

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**



BURKINA FASO

Unité - Progrès - Justice

Summary

**OF THE NATIONAL PORTFOLIO OF PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED WITH
ALLOCATIONS TO BURKINA FASO UNDER THE SYSTEM FOR THE
TRANSPARENT ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES OF THE FIFTH
REPLENISHMENT OF RESOURCES OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
FACILITY (GEF)**

January 2012



**Convention sur la
diversité biologique**



**United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change**

1. Background

As part of the Fifth Replenishment of Resources of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in May 2010, Burkina Faso was allocated US\$9.8 million under a new financing mechanism—the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR). This allocation is to be channeled toward biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation projects in the amounts of US\$1.5 million, US\$3.2 million, and US\$5.1 million, respectively.

The GEF has recommended that access to these STAR funds be preceded by the formulation of a national portfolio of ideas and priorities for projects to be prepared, based on a participatory, transparent, and inclusive process.

In conducting its portfolio formulation exercise, Burkina Faso stringently adhered to these guidelines. The exercise was conducted with financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the National Adaptation Programme of Action on climate change and climate variability funded by NAPA Japan and the Partnership Program for [Sustainable] Land Management, the national component.

2. The National Portfolio Preparation Process in Burkina Faso

2.1. Establishment of the Committee and Dissemination of Information

A committee was established in June 2011 composed of the GEF focal points for biodiversity, climate change, and combating desertification, as well as the director for the partnership and the coordination of international conventions on the environment, and the consultant hired for this purpose.

The committee embarked on an extensive information campaign using national television and the print media to address the key activities of the process and sent correspondence to the central units of the ministerial departments for rural development and NGO federative entities, which relayed the information to their respective bases.

The national actors were involved in the process through four consultative events: a national workshop to launch the process, a workshop to provide

training in drafting project concept notes, a call for project proposals, and a national workshop to review and validate preselected projects.

2.2. National Workshop to Launch the Process

The national workshop was organized to provide national actors with information on the national portfolio to be prepared. It brought together 43 participants carefully chosen to ensure fairly representative participation by the categories of actors involved (state entities from the ministerial departments for rural development and energy, civil society through NGOs, and research and private sector entities through a mining company).

This workshop also provided a forum for raising awareness among the actors on the missions and objectives of the GEF as well as the focal areas it finances. As a result, a proposal was submitted to use US\$1.6 million from the STAR allocation for the GEF microfinance program in Burkina Faso. A decision was also made at the launching workshop that the national portfolio would focus on sustainable forest management projects but not, however, to the exclusion of projects specifically targeting biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation.

2.3. Training Workshop

The training workshop sought to strengthen the skills of actors in the preparation of project concept notes in an effort to enhance the quality of the projects to be formulated and to provide actors with the same information and equal opportunity to participate in project proposal exercises.

Of the ten structures that participated in training, eight were able to demonstrate the benefits of the session by effectively drafting and submitting some of the best project briefs, which were selected for the portfolio.

2.4. Call for Project Proposals, Project Ideas Received, and Assessment

A call for project proposals was issued to obtain project ideas to be included in Burkina Faso's national portfolio of projects.

Following this call, 24 project ideas were prepared by the actors and submitted to the evaluation committee for analysis. Two of these projects

related to biodiversity, four to climate change, and four to land degradation. Thirteen were multiple impact projects. The last of these was a sanitation project, which the committee did not consider.

Taking into account the actors involved, the breakdown of the projects was as follows: twelve projects from the state services and ten from civil society (five from research institutions and five from NGOs). There was private sector involvement in only one project related to the establishment of a solar power plant.

The utility of project ideas was assessed using a scorecard adapted from a similar tool validated by the United Nations and applied to projects launched with a view to achieving the MDGs by 2015.

The evaluation was done by the consultant with the assistance of the focal points for biodiversity, climate change, and combating desertification. The results were submitted for assessment to roughly twenty senior officials of the Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development (SP/CONEDD) during a three-day workshop.

2.5. Projects Preselected by the Committee

Based on the scorecard, eleven projects were rated at least average. They were preselected and submitted for evaluation by the validation workshop, which judged them appropriate. Four of the eleven projects came from state entities, three from NGOs, and four from research entities.

The eleven projects were found to be fairly representative of the categories of actors who participated in the process. They are also fairly balanced in terms of their spatial distribution throughout the country.

The eastern part of the country is involved in a sustainable land management project. Implementation of this project will facilitate strengthening of the gains made and supplementing of the activities of the National Land Management Program (PNGT2), which has assumed responsibility for the activities of the Partnership Program for Sustainable Land Management (eastern region component), which did not receive financing.

Two sustainable agriculture projects will be executed in the north of the country. They were prepared with a view to large-scale replication so as to restore former agroforestry parks over time and to maintain optimal woody plant density on village land.

Designed to ensure effective sustainability with self-management provisions that will guarantee the continuation of activities once GEF financing ends, these two projects should help lay the ecological foundation for more secure production by rural small farmers, who are faced with increasing insecurity owing to recurring climate shocks.

Another sustainable forest management project will be executed in the area of confluence of the south, center-south, and center-west of Burkina Faso. This area is home to the PONASI (Pô-Nazinga-Sissili) ecological complex, which includes the national park, the classified forest, the Nazinga game ranch, the private tourist hunting concession area in the Sissili classified forest, silvicultural classified forests, and more than 20 village protected hunting areas known as *Zones Villageoises d'Intérêt Cynégétique* (ZOVICs). This project has been developed with the aim of addressing the conservation needs of this complex where protection challenges are being complicated by the emergence of new areas of pressure (development of agribusiness in the zone).

