



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.38/26
10 September 2026

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty eighth Meeting
Bonn, Germany, 19-23 October 2026

Agenda Item 5 (e)

PROPOSAL FOR BURKINA FASO, MALI

Background

1. The strategic priorities, policies and guidelines of the Adaptation Fund (the Fund), as well as its operational policies and guidelines include provisions for funding projects and programmes at the regional, i.e. transnational level. However, the Fund has thus far not funded such projects and programmes.

2. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board), as well as its Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) and Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) considered issues related to regional projects and programmes on a number of occasions between the Board's fourteenth and twenty-first meetings but the Board did not make decisions for the purpose of inviting proposals for such projects. Indeed, in its fourteenth meeting, the Board decided to:

- (c) Request the secretariat to send a letter to any accredited regional implementing entities informing them that they could present a country project/programme but not a regional project/programme until a decision had been taken by the Board, and that they would be provided with further information pursuant to that decision*

(Decision B.14/25 (c))

3. At its eighth meeting in March 2012, the PPRC came up with recommendations on certain definitions related to regional projects and programmes. However, as the subsequent seventeenth Board meeting took a different strategic approach to the overall question of regional projects and programmes, these PPRC recommendations were not included in a Board decision.

4. At its twenty-fourth meeting, the Board heard a presentation from the coordinator of the working group set up by decision B.17/20 and tasked with following up on the issue of regional projects and programmes. She circulated a recommendation prepared by the working group, for the consideration by the Board, and the Board decided:

- (a) To initiate steps to launch a pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, not to exceed US\$ 30 million;*
- (b) That the pilot programme on regional projects and programmes will be outside of the consideration of the 50 per cent cap on multilateral implementing entities (MIEs) and the country cap;*
- (c) That regional implementing entities (RIEs) and MIEs that partner with national implementing entities (NIEs) or other national institutions would be eligible for this pilot programme, and*

- (d) To request the secretariat to prepare for the consideration of the Board, before the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board or intersessionally, under the guidance of the working group set up under decision B.17/20, a proposal for such a pilot programme based on consultations with contributors, MIEs, RIEs, the Adaptation Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), and other relevant bodies, as appropriate, and in that proposal make a recommendation on possible options on approaches, procedures and priority areas for the implementation of the pilot programme.*

(Decision B.24/30)

5. The proposal requested under (d) of the decision above was prepared by the secretariat and submitted to the Board in its twenty-fifth meeting, and the Board decided to:

- (a) Approve the pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, as contained in document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2;*
- (b) Set a cap of US\$ 30 million for the programme;*
- (c) Request the secretariat to issue a call for regional project and programme proposals for consideration by the Board in its twenty-sixth meeting; and*
- (d) Request the secretariat to continue discussions with the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) towards operationalizing, during the implementation of the pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, the Synergy Option 2 on knowledge management proposed by CTCN and included in Annex III of the document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2.*

(Decision B.25/28)

6. Based on the Board Decision B.25/28, the first call for regional project and programme proposals was issued and an invitation letter to eligible Parties to submit project and programme proposals to the Fund was sent out on 5 May 2015.

7. At its twenty-sixth meeting the Board decided to request the secretariat to inform the Multilateral Implementing Entities and Regional Implementing Entities that the call for proposals under the Pilot Programme for Regional Projects and Programmes is still open and to encourage them to submit proposals to the Board at its 27th meeting, bearing in mind the cap established by Decision B.25/26.

(Decision B.26/3)

8. At its twenty-seventh meeting the Board decided to:

- (a) *Continue consideration of regional project and programme proposals under the pilot programme, while reminding the implementing entities that the amount set aside for the pilot programme is US\$ 30 million;*
- (b) *Request the secretariat to prepare for consideration by the Project and Programme Review Committee at its nineteenth meeting, a proposal for prioritization among regional project/programme proposals, including for awarding project formulation grants, and for establishment of a pipeline; and*
- (c) *Consider the matter of the pilot programme for regional projects and programmes at its twenty-eighth meeting.*

(Decision B.27/5)

9. The proposal requested in (b) above was presented to the nineteenth meeting of the PPRC as document AFB/PPRC.19/5. The Board subsequently decided:

a) *With regard to the pilot programme approved by decision B.25/28:*

(i) *To prioritize the four projects and 10 project formulation grants as follows:*

- 1. *If the proposals recommended to be funded in a given meeting of the PPRC do not exceed the available slots under the pilot programme, all those proposals would be submitted to the Board for funding;*
- 2. *If the proposals recommended to be funded in a given meeting of the PPRC do exceed the available slots under the pilot programme, the proposals to be funded under the pilot programme would be prioritized so that the total number of projects and project formulation grants (PFGs) under the programme maximizes the total diversity of projects/PFGs. This would be done using a three-tier prioritization system: so that the proposals in relatively less funded sectors would be prioritized as the first level of prioritization. If there are more than one proposal in the same sector: the proposals in relatively less funded regions are prioritized as the second level of prioritization. If there are more than one proposal in the same region, the proposals submitted by relatively less represented implementing entity would be prioritized as the third level of prioritization;*

(ii) *To request the secretariat to report on the progress and experiences of the pilot programme to the PPRC at its twenty-third meeting; and*

b) With regard to financing regional proposals beyond the pilot programme referred to above:

- (i) To continue considering regional proposals for funding, within the two categories originally described in document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2: ones requesting up to US\$ 14 million, and others requesting up to US\$ 5 million, subject to review of the regional programme;*
- (ii) To establish two pipelines for technically cleared regional proposals: one for proposals up to US\$ 14 million and the other for proposals up to US\$ 5 million, and place any technically cleared regional proposals, in those pipelines, in the order described in decision B.17/19 (their date of recommendation by the PPRC, their submission date, their lower “net” cost); and*
- (iii) To fund projects from the two pipelines, using funds available for the respective types of implementing entities, so that the maximum number of or maximum total funding for projects and project formulation grants to be approved each fiscal year will be outlined at the time of approving the annual work plan of the Board.*

(Decision B.28/1)

10. At its thirty-first meeting, having considered the comments and recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To merge the two pipelines for technically cleared regional proposals established in decision B.28/1(b)(ii), so that starting in fiscal year 2019 the provisional amount of funding for regional proposals would be allocated without distinction between the two categories originally described in document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2, and that the funding of regional proposals would be established on a ‘first come, first served’ basis; and*
- (b) To include in its work programme for fiscal year 2019 provision of an amount of US\$ 60 million for the funding of regional project and programme proposals, as follows:*
 - (i) Up to US\$ 59 million to be used for funding regional project and programme proposals in the two categories of regional projects and programmes: ones requesting up to US \$14 million, and others requesting up to US\$ 5 million; and*
 - (ii) Up to US\$ 1 million for funding project formulation grant requests for preparing regional project and programme concepts or fully-developed project and programme documents.*

(Decision B.31/3)

11. The following project pre-concept document titled “Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in fragile territories of Burkina Faso and Mali through a nature-based solutions approach” was submitted for Burkina Faso, Mali by the Banque Ouest

Africaine de Developpement (BOAD), which is a Regional Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.

