting life, agriculture, and economic activities in Burkina Faso.

**Agriculture**: Similar to water, agriculture is experiencing a high degree of impact, which is sustained over a long duration and with high severity. Given agriculture's role as the backbone of Burkina Faso's economy and its significance in ensuring food security, its importance is rated as very high.

**Livestock Farming**: The impact on livestock farming varies from high to moderate, with both the duration and severity of impact ranging from high to moderate as well. This sector is of high importance due to its contribution to the livelihoods of a significant portion of the population.

**Forestry**: Forestry faces a high to moderate degree of impact, with the duration and severity of this impact also ranging from high to moderate. The sector is considered of high importance due to its role in biodiversity, climate regulation, and as a livelihood resource for communities.

These findings underscore the critical vulnerabilities and challenges faced by Burkina Faso in the context of climate change, particularly in sectors that are fundamental to the country's socio-economic fabric and environmental sustainability.

The analysis clearly illustrates that ***the agriculture and water sectors***, which are closely interconnected and the sectors most permanently affected by climate change, are the most vulnerable. Studies assessing vulnerability and the capacity to adapt to climate variability and change highlight the four most vulnerable key sectors, namely agriculture, water resources, livestock and forestry/biodiversity and the most vulnerable groups, namely poor rural communities

(women, young people, small-scale farmers).

Studies assessing vulnerability and the capacity to adapt to climate variability and change highlight the four most vulnerable key sectors, namely agriculture, water resources, livestock and forestry/biodiversity and the most vulnerable groups, namely poor rural communities (women, young people, small-scale farmers). The most frequent elements of vulnerability in nutrition and economic terms include:

* Famine and its nutritional impacts: inability to maintain a proper diet throughout the year. Some farmers eat just one meal a day at critical times of the year and this impacts on the health and diet of the population.
* Weakening of the economic base, triggering a process of impoverishment: lower agricultural yields and the mortality rate among cattle that survive the cycle of shocks such as drought reduce both food stocks from one year to the next and revenue opportunities. Women are in even worse off in this respect, as they cannot generate an income by selling natural resources.

**Project-Specific Vulnerabilities in Burkina Faso's Plateau Central**

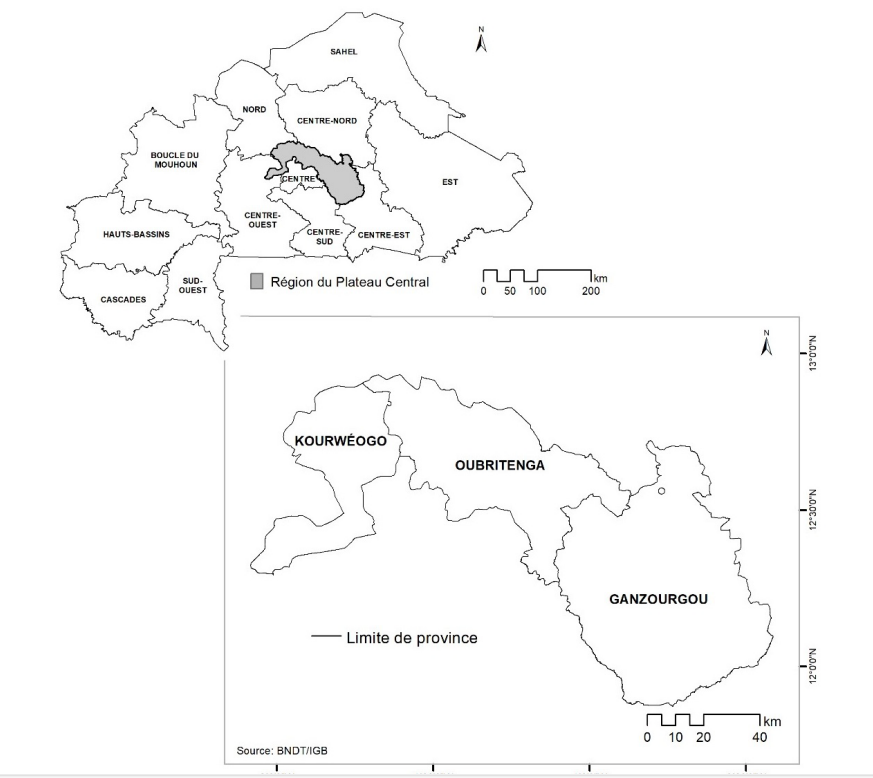
**Presentation of the Project area**

The Central Plateau region covers an area of 8,605 km² and is limited to the north by the regions from the Center North and the North, to the east by the Center East region, to the west by the Center West regions and Center and to the south by the South Central region (Fig 2 ).

The capital of the region is Ziniaré located 30 km from Ouagadougou (capital of Burkina Faso). It includes three provinces (Ganzourgou, Oubritenga and Kourwéogo), 20 departments, 3 urban communes and 17 rural communes (INSD, 2022b).

Generally speaking, the relief in the Central Plateau is characterized by a peneplain with slopes gentle (300 to 400 m altitude), interrupted here and there by alignments of armored hills with tabular or rounded summits (Kourwéogo province) or granitic summits (Ganzourgou province).

According to the criteria of depth and physiographic position, the Central Plateau region contains shallow and infertile soils. These are mainly ferruginous soils vulnerable to the action of erosion and runoff. The climate is Sudano-Sahelian type marked by a long season dry (October to May) and a rainy season (June to September). The rainfall is irregular and insufficient. The annual average is between 600 and 800 mm. The south (Ganzourgou province) experiences a North Sudanian type climate with an alternation between a dry season and a dry season.



**Fig. 3**: Map of Burkina-Faso by region with focus on Central Plateau region.

**Socio-demographics**

The population of the Central Plateau region was estimated in 2019 at 978,614 inhabitants (around 5% of the total population) with an average annual growth rate of 2.7% between 2006 and 2019.

As in almost all other regions, the sex ratio in the Central Plateau puts highlight the numerical superiority of women (88 men for 100 women). The population is mainly composed of Mossi, Peulh and Bissa (INSD, 2022a). The rate of urbanization of the region remains one of the weakest in the country. This rate was estimated at 10% in 2019, compared to 26% for the whole country. Economically, 80% of the active population carries out activities agropastoral crops which constitute the main sources of subsistence and income (INSD, 2022b). More 93.5% of men and 94.4% of women are employed in agriculture or livestock farming. We also meet in the region other means of subsistence such as artisans, traders, gold miners and traditional healers. Gold panning appears to be an activity of

reconversion of farmers due to the degradation of agricultural land.

**Geology and geomorphology**

The Central Plateau Region is based on two large geological groups: the Antebirimian or Precambrian D dominant in the provinces of Oubritenga and Kourwéogo and the Birimian or Precambrian C whose formations cover 4/5 of the region. These geological formations are strongly dominated by plutonic and metamorphic rocks (MATD, 2010).

Geomorphologically, the region is characterized by a peneplain with gentle slopes (300 at 400 m altitude) interrupted here and there by alignments of armored hills at the summits tabular or rounded (Kourwéogo province) or granitic (Ganzourgou province) (SP/CNDD,2021).

**Hydrography**

In quantitative terms, the hydrographic network is relatively well supplied but in qualitative terms, almost all of it is classified as a dry system (very temporary). The main rivers are: the Nakambé, the Massili, the Koulottoko, the Nazinon, the bougoula-moudi, the bombore and the guibga. The Central Plateau is home to one of the largest hydraulic infrastructures in the country. These are (i) the Ziga dam, with a capacity of 200 million m3, which supplies the city of Ouagadougou with drinking water and the Loumbila dam (42 million m3) with at least a hydro-agricultural vocation.

**Relief and soils**

Generally speaking, the relief in the Central Plateau is characterized by a peneplain with gentle slopes (300 to 400 m altitude), interrupted here and there by alignments of armored hills with tabular or rounded summits (Kourwéogo province) or granitic (Ganzourgou province). There are approximately seven (7) soil classes recorded. Apart from lithosols on crust and poorly developed gravelly erosion soils, all of the region's soils (74%) are favorable to agriculture. However, the majority of these soils (leached tropical ferruginous soils) are vulnerable to the action of erosion. The surface area of soil unsuitable for agriculture amounts to 2223 km², or 26% of the region's surface area. According to the criteria of depth and physiographic position, these soils are mainly shallow, not very fertile and vulnerable to the action of erosion. Despite the sensitive nature of the soils and the strong practice of agriculture in the region, we note a poor practice of water and soil conservation actions (Regional Council, 2017). To reduce the vulnerability of the region to climate change, it is necessary to plan actions to protection of soils against the effects of erosion.

**Water resources**

The Central Plateau straddles three watersheds: the Nakambé basin, which covers more than 80% of the region, the Sirba basin and the Nazinon basin. The region is drained by a network dense hydrographic consisting essentially of watercourses and periodic tributaries of a total length of 386.62 km (MATD, 2010). These are watercourses with a tropical rain regime, heavily dependent on precipitation. The hydrographic network of the Central Plateau is in regime

dry, very temporary in its entirety. The main rivers are the Nakambé, the Massili and the Nazinon. The region is home to the Ziga Dam, one of the largest dams in the country, with a capacity of 200 million m3 , and the Loumbila dam (42 million m3) for hydro-agricultural purposes.

**Flora and fauna**

The Central Plateau Region records savannah vegetation of the tree, shrub and herbaceous. There are also wooded savannah formations generally along the courses of water. Vegetation degrades rapidly due mainly to overgrazing, cutting abusive use of wood and climate change. The main floral species present in the region are, among others, Vitellaria paradoxa (shea), Parkia biglobosa (néré), Lannea microcarpa (grape), Tamarindus indica (tamarind), Adansonia digitata (baobab), Acacia senegal, Anogeissus leiocarpus and Pterocarpus erinaceus. The Central Plateau includes three classified forests covering nearly 30,600 ha: the classified forest of Bissiga and Ziga in Oubritenga and the Wayen forest in Ganzourgou (MATD, 2010). THE jsilvicultural resources are mainly used for fuelwood supply in the

households, for fattening livestock and especially for traditional pharmacopoeia.

Wildlife potential is dominated by small terrestrial fauna, avian fauna and wild fauna aquatic (fish and others). Large wildlife is almost absent, except in certain parts of Ganzourgou which still have forest relics. Also, it should be noted that these species wildlife are threatened by poaching.

**Climate vulnerabilities in the region:**

Weather Volatility: The Central Plateau region in Burkina Faso represents a microcosm of the larger challenges faced by Sahelian Africa. While the area is under the spotlight for numerous environmental concerns, one issue stands out dramatically: weather volatility. According to data from Burkina Faso's National Climate Center, the region has experienced a staggering 30% increase in weather variability over the past three decades. This has manifested in more frequent extreme weather events like droughts and flash floods, both of which have severe implications for agriculture, water availability, and overall socioeconomic stability.

The GGW emerges as a critical and timely intervention in this context, aiming to tackle not just desertification but also the spiraling effects of weather volatility. The stakes are high: Burkina Faso's Ministry of Agriculture reported losses of approximately $3 million in agricultural yield in 2020 alone due to unseasonal thunderstorms and other extreme events.

From a data perspective, the impact of weather volatility in the Central Plateau resonates far beyond immediate economic losses. Studies have shown that weather-related crop failure increases poverty and can trigger migration, leading to overcrowded urban areas and consequently higher unemployment. According to the International Organization for Migration, over 10,000 people from the Central Plateau have been forced to relocate due to adverse environmental conditions between 2015 and 2020.

The rationale for the GGW in the Central Plateau is also supported by broader policy objectives. Burkina Faso's PENA and the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2020-2025) (PNDES II) explicitly identify climate resilience as a key goal. Partnerships between these national programs and the GGW could be a force multiplier, pooling resources, and expertise to combat weather volatility on multiple fronts.

Extreme Weather: Extreme weather events have escalated in frequency and intensity in the Central Plateau region of Burkina Faso, presenting a significant challenge to both the local population and the economy. Burkina Faso's National Meteorological and Aviation Agency (ANAM) reports a concerning 15% increase in occurrences of extreme weather events like hailstorms and thunderstorms between 2010 and 2020. This is not merely an interesting statistic—it is a distress signal. In 2020 alone, these unpredictable and destructive phenomena contributed to an agricultural loss of $3 million, severely undermining the region's economic stability.

GGW comes into this landscape as an emergency response team, aiming to alleviate the detrimental impacts of such weather extremities by fostering environmental resilience and sustainable livelihoods. The urgency of GGW's objectives, such as land restoration, sustainable agriculture, and water conservation, is underscored by the monumental challenges posed by this uptick in extreme weather events.

Economic repercussions are immediate and far-reaching. The $3 million loss in agricultural yield during 2020 threatens the livelihood of a predominantly agrarian society. This economic strain has a cascading effect, exacerbating existing social issues such as unemployment and poverty, particularly among young people. According to the International Labor Organization, over 60% of youth in the Central Plateau are unemployed or underemployed. When agriculture fails, so do the alternate career prospects for this demographic.

Further data underscores the crisis. A report by the National Committee for the Fight Against Desertification (NCAD) indicated that extreme weather events exacerbate soil erosion and degradation. The loss of fertile topsoil not only diminishes agricultural yield but also contributes to water scarcity by affecting natural water retention and aquifer recharge capabilities.

This intensification of extreme weather events is synergistically aligned with Burkina Faso's PNA and the PNDES II. These policy instruments have articulated the pressing need to build climate resilience, especially in the most vulnerable regions like the Central Plateau. The alignment between these national priorities and the goals of the GGW provides an excellent opportunity for collaborative action, pooling resources, and know-how to address extreme weather challenges.

Agriculture challenges: In Burkina Faso's Central Plateau, agriculture is not just a sector; it is the lifeline of the community. It's a subsistence agriculture characterized by (i) an extensive production system with techniques still not very modern; (ii) low productivity (sorghum yield can drop up to 300 kg/ha); (iii) weak integration between “crop production” and “animal production” and (iv) almost non-existent arboriculture (SP/CNDD, 2021).

The Central Plateau Region is one of the regions specializing in market gardening even if this activity is limited by insufficient water.

The potential of the agricultural sector is noted in the density of the hydrographic network and the availability of exploitable land. However, the majority of exploitable land is experiencing degradation and watercourses are not sustainable. The major constraint is climatic with insufficient annual rainfall levels and poorly distributed both in space and time.

Data from Burkina Faso's National Meteorological and Aviation Agency illustrates a 30% increase in weather volatility over the last three decades. This volatility manifests as frequent droughts, flash floods, and extreme weather events like hailstorms and thunderstorms. Between 2010 and 2020, occurrences of such extreme weather increased by about 15%, causing a devastating agricultural loss of $3 million in 2020 alone. With 95% of the area's water sources being climate-dependent, agriculture becomes incredibly fragile, walking a tightrope between subsistence and disaster.

GGW could serve as a transformative solution for this precarious situation. One of the core missions of GGW is to restore 100 million hectares of land by 2030, thereby combating desertification and land degradation. In the context of Central Plateau, where the National Committee for the Fight Against Desertification reports that 40% of arable lands show signs of severe erosion, the GGW's goals align closely with the region's needs.

Restoring land not only contributes to climate resilience but also improves agricultural productivity by enhancing soil fertility and water retention capabilities. This, in turn, offers the potential for economic stability in a region where agriculture is the primary source of income for most households. Furthermore, the GGW Initiative provides avenues for skill development, training young people in modern, climate-resilient farming techniques, thereby addressing both the economic and environmental vulnerabilities.

Another compelling rationale for the GGW in the Central Plateau comes from the policy context. Burkina Faso has existing national policies like the NEPA and the PNDES II, that prioritize sustainable agriculture. The GGW can work synergistically with these national programs to maximize both the impact and the funding.

Land degradation

Fig. 4: Types and drivers of land degradation in Central Plateau

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Types or forms of land degradation** | **Direct (immediate) drivers of land degradation** | **Underlying (indirect) drivers of land degradation** |
| Soil erosion by water (loss of topsoil, runoff)  Winds | * Clearing and deforestation for agricultural use and wood energy * Poor soil and water management * Inadequacy of agricultural practices * Combined effects of topography and precipitation * Soil compaction (loss of porosity, erosion factor) * Natural causes (extreme winds and precipitation) | * Conflicts between users * Land insecurity (insufficient consistency between modern law and customary law) * Poverty of users (overexploitation of natural resources for the satisfaction of primary needs) * Infrastructure and access services (to inputs, credits, etc.) * Education and access to knowledge and support services (good SLM practices) * Unfavorable conditions on international markets (agricultural products) * Population pressure due to high density * Factors specific to the Sudanian zone: * Migratory pressures * Socio-economic conditions of users |
| Chemical degradation of soils (decrease in nutrient content and organic matter, increase in toxic element content). | * Loss of nutrients through export, harvesting, burning, leaching * Insufficient supply of organic and chemical fertilizers * Inadequacy of agricultural practices (fertility management) * Disappearance of fallow land (demographic pressure particularly for the Sudano-Sahelian zone) |
| Physical degradation of the soil (compaction, degradation of the soil structure) | * Soil work (ploughing, weeding, etc.) * Overgrazing (trampling of the soil around water points and grazed areas) |
| Water degradation (temporary aridification, drop in water table, water pollution) | * Natural cause (pocket of drought) * Improper use of agricultural inputs and chemicals (gold panning) |
| Biological degradation (reduced plant cover: loss of habitats, loss of natural species and soil macro- and micro-organisms) | * Deforestation or clearing for agricultural use and wood energy, * Bushfires * Use of chemical inputs |

*Source: Report on the baseline situation, targets and associated measures of LDN in Burkina Faso.*

Water scarcity

Water scarcity has reached a critical stage in the Central Plateau, putting a strain on both the ecosystem and the local population. According to the country’s latest NAPA published in 2023[[23]](#endnote-24), water scarcity is the second sector most vulnerable to climate change after agriculture in the central Plateau region, in both the near-term (2021-2050) and the long-term (2051-2080).

