

Sustainable Land Management to Strengthen Social Cohesion in the Drylands of Burkina Faso

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

11003

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Sustainable Land Management to Strengthen Social Cohesion in the Drylands of Burkina Faso

Countries

Burkina Faso

Agency(ies)

UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Permanent Secretariat for the National Council for the Sustainable Development (SP/CNDD), under the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Environment

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Land Degradation

Taxonomy

Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Degradation, Focal Areas, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Forest, Sustainable Pasture Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Agriculture, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Stakeholders, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Non-Governmental Organization, Civil Society, Local Communities, Indigenous Peoples, Women groups, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Equality, Gender-sensitive indicators, Beneficiaries, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Awareness Raising, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Indicators to measure change, Learning, Theory of change, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Knowledge Exchange, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making

Sector

AFOLU

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Duration

72 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

332,782.00

Submission Date

4/13/2022

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
LD-2-5	GET	3,502,968.00	12,300,000.00
	Total Project Cost (\$)	3,502,968.00	12,300,000.00

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To enhance the national frameworks for the achievement of the national land degradation neutrality (LDN) target, while promoting social cohesion in selected landscapes in the Centre-Nord Region through the practical application of the LDN concept.

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 1: Land-use planning and monitoring towards LDN	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 1: National level frameworks^[1], practices and capacities for the effective application of LDN at the Landscape-level enhanced</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved scores of the LDN checklist focused on stakeholder capacity for planning and monitoring the pursuit of the national LDN target - Incorporation of the project's LDN outcome and related indicators into the national MRV for climate (including the regular and transparent monitoring and reporting required) <p>^[1] The term 'LDN frameworks' refers to the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF), which implies as minimum three features within this project (considered as the key principles): (1) the application of LDN fundamentals; (2) delivery of multiple benefits (including</p>	<p>1.1. LDN principles and gender-sensitive approaches are incorporated into land-use planning and management of landscapes at the national and sub-national levels</p> <p>1.2. The capacity of key stakeholders at the national level for planning and monitoring the pursuit of LDN targets and of linked goals is improved</p> <p>1.3) The National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management (CNGDT) ^[1] is strengthened for the effective application of the LDN frameworks at the national and sub-national levels</p>	GET	400,000.00	2,432,857.00

gender equality and women's empowerment); (3) responsible and inclusive governance (including social cohesion). Under the fundamentals, we mention *inter alia* the application of a landscape approach and of the 'LDN response hierarchy' within a landscape in the pursuit of neutrality goals (avoid, reduce, reverse), gender sensitive project design and the pursuit of SDG 15.3, among other features.

[1] After the French acronym *Coalition nationale de gestion durable des terres* (CNGDT). See about it on the news: <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article110637>, retrieved on 30/03/22.

Component 2: Implementation of LDN conducive practices	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 2: Gender-sensitive and locally adapted solutions and practices that contribute to LDN targets are supported on the ground in selected landscapes</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u></p> <p><i>[Referring to GEF Sub-indicators: Indicators 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3]</i></p> <p>- Area of land restored, relating to GEF Core Indicator 3: intensively used productive lands: 10,000 ha of cropland (including fallow), intercommunal woodlands and pastures near critical waterbodies, which display moderate to severe degradation, come under improved management for restoring their productive potential, and by applying LDN strategies to <u>reduce</u> and <u>reverse</u> land degradation</p> <p><i>[Referring to GEF Sub-indicator: Indicator 4.3]</i></p>	<p>2.1. Land-use planning and management committees at the local level are supported (or established, where needed)</p> <p>2.2. LDN solutions are conceived for different landscapes in the Centre-Nord region through innovative, collaborative and integrated land use planning, aimed at reducing land-based conflict and promoting responsible, inclusive and gender-sensitive land governance</p> <p>2.3. LDN implementation: Gender-sensitive and</p>	GET	2,400,000.00	7,182,857.00
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- 100,000 ha of open access pasture and common property woodlands and shrubs, displaying light to moderate degradation, come under improved management to mitigate productivity loss, and by applying LDN strategies to avoid and reduce land degradation

- wider landscape management in approx. 250,000 ha of multi-use rangelands across communes, displaying only light or no degradation, come under extensive, collaborative management to prevent adverse changes, and by applying LDN strategies to avoid land degradation

Other indicators:

- LDN relevant status and trends of targeted landscapes are monitored, including indicators for land-cover and land use change, net primary productivity (NPP), soil organic carbon and LDN balance.

- Data on gender disaggregated count of project beneficiaries collected annually, in addition to other relevant socio-economic data, including on social cohesion indicators, stakeholder engagement and community outreach.

- Number of land users' households (incl. youth, women and other groups) who have adopted SLM/SFM practices, including types of practices and techniques

- Data on agrarian production and other indicators in project sites (production, productivity, yields, area planted on fallow

locally adapted LDN solutions are implemented across landscapes through local sub-projects executed by capable organizations and local governments, directly benefitting up to 3,000 small-farmer households, 35% led by women, with progress against LDN sub-indicators systematically monitored on the ground. This implies:

a) local beneficiaries have access to the means for implementing LDN solutions;

b) The capacity of local level stakeholders in land use management techniques for LDN is specifically strengthened through practical skills development in view of adopting sustainable techniques of

etc.)

cultivation, pasture
management and
ecosystem restoration;

c) local extension
services are
specifically
capacitated on how to
(i) pass on knowledge
in SLM / SFM
techniques; (ii)
strengthen social
cohesion, and (iii)
conduct LDN
monitoring across the
landscapes;

d) Local governments'
technical services in
the relevant
departments and
communes of the
Centre-Nord region
have the material
means for addressing
the challenges of
pursuing the regional
LDN target.

Component 3: Enhanced coordination, monitoring and finance for LDN	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 3: Legal, policy, institutional and financial barriers for the continued application of gender sensitive LDN at the landscape level are addressed.</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u></p> <p>- Adoption of LDN conducive policies that are critical for the implementation of national LDN frameworks (criteria as per the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF).</p>	<p>3.1. Changes through legal and policy reforms, and improved institutional processes are supported for underpinning a peaceful, social cohesive and sustainable land governance (focus on the forestry code, land use planning frameworks and related processes).</p> <p>3.2) Sustainable funding for the continued management of landscapes towards LDN is secured.</p>	GET	250,000.00	1,462,857.00
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Component 4: Monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management for upscaling	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 4: Project impacts and LDN indicators are monitored, and learning is shared for scale-up of results across the country</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website for knowledge platform operational; - Number of dialogue events held within landscapes in the Centre-Nord region; - National learning event held - Publication and short video series produced; - Number of learning exchange visits held, rural extension sessions held and relevant reports per category completed; and - Youth monitoring system in place and generating data 	<p><u>LDN Monitoring subcomponent:</u></p> <p>4.1. Results from implementation of SLM/SFM solutions and practices on the ground are regularly measured against set LDN parameters and regularly reported upon through MRV</p> <p>4.2) Knowledge platform is operational for coordination and lessons sharing among stakeholders at the landscape, national and international levels</p> <p><u>Project M&E subcomponent:</u></p> <p>4.3. A participatory M&E and learning framework is developed and implemented for project as a whole and on the ground</p>	GET	286,160.00	635,715.00
Sub Total (\$)					3,336,160.00	11,714,286.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						

GET	166,808.00	585,714.00
Sub Total(\$)	166,808.00	585,714.00
Total Project Cost(\$)	3,502,968.00	12,300,000.00

Please provide justification

C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	UNDP, through "Amélioration des moyens d'existence durables en milieu rural" (PAMED) 2020-2028	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,200,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP Burkina Faso, with core funds (TRAC)	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Donor Agency	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) through project: "Beog-Puuto "Farms of the future" Burkina Faso 2018-2024" and other programs in the pipeline (2022-2026 and beyond)	Grant	Investment mobilized	4,000,000.00
Donor Agency	Canada - Global Affairs Canada, through two programs: "Building Resilience to the Impacts of Climate Change and COVID-19" and "Canadian Crossroads International - Volunteer Cooperation 2020-2027"	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,000,000.00
Donor Agency	Germany – Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, through PACES – Projet d'Amélioration de la Productivité Agricole par la Conservation des Eaux et des Sols / Project for the improvement of soil productivity (PACES) (2019-2024)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment Energy, Water and Sanitation (MEEES)	In-kind	Investment mobilized	400,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)				12,300,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Discussions have been initiated with development partners of the Government of Burkina on co-finance to the project. Several planned investments have been identified which can contribute directly to the aim of the project's components, in particular for implementing LDN practices on the ground with a wider scale. More specifically, partnerships with the Governments of Sweden, Canada and Germany are being negotiated. Their co-financing support have a good fit with the GEF project because these donors' support the sustainability and resilience in the rural areas of Burkina Faso. The names of the programs proposed as co-financing contributions are listed in Table C above in an indicative manner. The baseline co-financing mobilized are parallel public investments, not cash co-

finance to the project. The Government intends to contribute \$400,000 as in-kind co-finance to this project, managed by SP/CNDD in the form of senior staff time of different public entities in LDN relevant topics (not just from the Ministry of Environment, but also others involved in the National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management - CNGDT). The co-financing contribution from government reflects their senior officials' participation in Project Board meetings and other project activities. It may possibly also include governmental subsidies to staff and young trainees for helping build the knowledge platforms foreseen in Component 4 and ensure its sustainable management by embedding the results of the Components in the host institution. SP/CNDD intends to also leverage the support of other government entities within and outside the CNGDT. The scope of the government will be assessed and detailed during the PPG. UNDP Burkina Faso has mobilized leveraged investment to the project through in-cash co-financing that will be received into the project's account amounts at \$500,000. UNDP is additionally contributing to the project through a related Program titled PAMED – "Amélioration des moyens d'existence durables en milieu rural" in the Boucle du Mouhoun and Centre Ouest regions of Burkina Faso. PAMED may share operational resources with the GEF project in Centre-Nord, once in implementation.

D. Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Burkina Faso	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	3,502,968	332,782	3,835,750.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)					3,502,968.00	332,782.00	3,835,750.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

150,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14,250

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Burkina Faso	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	150,000	14,250	164,250.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					150,000.00	14,250.00	164,250.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
3,500.00			

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
500.00			

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
6,000.00			

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
250000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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250,000.00			
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Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	9,975			
Male	9,025			
Total	19000	0	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

a. Project Description

Burkina Faso is an arid and landlocked and Least Developed Country (LDC) in West Africa, covering 27.4 million ha, with a population of 21 million people that currently grows at rate of 2.58% per year (2021 estimates). Agriculture and livestock rearing—the latter practiced in nomadic pastoralist systems—occupy 80% of the active population but contribute only to 32% of the country's GDP. In terms of value, gold is the main export product, produced both at industrial and artisanal scale, and occupying a growing number of people among the rural population in certain areas.

Burkina Faso faces many challenges of various orders, including in terms of generating sufficient economic growth and distributing its social benefits more equitably. Indicators of gender inequality and of low levels of human development^[1] are tokens of the country's socio-economic vulnerability. Roughly 20% of the population experience some level of food insecurity, with ratios varying across the years and the regions of the country. Drought, conflict, market and political shocks, as well as different types of hazards (e.g., natural, climate-driven, health-related) tend to aggravate the food security situation in Burkina Faso.

More recently, internal conflict has been ravaging the countryside, creating a large number of internally displaced people (IDPs)^[2], which had reached 1.7 million people by January 2022. Of these, 36% (>620,000) are in the Centre-Nord region of Burkina Faso. The World Food Program (WFP) estimates that by August 2022, more than 3 million people will be facing acute food insecurity as Burkina Faso grapples with COVID-19 and conflict.^[3] Although many IPDs have returned home, the complex crisis persists. Analysts indicate that this conflict is deeply rooted in the high levels of demographic growth and inequality, coupled with widespread poverty and the degraded state of the country's arable land. Land degradation is, to a great extent, due to the absence of spatial planning compounded with maladaptive land management techniques. The current multi-faceted crisis has been aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which by 2022 is not yet over in Burkina Faso, due to low vaccination rates.

The climate in Burkina Faso is both hot and dry (temperatures range from 27-30°C, and monthly averages ranging from 15-45°C; the country receives average in average between 600 and 770 mm of rainfall per year, with strong interannual variations) and it is also highly variable. Drylands dominate landscapes in Burkina Faso (99.95% of the country is located has an aridity index of less 0.65). Agricultural productivity is low and prone to high climate risks, including because it is practiced extensively and on poor soils. Those soils receive small and highly variable amounts of rainfall (rains are unpredictable, both across time and geographies) and have very limited amounts of nutrient inputs.

For these reasons, land degradation (LD) is a serious and recurrent problem in Burkina Faso. The country has ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1996. A national baseline study on LD conducted for the government in 2018 calculated that approximately 31% of Burkina Faso's territory is either affected by degradation, or in the process of degradation, of which 6.5 million hectares are highly degraded, i.e. 24% of the country's surface area.^[4] Another recent assessment indicated that LD has very high costs for Burkina Faso's economy, estimated at \$1.8 billion per year (using base

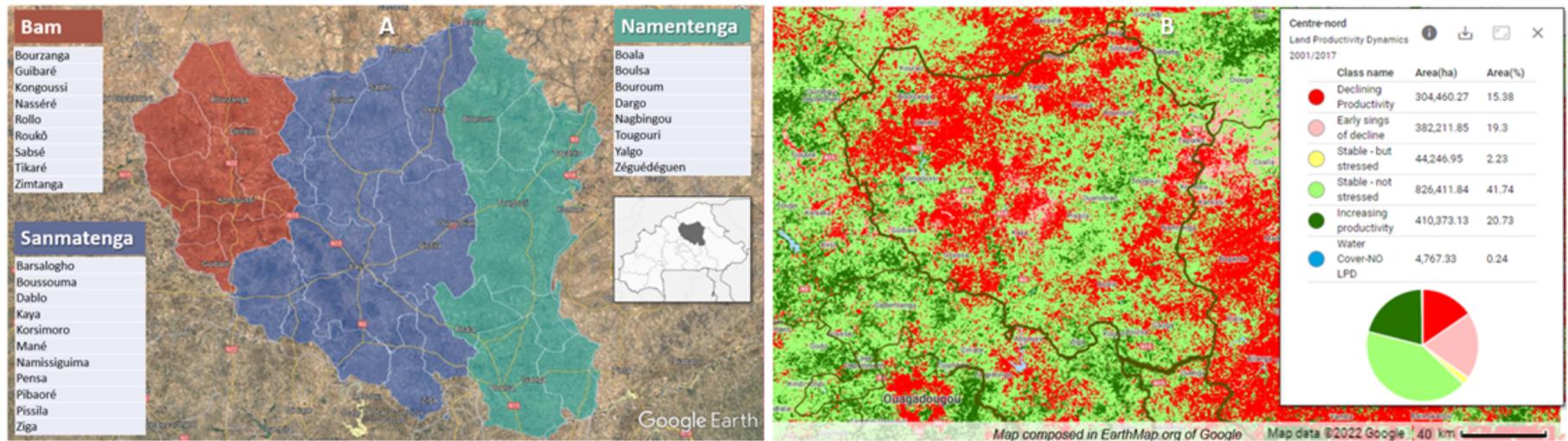
year 2007), which was equivalent to some 26% of the country's GDP also in 2007.[5] The latter assessment also indicated that almost half of those costs are directly linked to the decline in provisioning ecosystem services (including food availability, wood production, carbon fluxes and water circulation, habitat safeguarding, among others). This kind of decline is, to a great extent, either preventable or manageable.

Between 2005 and 2017, Burkina Faso implemented a suite of LD projects and programs, including the Country Partnership Program (CPP) funded by the GEF. The country has systematically submitted national reports to the UNCCD and has consistently contributed to the development of empirical knowledge about SLM/SFM, both at the national and global levels, including by contributing to up to 53 unique SLM and SFM practices recorded in global databases, such as the WOCAT[6]. In 2017/18, Burkina Faso instituted new ways of measuring and addressing LD, namely by establishing national targets for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), which is linked to the Sustainable Development Goal 'Life on Land' (SDG15) and its target 15.3 on LDN. By embracing LDN approaches, Burkina Faso is also embracing a unique opportunity to address land degradation and to generate, in the process, multiple socioeconomic benefits from LDN. This includes opportunities for tapping into impact finance and accessing challenge funds linked to new mechanisms that are now becoming available for supporting ecosystem rehabilitation and restorative agricultural practices. The national LDN target proposes that 5.16 M ha of degraded land should be recovered by 2031, including degraded cropland, forests and rangelands. This project will directly contribute to it.

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description):

This project directly addresses Burkina Faso's land degradation problem and contributes to the achievement of the national LDN target through capacity enhancement actions at the national level complemented by others on the ground. More specifically, the project aims to enhance the 'national frameworks' for the achievement of the national land degradation neutrality (LDN) target, while preventing natural resource conflict and promoting social cohesion in selected landscapes in the Centre-Nord Region through the practical application of the LDN concept. The term 'LDN frameworks' refers to the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF), which outlines the 'LDN fundamentals' and other required features of LDN-based interventions. Those include the 'delivery of multiple benefits' (including gender equality and women's empowerment), as well as 'responsible and inclusive governance' (including hereunder social cohesion). Even though the project has limited GEF funding, it proposes to address Burkina Faso's land degradation problem in a pragmatic, measurable and science-based way, based on the principles and concepts included in the LDN-SCF. In addition, by promoting the best-bet option for the current GEF intervention in the selected geographic region (Centre-Nord), the project also proposes to be strategic—not least also because it builds on significant investments from the UN and other donors in the agricultural, forest, livestock, and social sectors, including important investments in conflict prevention. The project will build on experiences of the UNDP Program PAMED – "*Amélioration des moyens d'existence durables en milieu rural*", which started in 2020 and is implemented in Boucles du Mohoun and Centre-Ouest regions.

Figure 1. Maps of Centre-Nord Region of Burkina Faso: (a) Provinces and departments; and (b) Land Productivity Dynamic[7]



The Centre-Nord region, featured in Figure 1, has been selected by the government to be the focus of practical LDN intervention under this project because it offers interesting opportunities for testing an LDN approach across the landscapes. The region displays varied edaphoclimatic zones and a balanced distribution of land productivity dynamics. The 2018 MAAH baseline study on land degradation refers to the Centre-Nord region as a ‘real-life lab’ for testing approaches to water and soil conservation, as well as land restoration. All of the land uses prevalent in Burkina Faso are represented in the region: from subsistence small-farming to commodity production in large holds, from agro-forestry areas to extensive and intensive livestock rearing (including transhumance), as well as gold mining. According to government statistics, in 2021 the Centre-Nord came out first, among all other regions, in terms of hectares of land recuperated from land degradation.[8] Most importantly, there is strong political commitment to the project from Centre-Nord’s Regional Government, which was represented in an early stakeholder consultation event by Governor in person.[9] Such high-level political commitment, in addition to broad stakeholder commitment are essential for the success of the project. Another good reason for selecting Centre-Nord for this project is that it is not covered by the project GEF ID 10291 “Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes”, implemented by IUCN and which includes sites in Northern, Central and Central-West regions.

The presence of IDPs in high numbers in the Centre-Nord region poses an added challenge to its selection, but also learning opportunities—whether to the government, or to humanitarian and development partners—and in terms of working together towards viable solution to complex problems of social cohesion and land use planning. The maps in Figure 1 potentially provide a starting point for defining target landscapes, in which LDN will be concretely applied.[10]

The Centre-Nord region includes three provinces: Bam (main city is Kongoussi), Namentenga (main city is Boulsa) and Sanmatenga (main city Kaya, also the regional capital) and 28 departments/communes (Figure 1a), which harbor a population of 1.8 M people (2019), 52.6% females. In 2019, the mortality of children under five was 116[11], indicating chronic malnutrition and limited health services. The total fertility for the region was 6.7 children per woman in 2010 (*Ibid.*), but it has probably dropped since in tandem with the national average, which has fallen to from 5.867 in that year to 5.109 in 2019 (WB Data). According to the 2021 ‘Annual Dashboard’ compiled by the Ministry of Agriculture[12], literacy rates among the agricultural population in the Centre-Nord region is 39% for men and 30% for women, similar to the national average (data from 2020). Similar to other regions in Burkina Faso, Centre-Nord faces recurrent issues with food security. Although there is limited quantitative information on the region’s land resources and production, food security is regularly

monitored by humanitarian agencies through its effects. In October 2021, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS) for Burkina Faso reported that the entire Centre-Nord region as 'under stress', due to the large number of people in need of food aid.[13] According to the same source, the situation may get worse in 2022.[14]

Even though localized food insecurity may have complex reasons and its indicators change dynamically across time and space, in a region like Centre-Nord, the inherent vulnerability of productive land use systems has a more systemic character and it has strong linkages to land degradation. Therefore, when addressing land degradation through this project, it is important to consider the social cohesion aspects that affect the region—and the country. It is equally important to embrace the opportunity to address social cohesion issues through an LDN approach.