12. This is the sixth submission of the regional project pre-concept proposal using the three-step submission process. It was first submitted ahead of the forty-sixth Board meeting.

13. The current submission was received by the secretariat in time to be considered in the forty-seventh Board meeting. The secretariat carried out a technical review of the project proposal, with the diary number AF00000505, and completed a review sheet.

14. In accordance with a request to the secretariat made by the Board in its 10th meeting, the secretariat shared this review sheet with BOAD, and offered it the opportunity of providing responses before the review sheet was sent to the PPRC.

15. The secretariat is submitting to the PPRC the summary and, pursuant to decision B.17/15, the final technical review of the project, both prepared by the secretariat, along with the final submission of the proposal in the following section. In accordance with decision B.25.15, the proposal is submitted with changes between the initial submission and the revised version highlighted.



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR
"BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS IN THE
FRAGILE TERRITORIES OF BURKINA FASO AND MALI THROUGH A NATURE-BASED
SOLUTIONS APPROACH"

Project Title Building Resilience for Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems in the
Fragile Territories of Burkina Faso and Mali through a Nature-based
Solutions Approach

Project ID AF00000505

Category Regular size project (over \$1 million)

Type Regional project

Stage Pre-concept

Country Regional (Burkina Faso, Mali)

Implementing Entity BOAD

Financing Requested USD 13,948,000.00

Reviewer

Co-reviewer(s)

IE Contact Person

Aïssatou DIAGNE,Ibrahim Traore,Lowanou Kogbe

Secretariat's Overall Comment

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.

The second technical review finds that some of the issues raised in the initial review have been addressed, but there are several issues which still need further clarification. These include 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, and the budget for the PFG as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.

The third technical review finds that most of the issues raised in the second review have been addressed with the exception of Outcomes and Outputs, as is discussed in the CAR raised in the review.

The fourth technical review finds that most of the issues raised in the third review have been addressed with a few pending issues such as project cost breakdown, overall organization and coherence of the proposal and the PFG, as is discussed in the CAR raised in the review.

The fifth technical review finds that all outstanding CRs and CARs have been addressed.

Country Eligibility

Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol, or the Paris Agreement?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: N/A

Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: 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.

January 15, 2026

Project Eligibility

Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?

Response: No

Secretariat: Unsure

Yes. As per the Endorsement letter dated 16 December 2025 for Burkina Faso

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.

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.

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.

January 15, 2026

Response: Yes

Secretariat: CAR1: Cleared.

As per letter of endorsement from Burkina Faso signed on November 16, 2023, by Mr. Inoussa OUIHINGA, in his capacity as the National Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund.

As per letter from Mali dated 23 January 2026 by the designated authority expected to sign the letter is Mr. Mamadou GOUMANE.

May 4, 2026

Response: No

Secretariat: CAR1 (NEW) : Please update the stage of submission as required to reflect that the proposal has been submitted before by checking the correct box and including the last submission date.-

June 12, 2026

Response: No

Secretariat: CAR1(NEW):

1. Cleared, submission stage has been updated

Not Cleared

2. Please update the submission dates on the cover. It currently says 22 May, 2026.

3. The details in the Tracked version does not align with the clean version of the PCN. Please make sure revisions are made in both versions of the proposal

4. Please reorganize the proposal for clarity. Remove the template's descriptive text and retain concise section headings, possibly including section numbering such as "Section C: Cost-effectiveness." for ease of reference.

Consider moving "Alignment with national priorities" from the cost-effectiveness section to "How the project/programme would meet relevant national technical standards." Similarly, place information on partnerships with specialized organizations under implementation arrangements.

5. The project component titles in the proposal document does not seem to align with the titles provided in the online submissions platform.

When reorganizing the proposal, consolidate unnecessary detail while maintaining coherence.

August 24, 2026.

Response: No

Secretariat: CAR1 (NEW):

On the cover page of the proposal

6. Please delete the IE fees from the amount of financing requested section of the cover page of the proposal.

7. Please delete the explanatory text and only keep the template required information corresponding to PFG. Check Yes and include the total PFG being requested. Delete the rest of the text.

Response: No

Secretariat: CAR (NEW):

2. Not Cleared. Stage of submission updated. However, please delete the comment note included on the cover page after the document title and please ensure that the background and rationale does not commence on the cover page.

3. Not cleared. Only 1 version of the proposal was submitted. It was labelled clean but had green and blue highlights in it. Please include both clean and tracked-change version with the re-submission.

4. Cleared.
5. Cleared.
6. Cleared. The IE fee has been removed from the cover page.
7. Cleared. PFG cell on cover page has been updated.

Response: Yes

Secretariat: CAR1 (NEW): Cleared.

As per changes to cover page of proposal and submission of both clean and tracked changed versions of the proposal.

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?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: No.

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.

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.

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.

January 15, 2026

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR2: Not cleared

There is an improvement in the statistics as well as the relevant institutional/policy framework provided in the Background and Context. In addition, the adaptation deficit which the project proposes to address is articulated in the last paragraph of the Background and Context on page 4. However, the section still does not adequately describe the situation in the two countries.

1. Please specifically include information on hazards, impacts, vulnerabilities.
2. Please include production statistics for the fisheries sector as was requested.
3. In addition, some of the information provided is quite dated (Bazza and Sombroek, 1996). Please provide more up-to-date data on the fisheries sector, key crops and livestock sectors where possible.

May 4, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR2: Cleared

The Pre-concept note has been updated to include Table 1 (page 2) which presents for each subsector of each country, the quantified risks, impacts, and vulnerabilities:

Fisheries production statistics have been included as well as more up to date data

June 12, 2026

Have the project/programme objectives, components and financing been clearly explained?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however additional information is required

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.

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.

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).

CAR 3: Please include where possible information on the number and extent of the interventions to justify the expenditure.

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. Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2 under Outcome 1.1.). Applying this approach would improve clarity of the results framework.

CAR5: Please clarify and streamline the outputs 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 to better distinguish their focus and renumber accordingly.

CAR6: Please clarify how women and young people are explicitly addressed across the specific objectives.

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.

January 15, 2026

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR3: Not Cleared

According to the response provided by the IE, the details requested on the structure of the interventions, geographical coverage, investment volumes and financing mechanisms will be provided in the Concept Note after the various consultations with key stakeholders (technical services, local authorities, technical and financial partners, producer organizations) have been conducted. However, there is no indication of the consultative process which went into the formulation of the pre-concept note.

1. Please indicate the consultation process which led to the formulation of the pre-concept note

CAR4: Not cleared

The numbering still has not been adjusted to reflect alignment with the Components (See Project/Programme Components and Financing Table, pages 5 – 7). However please address the following:

1. Instead of numbering the Expected Outcomes as Results 1, 2, 3...7, please use Expected Outcome 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 for Outcomes associated with Component 1 (i.e. Results 1 to 3);
2. use Outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 for Outcomes associated with Component 2 instead of Results 4 to 6) and
3. Outcome number 3.1 instead of Results 7 for the Outcome associated with Component 3.
4. Likewise, the Output numbers should also be revised so that they are aligned with the relevant Outcome and Components.
5. Thus Outputs 1.1. and 1.2 should be changed to Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2, etc.

