PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Integrated and Sustainable Management of PONASI Protected Area Landscape		
Country:	Burkina Faso	GEF Project ID:	9764
GEF Agency:	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5938
Other Executing Partner:	Permanent Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainable Development (SP CONEDD) under the Ministère de l'Environnement de l'Economie Verte et du Changement Climatique	Submission Date: Re-Submission Date: Re-Submission Date:	March 1st, 2017 March 28, 2017 July 03, 2017
GEF Focal Area:	MFA: BD, CCM, LD	Project Duration (Months)	72
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities ☐ IAP-Commodities ☐ IAP-Food Security ☐		Corporate Program: SGP ☐
Name of parent program:	N/A	Agency Fee ($)	501,548

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES:

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	**Trust Fund**	**(in $)**	
		GEF Project Financing	**Co-financing**
BD-1 Program 2 [BD1: Improve sustainability of protected area systems / Program 2: Nature's Last Stand: Expanding the Reach of the Global Protected Area Estate]	GEFTF	3,370,320	8,000,000
LD-1 Program 2 [LD1: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods / Program 2: SLM for Climate-smart Agriculture]	GEFTF	550,000	3,350,000
LD-3 Program 4 [LD3: Reduce pressures on natural resources by managing competing land uses in broader landscapes / Program 4: Scaling-up sustainable land management through the Landscape Approach]	GEFTF	495,890	3,250,000
CCM2 – Program 4 [Demonstrate Systemic Impacts of Mitigation Options / Program 4: Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest, and other land-use, and support climate smart agriculture]	GEFTF	863,242	4,600,000
Total Project Cost		5,279,452	19,200,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To safeguard critical wildlife habitat, biodiversity and ecosystem services in PONASI Protected Area Complex through integrated landscape management, generating multiple benefits for sustainable development.

Project Component	**Type**	**Project Outcomes**	**Outputs**	**Trust Fund**	**(in $)**	
					GEF Project Financing	**Co-financing**
1.Integrated management of the PONASI Landscape	TA	Integrated management of the PONASI landscape covering 952,000 ha, indicated by: (i) existence of operational PONASI Complex Management Board; (ii) extent of landscape management plan implementation with application of ELUP tools for decision making resulting in set aside of	1.1 The "PONASI Landscape Management Board" is established and operationalised as an integrated governance platform that serves as a joint decision mechanism for land use in the landscape. It will serve as a platform to ensure harmonisation of different management jurisdictions over specific management units within the landscape (e.g. SP/CONEDD, DGFF, OFINAP and DREDD) and the different levels of administration. 1.2 The Environmental Land-Use Planning	GEF TF	420,000 CCM: 300,000 LD: 120,000	2,350,000

Project Component	Type	Project Outcomes	Outputs	Trust Fund	(in $)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
		HVCFs and establishment of wildlife corridors[1]; and (iii) avoided GHG emissions by 4 million tCO2eq through integrated forest landscape management from decreased deforestation rate over 436,057 ha of forest landscapes and restoration of 3,000 ha natural habitat; (iv) reduction in human wildlife conflict cases; (v) increase in available sustainable financing for landscape management. *Indicators will be confirmed and baseline and targets will be determined during the PPG*	(ELUP)[2] tool is adopted and is in operation, both as a spatial planning methodology for governing land-use, and as a system to visualize the impacts of economic activities on the landscape with clear articulation of trade-offs, and put in place to facilitate land use decision making. 1.3 Carbon mapping, measurement and monitoring system is instituted within DGEF to be able to produce consistent, accurate and well documented estimates of carbon stocks in the PONASI Landscape and to inform the landscape management plan development and implementation. 1.4 PONASI Landscape Management Master Plan developed and approved by the Management Board for implementation, using the ELUP and carbon mapping tools to ensure protection of core wildlife habitats including corridors and maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and taking full account of emission reduction. The management plan will also include a financing plan, wildlife tourism development plan based on a clear concession system. 1.5 Clear management prescriptions for different land units and effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms established, led by Réseau MARP including biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring system, a range of incentives and disincentives, compliance monitoring mechanism, supporting implementation of the PONASI Landscape Management Master Plan			
2. Strengthening of PONASI PA System	INV	Improved institutional capacity of the PA agency as measured by the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard Improved management effectiveness in 314,434 ha of core PAs and 88,691 ha of two wildlife corridors in PONASI	2.1 Institutional and individual capacity of the PA agency increased through target capacity development interventions based on institutional capacity assessment (to be conducted during the PPG). This will entail institutionalisation of training programme, strengthening of staffing structure and staff profile to ensure scientific, enforcement and community engagement capacity among other things.	GEF TF	3,270,000 BD only	8,250,000

[1] This indicator directly links to the Aichi target 11 indicators on increased overage of ecoregions, IBAs and KBAs. Exact area sizes will be determined during PPG.

[2] Environmental land use planning (ELUP) fully integrates biodiversity and ecosystem concerns in land use decision making processes. This will be based on criteria such as valuation of ecosystem goods and services and trade off scenario analysis to determine the best configuration for land use mix to achieve optimal landscape level land user patterns for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services maintenance and socioeconomic development. It can also suggest changes or modifications needed in production practices to reduce impact in priority biodiversity areas in the landscape.

Project Component	Type	Project Outcomes	Outputs	Trust Fund	(in $)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
		Complex indicated by: (i) Increase in METT Scores for individual sites (PNKT, Sissili, Nazinga, Nazinon), including improved management[3]; (ii) Biodiversity health index shows improvement in the biodiversity and ecosystem status in each PA; (iii) stable or increased elephant population in the PONASI Complex from the current estimated 600. *Indicators will be confirmed and baseline and targets will be determined during the PPG*	2.2 Management effectiveness of the 4 PAs in the PONASI Complex – PN Kabore-Tambi (161,956 ha), Nazinga (103,579 ha) and Sissili (38,153 ha) and Nazinon (10,746 ha) - strengthened through a series of technical support including, *inter alia*: establishment and institutionalisation of long-term PA management plans with 2-year action plan and annual operational plan, PA business plan, species management plan, community engagement plan (these will not be separate plans, but rather subsidiary elements under the global landscape management master plan). Site level support will also include basic management infrastructure consolidation. 2.3 Wildlife corridor governance and management regime established and operationalised for 2 corridors (OFINAP and DREDD) to link major forest blocks and conservation areas with focus on reducing the pressures generated by road infrastructure and human wildlife conflict and livestock grazing. Support will include development and implementation of zoning plans, improved grazing management, habitat restoration and enrichment (e.g. re-introduction of native plant species). 2.4 An effective landscape-level elephant protection plan is developed and operationalized for the entire PONASI Complex.			
3. Sustainable Land Management and livelihood diversification	INV	Increased land area under effective agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management practices or supporting climate-smart agriculture in 6,000 ha. Increased application of integrated natural resource management practices by communities in the PONASI landscape, evidenced by: a combination of metrics such as land productivity, vegetation cover, carbon sequestration, water quality and quantities,	3.1 Land management in Community Managed Hunting Zones (ZOVICs) and Community Managed Forests (CAFs) improved through collaborative natural resource management interventions, including: development of simplified zoning plans using the ELUP tool and their implementation; strengthening of hunting management; and implementation of human wildlife conflict management measures. 3.2 Sustainable land management (SLM) practices implemented by communities in the PONASI Landscape to reduce threats to PAs and to increase food security, agricultural productivity and resilience, including climate smart agriculture, sustainable harvesting of wood and biomass energy, forest restoration,	GEF TF	1,150,000 LD: 750,000 CCM: 400,000	7,400,000

[3] This indicator directly links to the Aichi target 11 indicator on increased management effectiveness of protected areas.

Project Component	Type	Project Outcomes	Outputs	Trust Fund	(in $)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
		reduction of bush fires, etc. Diversified livelihoods of local communities as per participatory survey, indicated by increase in community income from wildlife based tourism ventures and the number of direct beneficiaries (gender disaggregated). *Indicators will be confirmed and baseline and targets will be determined during the PPG*	fire management assisted natural regeneration and water management. 3.3 Sustainable community based tourism ventures are established under the PONASI tourism development plan, providing alternative livelihoods to the communities and incentives for conservation. This support will entail community training, facilitation of partnerships with the private sector and linking with international tourism market. 3.4 A community engagement and training programme operational with a focus on sustainable livelihoods and a capacity building.			
4. Gender Mainstrea-ming, Knowledge Management and Learning	TA	Gender Mainstreaming, Lessons learned by the project through participatory M&E are used to guide adaptive management, collate and share lessons, in support of upscaling.	4.1 Project gender mainstreaming strategy is implemented to guide project implementation, monitoring and reporting. 4.2. Knowledge, key experiences and lessons learned are compiled and widely disseminated for replication through a range of communication tools including the project website, project stories, issue papers, and scaling up of project results supported.	GEF TF	188,000 CCM: 88,000 LD: 100,000	300,000
Subtotal					5,028,000	18,300,000
Project Management Cost (PMC)					251,452 BD:100,320 CCM:75,242 LD: 75,890	900,000
Total Project Cost					5,279,452	19,200,000

C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the project by name and by type, if available

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type	Amount ($)
Recipient Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Grants	10,000,000
Recipient Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Grants	5,000,000
Recipient Government	SP CONEDD	In-kind	100,000
CSO	DGM Coordination in BF	Grants	2,000,000
CSO	AFAUDEB and NATURAMA	Grants	1,800,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grants	300,000
Total Co-financing			19,200,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, COUNTRY AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area*	Programming of Funds	(in $)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b)[b)]	Total (c)=a+b
UNDP	GEFTF	Burkina Faso	Biodiversity	n/a	3,370,320	320,180	3,690,500
UNDP	GEFTF	Burkina Faso	Land Degradation	n/a	1,045,890	99,360	1,145,250
UNDP	GEFTF	Burkina Faso	Climate Change	n/a	863,242	82,008	945,250
Total GEF Resources					5,279,452	501,548	5,781,000

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG) IS PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT REQUESTED? YES [X]

