



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.37/Inf.42
16 March 2026

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty-seventh Meeting
Bonn, Germany, 7-8 April 2026

PROPOSAL FOR MALI, BURKINA FASO



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Pre-Concept for a Regional Project

Countries/Region: Burkina Faso and Mali

Project Title: Building resilience for vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the fragile territories of Burkina Faso and Mali through a nature-based solutions approach

Thematic focal area: Food Security

Implementing Entity: West African Development Bank (BOAD)

Executing Entities: Burkina Faso: Permanent Secretariat of Non-Governmental Organizations (SPONG), Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (SP/CNDD); Mali: SECO-ONG, Environment and Sustainable Development Agency (AEDD)

AF Project ID: AF00000505

IE Project ID:

Reviewer and contact person: Una May Gordon

IE Contact Person(s):

Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars):

Co-reviewer(s): Lystra Fletcher-Paul

<p>Technical Summary</p>	<p>The project “Building resilience for vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the fragile territories of Burkina Faso and Mali through a nature-based solutions approach” aims to improve the climate resilience of vulnerable communities, in particular women and young people in Burkina Faso and Mali, through innovative approaches to water resource mobilization and agro-sylvo-pastoral and fish production based on agroecological farms.</p> <p>This will be done through the three components below:</p> <p><u>Component 1:</u> Increased availability of water resources for agro-sylvo-pastoral and fish farming. (USD 3,000,000).</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> Sustainable increase in agro sylvo pastoral and fish farming to strengthen food security (USD 7,566,000)</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> Technical and organizational capacity building, communication, advocacy and partnerships for the promotion of agroecology. (USD 1,174,000).</p>
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	<p><u>Requested financing overview:</u> Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 1,115,300 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 12,855,300 Implementing Fee: USD 1,092,700 Financing Requested: USD 13,948,000</p> <p>The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant and/or project formulation assistance grant of USD 450,000.</p> <p>The initial technical review raises several issues, such as the lack of specific national data and information particularly the fisheries industry to clearly articulate the problem, the Outcomes and Outputs, the specification of new and innovative solutions, the environmental sustainability of the project, the budget for the PFG and the clarification of roles and responsibilities of the Regional and National Implementing Entities and Executing Entities as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudge the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>
Date	January 15, 2026

Review Criteria	Questions	First Technical Review Comments January 15, 2026
Country Eligibility	1. Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol and/or the Paris Agreement?	Yes.

	<p>2. Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Both countries lie in the West Africa region which is severely affected by climate change. Both vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly, rising temperatures, droughts and floods. Other factors also exacerbate the countries' vulnerability.</p>
<p>Project Eligibility</p>	<p>1. Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?</p>	<p>Unsure</p> <p>Yes. As per the Endorsement letter dated 16 December 2025 for Burkina Faso</p> <p>Unsure as per the endorsement letter dated 27 December 2024 for Mali, where the signatory on the letter for Mali, Sekou Kone , Adaptation Fund Operational Focal Point is not among the names of the Designated Authorities listed for that country.</p> <p>Moreover, the names provided in Part III Sections A and B of the Pre-concept note do not coincide with the endorsement letters signed by Designated Authorities.</p> <p>CAR 1: Please ensure that the names of the Designated Authorities provided in Part III Sections A and B coincide with the signatories on the letters of endorsement attached and that the signatory for Mali is the Designated Authority for that country. Please provide an update if there has been a change in the DA.</p>

