



LIFE-AR

LDC Initiative for Effective
Adaptation and Resilience



BURKINA FASO

A decentralised approach to
building climate resilience of
people and landscapes

Introducing LIFE-AR

The Least Developed Countries' (LDCs) Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) aims to achieve the LDCs' 2050 vision for a climate-resilient future. Led by the LDCs, LIFE-AR encourages a change in the prioritisation, financing, coordination and evaluation of climate responses. LIFE-AR seeks to develop long-term interventions and investments in climate adaptation and works with governments to sustainably strengthen national and local institutions, systems and capabilities. By demonstrating the effectiveness of this approach, the aim is to influence the architecture of climate finance to enable direct access to LDCs. LIFE-AR is in line with the principles of locally-led adaptation and is developing mechanisms for including the specific needs of local communities, which will help enrich national and regional adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

LIFE-AR in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso was one of the first countries to join LIFE-AR, seeing the initiative as a way of strengthening existing systems to increase resilience to climate change. Burkina Faso has chosen to strengthen its decentralisation and local planning system, to enable resilience actions to be integrated with national and local development objectives. In line with the LDC Offers, Burkina Faso is investing 70% of the funds received via LIFE-AR in investments prioritised by the pilot communes. A delivery mechanism with the following four components has been developed to meet this objective:

- **Institutional arrangements:** include at national level the National Committee on Climate Change, the steering committee, the technical secretariat, the Technical Working Group, and the fiduciary entity; and at local level the special delegations and local technical teams, which work with the 'Comités de Veille et de Développement' (COVED) (Monitoring and Development Committees) at village level to help prioritise investments and monitor activities.
- **Local planning and budgeting:** local development plans developed in a participatory manner by local actors.
- **Financing:** using the existing financial mechanism to transfer funds to the local level via the special accounts of the communes created by the 'Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement des Collectivités Territoriales' (National Agency responsible for supporting the Development of Local Authorities),
- **Monitoring, evaluation and learning:** with the integration of MEL, gender and social inclusion officers, and communication with local technical teams.

Aligning LIFE-AR with national priorities for adaptation and resilience in Burkina Faso

The National Committee on Climate Change (CNACC) is a framework for consultation, facilitation and reflection on issues of national interest relating to climate change. As part of the implementation of LIFE-AR in Burkina Faso, this committee acts as the national platform. Alongside other initiatives, LIFE-AR contributes to the holding of CNACC sessions.

The NAP (2024-2028) identifies adaptation challenges and priority sectors.

The challenges include strengthening the adaptation capacities of priority sectors, developing research and development, and governance of climate change adaptation. The priority sectors identified in the NAP include water resources, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, the environment and natural resources, health, energy, infrastructure, housing, gender and civil society organisations.

In its NDC (2021-2025), Burkina Faso has committed to reducing its emissions by 31682.3 Gg by 2030, i.e. 29.42% compared to the baseline scenario - which could rise to 30.76% with the implementation of adaptation actions.

The communes are responsible for implementing climate actions. Through their local development plans (LDPs), they define their priorities and strategic objectives in line with national, sectoral and regional guidelines. Thanks to LIFE-AR, three communes have updated their LDPs to integrate climate risks and the investments prioritised by the communities, ensuring consistency between local development priorities and national priorities for resilience to climate change.

The following criteria were used to select the pilot communes:

- Agro-climatic zone ;
- Poverty rate (or incidence of poverty) ;
- Accessibility from a security perspective ;
- Vulnerability to climate change; and
- Governance.