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY, TRUST FUND, COUNTRY AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area*	Programming of Funds	(in $)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
UNDP	GEFTF	Burkina Faso	Biodiversity	n/a	100,000	9,500	109,500
UNDP	GEFTF	Burkina Faso	Land Degradation	n/a	50,000	4,750	54,750
UNDP	GEFTF	Burkina Faso	Climate Change	n/a	50,000	4,750	54,750
Total PPG Amount					**200,000**	**19,000**	**219,000**

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	*952,000 ha of terrestrial landscapes*[4] *Of which 436,057 ha are PAs, corridors and ZOVICs*[5]
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	*6,000 ha* [6]
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO_{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	*4 million* metric tons[7]

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1)PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Burkina Faso is an arid country covering 27.4 million ha with a population of 18.2 million growing at 3% per year. The main economic sector is agriculture, however, the country faces many challenges to generate growth and distribute social goods to an income-deprived population with low levels of human development. The country is rich in biodiversity, containing a great variety of ecosystems with 2,394 species of fauna (insects, amphibians, wild animals and domestic animals) and 1,407 species of flora. The country is still home to viable populations of many large iconic species of African wildlife that have practically disappeared from the rest of West Africa, including the largest population of African elephants in the Sahelian West, with an estimated population of about 4,000 [8]. Terrestrial ecosystems of the country (covering 90% of its area) and aquatic ecosystems span two key biomes, the Sahel and the Sudanese, and three large climatic zones[9]. The vegetation consists mainly of steppes and thorny bushes, as well as different types of savanna. Sudanian Savannas are classified as one of WWF's Ecoregions[10]. The vegetation is characterized by the coexistence of trees and grasses. Dominant tree species are often of the *Combretaceae* and *Caesalpinioideae* families, while grasses usually belong to the *Andropogoneae* family. Some *Acacia spp.* are also important as nitrogen-fixing trees. Other useful

[4] This is the indirect mainstreaming target and corresponds to the entire expanse of the PONASI Landscape.

[5] The PA surface considered here includes (i) the core PAs with 314,434 hectares (these are Nazinga with 103,579 ha, PN Kabore-Tambi with161,956 ha, Sissili with 38,153 ha and Nazinon with 10,746 ha); (ii) the two Corridors amount to 88,691 ha (#1 with 19,246 ha and #2 69,445 ha); and (iii) the 10 ZOVICs around Nazinga, summing 32,932 ha.

[6] This corresponds to approximately one third of the area of Corridor 1.

[7] The carbon sequestration estimates have been computed using the Ex-Ante Carbon-Balance Tool (EX-ACT) Tier Standard Edition, developed by FAO. The forest-type selected for the calculations is Tropical Dry Forest, building on a baseline of degraded land in a Dry Tropical climate. The soil-type generally consists of fertile Low Activity Clay loams derived from a basaltic substrate, albeit highly degraded through prior deforestation activity and subsequent over-grazing/agriculture. The deforestation rate used is 0.5%. The project involves conservation in 436,057 ha using native and introduced tree species selected for their adaptability to the area. To be conservative, 436,057 ha has been used in the calculation, instead of the entire 952,000 ha of landscape. Over a period of 10 years, approximately 4 million tCO2e will be sequestered through the project's intervention. FAO EXACT result sheet is attached in Annex 1.

[8] See IUCN's Elephant Specialist Group, recent surveys and Elephant Database.

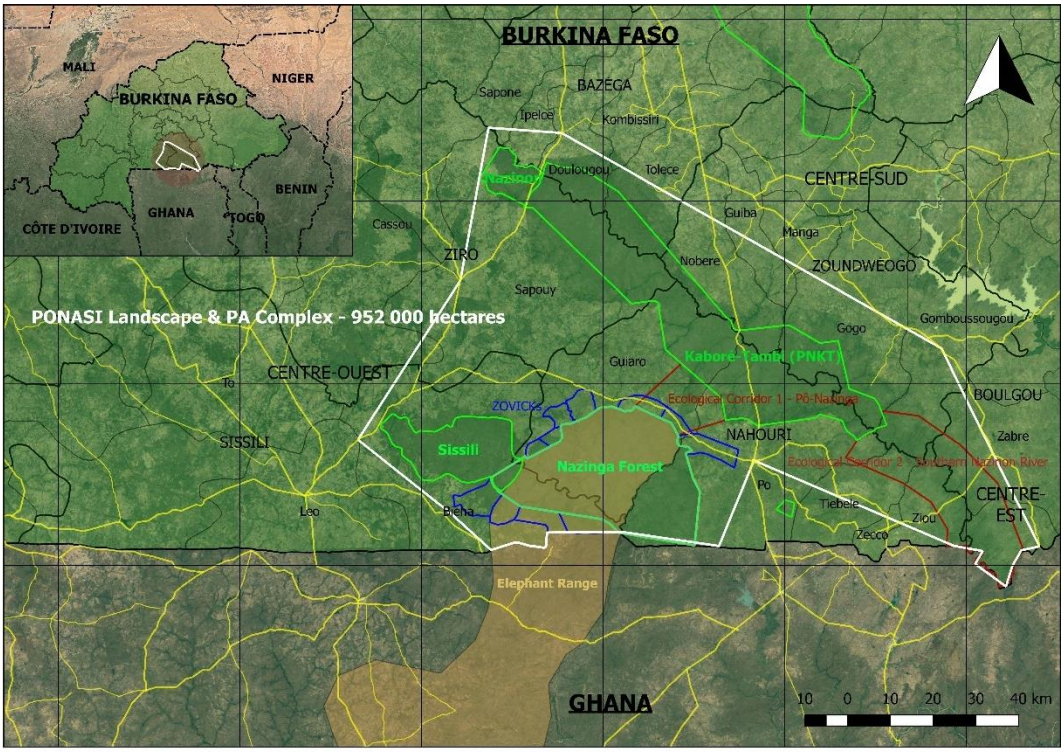
[9] These are: (1) the Sahelian zone, with annual rainfall of 300 to 600 mm and less than 45 rainy days, (2) the Sudano-Sahelian zone with annual rainfall of 600 to 900 mm and from 50 to 70 rainy days, and (3) the Sudano-Guinean zone with annual rainfall of 900 to 1200 mm and 85 to 100 rainy days.

[10] The western flank of Sudanian Savannas is not among the Global 200 Ecoregions.

trees include shea, baobab, locust-bean tree and others, which are traditionally spared from felling. Sorghum, maize, millet and other crops are cultivated under the trees.

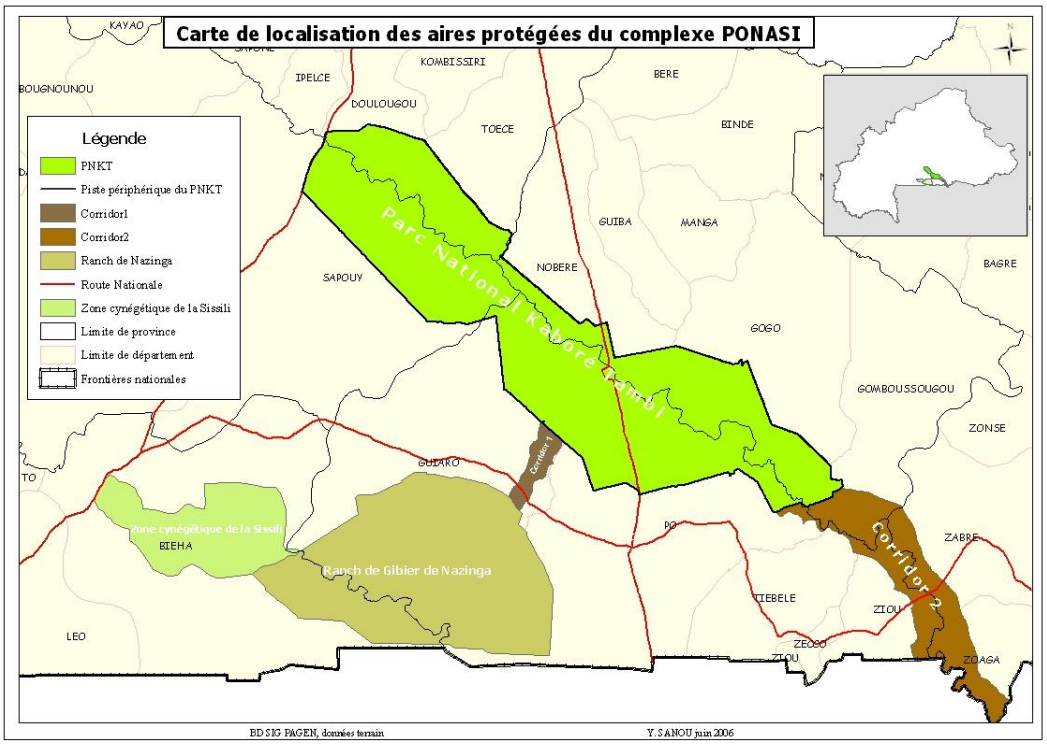
PONASI Landscape

The PONASI Complex, which is the focus of this project, comprises a large area in southern-central Burkina Faso dominated by parklands and protected areas (PAs). Located within the Burkina Faso's Sudanian Savanna transition landscape, the term "PONASI" combines the names of the three most important protected sites that compose it, namely Pô, Nazinga and Sissili ("PO-NA-SI"). With the surrounding areas, the Complex composes a landscape – hereby referred to as the PONASI Landscape – where a key feature is the presence of the country's second most important elephant range, which is shared with a neighbouring country, Ghana. The wider PONASI Landscape – and Complex – is the object of management under this proposed project.



Sources: IUCN's Elephant Database web portal, protectedplanet web portal, Nazinga Management Plan, Google Maps Service, PAGEN Project, WCMC's WDPA

The PONASI Complex is classified as an Important Bird Area (IBA), and work is under way to designate the area as a Ramsar site. The Complex harbours at least 39 species of mammals, including antelopes such as roan antelope, elephants, waterbuck, oribi, reedbuck and Buffon's kob, lions, buffalos, warthogs, crocodiles, hyenas and primates such as red monkeys, baboons and grivets. It also has at least 275 species of birds, including hornbills, hawks and herons.