Threats, Root causes and Barriers

Land Degradation severely degrades people's livelihood by restricting access to vital ecosystem services (including food and water). It also aggravates poverty, and it is rooted in poverty. The root causes behind these processes are complex and interconnected. In Burkina Faso's 2018 LDN Country Profile, it is stated that "1.1 million people were living on degrading agricultural land in 2010 – an increase of 53% in a decade, bringing the share of rural residents who inhabit degraded agricultural land to up to 9% of the total rural population." [15] The agricultural sector in Burkina Faso is characterized by constrained access to market, which according to the 2018 LDN Country Profile, means that communities in remote areas have curtailed opportunities to develop more productive land uses and, ultimately, for managing land more sustainably. The problem has worsened in the period 2000-2010, according to the mentioned source, which also assessed the high annual cost of land degradation in Burkina Faso, along with the opportunities for addressing the problem through investments (*Ibid.*).

Furthermore, land degradation in Burkina Faso is deeply linked to climate change, which the country is already experiencing through observed changes in increased mean temperatures and increased mean rainfall, and with increased number of anomalies, i.e., a higher frequency of extreme climatic events.[16] The current climatic variability patterns are expected to be exacerbated under high climate change scenarios, which will particularly affect the agricultural sector. At the same time, the greenhouse emitting sector AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) is responsible for 83% of Burkina Faso's total emissions, while the removals of carbon emissions by forests are estimated at 4% of the country's total emissions (*Ibid.*). Therefore, lack of progress towards the LDN target in Burkina Faso also affects the pursuit of other targets, such as those stated in the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, both in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

For composing the project's Theory of Change (in Figure 4 further down) a socio-ecological system's model was adopted for analyzing the root causes, drivers and barriers of LD (as per Figure 2), which includes drivers, pressures, state and impacts, followed by an 'LDN Response. Figure 2 highlights how the causal analysis behind the project's Theory of Change builds from this model and related LDN frameworks. Three immediate causes of land degradation (pressures) have been identified (further down), with the following general impacts on the state of land:

(i) Across wider multi-use landscapes: pressures include clearance of land, fire and improper land use, with unsustainable land management practices. Those include: (i) *in croplands*: slash-and-burn, shifting cultivation, poor management of soil and water, which are typical patterns in subsistence agricultural farming systems. Improper use of irrigation in cotton farming systems (a cash crop) has an important degradation potential; (ii) *in forest / woodland areas*: overexploitation of woody vegetation (primarily for charcoal); (iii) *in grasslands / rangelands*: overgrazing and excessive and uncontrolled use of fire. These pressures from prevailing land use or from negative changes in land management are driven by population pressure and exacerbated by climate change, and by other social conditions (e.g. poverty, inequality). In the Centre-Nord region, the use of fire has been limited to the northern part of and Bam province, and to the central part of Namentenga province. As per the data behind Figure 1b, 15.4% of the land in the Centre-Nord region is already degraded (shown through the red color in the map, which indicate declining productivity as of land), while 19.3% shows early signs of decline and 2.23% is stable but stressed.

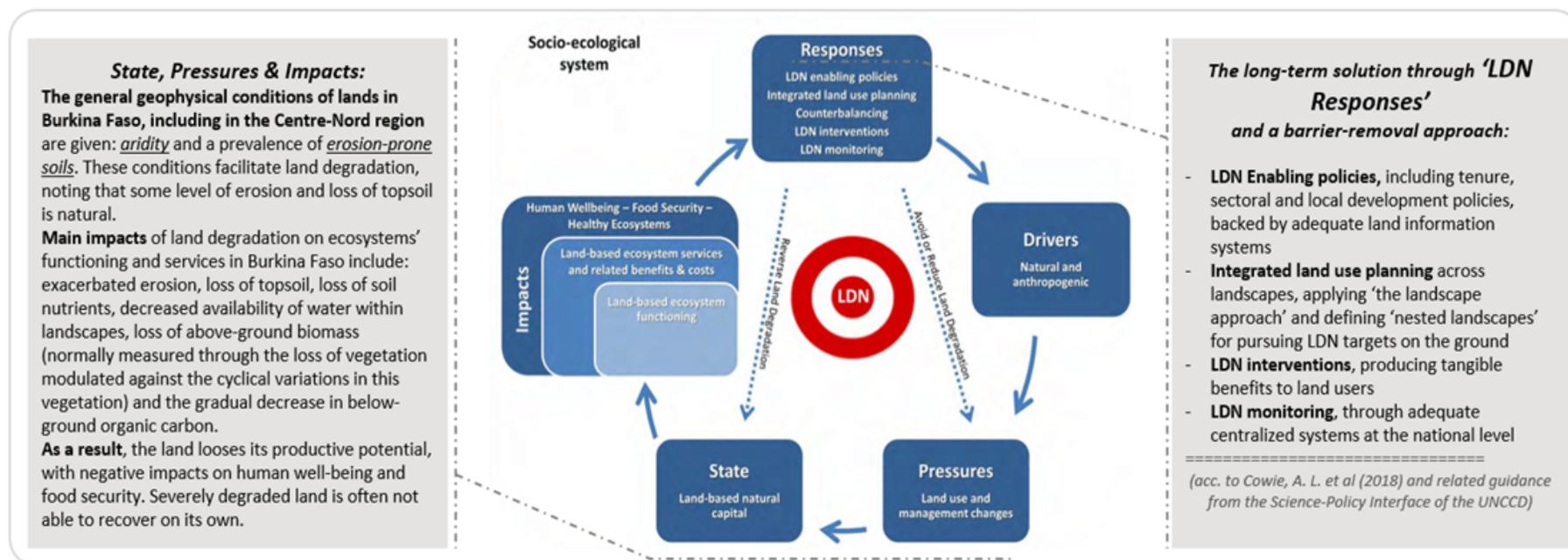
(ii) **At the local level: pressures include improper land management, including limited adoption of soil & water conservation techniques.** Subsistence farming predominates across the country and the Centre-Nord region is no exception. Cultivation takes place during the rainy season in small holds of 1.5-2.0 ha. Larger holds may reach up to 15 ha (FAO mentions 3-6 ha as the average). The most important food crops include sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*), millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*) and maize (*Zea mays*), and they are grown on about 80% of the arable land area. Food crop cultivation is mostly rainfed. Soil and water conservation techniques are rarely used by farmers. In small holds, improved agricultural inputs, including plowing equipment or improved seed varieties are rarely used. In some areas of Centre-Nord, there are large perimeters of irrigated agriculture producing cash crops such as rice, sugar cane, vegetables and fruit crops, but the sustainability of these systems remains to be investigated. The presence of extensive cotton plantations tends to accelerate soil degradation more than other crops.

(iii) **Rangeland management is unsustainable due to overgrazing and land-use conflicts:** Livestock is present in most farming households in Burkina Faso, often in small-scale and predominantly using small livestock, reared with low inputs and mostly for domestic consumption. Livestock rearing is also practiced in larger-scale communal nomadic systems that use transhumance and rangeland management as a strategy for an extensive exploitation of scarce pasture resources. In the Centre-Nord, those systems use corridors in the central parts of Namentenga and Sanmatenga provinces. However, if not adequately managed, transhumance systems may degrade landscapes due to overgrazing. If land use is poorly managed, transhumance activities may lead to conflict with sedentary farming and compete at the local level for water and fodder.

(iv) **Land-use by mining industries is known to cause extensive land degradation in localized areas:** Mining for metals causes a much more profound impact on the land, by revolving soil and over-utilizing and contaminating water resources. Yet, at the landscape level, this this impact tends to be localized and can be contained. One of the largest and the longest-running industrial gold mining sites in Burkina Faso are both located in the Centre-Nord region (Bissa-Bouly and Taparko, respectively).

Other, more systemic causes behind LD (and which are root causes) include: demographic pressures and poverty. Burkina Faso's population has been growing at a rate of about 3.1% a year. Demographic pressures at the local level have a direct link to pressures on land and natural resources, given the current land use dynamics. According to the WB Data, the poverty headcount ratio at national poverty lines was 41.4% of population in 2019 (newer and disaggregated data is not available from the source). The impacts of demographic pressures and poverty as key drivers of land degradation are currently exacerbated by conflict and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, both of which aggravate the food insecurity situation in the country.

Figure 2. A socio-ecological system for framing the land degradation problem through Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN,[17]



The scientific conceptual framework for LDN prescribes that the implementation of LDN is managed **at the landscape level** through **integrated land use planning**, while LDN achievement is assessed at national level.[18] Because of the fragile context described herein, addressing the causes of land degradation in Burkina Faso requires an appropriate response. By adopting LDN as a 'response' (with reference to the model in Figure 2), a **barrier-removal approach** vis-à-vis the envisage solution is proposed.

The proposed long-term solution that underpins the project strategy follows the scientific conceptual framework for LDN and is inspired by Burkina Faso's LDN Country Profile (2018), which states that: "[...] LDN targets provide Burkina Faso with a strong vehicle for fostering coherence of policies and actions by aligning the national LDN targets with measures from the Nationally Determined Contributions and other national commitments."

The overarching LDN target for in Burkina Faso proposes[19] "recovering, by 2031, a total 5.16 million ha of degraded land, and also preventing degradation of currently non-degraded lands... More specifically, the country commits [as part of the LDN target] to do everything possible in order to: Put an end to deforestation by 2030; Improve the productivity of savannas and cultivated lands that show productivity decline, that is, 2.5 million hectares; Improve carbon stocks in 800,000 ha to reach a minimum of 1% of organic matter [...] [20] ; Recuperate 300,000 ha of bare land from a total of 600,000 ha ... These targets are consistent with previous commitments made, namely, within the framework of the Rio conventions and the Ramsar convention."

The long-term solution for this project supports the achievement of the above goals, and of the LDN target, and states that the project will aspire to contribute to a transformational shift towards a sustainable and integrated management of landscapes in Burkina Faso following LDN principles, and by piloting LDN interventions in the Centre-Nord region.

As per the conceptual frameworks in Figure 1, LDN as a response to the land degradation problem implies: (1) LDN enabling policies that integrate land use planning into development frameworks; (2) Counterbalancing LDN interventions in the pursuit of neutrality; and (3) Monitoring progress towards LDN. These elements feature in the TOC figure (Figure 4) along with four distinct **Barriers** to the mentioned long-term solution – barriers that have been identified in full consultation with key stakeholders and that are described below:

Barrier 1: Land-use planning & management is not sufficiently structured

Decentralization policies have been under implementation in Burkina Faso since the late 1990's. Over the years, such policies define a general and 'nested' framework for the State's spatial administration of sub-national territorial units.[21] Such policies also delegated to local level authorities in the provinces and communes much of the responsibility for spatial and land use planning, but not necessarily the means to carry it out. In fact, the PRODOC for the PAMED Project mentions that there is an 'absence' of tools for comprehensive land use planning in Burkina Faso.

In order to realize the goals for LDN with respect to ending deforestation, increasing the productivity of savannas and cultivated lands and improving carbon stocks, a central registry of actions and a structured way of planning land and resource use across nested landscapes would be required. Also, various sectors would need to be involved: environment, agriculture, water resource management, nature protection, land cadaster—to name a few. Therefore, spatially planning the use of land for LDN, and implementing land use management for LDN, would need to be integrated by default, and noting that the institutional responsibility for the mentioned sectors in Burkina Faso is scattered across various institutions.

In theory this would merely be a problem of institutional coordination, which can be addressed by the Permanent Secretariat for the National Council for the Sustainable Development (SP/CNDD - *Secrétariat Permanent du Conseil National pour le Développement Durable*). However, the National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management (CNGDT)[22] has only recently been created. There is still a way to go for ensuring collaboration and alignment across sectors, institutions, considering different scales of landscape level management. At the local level, land use management will necessarily include decentralized government entities and, most importantly, land users as key stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Also, a balanced and structured distribution of responsibilities for the different actions under a multi-layer and nested land-use / spatial planning would need to be developed. The Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF) provides a number of useful tools. However, the main barrier here is that several of sectoral institutions are not used to working together across landscapes for integrated land use planning. For example, reports relating to water and soil conservation have been prepared by the ministry responsible for agriculture in Burkina Faso since 2018. They mention that a National Strategy for the Restoration, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Soils (SNRCRS – *Stratégie Nationale de Restauration, Conservation et l'environnement des Sols*) would be prepared. As part of this work, a baseline for land degradation was established in 2018 using specific indicators, and in view of reporting on progress nationally. However, the indicators adopted do not converge towards LDN and do not allow for the calculus of neutrality. In addition, there has been little progress towards the preparation of the SNRCRS, as well as an action plan for its implementation.

Further to this, at the national level, the capacity of national level stakeholders for integrated land use planning leaves to be desired. Indeed SP/CNDD has the mandate for coordinating across institutions for all matters relating to sustainable development, including those responsible for agriculture, livestock, forests, water resource management, nature protection, etc. However, integrated land use planning for LDN represents a new level of challenge. Line ministries responsible for the agriculture, water and nature protection are not sufficient acquainted with the concept of LDN and what it implies. Neither are they ready to

collaborate across electronic platforms for an integrated planning exercise. Integrating different land information systems for LDN is also a challenge. A learning and capacity development process would be needed for integrated planning. It may be said that there is a lack of a systematic and integrated approach to the management of production landscapes, including planning, monitoring, as well as for tracking LDN progress at the national level specifically.

Barrier 2: Insufficient support for households and communities wishing to diversify their production activities

Actions to achieve LDN include sustainable land management (SLM) practices that avoid or reduce degradation, coupled with efforts to reverse degradation through restoration or rehabilitation of degraded land. However, small-farming households in Burkina Faso have restricted options for managing land and accessing other benefits of economic development. Those in the Centre-Nord region are no exception.

There are minimal conditions that need to be in place for SLM and related techniques to become disseminated among land users and for LDN to be pursued. Land use planning at tiered levels of the landscape involving key stakeholders is one of these conditions. Spatial planning for LDN is yet to happen in the Centre-Nord region. There is limited geographically based information that can inform such exercise, and the existing information (e.g., from the 2020 'Annual Agricultural Dashboard' prepared by the ministry responsible for agriculture), is not made available in a way that can be used for land use planning.

Furthermore, there is no landscape-wide forum that can be called upon for the purposes of integrated land use planning. These include projects/programs, NGOs, producer associations & cooperatives and the professional agricultural organizations (the so-called OPA/SCOOP), in addition to decentralized technical public services, local authorities, groups of individuals, technical and financial partners, and private sector operators. The OPA/SCOOP stakeholders correspond to 62% of all categories, the majority of which (approx. 80%) are formalized (i.e., registered as a legal entity) but do not necessarily collaborate. At the level of regions and provinces, there is no collaborative framework relating to land use planning that brings together these stakeholders – let alone for integrated land use planning. One of the reasons for it appears to be the underfunding and the other lack of coordination leadership.

A government report on land degradation from April 2021 mentions that a total of 823,104 ha of land would be put under improved management throughout the country applying techniques known generically as 'Soil and Water Conservation / Soil Retention and Restoration' (CES/DRS – *Conservation des Eaux et des Sols/Défense et Restauration des Sols*).^[23] Of these, 88,380 ha (13.5%) would be in the Centre Nord region. 2-3 years of implementation of programs under the SNRCRS have elapsed, with the delivery of improved management in a total of only 21,488 ha, which was only achieved through an intense process of stakeholder engagement. The 2021 government report on land degradation points out to barriers and challenge for faster progress on the ground. Inadequate access to rural finance is a known constraint. In Burkina Faso, only households engaged in cotton and sesame production benefit from structured credit from their external trading partners, who basically control the revenues and can provide conditional credit at low risk. The rest of the agricultural segments experience some form of difficulty in obtaining support. In 2014, less than one percent of the total credit granted by commercial banks was used to finance the agricultural sector. Consequently, the main sources of financing are informal and come mainly from other households (43%) and cooperatives (13%).

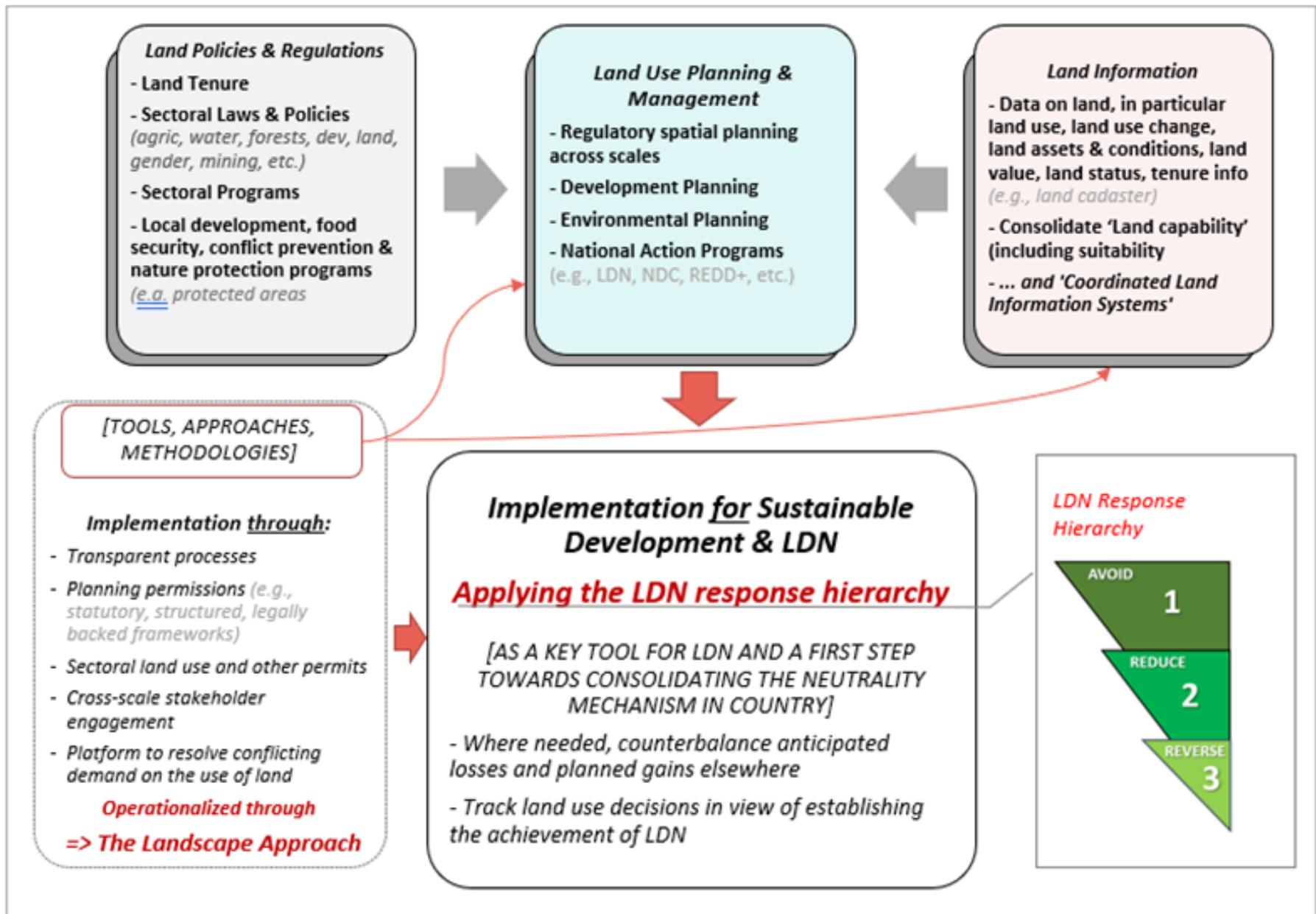
Gender mainstreaming remains weak. Women are a minority beneficiary under the program and a vulnerable group, enjoying lower levels of education and bearing the heaviest brunt of household chores and childcare, in addition to also engaging in agriculture. In 2019, the number of women trained at the national level was 36% (against 64% for men). In absolute numbers, they represented almost half as those for men (177,456 women and 316,173 men). Some of the indicators used in the CES/DRS are gender sensitive, which is useful. However, results in terms of land under improved management are still modest.

Finally, the quantity and quality of rural extension services leave to be desired and unequally distributed across the country, according to the 2021 government report on land degradation. The NGOs and OPA/SCOOPs do fulfil this role and are referred to as 'support stakeholders' (*acteurs d'appui*). The Centre-Nord region is comparably better served than other regions with respect to support stakeholders (274 representing 23.1% of the national share) and with extensionists having above-average number of years of experience. However, the techniques and technologies disseminated are somewhat limited. The placement of stone lines (*cordons pierreux*), which is quite work intensive, application of manure are the preferred methods, followed by a West African endogenous technique known as Zai are the most popular techniques in the Centre-Nord region. Yet, a number of other techniques that remain to be explored, including agro-forestry, runoff collection basin, grass-strips, ridging, filtering bunds, hedges, *mise-en-défense*, mulching, etc.[24] Availability of tools and machinery seems to be a gap, according to the report. Typical agricultural tools applied remain rudimentary. Not even light-weight tractors seem to be available. Limited availability of improved seeds is, in addition, a systemic constraint in agricultural systems in Burkina Faso, in the Centre-Nord region mentioned as barriers.