	<p>2. Has the pre-concept provided necessary information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve, including both the regional and the country perspective?</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>As per the Background and Context section (page 2) the regional climate vulnerability context is provided but lacks precise information on the adaptation problem to be addressed at the country level.</p> <p>Quantitative baselines beyond isolated statistics, or differentiated analysis between the two countries' unique national contexts like policy frameworks or sector-specific data are lacking. There is no explicit national problem synthesis or metrics like GDP impacts or per-country malnutrition rates. Moreover, there is very little information on the impact of the specific climate impacts on the crop, livestock or fisheries sectors. While fisheries is included among the sub-sectors to be addressed by the project, there is no information about the fisheries sectors of the two countries.</p> <p>CAR 2: Please provide concise subsector specific information on crops, fisheries, livestock including the main climate hazard affecting each, the resulting climate impacts and vulnerabilities at both national (Burkina Faso and Mali) and regional levels. In addition, briefly describe the relevant institutional/policy framework and highlight the key gaps that constitute the adaptation deficit the proposed project intends to address.</p>
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	<p>3. Have the project/programme objectives, components and financing been clearly explained?</p>	<p>Yes, however additional information is required</p> <p>As per pages 3-4 in the Background and Context and Project Components and Financing, the pre-concept shows the link between the objectives and the components. However, there is need for additional information on the number and extent of the adaptation actions to justify the expenditure.</p> <p>Some of the outputs have not been clearly or adequately explained e.g. the need for the savings and credit mechanisms and for the agro-ecological approach. While the integration of women and youth is referenced in the objective, it is not sufficiently reflected in the specific objectives.</p> <p>The numbering of the Outcomes and Outputs is unclear and inconsistent e.g. Component 2, Result 4 lists four Expected Outputs but these are inconsistently numbered (4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 3.4). Likewise for Result 7, two Expected Outputs are both labelled 7.2. Outputs 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3 partially overlap (capacity building, advocacy and sensitisation).</p> <p>CAR 3: Please include where possible information on the number and extent of the interventions to justify the expenditure.</p> <p>CAR 4: Please review and correct numbering to ensure clear, logical and consistent structure and better reflect alignment with the respective Components. For example, under Component 1, the current numbering of Results 1, 2 and 3 should be adjusted to clearly indicate the relationship to the Component (e.g. Outcomes 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, respectively). In a similar manner the Expected Outputs should be renumbered to align with the Outcomes (e.g.</p>
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		<p>Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2 under Outcome 1.1.). Applying this approach would improve clarity of the results framework.</p> <p>CAR5: Please clarify and streamline the outputs 7.1,7.2 and 7.3 to better distinguish their focus and renumber accordingly.</p> <p>CAR6: Please clarify how women and young people are explicitly addressed across the specific objectives.</p> <p>CAR7: Output 7.4 focuses on “Capitalised and share knowledge/experience”. However, this is not contextualised. Please state briefly how this knowledge will be used (e.g. informing policy, guiding replication or support farmer learning etc). There is a clear need for a project component focusing on knowledge management.</p>
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	<p>4. Has the project/programme been justified in terms of how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it supports concrete adaptation actions? - it builds added value through the regional approach? - it promotes new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation? - it is cost-effective? - it is consistent with applicable strategies and plans? - it incorporates learning and knowledge management? - it will be developed through a consultative process with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund? - it will take into account sustainability? 	<p>Unsure</p> <p>As per Part II (paragraphs 11 – 13) the aim, the amount and proportion of the total component costs allocated and the activities to be implemented are described for the Component. However, there is no clear statement of the problem which that component hopes to address, neither is there a strong justification for how the project will build added value through the regional approach.</p> <p>CR1: Please ensure that the adaptation rationale and interventions are clearly articulated to avoid this concept being considered a rural development programme.</p> <p>CR 2: Please provide a brief indication of what will be regional (joint learning events etc) that will demonstrate the value of a regional approach.</p> <p>The section on new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation describes technologies such as solar-powered boreholes and gravity-draining floats which are widely adopted climate-smart agriculture techniques in Sahel regions. However, it is not entirely clear on the innovative solutions being applied for climate adaptation. No concrete details demonstrate "new" aspects, such as proprietary designs, recent patents, scalability beyond existing projects, or comparisons to prior interventions in Burkina Faso and Mali. Phrases like "tried and tested best practices" and "proving to be the best approach" underscore conventional methods rather than pioneering ones. Overall, the section frames solutions as relevant and sustainable without substantiating innovation claims against regional baselines.</p>
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CR 3: Please show how the adaptation technologies proposed are now and innovative by clarifying what is currently being done and what new or improved solutions would support the claim of innovative.

The cost-effectiveness is demonstrated through the regional approach which avoids duplication and redundancy, reduces unnecessary spending, lowers development and adaptation costs and saves time and resources. The single regional operational framework also enables pooled expertise and joint learning, which is cheaper than running two separate national projects. Where possible, information on direct costs could also be included.

CAR 8: Please provide basic rationale for cost-effectiveness beyond general statements, particularly given the large share allocated to Component 2. Where possible this should include, information on the costs and other quantitative data if available or what approach will be taken.

Paragraph 15 lists a number of national, regional and sub-regional policies and strategies (including sectoral policies such as food security and nutrition, water, sanitation and gender inter-alia) with which the project is aligned.

CAR 9: In developing the Concept note please include information on the dates of those plans and policies and show how each project component corresponds to the key national priorities of each country.

Paragraph 16 describes how learning and knowledge management are incorporated into the project, this includes Monitoring and Evaluation systems, evidence generation, documentation, dissemination, and experience-sharing activities such as study tours. Other methods of knowledge sharing such as the establishment of knowledge platforms

and sharing of facilities could also be incorporated. There should also be assessments of all training and capacity building activities to allow for feedback and adjustment where necessary to improve the effectiveness of the learning exercises.

CAR 10: Please include a separate Component to deal specifically with knowledge management and include methods of feedback and assessment for adjustment of methods to make them more effective. Please include a short statement as to who will use the knowledge and how it can support replication/scaling up.