In terms of wildlife conservation, however, the most remarkable feature of the PONASI Complex is that it contains the second most important "known" and "possible" elephant range in

Burkina Faso after that of the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex (see Annex 1). The PONASI Complex is assumed to shelter some 600 elephants[11] (*Loxodonta africana*), that often roam along the sub-basins of the Sissili and Nazinga rivers and used to cross the border with Ghana. The former range included the PNTK, but in the 1980s migrant farmers settled in their usual crossing grounds and almost all of the former PNKT elephants that had migrated to Nazinga could not go back to the PNKT. Similarly, seasonal migration of elephants along the river Nazinon to Ghana and vice-versa is now much more difficult for the same reasons. The consequences of this fact is that elephant populations are now forced to remain in very limited range, becoming much more vulnerable to poachers and to the degradation of their ecosystems.

The PONASI Complex is 952,000 ha in size and includes 436,057 ha of protected areas, wildlife corridors and community managed hunting zones (ZOVICs).

Land Use	Area Size (ha)	Note
Protected Areas	314,434	There are 4 protected areas: (i) Pô National Park - also known as Kaboré-Tambi, or PNKT (161,956 ha, proclaimed in 1976); (ii) Nazinon Protected Forest, forming a continuum with the PNKT, but separated by the national road N6 (10,746 ha proclaimed in 1976); (iii) Sissili rotected Forest (38,153 ha, proclaimed in 1976), and (iv) the Nazinga Ranch (10,746 ha, proclaimed in 1973). PNKT is managed by the National Office for Protected Areas (OFINAP) and other three are managed by General Directorate of Forest and Fauna (DGFF) through its provincial and municipal level offices. There are about 165,000 inhabitants in and around the parks and corridors.
Wildlife Corridors	88,691	2 corridors: (i) Po Nazina (19,246 ha) – 15-km wide strip between the PNKT and Nazinga; (ii) Southern Nazinon River (69,445 ha) – extending PNKT towards the south into Ghana. These were created between 2003 and 2007 through the PAGEN (*Partenariat pour l'Amélioration de la Gestion des Ecosystèmes Naturels*) project, to link protected areas. A third corridor is being planned.
ZOVICs	32,932	10 Community Managed Hunting Zones (ZOVICs - *zones villageoises d'intérêt cynégétique)*, where small and medium-sized species are hunted for bushmeat under a regulatory framework.
TOTAL	**436,057**	

Vegetation and Land Use Patterns

The landscape containing the PONASI Complex encompasses a rich mosaic of different types of habitats and land-uses including protected areas. Land use in the area includes forestry, agriculture, natural habitats/residential, and lands lost to desertification. The PONASI location coincides with the ecological transition zone between the northern and southern ranges of the West Sudanian Savanna Ecoregion within Burkina Faso.[12] Recent studies have observed a partial "Sahelisation" of the Sudanian zone of Burkina Faso, and point out that changes in landscape characteristics and floristic composition are mainly driven by anthropogenic pressure, accentuated by recurrent droughts.[13]

The Northern Sudanian domain, where the PONASI Landscape is located, has much less biomass per unit area – e.g. canopy cover in the PONASI Landscape is lower than 15%, often down to 10%, which is the minimum threshold for classifying a woody landscape as 'forest' and where reasonable quantities of carbon are present in biomass. If the administrative regions within the Sudano-Guinean domain are excluded from the forest cover and deforestation calculus, it is notable that the provinces of Sissili and Ziro, which are almost entirely comprised within the PONASI landscape, concentrate some 66% of the remainder of forest loss within the country. In all the provinces of the PONASI Landscape, a total of 6,392 ha of tree cover was lost between 2000 and 2014. Although the contribution to the national figures is relatively small (up to 4.5%), this is a reason for concern in the management of the PONASI Landscape. There are implicit opportunities for improved management of the PONASI Landscape with a view to enhancing carbon stocks, e.g. by enriching the landscape with species rich in biomass, as well as avoiding the bulk of GHG emissions from prevailing land-uses, among them uncontrolled bushfires.

Threats

[11] Data from the General Directorate of Forests and Fauna (DGFF). Updated field data, including on elephant killings, are however lacking.

[12] Ecoregions are defined by WWF. Sudanian Savanna vegetation is characterized by the coexistence of trees and grasses. Dominant tree species often belong to the Combretaceae and Caesalpinioideae families, while grasses are usually from the Andropogoneae family. Some *Acacia spp.* are also important. Other useful trees include shea, baobab, locust-bean tree and others, which are spared from cutting. Sorghum, maize, millet and other crops are cultivated beneath and between trees. This ecological configuration is also often referred to as "parkland".

[13] See, for example: Wittig, R., Koenig, K., Schmidt, M., Szarzynski, J., 2007. A study of climate change and anthropogenic impacts in West Africa. Environmental Science and Pollution Research 14, 182-189.

With the fast population increase estimated to reach 35 million by 2040 in the country and prevailing poverty, combined with the government plan to substantially increase intensive agricultural production, the PONASI Landscape's biodiversity and land and water resources are under increasing pressure. The following describes main threats to integrity of ecosystems and biodiversity in the landscape.

Habitat loss and degradation: Conversion of grassland and forest areas for agricultural expansion including clearance of natural vegetation for intensive commercial agriculture, as well as sharp increase in livestock number have led to loss of habitat and degradation in parts of PONASI landscape. Livestock sector represents 12% of the national GDP and 14% of total exports. Livestock numbers have experienced a significant increase over the past 15 years at an annual rate of 3.7%, demanding large expanses of grasslands for grazing. This puts tremendous pressure in the rich grassland resources in the PONASI Landscape. Overgrazing that has already severely affected the Sahel and is now spreading to southern regions, caused by a migration of farmers to the greener pastures of the South, driving land degradation and loss of land productivity. Furthermore, these migrations also contribute to the exacerbation of conflicts over land, to the extent livestock causes the dispersion and fragmentation of crop areas. In addition, overgrazing near or in conservation areas generates competition between livestock and wild animals for space, food and water resources, besides helping spreading zoonosis that may affect both livestock and wildlife. Moreover, the disappearance of natural habitats in rural areas is accompanied by the decrease in non-timber forest products (fruits, seeds, leaves, gums, barks, mushrooms, honey, etc.), and loss of abundance and the diversity of wildlife and fisheries resources. This can not only lead to biodiversity loss but also compromises the nutritional balance of households, especially in the poorest segments of the population.
Unsustainable agricultural practices: Unsustainable practices have become more common in Burkina Faso, and PONASI Landscape is no exception. Vast expanses of land are increasingly acquired by agribusiness investors. These lands were part of the land reserves traditionally used by local communities. Because the lands have rested fallow for up to 30 years, these lands are often covered by dense woody vegetation, constituting secondary forests of high ecosystem services and carbon value. Traditional clearing methods through controlled fires, as practiced by itinerant Gourounsi farmers for generations, enabled optimum soil conservation. Now, agribusiness investors would indiscriminately clear the land, without sparing protected trees species[14] or implementing anti-erosion strategies.[15] Exposed to the elements and consequent erosion, the initial soil fertility is rapidly lost within five years, subsequently requiring large inputs of fertilizers. Such practices derive from lack of specialized capacity from the part of agribusiness investors and a number of misconceptions about what agribusiness should be. Such agricultural projects often fail to achieve their objective of high-yield productivity – yielding less than traditional farming methods.
Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade*:* Wildlife is intensively poached in almost all of Burkina Faso's conservation areas and in corridors. Poverty, inadequate capacity for law enforcement and, perhaps most importantly, the demand from consumer countries that generates a powerful market of illicit trade remain the most important root causes for poaching. In the case of elephants, most poaching incidents occur while herds migrate from one protected area to another.
Overharvesting of Natural Resources: Increased demand for firewood to supply not just the capital Ouagadougou, but also other urbanized areas near the PONASI Landscape, is causing overharvesting of woods posing an additional pressure on its scarce forest resources. In addition, traditional small-game hunting in the proximity of PAs, although important as subsistence hunting, could have negative impacts on the population of small game species, if the practice continues to increase without adequate regulation. This could have a cascading negative effect on the food chain of larger species.
Uncontrolled brushfires: In recent years, there has been increased frequency of uncontrolled and large scale brushfires in PONASI Landscape which are caused by slash and burn cultivation and to some extent worsened by climate change. In the Sudanian savannas, where a continuous carpet of perennial grasses connects areas of dense vegetation cover, bushfires can be massive, destroying vast natural habitats.

Long-term solution

The long-term solution for managing the PONASI Complex and its zone of influence is to apply a landscape management approach to ensure integrity of landscape level ecosystem services and biodiversity richness, introducing a suite of sustainable management practices that will have multiple benefits.

Baseline

Towards the long-term solution, the government with support of various partners, has been making tremendous efforts and investment. Key baseline initiatives are as follows.

Land-use planning and management: The Third Phase Community-Based Rural Development Project / ("Programme national de gestion des terroirs, phase trois" (PNGT2-3)[16] is highly relevant as baseline finance. With a total cost of US$

[14] Trees like shea, néris, tamarind and baobab, which should form the parklands, producing important non-woody products and playing a vital role in the conservation of water and soil in tropical areas.
[15] Ironically, the costs of bulldozing land are covered by selling the removed vegetation as firewood.
[16] See more details in http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P129688/third-phase-community-based-rural-development-project?lang=en

86 million, this project financed by the GEF and World Bank is expected to be closed by May 2018. It aims to enhance the capacity of rural communities and decentralized institutions for the implementation of local development plans that promote sustainable land and natural resources management and productive investments at commune level. The project also focuses on the PONASI area as one of its key areas of intervention. It intends to establish an integrated approach to ecosystem management in the areas around the PONASI PAs, i.e., communal forests, village forests, the CAFs and the ZOVICs. The programme will provide a total of $20 million as a relevant baseline (amount invested in the PONASI Landscape). Of this amount, $10 million is considered as potential co-financing for this project relevant to Components 1 and 3 of the project. The Management Plans (output 1.4) and the Environmental Land-Use Planning (ELUP) (output 1.2) will draw from and expand the integrated management plan that the PNGT2-3 projects foresee in the area. The GEF funded project under this initiative (GEF/WB GGW: Community based Rural Development Project 3rd Phase with Sustainable Land and Forestry Management) has the same MFA (multi focal area) approach as the proposed new project. Both projects will complement each other on rural communities and decentralized institutions capacity enhancement.

