



Delivering Social Benefits from the World's Forests

CASE OF LOCAL FORESTRY RESOURCES GOVERNANCE PROJECT IN BURKINA FASO

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Introduction

- TREE AID is an NGO that was established by foresters over 30 years ago in the UK.
- We support people in the drylands of Africa that depend on trees and forests to maximise the benefit they can obtain from them.
- This is becoming increasingly important in the face of complex challenges that include:
 - Climate change
 - Land degradation
 - Population growth
 - Conflict



Agroforestry Parklands



- **Agroforestry parklands is a traditional system of land use in the semi-arid and sub-humid areas of West Africa.**
- **Trees integrated in parklands mitigate the effects of climate change by improving organic matter and soil fertility, restoring soil structural properties and retain water and soil moisture.**
- **Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are an integral part of household income.**
- **Trees and forests play a major role in maintaining the socio-ecological and socio-cultural balance in rural communities.**
- **Poor regulation of access rights and control over the use of agroforestry parklands puts at serious risk communities dependent on these resources; in particular the most vulnerable (women, youth, landless).**



Context 1/2



- Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa with a population of around 20 million people and 86% of the population depend on natural resources for a living, through farming, fishing and forestry.
- System of subsistence agriculture with one growing season that is caught in a cycle of chronic food shortage. Around 42% of rural households are food insecure and 30% of children under five are malnourished.
- Forest products constitute one of the principal production assets from which communities can earn an income.
- Wild foods, obtained through foraging in forests is a widely used livelihoods strategy to mitigate against hunger during the lean months.
- Forest products are also vital as a source of additional revenue to reduce vulnerability to climate shocks and stresses.

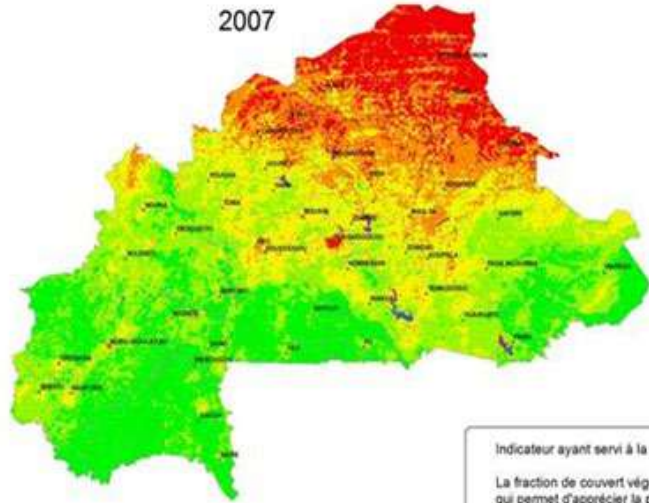


Context 2/2

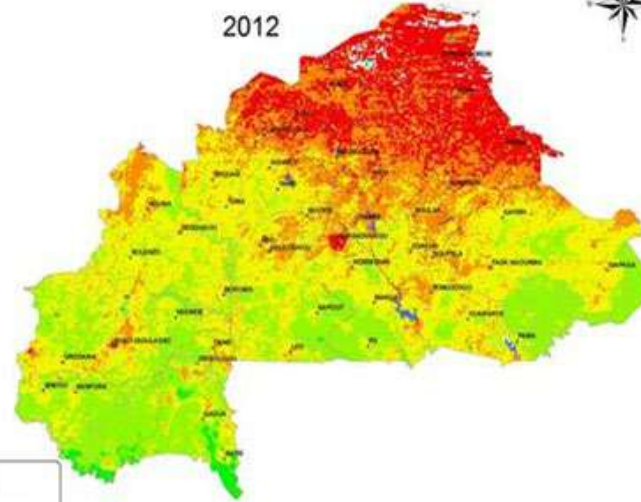
- Unfortunately, Burkina Faso's tree cover is under threat.
- Government has put in place an enabling environment for decentralised and community-led forest management.
- Regrettably, this has been weak:
 - limited investment in developing capacity of district government to implement and regulate this approach;
 - poor regulation coupled with limited access rights and control over the tree resources for the most vulnerable.
- According to the report on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) (concept adopted by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), between 2002 and 2013, 51,600 km² or 19% of the national territory suffered degradation.
- It is estimated that we are losing over 110K ha per year.



Tree cover in Burkina Faso



2007



2012

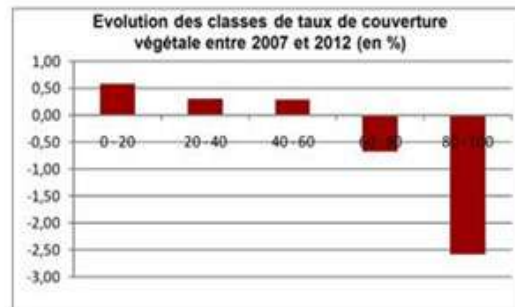


Indicateur ayant servi à la cartographie : le FCOVER

La fraction de couvert végétal (FCOVER), est un indicateur qui permet d'apprécier la proportion de végétation couvrant une surface de sol.