Paragraph 17 describes the consultative process which will be used to develop the full project and includes particular reference to vulnerable groups and gender considerations. The proposal states that “The implementation of actions that go beyond the issue of integrating equity and equality between men and women will question the relationship between men and women and enhance the potential of women in all the processes and institutions involved in the project. This approach will lead to new thinking in the way we analyze problems and find relevant, sustainable solutions.” However more clarity is needed.

CR4: Please clarify what is new about the approach

CR5: Please clarify whether any gender focused organisations/agencies or women/youth associations that work on promoting gender equality and youth engagement will be involved. Please specify and ensure that they are integrated in the subsequent concept note.

CR6: As it is too pre-mature to state no environmental risks, please indicate that risks will be screened and managed in line with the ESP given that water infrastructure and

		<p>increased production may have some safeguard considerations.</p> <p>Paragraph 18 describes how sustainability is taken into account by the project. This includes: (i) using a participatory approach involving local, national, and regional structures (including women's groups and schools). (ii) capacity building and human sustainability to strengthen local skills and knowledge. (iii) transfer of responsibility and local ownership, to ensure alignment with existing governance and technical systems, which supports institutional continuity (iv) integrating monitoring and supervision into community-level mechanisms to reduce long-term dependence on external technical services and embeds project functions locally and (v) the inclusion of mechanisms to generate financial resources and a community-based self-financing system, which ensures that activities will be maintained after project funding ends. The only aspect of sustainability which was not mentioned was environmental sustainability.</p> <p>CAR 11: Please include information on how the project's environmental benefits will be sustained.</p> <p>CAR 12: Please note that sustainability should go beyond training activities and please elaborate on the community-based self-financing system and consider 'operations and maintenance approaches especially for water infrastructure.</p> <p>The cover page of the Preconcept note states that the project will contribute to the thematic area of Food Security.</p> <p>The proposal does not, however, adequately demonstrate that new and innovative solutions to climate change are being promoted (See CR 3)</p>
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	<p>5. Does the pre-concept briefly explain which organizations would be involved in the proposed regional project/programme at the regional and national/sub-national level, and how coordination would be arranged? Does it explain how national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs) would be involved as partners in the project?</p>	<p>Yes, however, additional information is required.</p> <p>Paragraph 22 describes the implementation arrangements and explains the organizations which will be involved. There appears to be two levels of Regional Coordination – a financial level by the BOAD which is the RIE for the project, but the Permanent Secretariat of Non-Governmental Organizations (SPONG), based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, will also be responsible for regional coordination at a technical level. SPONG will also be the NIE for Burkina Faso along with SECO-ONG in Mali. In each Implementing agency, a country team will be set up to lead project activities. The Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (SP/CNDD) in Burkina Faso and the Environment and Sustainable Development Agency (AEDD) in Mali will also strategic partners involved in technical collaboration agreements for the conduct of specific tasks, responsibilities, timetables and deliverables.</p> <p>CR 7: Please ensure that the roles and responsibilities of the RIEs, NIE and other national partners are clearly specified so that there is no overlapping of duties. There may also be implications for the allocation of the IE fees. Be clear on terminology used as country implementing entities should be labelled as Executing Entities.</p>
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Resource Availability	6. Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the programme for regional projects/programmes?	Yes. The project is valued at US\$13.948M and is therefore within the cap of US\$30 million for regional projects. While the overall funding request is compliant, please refer to CAR10 which will require adjustment to align with AF rules applicable at the pre-concept note stage.
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7. Are the administrative costs (Implementing Entity Management Fee and Project/ Programme Execution Costs) at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme for implementing entity (IE) fees and at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme cost for the execution costs?

Yes, but some revisions are needed

As per the Table in the section on Project/Programme Components and Financing (page 3), the figures are accurate, rounded to whole numbers, and are consistent with the amount requested. The Implementing Entity Management Fee is 8.5 % of the project/programme cost. This is within the threshold for regional projects which is 10%.

However, on row 4 of the Table, the Execution Cost is erroneously labelled as the Project/Programme Implementation Cost. This is 8.7 % of the project/programme cost.

A PFG is requested with a budget of USD 450,000 which exceeds the maximum allowable of USD 150,000 for a regional project of US\$5M and above with less than three countries. Furthermore, at the pre-concept stage, the maximum PFG that may be requested is limited to 20% of the maximum total applicable PFG, equivalent to USD 30,000. The requested PFG therefore exceeds the allowable limit at this stage and will need to be revised accordingly.

CAR 13: Please change row 4 of the Table on Project/programme Components to “Project/Programme Execution Cost.”

CAR 14: Please revise the total PFG budget to a maximum of USD 30,000 and include a budget for the PFG among the documents submitted for review in the Concept Note.