Protected areas, forest and carbon stock management: The government has established the national PA system covering 14% of its land surface including the 4 PAs in the PONASI landscape. It invests approximately $ 2 million per year for PA management. The government is working towards developing and implementing a nationwide REDD+ strategy. Two Forest Investment Programme (FIP) projects for Burkina Faso[17] provide support for this effort. The two FIP projects were launched in 2014 for a 5-year implementation period ending in 2019. FIP Project 1 - Decentralized Forest and Woodland Management (PGDDF) has a financing envelope of $18 million, fully considered as baseline and at least $3 million as potential co-financing. It has the following components: 1. REDD+ Strategy development, 2. Support integrated landscape development, 3: Forest Products, value chain, NFTP, 4. Information Sharing, Lessons-Learning, and Program Coordination. FIP Project 2 - Gazetted Forests Participatory Management Project for REDD+ (PGFC/REDD+), with a FIP budget of $12 million, is considered as baseline and $2 million as potential co-financing. It has the following components: 1. REDD+ reference levels and MRV development, 2. Forest and land-use governance, 3. Management of State forests.

Lux-Swe "Projet d'Appui au Secteur Forestier" (PASF)[18] with a budget of 22 million EUR, financed by Luxemburg (50%) and Sweden (50%) and implemented by the Ministry of Environment, is considered as an important part of the baseline at $22 million and potentially as co-financing. The entire components 1 (Integrated management of the PONASI Landscape) and 2 (Strengthening of PONASI PA System) will benefit and build on the FIP projects and PASF to harmonize the forest management with the development of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.

The GEF/UNDP project: Protected Area Buffer Zone Management in Burkina Faso (GEF#4221). The project aims to reduce threats by implementing participatory arrangements with the communities surrounding protected areas as a means to increase effectiveness of conservation action while also improving livelihood conditions for the local people. Even though the above project focuses on PAs in the western part of the country, the interventions can be similar to the proposed project, with of course, specificities depending on the sites.

Sustainable livelihoods: The government has committed itself to allocate 10% of its national budget to the agriculture sector (policies, food security, subvention to farmers, water resources, etc.). This represents approximately $ 200 million per year.

There are four projects that are directly relevant in terms of expanding sustainable systems of agroforestry and Climate-Smart Agriculture. The first is the FIP BF project (2013-2019) Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Burkina Faso, with $4.5 million (grant funding and considered as baseline in full), that includes the following components: 1. Development of managerial, technical capacities and skills of local communities, 2. Support the development of economic and sustainable natural resource management activities. Potential co-financing from this project has been assessed at this stage as $2 million.

PAPSA, focus on PONASI. Second, there is the Additional Financing for the Agricultural Productivity and Food Security Project / Projet d'amélioration de la productivité agricole et de la sécurité alimentaire – Financement additionnelle (PAPSA). This project expansion is financed by the World Bank (ID: P149305), with a total project cost of $80.97

[17] See more details in https://www-cif.climateinvestmentfunds.org/country/burkina-faso/burkina-fasos-fip-programming
[18] See more details in https://luxdev.lu/fr/activities/project/BKF/019

million, of which only a part focuses on PONASI. Given this and the time elapsed under implementation, $20 million is considered as baseline and $2 million as potential co-financing.

Third, the Local Forest Communities Support Project, financed by the World Bank (2015-2019) with a total cost of $4.5 million and a closing date set for June 2020 is fully considered as baseline. Finally, important for developing communication and educational platforms there is the World Bank Project Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication & Knowledge Services (2015-2) with a closing date set for June 2019 and a total project cost of $4.63 million. The relevant baseline linked to Component 3 can reach $1 million.

Two other ongoing projects relevant for the expansion of agriculture can also be included, provided that they support Climate-Smart Agriculture rather than unsustainable models of agribusiness, that otherwise have been expanding in Burkina Faso. These are: (i) WB AF-Agricultural Diversification and Market Development Project (2015-2017), financed by the World Bank that has committed $50 million considered as baseline, from a total cost of $65.91 million; and (ii) AfDB Bagré-Agric. Projet d'appui aux infrastructures agricoles (2015-2019) that will target the district of Bagré (close to the PONASI Complex). The entire component 3 (Sustainable Land Management and livelihood diversification) will contributes towards sustainable livelihoods by enhancing community engagement, community based tourism and climate smart agriculture.

Barriers

There is a significant number of baseline projects, however the following barriers remain hampering effective management of the PONASI landscape and achievement of the aforementioned long-term solution. There are issues of PA category, PA design and PA management, as well as of land-use management across the PONASI Landscape, that need to be addressed for effective and sustainable management of key natural assets so that global and national environmental and socio-economic benefits can be generated.

Barrier #1. Insufficient systemic and institutional capacity for integrated land-use governance. There are many agencies dealing with environment in Burkina Faso, with different mandates and jurisdictions. They often operate independently, without proper coordination and complementarity. There is a clear lack of landscape level governance and integration. Especially for the PONASI complex, agencies such as DGFF, OFINAP and DREDD operate simultaneously and independently at different levels. There is a clear need to have a platform that will help for joint decision mechanisms and to ensure harmonisation of different management jurisdictions within the landscape. In addition, there are no adequate tools, knowledge and skills to support such a platform for better decision making. Tools such as ELUP are needed to provide adequate basis and analytical framework for sound decision making. There is also lack of knowledge about exact estimates of carbon stock in the PONASI landscape, and options / opportunities for carbon sequestration. A carbon mapping is essential to have a better understanding of the sequestration opportunities. Tools such as the decision making and carbon mapping will help to strengthen the management plan of the PONASI landscape and ensure protection of core wildlife habitats, maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and taking full account of emission reduction. Finally, there is a lack of proper incentives to sustain the financing of the landscape management.

Barrier #2. Low management effectiveness of conservation areas. Despite the formal designation of the 4 PAs in the 1970s, management effectiveness of the PONASI PA complex and individual PAs is weak. The administrative and technical supervision is dispersed across a variety of entities. The interconnectivity between PAs needs to be secured, infrastructures must be rehabilitated and revenue-producing sectors require a concerted initiative of revitalization. Individual PAs have either no management plan or only have very outdated management plans with no consideration for an integrated landscape management approach, no clear enforcement protocol or biodiversity monitoring protocol, and with no consideration for co-management and park neighbour relationship management nor systematic development of park tourism development that can bring benefits to local communities. In the PNKT, there are 70 villages with a total of 30,000 inhabitants around the park. Between 1993 and 2007 the park was managed by the national NGO NATURAMA and there were some progress with community livelihood support which reduced pressure on the park, however, the management of the park reverted back to the government and insufficient financial and human resources have been visible. Park management infrastructure is derelict and park rangers are ill equipped, and their morale is low with little opportunities for training nor a performance reward system. Two biological corridors, covering 88,691 ha were created with support of the PAGEN (*Partenariat pour l'Amélioration de la Gestion des Ecosystèmes Naturels*) project (2003-2007), with a successful increase in wildlife population. However, after the project ended, surveillance decreased and the situation began reverting. Herders invaded the corridors, poaching resumed and bushfires became more common, once again driving wildlife away from the corridor areas. There is an urgent need for creating more permanent corridor governance and a management system with clear zoning and management plans, governance and management structure and targeted habitat restoration and improvement with ful participation of the community members. At the same time, an effective elephant management plan for the entire PONASI landscape needs to be developed and implemented by the government in collaboration with local communities. This is likely to include establishment of a third corridor which has been identified by the IUCN's Elephant Specialist Group.

Barrier #3. Insufficient capacity of communities for sustainable land management and livelihood diversification. Although CAFs, which are part of the PONASI landscape and are community managed areas following sustainable use principles, the capacity of communities for ensuring sustainable land and natural resource management is weak. First, the land management itself is not properly understood by communities. Although most of the measures (zoning, divisions, rules, etc.) were established a long time ago in the 1970's, it is essential to work closely with the communities to have their proper buy-in and provide updated and practical measures, such as simplified and implementable zoning plans, strengthened hunting management and agreed human wildlife conflict management measures. Current agriculture practices are not sustainable. For example, the preferred method of land re-fertilization is still the slash and burn, which is a serious threat to neighbouring PAs. However, there are no incentives for conservation for these communities to currently implement sustainable land management practices. Activities such as community based tourism are lacking. Community training and viable partnerships with private sector are needed in order to create alternative livelihoods.

Barrier #4. Lack of adequate knowledge management and gender mainstreaming: Reliable data, data collection and data storage/sharing remains a substantial hurdle to ensuring proper science-based monitoring of the threats to the environment in Burkina Faso. Additionally, the minimal amount of information available faces challenges of sharing and scaling-up of successes and lessons learned in the numerous efforts being promulgated by international, national and local level actors in the environment and natural resource management field throughout the country. Building capacity together and sharing more reliable data is essential to move forward towards any better management of environmental governance. In additional, gender disaggregated data and mainstreaming into policies and programmes is not in common use.

The Project

In order to remove the above mentioned barriers, the project will implement a landscape approach which will yield multi-focal impacts. The project **objective** is to safeguard critical wildlife habitat, biodiversity and ecosystem services in PONASI Protected Area Complex through integrated landscape management, generating multiple benefits for sustainable development. The project will achieve this by stabilizing land-use, strengthening biodiversity conservation measures and safeguarding a stream of ecosystem services, thereby generating global environmental benefits sustained by the associated generation of national and local socio-economic benefits. It will promote integrated and sustainable management of both the PONASI PA Complex and of the surrounding landscapes, covering 952,000 ha.

