

# FORESTS IN BURKINA FASO

Background Paper  
Presented at The Forest Dialogue workshop

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Ouagadougou/ Burkina Faso

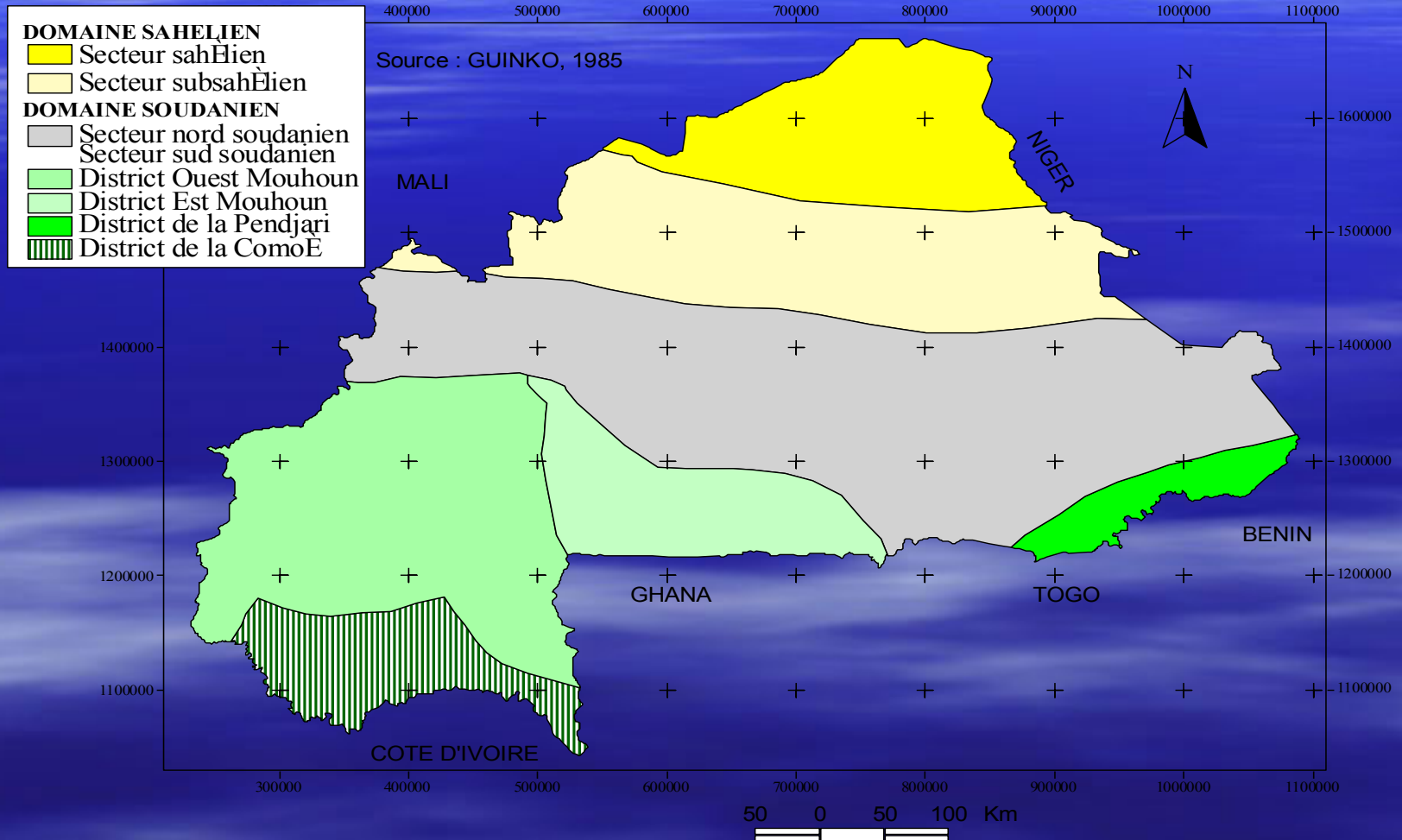
Sylvestre Bangré OUEDRAOGO  
Regional Coordinator - TREE AID WEST AFRICA

# Outline

- 1. Forests in Burkina Faso**
- 2. Forest policies & laws**
- 3. Forest governance in Burkina Faso**
- 4. Market and investment opportunities**
- 5. Challenges in sustainable management of forests**
- 6. Key lessons**

# Forests in Burkina Faso (1/2)

**FIGURE 1 : Territoires phytogéographiques du Burkina**



# Forests in Burkina Faso (2/2).

- **Vegetation in the Sahelian region**
- The vegetation content in this area is dominated by various categories of steppes (grassland, shrub, tree) interrupted here and there by growing densities of thickets north to southward, and gallery forests. The vegetation plant-life feature and composition comprises two different zones: the *exclusively **sahelian and the sub-sahelian zones.***
- **Vegetation in the Sudanian region**

The Sudanian region is the extension area of Savannah. The higher (> 80 cm) and denser grass cover there makes it prey to annual bush fires. The distribution of gregarious species *Isoberlinia doka* makes it possible to distinguish two zones: north Sudanian and south Sudanian.