Eligibility of IE	<p>8. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?</p>	<p>No,</p> <p>The Implementing Entity named for the project is the West African Development Bank (BOAD) but is not listed among the accredited Implementing Entities of the AF.</p> <p>In Part IV, Section B, the signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator is not attached and neither is the name of the Implementing Entity (BOAD) included among the list of accredited Implementing Entities of the AF.</p> <p>CAR 15: Please ensure that the names provided in Part IV Section A coincide with the names on the letters of endorsement and that the signatory in Section B is accredited by the AF.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudge the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>
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PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAM INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: Building resilience for vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the fragile territories of Burkina Faso and Mali through a nature-based solutions approach...

Countries: Burkina Faso, Mali

Thematic Focal Area¹ : food security.

Type of Implementing Entity: regional implementing entity

Implementing Entity: West African Development Bank (BOAD)

Executing Entities: **Burkina Faso:** Permanent Secretariat of Non-Governmental Organizations (SPONG), Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (SP/CNDD); **Mali:** SECO-ONG, Environment and Sustainable Development Agency (AEDD)

Amount of Financing Requested: 13 948 000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Formulation Grant Request: Yes No

Amount of Requested financing for PFG: 450 000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letters of Endorsement (LOE) signed for all countries Yes No

NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities>

Stage of Submission:

This pre-concept has been submitted before

This is the first submission ever of the pre-concept

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date:

Click or tap to enter a date.

Please note that pre-concept should not exceed 5 pages (in addition to this first cover page)

Project/Programme Background and Context:

(Provide brief information on the problem the proposed project/program is aiming to solve, including both the regional and the country perspective).

¹ Thematic areas are: Food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Transboundary water management; Innovation in adaptation finance.

1. West Africa is severely affected by climate change and is experiencing loss of life, impacts on human health, lower economic growth, water shortages, declining food production, loss of biodiversity and impacts on human settlements and infrastructure (IPCC, 2022)². Climate change is reducing crop productivity in West Africa. Rising temperatures, droughts and floods have had serious consequences on vulnerable rural communities, leading to a decline in agricultural productivity and an increase in food insecurity. For example, maize yields fell by an average of 5.8% in sub-Saharan Africa between 1974 and 2008, as a result of climate change (IPCC, 2022). Overall cereal production for the 2021-2022 crop year is estimated at 73 million tonnes, representing a 2.7% increase on the average for the last five years, but a decrease of 11% for Sahelian countries. However, compared to the 2020-2021 season, the Sahel and West Africa region recorded a 2.2% drop in production. More significant declines are recorded in Mali (-15%) and Burkina-Faso (-10%) (FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER, 2022).
2. Burkina Faso and Mali are two countries in the West African Sahel, sharing a border some 1,000 km long. Their human development indices are among the lowest in the world (UNDP, 2021)³. The result is a fairly high level of vulnerability for the populations of these two countries, who are predominantly rural and operate agricultural production systems whose performance is highly dependent on the climate (Bazza and Sombroek, 1996). This vulnerability is even greater among women, who represent around 60% of the rural population, and whose main sources of income are linked to agriculture⁴
3. In addition, both countries have suffered from insecurity due to attacks by armed terrorist groups in recent years, resulting in massive population displacement and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.
4. The combined effects of conflict, climate extremes and high food prices continue to exacerbate the situation of hunger and malnutrition in the region. For the first time in the Sahel, 45,000 people, including 42,000 in Burkina Faso and 2,500 in Mali, are expected to suffer catastrophic hunger (phase 5) and be on the verge of starvation by June 2023 (RURAL 21,2023).⁵
5. On the pastoral front, conditions for feeding and watering livestock are difficult, due to declining water resources and a forage deficit in the dry season, exacerbated by insecurity limiting access to pastures and watering points. This leads to a disorganization of herd movements and a concentration of livestock in relatively secure areas, with high risks of conflict and the emergence of animal diseases (FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER, 2022). This situation is also putting enormous pressure on natural resources, whose carrying capacities are being exceeded.
6. In both countries, river flows are also declining. This drop in river flow due to reduced rainfall and rising temperatures has profound and essentially negative repercussions on all water-dependent sectors of activity, from drinking water supply to agro-sylvo-pastoral needs.
7. In the light of the above, we need to find appropriate solutions to address these problems of food insecurity by implementing concrete adaptation actions to build the resilience of populations and ecosystems in both countries, hence the interest of this proposal.