CAR5: Not cleared

1. While the Expected Outputs have been streamlined, there is some duplication in the numbering and some of the outputs are not stated in a way that is easily measurable.

For example, 7.2 Advocacy of Agroecology (See the row associated with Component 3 in the Project/Programme Components and Financing Table, page 6). Please restate the Expected Outputs in such a way that they are easily measurable and ensure there is no duplication of the numbering.

CAR6: Cleared

Specific objectives have been formulated incorporating a gender-sensitive approach, recognizing the differentiated roles, specific vulnerabilities, and respective capacities of women and men in agro-sylvo-pastoral and water systems (see page 4).

CAR7: Cleared

Pages 11 – 12 describe the measures to be put in place to measure progress and document results. Specifically, a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and knowledge management system will be established. This system will include: A study capitalizing on at least 20 good agroecological practices, in order to identify and promote resilient and innovative solutions; Accountability and complaint management mechanisms, ensuring transparency and the inclusion of beneficiary communities, particularly women, young people, and vulnerable individuals; The organization of regional learning events, such as thematic workshops, fairs, and cross-visits, promoting the sharing of experiences and the exchange of knowledge between actors in Burkina Faso and Mali. The production and dissemination of technical guides, public policy briefs, and educational tools, aimed at:

- Informing national and regional policies on climate adaptation ;
- Support the replication of proven solutions on a larger scale ;
- Strengthen learning and the adoption of resilient practices by farmers and local stakeholders.

CAR16 (NEW): Please clarify the following statement “At the project’s kick-off, an assessment of groundwater potential will be carried out in Mali and Burkina Faso to guide interventions.” to explain

1. What interventions will be guided by the groundwater assessments?
2. What will be the result if the assessments do not indicate viable groundwater sources?

3. If those assessments can be funded through the PFG resources which the IE has applied for at this stage limited to US\$ 30,000, and at the concept note stage \$120,000)

CAR17 (NEW): Please clarify this sentence included as the final sentence under the adaptation rationale “These institutions will not have direct fiduciary responsibilities but will act as technical and strategic partners.” Please delete or relocate to the appropriate location.

May 4, 2026

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR3: Not Cleared

Details of the consultative process are included in Part II of the Pre-Concept Note, on Pages 10 – 11). For the pre-CN stage, please clarify if the preliminary consultations were held in both countries. Also indicate how inclusive those were. A blanket statement that “« multi-stakeholder consultations bringing together farmer organizations” were consulted is sufficient. Please provide the list of participants for the initial consultations in a couple of sentences.

At the next stage (concept note) In preparing the Final Project, Please provide information on the date of the consultation, the agencies/organizations represented (including those with a gender remit), number of persons attended, disaggregated by sex, main findings of the consultations and how the findings contributed to the design of the project.

CAR4: Cleared

The numbering of the Outputs and Outcomes in the Project/Programme Components and Financing Table has been adjusted to reflect the alignment with the Components (See Table 2, pp4 – 5)

CAR5: Not cleared

While some of the Outcomes and Outputs have been restated so that they are more measurable, some outcomes are quite broad or generic, such as “groundwater sustainably managed” and “production sustainably increased,” They would be stronger if they specified what change will be achieved, for whom, and to what extent.

Several outputs are written as implementation tasks rather than verifiable outputs, for example “actors trained,” “campaigns conducted,” or “platform operational,” without clear quantity, or quality.

A few entries also appear incomplete or inconsistently formatted (e.g. Output 2.2.1, Output 2.3.1-3 and 2.3.1-4) Output 2.3.4 reads more like an indicator than an output.

Please revise the Outcomes and restate them in terms of the change which will be achieved as a result of the project or Improved capabilities of farmers and fisherfolk (e.g. Improved livelihoods or food security

Please revise the Outputs so that they are measurable and specific

Please revise the formatting of Outputs 2.2.1-3 and 2.3.1-4 and the numbering of Output 2.3.4.

CAR16(NEW): Cleared

Pre-concept note, Part II, Component I (pages 6 – 7) has been revised as follows :

(1) Groundwater potential assessments will guide: the location and depth of boreholes, the sizing of pumping

systems, and priority areas for BCERs.

(2) If potential is insufficient: surface water solutions will be prioritized (restoration of water bodies, gravity drainage floats).

(3) Funding from the PFG: \$30,000 for the pre-note; \$120,000 for the concept note.

CAR17 (NEW): Cleared

See Part III – Implementation arrangement, Table 3 (page 13). The sentence regarding the lack of fiduciary responsibility on the part of SP/CNDD and AEDD has been removed from the justification for the adaptation and repositioned in the “Fiduciary Responsibility” column of the institutional table (Part III.1): “No — technical and strategic partner, with no direct fiduciary responsibility.”

CAR18 (NEW): The cover page indicates that a PFG is being requested, but no PFG request form is attached to the proposal. If a PFG is requested, please submit the form: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness/readiness-grants/project-formulation-grants/>

Otherwise, please remove this indication from the cover page.

June 12, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR3: Cleared as per revisions on the consultative process in page 9

CAR5: cleared. Project components and financing table has been revised. Pages 4 - 5

CAR18 (NEW): Cleared. PFG request form attached.

August 24, 2026.

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: N/A

Has the project/programme been justified in terms of how: - 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?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Unsure

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.

CR1: Please ensure that the adaptation rationale and interventions are clearly articulated to avoid this concept being considered a rural development programme.

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.

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.

CR 3: Please show how the adaptation technologies proposed are new 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 increased production may have some safeguard considerations.

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.

CAR 11: Please include information on how the project’s environmental benefits will be sustained.

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.

The cover page of the Preconcept note states that the project will contribute to the thematic area of Food Security.

The proposal does not, however, adequately demonstrate that new and innovative solutions to climate change are being promoted (See CR 3)

January 15, 2026

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR1: Not Cleared

The adaptation rationale and interventions are included in the last two paragraphs on page 8. However, it is not as broad in scope as the objective of the project/programme listed previously. Please address and strengthen the linkage between the climate change impact and how the proposed actions are a suitable adaptation response.

CR2: Cleared

See page 9 as well as the bullet points on page 11

The added value of the regional approach promoted by SPONG in Burkina Faso, SECO-ONG in Mali, and BOAD is a strategic lever.

This will make it possible to take into account:

- Harmonization of technical adaptation models in similar Sahelian areas;
- Regional knowledge management platform;
- Cross-border learning events (cross-visits, joint capitalization);
- Standardization of climate indicator monitoring tools;
- Pooling of technical expertise.

CR3: Not cleared

While the description on Page 8 outlines some of the innovations of the project (e.g. knowledge management mechanisms for information exchange, experiential learning, knowledge creation and analysis, dissemination and capacity building) and why it is useful, but it does not explain what is already being done in the target areas (baseline), and what is new or improved compared with that baseline. Please provide additional information on the baselines so that it is clear how the proposed solutions are new and improved.

CR3: Not cleared

While the description on Page 8 outlines some of the innovations of the project (e.g. knowledge management mechanisms for information exchange, experiential learning, knowledge creation and analysis, dissemination and capacity building) and why it is useful, but it does not explain what is already being done in the target areas (baseline), and what is new or improved compared with that baseline. Please provide additional information on the baselines so that it is clear how the proposed solutions are new and improved.

