

PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)

APPRAISAL STAGE

Report No.:

Project Name	Local Forest Communities Support Project (P149434)
Region	AFRICA
Country	BURKINA FASO
Sector(s)	General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (80%);Public administration-Agriculture, fishing and forestry (20)
Lending Instrument	Specific Investment Loan
Project ID	P149434
Borrower(s)	Civil Society of Burkina Faso
Implementing Agency	National Executing Agency
Environmental Category	B - Partial Assessment
Date PID Prepared	03-March-2015
Estimated Date of Appraisal Completion	16-April-2015
Estimated Date of Board Approval	04-August-2015
Concept Review Decision	10-March-2015
Other Decision (as needed)	

I. Introduction and Context

I. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

A. Country Context

1. **Burkina Faso has achieved significant and sustained economic growth over the last decade, but continues to face many challenges. Recent growth trends have fallen short of expectations** due to the combined impact of falling gold and cotton prices, the spillover impact of the ebola crisis in the region, a sharp decline in exports, and (marginally), the political events of October 2014. Real GDP growth declined from a peak of 9 percent in 2012 to 6.6 percent in 2013 and 5 percent in 2014. Furthermore, , high population growth rates—3.1 percent, also one of the highest in Africa—are projected to result in a doubling of the population in one generation. The demographic trend accelerates environmental degradation which reinforces the cycle of poverty, especially for rural populations who depend on the natural environment for their livelihoods.

2. **Persistent levels of poverty remain a stubborn challenge.** Burkina Faso continues to be ranked among the poorest countries in the world. . The latest poverty

survey carried out by the government in 2014 showed that poverty has declined from 46.7 percent in 2009 to 40.1 percent in 2014. In 2013 Burkina Faso's Human Development Index was 0.341, giving the country a rank of 181 out of 187 countries. Rural populations remain largely dependent on agriculture and continue to experience higher rates of poverty—50.7 percent of the rural population lives below the poverty line as compared with 23.7 percent in urban areas. Despite favorable public expenditure trends, Burkina Faso is unlikely to meet most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), particularly those related to literacy, health and sanitation. Although expenditure in education, health, water and sanitation has increased, all three sectors remain adversely affected by a marked urban bias combined with regional and, in some cases, gender inequalities.

3. Local rural populations depend heavily upon the country's steadily depleting soil, water and vegetative resources. Situated in the Sahel-Sahara region, Burkina Faso is particularly affected by soil erosion due to wind and water, loss of soil nutrients and bush fires. It is estimated that 34 percent of the land has deteriorated as a result of anthropogenic factors, continuing at a rate of 105,000 to 250 000 hectares each year, while 74 percent of arid and semi-arid areas are affected by desertification or land degradation. Local populations are unequipped to deal with climatic changes and, as demonstrated during the 2007 droughts and the 2009 floods, this can lead to devastating damage and loss of life. Given that scientists have observed a rapid increase in the occurrence of severe weather and erratic climatic conditions, adaptation to climate change will be an increasing priority.

4. Recent political situation in Burkina Faso. An attempt by the ruling party to revise article 37 of the Constitution and pave the way for President Compaore to contest elections for the third time, led to a popular uprising that toppled his government on October 31, 2014 ending his 27-year rule. A transition government was installed in November 2014. The priority of the new government is to organize elections (presidential and legislative) in October 2015.

B. Sectoral and Institutional Context

5. Burkina Faso is one of eight Forest Investment Program (FIP) pilot countries, demonstrating innovative approaches to forest and woodland management as well as a deep commitment to strengthening the participation of Local Communities (LCs). The FIP supports developing countries' efforts to address the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation and to overcome barriers that have hindered past efforts to do so. One of the objectives of the FIP is to facilitate the effective participation of LCs in the design and implementation of FIP investment plans and to strengthen the capacity of these groups to play an informed and active role in the FIP, as well as other national and global REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and the role of conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks) processes. To facilitate such participation and capacity building, the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for LCs (DGM)

was established, under the FIP, to provide resources for local communities in FIP Pilot countries to support their participation in the development of the FIP and REDD+ strategies and programs.