Project/Program Objectives:

8. The overall project's objective is to improve the climate resilience of vulnerable communities, in particular women and young people in Burkina Faso and Mali, through innovative approaches to water resource mobilization and agro-sylvo-pastoral and fish production based on agroecological farms.
9. The project's specific objectives are as follows:

²IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

³sustainable human development report, 2021

⁴https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Events/DakAgri2015/Les_femmes_dans_l_agriculture.pdf

⁵ Regional Report on Food and Nutrition Security in the Sahel and West Africa - 2022

- increase the availability of water resources for agro-sylvo-pastoral and fish farming;
- sustainably increase agro-sylvo-pastoral and fish farming to boost food security;
- build the technical and organizational capacities of stakeholders, as well as communication, advocacy and partnerships to promote agroecology at national and regional level.

Project/Program Components and Financing:

(Fill in the table presenting the relationships among project components, outcomes, outputs and countries in which activities would be executed, and the corresponding budgets)

Project/Program Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US\$)
Component 1: Increased availability of water resources for agro-sylvo-pastoral and fish farming	Results 1: Groundwater is used sustainably	1.1. boreholes equipped with solar drainage systems (solar panels, pumps and towers) completed 1.2. groundwater mapping completed	Burkina Faso/Mali	3,000,000 (26%)
	Result 2: Surface water is mobilized sustainably	2.1. Rehabilitated lakes 2.2. gravity drainage floats for dewatering and distributing water from installed water bodies 2.3. Constructed runoff collection basins (BCER)	Burkina Faso/Mali	
	Results 3: Stakeholder capacities are strengthened for sustainable water resource management	3.1. Players trained in sustainable management and maintenance of hydraulic facilities 3.2. Stakeholders' capacities are built for the creation and maintenance of BCERs	Burkina Faso/Mali	
Component 2. Sustainable increase in agro sylvo pastoral and fish farming to strengthen food security.	result 4: agro-sylvopastoral and fish farming is increased in a sustainable manner	4.1. Multi-purpose agro-ecological farms 3.4. Improved agropastoral yields 4.2. Sustainable agro-sylvopastoral and fish farming 4.3. Production units for compost and biological inputs (biofertilizers, bio-pesticides) created	Burkina Faso/Mali	7,566,000 (64%)
	Result 5: the income of agro-	5.1. Promoting markets for agro-sylvopastoral and fish farming products	Burkina Faso/Mali	

	sylvopastoral producers has increased due to a better marketing of their products.	5.2. Marketing networks for agro-sylvopastoral and fish farming products created 5.3. capacities of local professional organizations for processing and marketing agro-sylvo-pastoral and fish farming products strengthened 5.4. Savings and credit mechanisms are put in place		
	Result 6: stakeholders' capacities are strengthened for sustainable agro-sylvopastoral and fish farming	6.1. Local professional organizations, particularly women's and youth organizations, trained in the production, processing and marketing of agro-sylvopastoral and fish farming products; 6.2. trained producers on the production of compost, biofertilizers and natural biopesticides; 6.3. stakeholders' capacities are built to create marketing networks for agro-sylvopastoral and fish farming products (digital platform); 6.4. Stakeholders are supported in mainstreaming climate information into the management of agro-sylvopastoral and fish farming activities.	Burkina Faso/Mali	
Component 3: Technical and organizational capacity building, communication, advocacy and partnerships for the promotion of agroecology.	Result 7: knowledge of agroecology is increased	7.1. the technical and organizational capacities of players at national and regional level are built to better promote agroecology; 7.2. advocacy of agroecology; 7.2. CSOs are sensitized to improve the adoption of agroecology; 7.3. synergy is created between players involved in promoting agroecology. 7.4. capitalized and shared knowledge/experience	Burkina Faso/Mali	1 174 000 10%
4. Project/Programme implementation cost				1 115 300
5. Total Project/Programme Cost				12 855 300
6. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)				1 092 700
Amount of Financing Requested				13 948 000

7. Project Duration: 5 years and 00 months)

PART II: PROJECT/PROGRAM JUSTIFICATION

(Provide a brief description of the proposed regional project/program including, as a minimum⁶, the following aspects:

- *The project/programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities, how these activities would contribute to climate resilience, and how they*
- *would build added value through the regional approach, compared to implementing similar activities in each country individually.*

10. Component 1. Increased availability of water resources for agro-sylvo-pastoral and fish farming. Amounting to USD 3,000,000, or 26% of project funding, this component aims to mobilize groundwater resources and build the capacity of stakeholders to manage these resources sustainably. At the project's kick-off, an assessment of groundwater potential will be carried out in Mali and Burkina Faso to guide interventions. Water bodies and solar-powered boreholes equipped with solar panels will be built and rehabilitated. Gravity drainage floats will be installed to drain and distribute water from the water bodies, and runoff collection basins (BCER) will be built on secure land identified by the beneficiaries. These investments to be made in both countries, will take into account the needs of vulnerable communities, particularly young people and women, and relevant good adaptation practices. In addition, the capacity-building needs of stakeholders in the sustainable management and maintenance of hydraulic facilities will be assessed in each country, with a view to creating and implementing a regional capacity-building plan.