Component 1 - Integrated management of the PONASI Landscape

This component will strengthen environmental and land use governance at landscape-level by developing and operationalising a landscape approach to the PONASI Complex and surrounding landscapes. This will involve a collaborative process with stakeholders from the national, regional and local levels so as to effectively address key drivers and pressures on the PONASI Complex. Application of a landscape approach to the PONASI Landscape will mean developing the tools for the integrated management of the PAs and other key-areas of conservation value within the Complex, so as to effectively take into account the network of socio-economic interactions at landscape-level between economic activities and drivers, local communities and the conservation of biodiversity in particular, and of ecosystem services in general – among them the carbon cycle and its implications for climate change.

Through this component, the project will achieve an integrated management of the PONASI landscape covering 952,000 ha, helping to avoid GHG emissions by 4 million tCO2eq through integrated forest landscape management from decreased deforestation rate over 436,057 ha of forest landscapes and restoration of 3,000 ha natural habitat. It will also help to reduce human wildlife conflict and increase available sustainable financing for landscape management.

The project will support establishment of a "PONASI Landscape Management Board" which will serve as an integrated governance platform for the landscape to coordinate conservation initiatives and regulate land-use and general human activities with impact on natural resources, both at complex-level and at the scale of individual PA sites. The different elements and interactions are considered as part of the same landscape system, which needs to be addressed through an integrated approach.[19] The Management Board will harmonise different management jurisdictions (e.g. SP/CONEDD, DGFF, OFINAP and DREDD) over specific management units within the Landscape. Their decision making will be facilitated by the environmental land use planning (ELUP) tool providing spatial planning methodology for governing land-use, and as a system to visualize the impacts of different economic activities on the landscape, its biodiversity and ecosystems, with clear articulation of trade-offs between different land use scenarios. The project will further support

[19] Such multi-functional interactions between areas of influence include, among many others, food chains and cycles of resource consumption, circulation of nutrients and pollutants, water infiltration and moisture retention and not least also the carbon cycle.

institutionalisation of carbon mapping, measurement and monitoring system within DGEF (with support to research institutions such as 2IE) to enable the production of consistent, accurate and well documented estimates of carbon stock in the PONASI Landscape and to inform the landscape management plan development and implementation.

PONASI Landscape Management Master Plan will be developed and approved by the Management Board for implementation, using the above mentioned ELUP and carbon mapping tools to ensure protection of core wildlife habitats including corridors and maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and taking full account of emission reduction. The management master plan will also include subsidiary points on financing and a wildlife tourism development based on a clear concession system. This aims to develop a sustainable and high-end nature-based tourism economy model in the PONASI landscape with the full participation of local communities and with measures for establishing an effective linkage between tourism and sustainable community and local economic development.

Clear management prescriptions for different land units and effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms will be established, led by Réseau MARP including biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring system, a range of incentives and disincentives, land use compliance monitoring mechanism and supporting implementation of the PONASI Landscape Management Master Plan.

Component 2 - Strengthening of PONASI PA System

Work under this component will both strengthen institutional capacity for the PONASI Complex management and increase management effectiveness of individual PAs and corridors. Through this component, the project will improve institutional capacity of the PA agency as measured by the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard. It will also improve management effectiveness in 314,434 ha of core PAs and 88,691 ha of two wildlife corridors in PONASI Complex indicated by: (i) Increase in METT Scores for individual sites (PNKT, Sissili, Nazinga, Nazinon), including improved management; (ii) Biodiversity health index shows improvement in the biodiversity and ecosystem status in each PA; (iii) stable or increased elephant population in the PONASI Complex from the current estimated 600.

In PA core sites, the project will first establish a new management model for the Nazinga Game Ranch (implemented by OFINAP). Based on the ELUP tool and under the global management master plan, a new zoning/land-use and management plan will be created, with a view to replace the current model with one based on ecological tourism that bans all hunting activity within Nazinga. In key interventions in other sites such as Nazinon, PNKT and Sissili (implemented by DREDD), the focus will be on sustainable resource management and ecosystem restoration. First, based on the information and land-use recommendations provided by the ELUP tool, zoning/land-use and management plans for these PAs will be revised or developed. Second, the regeneration of habitats will be accelerated through the re-introduction of native plant species key for ecosystem regeneration. This will involve strategically-placed planting initiatives with key tree and bush species with an emphasis on nitrogen-fixing plants, i.e., this will not involve massive reforestation.

The staff of the PAs will be equipped, trained and made operational. This capacity-building programme will be based on the guidelines provided by the IUCN publication *Protected Area Staff Training: Guidelines for Planning and Management*[20], and will target two objectives: (i) increasing the capacity of PA managers and operational staff to adapt to new challenges, using innovative and creative approaches; (ii) a team of well-trained and adequately equipped PA rangers is operational. The team will engage in improved anti-poaching actions, which will include the development of cross-entity (including cross-border) collaboration in implementing a highly effective surveillance network and rapid response strategy; (iii) basic infrastructure needed for PA management is repaired or constructed.

The wildlife corridor management regime will target activities regarding Corridor 1 (implemented by OFINAP) and Corridor 2 (implemented by DREDD). For both corridors, based on the ELUP tool, simplified zoning plans will be developed and strategies for mitigating pressures will be implemented. Special attention will be given to reducing the pressures generated by the roads crossing corridors 1 and 2 and human-wildlife conflicts in areas with agriculture and herd grazing (e.g. by avoiding further allocation of land for agricultural purposes within the elephant range and improved grazing management). Furthermore, the regeneration of corridor ecosystems will be accelerated through the re-introduction of native plant species key for ecosystem regeneration. This will involve strategically-placed small scale planting initiatives with key tree and bush species. These restoration initiatives will target specific parts of corridors 1 and 2 to improve their function for wildlife crossing between the major blocks of the Complex.

Finally, an effective landscape-level elephant protection plan will be developed and operationalized for the entire PONASI

[20] See more details in https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/import/downloads/pag_017.pdf

Complex. It will include a holistic human-wildlife conflict management strategy using the Safe system approach, with a set of management actions that are guided towards making the target landscape safe. The Safe system approach, developed by WWF, is a results-focused and delivered through 5 strategic outcomes: safe person, safe wildlife, safe assets, safe habitat and effective monitoring, rather than addressing individual conflict elements only. The elephant protection plan will be framed by the CITES resolutions in its African elephant action plan and it will include an international partnership with Ghana on elephant range management. Facilitated by IUCN's Elephant Specialist Group, this will strengthen and create the means (including financial) for implementing the country's elephant protection plan with focus on the sites that compose the PONASI Complex.

The project will contribute to attainment of Aichi Target 5 (loss of habitat); 7 (areas under sustainable management); 10 (vulnerable ecosystems); 11 (protected areas); 12 (preventing extinction); 14 (essential ecosystem services); and 15 (restoration and resilience). Specifically, on target 11, the project through this component 2, will work on sustainably managing protected areas and therefore in line with sustainable development commitments made by the government of Burkina Faso in its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The country has currently a national PA system covering 14% of its land surface including the 4 PAs in the PONASI landscape. The strengthening of the protected areas is therefore an important contribution to achieving these commitments. The project uses the following SMART indicators which directly corresponds to the indicators used for Aichi target 11: (i) Increase in METT Scores for individual sites (PNKT, Sissili, Nazinga, Nazinon), including improved management; (ii) integrated management of the PONASI landscape covering 952,000 ha including setting aside of HVCFs and establishment of wildlife corridors (directly linking to the Aichi target 11 indicator on increased overage of ecoregions, IBAs, KBAs etc.)

Component 3 - Sustainable Land Management and livelihood diversification

The work under the third Component of the project will implement a strategy to prevent land degradation and promote the restoration of degraded lands outside the core PAs, aiming at ecological regeneration of the global PONASI Landscape with all its multiple benefits: greater resilience of buffer-zone ecosystems (halting the regional tendency towards 'Sahelisation'), stabilization of land-use, improved stream of ecosystem services (including carbon availability) from more productive agroforestry systems (parklands combined with agriculture) and improved livelihoods. Combined, these benefits will substantially reduce both natural and human-induced pressures on PAs and respective ecosystems.

The project will support improvement of land management in Community Managed Hunting Zones (ZOVICs) and Community Managed Forests (CAFs) through collaborative natural resource management interventions. These will include development of simplified zoning plans using the ELUP tool and their implementation, strengthening of hunting management to safeguard the remaining elephant populations and implementation of human wildlife conflict management measures, including wildlife friendly grazing and cropping, alternative livelihood development, piloting of various prevention measures, establishment of human wildlife conflict information, monitoring and response system etc.

Sustainable land management (SLM) practices will be implemented by communities in the PONASI Landscape to reduce threats to PAs and to increase food security, agricultural productivity and resilience, including climate smart agriculture, sustainable harvesting of wood and biomass energy, forest restoration, fire management-assisted natural regeneration and water management. This component will support a bushfire prevention and control strategy around PAs. The project will also implement an initiative to promote climate-smart agriculture. This will include training and capacity building on techniques for assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and water management and also assistance in equipping and organizing communities to implement ANR initiatives using methods such as: "Zai compost pits", "half-moons", and other water harvesting techniques. These initiatives will be strategically placed in a few degraded buffer-zone areas where agricultural productivity has declined or disappeared. The focus will be on setting the example and on convincing farmers of the effectiveness of such techniques so that they replicate them on their own initiative. The strategy for implementing the SLM would follow the methodology developed by the World Resources Institute for "Scaling-Up Regreening".[21] Finally, the project will strengthen the communities by promoting sustainable community based tourism and community engagement and education programmes.

Furthermore, the project will support development of sustainable community based tourism ventures are established under the PONASI tourism development plan, providing alternative livelihoods to the communities and incentives for conservation. This support will entail community training, facilitation of partnerships with the private sector and linking

[21] See more details in http://www.wri.org/publication/scaling-regreening-six-steps-success.

with the international tourism market. A community engagement and training programme will be developed and operationalised with a focus on sustainable livelihoods and capacity building.

Finally, sustainable pastoral livelihoods will be implemented. The PONASI landscape comprises 3 pastoral zones. Best rangeland and pastoral management practices will be promoted. These include (but are not limited to) specific strategies to manage pastoralism locally; water storage and grazing areas; and reconciliation and curbing livestock raiding (in the context of potential conflicts between farmers and pastors).