CAR 9: Cleared

The pre-concept note demonstrates consistently how the project fits into existing national frameworks, while enhancing the effectiveness, learning, and sustainability of the proposed adaptation actions. However, there is need to include a sentence indicating that details (e.g, dates of plans) will be included in the Concept Note

CAR 10: Not cleared

Component 3 of the pre-concept note includes a separate section dedicated to knowledge management, designed as a cross-cutting component of the project to strengthen learning, effectiveness, and scaling up of adaptation actions in Burkina Faso and Mali, as well as at the regional level in the Sahel. However, this cross-cutting component does not include information on who will use the knowledge or how it can support replication and scaling up. It is further recommended that the crosscutting section be placed in separate Component to deal specifically with learning and knowledge management, as was indicated in the CR.

CR4: Cleared

See paragraph 17 (page 12)

CR5: Cleared

Page 12, para 17 indicates that the project explicitly plans to involve organizations and agencies specializing in gender, as well as women's and youth associations active in promoting gender equality and civic engagement.

CR6: Cleared, see paragraph 20. However, some changes in the wording of Paragraph 21 are suggested. They are

as follows:

Please delete the first sentence in the paragraph. since it is too pre-mature to state that there are no environmental risks. The rest of the paragraph should be revised as follows: “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 in accordance with ESP (Environmental and Social Policy) standards, particularly with regard to:

- Hydraulic infrastructure (irrigation, water reservoirs, canals), the construction and maintenance of which could have an impact on local ecosystems;
- Increased agricultural, pastoral, or fishing production, which could generate additional pressure on natural resources (soil, water, biodiversity).

CAR11: Cleared

Page 15 (para 22) describes the measures to be taken to sustain environmental benefits. These include:

- Hydraulic infrastructures and agroecological farms designed according to ecological sustainability principles, to limit erosion, protecting biodiversity, and optimize water use.
- Agroecological practices (crop rotation, agroforestry, rainwater harvesting and storage) to help preserve soils and natural resources.

The establishment of an ecological maintenance plan to ensure environmental benefits (water quality and quantity, soil fertility, and cover).

Please note that the information in paragraph 22 would be better placed in the section on How the project/programme would provide economic, social and environmental benefits

CAR12: Not cleared

Although the section describes measures to ensure sustainability which go beyond capacity building (e.g. participatory approaches, community-based self-financing and the use of community resource persons and handover; there is no mention of operation and maintenance approaches especially for water infrastructure. Other measures such as integrated governance, concrete cost-recovery and revenue streams, clear monitoring and accountability and risk sensitive planning also need to be mentioned.

See comments related to CR3 above

May 4, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR1: Cleared

Part II – Adaptation rationale and justification of interventions (page 8)

establishes an explicit and measurable causal chain of adaptation: rising temperatures (+1.5°C since 1960, IPCC AR6, 2022) and increasing rainfall variability lead to (a) accelerated depletion of groundwater and surface water bodies, (b) declining agricultural, forestry, pastoral, and fisheries yields, (c) erosion of the adaptive capacities of rural communities. Each component addresses a specific risk: C1 (water), C2 (productivity), C3 (adaptive capacity). The distinction from a traditional rural development program is clearly established.

CR3: Cleared

Part II, Component 3. Capacity Building, Knowledge Management and Advocacy (pages 7 – 8) explains the innovations which include : technologies which are improvements over traditional methods and were not previously used in the target areas and an across-border regional knowledge management platform which is an institutional innovation that does not currently exist at the subregional level).
innovation (CILSS/AGRHYMET, 2022)

CAR 8: Cleared

Part II, section on cost effectiveness (page 9) has been revised to further elaborate the cost effectiveness of the Regional Approach, including quantative estimates of benefits.

A detailed cost-benefit analysis (IRR, NPV) will be provided in the Concept Note. (IFAD COSOP Mali, 2019; IFAD PAFA-E BF)

CAR10: Cleared

Part II, Component 3. Capacity Building, Knowledge Management and Advocacy (page 7) indicates that Component 3 is a cross-cutting pillar dedicated to knowledge management, capacity building, and advocacy. It specifies who will use the knowledge and how it supports large-scale replication:

- (i) Communities/farmers: technical guides and practical fact sheets to adopt adapted agroecological practices;
- (ii) National ministries (environment, agriculture, water): policy briefs to update NDCs, NAPs, and sectoral strategies;
- (iii) Regional organizations (CILSS, CCRS AES, AU): integration into regional climate policy frameworks;
- (iv) Development partners: knowledge capture reports to mobilize additional funding.

At least 20 documented agroecological best practices will be disseminated via the operational cross-border regional platform starting in Year 1. A systematic training evaluation mechanism will enable adjustments to training methods to improve their effectiveness. (AU-PIDA, 2022)

CAR12: Cleared

Part II, Section on the components – Component 1 (pages 6 – 7) and Consultative process (pages 10 – 11) have been revised as follows :

Specific O&M plans for each water structure: maintenance schedules, designated responsibilities, spare parts inventory. Water user committees established and mandated. Revolving maintenance funds financed by revenues from C2. Savings-credit mechanisms and user fees covering recurring costs. Contingency plans in the event of low rainfall. Multi-level governance (regional steering committee, national units, community committees) and annual fiduciary performance audits. (OECD, 2021; CIRAD, 2022)

June 12, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: N/A

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?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however, additional information is required.

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.

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.
January 15, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR7: Cleared

The roles and responsibilities of the RIEs, NIE and other national partners are clearly specified in Para 19 (pages 15 – 17).
May 4, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: N/A

Resource Availability

Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the programme for regional projects/programmes?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: 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.
January 15, 2026

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?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: 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.

January 15, 2026

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR 13: Not cleared.

1. Row 4 of the table on Project/Programme Components to Project/Programme Execution Cost instead of Project/Programme Implementation Cost has not been changed. Please make the requested change. Please note that the response provided by the IE is irrelevant to CAR13. The IE is simply asked is a change in the name in the table. The calculations are correct it is just the title of the Execution Cost that needs to be changed.

CAR14: Not cleared

Total PFG budget has not been revised.

1. 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.
2. Please update the PFG amount on the cover page of the proposal.

May 4, 2026

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR13: Not Cleared

Part I, Row 4 of Table 2 (page 6) Row 4 of the Components table is labelled “Project/Program Execution Cost” (amount: \$1,115,300). However, please include the budget at the output level grant amount required for 1.1 ;1.2 ; 1.3 etc.

CAR14: Not Cleared. See CAR18 (NEW) above.

June 12, 2026

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR13: Not cleared. Although the project components and financing have been revised to include output-level breakdowns, the costs remain presented at the outcome level. Please revise the component costs to provide a breakdown by output.

CAR14: Not Cleared:

1. Please use AF PFG request template and delete un-necessary text such as "revised submission-AFB/PPRC.30/40", and paragraph under initial box.
2. Activity 4 (New) should not be a standalone activity but covered as part of the IE fee for the PFG. You may revise this activity as the IE fee.
3. Please use the full official names of the executing entities in the PFG cover page for the purpose of legal agreement
4. Please include the IE signature in the PFG form as well as the IE certification page of the pre-concept note.
5. Please also confirm if BOAD is going to execute the PFG if yes, please amend the executing agency in the PFG form.
6. Please update the start date timeline presented in the PFG form.