11. Component 2. Sustainable increase in agro-sylvopastoral and fish farming to strengthen food security. This component, worth USD 7,566,000 or 64% of project funding, focuses on agroecological farms as a relevant solution for adaptation and innovative agricultural practices. These farms will be set up in agro-climatic zones with high rainfall deficits. In the agro ecological farms, technological packages will be implemented to conserve and drain water to improve agro sylvo pastoral and fish production. Combining techniques for water conservation, increasing soil fertility and integrating climate information into the implementation of production activities in a holistic way is a relevant approach that will generate sustainable solutions for producers in the short term. These solutions will generate long-term benefits by regenerating and improving land and water resources. Specific methods include i) the "smart valley" approach where water is channeled and retained in the landscape for optimal irrigation, ii) soil protection against erosion and water run-off through the implementation of a field levelling system and the construction of dykes, iii) the use of small-scale seasonal irrigation operations, iv) increasing soil organic matter content to improve soil water and nutrient retention capacity, and v) protecting the soil surface through mulching and cover cropping. Proven traditional techniques will also be incorporated. In addition to these production techniques, the capacities of local players will be strengthened in the production and use of compost and biofertilizers. The capacities of stakeholders will also be strengthened in terms of the storage, processing and marketing of agro-sylvopastoral and fish farming products. Marketing networks for farm products will be set up via digital platforms created and made operational for this purpose, to ensure the economic viability of farms.

12. Component 3. Technical and organizational capacity building, communication, advocacy and partnership for the promotion of agroecology. This component, representing USD 1,174,000 or 10% of project funding, will contribute to effective communication, essential for promoting agroecology. The project will develop innovative knowledge management mechanisms for information exchange, experiential learning, knowledge creation and analysis, dissemination and capacity building. This can be done via an internet platform, published documents, videos, radio/TV broadcasts, exchange visits, personal contacts, etc. Outputs will include technical reports, results mapping, practical manuals, success stories and lessons learned.

How the project would promote new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation, such as new approaches, technologies and mechanisms

⁶ Please note that subsequent proposal stages (concept and fully-developed proposal) would require further information on these criteria, as well as additional criteria.

13. The adaptation approach adopted by this project is innovative in that it will serve as a lever for the resolution of numerous adaptation and mitigation issues, as well as sustainable development in general. The approach focuses on one of the factors behind the severe vulnerability of communities and ecosystems, namely rainfall. The proposed solutions primarily focus on making renewable groundwater permanently available through solar-powered boreholes. Coupled with tried and tested best practices in surface water management, such solutions are among the most relevant and sustainable in the face of recurring rainfall deficits and irregularities in both countries. They offer both the possibility of supplemental watering during the rainy season and the possibility of overcoming the seasonal nature of agriculture in both countries by offering opportunities to triple and quadruple production cycles over the course of a year. The adaptation solutions adopted will also have a strong positive impact on mitigation from several points of view. The garden models to be implemented are multi-purpose, climate-smart gardens, with the presence of trees optimized through the installation of living hedges, windbreaks and the dissemination of agroforestry species within the production perimeters. Such gardens are proving to be the best approach for intensifying agro-sylvo-pastoral and fish farming, with the best possible yields, in order to tackle food insecurity. The multiplication of production cycles will reduce the demand for arable land, thus cutting down on land clearing, which is a source of high greenhouse gas emissions. The value chain approach taken in this project is one of the relevant innovations that will sustainably build community resilience. The project will install gravity-draining floats. Thanks to their capacity to drain water from bodies of water to serve villages and farms beyond 20 km away, gravity-fed floats will offer the medium- and long-term possibility of developing orchards over vast areas in the Sahel and on so-called uncultivated land in Sudano-Sahelian zones, thereby contributing to food security and the development of micro-climates that can locally mitigate recent heatwaves.

The cost-effectiveness of the proposed project/programme, explaining how the regional approach would support cost-effectiveness.

14. The regional approach will enable synergy of action through coordinated planning and implementation of activities both during project preparation and implementation, and will therefore ensure that there is no redundancy or duplication of effort. Burkina Faso and Mali share two climatic and agro-ecological zones: the Sahelian zone and the Sudano-Sahelian zone.

The multi-purpose agro-ecological farm approach adopted with a set of technological packages in each country in this project developed in both countries will be less costly for the project as the sharing of experience will avoid extra costs.

Climatic conditions in north-western Burkina Faso are similar to those in southern Mali. As part of a regional approach, experiences and innovations adapted to the local context and developed in one country can be shared with the other working in the same climatic zone. By using a single operational framework, it will be easier to pool expertise on a regional scale, work with a common understanding and share best practices and lessons learned. It would be much more costly and difficult to do this on both sides in two separate projects in each country.