Barrier 3: Legal and policy frameworks are inadequate for addressing LDN requirements

Although the country had established its National Voluntary LDN Targets and Measures in 2017, there seems to be a disconnect between the targets and associated measures, and the SNRCRS. The latter is in fact yet to be prepared. The indicators that will likely be used in the SNRCRS are not aligned with LDN. The time horizons also remain to be aligned, and perhaps adjusted, in case the targets defined in 2018 had been too ambitious. More importantly, the legal and policy frameworks for managing land for LDN in Burkina Faso is complex and foresees heavy and centralized administrative procedures. Land use management requires solid planning, preferably integrated. In Burkina Faso, the requirements for integration ended up being reflected in the law as heavy procedures for planning and decision-making, which is, for the most, by committee.[25] This makes the process of spatial and land use planning complex, top-down and bureaucratic. Effective and integrated land use planning also requires that approved plans can be enforced on the ground and monitored. In Burkina Faso, there are important capacity gaps in that regard in all the key institutions involved.[26] Following the LDN-SCF, the frameworks required for effective land use planning and management can generally be represented in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Frameworks needed for an effective 'LDN Response' – Figure adapted from the LDN-SCF[27]



At the same time, there are good chances of concatenating the pursuit of LDN with other national frameworks of global outreach. On the one hand, the national LDN targets and measures are voluntary. On the other, it has strong linkages with climate change and the commitments made by the country under the UNFCCC through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Those are within the realm of the Paris Agreement on climate and are therefore binding.

Yet, the work necessary under National Voluntary LDN Targets and Measures need to more formally connected to the NDC process. It is equally important to address the needs for land policies and regulations proposed in Figure 3.

Barrier 4: Limited mastery of methodologies for monitoring complex LD indicators

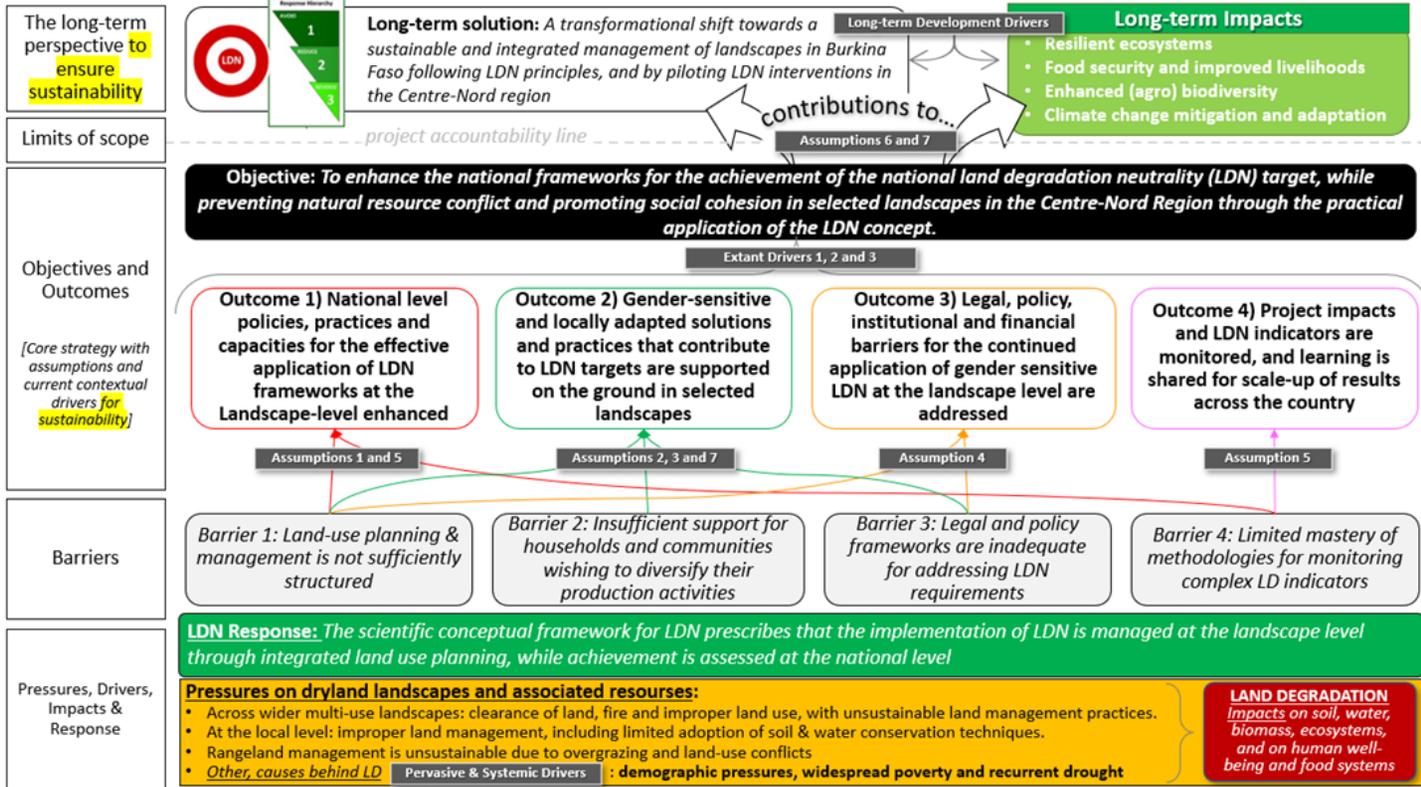
In the description of threats, impacts of land degradation were mentioned, linked to different parameters for soil, water, biomass etc., which interact with each other and respond to pressures in different and dynamic ways. Although these dynamics can be measured, often a large number of indicators would be involved, many of which are complex. Some require remote sensing analysis and others require on-the-ground data collection. FAO's Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) includes seven groups of land degradation manifestations and more than 30 types of land degradation, each requiring classification per land use system. Therefore, it has always been difficult to measure land degradation, even though its effects on the biophysical environment are manifest, and its negative impacts on human well-being and food security are felt.

As a composite indicator, LDN offered 'simplicity' and 'consolidation' as intrinsic advantages for the monitoring of land degradation, and to the extent that it combines three central elements of land degradation into a single indicator: (1) Land cover (including land cover change); (2) Land productivity (net primary productivity, NPP); and (3) Carbon stocks (soil organic carbon, SOC). LDN approaches are certainly an improvement in terms monitoring land degradation. However, these methodologies have not yet been incorporated by key entities in the government. More specifically, the institutions responsible for collecting, collating, producing and analyzing the data for monitoring LDN across the country are not collaborating for monitoring LDN in the country. To date, the SP/CNDD, which harbors the National Focal Point for the UNCCD, has not been able to establish definitive protocols for the purpose of LDN monitoring.

Overall, even though there is a large number of recent and current initiatives that touch upon the theme of land degradation, there are few opportunities for sharing learning across initiatives, for evaluating and for national scale-up of LDN practical applications. At the same time, it is notable that at least 53 practices, methods or technologies have been recorded in WOCAT's database as originating from Burkina Faso. These techniques and practices spring from empirically proven methods for conserving and sustainably managing soil, water, cropland forests and rangelands developed and adapted in Burkina Faso. Still, the number of techniques effectively disseminated through public support programs remains very limited.

Theory of Change, including Core Assumptions behind it

Figure 4. Theory of Change (TOC)



Core Assumptions:

Assumption 1) There is political will to integrate LDN into government policies and programs, including integrated land use planning.

Assumption 2) Integrated land use planning across landscapes for LDN have the necessary conditions to be implemented on the ground, in particular financial support and stakeholder engagement.

Assumption 3) Systemic barriers affecting Burkina Faso, including gender inequality, complex land tenure frameworks and conflict will not hamper implementation of LDN on the ground.

Assumption 4) There is political will to remove legal, policy, institutional and financial barriers for implementation of LDN at various levels.

Assumption 5) LDN frameworks, as prescribed in the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF), are adopted in Burkina Faso across collaborating institutions as the main vehicle for addressing land degradation.

Assumption 6) In the long term, political stability, security and social cohesion are ensured in Burkina Faso for the pursuit of broad socio-environmental goals for the country.

Assumption 7) Addressing climate change challenges remain a priority in Burkina Faso's policy agenda.

Drivers:

Pervasive & Systemic Drivers) Demographic pressures and poverty, plus recurrent drought.

Extant Driver 1) Internal conflict in Burkina Faso contributes to the break-down of social cohesion and can undermine accountability in social relations.

Extant Driver 2) Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agricultural sector and on the national economy.

Extant Driver 3) Sudden and significant increase in the global price of oil and food, pushed by the war in Ukraine.

Long-term Development Driver) Socio-economic development in Burkina Faso tends toward gradual poverty reduction and increased income per capita, with positive impacts on development indicators and on national capacity more broadly.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects:

In the baseline scenario, Burkina Faso would gradually deviate away from achieving the LDN targets set in 2017/18. The fight against land degradation in Burkina Faso would continue to take its course through different investment, but it would not be structured and oriented by LDN frameworks. The envisaged preparation of a National Strategy for the Restoration, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Soils (SNRCRS) would continue to be outstanding in the baseline scenario, or it would be delayed for a few years.

The monitoring of LD indicators would continue to be conducted through parallel processes in different sectoral entities (agriculture, environment, water), rather than through integrated approaches. The LD indicator monitoring exercise would not necessarily converge towards the calculus of neutrality embedded in the LDN concept. The establishment of LDN targets and monitoring at the national level would not exist, although it would remain an aspiration. Most importantly, the opportunities for addressing the LD problem through integrated land use planning would not be embraced.

Land users wishing to diversify their production activities and to manage land through water and soil conservation techniques would receive expensive and non-optimized support towards reduction. Areas where degradation can be avoided would be identified and the *status quo* of advancing degradation would prevail. Opportunities for reversing the LD trends would be missed.

Baseline projects that also co-finance the GEF project / plus collaboration frameworks for sustainability

There are important on-going initiatives that relate to LDN. In January 2022, the Permanent Secretariat for the National Council for the Sustainable Development (SP/CNDD) established a multi-stakeholder advisory group titled the 'National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management (CNGDT). The Coalition brings together government, civil society and the private sector to address issues of LDN.

Table 1. Baseline projects contributing co-finance to the GEFTF/LDCF project

Lead Donor and Partners	Project Name, Location & Duration	Objectives and relevance for the GEF project, including entry points for collaboration	Funding Amount (\$-equiv.)	Proposed Co-finance Amount (\$)
Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development	Strengthening resilience of populations to address food insecurity in the North, Center North and Sahel – Art 7 L. 125/2014. <u>Duration:</u> 2014-2023	The project focuses on resilience building and food insecurity in several regions, including Centre-Nord region. It does so in part through humanitarian aid, and in part through longer-term development aid, including investments in agriculture and related sectors. Collaboration will be developed through the CES/AGF for the dissemination of SLM/SFM techniques linked to the CES/DRS.	\$4.1M	-
Canada – Global Affairs	Two projects: (1) Building Resilience to the Impacts of Climate Change and COVID-19 (2020-2022), amount \$2.3; and (2) Canadian Crossroads International – Volunteer Cooperation (2020-2027), amount \$9.2M. <u>Combined duration:</u> 2020-2027	Relevant projects focus on building resilience, including during and in the aftermath of the pandemic, and uses volunteers to provide technical assistance on the ground. The entry point for co-financing relates to the first project's approach to resilience and, with respect to the second, to the possibility of attaching Canadian or Canada supported volunteers to the GEF project.	\$31.6M	\$3.0M
Danida, Ministry of Forestry	Boosting sesame and apiculture value chains in Burkina Faso.	Technological and logistical innovations (e.g. improved seeds, farming techniques, traceability)	\$1.3M	

<p>ign Affairs, Denmark</p>	<p><u>Duration:</u> 2021-2023</p>	<p>lity system, mobile phone based payments) are applied by sesame Producer Organizations and their affiliated producer groups resulting in better product quality and lower transaction costs thus realizing a higher price from Olvea (the French conglomerate that purchases wholesale sesame production from Burkina Faso). Collaboration will focus on the innovative aspects relating to the use of mobile technology for sharing market information on agriculture.</p>		
<p>European Commission</p>	<p>EU International Partnerships, including three projects funded or executed through International Partnerships (1, 2 and 3) and one project (4) through Service for Foreign Policy Instruments:</p> <p>(1) Assistance Technique au Projet de développement de la Valeur Ajoutée des Filières Agricoles (VAF A), \$0.7M, (2019-2022) ;</p> <p>(2) Poursuivre et renforcer l'opérationnalisation de la GIRE [IWRM] intégrant les droits humains et le genre dans les espaces de compétence des agences de l'eau des Cascades (AEC) et du Mouhoun (AEM) au Burkina Faso, \$1.5M, (2018-2029) ;</p> <p>(3) Projet de renforcement de la résilience des personnes à risque d'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle suite à la pandémie de la COVID-19, (2020-2022) ; and</p> <p>(4) Renforcement de la résilience des collectivités territoriales du Bu</p>	<p>Each project has its own objective and relate in different ways to the GEF project. The VAFA project (#1) focuses on technical assistance (TA) for agricultural value chains. The investment, although small, a relevant baseline to the GEF project, to the extent that it will enhance the capacity of agroindustries to process agricultural products, including beef, fish and others. The technical assistance functions as an input into other EU funded programs.</p> <p>The second project GIRE-Cascades (#2), focuses on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). Although it is not being implemented in the Centre-Nord region, the national component is a relevant baseline to the GEF project to the extent that it is helping develop the capacity of water sector stakeholders at the national level, and enhanced capacity for water resource management is essential for LDN. The third and fourth projects (#3 and #4) are relevant baselines to the GEF project, to the extent that they strengthen the resilience of stakeholders more broadly.</p> <p>For all EU funded projects, collaboration will revolve around the CES/DRS program.</p>	<p>\$5.8M</p>	<p>-</p>

	<p>rkina Faso face aux déplacements massifs des populations et à la pandémie du COVID-19, \$2.8M (2020-2022)</p> <p><u>Combined duration:</u> 2018-2029</p>			
Germany – Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	<p>PACES – Projet d’Amélioration de la Productivité Agricole par la Conservation des Eaux et des Sols / Project for the improvement of soil productivity (PACES). <u>Duration:</u> 2019-2024</p>	<p>The project has a direct relevance to the GEF project, to the extent that it deals with Water and Soil Conservation. It is also proposed that the PACES provides co-financing to the GEF project.</p>	\$6.1M	\$1.2M
Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	<p>Two projects: (1) Creating Enabling Environment for Solar Based Irrigation Systems, amount \$0.1; and (2) Development of the Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) System In Burkina Faso, amount \$0.4M. <u>Combined duration:</u> 2020-2023</p>	<p>The first project (#1) is relevant as it brings sustainable innovation to water resource management in Burkina Faso. The second project (#2) attempts to create an MRV system for climate change NDC related projects in Burkina Faso. Collaboration on will be sought.</p>	\$0.5M	-
SIDA – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	<p>Royal Embassy of Sweden, through Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) – Three projects:</p> <p>(1) Beog-Puuto “Farms of the future” Burkina Faso 2018-2023, till 2024, amount \$22.9M;</p> <p>(2) COVID-19 ProValAB/Agricultural valorization of small dams in Burkina Faso, amount \$7.2M (2020-2022); and</p> <p>(3) ProValAB/Agricultural valorization of small dams in Burkina Faso, amount \$4.0M (2015-2023)</p> <p>(4) Other Programs under development (2022-2028 and beyond)</p>	<p>The first project (#1) “Farms of the Future” is bringing innovation to the agricultural sector of Burkina Faso. It is managed by the NGO SOS Sahel International France and the local NGO Terre Verte, both of which are involved in the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahel. The second and third projects (#2 and #3) relate to the GEF project to the extent that deals with water for irrigation, noting that the’envid is an add-on investment to ProValAB for compensating for covid-19 impacts. The objectives of all three projects are convergent vis-à-vis that of the GEF project, because it deals with sustainable soil and water management. Women has a key role in agriculture in Burkina Faso and gender equality is prioritized in the projects.</p> <p>As a proposed co-financier, SIDA has commu</p>	\$34.1M	\$4M

	ment (2022-2026 and beyond) <u>Combined duration:</u> 2018-2025	nicated to UNDP that several new programs are in the pipeline with the topics that are closely related to the subject matter of this project, amounts and details to be further explored.		
Switzerland – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	BF78 – Val. Agro pastoral Rég. Est <u>Duration:</u> 2019-2022	The project is a relevant to the GEF project to the extent that it deals with agro-pastoral value chains in a neighboring region to Centre-Nord. A new phase is under consideration. Co-financing is proposed, including by probing the possibilities of extending activities by SDC to Centre-Nord region.	\$9.9M	
UNDP	United Nations Development Program – UNDP: PAMED – recently revised to now include Centre-Nord. <u>Duration:</u> 2020-2026	This is a sustainable livelihoods projects of UNDP implemented in different regions of Burkina Faso, including now Centre-Nord. It is proposed that both the GEF project and the PAMED will share different operational resources once under implementation. The PAMED also serves as baseline co-financing to the GEF project.	\$3.7M	\$3.2M
UNDP	UNDP Core funds	The amount proposed is considered levered co-financing (not baseline).	-	\$0.5
Government of Burkina Faso	Through the SP/CNDD, under the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Environment	The project will receive support from the government through staff time and facilities, the details of which will be elaborated in due course. The amount proposed is considered levered co-financing (not baseline).	-	\$0.4
Agence Française du Développement (AFD)	AFD Programme d'appui aux communes de l'Ouest du Burkina Faso en matière de gestion du foncier rural et des ressources naturelles (PACOF/GRN)	The project has its entry point in issues of land tenure and it provides support to the communes for resolving land conflict and natural resource conflict. A small amount baseline finance and co-financing has been considered for this project.	\$0.24M	
Total public sector co-finance to the baseline			\$97.4M	\$12.3M

In addition to the baseline finance project, environmental and climate change projects and programs are currently under implementation with GEF and GCF funding. Table 2 includes only a few of them. UNDP Burkina Faso Country Office participates in monthly meetings with the project teams of various related projects. The new GEF LD project will join and be on the agenda to ensure a fluid coordination with other initiatives. There are good prospects for collaboration between the present project and those listed in both Table 1 and Table 2 with respect to several topics. The necessary arrangement for engagement will be developed during the PPG.