Component 4 - Gender Mainstreaming, Knowledge Management and Learning

Under this component, gender will be mainstreamed throughout the integrated management of natural resources. In addition, community-learning mechanisms will be established and experiences shared through radio, SMS, websites, technical publications, videos and other relevant media. Communication products (films, articles, posters, reports, etc.) are developed to inform about the integrated landscape approach. Information is to be disseminated through the project website and newspaper, television, exhibitions or national workshops.

The capacity of the project team will be strengthened to effectively produce and dissemination knowledge and lessons learned from the project. First targets of the communication strategy will be populations around protected areas, local authorities and Government staff. Communication tools will be developed with the objective to disseminate widely the integrated approach.

Incremental/additional cost reasoning and Global environment benefits

Under the baseline scenario, globally significant biodiversity in the PONASI Landscape and associated ecosystem services will continue to be severely threatened. Despite the significant efforts of the Government and partners described in the baseline section, without implementation of the integrated landscape management approach, and without mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services within land use decision making and management on the ground, the PONASI Landscape will continue to become further fragmented. In addition, the presence of a globally important elephant range, is bound to become increasingly a target of international wildlife crime. This will diminish future potential of the landscape for sustainable tourism development and sustainable development as a whole. The project will engineer a shift in the existing development trajectory in the landscape characterized by unsustainable practices to sustainable land and dry forest management practices that conserve globally significant biodiversity and secure multiple ecosystem services, which underpin wellbeing of local people and their sustainable development.

The following table summarise the baseline scenario and alternatives to be achieved through this project, and expected global benefits:

Current Baseline	Alternative	Global Environmental Benefits
Deforestation and forest degradation trends experienced in the PONASI Landscape will continue and likely accelerate. The fragmentation between key habitats, that had until now ensured the viability and size of the elephant range e.g. or a place for the concentration of birds, small wetlands etc., will reach critical level and their ecosystem services may collapse. Excessive hunting within the ZOVICs and Nazinga will drive small mammals to extinction and drive away the larger faunal species, in particular the elephants, and their migration path will be altered. There will be little if any investment in PA management and the effectiveness of these sites in conserving biodiversity will be significantly	Land use in the PONASI Landscape will be stabilised with reduced deforestation, providing a more adequate level of protection to Western Sudanian Savannas and associated habitats. Integrated landscape management will be operational with inter-sectoral management board. Management jurisdictions is harmonized within the landscape. Specific tools are operational for decision making and carbon mapping. Capacities, both individual and institutional, within agencies responsible for managing the PAs are strengthened. The 4 PAs in the PONASI complex are well and sustainably managed, with clear and realistic management master plan considering business development and community engagement. Management and good governance will not be limited to PAs only, but extended at landscape level (including wildlife	***BD benefits*** Improved management of the 952,000 ha of terrestrial landscape, including 436,057 ha of PAs, Corridors and ZOVICs, harbouring globally significant biodiversity designated as an IBA. The area harbours the second most important range of elephants (*Loxodonta Africana)* in Burkina Faso with 600 out of 4,000 individuals estimated to occur in the country. Complex's status as an Important Bird Area (IBA). ***LD benefits*** Increased land area under sustainable land management – i.e. effective agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management practices and supporting climate-smart agriculture in 6,000 ha, enhancing vegetation cover, protecting water resources and conserving soils.

Current Baseline	Alternative	Global Environmental Benefits
demised. Unsustainable agricultural practices continue, based on clearing of old growth forests and the poorly controlled use of fire, degrading the PONASI landscapes and leading to biodiversity loss, degradation of its ecosystem services and the excessive loss of bio-carbon. Unsustainable pastoral management practices continue, with overgrazing and competition between farming and animal feeding. Tourism continues to decline, with little attractions and opportunities.	corridors, ZOVICs and CAFs). Sustainable land management practices will be implemented. Improved agriculture practices will increase food security, agriculture productivity, pastoral management practices, sustainable harvesting of fuelwood, forest restoration, fire management and water management. The threats to PAs will then be reduced. Tourism will be developed within the PONASI complex, with sustainable community based tourism ventures. Alternative livelihoods will be available for communities with incentives for conservation.	***CCM benefits*** 4 million tons of CO2 emissions avoided - Carbon in biomass: The provinces of the PONASI Landscape harbour some 5% of forest carbon in the country and reducing deforestation and degradation within them, as well as enhancing forest gain through the promotion of agro-forestry, will make an important contribution to fighting climate change. The medium- to long-run vegetation cover is generally rich in carbon. The deforestation rate before the project is 0.5%. This is very conservative as FAO figures show a deforestation rate of 0.87% between 1990 and 2010 (FAO 2010). The deforestation rate after the project is estimated at 0.25%.

Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovation: The project introduces a landscape approach to Burkina Faso, through which it will engineer a paradigm shift in the management of biodiversity and land management, including bio-carbon conservation. It will help to move from a site-focused conservation model towards an effective land and resource-use governance at the landscape level. This includes not only taking into consideration the multiple uses of the landscape, but also delivering key-interventions to contain the most important drivers and increase the overall connectivity of ecosystems. While this approach has been trialed in other parts of the world, including with GEF funding, in Burkina Faso it is a novelty. Other similar, but different, approaches have been tried in the country, in particular the Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM). But this lacked a clear and strong focus on biodiversity and PAs. Furthermore, a mainstreaming target in terms of a landscape and a Complex of PAs was not part of the IEM approach. The management of the elephant range seems to coalesce all initiatives and Components to create synergy.

Sustainability: The project will have several aspects of sustainability: institutional, financial and social. At institutional level, an integrated governance platform will be put in place. This will ensure not only harmonization of different management jurisdictions, but sustainability in all institutional aspects. The well integrated and fully complementarity governance of the PONASI complex are key for its sustainability. At financial level, a management master plan that includes financing aspects will be designed by the project. It will support a sustainable financing of the PONASI landscape. At the social level, communities will have their capacities strengthened, their engagement re-enforced, and their incentives for conservation increased. By adopting a participative approach, the project will guarantee maximum coverage of impact: the inclusion of all social groups, with particular attention to the participation and inclusion of women.

Scaling up: The project proposes to address threats to PAs and to integrate their strengthening into the management of a wider landscape. This is expected to create greater resilience and stability of surrounding ecosystems, to curb the park-edge effect and to generate revenue for local communities through eco-tourism, as well as increases in soil productivity and viable diversification of income sources. This should result in the reduction in the attractiveness of poaching through the creation of alternative sources of income. Furthermore, the collaboration with the neighbouring country, Ghana, in the management of the elephant range is also a way of scaling-up the intervention of the PONASI Landscape project.

2) STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholder	*Relevant Role*
SP/CONEDD	The SP/CONEDD (*Secrétariat Permanent du Conseil national pour l'environnement et le développement durable*) is expected to be the project's implementing partner. In addition, SP/CONEDD will play a pivotal role in the implementation process of the landscape approach as the official coordinator/mediator of the proposed management board. Being an external third-party to the current active management of the Complex PAs, while having substantial capacity and the appropriate institutional ties as body of the Ministry of Environment, SP/CONEDD would be the most suited entity in Burkina Faso to assume this role, to be confirmed during the

Stakeholder	*Relevant Role*
	PPG.
Local communities in the departments sharing and surrounding the PONASI Complex	This group is a key stakeholder in the project. Their involvement and action of the "Conseils Villageois de Développement" will be a determinant of the project's success. The role of local communities will first and foremost be to articulate their aspirations vis-a-vis the process of the formulation of management plans and assume their responsibilities in their implementation. Through participation via municipal representatives on the proposed management board, local communities will be involved in biodiversity and livelihoods spatial assessments and planning, and thereafter, with adequate resources, in the management of their *terroir* and its zone of influence. This is especially relevant for the ZOVICs, CAFs and Corridors.
Sub-national government	Provincial and communal administrations should also be represented on the board and are expected to play an important role for the implementation of the ELUP and for the formulation of local land-use plans and will be consulted during the PPG.
Ministère de l'Environnement de l'Economie Verte et du Changement Climatique	Direction Générale des Forêts et de la Faune (DGFF) and its regional representations: Direction Regional de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (DREDD); Office national des aires protégées (OFINAP), Secrétariat Permanent du Conseil national pour l'environnement et le développement durable (SP/CONEDD), Agence nationale de Promotion des produits Forestiers Non Ligneux (APFNL). All of these entities will be consulted during the PPG.
Environmental NGOS	NATURAMA, AFAUDEB, Réseau MARP. These three NGOs have long since developed initiatives in and around the PONASI Complex and know the terrain very well. AFAUDEB has been leading the GRET project for the PONASI Complex. NATURAMA managed the PNKT for ten years and has experience in scaling-up ANR with PONASI communities in the context of the Ecosystem Alliance project. Réseau MARP has accumulated experience in scaling-up ANR in other regions of Burkina Faso and has been a partner with SP/CONEDD in developing its anti-brushfire strategy. Additional NGOs such as NATUDEV, AGED, GRET, etc. will be fully consulted during the project development process in order to determine their contribution to and roles in the project.
Private Sector (including tourism and agribusiness sectors)	Regarding the private sector, the most important stakeholders are the "new actors" – agribusiness developing agricultural projects around the PONASI Complex – who need to start complying with land-use regulations and adopting more sustainable land-use practices. Stakeholders in the tourism sector will also need to comply with new regulations and fully participate in the development of the PAs. Private sector role during the project preparation would mainly be to share needs in term of investments and to provide feedbacks vis-à-vis designed project instruments.
All other potential co-financiers	Will be duly consulted and involved in the PPG phase.
UNDP	Will coordinate the PPG in close collaboration with Government.

3) GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT.