August 24, 2026

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR13: Cleared.

Budget not at output level and PE costs properly labelled.

CAR14:

1. Cleared. As per use of PFG form template.
2. Cleared. As per proper labelling of IE fee.
3. Cleared. Legal names used for PFG.
4. Not cleared: Neither PFG Form nor concept note includes the IE certification Please address.
5. Cleared. BOAD confirms that the PFG will be executed by the national executing entities (SPONG and SECO-ONG) under the fiduciary oversight of BOAD (IE); the executing agency has been amended accordingly in the PFG form.
6. Cleared: The PFG start date was updated.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR13 (4): Cleared.

Both PFG form and pre-concept note are now signed.

Eligibility of IE

Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: No,

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.

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.

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.

Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice 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.

January 15, 2026

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR15: Cleared

BOAD is an accredited Regional Implementing Entity. However, its accreditation expired on 18 June 2021. Reaccreditation is currently in process.

The name on the letter of endorsement coincides with the signatory of the RIE.

May 4, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR15 : Cleared.

As per B.46/9 on blanket re-accreditation until October 2027

June 12, 2026



ADAPTATION FUND

PRE-CONCEPT NOTE FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME
PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Project/Programme Title :	Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in fragile territories of Burkina Faso and Mali through a nature-based solutions approach
Country/ies :	Burkina Faso, Mali
Focal Thematic Area :	Food security
Type of Implementing Entity :	Regional Implementing Entity
Implementing Entity :	West African Development Bank (BOAD) — Accredited Regional Implementing Entity (decision B.46/9; accreditation valid until October 2027)
Executing Entities :	Burkina Faso: SPONG (EE), SP/CNDD (strategic partner) Mali: SECO-ONG (EE), AEDD (strategic partner).
Amount of Financing Requested:	USD 13,948,000 (IE management fee : 8.5% = USD 1,092,700).
Project Formulation Grant (PFG) Request :	Yes ☒ No ☐ PFG amount: USD 30,000 (20% of the applicable PFG ceiling of USD 150,000 for a regional project > USD 5M covering 2 countries — AFB.42, April 2024). PFG request form completed and attached as Annex to this submission
Endorsement Letters Signed for all Countries:	Yes ☒ No ☐
Submission Stage :	☒ This pre-concept has already been submitted ☐ This is the first submission Date of last submission: 22 February-August 2026
Project Duration:	5 years

NOTE: Endorsement letters must be signed by the DNA registered with the AF. This pre-concept note does not exceed 5 pages, including this cover page, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's requirements.

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A. Background and Rationale

West Africa is one of the region’s most vulnerable to climate change (IPCC, 2022). Burkina Faso and Mali share a 1,000 km border, rank among the lowest HDI countries in the world (UNDP, 2021), and their economies depend for more than 70% on the agro-sylvo-pastoral sectors. Cereal production in 2021-22 fell by -15% in Mali and -10% in Burkina Faso compared to the five-year average (Food Security Cluster, 2022). Rising temperatures (+1.5°C since 1960, IPCC AR6), increasing rainfall variability and the drying up of ponds are durably undermining rural livelihoods. The combined effects of armed conflict and climate extremes have led to a catastrophic famine situation (phase 5) for 45,000 people, including 42,000 in Burkina Faso (RURAL 21, 2023).

Table 1: Climate hazards, impacts and vulnerabilities by sub-sector (Burkina Faso & Mali)

Country	Sub-sector	Hazaras & Impacts	Vulnerability	Source
BF	Crops	Rainfall deficit : -10% cereal production 2021-22	Rainfed agriculture: >85% of cultivated areas	CILSS/ECOWAS 2024
	Livestock	Pasture degradation, structural fodder deficit, fewer water points	42,000 people in catastrophic famine (2023); growing pastoral exodus	CILSS 2022 ; RURAL 21, 2023
	Fisheries	Erratic rainfall & rising T° → early drying of water bodies, siltation	Production of ~25,000-30,000 t/yr threatened; disrupted breeding cycles	FAO/CILSS 2021
Mali	Crops	Rainfall deficit : -15% cereal production 2021-22	Insufficient irrigation; 60% of rural population are women	CILSS/ECOWAS 2024
	Livestock	Restricted transhumance corridors, fewer water points, insecurity	Growing land conflicts; livestock losses during droughts	CILSS 2022
	Fisheries	Lower Niger River flow → contraction of the Inner Delta, reduced spawning areas	~100,000 t/yr, down 30-40%; >300,000 fishers affected; 3.8% of Mali's GDP	FAO 2020 ; UNDP 2022

Despite existing NDCs, NAPs and institutional frameworks (BF: SP/CPsADD, CNACC; Mali: AEDD, CNE), a structural adaptation deficit persists: limited access to climate technologies, insufficient investment in water mobilization, inadequate capacities, and differentiated vulnerabilities of women, youth and persons with disabilities not sufficiently taken into account (UNEP, 2023). This project aims to address this deficit through targeted climate finance.

B. Project Objectives

Improve the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Burkina Faso and Mali, with a particular focus on women, youth and persons living with disabilities, through innovative and inclusive approaches to water mobilization and agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production centered on agroecological farms.

Specific objectives:

- Increase the availability of water resources for agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production, ensuring equitable access and the active participation of women, youth and persons living with disabilities;
- Sustainably increase agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production to strengthen food security, while promoting the inclusion of women, youth and persons living with disabilities in production, processing and marketing;
- Strengthen the technical and organizational capacities of stakeholders, particularly women, youth and persons living with disabilities, as well as advocacy and partnerships for the promotion of agroecology at national and regional levels.

C. Project Components and Financing

Table 2: Components, Outcomes, Outputs and Budget

Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Country	Amount (USD)
Component 1 Water Resource Mobilization — USD 3,000,000 (26%)	Out. 1.1: Groundwater-based water access sustained for 15,000 vulnerable agro-pastoral and fishing households	1.1.1: ≥40 solar-powered boreholes (30–80m) built/rehabilitated 1.1.2: 1 regional groundwater map covering all target zones produced, validated by technical services, and actively used in ≥2 documented planning decisions	BF/Mali	1.1.1: 1,350,000 1.1.2: 150,000 1,500,000
	Out. 1.2: dry-season irrigation extended to ≥2,000 ha of previously uncultivated land	1.2.1: ≥15 water bodies rehabilitated and retaining water through the full dry season 1.2.2: ≥10 gravity-fed drainage systems (≤20 km) installed and operational 1.2.3: ≥20 WCRS built on secured land and confirmed functional	BF/Mali	1.2.1: 500,000 1.2.2: 400,000 1.2.3: 300,000 1,200,000