6. The FIP in Burkina Faso will support national REDD+ efforts following the strategic pillars mentioned above to address both the direct and indirect causes of deforestation and forest degradation as part of a broader climate change agenda. For that purpose, FIP resources will support two complementary projects that reinforce one another yet avoid duplication of effort: (1) the World Bank-funded project—Decentralized Forest and Woodland Management Project (PGDFEB) as well as; (2) the African Development Bank funded Participatory Management of State Forests Project (PGFC/REDD+). This combined programmatic approach, as outlined in the FIP Investment Plan, will help overcome barriers that have hindered past efforts to promote integrated natural resource management as it will allow the FIP program in Burkina Faso to invest simultaneously in (i) institutional capacity and forest governance, (ii) forest mitigation measures and (iii) activities outside the forest sector necessary to reduce the pressure on forests. In addition, Burkina Faso will use a US\$3.8 million grant from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to complement FIP and DGM funding to develop Burkina Faso's REDD+ Readiness.

7. The DGM design has been led by Local Communities at both the international and national levels. There are no Indigenous Peoples in Burkina Faso as defined by the World Bank Policy. The DGM has national programs in each of the eight FIP pilot countries as well as a global body that provides a transversal vision for the pilot countries and guidance for engagement in the REDD+ process at the international level. The development of a mechanism for LC engagement and capacity building commenced at the earliest stages of the design of the FIP in 2009. During 2010-2011, four regional and two global meetings led by LC representatives from the eight FIP pilot countries and other countries were held. In these meetings, the principles, content and structural elements of the DGM were discussed and resulted in the finalization of the DGM Design Proposal in October 2011. The current Global Transitional Committee comprised of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) from FIP pilot countries reviewed and endorsed the Framework Operational Guidelines of the DGM in September 2013. Burkina Faso has two representatives in this Transitional Committee. At the national level, the DGM is being developed to coincide with the investment areas of the FIP program to ensure that it adequately reflects the concerns and needs of LCs and also to strengthen the information that is fed into the national REDD+ process. In addition, it is aligned with the global framework for DGM that was developed by the IPLCs and approved by the Bank's Board in March 2015.

8. Forest resources are critical for livelihoods and the economy. Forest-based economic activities, including making charcoal and selling forest products make up an important part of some rural households—over 25 percent of households in some cases—as well as contributing 5.6 percent of GDP. In addition, forests and woodlands provide important environmental and social services in relation to soil fertility, erosion

control, watershed protection, and biological diversity (animals for pollen/seeds dissemination, etc.). Such services lead to indirect economic benefits and increase climate resilience at the landscape level. Forests and woodlands provide additional non-economic benefits to local populations (e.g., medicinal plants, hunting, fruits/mushrooms) that can alleviate the impacts of drought and other climate related challenges. In particular, many tree species (shea tree, nere, gum arabic, etc.) that provide non timber products are traditionally preserved and exploited, mainly by women, which underscores the important role that women have to play in any strategy aiming at preserving forest resources.

9. **In addition to these local development benefits, mixed-use landscapes hold significant potential as carbon sinks.** The Forestry Code of Burkina Faso considers the areas occupied by trees and shrubs, except those dedicated to agricultural activities, to be forests. Reference to forests and woodlands include a variety of land tenure units such as wooded savanna and gallery forests. The first unique forest inventory was developed in 1980 and the government is currently undertaking a new inventory, with the support of the Government of Luxembourg. Previous reforestation and anti-desertification campaigns have demonstrated that mixed-use forests and woodlands hold significant potential as a carbon sink in Burkina Faso (e.g., planted areas almost tripled between 1999 and 2007).

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

A. PDO

10. The proposed Project Development Objective is: *to strengthen the capacity of targeted Local Communities (LCs) in five regions of Burkina Faso to participate in the REDD+ programs at local, national and global levels.*

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project Components

11. The DGM project for Burkina Faso is being developed in line with the overall DGM process globally. Community representatives will participate in cross-regional learning events and global forums then share the knowledge received with their constituents.