Source : SP-CONEDD/ Station AMESD



Réalisation: DCIME/SP-CONEDD



0 10000 20000 30000 40000 50000 60000 70000 80000 90000

0-20 20-40 40-60 60-80 80-100

Classes de taux de couverture végétale

2007 2012



Enabling Environment



- The government recognises that appropriate policies and tools must be developed to establish more equitable and responsible forest management at each level (national, regional, provincial and municipal).
- Recent forest laws in Burkina Faso are providing a supportive policy and institutional framework for the decentralisation and devolution of forest governance.
- Governments lacks resources and capacity to implement the policy.
- Opportunity for TREE AID to support forest actors through Forest Governance processes that recognise the importance of participation, accountability, equity, fairness, transparency, local control and management.



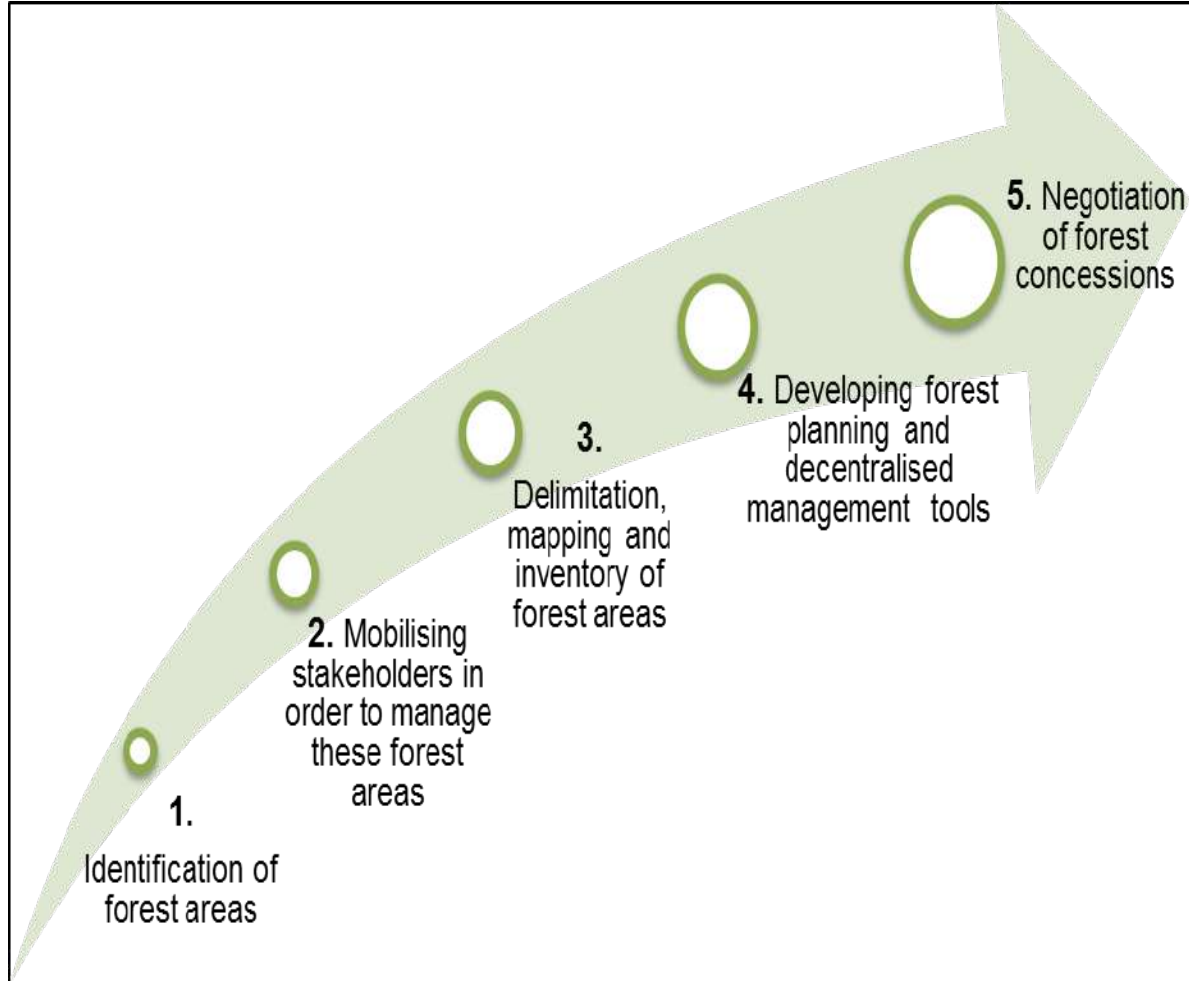
Local governance of forestry resources



- Opportunity for TREE AID to support forest actors through Forest Governance processes that recognise the rights and duties of local user.
- Since 2007, TREE AID has been supporting the Ministry of the Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change government of Burkina Faso in its efforts to decentralise responsibility for managing and conserving forests to district authorities and communities.
- We have worked together to pilot an approach in 8 communes that builds capacity and creates governance links between the community, district authorities and central government.
- The Local Governance of Forest Resources project has demonstrated that, with the right conditions, trees and forests can prove an effective strategy in improving living conditions of these communities in a sustainable manner.