Are issues on gender equality and women's empowerment taken into account? (Yes)

Gender relations will be considered in every aspect of the project's plan and implementation, in particular in regard to Components 2 and 3. Women are a very important group under this project. While also relevant to the consumption of wood-based resources, their role as the primary collectors and users of non-timber forest products, in seed selection, seed saving, and use of wild plants for food and medicines plays a major role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land-use. Women are also a key channel for community education and capacity building (particularly through the community's children) and are usually receptive to local development actions that aim at improving livelihoods and reducing pressures on the landscape. Furthermore, women, children and the elderly are frequently amongst the more vulnerable of the poor. In the face of climate change and lower landscape-level resilience, their vulnerability will likely be exacerbated. Hence, women will not only be a key indirect beneficiary of conservation measures under this project, but they will also play a protagonist role in promoting the mainstreaming of sustainable resource-use of this landscape. The focus on women and their economic empowerment is crucial for the sustainability of the project and for addressing gender developmental issues. It does so by creating surpluses – of energy, water, food and ultimately free-time. Giving people the power to steer their own development underpins the concept of decentralization and increased village-level autonomy that has been shaping the country's policies towards livelihoods since the early 1990s. Furthermore, during the PPG project indicators will be broken down by gender where applicable and gender concerns incorporated in the planning of specific activities.

The project's Components adopt a participative approach in order to guarantee maximum coverage of impact: the inclusion of all social groups, including marginalized groups, with particular attention to the participation and inclusion of women. Gender considerations will be part of the formulation process, and attention paid to identifying and promoting appropriate forms of benefit-sharing that acknowledge and reward the differing contributions of women and men to conservation. Women will be represented in all consultations conducted by the proposed management board, and will certainly have a representative on the board itself. Women's participation in all stages of the project will ensure that their needs are met and that their constraints are addressed.

The Ecosystem Alliance project implemented by NATURAMA in the buffer zones of PNTK had the sustainable collection, use and commercialization of NTFPs by women as one of its main pillars. Women (along with children) are the main group involved in tapping into these resources and therefore have a major impact on PAs and their buffer zones. This project will continue to develop and scale-up good practices across the PONASI Landscape. The outputs of Component 3 are particularly relevant to the gender element and will be implemented accordingly.

A full gender assessment will be conducted and a project specific gender mainstreaming plan will be developed during the PPG phase.

4) RISK.

The following risks have been identified and they will be reviewed and updated during the PPG phase.

Risk	Rating	Management Strategy
Upsurge in elephant poaching and associated security concerns	H	Wildlife is intensively poached in almost all of Burkina Faso conservation areas. Poverty, inadequate capacity for law enforcement and, perhaps most importantly, the demand from consumer countries that generates a powerful market of illicit trade remain the most important root causes for poaching. In the case of the PONASI Complex, the reasons for the difficulty in controlling poaching are typical of other important areas for conservation, being mainly associated to inadequate funds for carrying out activities in the field, human-wildlife conflicts, high turnover of field staff (monitoring staff), insufficient equipment, as well as problems of communication between the sites within the PONASI Landscape and with the Ghanaian authorities across the border. Particularly in the case of elephants, corridors between sites also need to be well protected as most poaching occurs while herds migrate from one protected area to another. In term of management strategy, component 2 of the project will help increase the capacity of PA managers and operational staff. A team of well-trained and adequately equipped PA rangers will be operational. The team will engage in improved anti-poaching actions, which will include the development of cross-entity (including cross-border) collaboration in implementing a highly effective surveillance network and rapid response strategy. The project component to closely work with communities to realise legal wildlife based economy will act as a strong deterrent for community members to get involved in poaching activities.
Difficulties in constructing the required collaborative process through an effective management board	M	Through Output 1.1, the project will create a platform for collaborative landscape and sectoral governance. All the relevant administrative levels of government will be engaged in the process and represented in the platform, together with PA managing entities, NGOs and other stakeholders. UNDP has previous and useful experience with developing such platforms, e.g. from the UNDP-GEF EP3 project but also from its governance programme (Decentralization Project) and Joint-UN programme with UNICEF and others. A clear mediation and facilitation role by a neutral third party (SP/CONEDD) and conflict resolution techniques will render all decision-making processes smoother. In addition, the process of landscape-level planning will ensure coordination and harmonization between plans across the landscape and planning tiers. All partners will have a voice and will be given a chance to present their concerns. Where possible, formal agreements/MOUs will be used to better define roles and responsibilities.
Local communities and relevant groups of stakeholders (e.g. municipal authorities, community groups, NGOs, public entities) are not receptive to changing unsustainable (traditional or otherwise) practices that threaten the provision of	M	Project success will depend on the participation and commitment of all the relevant stakeholders including "the right mix" of local and national agencies, NGOs and community groups. The Government has expressed its commitment to ensuring full community participation in project activities that relate to livelihoods and the management of natural assets. They also committed to creating adequate incentives for resource stewardship to communities, e.g. through participatory planning and decision-making mechanisms and financial and technical support for communities to self- regulate access to and sustainable use of resources. Ultimately, success in engaging local communities will depend on whether the project can produce tangible socio-economic benefits to resource users in its effort to produce global environmental benefits. The project will invest, where possible and through implementing partners, in awareness-raising campaigns, building local capacities, introducing alternative technologies and production methods. The project will work with other projects and programmes active at project site level on a plethora of sustainable livelihood activities. The aim is to enhance demonstration of benefits (income, employment, etc.) from sustainably using natural assets and maintaining ecosystem services through protection of elephant herds, natural parklands and long-term fallow agricultural landshat characterize the PONASI landscape.

Risk	Rating	Management Strategy
ecosystem services		
Problems in implementing the ELUP tool	L	The involvement of key policy-making players at both the national and regional levels will ensure that opportunities and benefits from biodiversity mainstreaming will be duly understood and used accordingly. Furthermore, the ELUP will be designed to be used openly with full disclosure. The project will apply a proactive approach to the engagement of high-impact physical sectors and conduct an informed dialogue with them, in particular with the new actors of agribusiness. The collaborative governance framework for sectoral mainstreaming proposed by the project will provide the best changes to promote consultations and disseminate key information that affects biodiversity across the landscape.
Climate risks at the PONASI Landscape level	L	The PONASI Landscape is generally susceptible to the negative impacts of climate change. For the duration of the project, these will be monitored as part of the general national efforts in this respect. The project, when under implementation, will then gauge if there is room for adding specific adaptation strategies in the landscape and PA management interventions.

5) COORDINATION.

During the PPG phase, in-depth consultations will be undertaken to establish partnerships and practical modalities for linking and collaborating with several ongoing and planned initiatives with impacts on the PONASI Complex in Burkina Faso. This is not only to avoid unnecessary duplication but also to ensure that GEF resources build on the progress and achievements made to date through such initiatives. A strategy and plan for collaboration with relevant ongoing and planned initiatives such as those stated below will be prepared during the preparatory phase, including defining the roles and responsibilities of critical stakeholders.

The project will closely work with:

- Coordination with the SGP under Output 3.3 (Community strengthening)., as described in previous sections.
- "*Aménagement et exploitation des forêts pour le ravitaillement de la ville de Ouagadougou en bois de feu*" TCP/FAO/BKF/85/011): This FAO managed project aims to promote sustainable fuelwood production and consumption, thus participating with the GEF funded project to reduce pressure on forest.
- "*Aménagement des forêts naturelles pour la sauvegarde de l'environnement et la production de bois*" (PNUD/FAO/BKF/89/011) both projects (this project and the GEF proposed project) will work and coordinate on forest management and planning.
- Project GEF Nazinga / From 1997 to 2004 both project will work and on the same site.
- *Sustainable Development in the Kabore Tambi National Park Region* / From 2008-08-26 to 2011-12-22 both project will work and on the same site.
- "*Projet de partenariat pour l'amélioration de la gestion des écosystèmes naturels*" (PAGEN) / From 2003 to 2008; Through this project the state effectively managed to achieve a more pronounced involvement of local communities in the conservation of the buffer zone of the PNKT. It was also this project that first attempted to create the 2 corridors mentioned in the definition of the PONASI Complex.
- GEF/WB GGW: Community based Rural Development Project 3rd Phase with Sustainable Land and Forestry Management. This project has the same MFA (multi focal area) approach as the proposed new project. Both projects will complement each other on rural communities and decentralized institutions capacity enhancement.
- *Agricultural Productivity and Food Security Project* / "Programme d'appui à la productivité et à la sécurité alimentaire (PAPSA)"/ From 2009 to 2014. The PAPSA project contributed indirectly to the operationalization of several PAs (National Park of Kaboré Tambi, Nazinga ranch, partial reserve Northern Sahel, Bolt-Konflandé, Mare aux Hippos and Arly) through its effects on their buffer zones.
- "*Programme Integré de développement local du Zoundwéogo* (PDIZ)" / From 2001 to 2006; Due to bad management and lack of effective involvement of locals, this project created many conflicts in the buffer zones of the PNKT. Its lessons learned will be useful.
- Until recently, the Finish Cooperation has been supporting a Community based approach for bush-fire management in rural areas (*Gestion des feux en milieu rural au Burkina Faso - Approche communautaire*). The project will learn from the results and methods of the initiative and replicate, whenever applicable in the implementation of Output 1.3.

A thorough study on lessons learned from previous GEF funded projects such as (GEF/UNDP project: Protected Area Buffer Zone Management in Burkina Faso – GEF#4221), GEF/UNDP biodiversity project (Partnership for Natural Ecosystem Management Program – PAGEN – GEF#876) and GEF/WB/UNDP/FAO/UNEP strategic programme SPWA-BD: GEF Program in West Africa: Sub-component on Biodiversity – GEF#3785) will be conducted during PPG phase.

6) CONSISTENCY WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES.