Table 2. Other related initiatives concurrent with the GEFTF project

Project (full title), Agency	Duration, amount	Relevance	Collaboration / Lessons
GEF7 IUCN DSL: Sustainable management of dryland landscapes in Burkina Faso (GEFID 10291)	2021-2027 \$6.8 in GEF TF STAR resources	The project is part of a GEF7 Impact Program on sustainable management of drylands landscapes and has focus on land governance. It aims to achieve large-scale restoration of drylands and landscapes and sustainable livelihoods in Burkina Faso through adoption of sustainable land management practices by rural communities. Targeted interventions to restore drylands and strengthen ecosystem-based value chains are foreseen and will be monitored in a participatory manner to assess behavioral changes.	Both projects have many similarities, but they are also different from each other in several areas. The IUCN GEF project is not implemented in the Centre-Nord region -- so there is no duplication of efforts. Exchanges, collaborations and lessons learning with respect to LDN methodologies will be proposed during the PPG.
FAO GEF Improving the climate resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems in Burkina Faso Part I: Project Information (GEF ID 10516)	2020 -2026 \$8.9M from GEF LDCF resources	The project aims to increase the climate resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral family farming communities in the Sudanian and Sudano-Sahelian zones of Burkina Faso.	The FAO GEF project and the present project both apply the Landscape Approach. Sharing methodologies around this theme will maximize the positive synergies between the projects.
UNDP GEF EBA Project: Adapting Natural Resource Dependent Livelihoods to Climate induced Risks in Selected Landscapes in Burkina Faso: the Boucle du Mouhoun Forest Corridor and the Mare d'Oursi Wetlands Basin (GEFID 4971)	2019-2024 \$7M from GEF LDCF resources	This was one of the first ecosystem-based adaptation projects funded by the LDCF for \$7M. To date, it has not been possible to implement the project in the northern site (Mare d'Oursi Wetlands Basin) due to security risks. Key achievements point out to bringing adaptation benefits and strengthening resilience of vulnerable groups by actively engaging them.	Some of the most important lessons from the EBA project relate to how it handled security risks and how safeguards were important for avoiding unintended negative socio-environmental impacts from the project.
UNDP GEF Integrated and Sustainable Management of DONASI Protected	2021-2028	The project is primarily concerned with 'parklands' and protected areas in the south of Burkina Faso where they form prot	Because the project is on-going, there will be several opportunities to seek o

<p>the management of PONASI Protected Area Landscape (GEF ID 9764)</p>	<p>\$5.5M from GEFTF STARR resources</p>	<p>ected areas in the south of Burkina Faso where they form protected area complexes, including the PONASI, which brings together the Pô, the Nazinon and the Sissili areas. With \$5.5M in GEF BD funds, the project's objective is to safeguard critical wildlife habitat, biodiversity and ecosystem services in the PONASI Protected Area complex through integrated landscape management, generating multiple benefits in the southern central Burkina Faso.</p>	<p>will be several opportunities to seek coordination and mutual learning of lessons. The most important aspect in common between the PONASI and the present project is that both apply the Landscape Approach.</p>
<p>Country Partnership Program (CPP), with four projects (two through UNDP) for Burkina Faso: CPP: SLM subprogram for the Centre-West Region (GEFID 4301); CPP: Sub-Program for SLM in Boucle de Mouhoun region (GEFID 4233); North region (GEFID 3567 - IFAD) and CPP: National Subprogram for Coordination and Institutional Development on SLM (GEFID 3884).</p>	<p>2010-2018 \$ 5.7M in total 100% from GEF LD</p>	<p>This was a long lasting and wide program on Land Degradation in Burkina Faso, with a combined investment of \$5.7M in GEF resources through three projects. One project (the national level one) provided a policy umbrella and coordination, while the other two focus on implementing on the ground. The CPP managed to record and document a number of techniques and practices for fighting land degradation. The first standardized and science-based indicators for land degradation in Burkina Faso were developed through the CPP. Although the project finished a few years ago, results have been long lasting. The CPP is still an important reference in Burkina Faso in the fight against land degradation.</p>	<p>The most important lesson to be learned pertains to the highly inclusive approach that applied throughout the implementation of CPP project, both with respect to local level stakeholders and to national level ones. If relevant and useful, databases that may have been produced in connection with the CPP can be attempted recuperated and revived, just like the BDOT national database on land use was recuperated and put to use. The BDOT case is actually stressed within the relevant scientific community as an emblematic success story in putting land use data to good use[28]. Further to this, the important legacy from the SILEM will also be attempted recuperated during the PPG.</p>
<p>Early WB-GEF initiatives, in particular as the GEFID 1178, Sahel Integrated Lowland Ecosystem Management/SILEM'</p>	<p>2002-2011 \$4.5M in GEF funding</p>	<p>Although the GEF investment was modest, the SILEM Program was designed to contribute to strengthen the capacity of the rural population to reduce and alleviate, in a sustainable manner, poverty and vulnerability by strengthening their natural resource base and by addressing identified root causes for the currently occurring resource depletion and unhelpful livelihood strategies. SILEM implementation was tied to WB investments linked to decentralization and rural development, for which Burkina Faso received loans grants and credit.</p>	<p>The SILEM, it was a World Bank GEF project implemented between 2002 and 2011, which had embraced an integrated ecosystem approach and was prolific in the dissemination of practices and knowledge management products. Inspiration and lessons will also be drawn from the SILEM, although the project has closed quite some time ago and the decentralization and rural development programs and policies have</p>

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project:

In this alternative scenario, GEF Trust Fund resources from the Land Degradation Focal Area are invested through the project in creating enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM/SFM and LDN. As a long-term goal, the project will contribute to a transformational shift towards a sustainable and integrated management of landscapes in Burkina Faso following LDN principles (see [TOC](#)). It will do so by piloting LDN interventions in the Centre-Nord region. In the long-run, contributions to expected impacts will include: resilient ecosystems; food security and improved livelihoods; enhanced (agro)-biodiversity; climate change mitigation and adaptation. Because the project has limited GEF funding, the TOC stresses that the project makes a contribution to these goals, but other concurrent interventions will need to be levered by Burkina to achieve scale and impact, including for achieving the LDN target.

More specifically, the proposed project involves strategies that will address the pressures on dryland landscapes and associated resources through an “LDN Response”. This implies the practical application of the scientific conceptual framework for LDN, which prescribes that the implementation of LDN is managed at the landscape level through integrated land use planning, while achievement is assessed at the national level. The four barriers identified will be overcome in a sustainable manner. They are respectively linked to the following topics (1) land use planning and management, (2) local production practices; (3) legal and policy frameworks for LDN; and (4) mastery of LDN methodologies. The barriers relate to the project outcomes according to the [TOC figure](#) and considering the assumptions that apply. Through the proposed barrier removal approach, the project components and the outputs under it were designed.

Project Objective: To enhance the national frameworks for the achievement of the national land degradation neutrality (LDN) target, while promoting social cohesion in selected landscapes in the Centre-Nord Region through the practical application of the LDN concept.

As part of the alternative scenario, there is a need to strengthen Burkina Faso’s response to land degradation and deliver benefits through the practical application of the LDN concept. Through the project, Burkina Faso will deliver improvements to land use planning and management of landscapes in the Centre-Ouest region applying LDN by avoiding, reducing and reverting land degradation trends. At the same time, it is important to consider the extant drivers identified in the TOC which are possible to be addressed through the project, including internal conflict, and the impacts of covid-19. In this light, the project considers the need to promote social cohesion and to work towards the prevention of natural resource conflict within landscapes. The project will work with both sedentary farmers, agro-foresters, agro-pastoralists and nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralists, understanding their ways of life and land uses in order to promote LDN across landscapes. The role of NGOs, CSOs and in particular of CBOs is crucial for reaching out to those groups. A thorough consultation process targeting local stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous peoples, will be carried out during the project preparation process and continued during implementation. As for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agricultural sector and on the national economy are significant and have been considered.

Strategy and action framework for response to the COVID-19 pandemic: In the alternative scenario, the project contributes to the Government’s response to the pandemic, supported by the United Nations (UN) and other financial and technical partners. During the PPG, the UNDP Burkina Faso Country Office will support the PPG consultant team to conduct regular assessments of both the security situation and COVID-19 pandemic impacts in the country, and specifically in the Centre-Nord Region. The project will put in place appropriate measures to ensure the safety of all stakeholders involved in project design and implementation. This will take into account (i) what impact the pandemic (or measures to contain it) has had on government capacity/resources to implement

the work proposed in the project (or other baseline initiatives), either at the enabling level or practically; (ii) how targeted project beneficiaries have been affected (e.g. disruption of supply chains, price increases etc.); and (iii) how implementation will be affected if there is recurrent outbreaks of covid variants or of other public health hazard diseases during implementation.

1. Actions to support COVID-19 response in the short-term: Promote vaccination and continue to maintain health vigilance and other measures to avoid the spread of covid among populations with low rates of vaccination. This is especially important during the upcoming consultations on the ground, which will require some level of face-to-face interactions and travel.

2. Actions to support COVID-19 response in the long-term: The proposed project strategy will assist the Government of Burkina Faso with a “green recovery” from the pandemic. This strategy responds to the guidance document “GEF’s Response to COVID-19”^[29] and has a dual action framework including for alignment of the project goals with the response and recovery strategies

Component 1: Land-use planning and monitoring towards LDN

Outcome 1) National level policies, practices and capacities for the effective application of LDN frameworks at the landscape-level enhanced

LDN frameworks have been defined by the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF). They imply a minimum of three features which will apply to this project (considered as the key principles): (1) the application of LDN fundamentals; (2) delivery of multiple benefits (including gender equality and women’s empowerment); (3) responsible and inclusive governance (including social cohesion). Under the above-listed fundamentals, we mention *inter alia* the application of a landscape approach and of the ‘LDN response hierarchy’ within a landscape in the pursuit of neutrality goals (avoid, reduce, reverse), gender sensitive project design and the pursuit of SDG 15.3, among other features. As a concrete result from implementing activities under the first Component, a detailed online cartography for applying LDN in the Centre-Nord region will be developed. National cartography for LDN at the appropriate scale will also be prepared, combining a suite of geo-based databases and representing an important improvement in accuracy vis-à-vis publicly available global data on LDN.

Three outputs have been designed under Outcome 1 (described further down) and success will be measured primarily through the following indicators:

- Improved scores of the LDN checklist focused on stakeholder capacity for planning and monitoring the pursuit of the national LDN target^[30]; and
- Incorporation of the project’s LDN outcome and related indicators into the national MRV for climate (including the regular and transparent monitoring and reporting required).

Output 1.1) LDN principles and gender-sensitive approaches are incorporated into land-use planning and management of landscapes at the national and sub-national levels.

This will include ensuring the necessary institutional partnerships, the specialized human capital and the IT infrastructure plus applications for the purpose. The IT infrastructure is proposed to be housed by the SP/CNDD directly under the purview of the UNCCD focal point. It will include both the hardware, the software and the capacity to operate GIS-based applications. The process of land-use planning will involve various stakeholders. It will be based on the national legislative requirements for land use planning, but it will specifically introduce the elements required for an integrated planning. The LDN-SCF will guide this development, with the following criteria upheld:

- Landscapes will be selected with the full involvement of key stakeholders. The landscape approach applies and implies that due considerations on scale and the stakes within the landscape are taken into consideration.
- Land use planning and governance frameworks for managing both the wider and the local landscapes for LDN will be established at the national level. Specific regulations may be proposed for the purpose.
- Multi-tiered and long-term planning for land use management in wider landscapes is developed in open-source GIS platform and endorsed by key stakeholders. Principles of transparency, inclusion, gender sensitivity and the LDN response hierarchy will apply.
- Landscape level planning and implementation are integrated into national level MRV with linkages to climate change targets (the NDC process), nature protection, water resource management and other relevant systems

Output 1.2) The capacity of key stakeholders at the national level for planning and monitoring the pursuit of LDN targets and of linked goals is improved

Activities under the second output will focus on enhancing the capacity of key stakeholder at the national level for pursuing LDN targets and linked goals. The national stakeholder list/database will be retrieved and expanded to serve as the basis for consultations and capacity development. The benefits of training through e-platforms will be fully explored to reach as many beneficiaries as possible at the national level. Stakeholders will be queried about their training needs and other assessments for helping shape activities under this output through careful planning. International technical assistance will be called upon to supply capacity development needs through targeted training. A program for engaging young people, including young women, in the technical work of land use planning, management of GIS-platforms and stakeholder consultation processes will be developed and rolled out.

Output 1.3) The National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management (CNGDT) is strengthened for the effective application of the LDN frameworks at the national and sub-national levels

The CNGDT will play an advisory and stakeholders coordination role. They will ensure that all key stakeholders are involved in the integrated land use planning process in the pursuit of LDN goals. This includes players from the agriculture, water, forests, development, land, gender, mining, etc. The purpose is to ensure the incorporation of LDN methodologies in the monitoring of land degradation indicators and the contribution from these respective sectors. The results from previous work conducted by the ministry responsible for agriculture on establishing baselines for LD will be incorporated into the LDN database, in view of corroborating LDN standardized assessments. Where needed, data will be collected for completing the LDN balance calculus, including on status and trends in the appropriate geographic scales. A fluid and transparent flow of communication and data sharing among national institutions and sub-national stakeholders will be ensured, in particular through the stakeholder leverage provided by the Coalition.

Component 2: Implementation of LDN conducive practices.

Outcome 2) Gender-sensitive and locally adapted solutions and practices that contribute to LDN targets are supported on the ground in selected landscapes

The planned outcome of this component is that productivity is restored within specific landscapes and the loss of productivity balanced out through a practical application of LDN. The definition and effective management of landscapes will be ensured through a wide and highly participatory and inclusive process of consulting stakeholders and engaging them in land-use decision making. This engagement will be both sensitive to gender and ethnicity, including

because of the potential presence of indigenous peoples within the project zone. The latter is in reference to nomadic pastoralist Peulh groups, who are known to use transhumance routes that cut across the Centre-Nord region. All land users who have a stake in the integrated management of landscapes on the ground will be consulted and involved.

As a concrete result from implementing activities under the second Component, a suite of locally tailored solutions for the land degradation problem will be implemented on the ground for at least 3 complete planting seasons (considering the project's duration and need for planning and preparing activity roll-out on the ground). These LDN conducive practices will be closely monitored, their results measured and recorded. Most importantly, land users will be able to reap the benefits of an improved land management.

Three outputs have been designed under Outcome 2 (described further down) and success will be measured primarily through the practical application of LDN in the management of landscapes. This would be according to different land uses, to the severity of degradation in the baseline, and to the types of strategies foreseen in the LDN Response Hierarchy (avoid, reduce, reserve). For the measurement of key indicators, the indicative break-down of target areas that will come under improved management or be restored is clearly presented in Table 4. In sum, the targets will include the following according to the LDN response strategy / hierarchy[31]:

- Reducing and reversing land degradation would be applied to smaller landscapes with intensively used landscapes, adding up to approximately 30,000 ha that display moderate to severe degrees of land degradation. Land uses would include cropland, as well as woodlands and pastures – the latter two would preferably be located in areas near critical waterways.
- Avoiding land degradation would, in turn, be applied to wider landscapes, like rangelands, which would include open access pasture and common property woodlands and shrubs, displaying light to moderate degradation. Up to 1.1 million ha would be the target for avoided degradation.

Other indicators that will be used for measuring the success in the practical application of LDN strategies include:

- LDN relevant status and trends of targeted landscapes are monitored, including indicators for land-cover and land use change, net primary productivity (NPP), soil organic carbon and LDN balance.
- Data on gender disaggregated count of project beneficiaries collected annually, in addition to other relevant socio-economic data, including on social cohesion indicators, stakeholder engagement and community outreach.
- Number of land users' households (incl. youth, women and other groups) who have adopted SLM/SFM practices, including types of practices and techniques;
- Data on agrarian production and other indicators in project sites (production, productivity, yields, area planted on fallow etc.).

Output 2.1) Land-use planning and management committees at the local level are supported (or established, where needed)

The purpose is to conduct a highly inclusive process of land use decision making for LDN in selected landscapes, as follows:

- For operationalizing the integrated land use planning foreseen under Component 2, the project will bring together key stakeholders such as women's and youth groups, small-farmers, pastoralists, internally displaced people (IDPs), in addition to land use managers and the private sector, and form landscape level management committees.
- Activities will build on UN Agencies' joint presence in Kaya and will build further from the thorough stakeholder analysis and engagement process expected to be conducted during the PPG.
- The land-use planning & management committees should be formalized as soon possible so that the integrated land use planning process foreseen under Output 2.2 can effectively become a collaborative process.

Output 2.2) LDN solutions are conceived for different landscapes in the Centre-Nord region through innovative, collaborative and integrated land use planning, aimed at reducing land-based conflict and promoting responsible, inclusive and gender-sensitive land governance

Collaborative and integrated land use planning is the key tool for bringing about the benefits foreseen under Component 2 and under the project more broadly. This Output will consider the following in the development of activities:

- Besides conceiving solutions that will operationalize LDN on the ground, much of the work under this output will be aimed at reducing land-based conflict and promoting responsible, inclusive and gender-sensitive land governance.
- Activities will target different scales of areas, as required under the landscape approach, including target landscapes at the micro, macro and wider landscapes.
- When selecting the landscapes to which the planning and the strategies will apply, the project will seek to have a balanced sample of predominant land types and land uses.
- The engagement of local communities is key in the selection of areas, of techniques and practices, and in the overall decision-making process implied in applying LDN on the ground, as it may imply changes to land uses and to techniques and practices. For croplands, the main stakeholders will be farmers.
- For the management wider landscapes, agro-pastoralists, agro-foresters and farmers are expected to be engaged, among them transhumant groups.
- Endogenous knowledge in the management of landscapes will be valued and applied. Local NGOs/CSOs and CBOs will play a key role as intermediaries for rolling out and disseminating LDN solutions. Because of women's essential role in the agricultural sector in Burkina Faso, they will be a priority group in the conceptualization of LDN solutions. All solutions will need to be sensitive to women's needs.
- Finally, the role of local government in organizing the process of integrated land use planning across tiered and nested landscapes is also essential, but safeguarding a more equal participation of women in decision-making. For managing the wider landscapes collaboration across communes is expected. Implementation can commence by the end of the project's year 1, the planning processes is expected to be completed, and leading to the formulation of landscape-level integrated land use plans.

Output 2.3) LDN implementation: Gender-sensitive and locally adapted LDN solutions are implemented across landscapes through local sub-projects executed by capable organizations and local governments, directly benefitting up to 3,000 small-farmer households, 35% led by women, with progress against LDN sub-indicators systematically monitored on the ground.

The output prescribes the achievement of a minimal number of beneficiaries and a minimum targeting of female-headed households (35%), namely to ensure that the project's gender action plan is put into practice. It will also be necessary to have a specific M&E system to track progress on the ground, which will be developed during the PPG.

Because Output 2.3 is broad and will be implemented across many different locations, the work foreseen has been divided into five main streams, as follows:

- a) Local beneficiaries have access to the means for implementing LDN solutions. This includes e.g., agricultural tools, critical machinery, small-scale irrigation gear and other material inputs needed. Where possible, the engagement of co-financiers in bringing activities to scale will be sought. Synergies will be actively pursued on the ground, especially with projects and programs implementing agricultural value chains interventions, if these can be made compatible with the GEF project's LDN approach.
- b) The capacity of local level stakeholders in land use management techniques for LDN is specifically strengthened through practical skills development in view of adopting sustainable techniques of cultivation, pasture management and ecosystem restoration. The goal is to expand land users' own awareness on SLM / SFM and LDN, and to help disseminate these techniques among others, promoting thereby also social cohesion. The engagement of rural extension services in the activity will be operationalized, preferably through the same service providers that will be engaged in implementing activities under the two preceding output. The project will not engage government extension services, but prefer professional, private sector service providers, to be engaged competitively through procurement.
- c) Local extension services are specifically capacitated on how to: (i) pass on knowledge in SLM / SFM techniques (including various forms of sustainable crop cultivation, landscape and range management, fire control, soil enrichment, ecosystem rehabilitation and restoration); (ii) strengthen social cohesion; and (iii) conduct LDN monitoring across the landscapes.
- d) Local governments' technical services in the relevant departments and communes of the Centre-Nord region have the material means for addressing the challenges of pursuing the regional LDN target.

Component 3: Enhanced coordination, monitoring and finance for LDN.

Outcome 3) Legal, policy, institutional and financial barriers for the continued application of gender sensitive LDN at the landscape level are addressed

The key outcome indicator will revolve around the Adoption of LDN conducive policies that are critical for the implementation of national LDN frameworks. The criteria that define what is critical will be based on the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF). With respect to legal, policy, institutional barriers, the LDN checklist, mentioned under Outcome 1 comes into play for guiding activities. The Checklist's section C (Features that promote responsible and inclusive governance) mentions the following criteria:

- Safeguard land rights of local land users including individual and collective access to land, land tenure and resource rights, inheritance and customary rights;

- Ensure free, prior and informed consent of indigenous people and local communities for any activities affecting their rights to land, territories and resources;
- Define mechanisms for ensuring gender-responsive engagement of key stakeholders in project design and implementation;
- Ensure strong gender equality, inclusiveness, accountability and transparency in land use decisions and planning;
- Avoid forced displacement/involuntary resettlement resulting from the intervention;
- Strengthen or develop institutional arrangements through collaboration with the range of actors at multiple administrative levels;
- Strengthen or develop a grievance redress mechanism.

While the above criteria are an integral part of UNDP's Social and Environmental Safeguards Policy and related mechanisms, activities under Component 3 will ensure to improve the enabling conditions for LDN with a focus on land governance. Therefore, a single indicator is foreseen: Adoption of LDN conducive policies that are critical for the implementation of national LDN frameworks. With respect to finance, the project will limit itself to a key study for advancing the LDN agenda. Two outputs are foreseen:

Output 3.1) Changes through legal and policy reforms, and improved institutional processes are supported for underpinning a peaceful, social cohesive and sustainable land governance (focus on the forestry code, land use planning frameworks and related processes)

- Critical changes—or further specification through regulations—will be proposed to at least one of the above mentioned-legislations.
- The goal is to create a conducive legal-policy environment for LDN.
- During the PPG, the needs and prospects for policy change will be further discussed and assessed.

Output 3.2) Sustainable funding for the continued management of landscapes towards LDN is secured

A study will start early during the project's implementation cycle for underpinning sustainability. The project will not resolve the issue of funding for LDN across the country, but it will advance the finance agenda and primarily focus on what the project is delivering on the ground within the selected landscapes, to ensure that they can continue to be managed for LDN after project end.

Component 4: Monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management for upscaling

Outcome 4) Project impacts and LDN indicators are monitored, and learning is shared for scale-up of results across the country

Two subcomponents are envisaged under the above outcome: (i) LDN Monitoring subcomponent; and (ii) Project M&E subcomponent. Indicators would be standardized for this type of outcome. Suggestions were included in Part I, Table B.

1st subcomponent- LDN Monitoring: The planned outcome is the sustainability of LDN monitoring. This involves two proposed outputs, with indicative activities for further discussion with stakeholders in national and regional government agencies, research institutions, development partners and civil society. The two work packages are outlined below – (i) creating platforms for scaling up the project learning across Burkina Faso and the Sahel; and (ii) facilitating learning exchanges and training of youth to feed into a monitoring system, both for the project, and also feeding into the implementation and monitoring of the LDN action plan in Comp. 1.