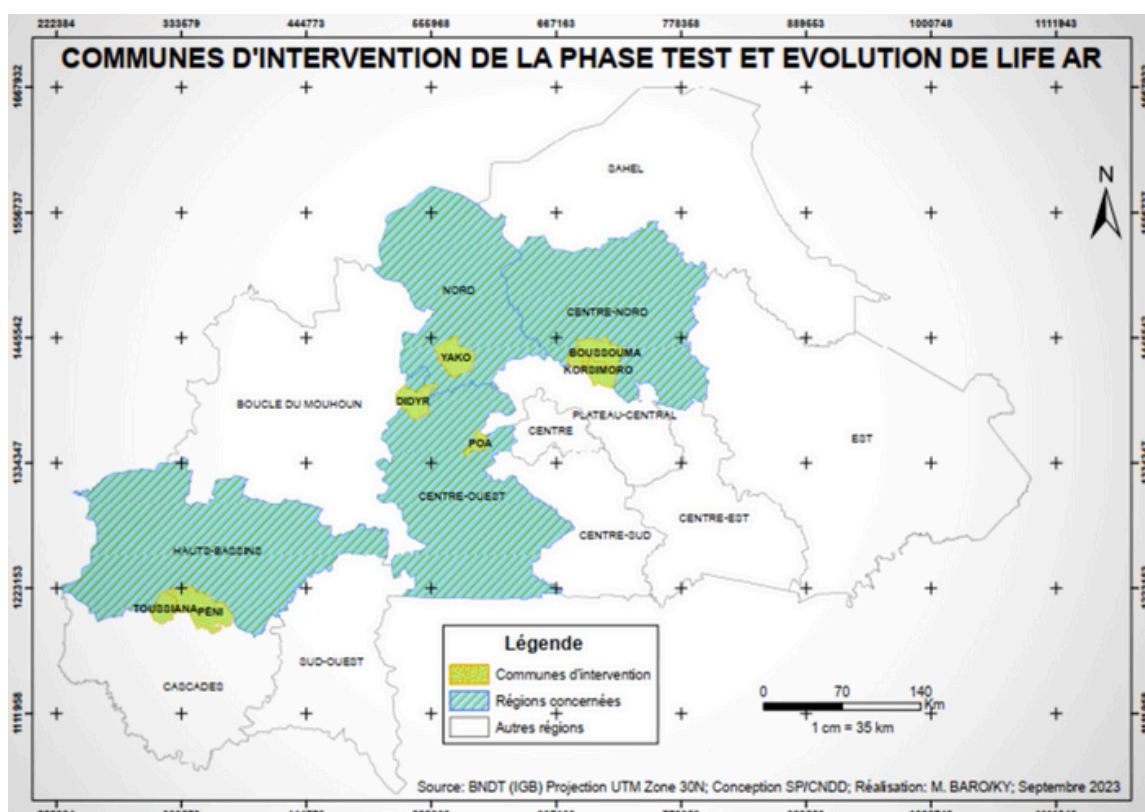
Based on these criteria, seven pilot communes were selected, including four for the first investment cycle, in the North, Centre-North, Centre-West and Hauts Bassins regions. For each commune, the local technical team identified five beneficiary villages per year. Over the years, new contiguous villages will be added to the first ones within the seven communes to enable a landscape approach to strengthening resilience. For the first year, each selected commune has been allocated a budget of 122,500,000 CFA francs.



Decentralised process for identifying investments.

An innovative approach has been put in place under LIFE-AR for each commune selected :

1. Identifying and prioritising investments through a **decentralised approach** enabling communities to express their needs and identify their priority investments.
2. Organisation of **general information meetings in each village** and working groups with socio-professional, women's, youth and disabled people's organisations, as well as with religious and customary authorities, to enable them to express their needs and priorities in terms of resilience to climate change.
3. **Budget communicated in advance** for investments to enable more effective, participatory and transparent planning. e.



Boussouma

Climate Risks: drought, rising temperatures, strong winds, floods

Sectors: water, agriculture, natural resources/environment, health, gender

Boussouma is a predominantly agricultural commune in the Centre-North region, with a population of around 106,253, 47.34% of whom are men and 52.66% women. Despite satisfactory average annual rainfall, Boussouma suffers from recurrent droughts. The population faces risks of food insecurity and growing poverty, due in particular to the degradation of arable land and the river that runs through the commune, the lack of drinking water supply caused in part by the deterioration of water infrastructures, the drying up of surface water during the dry season and the drying up of wells caused by climatic hazards. Added to this is the massive displacement of people in the area as a result of insecurity.

XOF 122,500,000

- **Recovery of 120 ha of degraded land** to optimise cultivable areas, with training in techniques for recovering, restoring and conserving land, water and soil.
- **Six boreholes** to increase the availability of drinking water, with training for local repairers and management committees..
- **Strengthening women's capacity** to process non timber forest products (NTFPs) in order to boost their resilience, with training in management and marketing techniques.

24 693 inhabitants of beneficiary villages (52.06% women)

300 people (70% women and 30% men) benefiting from the 120 ha of reclaimed land;

1800 beneficiaries of the 6 boreholes

Women's NTFP groups and cooperatives.

- Increase in arable land and higher yields and production;
- Solving drinking water problems and saving time, reducing stress and water-borne diseases;
- Improving household income and living conditions by strengthening women's capacity to process NTFPs.



Community consultations



Degraded lands to recover

Didyr

Climate Risks: sdrought, fewer rainy days, flooding, temperature rise

Sectors: water, health, economy, planning, energy, agriculture, natural resources/environment, gender, waste

Didyr is a commune in the Centre-West region with a population of 53,361, 44.19% of whom are men and 55.81% women. Market gardening is one of the main sources of income for the majority of the commune's women. Animal husbandry (cows, goats and chickens) is also an important activity. Rainfall in Didyr is average, spread over a rainy season from June to September. Activities are severely hampered by poor vegetation cover, the drying up of water sources due to heavy evaporation, a drop in the water table as a result of high temperatures, and inadequate water resource mobilisation infrastructure.

XOF 122,500,000

- **Five boreholes** to meet water needs,
- **Mini drinking water supply** for market gardens
- **Plants and grids** to protect banks
- **Cleaning and development of gutters** for rainwater drainage
- **Solar street lamps** to promote income-generating activities and improve safety
- **Construction of roads** to improve access during the rainy season, facilitate medical evacuations and promote development.
- **Reforestation of protected areas** with shea and néré seedlings to support women's associations
- **Securing dumping sites** and acquiring waste management and recovery equipment
- **Training and construction of improved stoves** for 'dolotières' (women who produce the local drink 'dolo') to reduce wood consumption



17,862 inhabitants of the 5 villages (55% women).