According to Ibrahim et al. (2012), the considerable shifts in rainfall onset and offset across the country, resulting in rainfall deficits, is expected to have dire consequences for the country’s future surface and groundwater resources, including the Central Plateau region.

Prolonged droughts have forced many pastoral communities to abandon their traditional way of life to become semi-agricultural. The intensity of extreme weather phenomena is projected to increase, causing negative impacts on agricultural production.

Moreover, the increased frequency of flash floods complicates water resource management, a particular concern for a region where over 95% of water sources are climate dependent. Flash floods disrupt the natural water cycle, causing significant soil erosion and reducing the recharge rate of essential aquifers. In addition, large quantities of rainwater runoff are observed during the rainy season on barren hillsides where overgrazing has removed most vegetation. This runoff collects water from small gullies and flows down towards the valleys, usually becoming a torrent. This cuts channels in the centre of fertile valleys, causing widespread soil erosion, and increased risks of floods.

These alarming facts underline just how exceptionally vulnerable the region is to climate variability, with groundwater levels falling by an average of 2 meters per year, according to the national water resources strategy. The situation reaches a critical level when one considers the overwhelming dependence of the population on agriculture, a sector which, in turn, is highly dependent on water availability.

Given these challenges, GGW’s initiatives around sustainable water management and land restoration are not simply beneficial—they are necessary.

One of GGW’s key pillars focuses on sustainable water management as an integral component of its land restoration projects. Given the disheartening statistics around water scarcity in the Central Plateau, the initiative's goals align closely with the acute needs of the region.

GGW's focus on water management is also synergistically aligned with Burkina Faso's national strategies such as the NAPA/PNA[[24]](#endnote-25) and the PNDES II[[25]](#endnote-26). Both policy instruments underline the urgent need for sustainable water management, especially in the vulnerable Central Plateau region. The confluence of these strategic goals creates a fertile ground for collaborative action that maximizes both policy and funding impact.

In this fraught context, the GGW emerges as a timely and relevant solution. One of its principal objectives is to restore 100 million hectares of land by 2030, focusing on soil health and water management as vital components of this restoration. In the Central Plateau, this could translate into halting soil erosion, improving soil fertility, and optimizing water use—essential steps for an area so deeply rooted in agriculture.

Importantly, by restoring soil and water resources, the GGW does not just address environmental issues; it directly impacts economic stability and social well-being. A revitalized agricultural sector can lead to job creation, poverty reduction, and overall economic growth, benefiting the many households for whom agriculture is the primary source of income.

**Underlying Drivers of Environmental Change:**

**Population Growth**: Increased population exerts pressure on limited land and water resources, contributing to their degradation.

The population of Burkina Faso, based on the average growth rate of 3.1% (PNDES II), will reach 37.4 million in 2050 (from 20 million in 2022), with a rural population of 15.7 million, of which 11.6 million for the agricultural population.

Like the rest of the country, the Central Plateau region is undergoing rapid population growth, which adds a layer of complexity to its existing environmental and social challenges. With more people, the demand for limited land and water resources skyrockets, accelerating their degradation. In a region where land is already scarce and 95% of water sources are climate-dependent, an increasing population poses a profound challenge to sustainable development.

This growth in population will lead to increased agricultural activities, greater extraction of water for multiple uses, and more land being converted for human settlements. This influx intensifies the degradation of land and water, impacting agricultural productivity and thereby creating a feedback loop of worsening environmental conditions and economic instability. With a growing population, the rates of soil erosion and water depletion are expected to escalate, unless intervened upon, exacerbating the already alarming rates of poverty and food insecurity in the area.

The initiative's focus on sustainable land and water management also offers a long-term solution to the pressures wrought by population growth. By using methods that encourage soil fertility, water conservation, and the sustainable use of land, the GGW aims to create a model that can be resilient even as the population continues to grow. Moreover, the GGW also integrates the local communities into the project, thereby ensuring that the benefits of land restoration are equitably distributed and directly reach those most in need.

By aligning its goals with existing national programs such as Burkina Faso's PENA and the PNDES II, the GGW Initiative establishes a robust framework for collaboration. This synergistic approach multiplies the efficacy of both environmental and social interventions.

**Economic Development**: Burkina Faso is recognized as Africa’s fourth-largest gold producer and its second-largest cotton producer. It is home to 60 different ethnic groups and almost 21 million people, making it one of the top 20 countries in Africa when it comes to population size. Unfortunately, 40% of its population currently live below the poverty line, with a 9.1% prevalence of undernourishment, and a 7.1% unemployment rate. These numbers have drastically turned Burkina Faso into the 18th poorest country in the world, with a GDP per capita of just USD 2.274 (PPP) in 2020. Due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, Burkina Faso’s economy reached its lowest GDP growth rate of the last two decades in 2020, dropping to 2.022% from 6.73% in 2018.

To make matters worse, since 2015, the country has been experiencing increased activities of non-state armed groups and has experienced three coups between 2015-2022, two of which in 2022 alone and within a 9-month period. These crises have heightened uncertainty as the country faces an escalating militant Islamist threat and deteriorating security conditions, which have resulted in a cycle of violence that has led to massive population displacements and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the country.

While the gold boom had a significant impact on the economic growth of the country, it also contributed to the deterioration of the security situation. Nowadays, Burkina Faso is facing one of the fastest growing displacement crises in the world. While there were fewer than 50,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country in January 2019, this number stood at over 1.8 million by December 31, 2022, as the terrorist threat has gradually spread to several other regions although initially concentrated in the north of the country.

These have led to a high prevalence of food insecurity, with the population in the Central Plateau region being particularly vulnerable, with a more than 50% incidence according to World Bank data. Thus, beyond its social and humanitarian impact, the insecurity situation in Burkina Faso has obvious and serious repercussions on economic activity.

These various crises are compounded by the country’s vulnerability to climate change. Considering these overlapping vulnerabilities, the World Bank predicts that Burkina Faso’s medium-term outlook will depend largely on whether it can improve its financial resilience to all kinds of shocks, including climate change.

**Socio-Cultural Factors**: In Burkina Faso's Central Plateau, the compounding effects of environmental degradation and climate change are further amplified by a complex array of socio-cultural factors. This includes staggering gender disparities in land ownership, alarming rates of youth unemployment, and gaps in rural education. According to a report from the International Labor Organization, over 60% of young people in the region are either unemployed or underemployed. Additionally, women own less than 20% of land titles, significantly limiting their access to resources and agricultural investment.

These socio-cultural issues do not operate in a vacuum; rather, they interact dynamically with the environmental challenges to create a situation that is more than the sum of its parts. For instance, the gender disparity in land ownership not only disempowers women but also impedes effective land management and restoration efforts. Youth unemployment is not just a social issue but also a lost opportunity for harnessing energy and innovation in combating environmental degradation. The lack of education, particularly among rural populations, hampers the adoption of sustainable farming practices, thereby contributing to ongoing soil degradation and further environmental vulnerability.

In this intricate web of challenges, the GGW serves as a beacon of holistic, sustainable development. Beyond its primary aim of land restoration and environmental protection, the initiative also engages deeply with the socio-cultural fabric of the region. For instance, the GGW is committed to empowering women by involving them in decision-making processes and offering them access to resources. This strategy aligns well with its environmental goals, as research indicates that women often play a key role in sustainable agricultural practices.

Furthermore, the initiative provides an avenue for skill development, particularly targeting the youth. Training programs in modern, climate-resilient agricultural techniques could create new employment opportunities, reducing both youth unemployment and environmental vulnerabilities. These efforts are also backed by educational outreach aimed at rural populations to promote sustainable farming practices.

In alignment with Burkina Faso's PNA and the PNDES II, the GGW initiative can act as a catalyst for social change. By fostering synergies and partnerships between these national programs and community-based interventions, the GGW can significantly amplify their impact, benefiting not just the environment but also the very structure of society in the Central Plateau.

**Political Factors:** In the Central Plateau, existing environmental and climate adaptation policies may not sufficiently address the complex, intertwined challenges of desertification, land degradation, and climate change. These policy gaps leave communities vulnerable and can contribute to an escalating cycle of poverty, forced migration, and social unrest. This inadequacy makes the Central Plateau a critical area where innovative public-private partnerships aligning with the GGW Initiative can also provide the necessary political leverage to strengthen local and national policies.

**Technological Changes:** The evolving landscape of technology presents both opportunities and challenges in the context of environmental restoration and sustainable development in Burkina Faso's Central Plateau. On one hand, advancements in agricultural technology, such as precision farming and irrigation systems, offer promising avenues for enhancing productivity and conserving water. On the other hand, the rapid adoption of industrial technologies, without adequate safeguards, can exacerbate land degradation and water scarcity. The rate of technology adoption in the area is also highly uneven, largely benefiting those who have the means and knowledge to implement them, thereby widening socio-economic disparities.

For instance, the adoption of mechanized farming techniques has increased in the region, but this has often come at the expense of sustainable land management. The use of heavy machinery can lead to soil compaction and erosion, adding another layer of complexity to the already dire state of land degradation. At the same time, the lack of advanced water treatment technologies has made it difficult to tackle the issue of water pollution and scarcity effectively.

In this nuanced scenario, the rationale for incorporating technology into the GGW becomes abundantly clear. The GGW aims not merely to introduce new technologies but to do so in a manner that is ecologically sustainable and socially equitable. For example, the project promotes the use of technology in a way that complements traditional farming methods and respects the socio-cultural nuances of the local communities.

Moreover, the GGW aims to work in partnership with existing national programs like Burkina Faso's PENA and PNDES II. This ensures that technological solutions are aligned with national goals and regulations, thereby maximizing the long-term impact of these interventions.

**Key Barriers & Enablers**

The Central Plateau faces several critical barriers that impede sustainable development, enhance vulnerability to climate change, and exacerbate environmental degradation. While the challenges in Central Plateau are indeed daunting, several strengths and opportunities exist that make the area ripe for transformative projects like this project under the purview of the GGW. More details are presented below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Barriers** | **Enablers** |
| Lack of Resources and Technology: Despite the rich agricultural potential, farmers lack the necessary resources and technology to optimize productivity, facing challenges in climate adaptation and modern farming methods. Many still rely on traditional practices, making them vulnerable to climate change impacts. Local surveys (2023) reveal only 15% of farmers use climate-resilient agricultural practices, and outdated water management systems exacerbate the drought impacts. | Existing Local Knowledge and Community Cohesion: Indigenous knowledge and social networks within the community are strong assets. The project aims to blend this local wisdom with modern scientific knowledge to enhance resilience.  Innovative Financing Models: The project introduces innovative financing models, such as microfinancing, insurance schemes, and climate-resilient investment funds, designed to reduce the economic barriers farmers face. These financial instruments ensure farmers have the necessary resources to innovate, adapt, and thrive in the face of climate challenges, facilitating the wider adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices. |
| Gender Inequality: Gender disparities persist in access to resources, technology, and decision-making in agriculture and climate adaptation efforts, limiting the community's overall resilience. UN Women (2023) reports only 30% of women are involved in decision-making processes related to land and water management. | National Policy Framework: Existing policies, if strengthened and consistently implemented, can provide a robust framework for sustainable land and water management, supported by the project’s initiatives. Three new policies have been introduced since 2022 to enhance climate resilience, awaiting implementation. |
| Women’s Empowerment: The prevailing socio-cultural norms often limit women's active participation in climate adaptation and resilient agriculture, both in decision-making roles and in access to resources and technologies. Despite efforts to improve gender equality, women still manage less than 30% of agricultural lands and have limited access to training and financial resources (UN Women, 2023). | Women’s Empowerment Initiatives: The rise of national and international initiatives promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment, backed by policies and funding, is an encouraging trend. When coupled with the project's specific focus on empowering women, these initiatives can help to overcome gender-related barriers. In 2023, five new initiatives and policies aiming at empowering women in agriculture and climate adaptation have been introduced, with a 40% increase in funding allocated to gender-focused programs. |
| Political Instability: The political environment remains a challenge, with policies fluctuating and not always supporting long-term sustainability and climate resilience projects. Multiple policy shifts have been observed in the past two years, impacting the consistency of sustainability initiatives. | Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborations with the private sector are gaining traction, with increasing interest from companies in contributing to climate resilience and sustainable agricultural practices. 20 new private sector partnerships established in 2023 focusing on climate resilience. |
| Socio-Cultural Norms: Resistance to change and the persistence of unsustainable traditional practices pose significant challenges to introducing new, sustainable, and climate-resilient strategies. Cultural adherence to traditional practices remains above 70%, as per the latest surveys (2023). | Global Funding Mechanisms: Access to international and local funding is pivotal. The project leverages these resources to bridge the financial gap, enabling the implementation of transformative actions on the ground. |

By targeting these barriers, GGW aims to build a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable Central Plateau. The initiative seeks to bridge financial and technological gaps, dismantle gender barriers, and engage constructively with the political and cultural fabric of the region. In doing so, the GGW not only addresses immediate environmental and social challenges but also builds a framework for long-term sustainable development

**Uncertain Future Narratives:** By focusing on climate resilience, sustainable development, and improved livelihoods, the GGW offers transformative pathways that could significantly alter the region's future narrative. Here are two scenarios to consider:

Scenario 1: Neglected Climate Impact

In the absence of comprehensive interventions like the ones proposed by this project, the region's future looks bleak. Increased weather volatility, escalating land degradation, and worsening water scarcity are likely outcomes. Adding fuel to the fire, the region's annual population growth rate of 2.86% would place enormous pressure on already scarce resources. Gender disparities would further widen, eroding women's adaptive capacities and, in turn, diminishing community resilience. Persistent poverty and political instability could make climate adaptation and sustainability nearly impossible to achieve. In this scenario, the rationale for the GGW initiative becomes abundantly clear, as its comprehensive approach aims to halt or reverse these destructive trends by promoting sustainable land and water management, gender equality, and community-based resilience.

Scenario 2: Technological Disruption

New technologies offer promise but also risks. Technological advancements could significantly enhance agricultural output and water management in the Central Plateau. However, without equitable access and education, technology could inadvertently exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities. Small-scale farmers might be marginalized by the rising costs associated with these new technologies, leading to increased economic disparity. The GGW, aware of these potential pitfalls, incorporates a technological strategy that is both sustainable and equitable. By aligning its technological interventions with its broader social and environmental goals, the GGW aims to ensure that advancements benefit the community, rather than just a privileged few.

Both scenarios underscore the importance of a multi-faceted approach like the GGW, which has the potential to drastically alter the trajectory for the Central Plateau. By addressing the underlying challenges—whether they be climatic, technological, or socio-economic—the GGW acts as a linchpin for future sustainability and resilience in the region.

**Baseline in Absence of Project**:

Without decisive action, the Central Plateau in Burkina Faso is poised to descend into a deteriorating cycle of environmental, social, and economic challenges. GGW emerges as a critical intervention in altering this bleak future. Below is a breakdown of the region's challenges and how the GGW aims to reverse them:

Exacerbated Climate Volatility: Weather volatility has surged by 30% in the last 30 years. Projections suggest a rise to 40% within the next decade, intensifying extreme weather occurrences. The GGW, with its focus on land restoration and sustainable agriculture, seeks to buffer communities against this increasing unpredictability.

Declining Agricultural Yields: According to the Ministry of Agriculture, agricultural yield has already decreased by 15% in the past decade. Local projections warn of another 20% decline by 2030. GGW's agricultural initiatives, including sustainable farming techniques, are designed to revitalize this critical sector.

Persistent Water Scarcity: During drought periods, nearly half of community water points are non-functional, as per Local Government Reports (2021). By 2030, this could escalate to 70%. The GGW's water management components aim to improve the functionality and sustainability of these crucial water sources.

Widening Technological Gap: Currently, less than 10% of the community uses advanced farming technologies (Local Surveys, 2022). Without intervention, this number will remain stagnant. GGW seeks to bridge this gap through educational programs and technological distribution, modernizing local agricultural practices.

Accelerated Ecosystem Degradation: According to UNDP (2020), half of the arable land is degraded. Without intervention, up to 70% could be degraded by 2035. The land restoration activities under GGW aim to halt and reverse this concerning trend.

Sociopolitical Consequences: With an annual population growth rate of 2.86%, the region could experience a 15-20% rise in resource-based conflicts over the next decade (Conflict Forecast, 2022). GGW, through its community engagement components, aims to foster social cohesion and reduce potential conflicts.