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Component 2 Agro-sylvo-pastoral and Fisheries Production — USD 7,566,000 (64%)	Out. 1.3: ≥90% of hydraulic infrastructure remains functional, sustained by trained user committees and financed O&M plans covering all target communities	1.3.1: ≥200 stakeholders (technicians, committee members) trained 1.3.2: O&M plans in place for 100% of infrastructure;	BF/Mali	1.3.1: 180,000 1.3.2: 120,000 300,000
	Out. 2.1: agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries yields raised by ≥30% for 15,000–20,000 direct beneficiaries	2.1.1: ≥300 multifunctional agroecological farms established and operational 2.1.2: 30% improvement in agropastoral yields 2.1.3: Sustainable production practices implemented on ≥1,500 ha with ≥70% of adopters 2.1.4: ≥50 compost/bio-input units created and functional	BF/Mali	2.1.1: 3,000,000 2.1.2: 866,000 2.1.3: 800,000 2.1.4: 400,000 5,066,000
	Out. 2.2: Income of agricultural, pastoral and fisheries households increased by at least USD 150–200/household/year through improved access to markets and financing mechanisms	2.2.1 ≥10 functional markets/trade networks with recorded transaction volumes linking producers and buyers in both countries. 2.2.2: ≥5 active savings-and-credit mechanisms (VSLAs/village funds), primarily for women and young producers 2.2.3: ≥70% of targeted producers have access to an improved marketing channel 2.2.4: Average volume of household agricultural sales increased by at least 30% vs. baseline	BF/Mali	2.2.1: 900,000 2.2.2: 600,000 1,500,000
	Out. 2.3: Technical capacities of producers (women, youth, persons with disabilities) strengthened to adopt climate-resilient practices, with effective integration of climate information in ≥60% of targeted farms	2.3.1: ≥5,000 women and 2,000 youth trained in climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production techniques 2.3.2: ≥3,000 women and 1,000 youth trained in agricultural product processing and conservation, linked to agroecological farms 2.3.3: ≥2,000 producers (including ≥60% women) integrated into marketing networks and trained in negotiation and market-access techniques 2.3.4: ≥60% of targeted producers report functional use of climate alerts in production decisions, measured through annual participatory monitoring	BF/Mali	2.3.1: 400,000 2.3.2: 300,000 2.3.3: 200,000 2.3.4: 100,000 1,000,000
Component 3 Capacity Building, Knowledge Management and Advocacy — USD 1,174,000 (10%)	Out. 3.1: Climate and agroecological knowledge produced,	3.1.1: ≥2,000 community members/farmers using technical guides and	BF/Mali	3.1.1: 300,000 3.1.2: 174,000 3.1.3: 150,000

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	disseminated and used by 4 categories of stakeholders, informing NDC/NAP updates in both countries and supporting replication in ≥3 additional Sahelian countries	practice sheets; policy briefs delivered to 2 national ministries; lessons integrated into ≥2 regional frameworks (CILSS, AU); ≥4 capitalization reports for development partners 3.1.2: ≥5 regional advocacy campaigns conducted 3.1.3: ≥30 CSOs sensitized on agroecology 3.1.4: ≥2 active multi-stakeholder platforms 3.1.5: ≥10 technical guides, policy notes and learning tools produced and used 3.1.6: Regional cross-border BF–Mali platform operational from Year 1 — ≥20 good practices documented; annual training-evaluation exercise conducted		3.1.4: 200,000 3.1.5: 200,000 3.1.6: 150,000 1,174,000
Project/Programme Execution Cost		1,115,300		
Total Project/Programme Cost		12,855,300		
IE Management Fee (8.5%)		1,092,700		
TOTAL FINANCING REQUESTED		13,948,000		

Outcome and output targets above are preliminary estimates for the pre-concept stage; they will be confirmed and refined following the detailed baseline survey at the concept note stage (CAR 5 and CAR 13 addressed).

PART II: PROJECT/PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

A. Adaptation rationale and justification for interventions

This project is a targeted climate change adaptation intervention — not a conventional rural development programme. It aims to reduce deficits in exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity within agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries systems. The adaptation causal chain is explicit: rising temperatures (+1.5°C since 1960, IPCC AR6, 2022) and increasing rainfall variability lead to: (a) accelerated depletion of groundwater tables and water bodies — addressed by Component 1 through solar boreholes (30-80 m), gravity-fed drainage systems (≤20 km) and WCRS; (b) declining agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries yields — addressed by Component 2 through climate-smart agroecological farms; (c) erosion of rural communities' adaptive capacities — addressed by Component 3 through training, cross-border knowledge management, advocacy and institutional strengthening.

B. New and innovative solutions

Baseline situation in the target areas (SPONG/SECO-ONG diagnostic, 2024): traditional wells (15-20 m), unmaintained earthen dams, single-season rainfed agriculture without organic inputs, no accessible climate information system, no cross-border capitalization platform. Relative to this baseline, the project introduces four demonstrable systemic innovations: (i) solar boreholes 30-80 m ensuring continuous pumping without energy costs; (ii) gravity-fed drainage (≤20 km) for irrigating land left uncultivated in the dry season (absent from target areas according to the 2024 diagnostic); (iii) multifunctional agroecological farms (3-4 cycles/year vs. 1 currently) integrating water, soils, agroforestry and climate alerts; (iv) regional cross-border BF-Mali platform — an institutional innovation that does not currently exist at the sub-regional scale (CILSS/AGRHYMET, 2022). Mitigation co-benefits: living hedges, agroforestry, and orchard development on uncultivated land contributing to food security and localized microclimates.

A preliminary groundwater assessment will guide: (i) the location and depth of boreholes; (ii) the sizing of pumping systems; and (iii) the priority areas for runoff collection basins (BCER). These groundwater assessments will be financed through the Project Formulation Grant: USD 30,000 at the pre-concept stage and USD 120,000 at the concept note stage.

C. Added value of the regional approach and cost-effectiveness

BF and Mali share two similar climatic zones (north-west BF/southern Mali), enabling: pooled equipment procurement, joint staff training, a unique pool of regional experts, and harmonized M&E tools and adaptation indicators. Component 2 accounts for 64% of the budget (USD 7,566,000) for 15,000-20,000 direct beneficiaries, at USD 378-504/beneficiary, through four mutually reinforcing levers (water, soil, market access and climate information). Projected income: +USD 150-200/household/year from Year 3, ensuring cost recovery for hydraulic infrastructure maintenance. A full cost-benefit analysis (IRR, NPV) will be provided in the concept note (sources: IFAD Mali COSOP 2019; PAFA-E BF IFAD).

D. Consistency with national and regional strategies

Burkina Faso: PNDES II, National Food Security Policy, PNDD, NAP, NDC (adaptation component), sectoral water/sanitation/agro-sylvo-pastoral policies, National Gender Equality Strategy, National IWRM Policy, National Strategy for Soil Restoration, Conservation and Rehabilitation (SNRCRS, 2019), National Agroecology Strategy.

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Mali: Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development (CREDD), National Climate Change Policy (PNCC), National Adaptation Programme of Action (PANA), National Environmental Protection Policy, National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, National Gender Equality Policy (PNG).

Regional level: ECOWAS 2022-2030 Climate Strategy, AU 2020-2030 African Strategy on Climate Change, CILSS guidance on Sahelian resilience and sustainable natural resource management. Details (dates and component-level alignment) will be provided in the concept note.