- Strengthening market gardening
- Improving water availability
- Increased income for the population, particularly women
- Improving household food security
- Improving safety in the city with solar lighting
- Saving fuelwood and reducing the working hours of 'dolotières'
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Strengthening local beer production as a source of income.



Market garden for water supply



Primary school for boreholes



Location for drainage channel

Toussiana

Climate Risks: drought, fewer rainy days, flooding, temperature rise

Sectors: agriculture, natural resources/ environment, water, health, gender, energy

Toussiana commune in the Hauts-Bassins region has around 21,578 inhabitants, 47.74% of whom are men and 52.26% women. It is a predominantly agricultural community, but there are also traders, livestock farmers and craftsmen. In the dry season, many of the inhabitants work as stone or roast-wood cutters, hunters or poultry breeders. Toussiana enjoys abundant rainfall spread over a short 2-month rainy season. The commune faces constraints in terms of forestry and wildlife resources, with a deterioration in plant cover and a reduction in biodiversity. The commune also has to contend with water problems, with water points and surface water sources drying up, the dam silting up, insufficient water points, the depth of the water table and contamination of traditional wells by latrines during the rainy season.

XOF 122,500,000

- **Two boreholes** equipped with solar pumps,
- **Recovery of 35ha of degraded land,**
- Creation of **improved 3-stone stoves,**
- Creation of a **nursery,**
- Development of a one-hectare site for **market gardening,**
- **Forage farming** in the village of Mou,
- **Support for a women's cooperative** to farm two hectares of their market garden,
- **Protection of the river banks** in the village of Nianware.

2482 inhabitants of the five villages of Toussiana (53.67% women)

- Improving the availability of drinking water ;
- Reduction of water-borne diseases ;
- Increase in arable land and yields ;
- Improving food and nutritional security ;
- Reducing pressure on natural resources and improving plant cover;
- Creating jobs and improving incomes ;
- Improving the health of livestock ;
- Improving health and well-being;
- Reducing conflicts between farmers and herders.



Community consultations



River banks to protect

Yako

Climate Risks: drought, fewer rainy days, rainfall variability, increase in water stress, rise in temperature, heat waves

Sectors: agriculture, environment, gender

Yako is a commune in the North region with a population of 117,422, 47.34% of whom are men and 52.66% women. Agriculture and livestock farming are the main economic activities. Yako has a dry season from November to May and a rainy season from June to October, with average rainfall. The population has limited access to drinking water, and is faced with degradation of the land and plant cover, declining fertility of cultivated land, and silting up of watercourses. These situations exacerbate the problems of cohabitation between farmers and herders, linked to insufficient grazing, available land and competition for water resources.



Protection and recovery of degraded forests:

- Village forest fencing and signs
- Reforestation of 2ha of village forest
- Creation of a 2-hectare village forest
- Reforestation in the communal forest
- Construction of the communal forest fence
- Drinking water supply in the communal forest
- Fencing the communal orchard

Strengthening market gardening activities:

- Borehole near the village forest
- Pump in a 1ha nutrient garden
- School garden in the village's state primary school
- Development of a 1-hectare market-gardening area



13,329 inhabitants of the 4 villages and sector 6 (53% women)

- Empowerment of women, girls and other vulnerable groups
- Development of market gardening
- Development of value chains for forestry and agricultural products
- Reduced gender inequalities in the commune through equitable access to and control of forest resources
- Increase in agricultural production and non-timber forest products



Village forest



Village orchard

Community investments to strengthen resilience

One of LIFE-AR's priority objectives is to ensure that 70% of the funding received is earmarked for investment at local level. To achieve this objective, Burkina Faso has strengthened its existing decentralised planning system by integrating climate resilience activities into the local development plans. The implementation of a MEL system, at both central and local levels, encourages local monitoring of investments and facilitates regular data collection. Gender mainstreaming and the social inclusion of all strata of local communities has also been a pillar of the implementation of activities.

An innovative consultation process enabled communities to select their priority resilience investments. In the four pilot communes of Boussouma, Toussiana, Didyr and Yako, the challenges are numerous and exacerbated by the consequences of climate change. The investment choices made take a variety of forms, depending on the specific contexts of the communes. Reforestation, stabilisation of river banks, development of market gardening or fodder crops, irrigation, drainage, waste treatment or capacity strengthening and training activities for women's organisations - the activities chosen are all aimed at making local populations, economies or ecosystems more resilient.

Ongoing learning during this pilot phase will provide lessons for an ambitious scale-up. After one year, new contiguous villages will be added in the seven selected communes, and the implementation mechanism can gradually be extended nationwide, strengthening resilience at local, regional and national levels.

Burkina Faso thus intends to strengthen its institutional, technical and financial capacity to manage climate risks, attract new financing and implement climate actions where they are most needed.



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The Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) is a long-term LDC-led, LDC-owned initiative aiming to enhance climate resilience.

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