Output 4.1) Results from implementation of SLM/SFM solutions and practices on the ground are regularly measured against set LDN parameters and regularly reported upon through MRV

Activities imply connecting databases with other initiatives, in particular the National Strategy for the Restoration, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Soils (SNRCRS) under the ministry responsible for agriculture, and with the initiatives towards climate change MRV in connection with the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Output 4.2) Knowledge platform is operational for coordination and lessons sharing among stakeholders at the landscape, national and international levels

- Establish a knowledge platform with online and face-to-face elements, including project stakeholders and all related initiatives (peace building, adaptation, mitigation, sustainable agriculture etc.)
- Hold annual multi-stakeholder dialogues through the platform in target Centre-Nord region to address interrelated challenges of a practical application of LDN within selected landscapes, while simultaneously promoting social cohesion.
- Host a national learning event[32] on LDN implementation to share learning from project, inviting participation by other conflict-affected Sahelian countries[33] to promote South-South engagement
- Arrange learning exchange visits to share experiences in the practical application of LDN, including through the development of the needed IT infrastructure and the associated national capacity for it. Such visits may also include visits to sites where landscape restoration activities are being conducted.
- Produce a lessons learnt publication and series of short videos and use these as basis for participation by Burkina Faso in international forums to disseminate lessons learnt.

2nd sub-component - Project M&E: The planned outcome is that project impacts are monitored and learning shared for scale-up of results across Sahel regions of Burkina Faso, and beyond. A single output is foreseen:

Output 4.3) A participatory M&E and learning framework is developed and implemented for project as a whole and on the ground

- Compliance with requirements under UNDP's and GEF's procedures, ensure the effective implementation of activities in the project's regular M&E cycle (PIRs, MTR, TE, risk management, etc.)
- Develop, implement and monitor youth and gender action plans for project
- Operationalize the mechanism for monitoring changes in LDN related indicators in the Centre-Nord region, including training and equipping youth monitors who feed data back via the interested research institutions / centers of excellence in Burkina Faso and in the West African region more broadly.

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies:

The project directly addresses the objective of GEF Trust Fund Land Degradation of the GEF's LD Focal Area Strategy, Objective 2.5, which reads as follows: "Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN". As shown in the STAP LDN guidelines, and put simply, the goal of LDN is to maintain or increase the amount of healthy and productive land[34]. The project aims to create an enabling environment for this to happen, to the extent that it focuses on: intragovernmental coordination for MEA implementation and spatial monitoring, natural resource governance at local level, and systemic interventions to reduce degradation and desertification, in addition to restoration (including rehabilitation) of ecosystem productivity (land, water, grazing) (LD-2-5). The mentioned topic guide LD-2-5, as per the GEF7 Focal Area Strategy. Benefits to be generated by the pursuit of this strategy go in the sense of: (i) maintain or improve the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services; (ii) maintain or improve productivity, in order to enhance food security; (iii) increase resilience of the land and populations dependent on the land; (iv) seek synergies with other social, economic and environmental objectives; and (v) reinforce responsible and inclusive governance of land. These benefits are the stated objectives of LDN, as per the LDN Checklist.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing:

The project has been designed to enhance the national frameworks for the achievement of the national land degradation neutrality (LDN) target, while promoting social cohesion in selected landscapes in the Centre-Nord Region through the practical application of the LDN concept. Funds from the GEFTF LD window will thus bring about national benefits into a course of action that generates global benefits, where GEF funding will cover the incremental cost.

Table 3. Incremental cost reasoning

Baseline without project	Alternative with GEF LD funds and co-financing	Global environmental benefits (GEBs) generated
In the baseline scenario, LDN goals would not be achieved, the monitoring of the indicators from different sectors would tend to be polarized and conducted at the regional level. The expected result is the non-achievement of neutrality proposed by LD and unavailability of sustainable low-cost water and soil conservation techniques for supporting land users. Poor c	<u>Under component 1</u> , capacity is built at the national and subnational level for incorporating LDN frameworks into the practices by strengthening National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management (CNGDT) and monitoring systems for measuring progress towards LDN targets, supporting UNCCD implementation in alignment with national development policies.	GEBs under Component 1 will include improved capacity for managing LDN frameworks in line with Objective 2.5 of the GEF's LD focal area strategy to create enabling environments for scaling up and mainstreaming SLM and LDN. The project will link data collection on LDN with the national MRV for climate, promoting transparency and linkages between land degradation and climate change. This will be measured through increased scores of the LDN c

<p>...iques for supporting land users. For coordination across government sectors and lack of integrated cross-sectoral planning and monitoring continues. This means that Burkina Faso struggles to meet its LDN, NDC and other MEA targets in a coordinated manner, or to demonstrate convincingly that this is being achieved.</p>	<p>Gender-sensitive approaches are incorporated into land-use planning and management of landscapes at the national and sub-national levels.</p> <p>Integrated land-use planning & management frameworks will be enforced by means of solid and transparent institutional partnerships and IT infrastructure.</p>	<p>checklist focused on stakeholder capacity for planning and monitoring the pursuit of the national LDN target.</p> <p>LDN framework provides transparent methodology for key indicators estimation and monitoring, setting baselines and targets, and a detailed implementation plan for the actions required. These tools facilitate meaningful monitoring of GEBs and global reporting.</p>
<p>In the baseline scenario, farmers and herders in target landscapes continue to practice unsustainable grazing and farming techniques, losing vegetative cover, worsening soil erosion and depleting soil fertility. Food and water security are threatened by increasing frequency and intensity of drought and flood events, without significant improvements in adaptive capacity. Environmental degradation continues across Burkina Faso and become increasingly vulnerable to impacts of climate variability, whilst experiencing increasing competition over a declining natural resource base, without viable alternative income streams that are resilient to climate change.</p> <p>Carbon stocks will gradually become depleted as the trends of deforestation and desertification continue, threatening the achievement of Burkina Faso's commitments under the Paris Agreement to contribute to GHG emissions reductions – with continued southward encroachment of the Sahara Desert. Also, unchecked loss of tree cover and soil carbon from over-grazing, over-extraction of fuelwood and expansion of agriculture would tend to continue.</p>	<p><u>Under component 2</u>, pressure on productive landscapes will be relieved through a practical application of the LDN approach.</p> <p>The project will take measures to ensure the improved management of productive lands, including 10,000 ha of priority food crop production, agroforestry and critical waterways (direct target) applying the LDN strategy “reduce and reverse land degradation”.</p> <p>Overall, some 250,000 ha of multiuse landscapes (including pasture, transhumance corridors and other open access lands) will also be subject to improved management, applying the LDN strategy “avoid land degradation, and where needed, reduce it”.</p> <p>All productive practices for LDN will be guided by selected and applicable solutions and technique for managing landscapes, cropland, pasture, etc. within Centre Nord region (see examples from the Soil & Water Conservation Program in Burkina Faso, the “CES”, listed in Table 6).</p> <p>Strengthened community organizations supporting up to 3,000 beneficiary households (including 35% female-headed) through resource management committees and agreements between pastoralists, farming communities and other land users.</p> <p>Agriculture and forest extension support services will enable intensification of crops without e</p>	<p>Key GEBs will include: (i) Maintaining or improving the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services; and (ii) Maintaining or improving productivity, in order to enhance food security. This will be ensured in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area of land restored, relating to GEF Core Indicator 3: intensively used productive lands: 10,000 ha of cropland and woodland areas near critical waterbodies, which display moderate to severe degradation, come under improved management for restoring their productive potential, and by applying LDN strategies to reduce and reverse land degradation (refer to Table 4 for the break-downs). - 20,000 ha of open access pasture and common property woodlands and shrubs, displaying light to moderate degradation, come under improved management to mitigate productivity loss, and by applying LDN strategies to avoid and reduce land degradation; - 80,000 ha of open access pasture and common property woodlands and shrubs, displaying light to moderate degradation, come under improved management to mitigate productivity loss, and by applying LDN strategies to avoid and reduce land degradation; - wider landscape management in approx. 250,000 ha of multi-use rangelands across communes, displaying only light or no degradation, come under extensive, collaborative management to prevent adverse changes, and by applying LDN strategies to avoid land degradation. This overall target includes the aforementioned areas of 20,000 ha of pasture and 80,000 ha of woodlands. <p>The productive capacity of soil and water in those lands will b</p>

	xpansion of footprint and progress is made to wards emissions reductions in the AFOLU sector, with enhanced capacity for accurate measurement.	e restored, and carbon sinks at least maintained. Associated benefits with respect to biodiversity and climate will also be generated in those landscapes. The improved flow of ecosystem services will help enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities and contribute to social cohesion.
In the baseline scenario, government institutions face financial barriers and deterioration their capacity to implement LDN conducive policies, leading to unsustainable land use management across landscapes and the aggravation of the gender gap related to land use management.	<u>Under component 3</u> , strategic changes in legal and policy frameworks will be supported for facilitating the implementation of LDN, including the through a gender sensitive lens in view of in sustainable land governance.	Adoption of LDN conducive policies and land use planning will be institutionalized for the management of landscapes.

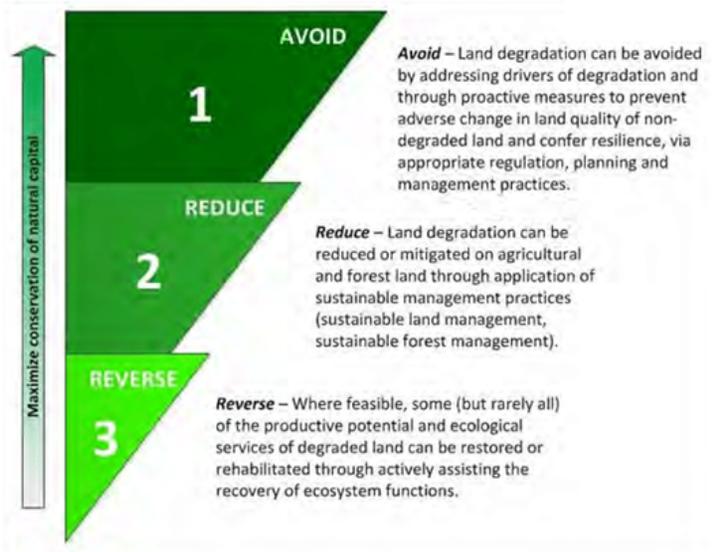
6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):

The project is consistent with GEF focal area objective LD-2-5: to Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN. The main focus on the enabling environment means that, in terms of management of landscapes on the ground, the project will have limited scale. The project has less than \$4M in GEF investment and it must therefore focus primarily on creating enabling conditions for LDN, or risk fragmenting the GEF investment. Assumption #5 in the TOC proposes namely that LDN frameworks, as prescribed in the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF), are adopted in Burkina Faso across collaborating institutions as the main vehicle for addressing land degradation in the country. This refers directly to the creation of enabling conditions. Nevertheless, the project will make contributions to implementation of LDN consistent practices on the ground, and to the achievement of the country's LDN target. Burkina Faso's LDN targets foresees recovering by 2031, some 5.6 million hectares of degraded land, and in relation to the reference period of 2000-2013 (baseline status). The national LDN target is ambitious but can be achieved.

Indicators included in Part I, Table F also reflect the project's core focus on the creation of such conditions and the way of its contribution to the LDN target. Because of limitations to its duration, the project is slated to make a direct contribution of some 5% of the overarching national LDN target measured in hectares (10,000 ha restored, as per Core Indicator 3). The overall contribution would reach approx. 4.5% of the national target (250,000 ha, as per Core Indicator 4), on account of activities related to the long-term improved management of wider landscape. For the long-term perspective, the project proposes that the improved management of these landscapes will set it on the pathway of sustainability. The project will deliver results on the ground through practical applications of LDN strategies and its mitigation hierarchy ('avoid, reduce, reverse land degradation'). The break-down of land proposed for the indicators is shown in Figure 5 and more detail is provided in Table 4. Refer also to the Core Indicator Worksheet in Annex B. Reference to SLM/SFM techniques is in Table 6.

Figure 5. LDN Response Hierarchy and Burkina Faso's national LDN target

LDN Response Hierarchy



National LDN target	Approximate project's contribution according to LDN response type
5.6 M ha of degraded land recovered by 2031	AVOID Through active land use planning and protection across wider landscapes (mostly rangelands): mis-en-défence, protection, access regulation, and preemptive measures through land use management. [330,000 ha]
	REDUCE Through natural regeneration and assisted regeneration, in impacted rangelands and over-grazed agropastoral lands that can be management, optimal use of fire, CSA, regenerative agriculture and endogenous techniques of SLM/SFM [27,900 ha]
	REVERSE Ecosystem restoration, through active management of land and soil, in addition to agro-sylvo-pastoral techniques mentioned above. [2,100 ha]

Notes: [1] For more details on techniques widely used in the government's program CES/DRS – *Conservation des Eaux et des Sols/Défense et Restauration des Sols*[35] and prevalent in the Centre-Nord region, refer to Table 6. Information in the figure above according to different LDN Response Hierarchy is but indicative and for illustration purposes only. The actual technique to be applied on the ground will be defined in integrated and participative landscape level land use plans to be prepared, and according to local conditions assessed with the full involvement of stakeholders, women in particular, oriented by qualified and trained extension workers. [2] The estimated hectareage behind numbers in the above figure and in the Core Indicator Worksheet in PIF Annex B are in Table 4.

Table 4. Estimation of area in the practical application of the LDN Response Hierarchy in this project

	<i>Strategies in the LDN Response Hierarchy</i>			<i>Sum of Hectares</i>
	Avoid	Reduce	Reverse	Grand Total
Practices and land use systems				
Intensively used productive lands: <u>cropland</u>		2,500	1,000	3,500
Intensively used productive lands: <u>pastures near critical waterways</u>		5,000	1,000	6,000
Intensively used productive lands: <u>woodland areas near critical waterways</u>		400	100	500
<u>Open access pasture and common property woodlands and shrubs</u> , displaying light to moderate degradation, come under improved management to mitigate productivity loss, and by applying LDN strategies to avoid and reduce land degradation (these are included in the below-mentioned target of 250,000 ha overall).	80,000	20,000		100,000
<u>Wider landscape management with approx. 250K ha of multi-use rangelands across communes</u> , displaying only light or no degradation, come under extensive, collaborative management to prevent adverse changes, and by applying LDN strategies to avoid land degradation (this includes the aforementioned pasture and woodland targets).	250,000			250,000
Grand Total	330,000	27,900	2,100	360,000

Notes: This table draws its figures from the data included in PIF Annex A. To keep the table simple, we have omitted information on the status of land degradation, which would generate more rows. The status of land degradation combined with the LUS is what determines the LDN strategy to apply. Three degrees of land degradation status applied for now: lightly, moderately and severely degraded (also for the sake of simplicity). The indicative classification of status for different LUS is also given in PIF Annex A. During the PPG, GIS analysis with more parameters and variables, and based on selected landscapes, will apply. At PIF stage, the exercise includes mere estimates for the purposes of generating indicative targets for GEF Core Indicators 3 and 4 and their sub-indicators.

In terms of total number of beneficiaries (which is 19,000 for Core Indicator 11), it is the sum of two main categories: (1) farmers and herders; and (2) NGO staff and civil servants, who are expected to be trained. The rationale behind calculations in Table 5 follow.

1. Up to 3.000 small-farmer households, 35% led by women, will be directly benefited with access to needed tools/machinery and ongoing assistance for sustainable land use activities. we consider 6.25 people per household in the Centre-Nord region[36]. Hence, in 35% of household that are female-headed, we would have 2,760 males and 3,810 females, summing up 6,570; while in the remainder of the households (65%), an equal distribution is assumed, i.e. 6,090 males plus an equal number of females, summing up 12,180 people. Together, 6,570 + 12,180 result in the 18,750 people, including 8,850 males and 9,900 females.

2. For the second category, it is also estimated that up to 250 technical workers at the national and sub-national levels will be trained in LDN topics. For this latter indicator, we assume a 30% female ratio, since national institutions and NGOs are male dominated workplaces in Burkina Faso. Hence, we have 175 males trained against 75 females. This ratio will be improved during implementation.

By summing up the figures for beneficiaries in these two categories, we get approximately 9,025 males (47.5%) and 9,975 females (52.5%), summing up 19,000 direct beneficiaries.

Table 5. Calculations for the estimated number of beneficiaries broken-down by gender

<i>Number of people</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
35% of farmers and herders in female-headed households in the Centre-Nord Region	2,760	3,810	6,570
The remainder 65% of farmers and herders' households in the Centre-Nord Region	6,090	6,090	12,180
NGO staff and civil servants trained, 30% female	175	75	250
TOTAL (n) – approx.	9,025	9,975	19,000
TOTAL (%) – approx.	47.5%	52.5%	100%

As a co-benefit, the project will deliver the operationalization of the LDN target through monitoring systems and the integration of LDN related actions into climate change MRV systems. This is because the bulk of Burkina Faso's GHG emissions are from AFOLU and therefore much the climate action required depends on the management of land use, including grasslands and forests. Hence, national efforts towards the achievement of climatic targets included in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) should be linked to efforts to achieve LDN.

Finally, when managing landscapes and productive land for sustainability, there are also **associated co-benefits relating to carbon, water resource management and biodiversity**. In terms of reporting, the project will monitor those where applicable, but it will need to keep its core focus, which is on the establishment of enabling conditions for LDN and making a practical contribution to LDN area targets, albeit limited.

7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up:

Innovation. An innovative combination of building natural and social assets at the local project zones level will be pursued, including by combining modern agronomic and forest/woodland management techniques with endogenous techniques that Burkinabé land users have instinctively developed over the years. Table 6 is a token of how this is already happening on the ground. It is based on a recent report from the CES/DRS Program of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Management, which surveyed a suite of techniques applied by farmers, herders and forest users for protecting natural assets and increasing land productivity. Of the 20 techniques listed, at least 2, 7, 12, 19 and 20 can be said to be endogenous innovations developed in Burkina Faso. In spite of its generic name, technique #12 is a complex set of methods and strategies for managing land with a long-term view. Also, RNA is not a single technique for regenerating shrubland. It will be locally adapted and will vary according to the landscape conditions, to the means and labor available and to the management objective. By combining it with science-based monitoring and measuring, RNA and other techniques have the best change of producing positive results towards LDN across landscapes. This is an important innovation that the project is bound to bring about.

Table 6. Reference to 20+ SLM / SFM techniques commonly applied in CES/DRS[37] (alphabetically, with endogenous and locally adapted techniques marked with an asterisk*)

1	Agro-forestry	13	Organic manure (application of, as a fertilizer)
2 *	<i>Bouli</i> – referring to the digging of shallow artificial ponds, <i>WOCAT: technologies_1142/</i>	14	Prohibition / access control (<i>Mise-en-défens</i>)
3	Cordstones (<i>Cordons pierreux</i>)	15	Reforestation
4	Dead hedges	16	Ridging (<i>Billonnage</i>)
5, 6	Filtering bunds, Filtering dams	17	Runoff Collection Basin (<i>Bassin de Collecte des Eaux de Ruissellement - BCER</i>)
7 *	Grass strips (locally developed) <i>Bandes-en-herbées (WOCAT tapis herbacée: ... technologies_1185/)</i>	18	Subsoiling (<i>Sous-solage</i>)
8	Gully treatment	19 *	Ripple-shaped soil profiles (defined though light ploughing)
9	Half Moons	20 *	WOCAT: 'Ados' [Burkina Faso] (<i>.../technologies_1141/</i>)
10 *	Live hedges	21 *	WOCAT: 'Forage Christine' [Burkina Faso] (<i>...technologies_2994/</i>)
11	Mulching	22 *	WOCAT: Defining livestock routes (La Délimitation et Balisage des Pistes à Bétail [Burkina Faso] ... unccd_360/)
12 *	Naturally Assisted Regeneration (varied and locally adapted RNA)	23 *	<i>Zai</i> (<i>in local language only, endogenous technique</i>)

Other innovations refer to the use of IT in the set-up of the LDN monitoring framework at the national and sub-national levels in part through Component 1 and Component 4.

Sustainability. Sustaining positive results from a project includes different aspects, but it normally requires adaptive project management and the adequate design of expected results. Yet, it mostly requires stakeholder buy-in. For this project, extensive research and stakeholder consultations were conducted in the preparation of the PIF (numerous meetings with national focal points for GEF and the UNCCD. A validation workshop on 16-Feb-2022 with more than 41 people present both at the national and international levels, and from Centre-Nord region). Overall, the PIF development process directly engaged 107 unique stakeholders (22-18% women). The PPG will give continuity to the intense engagement of stakeholders in design and decision-making about the project.

For the full project's implementation other measures will be put in place for ensuring sustainability and will be enhanced during PPG[38]. UNDP and the government consider that the consistent development of national capacity, especially of women, is the best way to ensure the sustainability of outcomes from projects and programs. To complement it, collaboration arrangement and partnerships will be sought and firmed up in the framework of the project. This will ensure that any necessary knowledge enhancement or technology transfer activities foreseen in the project will have the best chances of producing the desired results. Resident Technical Assistance (TA) will be the preferred mode of supporting capacity development of beneficiaries, including because it produced good results, according to recent experience with other GEF projects in Burkina Faso.[39] The involvement of specialized professionals in the provision of TA services will be sought, but with the caveat of having the TA regularly pass on knowledge and train national counterparts on relevant topics. This is foreseen under Output 1.2 (*The capacity of key stakeholders at the national level for planning and monitoring the pursuit of LDN targets and of linked goals is improved*). The strengthening of the National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management (CNGDT) foreseen under Output 1.3 will specifically cater for aspects of stakeholder engagement and sustainability.