Forest Governance Approach



- **Local governance of forest resources.**
- **Participatory and inclusive approach.**
- **Capacity building, equipment, policy influence, investment.**
- **Advocacy and support human, finance and equipment transfer from Central Government to Local Government (Region & Districts).**



Social results to date



- Grassroots empowerment dynamic was created - 52 village and inter-village forest management organisations with 4000 members (35% women).

- Integration of disadvantaged groups (women, youth, poor and pastoralists) into the project as direct beneficiaries.

- Better control, voices and access to areas for the forestry resources with the adoption of Local Land Tenure Charter.

- Permanent social dialogue around the forestry management between land users, districts and States technical agencies.

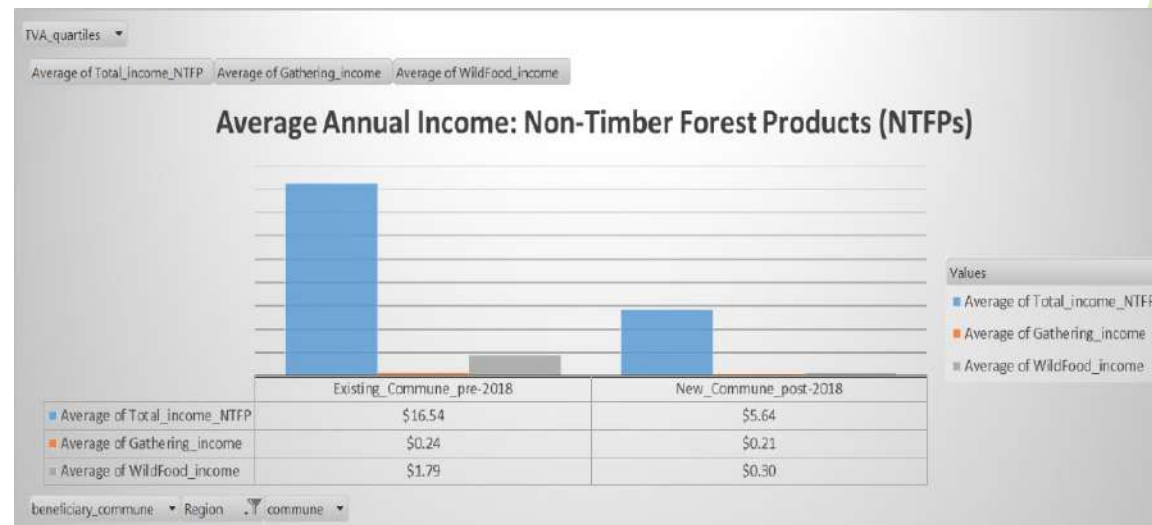
- Reduction of the land tenure conflict between pastoralist and farmers and between farmers. E.g. 67% in Gomponsom and 100% in La Toden Districts since 2015.





Economic results to date

- Women (2,449) have developed over 258 Village Tree Enterprises. With income three time more. In 2018, the income was £680,934 for 464 women involved in shea value chain
- NTFPs enterprises include: shea (*Vitellaria paradoxa*), baobab (*Adansonia digitata*), *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Ziziphus spp*, *Acacia macrostachya*, dawadawa (*Parkia biglobosa*), *Saba senegalensis*, *Moringa oleifera*, honey.
- The Forest Governance facilitates local savings and access to adequate financing, linking household-level economic outcomes to the conservation-restoration of forests. From January to march, credit of £126,029 for enterprises development





Socio-Economics (Food & Medecine)



- NTFPS (leaves, fruits, nuts, etc.) are sources of vitamins, lipids, carbohydrates and proteins necessary for the well-being of men, women and children.
- Improving the local medicine using trees products (leaves, bark, roots, wood, etc.) for the treatment of some specific ailments like symptoms of malaria, anemia, and skin infections.





Future plans



- Capitalise on experience to improve the **Model of Local Forest Governance** approach.
- Be part of the enhancement of the **African Union Great Green Wall Initiative** in our countries (Burkina, Ghana, Ethiopia, Mali; Niger) of operations.
- Assist government's effort to reduce carbon emission and land degradation actions for the contribution of **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)**.
- **TREE AID** is under negotiation for additional funding for the expansion of the approach to other communes in **Burkina Faso**.



Thank you, Y Barka, Merci