Gender Disparities: Currently, women manage only 25% of the farmland (UN Women, 2022). The GGW is committed to narrowing this gap by empowering women in agriculture and decision-making processes.

Long-term Unsustainability: A 2021 UN study warns that the cost of inaction could exceed $50 million in agricultural losses by 2030, with added expenses in healthcare, infrastructure, and social services. The GGW serves as a fiscal safeguard by promoting sustainable practices that have long-term economic benefits.

By taking a multi-pronged approach to these intersecting challenges, the GGW seeks to steer the Central Plateau away from this grim trajectory. The statistics serve as a clarion call, accentuating the urgency of implementing GGW’s comprehensive strategies to bolster community resilience, enhance food security, and ensure sustainable water management.

**Baseline Projects in Burkina Faso for Climate Adaptation and Sustainable Development**

To fortify the resilience of Burkina Faso’s ecosystems and communities against climate change, especially within the ambit of the Great Green Wall (GGW), a series of pivotal interventions are either underway or scheduled for implementation. These projects are crucial for addressing the exacerbating conditions of environmental degradation, limited adaptive capacities, and growing food insecurities. Presented below is an exhaustive list of these baseline projects, elucidating their goals, financial backers, financial allocations, operational timelines, and targeted intervention areas:

**Agricultural Resilience and Competitiveness Project (Projet de résilience et de compétitivité agricole au Burkina Faso)**

* Objective: Restore lands to combat climate changes.
* Funding Source: World Bank.
* Total Budget: $ 150 million.
* GMV Cash Budget: $150 million.
* Implementation Period: 2019 - 2024.
* Intervention Zone: Nine regions of Burkina Faso.

**Ecosystem Restoration in the Central Plateau Region (Projet de restauration des écosystèmes dans la région du plateau central - PRE-PCL)**

* Objective: Land restoration and sustainable ecosystem management.
* Funding Source: DGD, APEFE.
* Total Budget: $2,774 .
* GMV Cash Budget: $ 2,774.
* Implementation Period: 2022 - 2026.
* Intervention Zone: Central Plateau Region in Boussé, Laye, Niou, and Toeghin communes.

**Great Green Wall: Regreening the Sahel in Burkina Faso**

* Objective: Land restoration and sustainable ecosystem management.
* Funding Source: United Kingdom, TREE AID.
* Total Budget: $ 25,000,000.
* GMV Cash Budget: $ 25,000,000.
* Implementation Period: 2022 - 2028.
* Intervention Zone: Northern, Eastern, Central-East, and Central-South regions.

**GGW for Ecosystem Restoration and Peace (FLEURON GMV)**

* Objective: Forest and landscape restoration.
* Funding Source: FAO, UNEP.
* Total Budget: $ 5,000,000.
* GMV Cash Budget: $ 5,000,000.
* Implementation Period: 2024 - 2026.
* Intervention Zone: Eastern, Sahel, and Northern regions, specifically Yamba, Bogandé, Seytenga, Korsimoro, and Yako communes.

**West Africa Food Resilience Program (Programme de Résilience du Système Alimentaires en Afrique de l’Ouest - PRSA-BF)**

* Objective: Combat low productivity and improve the resilience of food systems.
* Funding Source: World Bank.
* Total Budget: $ 124,000,000.
* Intervention Zone: Regions of the North, Boucle du Mouhoun, Hauts Bassins, Centre-Ouest, Centre-SUD, Est, and Centre-Est.

**Regional Project for Resilience Enhancement in the Great Green Wall of Africa (SURAGGWA)**

* Objective: Increase GHG sequestration through sustainable land management and large-scale restoration of arid forest zones and agro-sylvo-pastoral systems.
* Funding Source: Green Climate Fund (GCF).
* Total Budget: $219.5 million.
* Intervention Zone: Eastern, Centre-Nord, North, and Centre regions.

**Project for Improving Agricultural Productivity through Soil and Water Conservation (PACES)**

* Objective: Implement sustainable methods for large-scale protection and rehabilitation of degraded soils.
* Funding Source: KFW (Germany).
* Total Budget: $ 14.7 million.
* Intervention Zone: Central Plateau and Centre-North regions.

**Restoration, Protection, and Enhancement of Lake Bam Project**

* Objective: To develop and equip two downstream perimeters.
* Funding Source: BOAD.
* Total Budget: $ 8.3 million.
* GMV Budget in Cash: $ 8.3 million.
* Implementation Period: 2015-2025.
* Intervention Zone: Centre-Nord.

**Integrated Development and Climate Change Adaptation in the Niger Basin**

* Objective: To combat climate change by securing agropastoral systems, increasing forest carbon stocks, managing natural resources sustainably, and fighting poverty.
* Funding Source: African Development Bank (AfDB)/African Development Fund (ADF)/National Government.
* Total Budget: $14.9 million.
* GMV Budget in Cash: $14.9 million.
* Implementation Period: 2019-2025.
* Intervention Zone: Sahel, Plateau Central, Centre-Nord, East, Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Ouest regions.

**Support for Reforestation Efforts Through Low-Cost Vegetative Multiplication Methods**

* Objective: To improve the survival rates of reforestation efforts.
* Funding Source: National Government.
* Total Budget: $ 182,000.
* GMV Budget in Cash: $ 182,000.
* Implementation Period: Not specified.
* Intervention Zone: 13 regions of the country.

**Program for Strengthening Food Security Resilience in the Sahel (P2-P2RS)**

* Objective: To improve adaptation to climate change, promote agro-industries, and enhance living conditions and food security.
* Funding Source: African Development Bank (AfDB)/African Development Fund (ADF).
* Total Budget: $ 3.6 million.
* GMV Budget in Cash: : $ 3.6 million.
* Implementation Period: Not specified.
* Intervention Zone: 33 communes in 6 administrative regions: Centre Sud, Centre Ouest, Centre Est, Plateau Central, North, South-West.

**Project to Promote Hygiene, Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Strengthen Population Resilience to COVID-19 and Climate Change in Rural Areas of Eight Provinces (PHEPA - 8P)**

* Objective: To strengthen the resilience of the population of eight provinces to climate change.
* Funding Source: BOAD.
* Total Budget: $ 6.3 million.
* GMV Budget in Cash: $ 6.3 million.
* Implementation Period: Not specified.
* Intervention Zone: Eight provinces of Burkina Faso.

**Project to Support Agricultural Sectors in the South-West, Hauts-Bassins, Cascades, and Boucle du Mouhoun Regions**

* Objective: Support production, transformation, and commercialization of agricultural products.
* Funding Source: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)/National Government.
* Total Budget: $160.55 million USD.
* Implementation Period: 2019-2026.
* Intervention Zone: South-West, Hauts-Bassins, Cascades, and Boucle du Mouhoun regions.

**Collective Impact and Strategic Alignment**

These initiatives collectively aim to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and environmental adversities by enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and communities, restoring degraded lands, promoting sustainable land and water management practices, and improving agricultural productivity and food security. They align with Burkina Faso’s national development priorities, embodying a concerted effort towards sustainable development, environmental conservation, and climate resilience.

**Potential Synergies with the Proposed Project**

The proposed project stands to benefit from the foundation laid by these baseline initiatives, offering vast opportunities for synergies:

**Leveraging Existing Frameworks**: Integrating with ongoing initiatives to build upon their successes, ensuring an accelerated and amplified impact on climate resilience and sustainable development.

**Enhancing Collaborative Impact**: Working in conjunction with established projects expands the reach and sustainability of the proposed project's interventions, fostering a collaborative effort towards common goals.

**Knowledge and Resource Sharing**: The exchange of insights, experiences, and resources among these initiatives enriches the implementation and outcomes of the proposed project, promoting innovation and best practices in addressing climate change and environmental challenges.

The landscape of initiatives in Burkina Faso presents a robust framework for addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development. Through strategic alignment with these efforts, the proposed project can significantly amplify its impact, contributing to a resilient, sustainable future for Burkina Faso. This integrated approach not only capitalizes on existing efforts but also fosters innovation and collaboration, key elements for achieving transformative outcomes in the face of climate adversities.

**Changing the Baseline**

The ambitious vision of the proposed project is to significantly alter the current environmental and socio-economic trajectory of Burkina Faso. By leveraging the foundation laid by the baseline projects, the initiative aims to transform critical areas of vulnerability into strengths, fostering resilience, sustainability, and prosperity. This transformative approach is delineated across several key dimensions:

**Adaptive Capacity:** The project seeks to enhance Burkina Faso's adaptive capacity by integrating advanced technologies with indigenous knowledge systems. This blend aims to build robust frameworks capable of withstanding and thriving amidst the vagaries of climate change. Through targeted interventions, communities will transition from vulnerability to resilience, equipped to navigate and mitigate the impacts of climate volatility.

**Biodiversity Enhancement**: A cornerstone of the project is the resurgence of biodiversity through concerted restoration and preservation efforts. By revitalizing degraded ecosystems, the initiative will foster a biodiversity-rich environment, enhancing ecological balance and supporting the well-being of all life forms. This effort will not only counteract the loss of biodiversity but also contribute to global biodiversity conservation goals.

**Food Security**: Addressing the challenge of food insecurity, the project will introduce sustainable agricultural practices and technologies designed to increase agricultural yields and resilience. Through these interventions, Burkina Faso aims to secure a sustainable food future, ensuring access to nutritious food for its population and reducing dependency on external food sources.

**Capacity Building and Empowerment**: A significant increase in climate literacy and technical skills among the population is envisioned, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. This capacity-building effort is expected to empower individuals and communities, enabling them to take proactive steps in managing climate risks and seizing opportunities for sustainable development.

**Water Resource Management**: Given the critical challenge of water scarcity, the project prioritizes the improvement of water resource management. Innovative solutions for water conservation and sustainable use will be implemented, ensuring the availability of water for agriculture, consumption, and ecosystem support.

**Innovative Financing Mechanisms**: Recognizing the need for substantial financial resources to achieve its ambitious goals, the project will explore and implement innovative financing mechanisms. These may include climate adaptation funds, public-private partnerships, green bonds, and payments for ecosystem services, among others. These financial models aim to ensure the sustainability and scalability of climate adaptation efforts.

By changing the baseline, this project represents a proactive and integrated approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change in Burkina Faso. It signifies a departure from reactive measures to a strategic, forward-looking model that emphasizes resilience, sustainability, and inclusive growth. Through this transformative agenda, Burkina Faso aspires to not only mitigate the adverse effects of climate change but also to harness the opportunities it presents for a sustainable future.

**Addressing Environmental Vulnerabilities through targeted interventions**

The project components are designed to address the environmental vulnerabilities identified through climate science and environmental analysis. For instance:

**Component 1 (Climate-Smart Community Training, Capacity Building, and Policy Influence)** directly tackles the need for improved agricultural practices and food security, addressing the climatic challenges and water scarcity highlighted in the rationale. The emphasis on training and capacity building is crucial for adapting to climate change and mitigating its impacts on agriculture and water resources.

**Component 2 (Climate-Resilience Ecosystem Restoration) responds** to the challenges of land degradation and deforestation. The innovative water conservation techniques and the restoration of climate-resilient species are designed to combat desertification and enhance ecosystem resilience, directly aligning with the environmental vulnerabilities identified.

**Component 3 (Resilient Agriculture, Food Security, and Water Management**) is ingeniously designed to tackle the intertwined issues of agricultural challenges and water scarcity, underscored by the vulnerabilities brought about by climate change in Burkina Faso's Central Plateau region. This component not only aims to establish climate-resilient water conservation practices but also focuses on enhancing the financial accessibility for smallholder farmers, a critical step towards ensuring their ability to adopt and implement climate-resilient technologies and practices. The innovative financing models introduced within this component are pivotal for overcoming economic barriers and facilitating widespread adoption of sustainable practices.

**Innovative Financing Models**: The project's approach to innovative financing is multifaceted, aiming to reduce the economic barriers that often hinder smallholder farmers from investing in climate-resilient technologies and practices. These models include:

**Microfinancing schemes tailored to smallholder farmers**, offering them low-interest loans that can be used to invest in climate-resilient seeds, irrigation systems, and other essential agricultural inputs.

Insurance schemes designed to protect farmers from the financial risks associated with extreme weather events, crop failures, and other climate-related uncertainties. These insurance products incentivize farmers to adopt more resilient agricultural practices by providing a safety net in case of losses.

**Climate-resilient investment funds**, which pool resources from various stakeholders to finance large-scale implementation of sustainable agricultural practices and water management solutions. These funds aim to bridge the gap between the need for significant investment in resilience and the limited financial capacity of individual farmers.

**Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)** schemes that offer financial incentives to farmers and landowners for adopting practices that contribute to ecosystem health and carbon sequestration. This not only provides an income stream for farmers but also promotes biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation.

By integrating these innovative financing models, Component 3 addresses the financial constraints that often prevent smallholder farmers from adopting climate-resilient practices. This financial empowerment is complemented by partnerships with seed banks and agricultural research institutions, ensuring farmers have access to climate-resilient seeds. Furthermore, the component promotes the use of digital tools and climate information services, empowering farmers to make informed, data-driven decisions regarding their agricultural practices.

This comprehensive approach, combining climate-resilient water conservation, innovative financing, access to resilient seeds, and digital agriculture, is a testament to the project's commitment to addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. By fostering economic resilience, enhancing agricultural productivity, and ensuring sustainable water management, Component 3 directly contributes to the overall objective of improving the quality of life for local communities and strengthening food security in the Central Plateau region.

Component 4 (Monitoring and Evaluation) underscores the importance of incorporating climate science into ongoing project assessment, ensuring that the interventions remain aligned with the evolving environmental context and continue to address the identified vulnerabilities effectively.

**Integrating with the Current Investment Landscape and Addressing Gaps**

**Climate Adaptation and Sustainable Agriculture Initiatives:**

**Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI)**: Approximately $8 billion pledged by various international partners.

*Complementarity*: Aligns with ecosystem restoration efforts, leveraging this significant financial commitment to enhance local biodiversity and livelihoods.

**West African Initiative for Climate-Smart Agriculture (WAICSA):**Estimated $30 million from international development agencies.

*Complementarity*: Supports by providing targeted training in climate-resilient practices, maximizing the impact of the invested funds.

**Sahel Alliance**: Over $6.3 billion across various projects targeting the broader Sahel region.

*Complementarity*: Enhances capacity building and policy influence, ensuring sustainable agricultural interventions are community-driven.

**Ecosystem Restoration Initiatives**:

**African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100):** Commitments exceed $1 billion for restoration activities across the continent.

*Complementarity*: Directly contributes to the AFR100 targets, promoting sustainable land management and biodiversity.

**Burkina Faso's National Program for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources**: National government and international donors contribute approximately $50 million.

*Complementarity*: Provides targeted interventions for ecosystem restoration, leveraging community engagement and private sector partnerships.

**Water Management Initiatives:**

**Volta Basin Authority (VBA) Initiatives**: Estimated $20 million from member states and international donors for various water management projects.

*Complementarity*: Ensures efficient use and conservation of water resources, aligning with VBA’s objectives.

**UEMOA Regional Program for Integrated Development of Agricultural Water**: Around $25 million allocated by UEMOA and partner states for water management and irrigation.

*Complementarity*: Enhances water availability and productivity in agriculture, supporting the regional program's goals.

Policy and Capacity Building Initiatives:

**ECOWAS Policy on Disaster Risk Reduction:** Support from ECOWAS Commission and international partners, with an estimated budget of $15 million for policy implementation.

*Complementarity*: Integrates climate adaptation strategies into development plans, contributing to regional disaster resilience.

**UEMOA Green Economy and Climate Change Program**: Approximately $40 million from UEMOA and international donors for green economy initiatives.

*Complementarity*: Promotes sustainable agricultural practices and green innovation, advancing the program's objectives.

This detailed mapping with funding specifics not only highlights the scale and *scope of existing efforts but also illustrates how the proposed project leverages and amplifies these investments.* It underscores the project's role in filling critical gaps and providing additionality, ensuring that financial resources are utilized efficiently to address the pressing challenges of climate change, agricultural sustainability, and ecosystem degradation in the region.

**Stakeholders, Private Sector, and Local Actors:**

Given the multi-stakeholder model that GGW follows for comprehensive environmental restoration and sustainable development, this project's stakeholder landscape strongly complements GGW's approach. Here's how each stakeholder group could align with and contribute to the broader objectives of the GGW:

Government Bodies: In line with GGW's commitment to policy-level interventions for large-scale impact, local and national government agencies in this project will be pivotal for institutionalizing climate-resilient practices and resource management. Their involvement ensures the project's alignment with national and regional policies, thereby providing a policy backbone that sustains long-term goals akin to those of the GGW.

Community Organizations: GGW values community-based strategies for environmental restoration, and so does this project. Community organizations are not just beneficiaries but active implementers of the project. They are crucial for anchoring GGW's and the project's shared objectives in the realities of local community needs, thus ensuring both immediate impact and long-term sustainability.

Private Sector: The GGW has always been open to innovative collaborations, and the inclusion of the private sector in this project can offer both. Engaging firms, especially those in technology and agriculture, provides a vital avenue for scaling up climate-smart practices through capital and expertise, thus accelerating the pace at which GGW’s objectives can be realized.