E. Knowledge management and learning

A robust M&E and knowledge management system: (i) ≥20 agroecological best practices capitalized through the cross-border BF-Mali platform operational from Year 1, with a systematic training-evaluation mechanism for continuous adjustment (AU-PIDA, 2022); (ii) accountability and grievance mechanisms accessible to women and vulnerable groups, operational before the launch of field activities; (iii) annual regional workshops, cross-border study visits, agroecological fairs; (iv) technical guides, policy notes and learning tools to inform NDCs, NAPs and sectoral strategies of both countries.

F. Inclusive consultative process

Phase 1 (2024): document review of NDCs/NAPs and sectoral frameworks of both countries; direct consultations with SP/CNDD (BF) and AEDD (Mali). Phase 2 (2025): **multi-stakeholder consultations conducted in both countries (Burkina Faso and Mali) in an inclusive manner.** Participants: associations of women producers, cooperatives of young agro-pastoralists and fishers' groups; NGO members of SPONG (BF) and SECO-ONG (Mali), several with a gender/social inclusion mandate; decentralized technical services (agriculture, water, environment) in the target areas; representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities; tripartite SPONG-SECO-ONG-BOAD meetings. **Indicative list of organizations consulted:** SPONG and its member NGOs (BF), SECO-ONG and its member NGOs (Mali), SP/CNDD, AEDD, regional women producers' associations, young agro-pastoralists' cooperatives, fishers' associations, and decentralized technical services in the Sahelian and Sudano-Sahelian target zones of both countries. **Approximately 120 participants (52% women) across both countries.** Three consensus priorities were validated: water mobilization, agroecology and capacity building — which directly shaped the design of the project's three components. **Full documentation of the in-depth consultations (dates, organizations represented including those with a gender mandate, participants disaggregated by sex, conclusions and contribution to the design) will be provided in the concept note.** In-depth participatory community workshops will be conducted under the Project Formulation Grant (USD 30,000).

G. Sustainability of results

- Social and institutional sustainability: a participatory approach involving local, national and regional structures (women's groups, youth, schools); skills transfer to communities; oversight mechanisms integrated into existing local functions;
- Economic sustainability: revolving maintenance funds financed by Component 2 revenues (agricultural sales, water-access fees); community self-financing mechanisms; transparent business models encouraging continued investment;
- Sustainability of hydraulic infrastructure: structure-specific O&M plans (schedules, responsibilities, spare-parts stocks); trained and mandated user committees; contingency plans for rainfall-deficit years; three-tier governance (regional steering committee, national PMUs, community committees); annual fiduciary performance audits (OECD, 2021; CIRAD, 2022);
- Environmental sustainability: agroecological practices (crop rotation, agroforestry, integrated fertility management); an ecological maintenance plan safeguarding water quality, soil fertility and biodiversity.

H. Economic, social, environmental and gender benefits

The project transforms power relations beyond formal representation: leadership training, access to productive resources, and active participation of women in decision-making bodies and management committees. Organizations specialized in gender and youth inclusion will co-design and co-facilitate activities. The gender approach is systematically integrated into needs assessment and solution design, creating a multiplier effect on agroecological and hydraulic practices. In line with the AF-ESP (2019) and BOAD's climate policy, an ESIA, an ESMP and a gender equality assessment will be carried out before start-up.

The project will make a significant contribution to sustainable production and environmental protection, while building the resilience of populations in both countries. In line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (AF-ESP, 2019), BOAD's climate policy, and applicable national regulations, any intervention likely to have environmental and social impacts will be rigorously subjected to an environmental and social assessment in accordance with ESP standards, particularly regarding: (a) hydraulic infrastructure (irrigation, water reservoirs, canals), the construction and maintenance of which could impact local ecosystems; and (b) increased agricultural, pastoral or fisheries production, which could generate additional pressure on natural resources (soil, water, biodiversity). Grievance mechanisms accessible to women and vulnerable groups will be operational before the launch of field activities.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The project adopts a three-tier institutional architecture, regional, national and operational, to ensure effective coordination, avoid overlaps, and guarantee transparent management of technical and financial responsibilities.

Table 3: Project Institutional Architecture

Level	Entity	Role	Fiduciary Responsibility
Regional	BOAD (RIE)	Overall fiduciary oversight, compliance with AF policies, regional strategic coordination, fund management and consolidated reporting	Yes — primary fiduciary responsibility
Regional	SPONG & SECO-ONG (Regional Coord.)	Methodological harmonization, regional capitalization, support to EEs, management of the BF-Mali cross-border platform	No — technical and coordination role
National BF	SPONG (EE)	National implementation ; PMU : national coordinator, finance officer, M&E specialist, gender/inclusion expert	Yes — execution and national reporting, BF

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National Mali	SECO-ONG (EE)	National implementation ; PMU identical to BF's	Yes — execution and national reporting, Mali
Strategic BF/Mali	SP/CNDD (BF) & AEDD (Mali)	Policy alignment with national CC and SD frameworks; capitalization and dissemination of project results at the institutional level	No — technical/strategic partners, no direct fiduciary responsibility

Strategic governance is provided by a Regional Steering Committee (BOAD, SPONG, SP/CNDD, AEDD and beneficiary representatives including women's and youth organizations), meeting twice a year to validate AWP's, review semi-annual progress reports and approve budget revisions. A Governance Manual will define roles, decision-making mechanisms, conflict-resolution procedures and indirect-cost allocation arrangements.

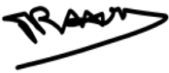
PART IV: GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT AND IMPLEMENTING ENTITY CERTIFICATION

A. Government endorsement

Designated National Authority / Country	Date of Endorsement
Mr. Inoussa Ouiminga, Designated National Authority of the Adaptation Fund, Director General of Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Prospective Planning — Burkina Faso	16 November 2023
Mr. Mamadou GOU MANE, Designated National Authority of the Adaptation Fund — Mali	23 February 2026

B. Implementing entity certification

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and with the applicable national development and adaptation plans. Subject to approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, I undertake to implement the project/programme in compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy, with the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully responsible (legally and financially) for the implementation of this project/programme.

Name & Signature: Mr. Ibrahim TRAORE Climate Project Development Officer 	Implementing Entity: West African Development Bank (BOAD) Email: itraore@boad.org	Date : <u>09/09/2026</u> (Day / Month / Year)
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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

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
SANITATION AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

Agency for Environment and
Sustainable Development



N° 0000180 /AEDD/FA

REPUBLIC OF MALI
One People- One Goal – One Faith



Letter of Endorsement by Government

Bamako, the 23th February 2026

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

Subject: Endorsement for the project titled "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 Primary contact point of Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in Mali, I confirm that the above regional project proposal is in accordance with the government's priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks posed by climate change in the country.