Sustainability is also considered in Output 3.2, which is related to developing a sustainable funding mechanism for the continued management of landscapes towards LDN. Activities will have an early start during the project's implementation cycle namely to underpin sustainability and allow the project sufficient time to develop follow on activities based on the study to be developed under the output. Sustainability of results at the local level will be specifically promoted by developing the capacity of staff at the commune/department councils in the practical application of LDN frameworks. Training and hands-on experience with integrated land use planning at the landscape level will be the most important vehicle for capacity building. All outputs of Component 2 cater for practical capacity development on the ground. Finally, the TOC in Figure 4 also considers sustainability.

Scaling up LDN frameworks within the Centre-Nord region can be achieved by strengthening and establishing multi-stakeholder land-use planning and management committees at the local level, including some of them for managing the wider landscape that cuts across different communes / departments (targets at the wider landscape level of approx. 250,000 hectares). **For scale-up within and beyond Burkina Faso**, work will be done through the project management unit, working through the project board and partners, to share lessons both across the country, and beyond its borders in the wider Sahel zone. Establishing a close collaboration with the Special Program for Water and Soil Conservation and Agro-forestry (CES/AGF), a program funded by multiple donors, is essential to apply and disseminated techniques across the country. Furthermore, the National Coalition (CNGDT) will be called upon to help replicate the project's model within other landscapes and in view of advancing towards the achievement Burkina Faso's LDN target.

[1] The Gender Inequality Index (GII) e.g. modifies a country's Human Development Index by adding measures of gender disparity into the calculus of the HDI. In 2020, Burkina Faso had a GII of 0.594 and was globally ranked the 147th position among 189 countries. Source: <https://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii>, accessed on 01/03/2022.

[2] According to the UNHCR, massive the displacement of people being currently witnessed is mostly driven by intense and largely indiscriminate violence perpetrated by a range of armed actors against civilian populations, is taking place across the Sahelian region (not just Burkina Faso). Source: UNHCR (2020): Sahel Crisis Responding to the urgent needs of refugees, internally displaced, returnees and others of concern. Downloadable through: <https://unhcr.org/622ec87619>.

[3] Source: <https://www.wfp.org/news/more-3-million-people-facing-acute-food-insecurity-burkina-faso-grapples-covid-19-and-conflict>, accessed on 01/03/2022.

- [4] MAAH - Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Aménagements Hydrauliques (2018). Situation de référence des terres dégradées et de la Conservation des Eaux et des Sols/Défense Restauration des Sols (CES/ DRS) au Burkina. Rapport définitif. Décembre 2018. Financé dans le cadre du Programme développement de l'agriculture (PDA/GIZ). Document élaboré dans le cadre de la Stratégie Nationale de Restauration, Conservation et récupération des Sols (SNRCRS) au Burkina Faso. Available in: https://www.agriculture.bf/jcms/pv10_102921/fr/situation-de-reference-des-terres-degradees-et-de-la-ces-au-burkina-faso?details=true, last accessed 15/03/22.
- [5] UNCCD (2018): Burkina Faso's 2018 Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Country Profile. See: <https://www.unccd.int/commitment/ldn-country-profile-2>.
- [6] See: https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/list/?type=wocat&q=burkina&filter__qg_location__country=country_BFA, accessed on 13/03/22. WOCAT is the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies. Established in 1992, the WOCAT Network maintains efforts to compile, document, evaluate, share, disseminate, and apply sustainable land management (SLM) knowledge.
- [7] Land Productivity Dynamics (LDP) – MODIS (as prepared for this project in Google's EarthMap.org). LPD is a map of persistent decline/stress, stability and gain of land productivity, strictly during the observation period from 2001 to 2018 generated through the interaction of three NDVI-based indicators: Steadiness, Initial standing biomass, and Standing biomass at change. Source: LPD data is derived from NDVI product of MODIS/Terra Vegetation Indices 16-Day L3 Global 250m SIN Grid V006, with more information in: <https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/products/mod13q1v006/>.
- [8] MAAH (2021): Tableau de bord statistique de l'agriculture 2020, Graphique 075.7: Taux de récupération des terres entre 2011 et 2020. Accessible in: https://www.agriculture.bf/upload/docs/application/pdf/2021-07/tableau_de_bord_agriculture_2020_def.pdf
- [9] As per presence list from the PIF Inception Meeting held as hybrid event on 16-Feb-2022.
- [10] It is expected that, during the PPG, target landscapes for this project will be defined, through a participatory process, as land management units (LMU).
- [11] Source: Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre-Nord_Region, accessed on 13/03/22.
- [12] MAAH (2021): Tableau de bord statistique de l'agriculture 2020.
- [13] The source is https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/BF_Food_Security_Outlook_October_2021_VFinal.pdf. The FFEWS uses the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) for food security, which includes: Phase 1) Minimal; Phase 2) Stressed; Phase 3) Crisis; Phase 4) Emergency; and Phase 5) Famine.
- [14] <https://fews.net/fr/west-africa/burkina-faso>
- [15] UNCCD (2018): Burkina Faso's 2018 Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Country Profile. See: <https://www.unccd.int/commitment/ldn-country-profile-2>.
- [16] See e.g. <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/burkina-faso/trends-variability-historical>, accessed on 14/03/22.
- [17] Figure adapted from: Cowie, A. L. et al (2018). Land in balance: The scientific conceptual framework for Land Degradation Neutrality, Environmental Science & Policy, Volume 79, 2018, Pages 25-35, ISSN 1462-9011, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2017.10.011>. (Reproduction under Creative Commons license.)
- [18] Cowie, A. L. et al (2018)

[19] Cited from Burkina Faso's National Voluntary LDN Targets and Measures, cited in the country's LDN Country Profile of 2018, prepared with the support from the Global Mechanism, and cross-referring to the official 2017 submission to the UNCCD

[20] This implies adding 5T of organic matter (OM) per hectare every 2 years, which is a rather ambitious target.

[21] Nested here means that the lower levels of the administration are nested within the one immediately above. Figure 1a is an example, which shows how the Centre-Nord region has three provinces nested within it, and that these have 28 departments (or communes) nested within them—and so on—all the way to the village level.

[22] After the French acronym *Coalition nationale de gestion durable des terres* (CNGDT). See about it on the news: <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article110637>, retrieved on 30/03/22.

[23] MAAH (2021).

[24] Refer to Table 6 for the techniques assessed in the MAAH (2021) report.

[25] With reference to : Burkina Faso, Loi portant réorganisation agraire et foncière, Loi n°014/96/ADP du 23 mai 1996, Modifiée par la loi de finances pour 2008.

[26] Refer to Table 7 and to the item “Entities responsible for spatial planning and the managing land tenure (*foncier*) [Note 6]” for more information on legal and policy frameworks concerning land tenure and spatial planning in Burkina Faso.

[27] Figure adapted from: Enemakr et al, 2005. In Metternicht, G. (2018). Land Use and Spatial Planning: Enabling Sustainable Management of Land Resources. Land Use and Spatial Planning. (Reproduction under Creative Commons license.)

[28] BDOT is Burkina Faso Land Use Database. Burkina has possessed a database on land use compliant with a scale of 1:100,000 since 2005. This database was created by the IGB (Burkina Faso Geographic Institute – see <https://www.ignfi.fr/en/portfolio-item/occupation-des-terres-burkina-fao/>) in collaboration with IGN FI over the period 2004-2005 for the direct benefit of the PNGT 2 (National land management program), a program run by the country's Ministry of Agriculture. This biophysical land occupation inventory called BDOT1992 and BDOT2002, adapted using European experience gained from CORINE Land Cover, contains more than forty types of land use is linked to a database tracing changes from 1992-2002 “BDOT_Change1992-2002”. It provides precious information on land use and its evolution over the decade for the whole of Burkina Faso. Currently, BDOT is publicly available online in the easy-access platform “EarthMap” by Google. To highlights how important this is for Burkina Faso, in the proceeds of a 2019 NASA sponsored international conference on land use management, mentioned that Countries like Burkina Faso have made great progress by setting up a horizontal structure, which brings together all the producers, analysts, intermediaries, users, decision makers, and beneficiaries of LULC information. BDOT is mentioned, including with respect to PPP collaboration between IGB and a private consulting outfit (source SERVIR LULC Conference Report February 2019, Conference: West Africa Land Classification and Methodologies Conference, held in Accra, Ghana, June 4-7, 2018At: Accra, Ghana – see https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331276537_SERVIR_LULC_Conference_Report, accessed on 01/05/22).

[29] Global Environment Facility, GEF's Response to COVID-19 (May 2020)

[30] The Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Program can be accessed here: <https://knowledge.unccd.int/knowledge-products-and-pillars/land-degradation-neutrality/ldn-tools/checklist-land-degradation>. Or the GEF's website here: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/checklist-land-degradation-neutrality-transformative-projects-and-programmes-draft>. Refer to a FAO GEF PRODOC from

Angola for an example of how the checklist applied as an indicator: <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10256>.

[31] The break-down of hectareage as it relates to GEF Core indicators (namely #3 and #4) is shown in: PIF Part I, Table B, Component, and in Table F. Table 4 presents the targets in matrix format, crossing LDN response strategies with land uses and practices. The details for the calculations are included in Part III, ANNEX B. All the tables use the same data.

[32] Potentially through a partnership with the UN Peacebuilding Forum

[33] Particularly through existing GEF projects in these countries with related goals, which may have resources to enable such participation

[34] Cowie, A. 2020. Guidelines for Land Degradation Neutrality: A report prepared for the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, Washington D.C.

[35] MAAH (2021).

[36] Source: Average household size - Area Database - Global Data Lab. <https://globaldatalab.org> › areadata › hhsiz › BFA. Data from 2013.

[37] Source: *Ibid.* SLM = Sustainable Land Management and SFM = Sustainable Forest Management. Sources: MAAH (2021) and WOCAT

[38] The issue of sustainability is very important and will be assessed and analyzed in depth in the PPG. The commitment from national and local institutions is certainly key for sustainability. The possibilities of engaging national and local budgets will be discussed, also during the PPG, but it is important to consider the national circumstances in Burkina Faso. In order to strengthen the pursuit of sustainability goals since design, UNDP intends to use participatory methods in the engagement of key stakeholders to consider a realist forecasting and backcasting of what the GEF intervention can effectively deliver, and thereafter leave as impact and legacy. The TOC will be liberally used in such exercises of stakeholder engagement during the PPG, exactly with this purpose.

[39] With reference to the EBA project listed in Table 2.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

<p>Centre-Nord Region</p>  <p>Location in Burkina Faso Coordinates: 13°15'N 1°0'W</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>Country</td><td> Burkina Faso</td></tr><tr><td>Capital</td><td>Kaya</td></tr><tr><td>Area</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>• Region</td><td>7,656 sq mi (19,829 km²)</td></tr></table>	Country	 Burkina Faso	Capital	Kaya	Area		• Region	7,656 sq mi (19,829 km ²)	<p>Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre-Nord_Region, retrieved on 30/03/22 and reproduced under Creative Commons license.</p> <p>Geo-coordinates: 13°15'N 1°0'W https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Centre-Nord_Region&params=13_15_N_1_0_W_region:BF_type:city(1872126)</p> <p><u>See also:</u></p> <p>Figure 1. Centre-Nord Region of Burkina Faso: (a) Provinces and departments; and (b) Land Productivity Dynamic with statistics</p>
Country	 Burkina Faso								
Capital	Kaya								
Area									
• Region	7,656 sq mi (19,829 km ²)								

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement

The Permanent Secretariat for the National Council for the Sustainable Development (SP/CNDD) is the project proponent and the lead national entity for the project. SP/CNDD has been consulted and involved in the conceptualization of the PIF since November 2021, through a series of scheduled consultation events that combined remote and hybrid meeting modes.

Due to restrictions linked to covid, humanitarian access, budgetary limitations and the evolving security situation in the rural areas of Burkina Faso, to date it has not been possible to conduct direct consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities with respect to the project's proposition. UNDP and SP/CNDD acknowledge, however, the high importance of these consultations for the project's viability. A plan has been carefully devised and endorsed by UNDP and SP/CNDD in April 2022, in view of completing the necessary consultations during Q2 through Q4 of 2022, as well as during the PPG process, depending on conditions on the ground. UNDP will ensure that a fully inclusive and consultative methodology, compliant with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards[1], will apply during the local consultations process.

According to the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)[2], an authoritative source, there are some 60 different ethnic groups in Burkina Faso. Among them, the pastoralist Peulh[3] and the Tuareg are considered indigenous, and noting that, according to IWGIA, there are no reliable statistics on the exact number of pastoralists in the country, but they are known to be found throughout the whole territory of Burkina Faso, with mobility and livestock being the backbone of their way of life and livelihood. Burkina Faso voted in favor of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, even though the existence of Indigenous Peoples is not recognized in the country's Constitution. Also according to IWGIA (2021), nomadic pastoralists of "the Peul[h] and the Tuareg most often live in areas which are geographically isolated, dry and economically marginalized and they are often the victims of human rights abuses.", a trend that IWGIA indicates to have deteriorated during the COVID19 pandemic due to various forms of access restriction.

The consultation process with indigenous peoples and local communities with respect to the project's proposition will happen in stages. Prior to PPG start (pre-PPG phase), and with the help of the UN Integrated Office in Kaya, the required work will be restricted to: (1) identifying conditions of access on the ground in the Centre-Nord region, in view of the on-going crisis affecting the region; (2) identifying the presence and social organization of nomadic pastoralist groups in Centre-Nord region; and (3) devise a viable plan for conducting direct consultations with local community and indigenous peoples stakeholders during the PPG. Requirements on the application of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) when engaging with these stakeholders will be upheld, compliant with UNDP's Project-level Standard #6 (Indigenous Peoples).

During the PPG, thorough consultations with local and indigenous people’s representatives in the different communes of the Centre-Nord region are slated to take place. Also during the PPG, the choice of landscapes for LDN are expected to be made. A highly consultative process will be conducted in an open dialogue with local stakeholders expected to be involved in the project. These potentially include nomadic pastoralists such as the Peulh people, who are considered indigenous by authoritative sources and who are known to roam across various regions of Burkina Faso during the cyclical transhumant migrations of people and livestock.

Several CSOs and CBOs, including women’s groups have otherwise been engaged in the project, as shown in Table 7 and documented in a separate and thorough report titled ‘Stakeholder Engagement Report’ covering the PIF preparation period of October 2021 to April 2022. As described in the mentioned report, technical meetings involving the proponent (SP/CNDD) and UNDP (including the PIF consultant) took place on 15th, 17th, 18th, 23rd November 2021. They were followed by more formal consultation meetings in December 2021 (17th, 21st and 22nd), which pinned down the current geographical scope for the project (focus on the Centre-Nord region). One of the meetings in December involved the UN's integrated office in Kaya, capital of the Centre-Nord Region and served to initially assess project risk and its viability. Decision on going ahead with project design was then made and preparations started for holding a broad stakeholder engagement event in February 2022.

The PIF Validation Workshop took place on 16 February 2022. A total of 107 unique stakeholders from various levels and structures were invited to the Workshop and had access to the documentation shared in French (18-21% were women[4]). Of the 107 unique stakeholders, 41 (19.5% women) were present in the present in the PIF Validation Workshop, in which the project concept was unequivocally endorsed by stakeholders. The PIF Validation Workshop was a 2.5h-hybrid-event (i.e. combining remote and presential meeting modes). It included a limited face-to-face presence of stakeholders in Ouagadougou and Kaya, and wide virtual participation from various stakeholders in Burkina Faso and internationally. Not only was the PIF fully validated during the event, but consultations continued in the follow-up to the workshop. Specific comments from five key stakeholders were meticulously addressed through improved PIF design. Other consultations in connection with the PIF development process had additionally taken place, in December 2021, and involved informal bilateral discussions between UNDP and some of the potential co-financiers listed in Part I, Table C. Discussions on co-financing are ongoing and will continue towards formalization and consolidation, as project design progresses.[5]

Led by the SP/CNDD, the government is also advancing with their own processes for engaging stakeholders in Burkina Faso around the LDN agenda. In January 2022, the ‘National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management (CNGDT) was established. It brings together government, civil society and the private sector players to address issues of LDN in Burkina Faso. Members of the National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management (CNGDT) have been involved in supporting and overseeing the preparation of the present PIF. More details on the planned approach to stakeholder engagement in connection with both the project development and implementation is included in Table 7. Additionally, the Risk section (Part I, Section 5) mentions specific plans for addressing the project’s need for in-depth stakeholder analysis and engagement, as well as gender aspects, and the establishment of safeguards.

Table 7. Key stakeholders and potential roles in the project

Stakeholder	Potential role in the project
<i>National government[6]</i>	
Permanent Secretariat for	This project will maintain institutional collaborations with the government at the technical level including by having the SP/CN

<p>the National Council for the Sustainable Development (SP/CNDD), under the ministry responsible for environmental affairs (<i>Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Energie, de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement</i>).</p>	<p>DD, the project proponent, as the lead government entity for this project. More specifically, SP/CNDD is expected to serve as the UNDP Implementing Partner (IP). SP/CNDD will help mobilize the government's co-financing and house the project coordination unit, once implementation starts. It will be also responsible for engaging key stakeholders in the project, in particular other government institutions, in addition to potential project partners. The SP/CNDD is the co-chair of the National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management (CNGDT) and will ensure the project's alignment all the relevant national policies. In terms of sectoral programs, laws and policies, the SP/CNDD, under the ministry responsible for environmental affairs, is a very important partner with respect to Land Use Planning & Management.</p>
<p>Permanent Secretariat for the Coordination of Agricultural Sectoral Policies (SP/CPSA), under the ministry responsible for agriculture (<i>Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources animales et halieutiques</i>)</p>	<p>Because agriculture and livestock rearing are highly important matters for LDN, a technical collaboration with the ministry responsible for agriculture is important. The SP/CPSA plays a key role in the definition of agrarian policies, including the National Strategy for the Restoration, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Soils (SNRCRS – <i>Stratégie Nationale de Restauration, Conservation et l'environnement des Sols</i>). The Special Program for Water and Soil Conservation and Agro-forestry (CES/AGF) is an important CES/DRS initiative of the ministry responsible for agriculture, and one with important linkage to the project with respect to monitoring of LDN indicators on the ground and the rendering of rural extension services to farmers, herders and land users more generally. The CES/AGF is spearheading the dissemination of techniques nationally denominated 'Soil and Water Conservation / Soil Retention and Restoration' (CES/DRS), and consolidating endogenous national knowledge on the matter. As the co-chair for the National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management (CNGDT), SP/CPSA will be a key partner in the project, a priority member of the board and the key entry point for engaging institutional structures of the ministry responsible for agriculture in Burkina Faso. In terms of sectoral programs, laws and policies, the SP/CPSA is a core stakeholder with respect to Land Use Planning & Management.</p>
<p>Water Resources & Forests (traditionally "<i>Eaux et Forêts</i>") – national structure (s) at directorate level, responsible for the policies regarding the water and forest sectors</p>	<p>The General Directorate for Water Resources & Forests is currently a structure under the ministry responsible for environmental affairs (<i>Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Energie, de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement</i>). It is responsible for managing water and forests from a national policy point of view). <u>Forest Management</u> is an important topic for the project, to the extent that Burkina Faso is advancing towards a REDD+ mechanism and submitted in 2020 its proposed forest reference level (FRL) under the UNFCCC.[7] The strategy is expected to include policies and measures specific to forestry (e.g. reduction of firewood consumption, bush fire management, sustainable forest management), agriculture (e.g. land restoration, promotion of agroforestry, SOC enhancement), livestock (e.g. sustainable fodder wood management) and mining (e.g. land rehabilitation), as well as crosscutting policies and measures (related, e.g., to governance, environmental taxation, land planning and land tenure). <u>Water Resource Management</u> is a relevant topic for LDN. From an institutional point of view, the Water Section is currently undergoing reforms. Burkina Faso has effectively embraced policies and practices of integrated water resource management (IWRM), titled 'GIRE'.</p>
<p>Entities responsible for spatial planning and the managing land tenure (<i>fondier</i>)</p>	<p>With respect to Land Policies & Regulations, the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF) makes explicit mention of the importance of land policies and regulations concerning land tenure, as well as on planning processes related to the spatial planning schemes at various levels (<i>schémas d'aménagement du territoire</i>). <u>Land Tenure</u>: In Burkina Faso, there is more than one entity responsible for the management of land tenure and more than one regime for attributing the tenure of land to individuals and entities, including customary systems and now also private property, is an exception to the norm (all land belong</p>

	<p>s by default to the State). The legal frameworks for managing land make the entry points for LDN more complex, but not an impediment to it[8]. Yet, it is important to highlight the importance and potential role of certain entities. The ministry responsible for 'Territorial Administration' is key because they are the entry point for the decentralized State administration and a 'bridge' to reaching out to local governments. Under it, the Directorate-General for Territorial Administration and Local Development (D GAT/DL <i>Direction Générale de l'Aménagement du Territoire et du Développement Local</i>) will also be key for activities related to Integrated Land Use Planning & Management across landscapes. <i>Spatial Planning</i>: In Burkina Faso, the legislation on the matter is complex, but it is derived from the same law that regulates land tenure. The development of a 'spatial master plan' (<i>schéma directeur d'aménagement</i>) is foreseen in the law[9] as a key planning and management tool. Such plan, which can take the form and purpose of an Integrated Land Use and Management Plan for landscapes, would make it possible to set the fundamental guidelines for land use and occupation according to specific planning objectives. Various entities must though be involved. The law foresees that, in rural areas, the ministries responsible for agriculture, livestock, forestry, wildlife, fisheries, the environment and hydraulics must, by default be involved.</p>
<p>Local Governments</p>	<p><i>Refer to Figure 1 for the list of localities in the Centre-Nord region.</i></p>
<p>Regional government of the Centre-Nord region, and Local government in the administrative departments of Centre-Nord Region</p>	<p>Regional government of the Centre-Nord region is already a confirmed partner in the project. The governor participated in person in the PIF Validation workshop on 16-Feb-2022. Such support is important for the implementation of integrated land use planning and management for LDN under Component 2 and for helping overcome legal and policy barriers, for which work is foreseen under Component 3. As for the local government in the three administrative departments of Centre-Nord Region (Bam, Sanmatenga and Namentenga), they are also important for the management of wider landscapes across communes / departments, if the landscape plan cuts across administrative department boundaries.</p>
<p>Local government within communes targeted by the project</p>	<p>Those are the so-called '<i>collectivités territoriales</i>' at the commune level and includes democratically elected leaders. These structures are important with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassroots' level spatial and development planning & management; - Coordination and monitoring of interventions; - Follow-up of the implementation, developments and works, conflict management; - Rural outreach, exchange meetings, consultation and advisory sessions with local leaders, women included; - Selection of landscapes to be managed, areas to be developed, crops to be sown; - They may influence the proportion of men and women that are involved in the project as beneficiaries and make technical and financial decisions on support; - Helping secure investments from different ODA and other sources; - Integrated land use planning and management at the local level, involving different social strata / stakeholders; and - Provide useful information to assessment of the level of local landscapes.