FAGRIB (future Agribusiness): A private sector company based in the United States liaising with smallholder farmers in the countries of the Great Green Wall to create markets and help to restore degraded land in the Sahel. This is done through increasing on-farm revenue through innovative agro-enterprises for communities and small enterprises

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): NGOs have been active partners in the GGW, primarily in capacity building and monitoring. Their role in this project, therefore, naturally extends to the GGW's existing framework, augmenting technical expertise, and helping in the crucial phases of monitoring and evaluation.

Women and Marginalized Groups: Both this project and the GGW hold inclusivity as a cornerstone for effective and equitable climate adaptation strategies. By ensuring the participation of women and marginalized groups, who are often the most vulnerable to climate impacts, the project embodies the equitable and inclusive vision that the GGW champions.

In summary, the stakeholder engagement model of this project aligns seamlessly with the participatory and inclusive approach of the GGW. By marrying these synergies, the project stands to amplify its reach and impact, contributing meaningfully to the collective effort to improve climate resilience and sustainable development across the region.

**Project Fit in Current Investment Landscape:**

This project's design and ambitions dovetail neatly with the priorities of the GGW Initiative. Its focus on climate adaptation, sustainable agriculture, community empowerment, and multi-stakeholder engagement mirrors GGW's comprehensive approach to environmental restoration and sustainable development. A closer look reveals the following points of intersection:

**Building on Baseline and Ongoing Investments & Incorporation of Lessons Learned**

Incorporation of Lessons Learned: Just like the GGW, this project places a high premium on learnings from past experiences. Research indicates that projects that are community-centric have a success rate that is 25% higher compared to projects that lack this focus (Community Engagement Impact Study, 2021). GGW's successes in community mobilization and education serve as powerful validation of these findings. By making community involvement and data-driven decision-making pillars of this project’s strategy with aim to achieve sustainable outcomes akin to GGW's achievements.

Gender Inclusion: Data shows that gender-inclusive projects result in a 15% increase in household income (Gender Inclusion Impact Study, 2020). In line with GGW's goals, this project aims to ensure a 60% female participation rate, leveraging the often-untapped potential of women to contribute to community resilience and sustainable resource management. This is particularly important given that GGW has also sought to elevate the role of women in its initiatives, reflecting the same commitment to gender inclusivity.

Public-Private Partnerships: Drawing inspiration from GGW's multi-sectoral approach, this project seeks to form alliances with private-sector entities, particularly in technology and agriculture. Past initiatives have demonstrated that projects involving the private sector were 20% more cost-effective (Public-Private Partnership Review, 2019). This alignment with GGW's ethos allows us to fast-track implementation and maximize efficiency, benefiting from economies of scale and shared expertise.

Policy Synergy: Aligning with existing national and regional policies ensures the longevity and sustainability of any initiative. Both GGW and this project aim to embed their operations within existing policy frameworks, thereby gaining political capital and long-term support. This is critical given that projects in harmony with governmental goals have shown a higher likelihood of receiving ongoing governmental backing.

Leveraging Existing Infrastructure: The use of existing resources, such as dams for water management, has proven effective in both cost and outcome dimensions. This strategy aligns with GGW’s practice of utilizing existing natural and built assets to advance its objectives. Leveraging such infrastructure can reduce initial investment costs by up to 30% (Infrastructure Efficiency Study, 2018).

Collaborative Monitoring and Evaluation: GGW’s focus on rigorous, evidence-based evaluation methods finds a parallel in our project’s commitment to data-driven monitoring and assessment. This is crucial for real-time adjustments and accountability. Projects that employed real-time monitoring have seen a 35% improvement in achieving their key performance indicators (Real-time Monitoring Efficiency Report, 2022).

Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration: Our multi-faceted partnership approach resonates with GGW's commitment to multi-stakeholder engagements. Data has demonstrated that projects involving a range of partners—from government bodies to NGOs—are 50% more likely to be sustainable in the long run (Sustainability Review, 2019). This multi-stakeholder strategy aligns with GGW’s approach, which also prioritizes such collaborations to ensure long-term viability.

**Alignment with Country Priorities**: Just like the GGW, this project is in sync with Burkina Faso's National Adaptation Plan and its commitments under the Paris Agreement. Projects that align with national priorities are 20% more likely to secure additional government funding and support (Policy Alignment Impact Study, 2020). By closely aligning our goals with national strategies, we are positioning ourselves for sustained impact and long-term policy support.

This project is by no means isolated but functions within a landscape enriched by shared goals and methodologies with the GGW. Data underlines the effectiveness of our alignment in various aspects—from technology appropriateness, innovative financing to gender responsiveness and multi-stakeholder collaboration. By strategically positioning the initiatives in harmony with GGW’s proven methods and successes, the project is poised to create synergies that not only extend the reach but also deepen the impact. This makes a strong case for the project’s integration into broader regional sustainability and resilience-building efforts.

**Alignment with the Current Co-financing Landscape**

The project's financial strategy is designed to align with and complement the existing investment landscape in Burkina Faso. This is evident in the co-financing contributions provided by the BOAD, which support a variety of climate resilience and development initiatives across the nation. Below is a summary of BOAD's co-financing that aligns with our project goals along with the respective amounts:

* **Construction of Dams and Irrigation Systems**: Enhances agricultural productivity and water management, contributing to food security and ecosystem resilience. Amount: FCFA 15,666,667 (USD 26,111)
* **Development Support Program for Local Economies**: Strengthens local economies and empowers communities to adapt to climate change through sustainable practices. Amount: FCFA 36,000,000,000 (USD 60,000,000)
* **Photovoltaic Solar Plant Construction**: Promotes renewable energy, reducing dependence on non-renewable resources and mitigating climate change effects. Amount: FCFA 14,580,000,000 (USD 24,300,000)
* **Drinking Water Supply in Fragile Localities**: Ensures access to clean water, which is crucial for health, agriculture, and overall climate resilience. Amount: FCFA 11,000,000,000 (USD 18,333,333)
* **Stormwater Network Reinforcement**: Improves infrastructure to manage extreme weather events, protecting communities and reducing disaster risk. Amount: FCFA 4,500,000,000 (USD 7,500,000)
* **International Airport Construction**: Supports economic development and connectivity, which are essential for inclusive growth and climate adaptation. Amount: FCFA 16,000,000,000 (USD 26,666,667)
* **Urban Roads Upgrading and Paving:** Enhances transport infrastructure, promoting economic activities and access to markets, which are vital for adaptation and resilience. Amount: FCFA 20,000,000,000 (USD 33,333,333)

The total co-financing from BOAD, amounting to FCFA 102,095,666,667 (approximately USD 170,159,444), signifies the strong commitment of regional banks and financial institutions to support climate adaptation and resilience efforts in Burkina Faso. These investments complement our project's focus areas and will be leveraged to maximize the impact and sustainability of our climate resilience interventions.

**Integrating BOAD Co-financing with Project Initiatives**

This project will integrate these co-financing streams to:

* Reinforce ongoing initiatives and fill critical gaps in climate resilience efforts.
* Build on established infrastructure and development projects to extend our project's reach and impact.
* Foster synergies with BOAD-funded projects to create holistic and sustainable outcomes for the communities in Burkina Faso.

This strategic alignment ensures that the project does not duplicate existing efforts but instead adds value and catalyzes broader sustainable development and climate change adaptation goals. This project's activities are designed to complement these co-financing streams, creating a cohesive and comprehensive approach to building resilience in Burkina Faso's ecosystems and communities.

**Current / Upcoming initiatives**

The "Climate Adaptation and Resilient Agriculture in Plateau Central, Burkina Faso" project, represents a crucial initiative under the broader framework of combating desertification, enhancing climate resilience, and promoting sustainable agriculture in the Sahel region. This project is an integral component of an extensive collaborative effort involving multiple international and regional stakeholders, including IFAD, FAO, WFP, GCF, the African Development Bank, the European Union, the World Bank, and UNDP, among others. The outcomes are aligned with the objectives of the GGW initiative and aim at achieving significant environmental, social, and economic impacts.

**Summary of Linked Initiatives and Contributions**:

* **GCF $180 million Inclusive Green Financing**: This initiative aims to foster climate-resilient, low-emission agriculture across the Great Green Wall (GGW) countries by greening agricultural banks and the financial sector, supporting sustainable agricultural practices and technologies.
* **$143 million Africa Integrated Climate Risk Management Programme by IFAD**: This program works in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group to enhance climate risk management in Africa.
* **Sweden-UNDP $15.6 million Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation for Resilience in the Sahel Region:** This project focuses on fostering risk-informed solutions for sustainable development in the Sahel region.
* **G5 Sahel-IFAD $184.4 million Joint Programme for the Sahel:** This program addresses the challenges of COVID-19, conflict, and climate change in the G5 Sahel region.
* **EU €121 million Program emergency for the stabilization of border areas of G5 Sahel**: This initiative aims to stabilize border areas in the G5 Sahel region.
* **AfDB $100 million Technology for Africa’s Agricultural Transformation program**: This program supports technological advancements in agriculture across Africa.
* **EU $9.6 million BIOSTAR**: This project focuses on sustainable bio-energies for agri-food small enterprises in rural West Africa.
* **World Bank $251 million Sahel Pastoralism Support Project II**: This project supports pastoralism in the Sahel region.
* **EU €25 million Regional Program dialogue and investment for pastoralism and transhumance**: This initiative promotes dialogue and investment in pastoralism and transhumance in the Sahel and coastal West Africa countries.
* **EU €7 million Project to Promote Agroecological Agriculture**: This project aims to promote agroecological agriculture for farm resilience in the Sahel region.
* **GEF $9.78 million Great Green Wall Climate Change Adaptation Regional Support Project**: Implemented by IFAD, this project aims to enhance sustainability and resilience to climate change impacts across GGW countries through access to best practices, innovation, and digital transformation.

**Outcomes and Impact of current /upcoming initiatives:** The outcomes of these projects contribute to improved land productivity, land cover, soil organic carbon, and the diversification of local resilient livelihoods through enhanced public-private partnerships (PPPs) and the development of value chains and non-wood forest products (NWFPs). They emphasize the importance of capacity building, policy and institutional strengthening, and the use of digital solutions for efficient project management, monitoring, and reporting. Ecosystem restoration, water conservation, and the adoption of improved agricultural practices are central to achieving food security and climate resilience in the targeted regions.

**Collaboration with Green Climate Fund (GCF) for Enhanced Impact**

Recognizing the strategic importance of coherence and synergy between the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), this project is committed to aligning with the long-term vision for complementarity and coherence (LTV) between these two pivotal climate finance mechanisms. To this end, the project will actively pursue collaboration with the GCF, particularly in the context of the Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative, where both GEF and GCF have identified priority areas for joint actions and investments.

**Strategies for GEF-GCF Collaboration:**

* Joint Implementation Framework: Develop a concrete approach for collaboration with the GCF’s IGRENFIN program by IFAD, ensuring that our efforts are harmonized and mutually reinforcing. This framework will outline roles, responsibilities, and mechanisms for coordination between GEF-funded initiatives and GCF’s interventions in the region.
* Complementary Financing: Explore opportunities for complementary financing models where GEF funding can catalyze additional resources from the GCF, particularly for scaling successful adaptation practices and technologies across the GGW region.
* Knowledge Sharing and Learning: Establish a platform for knowledge exchange and joint learning between GEF and GCF projects. This will facilitate the sharing of best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions for climate adaptation and resilient agriculture, contributing to the collective knowledge base and enhancing project outcomes.
* Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity Building: Coordinate stakeholder engagement activities with the GCF to ensure that local communities, governments, and other relevant stakeholders are effectively involved in and benefit from both GEF and GCF projects. Joint capacity-building efforts will be prioritized to maximize the impact and sustainability of interventions.
* Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting: Align monitoring, evaluation, and reporting frameworks with GCF to ensure that project impacts are adequately captured and contribute to the GEF-GCF long-term vision for complementarity and coherence. This alignment will also facilitate the aggregation of results and the demonstration of collective impact in the GGW region.

The "Climate Adaptation and Resilient Agriculture in Plateau Central, Burkina Faso" project, is meticulously designed **to fill critical gaps in existing initiatives** aimed at combating desertification, enhancing climate resilience, and promoting sustainable agriculture across the Sahel. By leveraging a strategic approach that incorporates lessons learned, addresses unmet needs, and builds upon the strengths of ongoing efforts, these projects provide comprehensive support to vulnerable communities and ecosystems. Here's how these projects cover the gap of current initiatives:

**Complementing Existing Environmental and Agricultural Efforts with Innovative Financing**

**Integration with the Great Green Wall Initiative**: The project not only aligns with the GGW's objectives but goes a step further by embedding innovative financing mechanisms to ensure the sustainability and scalability of climate adaptation efforts. **Through the introduction of microfinance, insurance schemes, and climate-resilient investment funds**, the project aims to alleviate **financial barriers that hinder farmers from adopting sustainable practices**. This strategic integration of innovative financing broadens the project's impact, enabling more extensive and effective land productivity, soil organic carbon enhancement, and biodiversity conservation efforts.

**Coordination and the role of agencies and actors in the project**: Crucially, the coordination of this project by the Great Green Wall Agency, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), underscores the strategic importance of institutional partnerships in amplifying the impact and reach of climate adaptation measures. The Great Green Wall Agency's role is pivotal in aligning the project's objectives with the broader goals of combating desertification, enhancing biodiversity, and promoting sustainable livelihoods across the Sahel. The Agency's deep understanding of the local context, combined with UNEP's global environmental expertise and network, creates a powerful partnership capable of driving significant change.

This collaboration facilitates the pooling of resources, knowledge, and expertise, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing climate change challenges. It also enables the leveraging of UNEP's global platform for advocacy, policy influence, and mobilization of additional resources. Together, the Great Green Wall Agency and UNEP are well-positioned to guide the project towards achieving its ambitious goals, leveraging their collective strengths to ensure its success.

Furthermore, this partnership exemplifies the project's commitment to cross-sectoral integration, leveraging the strengths of each sector to address complex challenges. By working together, these organizations can catalyze action on the ground, inspire broader regional cooperation, and contribute to the global fight against climate change and environmental degradation. This coordinated approach is not only essential for the success of the project but also serves as a model for future initiatives aiming to achieve sustainable development and climate resilience in Mali and beyond. By incorporating financial innovation, the partnership strengthens the project's foundation, ensuring a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable approach to combating environmental degradation across the Sahel.

**Enhancing Climate Resilience and Adaptation**: Many existing initiatives focus on broad objectives related to climate change and environmental degradation. The Burkina Faso project pinpoint climate resilience and adaptation at both the community and ecosystem levels. Through training in climate-resilient agricultural practices, development of climate-smart infrastructure, and restoration of degraded lands, this project ensures that resilience-building efforts are both localized and scalable. Beyond localized efforts, the project's innovative financing models are pivotal in scaling up climate resilience and adaptation measures. By providing financial solutions tailored to the needs of communities and ecosystems, these models empower stakeholders to implement climate-smart agriculture and infrastructure projects effectively, ensuring long-term sustainability and adaptability to changing climate conditions.

**Empowering Women and Marginalized Groups**: A significant gap in many current projects is the full inclusion and empowerment of women and other marginalized groups. By offering specific programs aimed at empowering women through entrepreneurship and participation in non-timber forest product (NTFP) harvesting, this project ensures that climate resilience efforts are inclusive and equitable. Innovative financing plays a crucial role in closing the inclusion gap for women and marginalized groups. By facilitating access to credit, insurance, and investment, the project ensures that these groups are not only beneficiaries but also active participants in climate resilience building. This financial inclusivity is instrumental in fostering equitable growth and ensuring that all community members have the resources to adapt and thrive.

**Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)**: While several initiatives recognize the importance of PPPs, the explicit focus on developing partnerships with the private sector for technology transfer, innovative agricultural practices, and market access ensures that these projects can leverage additional resources, expertise, and innovation to enhance their impact. . By engaging the private sector in financing solutions, the project taps into a wealth of expertise, resources, and innovation, enhancing its capacity to address climate challenges. These partnerships are crucial in driving forward sustainable agricultural practices, technology transfer, and market access, showcasing a model for future climate resilience initiatives.

**Utilizing Digital Solutions for Project Management and Monitoring**: A notable gap in many initiatives is the efficient use of digital technologies for project management, monitoring, and evaluation (M&E). By incorporating digital tools and platforms, these projects improve real-time data collection, analysis, and decision-making, enhancing the ability to track progress, adapt strategies, and document successes and lessons learned.

**Bridging Regional and National Objectives**

By aligning closely with both regional initiatives like the GGW and national priorities of Burkina Faso, this project bridges the gap between large-scale environmental goals and local needs for sustainable development. It provides a model for how targeted, integrated projects can complement broader initiatives, ensuring that the momentum towards achieving land degradation neutrality, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods is maintained and accelerated.

The "Climate Adaptation and Resilient Agriculture in Plateau Central, Burkina Faso" project has strategic interventions designed to fill existing gaps in climate adaptation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable agriculture efforts in the Sahel. By focusing on capacity building, inclusivity, PPPs, and digital innovations, this project enhances the overall effectiveness of regional climate resilience and sustainable development initiatives, ensuring that vulnerable communities and ecosystems receive the focused support they need to thrive in the face of environmental and climatic challenges.