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

Sincerely,

Mr. Mamadou GOUMANE
Deputy Director

Agency of Environment and Sustainable Development
Quartier du Fleuve BP 2357 Rue 311 Porte 328, Mali
Tel: +(223) 761 80 604
Email: goumgoum86@yahoo.fr /aedd@environnement.gov.ml



Revised PFG Submission Form¹
Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 02 September 2026

Adaptation Fund Project ID: AF00000505

Country/ies: Burkina Faso, Mali

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

Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE) : RIE (Regional Implementing Entity)

Implementing Entity: West African Development Bank (BOAD) — Accredited Regional Implementing Entity (Decision B.46/9; accreditation valid until October 2027)

Executing Entity/ies: Burkina Faso: Secrétariat Permanent des ONG (SPONG); Mali: Secrétariat de Concertation des ONG (SECO-ONG). Strategic partners: SP/CNDD (Burkina Faso), AEDD (Mali).

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	01 October 2026
Completion date of PFG	30 September 2027 (Concept Note submission target: October 2027)

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	<u>Budget note²</u>
Activity 1 (merged) — Feasibility studies, field diagnostics, inclusive multi-stakeholder consultations & results framework. Target zones : BF (Koulsé, Yadega); Mali (Ségou, Mopti). Executed by SPONG (BF) and SECO-ONG (Mali).	- Country diagnostic report (baseline C1/C2/C3, vulnerability mapping, SMART indicators) 2 inclusive consultation reports (1/country) — participants disaggregated by sex, organizations represented, validated priorities - Complete AF-aligned results framework (impact, outcome & output indicators with targets)	16,000	2 national consultants (BF & Mali, 30 d/p each) — field surveys, focus groups, vulnerability mapping; pooled travel reduces unit cost 2 inclusive workshops (1/country) — gender/inclusion specialists, per diems, venue & materials (USD 2,500/workshop) 1 regional M&E expert (15 d/p) — results framework, SMART targets, cost-benefit analysis (IRR, NPV) - Without these data the concept note cannot provide the AF-required IRR/NPV analysis nor

¹ As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.

² The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break-down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

			meet AF Criterion 3 (inclusivity)
Activity 2 — Preliminary Environmental & Social Screening (ESIA) — AF ESP 2019 compliance. Executed by SPONG and SECO-ONG with AF-accredited E&S consultants.	• Preliminary ESIA report — potential risks of hydraulic infrastructure (C1) and agroecological farms (C2) • Preliminary ESMP • Preliminary gender assessment	5,000	• 2 AF-accredited E&S consultants (20 d/p each, 1/country) — field missions, risk assessment, ESMP drafting • Mandatory under the AF Environmental and Social Policy (2019) prior to concept note submission
Activity 3 — Detailed budget, disbursement schedule & Regional Governance Manual. Executed by SPONG and SECO-ONG with a regional financial expert.	• Detailed budget by component and output line (per AF requirements, addressing CAR13) • Disbursement schedule aligned with BOAD/AF modalities • Governance Manual (roles, fiduciary procedures, indirect-cost allocation) • Finalized concept note	5,000	• 1 regional financial expert (10 d/p) — budget structuring, disbursement schedule, indirect-cost allocation model • Technical workshops to finalize the Governance Manual (BOAD-SPONG-SECO-ONG)
Implementing Entity management fee — PFG supervision, quarterly monitoring & regional coordination (BOAD, RIE). [Formerly “Activity 4 (NEW)”]; reclassified as the IE fee for the PFG in response to CAR14.]	• 3 quarterly progress reports (disbursements, deliverables, schedule) • PFG monitoring dashboard	4,000	• BOAD project officer (IE supervision) — quarterly PFG monitoring • SPONG-SECO-ONG coordination meetings • Covers the IE’s fiduciary oversight/supervision of the PFG
Total Project Formulation Grant		30,000	= USD 26,000 (Activities 1–3, executed by the EEs) + USD 4,000 (IE management fee). Within the AFB.42 ceiling (USD 30,000) for a regional project >USD 5M covering 2 countries.

Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:

Activity 1 — USD 16,000.

This merged activity consolidates three originally distinct tasks (feasibility, consultations, results framework) to maximise field-mission efficiency and optimise the use of the USD 30,000 ceiling. Comprehensive field diagnostics in the target zones of Burkina Faso (Koulisé and Yadega) and Mali (Ségou and Mopti) will: (i) confirm the vulnerability baseline for Components 1 (water), 2 (agro-sylvo-pastoral production) and 3 (capacity building); (ii) validate hydraulic-infrastructure and agroecological-farm sites; and (iii) establish SMART indicator baselines. Two representative multi-stakeholder workshops (one per country) — women producers’ associations, young agro-pastoralists’ cooperatives, organisations of persons with disabilities, SPONG/SECO-ONG member NGOs and decentralised technical services — will generate the inclusive-consultation documentation required by AF Criterion 3. In parallel, a regional M&E expert will develop a full results framework with quantified targets (e.g. ≥15,000 direct beneficiaries, +USD 150–200/household/year, ≥60% women) and the cost-benefit analysis (IRR, NPV). Pooling field travel across the three sub-tasks reduces unit costs.

Activity 2 — USD 5,000.

Pursuant to the AF Environmental and Social Policy (ESP, 2019) and BOAD’s climate-policy commitments, a preliminary ESIA, a preliminary ESMP and a preliminary gender assessment are mandatory before concept-note submission. These instruments will assess the potential environmental and social risks of hydraulic infrastructure (Component 1: boreholes, gravity-fed drainage, runoff-collection basins) and agroecological farms (Component 2), in compliance with AF safeguard standards. The budget covers two AF-accredited E&S consultants (20 person-days each, one per country), field missions and report production. Without these instruments the concept note would be rejected at technical review.

Activity 3 — USD 5,000.

A fully developed AF concept note requires: (i) a detailed budget broken down by component and output line, in line with the AF’s budgetary guidelines (CAR13); (ii) a disbursement schedule aligned with BOAD/AF fiduciary modalities; and (iii) a Governance Manual defining roles, decision-making mechanisms, fiduciary procedures, conflict-resolution processes and indirect-cost allocation between BOAD, SPONG and SECO-ONG. The budget covers a regional financial expert (10 person-days), technical workshops to finalise the budget structure and the Governance Manual, and report production.

Implementing Entity management fee — USD 4,000 (formerly “Activity 4”).

In response to CAR14, the monitoring and regional-coordination task previously listed as a standalone “Activity 4” has been reclassified as the Implementing Entity management fee for the PFG. It funds the BOAD project officer’s fiduciary supervision of the PFG — quarterly monitoring of Activities 1–3 (disbursements, deliverables, schedule) and coordination with SPONG and SECO-ONG. Three quarterly progress reports will be produced over the PFG period (October 2026 – September 2027), ensuring full accountability and enabling corrective measures where needed. Budget split: USD 26,000 for the executing preparation activities (1–3) plus USD 4,000 for the IE management fee, for a total of USD 30,000, within the AFB.42 ceiling.

For LLA Projects only:

If requesting additional funding for LLA projects to enable devolving decision making to the local level, please specify the activities that would directly serve to enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level and enable local actors to make informed decisions on how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, and implemented:

Please provide justifications for their need and for the amount of additional funding required:

Not applicable — this is not a Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) project.

C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board’s procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund’s criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Mr. Ibrahim TRAORE Climate Project Development Officer West African Development Bank (BOAD)	<i>Ibrahim TRAORE</i> 	~~1–09~~ September 2026	Mr. Ibrahim TRAORE	+228 22 21 42 44	itraore@boad.org