How the project/program would be consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national or subnational development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programs of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist. If you wish and if applicable, you can also refer to regional plans and strategies where they exist.

15. The project is aligned with the policies and strategies of both countries, as well as with sub-regional and regional policies and strategies.

- At Burkina Faso level, it is consistent with the adaptation priorities set out in the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES II); the national food security and nutrition policy, the national sustainable development policy (PNDD), the national climate change adaptation plan (PNA), the integrated adaptation component of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the sectoral policies for the Environment, Water, Sanitation and Agro-sylvo-pastoral Production, the rural development strategy, the national gender strategy, the National Integrated Water Resources Management Program (PN GIRE), the National Soil Restoration, Conservation and Reclamation Strategy (SNRCRS, 2019), the National agroecology strategy, etc.

- In Mali, the project is in line with the priorities set out in the Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development (CREDD), the National Policy on Climate Change (PNCC), the National Adaptation

Programme of Action (PANA), and Mali's National Climate Change Strategy, the National Environmental Protection Policy, the National Food and Nutritional Security Policy, and the National Gender Policy (PNG).

- At sub-regional and regional level, the project is aligned respectively with the ECOWAS regional climate strategy for the 2022-2030 period and the 2020-2030 African Union's African Climate Change Strategy.

The learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned.

16. This component will address the monitoring-evaluation and learning system to be put in place. Monitoring and evaluation will provide information relating to the implementation of activities, and will make it possible to capitalize on achievements, successes and failures, with a view to increasing knowledge of best practices. The system to be put in place will be based on systematic methods for collecting and analyzing data with a view to producing scientific evidence, while reinforcing the responsibility and stakeholders' learning, as well as the management and sharing of knowledge and lessons learned. In addition, success stories will be documented and kept on suitable media that can be used by stakeholders. Finally, study tours will be organized to share experiences and best practices.

The consultative process, planned to be undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

17. Project preparation will incorporate a participatory and inclusive consultative process to take into account the specific needs of each group, especially the most vulnerable, and to identify the potential negative impacts of project implementation. The project will adopt a bottom-up approach. Local grassroots communities in both countries will be consulted to identify their adaptation needs and priorities. Information will be centralized by country and then aggregated at regional level for effective planning. Access to and control of natural resources (land, production water, etc.) by women, young people, vulnerable groups and displaced persons, marketing channels and gender-based violence will also be an integral part of project formulation.

This diagnosis will enable us to propose elimination, reduction and mitigation measures in line with national standards and the adaptation fund's environmental and social policy.

The implementation of actions that go beyond the issue of integrating equity and equality between men and women will question the relationship between men and women and enhance the potential of women in all the processes and institutions involved in the project. This approach will lead to new thinking in the way we analyze problems and find relevant, sustainable solutions.

How the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes would be taken into account when designing the project/programme.

18. The project's design and implementation will give particular importance to aspects that promote its sustainability. Indeed, from conception to the final assessment, a participatory approach at all stages of the project will be taken into account through the involvement of local, national and regional organizational structures (women's groups, schools...). Training and retraining sessions will be at the heart of the activities to enable the skills development of staff the working in the project areas. In addition, the project will ensure that the staff of national, local and regional entities are available to pursue the activities promoted and to use appropriate techniques adapted to national and regional realities. Community resource persons capable of taking over activities will also be identified, with a view to setting up a mechanism for transferring responsibility to the community. These actions will make it possible to integrate the monitoring and supervision of activities so as to transfer to the community the regular tasks of the technical services, and to set up mechanisms to generate financial resources for the activities that require them, as well as to set up a community-based self-financing system.

(You may also want to provide brief information on the following aspects:

How the project/programme would provide economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations, and how it would avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

19. The project will considerably increase employment and incomes, and consequently improve the well-being of families and the population as a whole. It will further enhance the economic power of women and vulnerable groups, while improving discriminatory social norms and informal laws that undermine gender equality and the marginalization of specific groups. By helping to restore and sustainably manage land, ecosystems and related ecosystem goods and services, the project will contribute towards improving the quality of life and food security of local populations, and in turn their adaptation capacity. In addition, farms will be stabilized with improved land management through adapted agro-sylvo-pastoral practices, which will contribute to improving the livelihoods, incomes and well-being of smallholders.

How the project/programme would meet relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and comply with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

20 Project design and implementation at all levels will comply with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), BOAD's Environmental and Social Management Framework and climate policy, as well as each member country's national environmental regulations and technical standards. In addition, an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA), an environmental and social risk management plan (ESRMP) and a gender assessment will be undertaken for the proposed project with contributions from the respective national authorities and implementing entities, in collaboration with BOAD. In addition to the beneficiaries and target population identified at local and national levels, vulnerable groups and gender considerations will be taken into account in line with the ESRMP at all stages and scales of project implementation.