The project strategy and proposed outputs are consistent with national development priorities, and have close substantive and institutional links and complementarities with the primary national development strategies and plans including:

- The *2025 Vision* stresses the importance of climate risk to sustainable development and economic growth, and emphasizes the links with natural resource management and ecosystem services.
- Burkina Faso's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 1999), which stresses that the country's biodiversity endowment is limited and it therefore needs to be managed in a sustainable manner. The project will contribute to attainment of Aichi Target 5 (loss of habitat); 7 (areas under sustainable management); 10 (vulnerable ecosystems); 11 (protected areas); 12 (preventing extinction); 14 (essential ecosystem services); and 15 (restoration and resilience).
- Burkina Faso's National Action Programme (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.
- The National Communications and INDC of Burkina Faso to the UNFCCC: the SNC (2014) highlighted that the Forestry (LUCF), Agriculture and Energy sectors are the main sources of GHG emissions. The INDC (2015) projected an 18% decrease in CO_2 emissions by 2030, in the same three main sectors highlighted by the SNC.
- The Rural Development Strategy (*Programme national du secteur rural* – PNSR), where the objective is to ensure sustainable development of the rural sector with a view to contributing to the fight against poverty, by consolidating food security, access to water and promoting sustainable development.
- The National Policy for the Environment (*Politique Nationale de Développement Durable*) and the Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development (*Plan d'Environnement pour le Développement Durable* - PEDD), which stress the sound management of natural resources and their contribution to the country's economic development.
- The Forestry Code (1997, currently being updated), which emphasizes the importance of managing forest resources rationally.
- The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Promotion of Non-Timber Forest Products.
- The National Water Policy (2007) and the Action Plan for Integrated Water Resource Management (PAGIRE), which covers two phases, the current one being 2009-2015, and which seeks to increase access to water and sanitation through IWRM, while placing the management of scarce water resources high on the national agenda with a long-term and integrated vision. Both the Water Policy and its Action Plan stress the importance of river basins in the country's economic development.
- The National Action Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change and Variability in Burkina Faso (Programme d'action national d'adaptation à la variabilité et aux changements climatiques au Burkina Faso).
- The National Programme for the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas (*Programme National de Gestion de la Faune et des Aires Protégées* – PNGFAP).

7) KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT.

Knowledge management is very important for this project, due to its integrated approach. Component 4 will specifically deal with knowledge management. Through this component, the project will ensure that community-learning mechanisms are established and experiences are shared through radios, SMS, websites, technical publications, videos and other relevant media. Communication products (films, articles, posters, reports, etc.) are developed to inform about the newly established protected area and the eco-village concept project. Information are disseminated through the project website and newspaper, television, exhibitions or national workshops. The main system for knowledge management will be the ELUP (Environmental Land Use Planning) tool. All data produced by this project will be made public in user-friendly forms. Reports will be available at the websites of the SP/CONNED and the Ministry of the Environment.

PART III: Approval/Endorsement by GEF Operational Focal Point and GEF agency

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

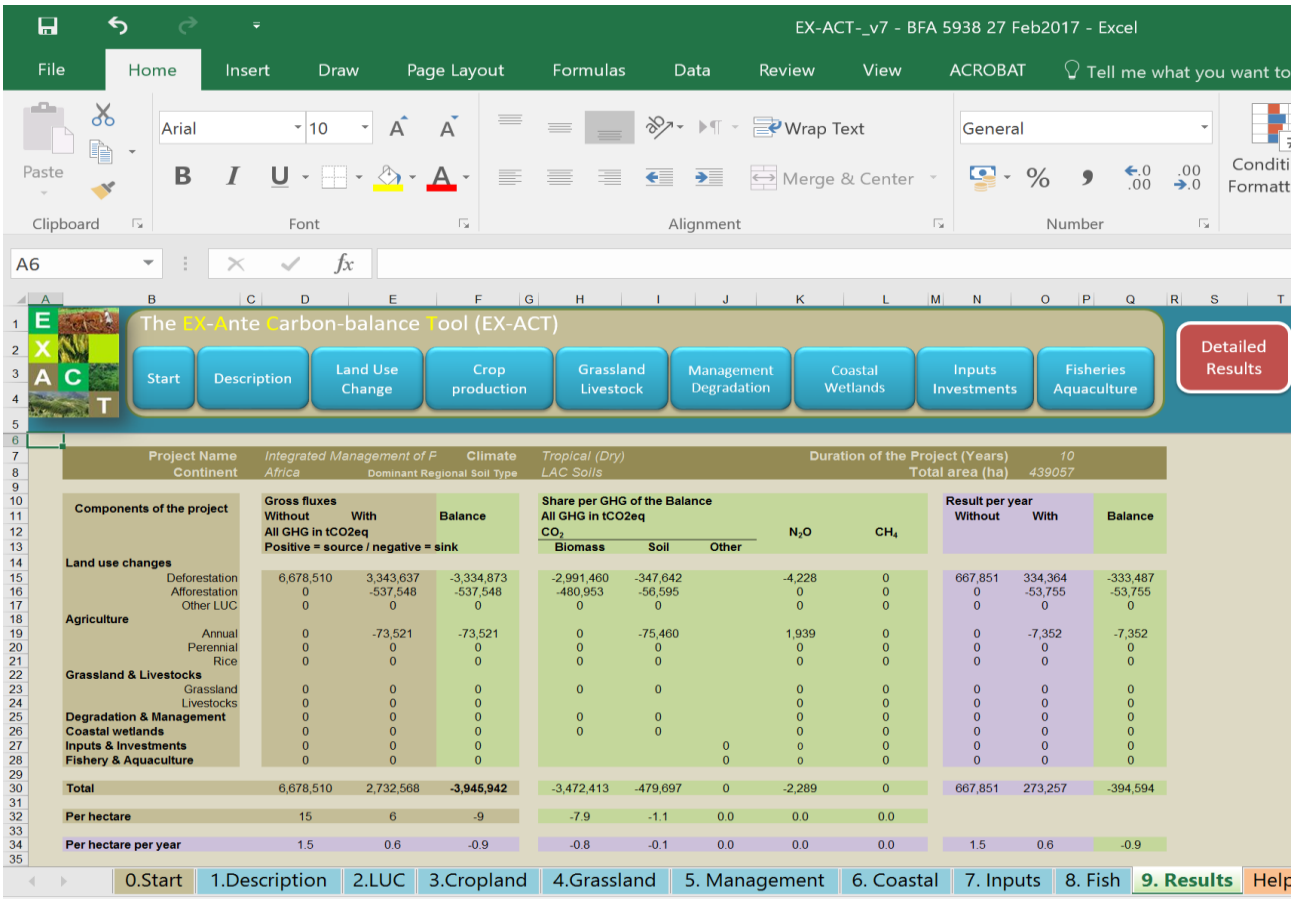
NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)*
MR. PAMOUSSA OUEDRAOGO	OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT, SECRETARIAT PERMANENT DU CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (SP/CONEDD)	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	03/27/2017

B. GEF AGENCY CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date *(MM/dd/yyyy)*	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Adriana Dinu Executive Coordinator, UNDP GEF		07/03/2017	Saliou Toure Technical Advisor EITT	+251 912 503 320	saliou.toure@undp.org

Annex 1: FAO EXACT result sheet



*The carbon sequestration estimates have been computed using the Ex-Ante Carbon-Balance Tool (EX-ACT) Tier Standard Edition, developed by FAO. The forest-type selected for the calculations is Tropical Dry Forest, building on a baseline of degraded land in a Dry Tropical climate. The soil-type generally consists of fertile Low Activity Clay loams derived from a basaltic substrate, albeit highly degraded through prior deforestation activity and subsequent over-grazing/agriculture. The deforestation rate before the project is 0.5%. This is very conservative as FAO figures show a deforestation rate of 0.87% between 1990 and 2010 (FAO 2010). 436,057 ha * 0.5% = 2,180 ha lost per year. Over the 10-year period, it is 21,803ha lost meaning a remaining cover of 414,254 ha. The deforestation rate after the project is 0.25%, leading to 425,155 ha "with" the project. The difference of conservation (425,155 – 414,254 = 10,902 ha leads to 3.3 million of CO2 emission sequestrated (Note that the remaining CO2 emissions coms from the climate smart agriculture). The project involves conservation in 436,057 ha using native and introduced tree species selected for their adaptability to the area. Over a period of 10 years, approximately 4 million tCO_2e will be sequestered through the project's intervention.*
The full EXACT sheet is attached to the PIF. A finer carbon benefit estimation will be made during the PPG phase.

Annex 2: Summary of best practices and lessons from relevant past and on-going projects

Taking lessons learned from previous experiences is key to ensure sustainability and avoid repeating mistakes. The proposed project takes into account the fact that a previous GEF/UNDP biodiversity project (Partnership for Natural Ecosystem Management Program – PAGEN – GEF#876) highlighted in its terminal evaluation that among the factors that raised problems during project implementation was the focus on conservation activities only, without sufficiently developing the linkages between conservation and natural resource-based income generating activities. The PAGEN's initial focus was mainly on conservation. As a result, in many communities surrounding the protected areas, conservation measures were often not supported by ecosystem-based income generation activities. Thus, the proposed project takes the above known lessons into account. The project will work on both inside and outside the PAs to ensure sustainability.

As for other projects, such as the EU/UNDP PAPE (Program Support for WAP Parks) and GEF/UNDP WAP (Enhancing the effectiveness and catalyzing the sustainability of the W-Arly-Pendjari – WAP GEF#1197), their terminal evaluations highlighted that future projects should focus on sustainability, but also on communication and sensitization. The sustainability should be at all levels such as political, financial, ecological, and socio-economical aspects. The proposed

project adopted this known lesson. To ensure an effective sustainability of the investments, the project will work on several aspects of sustainability: institutional, financial and social as described in the PIF. In line with the recommendation on communication and sensitization, the project designed Component 4 "*Gender Mainstreaming, Knowledge Management and Learning*", especially Output 4.1 "*Knowledge, key experiences and lessons learned are compiled and widely disseminated for replication through a range of communication tools including the project website, project stories, issue papers, and scaling up of project results supported*".

The interventions in the corridors are also driven by lessons from previous projects, especially the GEF/UNDP project named: Protected Area Buffer Zone Management in Burkina Faso – GEF#4221 (still under implementation to be completed by June 2017). The recent steering committee of the project recommended among others, to have a "local land charter" agreed by all stakeholders, and regular fauna and flora inventories to assess the effectiveness of the buffer zones. Even though the above project focuses on PAs in the western part of the country, the interventions can be similar with of course, specificities depending on the sites.