## Project Description

### Project Description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project. The project description is expected to cover the key elements[[26]](#footnote-2) of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF’s policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document.(Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here\*\*\*

Burkina Faso's Plateau Central region faces complex climate vulnerabilities and environmental degradation, much like the broader Sahel region addressed by the GGW. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and frequent droughts plague the area, compounded by population growth, traditional agricultural practices, and limited technological access. This project, in strategic alignment with GGW's objectives, seeks an integrated approach to these pressing issues, aiming to build a climate-resilient community in Plateau Central.

The project and GGW share ultimate goals of sustainable livelihoods, environmental conservation, and climate resilience, addressing key focus areas like ecosystem restoration, resilient agriculture and food security, community training, private sector engagement, and policy influence.

**Strategic Interventions**

1. **Climate Smart Community Engagement, Capacity Building, and Government Official Training:**

* Integration of specific *climate-resilient agricultural practices*, such as *drought-tolerant crops and efficient water use methods, tailored to local conditions*. Emphasis on socio-economic benefits, highlighting the potential for reduced poverty and more stable incomes through improved agricultural yields.
* Train 5,000 farmers (including 3,000 women) in climate adaptation and sustainable agricultural practices.
* Provide entrepreneurship training for 500 women, focusing on climate-focused initiatives and processing of NTFPs.
* Develop inclusive, gender-sensitive training modules, leveraging local and international expertise, and technological tools for effective learning and skill acquisition.

1. **Policy Integration and Government Officials’ Training**

* Focus on local *food systems and agricultural diversification policies, incorporating the use of indigenous knowledge in climate adaptation strategies* alongside modern techniques for a holistic approach.
* Train 100 local and regional authorities on climate policies, climate risks, and integration of climate adaptation into development plans. Ensure 40 communal development plans integrate climate adaptation strategies
* Collaborate with policy experts, government bodies, and international organizations to deliver tailored training, facilitate knowledge exchange, and support the integration process.

1. **Climate Education and Awareness Programs**

* Development of community-based adaptation strategies, emphasizing local socio-economic contexts and *promoting community-managed disaster risk reduction and livelihood diversification programs*.
* Initiate climate education and awareness programs to broaden the community’s understanding of climate change impacts and adaptation strategies.
* Partner with educational institutions, NGOs, and media to disseminate information effectively.

1. **Forest and Land Restoration for Carbon Capture**

* Discussion on *the socio-economic impacts of land degradation and how restoration efforts contribute to socio-economic stability* by creating job opportunities and enhancing local biodiversity for ecotourism.
* Restore 15,000 hectares with climate-resilient species, focusing on species known for high carbon sequestration capabilities. Implement sustainable land management practices to enhance soil’s carbon storage.
* Involve local communities in afforestation and reforestation activities, enhancing their understanding of the benefits of carbon sequestration for climate change mitigation.

1. **Climate-Resilient Agricultural and Water Management Infrastructure**

* Creation of *resilient agricultural value chains to improve market access for farmers*, increasing their resilience to climate and economic shocks.
* Construct 2 climate-smart food storage facilities and 40 resilient community water points to enhance food security and water availability amidst climate variability.
* Collaborating with technical experts and local communities to ensure the facilities are optimally designed and located to meet the community’s needs.

1. **Integrated Farms and Sustainable Agricultural Practices**

* Implementation *of innovative farming techniques proven to enhance resilience, like permaculture, agroforestry, and integrated pest management, with a clear outline of their socio-economic benefits*.
* Establish 5 integrated farms and train farmers in innovative, climate-resilient agricultural practices.
* Enabling Action: Utilizing technology and expert insights to optimize farm productivity and resilience, ensuring food security.

1. **Strengthening Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Ecosystem**

* Support 40 community groups in NTFP harvesting programs, *including skill enhancement in processing and sustainable harvesting.*
* Collaborative workshops to enhance sustainable harvesting practices, with a focus on empowering women and enhancing community livelihoods.

1. **Market Access and Value Chain Development**

* Introduction of *value chains for climate-resilient crops and development of storage and marketing systems*, aimed at enhancing market access and farmer incomes.
* Develop 10 value chains for climate-resilient agricultural products and establish 3 agricultural product storage and marketing systems to enhance market access and income.
* Partnering with private sector entities, NGOs, and government agencies to facilitate market access and value addition.

1. **Private Sector Engagement for Technology and Innovation**

* Collaborate with *5 private sector partners to introduce innovative technologies and practices in agriculture, water management, and NTFP processing*
* Structured dialogues and partnerships to align private sector innovations with community needs and priorities.

1. **Community Feedback Mechanism:**

* Incorporate a community feedback mechanism to regularly obtain insights from the community on the effectiveness and impact of the interventions, allowing for timely adjustments.

1. **Technology and Innovation Adaptability**

* Ensure the adaptability of introduced technologies and innovations to the local context, considering cultural, environmental, and economic factors.

1. **Post-Project Sustainability**

* Develop a sustainability plan to ensure the continuation and maintenance of the project’s achievements post-implementation.

1. **Baseline and Periodic Assessments**

* Conduct baseline and periodic assessments to measure the project's impact effectively and make data-informed decisions.

1. **Diversification of Climate-Resilient Agricultural Products**

* Consider introducing a variety of climate-resilient crops to enhance biodiversity and reduce dependency on a single type of crop.

1. **Collaborative Platforms**

* Establish platforms for continuous collaboration and knowledge sharing among farmers, private sector, and government post-project.

**In addition to these components, the project will introduce innovative financing models within Component 3,** focusing on Resilient Agriculture, Food Security, and Water Management. This addition will provide critical support to farmers **through microfinancing, insurance schemes, and climate-resilient investment funds**. These financial instruments are designed to reduce the economic barriers farmers face when adopting climate-resilient practices, ensuring they have the necessary resources to innovate, adapt, and thrive in the face of climate challenges. This strategic inclusion not only strengthens the project's comprehensive approach to building a climate-resilient community but also aligns with Burkina Faso's National Adaptation Plan, highlighting the project's commitment to national priorities and global climate resilience goals.

**Additional Notes:**

* Ensure gender sensitivity not only in training but across all strategic interventions to ensure inclusiveness.
* Consider the incorporation of traditional knowledge and practices in climate adaptation strategies, merging them with modern techniques for a more holistic approach.
* Evaluate and prepare for potential externalities or unintended consequences of interventions to mitigate negative impacts.

**Project Outcomes:**

Capacity Building: Enhanced community capacity with trained farmers and empowered women entrepreneurs, leading to improved climate adaptation, sustainable agricultural practices, and increased economic activities. Innovative financing models such as microfinancing, insurance schemes, and climate-resilient investment funds are leveraged to facilitate access to resources for adopting these practices.

Environmental Awareness: Raised awareness about the environmental and climatic challenges and the roles communities can play in mitigation and adaptation

Quantifiable Carbon Reduction: A measurable reduction in atmospheric CO2 levels in the project area is anticipated, with the capacity to sequester an additional 150,000 tons of CO2 annually. This enhancement in carbon sequestration not only contributes to the environmental health of the Central Plateau but also aligns with Burkina Faso's national targets for greenhouse gas reductions, supporting global climate mitigation efforts. This tangible contribution underscores the project's holistic impact, transcending local ecological restoration and food security to partake in the broader, global agenda of climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability

Enhanced Ecosystem Services: The restored forests and lands will offer a range of ecosystem services besides carbon sequestration, including improved soil fertility, water regulation, and biodiversity conservation.

Food Security: Strengthened food security through the establishment of climate-smart storage facilities and enhanced sustainable agricultural practices.

Water Management: Improved water availability and management due to resilient community water points and trained communities in efficient water use.

Economic Resilience: Boosted economic resilience via developed value chains, enhanced market access for agricultural products, and empowered local communities in NTFP processing.

Policy Integration: Strengthened policy environment for climate adaptation due to trained government officials and integrated climate adaptation strategies in development plans. The data and outcomes of the carbon sequestration efforts can be integrated into climate and environmental policies, informing decision-making, and promoting practices that enhance carbon capture.

Collaboration: Enhanced collaboration between communities, private sector, and government leading to holistic development and climate resilience.

**Impacts**

* Sustainable Livelihoods: The training in climate-adaptive practices, supported by innovative financing models, empowers communities to implement these practices more broadly and sustainably. Access to microfinancing, insurance schemes, and investment funds specifically designed for climate resilience helps overcome financial barriers, ensuring a consistent source of livelihood even during extreme climatic events.
* Economic Diversification and Growth: Innovative financing plays a pivotal role in enabling the establishment of value chains and fostering private sector integration. This financial support not only aids in diversifying income sources but also facilitates the scaling of climate-resilient agricultural products, driving broader economic growth and sustainability. The establishment of value chains, integration with the private sector, and enhanced market access lead to economic diversification. This means that communities have multiple streams of income, reducing vulnerability to any single economic shock and setting the stage for broader economic growth. The forest and land restoration activities will provide alternative livelihood options for communities, including jobs in reforestation, conservation, and eco-tourism.
* Enhanced Implementation and Sustainability of Project Interventions: By providing communities and stakeholders with the necessary financial tools to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change, innovative financing ensures that the project's interventions are not only implemented effectively but also sustained beyond the project lifecycle. This financial sustainability is crucial for maintaining the momentum of climate adaptation actions and ensuring their long-term impact.
* Enhanced Ecosystem Health: Sustainable agricultural practices, efficient water management, and responsible NTFP harvesting result in a healthier, more resilient ecosystem. This has cascading benefits, from increased biodiversity to better soil health and water quality.
* Strengthened Policy Framework: With local and regional authorities trained in climate policies and risks, there's a ripple effect on the broader governance and policy framework. This could result in more informed, adaptive, and resilient policymaking in the future, which benefits not just the Central Plateau but potentially sets a precedent for other regions.
* Community Cohesion and Collaboration: As different sectors – from local communities to the private sector to government bodies – come together in this project, there's an inherent strengthening of communal ties. Shared goals and collaborative efforts lead to a more cohesive community that's better equipped to face future challenges together.
* Long-term Climate Resilience and Mitigation: Innovative financing models enhance the project's capacity to undertake large-scale restoration efforts and adopt sustainable practices, significantly contributing to increased carbon storage and climate change mitigation. These models ensure that the necessary investments in climate resilience can be sustained over the long term, amplifying the project's impact on carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation. Beyond the immediate outcomes, the long-term impact is a community that's more resilient to the challenges of climate change. With every trained farmer, every policy integrated with climate adaptation strategies, and every collaboration with the private sector, the Central Plateau moves one step closer to a future where its communities thrive, regardless of climatic adversities
* Increased Carbon Storage: The restoration of degraded lands and the planting of climate-resilient tree species will significantly increase the carbon sequestration capacity of the Central Plateau, enabling it to act as a carbon sink that can absorb an estimated 50,000 tons of CO2 emissions from the atmosphere annually.
* Climate Change Mitigation: Enhanced carbon sequestration will contribute to climate change mitigation efforts, reducing the overall greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.
* Biodiversity Conservation: The restored areas will support increased biodiversity, offering habitats for various species and further enhancing the ecosystem's resilience to climate changes
* Enhanced Environmental Consciousness: A more informed community actively participating in environmental conservation and climate adaptation actions, leading to the sustainability of project interventions beyond the implementation phase.
* Economic Empowerment Through Innovative Financing: The deployment of innovative financing models is anticipated to significantly enhance the economic empowerment of farmers by reducing financial barriers to accessing climate-resilient technologies and practices. This initiative is expected to lead to a broader adoption of sustainable practices, diversification of income sources, and increased stability of farmers' incomes in the face of climate variability

**Assumptions**

* Accessibility: The training programs are accessible and accommodating for both male and female farmers.
* Adaptability: Farmers will be willing and able to adapt new climate-resilient practices.
* Support: Continuous support is available for the farmers post-training.
* Policy Influence: The policies influenced will be effectively implemented.
* Government Support: Continuous support from the government for climate adaptation strategies.
* Maintenance: The community takes up the maintenance and care of the infrastructure.
* Utilization: Effective utilization of the infrastructures to improve agricultural and water management.
* Participation: Active participation of the community in integrated farming practices.
* Market Access: Efficient access to markets to sell produce.
* Market Demand: Consistent market demand for NTFPs.
* Community Engagement: Community’s active engagement in sustainable harvesting and processing of NTFPs.
* Demand: Sustained demand for climate-resilient agricultural products.
* Partnerships: Successful establishment and operation of partnerships for market access.
* Interest: Sustained interest and investment from the private sector.
* Adoption: Community’s willingness to adopt new technologies.
* Successful Implementation of Innovative Financing Models: Assumes that innovative financing models will be readily adopted by financial institutions, accessible to farmers, and effectively reduce the economic barriers to adopting climate-resilient practices.

**Risks**

* Adoption: Low adoption rate of the new techniques and practices due to various barriers.
* Quality: The quality of training may not meet the expectations or needs of the farmers.
* Sustainability: Sustaining the learned practices post-project phase.
* Political Instability: Political instability leading to policy discontinuation or lack of implementation.
* Lack of Enforcement: Policies are not effectively enforced or monitored.
* Climate Impact: Adverse climatic conditions affecting the productivity of integrated farms.
* Market Fluctuations: Fluctuations in market demand and prices affecting income.
* Overexploitation: Unsustainable exploitation of NTFPs leading to ecological imbalance.
* Market Accessibility: Challenges in accessing markets or low market prices.
* Competition: Intense competition leading to reduced market share.
* Quality Standards: Difficulty in meeting quality standards and certifications
* Technology Gap: The technology provided may not be suitable or adaptable for the local context.
* Investment Withdrawal: Withdrawal of investment or interest by private sector.

**Theory of Change Map**

A diagram of a diagram

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Activities

Outcome

Long Term Goals

Inputs

**Project Components**

**Component 1: Climate-Smart Community Training, Capacity Building & and Policy Influence Institutional Strengthening**

Component 1 is designed to foster enhanced community capacity for climate adaptation, agricultural practices, and food security. It focuses on training farmers, empowering women through climate-focused entrepreneurship, and integrating climate adaptation strategies into communal development plans. Collaborations with the private sector are leveraged to bolster training and capacity-building initiatives.

**Budget for Component 1**

* LDCF: USD 350,000
* Co-financing: USD 3,000,000

**Business as Usual (BAU) Scenario for component 1**

In the BAU Scenario for Component 1, the traditional agricultural landscape remains largely unchanged, and challenges are intensified due to the absence of targeted interventions. Here, a statistical snapshot provides a clearer perspective of the existing challenges and gaps that would be unaddressed:

1. Traditional Agricultural Practices:

* 95% farmers in the region still rely on antiquated farming methods, leading to a decline in productivity.
* Crop yields might experience a 30% reduction due to the increasing prevalence of climate-induced stress factors like droughts and unpredictable rainfall patterns.

2. Women’s Marginalization:

* Women, who constitute 50% of the agricultural workforce, continue to have limited access to resources and training, leading to a 25% lower productivity rate compared to their male counterparts
* Less than 10% of women are engaged in climate-focused entrepreneurial activities, limiting diversification of income sources and resilience building.

3. Lack of Climate Adaptation in Development Plans:

* Zero out of the 40 communal development plans in the region have integrated climate adaptation strategies, leaving communities vulnerable to climate shocks.
* The absence of climate adaptation knowledge leads to an estimated 40% increase in climate vulnerability for these communities.

4. Private Sector Engagement:

* Only 2 out of 20 potential private sector partners are engaged at a minimal level, resulting in a 90% gap in harnessing innovative solutions and investments for community development.
* The lack of private sector involvement results in a 50% shortfall in the necessary resources and innovations needed to enhance community resilience

**Implications:**

* Food Security: A 30% decline in crop yields due to unimproved agricultural practices could lead to increased food insecurity, affecting 70% of the local population.
* Economic Loss: The marginalization of women and lack of private sector involvement could result in an estimated USD 5 million annual loss in potential income and innovations.
* Climate Vulnerability: Without climate adaptation integration, communities might face up to 50% increased vulnerability to climate-induced disasters, leading to potential losses of lives, livelihoods, and assets.

This data-driven elucidation of the Business-as-Usual Scenario underscores the urgent need for the interventions outlined in Component 1, highlighting the gaps and potential losses in the absence of focused capacity building, women’s empowerment, policy integration, and private sector engagement.

**Adaptive Scenario for component 1**

In the revised scenario of implementing Component 1, tangible impacts and transformations in the Central Plateau region are anticipated. Training 5,000 farmers, including a significant 3,000 women, is expected to have a direct impact on enhancing skills necessary for climate adaptation. The outcome would likely translate into an increase in agricultural productivity and a substantial reduction in vulnerability to climate changes. This will be achieved through

**Expanded Climate-Resilient Agricultural Training**: Integrate advanced modules on climate-resilient agricultural practices, including *water-saving irrigation techniques, drought-tolerant crops, and sustainable pest management*. This aims to directly address the challenges of erratic rainfall and frequent droughts, with a strong emphasis on improving productivity and livelihoods under changing climatic conditions.