12. **Component 1: Development of managerial, technical capacities and skills of local communities (US\$1.0 million).** This component will support training in leadership development, conflict resolution and negotiation skills to ensure active participation in initiatives related to natural resource-based mitigation and adaptation to climate change, training and capacity development for securing and strengthening customary land tenure and resource rights and traditional forest management systems of local communities, and for reducing cultural, social, economic and policy barriers to

such rights and to the continuance and enhancement of traditional forest management systems.

13. **Component 2: Support the development of economic and sustainable natural resource management activities (US\$2.7 million).** This component will (i) support the implementation of activities that contribute to improving the income of targeted local communities, and (ii) promote the implementation of measures likely to ensure sustainable management of natural resources and living conditions in the target villages. The component will be divided into two sub-components:

14. **Component 3: Coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation (US\$0.8 million).** This component will ensure effective operational planning, monitoring and implementation of the Grant. It will finance the cost of the NEA. The NEA will be the secretariat for the NSC and will develop country-specific review and risk assessment criteria, and provide operational and financial reporting to the World Bank and NSC.

IV. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	4,5.00	Total Bank Financing:	4,5.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.00
SCF Grant			4,5.00
Total			4,5.00

V. Implementation

Government Agencies. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) is the arm of the government overseeing the implementation of the FIP and leading the REDD+ process. In addition, several sectorial ministries (agriculture, livestock, land management) will work closely at the local level with the DGM beneficiaries' organizations.

The **National Steering Committee** will have oversight of the DGM implementation in Burkina Faso. It will provide, assisted by the NEA, a semi-annual report on the implementation of the program to the Global Steering Committee (GSC). Its main function will be to select proposals to award the grants and monitor the progress of sub-projects. The NSC will liaise with the national REDD+ coordination committees or equivalents and ensure that DGM lessons are transmitted to ongoing national processes. Members will also actively seek feedback from the local communities on

the program, identify needs and collect and send ideas to the GSC to be supported by the global component and represent the Burkina Faso in the GSC as required. The NSC has a majority of local communities (11 up to 25) members as the decision-making members. Observers in the NSC are to be from the government, private sector, MDBs and other agencies as appropriate. The final size of the NSC was determined by the stakeholders in the number of 25. Members of the NSC will act in their individual capacity and not as agents, officers or representatives of the GEA, NEA, WB, and AfDB, member countries of the FIP Sub Committee, beneficiary countries or any other organization or entity. The NSC is a sub-group of the National CSO Platform for REDD+ and Sustainable Development which is recognized as an Association according to the laws of Burkina Faso.

NSC members were selected through a self-selection process at the local and national levels. Their time on the NSC will be a voluntary contribution. The NSC's rules of procedure will be drafted by the NEA and adopted at the first meeting of the NSC. One representative from the World Bank and one from the African Development Bank will be observers in the National Steering Committee.

The **National Executing Agency**. The International Union for the conservation of Nature (IUCN) will be the secretariat for the NSC and it will facilitate the work of the NSC, develop country-specific review and risk assessment criteria, and provide operational and financial reporting to the World Bank. Under the overall direction of the NSC, IUCN will be responsible for entering into agreements with and disbursing funds to grant beneficiaries as well as for monitoring of implementation of grant funded projects and ensuring appropriate use of DGM funds. IUCN will complement the framework operational guidelines with country-specific procedures so that the DGM can be implemented in line with national circumstances and requirements. IUCN will also maintain documentation of the country DGM projects, follow the communications strategy in coordination with the GEA, manage grievance and complaints redress processes and respond promptly to queries and coordinate with and send information as requested to the GEA.

VI. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	X		
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	X		
Forests OP/BP 4.36	X		
Pest Management OP 4.09		X	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	X		
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		X	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	X		

Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		X	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		X	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		X	

VII. Contact point

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