CSOs and NGOs	
UNCCD accredited CSOs	NGOs and CSOs will be essential for implementation. They will play a key role in rolling out activities under Component 2 including under TOR and contract for executing activities. In the UNCCD's website, a list of accredited CSOs for Burkina Faso accessible to the public and included organizations that have undergone some level of scrutiny for implementing SLM, SFM and LDN related activities. They are ^[10] : Coordination Nationale des Jeunes pour l'Environnement et le Climat; Association Nodde Noto; Association Prudence au Sahel; Association Réwéné pour le Développement; Fédération Nationale des Organisations Paysannes.
Women's groups organizations	At the local level, it will be key to reach out to community based organizations (CBOs) that do not normally have the national and international projection that the above listed do. More specifically, women's groups organizations at the local level will be engaged surveyed and engaged during the PPG, once the selection of communes and landscapes have been defined.
Le mouvement des Paysans sans Frontières	As a counterpoint to State dominated management of land Tenure, CBOs are able to play a productive role in the project. Among them, we mention the Association " <i>Mouvement des Paysans sans Frontière</i> " (farmers without borders), as a group of 52 cooperatives that have been involved since 1994 in agroecology in order to support the production of sustainable livelihoods in the context of increased land pressure in the Center West region. Due to the proximity to Centre-Nord, they may have a conciliatory role to play in situations where land conflict may become a barrier to project activities.
Other CBOs in the project zone Autorités coutumières et religieuses ainsi que les leaders d'opinion	Without yet specifying which other CBOs in the project zone may be prioritized (this will be defined during the PPG), these organizations may potentially play the following role, besides consistent data collection on the ground: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitation of the conduct of activities and of investments in LDN; - Help with changing mentalities and attitudes by "speaking the same language" as beneficiaries; - Conflict prevention mitigation and resolution (e.g. through wisdom and as repositories of customary values and land ownership rights); - Awareness raising (e.g. radio sketches and other forms of communication); - Targeted meetings facilitation; - Exchange visits that help disseminate good practices among beneficiaries; - Support for vulnerable households, dynamics of securing investments, the proportion of men and women.
International partners	
IUCN	IUCN has prior experience in the implementation of GEF projects and could provide execution support to the IP as a Responsible Party. Considering that in the current situation of Burkina Faso UNDP is not allowed to transfer project funds to a government account, IUCN has been pre-selected as Responsible Party to support the IP, SP/CNDD. However, the selection of RP will still be confirmed during the PPG.

UNCDF	In light of its expertise in the field of inclusive finance, UNCDF may be called upon to help UNDP leverage resources for LDN implementation under activities foreseen under Component 3. The Agency brings onboard thirty years of financial services (non-financial) and in general of inclusive finance in partnership with the private sector rural players (<i>rices</i>) and the public sector.
Project co-financiers	The proposed co-financiers are listed in Part I, Table C . The projects, programs and initiatives that provide this co-financing from the baseline is thoroughly described in Table 1. By default, confirmed project co-financiers will have a seat at the project board, influence project planning and help make important project decisions. See section above of cofinancing mobilization.
CILSS	The Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel is a multi-lateral organization created in 1970 and including includes thirteen (13) States members from the Sahel region. Its mandate is to guide the action of CILSS member States for or invest in the pursuit of food security and in the fight against the effects of drought and desertification, for a new ecological balance in the Sahel through. The CILSS conducts studies and can help leverage resources for implementing LDN.
UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism	As the custodian of LDN targets, methodologies and reports, the Secretariat United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Mechanism established the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP) to assist countries to achieve LDN by 2030. Burkina Faso is part of the LDN TSP, which can the country help leverage, assess, measure and achieve its LDN commitments.
Humanitarian agencies and related services, including WFP and WHO, plus other humanitarian partners	Burkina is currently a country in crisis, including a humanitarian crisis which may be aggravated by drought or locally flared conflict. UN Agencies working with humanitarian activities are important in the provision of information on the state of access and other relevant humanitarian indicators. Besides UN Agencies, we highlight a potential role for the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Burkina Faso chapter as a leading provider of early warning information and analysis, in particular on acute food insecurity in Burkina Faso.
<i>Academia, research entities & the private sector</i>	
Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	The GGGI is a treaty-based inter-governmental international development organization headquartered in Seoul, South Korea. It is currently implementing a relevant baseline project in Burkina Faso with strong focus on technology transfer. During implementation the GGGI is expected to continue to facilitate technology transfer agreements and arrangements that are relevant for LDN, including the leveraging of investments from the private sector.
MESRSI/ INERA, Recherche-Développement	Support in the implementation of improved seeds and irrigation technologies, in particular small-scale irrigation. Trial and test plots to demonstrate technologies. Other roles may include the technology needs assessment studies and innovation vis-à-vis the techniques currently used for implementing SLM/SFM in Burkina Faso.

[1] With reference to the revised Social and Environmental Standards (SES) came into effect on 1 January 2021: <https://www.undp.org/publications/undp-social-and-environmental-standards>, accessed on 30/03/22.

[2] The main source of this paragraph is: The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), 2021. The Indigenous World 2021. Edited by: Dwayne Mammo. (824 pages). ISSN: 1024-0217. ISBN: 978-87-93961-23-4. Language: English. Publication date: April 2021. Accessed in: <https://www.iwgia.org/en/resources/indigenous-world.html>, on 31/03/22.

[3] The group is also commonly known the Fula, Fulani, or Fulbe people, with several sub-groups and dialectical cluster spread across West Africa. In Burkina Faso, they are a minority. The [CIA Factbook 2021](#) makes reference to statistics from 2010, mentions that Fulani are the second largest group in Burkina Faso representing 8.4% of the population, after the majority Mossi, with 52%.

[4] This gendered indicator is inexact because for some stakeholders only their email address was disclosed.

[5] Due to pressing agendas at the end of 2021, as well as the evolving political agenda/situation in Burkina Faso, a wider consultation event with potential co-financiers had to be postponed. . Contact to bilateral donors have been re-initiated in April 2022 (in addition to the EU) and will continue during Q2/Q3 of 2022 and beyond.

[6] Main sources for name accuracy are: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/burkina-faso/presentation-du-burkina-faso/article/composition-du-gouvernement>; and <https://www.gouvernement.gov.bf/gouvernement/membres-de-gouvernement>, last accessed on 18/03/22; in addition to PAMED PRODOC.

[7] Refer to: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/tar2020_BFA.pdf, accessed on 30/03/22.

[8] With reference to the TOC's Assumption #3) "Systemic barriers affecting Burkina Faso, including gender inequality, complex land tenure frameworks and conflict will not severely hamper implementation of LDN on the ground."

[9] Burkina Faso, Loi portant réorganisation agraire et foncière, Loi n°014/96/ADP du 23 mai 1996, Modifiée par la loi de finances pour 2008.

[10] Source of information: <https://knowledge.unccd.int/search?f%5B0%5D=type%3Acso&f%5B1%5D=country%3A460>, last accessed on 17/03/22.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

Women are a very important group in this project. They are the ones frequently left as heads of households, when men migrate for employment. The Constitution of Burkina Faso states that both men and women are equal. Significant efforts have been recently made at the national level to mainstream gender equality within policies and practices, such as the approval of the National Gender Strategy and the establishment of the Ministry for Promotion of Women and Gender.

The role of women in the management and protection of land assets (soil, water, cropland, forests and pasture) is critical. Although women do not often retain the rights over those resources, their importance in managing these important natural assets suggests that there is deep-rooted gender inequality in Burkina Faso. Women lack opportunities for wage-based employment, when compared to men.

According to statistical data, the percentage of female landowners is significantly lower than of the male landowners, and women have a much lower share of the monthly income than men.[1] Coupled with women's limited access to and control of land resources, lower wages and heavy household burdens, which include fetching water and collecting wood, the land degradation, coupled with climate change will put women and youth at higher risk of economic insecurity. Unless actions are taken to counteract systemic trends, gender discrimination will be reproduced for one more generation and contribute to increased school dropout rates and malnutrition. There is room for improvement in these conditions within the scope of this project, which has been designed to contribute to improved gender balance in Burkina Faso through its activities. More specifically, women will not only be a key beneficiary of LDN conducive activities under this project, but they will also play a protagonist role in promoting the LDN approaches at the landscape level and across land policies. Furthermore, project indicators will be broken-down by gender where applicable, and gender concerns incorporated into the planning of specific activities.

The project preparation phase will involve a gender and social inclusion expert, who will conduct a detailed analysis of gender inequalities related to the activities foreseen under project Components. The outcome of their work will be used to design mitigation measures for gender-related risks and will contribute to the overall methodological approach to gender aspect of the project design. The project is strongly focused on creating gender-sensitive frameworks for LDN, gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment what is reflected in the design of the project components. The PPG phase will include the development of a Stakeholder Analysis and comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, as well as a Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan, to inform the detailed project design. During the early phase of implementation, a Social Inclusion Plan (covering communities) and an Integrated Land Use Plan will also be developed. Component 2 of the project is specifically designed to address the gender aspect of the implementation of local LDN measures.

The project is strongly focused on creating gender-sensitive frameworks for LDN, gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment what is reflected in the design of the project components. Output 1.1. includes gender-sensitive approaches to land use planning and management of landscapes and their applications at national and sub-national levels ensuring proper women participation in the decision-making processes. Component 2 of the project will focus on the activities on the ground with an emphasis on women's inclusion. Output 2.1. will establish or strengthen land use planning and management committees on the ground and will ensure the participation of vulnerable groups, including women and youth. This will contribute to better and more inclusive land use planning decision making on the ground. Output 2.1. will also ensure that traditionally underrepresented groups are being heard and have a real influence over land use-related decisions on the ground. Output 2.3. will operationalize the main idea of Component 2, by implementing selected gender-sensitive LDN solutions on the ground, targeting at least 35% of female-headed beneficiary households. Additionally, all training activities foreseen under this project have ambitious but viable gender targets.

[1] AfDB Burkina Faso Gender Country Profile, 2020

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

In 2019, the World Bank commended a study on Burkina Faso titled “Country Private Sector Diagnostic (CPSD)” that states that significant investment from the private sector is essential to support growth in Burkina Faso, but also notes that growth drivers of economic activity from the previous decade, including from the gold mining and cotton cultivation segments, did not manage to sustain growth in the current period. Those segments are vulnerable to global commodity price fluctuations and climate shocks.

Economic basis. Agriculture, dominated by subsistence farming and operates below capacity with low levels of productivity, is clearly the most important economic activity in Burkina Faso and accounts for about 60% of employment and just over one-third of GDP.[1] Burkina Faso is one of the largest cotton producers in Africa and the thirteenth-largest producer globally.[2] Some of the largest private sector players in Burkina Faso are either linked or integrated to gold mining (and other mining activities) or the cotton export trading. Of relevance to the project, one of the largest industrial gold mines in Burkina Faso is located in the Centre-Nord region, Bissa-Bouly, while Taparko, also large, is the longest-running site.[3]

The project is yet to engage with private sector players from the mining industry, which will become relevant during the PPG, in terms of discussing the approaches to land use planning in the implementation of LDN strategy ‘avoid’ land degradation across landscapes. While the extractive sector has a role in degradation, the most important role for private sector in this project is with respect to land productive sectors (agriculture, forestry, livestock rearing). This engagement has so far been with those from the agricultural business through the Farmers' Confederation from Faso (CPF). A representative from CPF was present in the PIF Validation workshop and participated actively. CPF is one of the five structures / entities that form part of the 'National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management (CNGDT). CPF is a national umbrella organization that brings together 14 other umbrella organizations of agricultural producers, which will be engaged in the project through the Coalition and through CPF. These 14 organizations are:

- UNPC/B (*Union Nationale des Producteurs de Coton du Burkina Faso*), which is the highest-standing trade union for cotton producers in the country, the *Groupements des Producteurs de Coton* (GPC);
- FEPAB (*Fédération des Professionnels Agricoles du Burkina*) ;
- FEB (*Fédération des Eleveurs du Burkina*);
- FENAFER/B (*Fédération Nationale des Femmes Rurales du Burkina*);
- FENAO/PFLNL (*Fédération Nationale des Operateurs des Produits Forestiers Ligneux et Non Ligneux*);
- FENUGGF (*Fédération Nationale des Unions et Groupements de Gestion Forestière*) ;
- FNJPAF (*Fédération Nationale des Jeunes Professionnels Agricoles du Faso*) ;
- FNPB (*Fédération Nationale des Producteurs de Banane du Burkina*) ;

- UGCPA (*Union des Groupements pour la Commercialisation des Produits Agricoles*);
- UNERIZ (*Union Nationale des Etuveuses de Riz du Burkina*) ;
- UNML (*Union Nationale des Mini Laiteries et des Petits Producteurs de Lait Local*);
- UNPMB (*Union Nationale des Producteurs de Mangues du Burkina*);
- UNPRB (*Union Nationale des Producteurs de Riz du Burkina*); and
- UNPSB (*Union Nationale des Producteurs de Semences du Burkina*).

CPF harbors a wide network of facilitators and has affiliations in almost all the communes in the project zone. In addition to its good knowledge and access to the project's beneficiaries of smallholders through various producers associations CPF's experience in a wide variety of themes (awareness raising/advocacy on land tenure issues, climate change, and extension service provision through farmers' field schools, will be useful to the project. All of these elements are assets in the identification of a synergic and productive role for private sector players under the project, though it is important to safeguard approaches and practices to practices that are compliant with UNDP's SES Principles. this is especially important with respect gender equality and human rights in the engagement of young people, women and men. It is also important to enforce safeguards, because Burkina Faso's agriculture and agribusiness sectors display important weaknesses in the development of value chains. One of them includes a generalized poor integration between producers and more sophisticated agrobusinesses.

[1] According to WB (2019), the productivity one hectare of land in Burkina Faso is CFAF 160,000 (US\$290), while the average for the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa is about US\$650.

[2] FAOSTAT, cited in WB (2019).

[3] Drechsel, Franza / Engels, Bettina / Schäfer, Mirka (2019): "The mines make us poor": Large-scale mining in Burkina Faso. GLOCON Country Report, No. 2, Berlin: GLOCON.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

Pre-screening has been carried out, in accordance with UNDP’s Social and Environmental Safeguards Policy, to identify social and environmental safeguard risks that the project might trigger. A total of five specific Social and Environmental risks have been identified and are outlined in detail in the attached SESP Pre-Screening Report, together with the assessments that will be conducted during the project preparation phase to further analyze these risks and how they can be mitigated in the detailed project design. The overall risk rating for the proposed project is **Substantial**. The project is considered as Substantial Risk because of the positive response to Principle 1 and Standards 5 and 6 of Principle 3, especially Standard 6, question 6.3, in combination with the current fragile and conflict-affected nature of the Central-Nord region, and in Burkina Faso as a whole. This context means that all project interventions may be affected by the security situation, and project interventions must be very carefully planned, implemented and monitored. The following will be prepared during the PPG to meet SES requirements revealed in the pre-screening: ESMF, In-depth Gender Analysis & Action Plan; In-depth Stakeholder Analysis & Engagement Plan. Initial FPIC consultations, Security Plan, and Project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (draft/outline). During the early phase of implementation, a Social Inclusion Plan (equivalent of an Indigenous People’s Plan) and a Livelihoods Action Plan are also recommended developed, as part of the ESIA/ESMP. Other, residual risks, which are not within the social and environmental risk assessment summarized in the SESP, are listed in Table 8. They relate to the possibility of project assumptions (i.e. those behind the TOC) not realizing and/or to external factors beyond the project’s control. For all project risks, thorough the risk level or rating has been assessed, and will continue to be assessed on a rolling basis by UNDP, and thorough mitigation measures have been planned.

Table 8. Risk analysis and mitigation measures

#	Risks	Rating	Risk Mitigation Measures
1	There is no political will to integrate LDN into government policies and programs, including integrated land use planning	Moderate	<p>In order to adequately consider in the proposed project the risk of weak commitment from the government, as well as the risk of an ‘excessively narrow sectoral approach’ to land use planning (as opposed to ‘integrated’), it is important to effectively learn the lessons from past projects. Among them, we mention the Country Partnership Program (CPP) funded by the GEF, approved for implementation in GEF-3 (around 2009/10) and whose last evaluation was concluded in 2018. Recurrent difficulties that may have been faced will be addressed pre-emptively in project design.</p> <p>This risk is already being mitigated by ongoing discussions between the Government and stakeholders who remains firmly committed and helpful to the project conception and its further implementation. This commitment is strong, as</p>

manifested through the support to project preparation offered by SP/CNDD. It is also manifested through the strong participation in the PIF development process, which has so far directly engaged 107 unique stakeholders (18-22% women). The PPG will give continuity to the intense engagement of stakeholders in design and decision-making about the project. Burkina Faso's recent efforts towards forming a coalition between government, civil society and the private sector players (the National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management - CN GDT) will help ensure a transparent implementation and ensure a national upscaling of LDN successful implementation and monitoring across the country.

The LDN agenda is already perceived by the sectors as being cross-cutting and going beyond the mandate of the environmental sector only. Typical sectors that are relevant for LDN in Burkina Faso include: agriculture, forests, water, spatial planning, mining, local development, gender inclusion, tenure, among others. What is needed is to develop practical mechanisms for integrated land-use planning and implementation and engaging a wider set of stakeholders. During the PPG, the ground will be laid to ensure the best condition possible for implementation. Expected outputs of this work during the PPG will be at least two (indicatively): (a) the development / consolidation of a mandate (or terms of reference) to the National Coalition for Sustainable Land Management (CNGDT) for leading the coordination such efforts, which will establish the mechanisms for cross-sectoral collaboration in view of integrated planning at the landscape level; and (b) the preparation of an action plan on how the above-referred mandate can be implemented.

According to the LDN-SCF, three pillars are important in the integration process and will help define the mandate of the Coalition and of other stakeholder, and outline the action plan proposed further up: (i) Land policies and regulations; (ii) Land Use Planning & Management; and (iii) Land information.