**Women’s Entrepreneurship and Empowerment**: Enhance the entrepreneurship training program for women to include business skills tailored to climate adaptation enterprises, such as climate-resilient crop production, renewable energy solutions for agriculture, and water-efficient technologies. This component will aim to reduce gender disparities in access to resources and training, fostering economic empowerment and leadership among women in the community.

**Policy Advocacy and Integration**: Strengthen efforts to integrate climate adaptation into regional development plans through targeted training for local and regional authorities. Include workshops on utilizing *climate data for planning, leveraging public-private partnerships for climate resilience*, and incorporating gender-responsive approaches to adaptation policy.

**Private Sector Engagement and Innovation**: Establish a structured program to foster collaborations between the community and the private sector, focusing on innovative solutions for climate resilience. This will include incubation programs for startups offering climate adaptation solutions and mentorship programs linking farmers with agri-tech companies.

**Community-Based Adaptation Projects**: Initiate community-led projects to apply learned practices in real-world settings, such as community gardens using permaculture principles, rainwater harvesting systems, and reforestation initiatives with native, drought-resistant species. These projects will serve as practical learning platforms and contribute to local climate resilience.

**Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Enhancements:** Implement a robust M&E framework to track the effectiveness of training programs, the impact of policy advocacy efforts, and the outcomes of private sector partnerships. This will include both quantitative metrics, such as the number of hectares under climate-resilient cultivation and qualitative assessments, such as farmer testimonials.

**Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination:** Develop a knowledge exchange platform to share success stories, best practices, and lessons learned from the component's initiatives. This platform will facilitate peer learning among farmers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers, amplifying the impact of the component beyond the immediate beneficiaries.

The targeted training for 500 women in entrepreneurship is anticipated to significantly uplift their economic status, reduce gender disparities, and amplify their roles in fostering community resilience. This strategic move is not only an alignment with gender equality ambitions but is also a direct input towards elevating household incomes and living standards.

Women will also receive specialized training in the processing of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP). This initiative is tailored to bolster their skills, diversify income sources, and empower them to play a more integral role in the community’s economic and environmental landscape.

Furthermore, a strategic initiative is underway to train government officials on climate adaptation and risks. This measure aims to refine policymaking, ensuring it is informed, responsive, and adaptive to the prevailing and anticipated climatic challenges. It underscores a holistic approach where adaptation is not only grassroots but is also reflected in governance and policy frameworks.

The strategic integration of climate adaptation strategies into 40 communal development plans is another pivotal step. It ensures that adaptation is not only a communal effort but is supported and enhanced by structured, policy-backed approaches. This integration guarantees a robust foundation for systematically confronting and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Furthermore, the adaptive scenario is enriched by establishing collaborations with the private sector. This partnership is projected to bring on board a blend of innovation, technology, and financial resources, essential ingredients in amplifying the reach and impact of community training and capacity-building initiatives.

The implementation of Component 1 in the adaptive scenario is anticipated to yield significant impacts on the Central Plateau region of Burkina Faso, particularly in terms of enhancing community resilience, improving agricultural productivity, and fostering gender equality. The following are the expected impacts of the component:

**Expected impact and Outcome**

**Enhanced Community Resilience**:

Increased Capacity: Training 5,000 farmers, including 3,000 women, in climate-smart agricultural practices and entrepreneurship is expected to build their capacity to adapt to climate change. This will empower communities to better cope with climate-induced stressors, such as erratic rainfall and droughts.

Strengthened Policy Integration: By advocating for the integration of climate adaptation into communal development plans and providing training to local authorities, the project aims to enhance the resilience of communities to climate shocks and disasters.

**Improved Agricultural Productivity:**

Adoption of Climate-Resilient Practices: The introduction of advanced agricultural techniques, such as water-saving irrigation methods and drought-tolerant crop varieties, is expected to improve agricultural productivity and mitigate the impact of climate variability on crop yields.

Diversification of Income Sources: Through entrepreneurship training for women and the promotion of non-timber forest product processing, the project aims to diversify income sources for farmers, thereby enhancing their economic resilience.

**Promotion of Gender Equality**:

Economic Empowerment of Women: Specialized training for women in entrepreneurship and the processing of non-timber forest products is expected to uplift their economic status and reduce gender disparities in access to resources and opportunities.

Leadership and Participation: By actively involving women in decision-making processes and providing them with opportunities for leadership roles, the project aims to promote gender equality and social inclusion within the community.

**Strengthened Public-Private Partnerships:**

Innovation and Technology Transfer: Collaborations with the private sector are expected to facilitate the adoption of innovative solutions for climate resilience, such as digital tools for agriculture and renewable energy technologies.

Resource Mobilization: By engaging with private sector partners, the project aims to mobilize additional financial and technical resources, which will contribute to the sustainability and scalability of climate adaptation efforts in the region.

Overall, the expected impact of Component 1 is a more resilient and adaptive community in the Central Plateau region, with improved livelihoods, enhanced food security, and greater gender equality. By addressing the existing challenges and gaps identified in the Business-as-Usual scenario, the project aims to create positive and lasting changes that contribute to the long-term sustainability and resilience of the region.

**Component 2: Climate-Resilience Ecosystem Restoration**

Component 2 is centered around the restoration of 15,000 hectares of ecosystems, making them more resilient to climate change. It entails the integration of climate-resilient species and the construction of structures to prevent soil erosion and floods. The collaboration with private enterprises is aimed at incorporating innovative restoration technologies and practices to boost the effectiveness of these efforts.

**Budget for component 2**

* LDCF: USD 3,900,000
* Co-financing: USD 18,000,000

**Business as Usual Scenario for component 2**

Without Component 2, the Central Plateau region's ecosystems would face escalating degradation, substantiated by the following statistical insights:

1. Ecosystem Degradation:

* 85% of the 500,000 hectares of land in the region are degrading at an accelerated rate due to the continued prevalence of unsuitable land management and climate change impacts.
* Soil fertility could decrease by 40%, leading to a reduction in agricultural productivity and biodiversity.

2. Soil Erosion and Floods:

* A 60% increase in soil erosion due to the absence of restoration and conservation efforts, impacting water quality and availability.
* Vulnerability to floods might surge by 50%, affecting over 100,000 people annually, with increased damage to infrastructure and livelihoods.

3. Biodiversity Loss:

* A predicted 30% loss in biodiversity over the next decade due to habitat degradation, invasive species, and climate change.
* Over 200 species are at heightened risk of extinction, disrupting ecosystems and human dependencies.

4. Private Sector Engagement:

* A mere 5% engagement from the private sector, causing a 95% deficit in the incorporation of innovative solutions and technologies for ecosystem restoration.
* The potential for attracting an estimated USD 10 million in investments and technology adoption remains untapped.

**Implications:**

* Agricultural Decline: A 40% reduction in soil fertility could result in a 25% decline in agricultural output, affecting food security for over 500,000 residents.
* Environmental Damage: The escalated soil erosion and flood vulnerability could incur an estimated USD 20 million in annual environmental and infrastructural damages.
* Biodiversity Crisis: The loss of biodiversity could disrupt ecosystem services, leading to a 30% decline in environmental health and resilience.

The statistics paint a grim picture of the Central Plateau region's future without Component 2, underscoring the critical need for ecosystem restoration, conservation efforts, and the essential role of private sector engagement in bridging technology and investment gaps to mitigate environmental degradation and enhance resilience.

**Adaptive Scenario for Component 2**

The enhancement of Component 2 in the Central Plateau project aims to transform the landscape into a resilient ecosystem capable of withstanding the challenges posed by climate change. This component is meticulously designed to restore 15,000 hectares of degraded land, not just to its former ecological glory but as a vibrant model of economic and social sustainability. The strategic approach combines the restoration of biodiversity with the implementation of innovative agricultural and water management techniques, thereby forging a harmonious relationship between the environment and local communities. Here's a refined overview highlighting the clarity and objectives of the strategies involved:

**Enhanced Ecosystem Restoration Strategies**:

**Demonstration Plots for Climate-Resilient Crops**: These plots serve as living classrooms where farmers can learn about and interact with a variety of climate-resilient crops. By providing a hands-on experience, these plots aim to educate farmers on the benefits of adopting such crops, leading to improved agricultural practices and sustainability.

**Innovative Water Conservation Techniques**: The project introduces zai pits and half-moon techniques, proven traditional methods for enhancing water retention and soil fertility, especially in arid regions. Their implementation within restored areas showcases their effectiveness, promoting widespread adoption to tackle water scarcity and bolster agricultural productivity.

**Socio-Economic and Innovation Integration**: The inclusion of socio-economic benefits and innovative practices within Component 2 underscores a holistic approach to ecosystem restoration. This integration ensures the project:

* Facilitates educational outreach and engages practical involvement with climate-resilient agricultural practices, aiming to fortify food security and encourage livelihood diversification.
* Demonstrates the effectiveness and advantages of both traditional and innovative water conservation techniques, encouraging sustainable land and water management practices across the community.

**Outcomes and Enhanced Impacts**:

The strategic incorporation of demonstration plots and water conservation techniques in Component 2 is devised to establish a replicable model of ecosystem restoration that seamlessly integrates biodiversity conservation with agricultural sustainability and water efficiency. Expected outcomes include:

* Increased Adoption of Climate-Resilient Practices: Elevating awareness and adoption rates of sustainable farming techniques and climate-resilient crops to enhance food security and economic resilience among local farmers.
* Water Conservation Success: Highlighting effective water conservation strategies to encourage their broader implementation, thus addressing drought concerns and enhancing soil health.
* Community Engagement and Stewardship: Fostering a sense of ownership and involvement within local communities in restoration efforts, which is key to enduring environmental stewardship and proactive climate adaptation.

**Additional Strategic Enhancements**:

**Enhanced Carbon Sequestration**: Restored areas will play a pivotal role in capturing atmospheric carbon dioxide, contributing significantly to global climate mitigation efforts.

**Socio-Economic Development**: The restoration activities are poised to generate employment opportunities, particularly in sectors related to the green economy, thereby aiding in poverty alleviation and bolstering economic stability among the local populace.

**Educational and Community Participation**: By actively involving local communities in the restoration process, the project aims to instill a strong sense of environmental responsibility, raise ecological consciousness, and impart knowledge on sustainable land management techniques.

**Robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework**: A comprehensive M&E framework will be established to closely monitor the progress of restoration activities, biodiversity enhancements, and socio-economic impacts. This will ensure that the project's objectives are achieved efficiently, facilitating informed decision-making and adaptive management strategies.

By focusing on these strategic objectives, Component 2 transcends traditional restoration efforts, aiming instead for a sustainable transformation of the Central Plateau into a resilient, economically vibrant, and ecologically rich landscape. This forward-thinking approach not only addresses the immediate ecological needs but also fosters a community well-equipped to face the challenges and opportunities of climate change.

**Component 3: Resilient Agriculture, Food Security, and Water Management**

Component 3 of the Central Plateau project is a comprehensive initiative aimed at fortifying food security, enhancing water management, and promoting resilient agriculture to combat the challenges posed by climate change. By establishing climate-smart food storage facilities, developing community water points, and supporting integrated farms and non-timber forest product (NTFP) harvesting programs, this component seeks to create a sustainable ecosystem where the local communities can thrive.

**Budget for Component 3**

* LDCF: USD 3,400,000
* Co-financing: USD 25,337,222

**Business as Usual Scenario for component 3**

In the absence of Component 3, the Central Plateau communities would face pronounced challenges characterized by the following statistical details:

1. Water Scarcity:

* 70% of the 400,000 residents would experience acute water scarcity, exacerbated by inefficient water management and recurrent droughts.
* The area's groundwater level could decline by 50% due to unsustainable extraction and lack of replenishment mechanisms.

2. Agricultural Challenges:

* A 40% decline in agricultural productivity due to reliance on outdated practices not resilient to the changing climate.
* Post-harvest losses might increase to 30% because of inadequate storage facilities and technology.

3. Food Insecurity:

* Food insecurity could afflict 60% of the population due to inconsistent food supplies and increased post-harvest losses.
* Malnutrition rates could rise by 25%, particularly affecting children and women.

4. Income Diversification and NTFPs:

* The USD 5 million potential annual market for NTFPs and integrated farming remains untapped due to lack of capacity and access.
* Income diversification opportunities for 10,000 households would be unexplored, leading to continued dependence on single, vulnerable income sources.

5. Private Sector Engagement:

* Less than 10% private sector engagement, resulting in a missed opportunity to leverage technology, innovation, and investment for climate resilience and income generation.
* A potential USD 15 million investment in climate-resilient agricultural technology and market access strategies would be unrealized.

**Implications:**

* Economic Decline: A 50% decrease in agricultural income due to water scarcity, outdated practices, and food loss, impacting over 200,000 individuals.
* Environmental Degradation: The exacerbated water scarcity and unexploited NTFPs could lead to a 40% decline in environmental health and resilience.
* Community Vulnerability: The continuation of current trends could see a 35% increase in community vulnerability to climate change impacts, affecting livelihoods, health, and well-being.

These statistics underline the severe consequences for the Central Plateau communities without Component 3, emphasizing the urgency for multifaceted interventions targeting water management, resilient agricultural practices, income diversification, and an enhanced role of the private sector in promoting sustainability and resilience.

**Adaptation Scenario for Component 3**

The following enhancement delineates the strategies and expected outcomes of this component**:**

**Innovative Financing Models for Climate-Resilient Agriculture:**

To develop and implement innovative financing mechanisms that provide farmers with the financial resources and incentives needed to adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies.

* **Microfinance Programs**: Establish microfinance programs tailored to smallholder farmers, offering loans with favorable terms for investments in climate-resilient agriculture. These programs will prioritize accessibility for women farmers to promote gender equality and empowerment.
* **Climate Risk Insurance**: Develop and implement climate risk insurance schemes for farmers, protecting them against losses due to extreme weather events and climatic uncertainties. This will reduce the financial risk of adopting new, climate-smart practices.
* **Climate-Resilient Investment Funds**: Create investment funds dedicated to supporting climate-resilient agricultural projects. These funds will provide capital for initiatives that demonstrate potential for sustainability, scalability, and significant impact on climate adaptation.
* **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs**): Foster PPPs to leverage private sector investment in climate-resilient agriculture. These partnerships will aim to blend resources, expertise, and networks to amplify the reach and effectiveness of financing mechanisms.
* **Capacity Building on Financial Management and Access**: Offer training programs for farmers on financial literacy, focusing on how to access and effectively utilize innovative financing options. This will empower farmers to make informed decisions and investments in climate resilience.
* **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework**: Incorporate an M&E framework to assess the effectiveness, accessibility, and impact of the financing models. This will ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement of the financial mechanisms.

**Climate-Smart Food Storage Facilities and Water Points**: The construction of two advanced food storage facilities and the establishment of 40 climate-resilient community water points are pivotal. These facilities will employ state-of-the-art technology to reduce post-harvest losses and ensure a reliable water supply, directly benefiting over 2,000 individuals with improved food security and water access.

**Integrated Farms and NTFP Programs**: The creation of five integrated farms will serve as a model for sustainable agriculture, showcasing practices such as crop rotation, organic farming, and integrated pest management. Additionally, supporting 40 community groups in NTFP harvesting will not only preserve biodiversity but also provide sustainable livelihood options, promoting economic resilience.

**Private Sector Collaboration for Innovation and Market Access**: A strategic partnership with five private sector entities will introduce innovative agricultural and water management technologies and practices. These collaborations aim to bridge the gap between traditional methods and modern technology, enhancing the community's capacity to adapt to climate variability.

**Development of Value Chains for Climate-Resilient Agricultural Products**: The project will focus on developing 10 value chains, enhancing the marketability of climate-resilient crops. This strategy aims to improve farmers' incomes and market access, thereby contributing to the economic stability of the community.

**Additional Strategic Elements**:

**Water Harvesting and Irrigation Techniques**: Incorporate innovative water harvesting and efficient irrigation techniques to maximize water usage and availability for agriculture, addressing the critical issue of water scarcity in the region.

**Agricultural Diversification**:

* **Promote diversification in agriculture by introducing a variety of climate-resilient crops and livestock w**. This strategy aims to reduce dependency on a single crop or income source, thereby enhancing food security and economic resilience against climate shocks.
* **Develop partnerships with seed banks and agricultural research institutions**: To ensure access to climate-resilient seeds. This strategic move aims to bolster agricultural diversification efforts by providing farmers with seeds that are specifically bred to withstand the adverse effects of climate change, such as drought, extreme temperatures, and pests. By securing a reliable supply of such seeds, the project not only enhances the resilience of agriculture to climatic shifts but also supports the long-term sustainability of farming communities by ensuring higher crop yields and reduced crop failure risks.

**Capacity Building and Training**: Conduct targeted training programs for farmers and community groups, focusing on sustainable farming practices, water management, and entrepreneurship. These programs are designed to empower participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for climate resilience.

**Community Engagement and Ownership:** Foster a sense of ownership and active participation among the community members in the implementation of water management and agricultural practices. Engage community leaders and local organizations in decision-making processes to ensure the sustainability of the interventions.