- *The environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project/programme.*

21. The project does not present any major environmental risks or impacts. On the contrary, by promoting agro-ecological practices, the project will make a significant contribution to sustainable production and environmental protection, while building the resilience of populations in both countries. Moreover, in line with the Adaptation Fund's and BOAD's environmental policy and the safeguard policies in force in the two countries, any intervention likely to have environmental and social impacts will be rigorously subjected to an environmental and social assessment.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

(At the pre-concept stage, this section should only briefly explain which organizations would be involved in the proposed regional project/program at the regional and national/sub-national level, and how coordination would be arranged. The involvement of national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs), partnering in the project should be explained).

22 The project will be implemented by the West African Development Bank (BOAD), which will serve as the regional implementing entity responsible for all financial, monitoring and reporting aspects of the Adaptation Fund. The institutional arrangement adopted is inspired by that of the BENKADI consortium of NGOs (SPONG in Burkina Faso, PASCiB in Benin, CSCI in Cote d'Ivoire and SECO-ONG in Mali), which is implementing a regional climate change adaptation program financed by the Kingdom of Netherlands. Based on this experience, regional coordination of the project will be ensured by the Permanent Secretariat of Non-Governmental Organizations (SPONG), based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, which will report to BOAD on project implementation in the two countries via a regional coordination unit set up for this purpose. In addition, SPONG in Burkina Faso and SECO-ONG in Mali, which have proven experience in implementing adaptation projects, will be the country implementation entities. A country project team will be set up within each implementing entity to lead project activities. Country coordinators work under the supervision of the regional coordination unit. For the implementation of project activities, strategic collaboration agreements specifying tasks, responsibilities, timetables and deliverables and supervised by the national and regional coordinations will be established with technical partners including the Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (SP/CNDD) in Burkina Faso and the Environment and Sustainable Development Agency (AEDD) in Mali. A steering committee comprising national and regional implementing entities, Adaptation Fund National Focal Points, beneficiary representatives and the implementing entity will be set up to monitor and assess the project's implementation and compliance with environmental and social safeguards.

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government⁷ *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for each country participating in the proposed project/programme. Add more lines as necessary. The endorsement letters should be attached as annexes to the project/programme proposal.*

Mr. Inoussa Ouiminga, Adaptation Fund National Designated Authority, Director General for Cooperation, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Forecasting	Date: (Month, day, year)
Mrs. Niamebe Aminata Diarra, Adaptation Fund National Designated Authority, Technical Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development	Date: (Month, day, year)

B. Implementing Entity certification *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/program contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, <u>commit to implementing the project/program in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund</u> and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/program.	
<i>Name & Signature</i> Implementing Entity Coordinator: M. Ibrahim TRAORE, Head, Climate Projects Development - Email: itraore@boad.org	
Date: (Month, Day, Year)	Tel. and email:
Project Contact Person:	
Tel. And Email:	

⁷ Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

BURKINA FASO

La Patrie ou la Mort, Nous Vaincrons

Ministry of Economy and Finance

General Directorate of Cooperation



ADAPTATION FUND



Letter of Endorsement by Government

Ouagadougou, 16th December 2025

To: Adaptation Fund Board
C/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for the project “**Building resilience for vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the fragile territories of Burkina Faso and Mali through a nature-based solutions approach**”

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Burkina Faso, I confirm that the above national programme proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the Burkina Faso.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above programme proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the programme will be implemented by the West African Development Bank (BOAD) and executed both by the SPONG (Secrétariat permanent des organisations non gouvernementales) in partnership with SECO-ONG.

Sincerely,



Mr. Amidou OUEDRAOGO
Primary Focal Point/Designated Authority
General Director of Cooperation
Tel : +226 76 58 49 28
Email: amidoued11@gmail.com

République du Mali

Un Peuple-Un But- Une foi

Ministère de l'Environnement de l'Assainissement et du Développement Durable



Letter of Endorsement by Government

Bamako, 27th December, 2024

To: Adaptation Fund Board
C/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for Project: "*Regional project to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the fragile territories of Burkina Faso and Mali through a nature-based solutions approach*"

In my capacity as Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in Mali, I confirm that the above regional project proposal is in accordance with the Government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts, and risks, posed by climate change in Mali.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD) and executed by SPONG (Secretariat Permanent des Organisations Non Gouvernementales) in partnership with SECO-ONG (Secretariat de Concertation des ONG Maliennes).

Sincerely.

Sékou KONE,

Adaptation Fund Operationnel Focal Point,
Conseiller technique, Ministère de l'Environnement,
de l'Assainissement et du Développement durable
Tél : (223) 66 6 29 61/ 76 76 29 61

Email : sekou_kone1000@yahoo.fr