The action plan will have progressive steps with the aim of achieve the first practical application of LDN on the ground. Inspired by the STAP 2020 Guiding Note on 'Multi-stakeholder Dialogue [MSD] for transformational change', these progressive steps will start with mere information exchanges, to then be gradually strengthened towards include collaborative management of landscapes involving all relevant sectors and stakeholders. With reference to 2020 STAP guidance, this would equate to moving at least three steps in the 'ladder of citizen participation' (refer the STAP publication's box 1). All processes that involve m

			<p>multiple sectors and stakeholders are complex. The MSD offers a list of catalytic elements for a more successful process. The guidance will be followed. Additionally, the application of 'LDN frameworks', as referred to in the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF) will also inspire the gradual processes foreseen in Outputs 1.3 and 1.2.</p>
2	<p>Integrated land use planning across landscapes for LDN do not have the necessary conditions to be implemented on the ground, in particular financial support and stakeholder engagement.</p>	Moderate	<p>The project will be designed to assist small-farmer households, including women, who will be selected according to their commitment and willingness to embrace the principles of LDN. Availability of finance is one of the key conditions for the successful implementation on the ground. The project under output 3.2 the project will attempt to leverage finance early during implementation for supporting upscaling on the ground.</p>
3	<p>Systemic barriers affecting Burkina Faso, including gender inequality, complex land tenure frameworks and conflict will hamper implementation of LDN on the ground</p>	Low	<p>UNDP will leverage during the PPG the help of specialists in land tenure and gender in Burkina Faso to advise on how best to ensure that systemic barriers identified will not hamper implementation of LDN on the ground – albeit the issues being complex.</p> <p>On the ground, UNDP will work with existing land use planning and management committees at local level. The plan is to supported these local structures through the project to facilitate effective negotiations on transhumance and seasonal migration routes, gender equality strategies for household and land tenure. This is expected to result in clear verbal and written agreements, based on accessible maps, that build on customary arrangements and involve local government, traditional authorities and religious leaders, with mechanisms in place for resolution of conflicts. This work will be operationalized in output 2.1 and 2.2.</p> <p>Refer additionally to mitigation measures proposed for Risk #4, which also apply to this risk.</p>
4	<p>There is no political will to remove legal, policy, institutional and financial barriers for implementation of LDN at various levels.</p>	Moderate	<p>During the PPG an open dialogue on land policies for LND will be conducted at the national and subnational involving all relevant stakeholders, including decision makers at the highest level. Ongoing discussions between national and local government to provide insightful strategies and consider potential gaps in existing legislation and regulations for LDN in order to create political backing for changes. During the PPG, the needs and prospects for policy change will be further discussed and assessed. Financial barriers will be addressed through output 3.2 including an early study for helping mobilize resources for LDN.</p>

			<p>UNDP will consider methodological guidance included in then STAP 2020 Guiding Note on ‘Multi-stakeholder Dialogue [MSD] for transformational change’, in addition to the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF), which will guide the development of ‘LDN frameworks’ included in the project strategy. The 2020 MSD STAP Guidance mentions progressive steps that can start with mere information exchanges – steps that are then gradually strengthened towards including collaborative management of landscapes involving all relevant sectors and stakeholders. This equates to moving at least three steps in the ‘ladder of citizen participation’ referred to in the STAP publication’s box 1. All processes that involve multiple sectors and stakeholders are complex. The MSD offers a list of catalytic elements for a more successful process and the guidance is herein proposed followed. As for the application of ‘LDN frameworks’, the LDN-SCF will directly inspire the gradual processes foreseen in Outputs 1.3 and 1.2.</p> <p>During the PPG, UNDP will also pay particular attention to how the mining industry is approaching and addressing the issue of land use. Mapping mining concessions of different scales within targeted landscapes in the Centre-Nord region and coordinating the choice of landscapes with the relevant authorities responsible for regulating the mining industry will be pursued. This will help ensure that competitive and mutually exclusive land uses across the landscape will not undermine the pursuit of LDN within the targeted landscapes. This will also help mitigate the risk of systemic barriers hampering the implementation of LDN on the ground.</p>
5	<p>LDN frameworks, as prescribed in the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF), are not adopted in Burkina Faso across collaborating institutions as the main vehicle for addressing land degradation in the country.</p>	Moderate	<p>Based on consultations conducted during the PIF preparation stage, the general impression is that all key stakeholders consulted (including government, civil and private sector) were committed to embrace LDN goals both at national and subnational level.</p> <p>Gender-sensitive approaches, as well as specific LDN solutions for different landscape, will be systematically incorporated into land-use planning and management of targeted landscapes, aiming at reducing land-based conflict, including through tools mentioned in the responses to Risks #3 and #4. Furthermore, key stakeholders will monitor and report on LDN targets to ensure its successful result. Through project implementation, it is expected that institutional responsibility for the implementation of LDN will become clearer. Where needed, intra-governmental procedures, arrangements and agreements, may be designed to facilitate the division of institutional responsibilities and roles in this resp</p>

			<p>ect, and in particular to facilitate LDN implementation.</p> <p>The project risks listed herein will be closely monitored and managed together with Social-Environmental Risks, which have been already analyzed at PIF stage, generating the need for certain specific studies and a systematic process of stakeholder consultations and for the mainstreaming of gender equality and women’s empowerment into project design and, subsequently, implementation.</p>
6	In the long term, political stability, security and social cohesion are not ensured in Burkina Faso for the pursuit of broad socio-environmental goals for the country.	Moderate	<p>In the theory of change, a long term development driver read as follows: <i>“Socio-economic development in Burkina Faso tends toward gradual poverty reduction and increased income per capita, with positive impacts on development indicators and on national capacity more broadly”</i>. This means that in the long term there is a tendency to improvement and stability because it benefits the most people. In the short-medium term, the project will need to mitigate the impacts of the current political instability and challenges of social cohesion. The project is designed to address social cohesion, and several outputs activities are, in fact, geared towards this goal. The Scientific Conceptual Frameworks for LDN (SCF-LDN) foresees that benefits generated by LDN aligned strategies will: (i) maintain or improve the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services; (ii) maintain or improve productivity, in order to enhance food security; (iii) increase resilience of the land and populations dependent on the land; (iv) seek synergies with other social, economic and environmental objectives; and reinforce responsible and inclusive governance of land. As much as possible, project staff will be recruited from within the communes of targeted landscapes – training local youth as United Nations Volunteers and rooting project activities firmly on broad stakeholder engagement at various level, to ensure successful implementation even considering security challenges.</p>

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The project will be overseen by UNDP Burkina Faso which will also work with the government to enhance investments in the area of LDN/SLM in line with national policies and the Country Program Document (CPD) for Burkina Faso (2018-2020+2 being updated). The lead national institution and the focal point for the project will be the Permanent Secretariat for the National Council for the Sustainable Development (SP/CNDD), under the ministry responsible for environmental affairs. SP/CNDD will serve as the UNDP designated Implementing Partner (IP) for the project. Considering that in the current situation of Burkina Faso, UNDP is not allowed to transfer project funds to a government account, the project will engage a Responsible Party. Informal discussions have been initiated by SP/CNDD with IUCN as a possible RP. IUCN has prior experience in the implementation of GEF projects and could provide execution support to the IP. During the PPG this choice shall be confirmed through a transparent process. The details will be agreed between the project partners and with the GEFSEC during the PPG. Implementation on the ground will need to rely on a suite of partners, under a model that is similar to that of PAMED, which decentralizes certain aspects of implementation, but also ensures quality assurance, transparency and knowledge sharing. The exact modality and the processes involved to be fully developed during the PPG.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

The project is well aligned with Burkina Faso's high level national strategies and plans, as well as relevant sectoral policies, in particular with the following, to name a few^[1]:

- The National Economic and Social Development Plan^[2], which foresees a "strong, sustainable and inclusive economic pathway to growth";
- Burkina Faso's National Action Program (NAP 2000) under UNCCD, which highlighted that the country is facing massive desertification and actions such as better land use planning and climate smart agriculture have to be promoted;
- Burkina Faso's LDN Country Commitments from June 2017, which focuses on achieving land degradation neutrality at the national level and contributing to the country's sustainable development;
- Burkina Faso's LDN Country Profile (2018), which states that: "[...] LDN targets provide Burkina Faso with a strong vehicle for fostering coherence of policies and actions by aligning the national LDN targets with measures from the Nationally Determined Contributions and other national commitments.";
- The Nationally Determined Contribution (2021) under the UNFCCC;
- The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2001 to 2025;
- The National Gender Policy (2009), which although outdated and not fully pro-equality, states that "eliminating existing inequalities requires specific actions in favor of women and men";
- The National Strategy for the Restoration, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Soils (SNRCRS), which is under preparation, and under it, the Special Program for Water and Soil Conservation and Agro-forestry (CES/AGF);
- The National Agricultural Entrepreneurship Development Strategy (2021-2025);
- The National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2019);
- The Action Plan for Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM/GIRE) for the period 2016-2030; and
- National Policy for Land Tenure Security (2007), including related legislation, such as Law on agrarian and land reorganization, Law n° 014/96/ADP of May 23, 1996, amended by the Finance Law in 2008.

[1] Sources: https://www.agriculture.bf/jcms/c_5095/en/politiques-et-plans.

[2] See: <https://www.pndes.gov.bf/accueil>.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

The project prioritizes knowledge management and thorough monitoring and evaluation, by including a whole component focused on these activities for lesson learning and upscaling. A Knowledge Management Plan will be developed during the project preparation phase. Dedicated resources will be made available for KM and M&E activities under Component and operationalized through Output 4.2) Knowledge platform is operational for coordination and lessons sharing among stakeholders at the landscape, national and international levels. The principles of KM that will orient the project include:

1. Project results and the lessons to be learned will inform adaptive management and outreach in support of the sustainable management of landscapes at national, regional and international levels
2. Effective project coordination and gender-sensitive/responsive monitoring and evaluation
3. Project results will be documented and gender-sensitive/responsive community learning actions and outreach will be duly supported
4. Collaboration with a suite of initiatives will be sought, including, where applicable in view of replication and scaling up of best practices

With regard to the production and promotion of knowledge, and following PAMED's model, the following activities are proposed implemented:

- A program communication strategy will be developed and implemented, with a view to enhancing its visibility and ownership by all national development actors. It will grant a primordial place to mass communication in particular, through the use of national languages in local community radios;
- Emphasis will be placed on learning and the periodic sharing of knowledge through the dialogue framework of actors in the area of intervention;
- The translation of documents into local languages and the publication of brochures in the field of good practices resulting from the experiences of the program;
- The establishment, supply and dissemination through an appropriate site, of data relating to climate change (including adaptation, REDD+ and GHG assessment);
- The production and performance of forum plays on specific themes;
- Sharing of knowledge through communications followed by discussions on the results of the program within the regional and municipal platforms GDT-REDD+ and the dialogue framework of the various stakeholders within the project zone, including private sector players. This will include demonstration days in the field, open to as many producers as possible, and with the participation of local authorities;
- The regular updating of the project's the Risk Log and Stakeholder database, which has been established at PIF stage;
- The use of the old and innovative means of communication (televisions, radios, web, social media, etc.);

<p>ufficient capacity to meet their obligations or claim their rights. Additionally, the application of LDN on the ground may imply some access restrictions to natural resources.</p> <p>(Principles P.2, P3, P.5, P.6 and P.10, and Checklist 5.2, 5.4, 6.5, 7.1, 7.5 – 7.6)</p>				<p>directives may lead to people’s displacement from the land they inhabit, from resources that they use and to undesirable changes to land and tenure arrangements. In extreme cases, it can lead to forced evictions or discriminatory working conditions.</p> <p>Management: The risk in question is being addressed through design. The application of LDN implies a negotiated process of integrated land use planning and management, which requires the active involvement of stakeholders, including both duty-bearers and rights-holders. Output 2.1 implies the formation of highly inclusive land-use planning and management committees at the local level. Other outputs (e.g. 2.3b, 1.1 and 1.2) foresee a number of mechanisms for the engagement of stakeholders in the process of defining land use plans and in making decisions on land use in a collaborative and sustainable manner. A key principle in the application of LDN is also responsible and inclusive governance, including social cohesion. Potential risk linked to human rights can be mitigated through careful design and continued engagement of stakeholders.</p> <p>For any residual risks, the ESMF will set forth the procedures for early screening of situations which may produce the aforementioned negative impacts and set forth proper measures to avoid, mitigate or compensate for such impacts should they occur. Specific activities may also require an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment; the social baseline in the ESIA can also inform on the challenges of women and vulnerable groups in the area of influence of each activity.</p>
<p>Risk 2: Gender</p> <p>The project may inadvertently have undesirable negative impacts on women’s already unequal access to land and tenure in Burkina Faso, aggrav</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>		<p>Assessment: Gender-based discrimination in Burkina Faso is a systemic issue, especially with respect to land tenure. Although unlikely, the materialization of this risk can be the result of an interpretation of LDN guidelines by project stakeholders, and which end up curtailing women’s right to a more equally access to land tenure.</p>

<p>ating the situation of women and girls.</p> <p>(Principles P.8 and P.9)</p>				<p>Management: The risk in question is being addressed through design and will be duly monitored during implementation. The project employs a participatory approach for the selection of landscapes that will be the object of integrated land use planning for LDN. A key feature of LDN is ensure strong gender equality, inclusiveness, accountability and transparency in land use decisions and planning. If the Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN (LDN-SCF) is followed in the processes that implied in integrated land use and management, the risk of an inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on women and girls would be minimal, tending towards negligible in implementation. In addition, various outputs have explicitly embraced a gender sensitive approach, e.g. Output 1.1, which foresees that LDN principles and gender-sensitive approaches are incorporated into land-use planning and management of landscapes at the national and sub-national levels; all Outputs under Component 2, which foresees that Gender-sensitive and locally adapted solutions and practices that contribute to LDN targets are supported on the ground in selected landscapes; etc.</p> <p>During the PPG process, a dedicated gender expert will be part of the design team, and a detailed gender analysis and action plan will be developed and its findings and recommendations will be streamlined into the project documents.</p>
<p>Risk 3: Accountability, Local Communities and Indigenous People</p> <p>The project can lead to accountability risks, if more thorough stakeholder consultations on the ground cannot be timely conducted. The risk of exclusion of affected stakeholders, existence of grievances or objections and possible retaliation against them potentially exists</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>		<p>Assessment: Accountability challenges is a pervasive pattern in socio-political relations in Burkina Faso. Unless adequate safeguards and measures are put in place to prevent negative impacts of limited accountability to local communities and indigenous peoples, these patterns will increase project risk, in particular in the form of access restrictions of different nature. Three different trends that contribute to access restrictions have been recently observed and can potentially exacerbate the pervasive pattern of limited accountability in socio-political relations in Burkina Faso. They relate to restrictions due to: (i) increased covid infections, especially the rapid spread of omicron between late 2021 and early 2022; (ii) the extant humanitarian access situation in rural Burkina Faso, and noting that</p>

<p>(Principles P.13, P.14 and P.15; Standard 6, Checklist 4.2)</p>			<p>t the situation changes dynamically over time, and historically also in a cyclical way, according to dry or wet seasons; and (iii) heightened political risk in Burkina Faso (with reference to the recent Coup d'État in late 2021). In the project's TOC, this is covered under Exit Driver #1, which reads: "Internal conflict in Burkina Faso contributes to the break-down of social cohesion and can undermine accountability in social relations." With respect to the impacts and risks to the project, it is important to note that some aspects of this risk can evolve rapidly. The covid aspect (i) may tend to decrease over time, in light of current global trends.</p> <p>The other two aspects—(ii) and (iii)—need to be carefully monitored. Regardless, the project is expected to put in place robust measures to counteract accountability risks vis-à-vis Local Communities and Indigenous People. As explained further up in the brief description of project accountability, it has not been possible to conduct direct consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities with respect to the project's proposition, due to current restrictions linked to covid, humanitarian access, budgetary limitations and the evolving security situation in the rural areas of Burkina Faso, to date.</p> <p>Management: To manage this risk, a well-structured and adequately funded consultation process on the ground will ensue, as from Q3 in 2022, as well as during the PPG process, depending on conditions on the ground. UNDP will ensure that a fully inclusive and consultative methodology, compliant with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards[1], will apply during the local consultations processes. Because the potential presence of indigenous people has been identified in the project zone, Free, Prior and Informed Consent will be applied. The project's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) as part of the ESMF will be put in place to ensure that claims are treated with due discretion to avoid exposing claimants to possible retaliation.</p>
<p>Risk 4: Environmental, except Climate Change</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 4</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Assessment: Structural activities under the project will require an Environmental and Social Management Plan (and in some cases, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment). The environment</p>

<p>Environmental and construction related risks related to LDN implementation may lead to unintended environmental impacts (e.g. on account of attempts to improve land productivity through positive changes to land use and other methods and techniques to fight land degradation). These risks could involve release of pollutants to the environment, generation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, application of excessive use of fertilizer and possibly also hazardous pesticides, resulting in adverse impacts to habitats, including the accidental introduction of invasive alien species, and ultimately also unintended land use change with negative outcomes, etc.</p> <p>(Checklist 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 3.2, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 8.1, 8.2, 8.5, 8.6)</p>				<p>al and social assessment tools to use will be determined by the Preliminary Categorization and Screening questionnaire in the Environmental and Social Framework. This questionnaire will pre-assess the specific risks of an activity under the project, the environmental and social sensitivity of its area of influence. Based on those two factors, the questionnaire will determine the environmental and social assessment tools that will be required for the activity.</p> <p>Management: The Environmental and Social Framework will include site eligibility criteria for local infrastructure interventions that will exclude siting of activities in critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas. It will also contain monitoring guidelines for the implementation of ESMPs. For any residual risks, the ESMF will set forth the procedures for early screening of situation which may produce the aforementioned negative impacts and set forth proper measures to avoid, mitigate or compensate for such impacts should they occur.</p> <p>The project will prioritize agroecological approaches that minimize or avoid the needs for pesticides and chemical fertilizer, minimize the production of waste, and avoid any land use changes that could have a negative impact on ecosystem integrity and services, including the potential but unlikely introduction of IAS. It will also use climate risk analysis to design activities in such a way that they are resilient to future climate change.</p>
<p>Risk 5. Climate Change</p> <p>In the long run, project outputs and outcomes are likely sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters, through changes to rainfall patterns, negative effects on the drought cycles to</p>	<p>I = 1 L = 5</p>	<p>Low</p>		<p>Assessment: Considering that the IPCC has only recently updated climate scenarios (AR6), climate risk and climate driven disaster risk for the project zone will be properly assessed. A superficial look at forecasts for key climatic variables for Burkina Faso using the WB's Climate Knowledge Portal point out to very little change to key climatic variables in the short term (2020-2039), including to compound variable such as the SPEI, which measures the incidence of drought, the most important current climatic hazard affecting Burkina Faso. Even in the strongest climate change scenarios (SSP-</p>

ve effects on the drought cycles, temperature anomalies, and extreme events with potential disaster risks.

(Checklist 2.1, 2.2)

BURKINA FASO. Even in the strongest climate change scenarios (SSP8.5), the effects on most climate variables appear mild, with a few exceptions: (1) variables linked to heat waves and to (2) precipitation anomalies in the form of excess rain concentrated in a day. The general conclusion is that, although climate change is a likely hazard, it is a slow onset one. In the near term, impacts appear mild, and the risk is therefore low. Source: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/burkina-faso/climate-data-projections>. At the same time, there are several indications that people living in the project are sensitive to climate driven hazards and, to a lower extent, to different types of natural hazards. Climatic anomalies may impact them negatively.

Management: LDN activities are by default designed to build people's and ecosystems' resilience, including hereunder the resilience of productive systems, which are on focus in the project. directly addresses Burkina Faso's land degradation problem and contribute to the achievement of the national LDN target, with capacity enhancement actions at the national level, complemented by others on the ground. More specifically, the project aims to enhance the 'national frameworks' for the achievement of the national land degradation neutrality (LDN) target, while preventing natural resource conflict and promoting social cohesion in selected landscapes in the Centre-Nord Region through the practical application of the LDN concept. Therefore, it may be said that risks linked to climate change are, by design, addressed in the current project design. The project will anyway use climate risk analysis to design activities in such a way that they are resilient to future climate change. As for climate change mitigation risks, checklist item 2.4 (increases of greenhouse gas emissions) was not triggered, but it may be added that the project is slated to make positive contributions to resilient ecosystems, food security and improved livelihoods and enhanced (agro)-biodiversity. In this manner, it will help Burkina Faso address climate change mitigation and adaptation challenges.

[1] With reference to the revised Social and Environmental Standards (SES) came into effect on 1 January 2021: <https://www.undp.org/publications/undp-social-and-environmental-standards>, accessed on 30/03/22.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Submitted
6678 Burkina Faso LD pre-SESP_05Apr2022	

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And GEF Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Mr. Somanegré Nana	Operational Focal Point for Burkina Faso and Permanent Secretary SP- CNDD	Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Environment	2/15/2022

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

<p>Centre-Nord Region</p>  <p>Location in Burkina Faso Coordinates: 13°15'N 1°0'W</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>Country</td><td> Burkina Faso</td></tr><tr><td>Capital</td><td>Kaya</td></tr><tr><td>Area</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>• Region</td><td>7,656 sq mi (19,829 km²)</td></tr></table>	Country	 Burkina Faso	Capital	Kaya	Area		• Region	7,656 sq mi (19,829 km ²)	<p>Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre-Nord_Region, retrieved on 30/03/22 and reproduced under Creative Commons license.</p> <p>Geo-coordinates: 13°15'N 1°0'W</p> <p>https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Centre-Nord_Region&params=13_15_N_1_0_W_region:BF_type:city(1872126)</p> <p>See also:</p> <p>Figure 1. Centre-Nord Region of Burkina Faso: (a) Provinces and departments; and (b) Land Productivity Dynamic with statistics</p>
Country	 Burkina Faso								
Capital	Kaya								
Area									
• Region	7,656 sq mi (19,829 km ²)								