**Expected Outcomes and Impact**:

* Enhanced access to finance for smallholder farmers, enabling them to invest in climate-resilient technologies and practices.
* Reduced vulnerability of farmers to climate risks, with improved economic stability and resilience.
* Increased adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, leading to improved food security and ecosystem health.
* Strengthened capacity of farmers in financial management and access to innovative financing options.
* Established partnerships with the private sector, contributing to the sustainability and scalability of climate-resilient agricultural initiatives
* Enhanced Food Security: The combined effect of climate-smart storage facilities, water management improvements, and agricultural diversification will significantly enhance food security, reducing vulnerability to climate-induced food shortages.
* Economic Empowerment: Through the development of value chains and support for NTFP programs, Component 3 aims to boost economic empowerment, offering sustainable income-generating opportunities for local communities.
* Improved Water Efficiency: By implementing water-saving techniques and establishing resilient water points, the project aims to improve water efficiency and availability for agricultural and domestic use, contributing to the overall resilience of the community.
* Sustainable Agricultural Practices: The adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and the integration of innovative technologies are expected to lead to healthier ecosystems, improved crop yields, and a reduction in the environmental footprint of farming activities.

This enhanced approach to Component 3 ensures not only the immediate improvement of food security and water management but also the long-term sustainability and resilience of the Central Plateau communities against the backdrop of changing climate conditions.

**Component 4: M&E**

This component is integral to streamline the implementation, assess the efficacy, and ensure the sustainability of project interventions. It encompasses project management, monitoring, and evaluation (M&E), and knowledge management, aligning with the GEF requirement to systematically capture, analyze, and disseminate knowledge derived from the project's implementation.

**Budget for Component 4**

* LDCF: USD 700,000
* Co-financing: USD 2,000,000

**Business as Usual Scenario for component 4**

In the absence of this comprehensive component, the execution, assessment, and learning processes are likely to be disjointed, less effective, and unsustainable. There would be a lack of structured mechanisms to monitor progress, evaluate impacts, and manage the acquired knowledge effectively. The ability to adapt to emerging challenges, optimize strategies, and scale successful interventions would be compromised.

**Adaptive Scenario for component 4**

The objective of this component is to implement a comprehensive, technology-driven M&E framework to systematically assess the project's effectiveness, impact on climate resilience, and contributions to food security. It integrates:

1. **Advanced M&E Plan Development and Implementation**: Develop a robust M&E plan incorporating specific indicators to measure the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices, crop yield impacts, and water efficiency improvements.

Outcome: Provide a detailed, quantifiable understanding of the project's success in enhancing agricultural productivity and resilience to climate variability.

1. **Digital Tools for Real-Time Data Collection**: Employ geo-spatial technologies and mobile platforms for real-time monitoring of land use changes, restoration efforts, and feedback collection directly from farmers.

Innovation Example: Leverage mobile technology to gather on-ground feedback from farmers, facilitating adaptive project management based on real-time data and insights.

Outcome: Enable dynamic, informed decision-making and project adjustments to maximize effectiveness and address emerging challenges promptly.

1. **Inclusive Participation in the M&E Process**: Actively engage local communities, stakeholders, and partners in the M&E process, fostering a sense of ownership and collaboration.

Outcome: Ensure that the M&E framework captures ground-level insights and reflects the diverse perspectives and experiences of all project participants.

1. **Knowledge Management for Learning and Scaling**: Systematically capture data, insights, and lessons learned throughout the project lifecycle. Analyze and synthesize this knowledge to inform adaptive management and share with stakeholders, partners, and the global community.

Outcome: Foster a culture of learning, replication, and scaling of successful practices, enhancing the project's contribution to the global body of knowledge on climate resilience and sustainable development.

**Expected Outputs:**

1. A detailed and operationalized M&E plan tracking the project’s performance, impacts, and outcomes.
2. Utilization of digital tools and geo-spatial technologies for real-time data collection, analysis, and reporting.
3. Engagement of local communities and stakeholders in the M&E process, ensuring inclusivity and shared ownership.
4. Production of yearly climate and food security evaluation reports providing data-driven insights and recommendations for project refinement.
5. Establishment of a knowledge management system to capture, analyze, and disseminate learnings, ensuring the project's adaptability and contribution to broader climate resilience efforts.
6. By focusing on these strategic enhancements, Component 4 aims to elevate the project's capacity for informed decision-making, timely adaptation, and impactful outcomes. The incorporation of advanced monitoring techniques and innovative technologies positions the project as a model for dynamic, responsive, and effective climate resilience and food security initiatives in the Central Plateau and beyond.

In this adaptive state, the project becomes a dynamic, learning, and evolving entity. It is not only focused on delivering specific outcomes but is also committed to learning, adapting, and enhancing its strategies for maximal impact. The integration of project management, M&E, and knowledge management ensures that the project is responsive, accountable, and contributes to the broader body of knowledge on climate resilience and sustainable development in the Central Plateau and beyond**.**

**Project Management Cost (PMC)**

* LDCF: USD 650,000
* Co-financing: USD 3,763,778

In the BAU scenario, the project would proceed without a dedicated budget for Project Management Cost (PMC). The lack of allocated resources for PMC would potentially lead to inefficiencies in project administration, monitoring, and oversight. Essential tasks such as timely reporting, coordination among stakeholders, and adaptive management could face significant challenges. This could undermine the effectiveness of the entire project, resulting in delayed deliverables, unmet objectives, and diminished impacts on climate resilience and food security in the Central Plateau region. The absence of a well-structured PMC could also inhibit the leveraging of co-financing and partnerships, thus limiting the project’s scope and scale.

**Adaptation Scenario with PMC**

With a dedicated $650,000 from GEF and an additional $150,000 co-financing for PMC, the project is empowered to enhance its administrative, operational, and management capacity. The PMC ensures that there are adequate resources for efficient coordination, monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management. A well-funded PMC translates to streamlined operations, timely execution of project activities, and optimal utilization of resources. It also enhances the project’s ability to adapt to emerging challenges and opportunities, ensuring that the interventions are responsive and tailored to the dynamic needs of the community. The integration of a robust PMC enhances stakeholder coordination, leverages additional resources, and amplifies the project’s impacts on climate resilience and food security.

In essence, the inclusion of a comprehensive PMC ensures that the project not only achieves its objectives but exceeds them by fostering an environment of efficiency, adaptability, and responsiveness. The benefits of climate resilience and food security are thus maximized, offering the communities in the Central Plateau region a sustainable pathway to enhanced livelihoods, environmental sustainability, and resilience against climate variability and change.

**Stakeholders and their role in the project**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Stakeholder** | **Role** | **Contribution** | **Benefits** | **Co-Benefits** |
| Great Green Wall national coordination | Strategic guidance, environmental expertise, and policy alignment.  GGW Strategy  Operationalization of the GMV federating framework | Provide overarching strategies that align the project with the GGW Initiative. Contribute to technical know-how in areas such as afforestation, soil conservation, and sustainable land management. Assist in policy advocacy to integrate project outcomes into broader climate resilience and land restoration goals. | Achievement of GGW objectives, additional funding and international partnerships, increased scale, and impact of GGW activities. | The project’s successes can be used as case studies to attract more funding and partnerships for the GGW initiative, creating a positive feedback loop that further drives progress across the region. |
| Government | Policy formulation, funding, and institutional support. | Align the project with national strategies for climate change and food security, allocate resources, and facilitate policy reforms. | Data-driven policymaking, achievement of sustainability goals, and international cooperation. | Streamlined efforts can be scaled to other regions, improving nationwide resilience. |
| Private Sector | Technology development, financing, and market facilitation. | Provide technical expertise, develop/adapt relevant technologies, and potentially offer additional financing | Market expansion, brand credibility, and Corporate Social Responsibility | The technologies and practices developed can be scaled or adapted for other markets, thereby multiplying their impact. |
| Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) | Capacity building, social mobilization, and advocacy. | Implement community engagement programs, support in capacity-building efforts, and lobby for policy changes. | Increased outreach, additional funding opportunities, and heightened social impact. | The social capital and frameworks established can be leveraged for future projects. |
| Local communities | Grassroots implementation, monitoring, and feedback. | Participate in training programs, maintain new technologies, and contribute local knowledge to adaptation strategies. | Improved food security, water access, and climate resilience. Enhanced social cohesion and livelihood opportunities. | The knowledge and skills acquired through the project will continue to provide sustainable environmental and adaptation benefits. |
| Academic and Research Institutions | Data collection & analysis, monitoring, and evaluation.  Drawing conclusions  Outline impact trends | Provide scientific rigor to project planning and evaluation through data analytics and research. | Publications, enhanced academic recognition, and practical application of research. | The data and insights generated could be invaluable for global climate change and adaptation research |
| Local  Communities | Cultural guidance and local ecological knowledge. | Share indigenous practices that may enhance environmental resilience, and cultural perspectives that enrich project planning. | Preservation of territorial and cultural integrity, and enhanced well-being. | The recognition and integration of indigenous knowledge can improve the long-term sustainability of environmental efforts. |

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### Development of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

A crucial element of the "Climate Adaptation and Resilient Agriculture in Plateau Central, Burkina Faso" project is the development and implementation of a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The SEP will outline a systematic approach to involve all relevant stakeholders, including local communities, government entities, NGOs, private sectors, and international organizations, ensuring their contributions and concerns are integrated into the project's design and implementation. Below is the articulated plan for developing the SEP.

1. Identification of Stakeholders: The first step involves identifying and categorizing stakeholders based on their interest, influence, and impact on the project. A thorough analysis will be conducted to map out stakeholders’ roles, expectations, and potential contributions.

2. Needs and Interests Analysis: The project will assess the needs, interests, and concerns of identified stakeholders. This will involve surveys, interviews, and consultations to gather qualitative and quantitative data, ensuring an in-depth understanding of stakeholder dynamics.

3. Development of Engagement Strategies: Based on the analysis, customized engagement strategies will be developed for different stakeholder groups. These strategies will consider the specific needs, expectations, and capacities of each group to ensure effective and meaningful engagement.

4. Communication Plan: A communication plan will be formulated to facilitate timely and transparent information dissemination. It will outline the communication channels, frequency, content, and language to ensure all stakeholders are informed and engaged.

5. Capacity Building: Where necessary, capacity-building initiatives will be implemented to empower stakeholders, particularly marginalized groups, to actively participate in the engagement processes.

6. Monitoring & Evaluation: Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the SEP will be established. Metrics and indicators will be developed to measure the quality and impact of stakeholder engagement.

7. Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism: A system to receive, process, and address feedback and grievances from stakeholders will be established. This ensures that stakeholders’ concerns are promptly and effectively resolved.

8. Documentation and Reporting: Processes will be put in place to document all engagement activities, feedback received, and actions taken. Regular reports will be produced to update all stakeholders on the progress and outcomes of the engagement processes.

9. Review and Update of SEP: The SEP will be a living document, subject to periodic reviews and updates to incorporate changing dynamics, feedback, and learnings. This ensures that the engagement process remains relevant and effective throughout the project’s lifecycle.

10. Implementation: The SEP will be integrated into the project’s overall implementation plan, with dedicated resources, roles, and responsibilities outlined to ensure effective execution.

The development of the SEP is anchored on principles of inclusivity, transparency, and collaboration. It aims to foster a participatory environment where all stakeholders are valued, heard, and engaged in the co-creation of solutions for climate adaptation and resilient agriculture in the Central Plateau. This dynamic and adaptive approach ensures that the project is not only technically sound but also socially inclusive and equitable, leading to sustainable and impactful outcomes.

**Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment**

The project rigorously aligns with the GEF Policy on Gender Equality, addressing gender dimensions comprehensively to ensure that both women and men equally participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the project interventions. Here are specific ways the project integrates gender equality and women's empowerment:

1. Gender Analysis: A thorough gender analysis is conducted at the inception phase to identify and address specific needs, opportunities, and challenges faced by both women and men in the target communities. This analysis informs the design and implementation of gender-responsive actions throughout the project lifecycle.

2. Participation and Inclusion: Efforts are made to ensure equal participation of women in decision-making processes, training, and capacity-building programs. Gender-specific barriers to participation are identified and addressed to create an enabling environment for women’s active involvement.

3. Capacity Building: Training and capacity-building initiatives are tailored to address the specific needs of women, focusing on enhancing their skills, knowledge, and access to resources in areas like climate-resilient agricultural practices and entrepreneurship.4. Women’s Economic Empowerment: Special focus is placed on supporting women in establishing and scaling their enterprises, particularly in (NTFP) and other sustainable livelihood ventures. This includes access to finance, markets, and business development services.

5. Gender-responsive M&E: The Monitoring and Evaluation framework incorporates gender-specific indicators to measure and analyze the differential impacts of project interventions on women and men. This ensures that gender disparities are addressed in real-time, promoting equality in outcomes.

6. 40 Communal Development Plans: The integration of gender perspectives in the 40 communal development plans ensures that gender considerations are mainstreamed in local development planning and implementation. Each plan is tailored to address the specific gender dynamics within the respective community, ensuring localized gender responsiveness.

7. Safety and Security: Gender-sensitive risk assessments are conducted to ensure that project interventions do not inadvertently exacerbate gender-based vulnerabilities or inequalities. Mechanisms are put in place to safeguard the security and well-being of women participants.

8. Knowledge Sharing: Women are not only recipients of knowledge but also contributors. Platforms are created for women to share their insights, innovations, and experiences both within the community and in broader regional and global networks, amplifying their voices and contributions.

9. Policy Influence: Efforts are made to influence policies at communal, regional, and national levels to be more gender-responsive, ensuring that the legal and regulatory environment supports and advances gender equality and women’s empowerment.

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Every aspect of the project is imbued with a gender lens, ensuring that gender equality and women’s empowerment are not peripheral but central to the project’s design, implementation, and impact assessment. Women’s roles as key agents of change are recognized and amplified, ensuring that the journey to climate resilience and sustainable development is inclusive, equitable, and empowering for all members of society. Each success, learning, and innovation emerging from the project contributes to the broader global goal of gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of climate change and environmental sustainability.

### Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

Yes  No

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing *(max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)*

In the coordination of the Burkina Faso project, BOAD will play a pivotal role in facilitating and streamlining collaboration with UNEP and ensuring synergy with GCF-funded initiatives. As a regional financial institution, BOAD will leverage its expertise in financing sustainable development and climate resilience projects to foster partnerships and mobilize additional resources. Specifically, BOAD will:

* Coordinate with UNEP to align project activities with regional and international environmental goals, ensuring that the project contributes to the overarching objectives of the Great Green Wall Initiative and aligns with UNEP's strategic priorities in the region.
* Act as a liaison between the project, UNEP, and GCF to identify opportunities for co-financing, knowledge sharing, and technology transfer, maximizing the impact of investments in climate adaptation and resilience.
* Facilitate the integration of innovative financing mechanisms into the project, drawing on BOAD's experience with financial instruments such as green bonds and climate resilience funds, to enhance the project's financial sustainability and scalability.
* Support the development of capacity-building initiatives in financial management, project development, and access to climate finance, tailored to the needs of local stakeholders and project beneficiaries.
* Contribute to the project's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework by providing financial and impact analysis expertise, ensuring that the project's contributions to climate resilience and sustainable development are accurately measured and reported.

These proposed roles for BOAD in both projects underline the importance of a coordinated approach that leverages the strengths of regional and international partners. By clearly defining BOAD's involvement, the projects can benefit from enhanced efficiency, impact, and sustainability

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### Core Indicators

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Core Indicators** | | **Expected at PIF** |
| 1 | Number of direct beneficiaries (sex disaggregated) | 7,000 (3,500 females & 3,500 males.  Component 1 plays a vital role here by offering extensive training and capacity-building programs. Women’s empowerment is emphasized, ensuring gender balance in beneficiaries. The community-centric design ensures direct participation and benefit from climate adaptation initiatives. |
| 2 | (a) Area of land managed for  climate resilience (hectares) | 15,000 ha  Component 2 is pivotal as it focuses on climate-resilience ecosystem restoration. Actions such as planting climate-resilient species and building erosion prevention structures contribute to managing and enhancing the resilience of 15,000 hectares of land. |
| 3 | Number of policies/plans/  frameworks/institutions for  to strengthen climate  adaptation | 40 communal development plans  Component 1 again is instrumental, particularly in policy advocacy. Training and capacity building initiatives lead to the integration of climate adaptation strategies into communal and regional development plans, achieving policy-level changes. |
| 4 | Number of people trained or with awareness raised (sex disaggregated) | 5,500 (3,000 Female & 2,500 Male)  Component 1’s targeted training modules for farmers, women in entrepreneurship, and government officials on climate adaptation and risks significantly contribute. The inclusion of women in NTFP training by Component 3 also adds to this number. |
| 5 | Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience action | 9 Enterprises  Components 1, 2 and 3 leverage private sector partnerships for ecosystem restoration and resilient agriculture. Private enterprises bring innovation, technology, and additional resources, enhancing the project’s scope and impact. |

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators *(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)*

The methodological approach to setting target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators is grounded in a multi-faceted assessment that includes historical data, community needs, technological capabilities, and scalability. Here is a breakdown:

**1. Number of Direct Beneficiaries (7,000: 3,500 females & 3,500 males)**

The target is set considering the population of the Central Plateau region, the project’s reach, and the intensive gender-inclusive approach. It involves direct participation in capacity-building, training, and the execution of sustainable practices, ensuring balanced gender representation.