The Sahel and the western part of the country are the beneficiaries of two research projects involving grazing and related practices, which constitute the second leading cause of natural resource and environmental degradation. The outcomes of these two projects must, first and foremost, enrich other projects from the standpoint of tried and true knowledge and technologies as well as sound livestock practices.

The recurring problem with brush fires is being addressed through a rural fire management project based on the national strategy and action plan for managing rural fires. This project will focus on raising awareness and empowering communities and local governments and will include a major innovation—an alarm system for active fires using cell phones to be networked to fire detection satellite imagery data. This technique has been

developed by the environmental monitoring project based at the SP/CONEDD and will be used as a supplementary tool to mobilize communities in real time in order to extinguish active fires.

2.6. National Validation Workshop

This workshop was organized to allow national actors to:

- Be aware of project ideas submitted by project developers;
- Assess the scorecard evaluating the project briefs submitted by project developers;
- Assess the projects preselected by the evaluation team in order to build Burkina Faso's national portfolio; and
- Evaluate the general thrusts of proposals in order to finalize the national portfolio document.

The national workshop validated the eleven project ideas preselected along with suggestions to merge a number of project ideas.

3. Project Ideas Approved for Inclusion in the National Portfolio

Modifications were made to the content of the projects selected and to proposed budgets with the aim of reducing the number of projects and targeting bigger impacts at the end of their implementation. Proposals were therefore made to merge some of the preselected projects and submitted to the December 30, 2011 national workshop, which validated these proposals. The mergers proposed reduce the number of projects to the five portfolio projects outlined below:

3.1. Sustainable Forest Management Project in Burkina Faso

1. From an institutional standpoint, this project in the amount of US\$4.81 million will be placed under the National Office for Protected Areas. It is aimed at reducing brush fires by 50 percent throughout the country, preserving the protected areas in the Pô-Nazinga-Sissili (PONASI) ecological zone, and increasing the value of restored and protected forests as well as carbon stocks, for the benefit of the communities.

It entails three components:

Component 1: Rural fire management—**US\$1.2 million**, to be executed by the Forestry Directorate;

Component 2: Sustainable management of the PONASI (Pô-Nazinga-Sissili) ecosystem—**US\$3.1 million**, to be executed by the National Office for Protected Areas;

Component 3: Establishment of national systems to measure and monitor carbon stocks and flows—**US\$300,000**, to be executed by the biology and plant ecology laboratory at the University of Ouagadougou.

The “rural fire management” component has a national dimension, with emphasis on the PONASI zone where brigades responsible for fighting brush fires will be used on a trial basis during the first year to extinguish late season fires.

The second component, “sustainable management of the PONASI ecosystem,” will be executed at the PONASI complex, which has been proposed as an ideal focal area for GEF-5 projects owing to a host of pressures, which seem to be mounting at a much faster rate than elsewhere (overgrazing, preferred area for agribusiness, presence of numerous areas under protected status that are used for different purposes (classified forests used for fauna and forestry purposes, ZOVICs, national park, game ranch, ecological corridors, hunting concession, and a transboundary ecological unit). Despite the foregoing, there are no projects planned for this zone in the immediate future.

The third component will entail the establishment of benchmarks to evaluate carbon stocks and flows in the different forest types and agroforestry spaces from the northern region to the protected areas in the PONASI complex zone.

3.2. Project to Promote Sustainable Agriculture in the North and Protect the Banks of the Nazinon River

The budget for this project stands at US\$700,000. It will be placed under the administrative oversight of the New Tree Tipalga NGO and will be executed in five communes in the northern region. This project seeks to maintain optimal woody plant density on the land, to meet the farmers’ needs for organic compost, to reduce household bioenergy use by at least 50 percent, and to protect the Nazinon riverbanks. The project is comprised of three components:

- The “assisted natural regeneration and improved stoves” component—US\$300,000, executed by the New Tree Tipalga NGO;
- The biodigester component—US\$200,000, executed by the NGO *Fondation les Mains Unies pour le Développement Communautaire*;
- The component to protect the banks of the Nazinon river—US\$200,000, executed by the *Comité Baoré Solidarité* Association.

3.3. Sustainable Urban Mobility Project in Ouagadougou

This project, amounting to US\$500,000, is under the administrative leadership of the General Directorate for the Environment and Sustainable Development. It was selected by the validation workshop subject to the following conditions:

- Avoiding duplication of activity with the similar project currently underway; and
- Providing evidence that carbon emission reductions will actually be substantial.

This project seeks to promote economical and low carbon emissions transport systems through a reduction in the use of individual modes of transport and in urban traffic congestion in downtown Ouagadougou.

3.4. Research Project to Support the Sustainable Management of Grazing Land and Livestock Management

This project, the focus of which is research and development, will be based at the Institute for the Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA). Its funding stands at US\$590,000 and it is aimed at restoring and sustainably managing grazing land with emphasis on improving grazing land and livestock management, upgrading technologies related to livestock feed, and restoring degraded grazing land. It also includes three components:

- Component 1: Contributing to improved management of grazing land and livestock management in a context of climate change—US\$300,000;
- Component 2: Upgrading technologies to improve livestock feed in Burkina Faso’s Sahelian area—US\$140,000; and

- Contributing to the recovery of degraded grazing land in the Sub-Saharan and Sahelian areas of Burkina Faso—US\$150,000.

3.5. Eastern Region Subprogram: National Partnership Program for Sustainable Land Management

This project, in the amount of US\$1.1 million, targets the establishment of coordinated and decentralized sustainable agro-sylvo-pastoral land management in the eastern region, and is a component of the Partnership Program for Sustainable Land Management. From an institutional standpoint, it will be under the national component of the National Partnership Program for Sustainable Land Management, based at the SP/CONEDD.