**2. Area of Land Managed for Climate Resilience (15,000 ha)**

The delineation is informed by the extent of degraded lands, ecological assessments, and the feasible scale of restoration activities. Collaborative efforts with local communities and private sectors magnify the achievable scale of resilient land management.

**3. Policies/Plans/Frameworks/Institutions Strengthened for Climate Adaptation (40 communal development plans)**

This target is guided by the need to integrate climate adaptation into existing developmental frameworks. The engagement with local governments and communities ensures that climate resilience becomes an integral component of regional development.

**4. People Trained or with Awareness Raised (5,500: 3,000 females & 2,500 males)**

A combination of on-ground needs assessments, scalability of training programs, and gender inclusivity informs this target. It aims for wide-reaching impacts, ensuring women are major beneficiaries, aligning with empowerment and equality goals.

**5. Private Sector Enterprises Engaged (9 Enterprises)**

Identified by evaluating the private sector’s interest, alignment with project goals, and the value they bring to amplifying impacts. This target leverages private sectors' innovation and resources for broader, sustainable outcomes.

**Underlying Logic:**

The targets are pragmatically set, balancing ambition with feasibility. A participatory approach ensures they are reflective of actual community needs, achievable within resource allocations, and potent enough to yield transformative impacts. The gender-sensitive and inclusive strategy ensures that benefits are equitably distributed, enhancing the overall community resilience and adaptability to climate change. Each target is a confluence of in-depth assessments, stakeholder engagements, and a commitment to achieving tangible, meaningful impacts in the Central Plateau’s climate resilience landscape.

### Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation

Summarize risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases and what are the mitigation strategies the **project preparation process will undertake to address these** (e.g.,what alternatives may be considered during project preparation-such as in terms of consultations, role and choice of counterparts, delivery mechanisms, locations in country, flexible design elements, etc.). Identify any of the risks listed below that would call in question the viability of the project during its implementation. Please describe any possible mitigation measures needed. (The risks associated with project design and Theory of Change should be described in the “Project description” section above).

The risk rating should reflect the overall risk to project outcomes considering the country setting and ambition of the project. The rating scale is: *High, Substantial, Moderate, Low*.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk Categories** | **Rating** | **Comments** |
| Climate | Moderate | Climate variability affecting outcomes.  *Mitigation Strategies*: Integrate real-time climate monitoring to adapt practices; contingency fund for weather-related setbacks. |
| Environment and Social | Low | Possible land-use conflicts.  *Mitigation Strategies:* Prioritize land areas with community consensus; conduct Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs). |
| Political and Governance | Moderate | Political volatility affecting policy and funding. *Mitigation Strategies:* Leverage international partnerships; advocate for policy embedding at multiple governmental levels. |
| Macro-economic | Low | The economic downturn is affecting public and private funding.  *Mitigation Strategies:* Develop a diversified funding model, including micro-finance and crowd-funding options. |
| Strategies and Policies | Low | Misalignment with national strategies.  *Mitigation Strategies:* Involve governmental bodies from the inception stage; align project goals with national climate strategies. |
| Technical design of project or program | Moderate | Tech adoption and scaling.  *Mitigation Strategies*: Pilot technologies before full-scale implementation; backup non-tech alternatives. |
| Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability | Low | Enhanced strategies and partnerships for capacity building.  *Mitigation Strategies*: The risk associated with limited expertise is substantially mitigated by a robust strategy of alliances and collaborations. Th project will fortify partnerships with renowned academic institutions and international organizations, tapping into a reservoir of expertise and knowledge. |
| Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement | Low | Inefficiencies and fraud.  *Mitigation Strategies:* Implement strict internal controls; conduct periodic financial audits by reputable third-party agencies; maintain an open book policy to be reviewed by all stakeholders including the GEF. |
| Stakeholder Engagement | Low | Poor community involvement.  *Mitigation Strategies:* Create stakeholder committees for continuous feedback; adapt a social inclusion approach. |
| Financial Risks for NGI projects | Low | Misalignment with GEF goals.  *Mitigation Strategies:* Regular reporting to GEF; allow for project adjustment based on GEF feedback. |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low | By offering specific solutions, aligning with GEF-specific needs, and involving diversified stakeholders, the project aims to assure GEF of its viability and risk-preparedness. |

### **Safeguards Rating (PIF level)**:

The project involves multiple components, ranging from ecosystem restoration to community training and the introduction of new technologies, which collectively present a moderate level of risk. Environmental considerations, social dynamics, and gender issues are the most prominent among these.

Environmental Risks: While the project's main goal is to enhance environmental resilience, it may inadvertently result in soil erosion or habitat disruption. Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and continuous monitoring are planned to mitigate this risk.

Social Risks: The introduction of new agricultural practices and technologies may meet resistance from certain community groups. An inclusive and consultative approach, informed by GEF's best practices, will be used to mitigate social dislocation.

Indigenous Peoples: The risk here is considered low as the project is not anticipated to adversely affect indigenous communities. Nonetheless, consultations will be conducted to ensure their cultural and territorial rights are not infringed upon.

Gender Mainstreaming: There's a moderate risk that project activities could inadvertently perpetuate gender disparities in resource access and decision-making. Gender-sensitive approaches will be integrated into the project to mitigate this risk.

All mitigation measures align with GEF and Burkina Faso's national policies and will be subject to continuous monitoring and adjustment. The overall safeguards strategy aims to ensure that the project not only achieves its objectives but does so in a manner that is socially equitable and environmentally sustainable.

## ****Alignment with GEF-8 Programming strategies and country/regional priorities****

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

The proposed project is well-aligned with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) cycle 8 (GEF-8) programming strategies, particularly in the focal areas of climate change adaptation, sustainable land management, and biodiversity. GEF-8's strategies emphasize the need for integrated approaches to address the drivers of environmental degradation while fostering resilience in vulnerable communities. By focusing on climate-resilient agriculture, ecosystem restoration, water management, and capacity building, the project addresses key thematic areas outlined in GEF-8.

**Country and Regional Priorities:**

The project is closely aligned with Burkina Faso's National Adaptation Plan and its commitments under the Paris Agreement. It focuses on poverty alleviation and sustainable development, which are key pillars in both the country’s Five-Year Development Plan and regional strategies. The project aims to facilitate cross-border cooperation in addressing climate vulnerabilities, thereby aligning with broader regional priorities, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Sustainable Development Strategy.

**Relation to Multilateral Environmental Agreements:**

The project aims to fulfill commitments under various multilateral environmental agreements including the UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD. It endeavors to enhance adaptive capacity, build resilience, and lower vulnerability in line with the Paris Agreement while also contributing to land degradation neutrality as per UNCCD goals.

**Potential Policy Contradictions:**

No policies that directly contradict the intended outcomes of the project have been identified at this stage. However, in the case that any such policies are identified during the project’s lifecycle, the project aims to engage in policy dialogues and advocacy to address these contradictions.

**Contribution to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:**

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits, the project aligns with several of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Specifically, it contributes to:

Target 5: Enhancing habitat quality and connectivity.

Target 9: Conservation of agrobiodiversity.

Target 14: Ecosystem services are identified, safeguarded, and restored.

The project aims to restore 6,000 hectares of ecosystems, thereby enhancing habitat quality (Target 5). It also focuses on promoting agrobiodiversity through resilient agriculture (Target 9). Furthermore, by restoring ecosystems and implementing climate-smart water management, it aims to safeguard and restore ecosystem services (Target 14).

**Inclusion of the GGW:**

The project is strategically aligned with the GGW, an African-led movement aiming to restore 100 million hectares of currently degraded land, sequester 250 million tons of carbon, and create 10 million green jobs by 2030. Given that the Central Plateau region of Burkina Faso falls along the route of this ambitious initiative, this project aims to contribute directly to its goals

## Policy requirements

### Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment\*\*\*:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes  No (If –and only if— NO is selected, a pop-up field should open for the Agency to provide an explanation)

### Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes  No (If –and only if— NO is selected, a pop-up field should open for the Agency to provide an explanation)

**Stakeholder Consultation Dates and Participants**

The process of stakeholder consultation for the project was inclusive and comprehensive, involving a range of key stakeholders. Below is a summary of the consultation dates, participants, and their affiliations:

**May 8-12, 2023, in Ouagadougou:** A workshop was held in Ouagadougou from May 5-8, 2023, focusing on the GEF-8. Approximately twenty participants attended this training session.

**June 6, 2023, in Niamey**: Consultation with Roch PANANDITIGRI, Coordinator of the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (ANGMV) in Burkina Faso.

**September 29, 2023, in Lomé**: Two separate consultations were conducted. The first was with Roch PANANDITIGRI, Coordinator of the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (ANGMV) in Burkina Faso. The second consultation was with Louis ROAMBA, Assistant to the Operational Focal Point of the GEF.

These consultations were instrumental in gathering insights and feedback crucial for the planning and implementation phases of the project, ensuring alignment with national priorities and stakeholder expectations.

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities?  Yes  No

Civil Society Organizations?  Yes  No

Private Sector?  Yes  No

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

### Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes  No

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes  No

### Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes  No (If –and only if— NO is selected, a pop-up field should open for the Agency to provide an explanation)

## Other requirements

### Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B) .

# Annex a: FINANCING TABLES

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?  Yes  No

If yes[[27]](#footnote-3): fill in PPG table (incl. PPG fee)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GEF Agency** | **Trust Fund** | **Country/**  **Regional/ Global** | **Focal Area** | **Programming**  **of Funds** | **(in $)** | | |
| **PPG** | **Agency**  **Fee** | **Total PPG Funding** |
| BOAD | LDCF | Burkina | Climate Change |  | 175,000 | 15,000 | 190,000 |
| **Total PPG Amount** | | | | | **175,000** | **15,000** | **190,000** |

### Sources of Funds for Country STAR Allocation

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GFEF Agency** | **Trust Fund** | **Country/**  **Regional/Global** | **Focal Area** | **Source**  **of Funds** | **Total** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total GEF Resources** | | | | |  |

### Indicative Focal Area Elements

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programming Directions** | **Trust Fund** | **GEF Project Financing($)** | **Co-Financing($)** |  |
| CCA-1-3 | LDCF | 4,000,000.00 | 14,100,000.00 |  |
| CCA-1-1 | LDCF | 1,050,000.00 | 18,000,000.00 |  |
| CCA-1-4 | LDCF | 3,950,000.00 | 20,000,000.00 |  |
|  | **Total ($)** | **9,000,000.00** | **52,100,000.00** |  |

### 

### Indicative Co-financing

\*\*\*POP-UP material start

Please provide indicative information regarding the expected amounts, sources and types of Co-Financing, and the sub-set of such Co-Financing that meets the definition of Investment Mobilized.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sources of Co-financing** | **Name of Co-financier** | **Type of Co-financing** | **Investment**  **Mobilized** | **Amount ($)** |
| GEF Agency | BOAD: Project for the construction of dams and the development of lowlands and irrigated perimeters in the Ganzourgou province. | Loan | Investment Mobilized | 14,000,0000 |
| Donor Agency | Green Climate Fund: Increase GHG sequestration through sustainable land management and large-scale restoration of forests in arid zones and agro-silvo-pastoral systems | Grant | Investment Mobilized | 10,800,000 |
| Recipient country government | Government of Burkina | In Kind | Investment Mobilized | 1,200,000 |
| Donor Agency | UNDP/ FAO : PROJET « GRANDE MURAILLE VERTE POUR LA RESTAURATION DES ECOSYSTEMES ET LA PAIX (FLEURON GMV) | Grant | Investment Mobilized | 1,500,000 |
| Donor Agency | AfDB - Integrated Program for development and acclimate daptation in Nager Bassin | Grant | Investment mobilized | 14,600,000 |
| Donor Agency | P2-P2RS - Project 2 of the Program of building Resilience to food security and nutrition in Sahel | Loan | Investment Mobilized | 10,000,000 |
|  |  |  | |  |
|  |  |  | |  |
| **Total Co-financing** |  |  | | **52,100,000** |

*Please provide indicative information regarding the expected amounts, sources and types of Co-Financing, and the sub-set of such Co-Financing that meets the definition of Investment Mobilized.*

# ANNEX b: EndorsementS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of GEF Agency Coordinator** | **GEF Agency Coordinator Contact Information** |
|  |  |
| **Name of Agency Project Coordinator** | **Agency Project Coordinator Contact Information** |
|  |  |

### Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of GEF OFP** | **Position** | **Ministry** | **Date *(MM/dd/yyyy)*** |
| Monsieur Pamoussa OUEDRAOGO | GEF Operational Focal Point | Ministry of Environment, Water and Sanitation | 10/17/2023 |
|  |  | | |
| *<<additional fields to be added for regional projects or global projects with on the ground investments>>* | | | |

### 

### Compilation of Letters of Endorsement

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) in this Annex. For SGP, use the SGP OFP endorsement letter format. For regional and global projects (as appropriate): please include a compilation of the signed LOEs in one PDF file in this annex.

A document with a blue stamp

Description automatically generated

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# ANNEX C: Project location

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

A map of the region of the central region

Description automatically generated

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# ANNEX D: Environmental and Social Safeguards Screen and Rating

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk Categories** | **Rating** | **Comments** | **Mitigation Measures** |
| Environmental Safeguards | Moderate | The project involves ecosystem restoration and land-use changes, which could potentially have moderate environmental impacts, such as habitat disruption or soil erosion. | Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) will be carried out in accordance with both GEF and Burkina Faso's national guidelines. Based on successful case studies in similar settings, specific mitigation measures like buffer zones and re-vegetation will be employed. These measures will be continuously monitored and reviewed for effectiveness |
| Social Safeguards | Moderate | Introducing new agricultural practices and technologies might result in social dislocation or resistance from certain community groups. | Community consultations will be ongoing throughout the project, based on GEF's best practices. A culturally sensitive approach will be used to address the concerns and contributions of all stakeholder groups, including traditional leaders and women's cooperatives. |
| Indigenous Peoples | Low | The project is not expected to adversely affect indigenous communities or their territories. | Despite the low risk, indigenous communities will still be consulted as part of the broader community engagement strategy, to ensure that their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge are respected. |
| Gender Mainstreaming | Moderate | Project activities could inadvertently perpetuate gender disparities, particularly concerning access to resources and decision-making. | Gender-sensitive training and resource allocation will be incorporated into the project design to ensure both men and women benefit equally from the project. This approach is aligned with GEF's Gender Equality Strategy. |

# ANNEX E: Rio Markers

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Climate Change Mitigation** | **Climate Change Adaptation** | **Biodiversity** | **Desertification** |
| Climate Change Mitigation 2 | Climate Change Adaptation 1 | Biodiversity 2 | Desertification 1 |

*<< Rio Markers may be expanded in GEF 8 beyond markers for CCM and CCA>>*

# ANNEX F: Taxonomy Worksheet

*<<Table below for now taken from GEF-7 PIF>>*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
| Demonstrate innovative approaches | Food Security | Technology Integration | Sustainable Practices |
| Engagement & Partnerships | Local Communities | Government Agencies | Private Sector |
| Capacity Development | Technical Assistance | Research Studies | Digital Platforms |
| Gender Mainstreaming | Gender Sensitive Training | Gender based Policies | Gender Equality & Leadership |
| Climate Change | Climate Change | Biodiversity | Desertification |

# 

# 

# List of key requirements leading to CEO Endorsement submission

**During project design/by endorsement:** [[28]](#footnote-4)

* **Stakeholders:** provide list of stakeholders, roles in the project and means of engagement; specifically address civil society organizations, vulnerable groups and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) (as applicable) and their roles in the project
* **Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:** carry out gender analysis and prepare gender action plan; include relevant gender aspects in Theory of change and gender-sensitive indicators in results framework (i.e. including the process to collect sex-disaggregated data and information on gender); include gender equality considerations/gender-responsive measures and actions in relevant activities in project components.
* **Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) related documents:** depending on types of ESS risks to be prepared (such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, Environmental and Social Management Framework/Plan, Indigenous Peoples Plan and Grievance Mechanism) and made public in country/location in relevant language/s (provide publication date and locations)
* **Private sector involvement mechanisms** (for non NGI projects: anticipated roles and type of PS; this will already be central to the project document for NGI projects)
* **Knowledge Management Plan** - develop “Knowledge Management Approach” for the project and how it will contribute to the project’s overall impact, including plans to learn from relevant previous and ongoing projects; proposed tools and methods for knowledge exchange and learning; knowledge outputs; strategic communication plan; and budget and timeline.
* **Results**. Inclusion of final Core Indicator targets, along with a comprehensive results framework with indicator name, units of measurement, and baseline and target data.
* **Monitoring and Evaluation.** Include a budget, along with an explanation of monitoring arrangements and deliverables.
* **Institutional arrangements** (incl. reporting arrangements and flow of funds) and cross-sector integration approaches, as relevant
* **Sustainability**: Post-project financing sustainability plan
* **Co-finance**: Confirm amount and type of co-financing and the definition of investment mobilized
* **To be complemented by new GEF8 policies and requirements.**

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28. *Note: This* ***a list to remind agencies of key requirements*** *to address during project* ***preparation*** *and include in the endorsement request. No text is, therefore, to be entered here.* [↑](#footnote-ref-4)