# Forest extent <sup>(1/2)</sup>

- ❑ 48.75% of the country's territory = forest formations, i.e, 13,305,238 ha (BDOT 2002).
- ❑ 12.59% of agricultural lands with numerous natural species
- ❑ 8.45% of agro-forest lands
- ❑ The most wooded areas are found in the western, centre-western and eastern parts of the country

**BURKINA FASO : OCCUPATION DES TERRES (2002)**

300000 600000 900000

1500000 1200000

60 0 60 120 Kilometers

Source : SBDT 2002 (PROTIC & SBDT (IGF))

**LEGENDE**

- Limite de province/LIMITE ADMINISTRATIVE
- OCCUPATION DES TERRES**
  - Contr. étatiques d'eau permanente
  - Contr. étatiques d'eau temporaire
  - Cultures annuelles
  - Cultures permanentes
  - Espace ouvert sans ou avec peu de végétation
  - Espace vert agricole non agricole
  - Forêt classée
  - Forêt gérée
  - Forêt
  - Mars, charniers et décharges
  - Pas d'eau
  - Pluviales
  - Prairie marécageuse
  - Savane arborée
  - Savane arbustive
  - Savane herbacée
  - Zone agricole végétalisée
  - Zone incultivée
  - Zone industrielle ou commerciale et réseau de communication
  - Zone urbanisée

# Forest ownership (1/1)

## **1. Public forests**

- *The State forest domain*
- *The decentralized local governments forest domain*

## **2. Private forests**

*Private forests are silvicultural developed areas owned or used by a natural person or private-law corporation.*

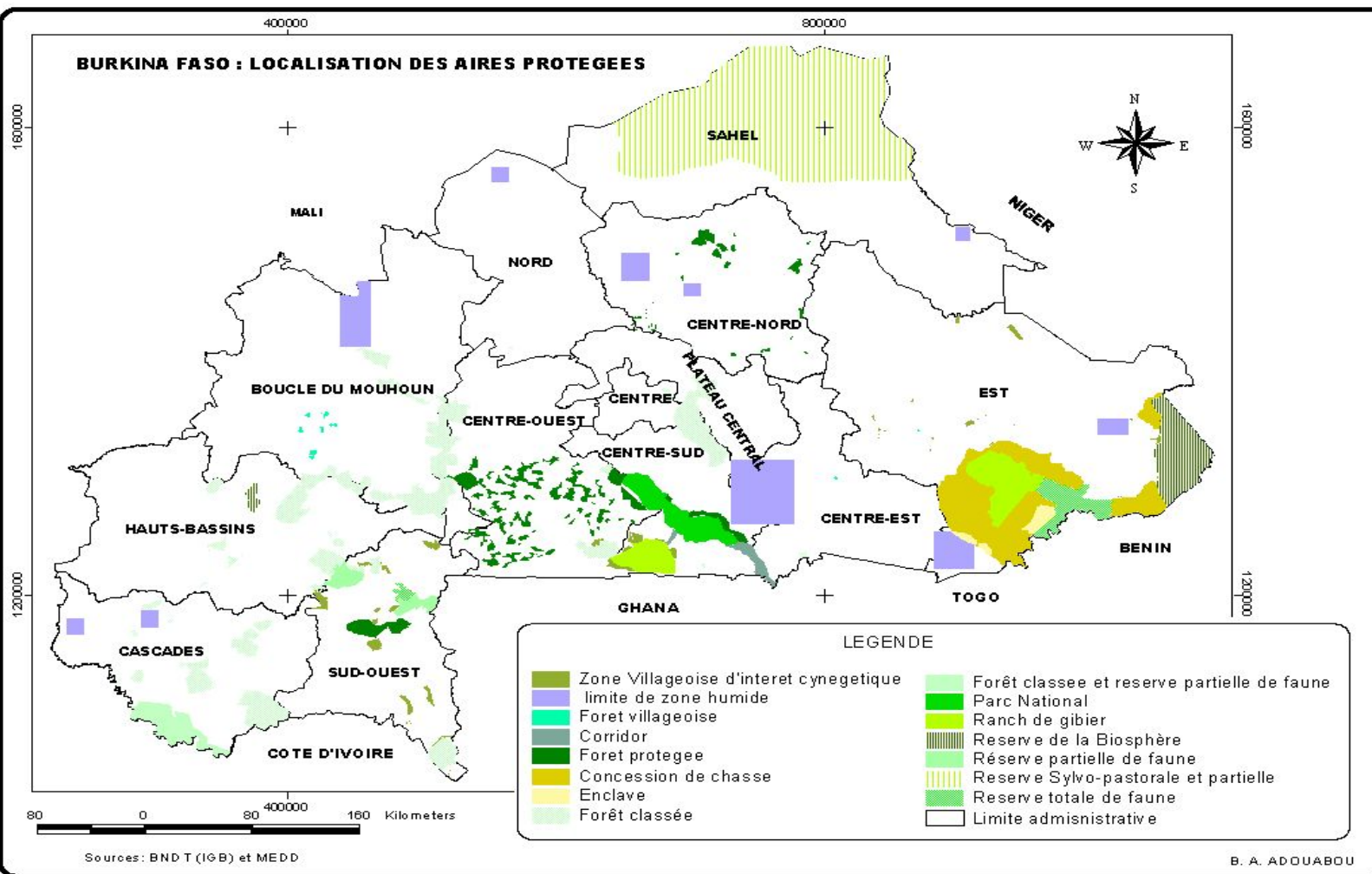


# Traditional roles of forests in Burkina Faso

- From the socio-economic standpoint, NWFPs provide food and adequate nutrition for more than **43.4% of households** in Burkina Faso, contribute in improving health for **75-90% people**, generate **23% of income** and create job for rural households (FAO, 1987)
- Monetary income generated just from NWFPs exploitation, though poorly estimated so far, would amount to about **twenty billion** annually and would account for at least **10 % of the country's GDP**
- Forest formations contribute to maintaining essential ecological processes (*water cycle, air purification, organic matter cycle, etc.*) as well as to conservation of biological diversity (flora and fauna)



# Location map of protected areas



# Pressure on forests

- **Uncontrolled exploitation** of wood resources
- Development of uncontrolled cleared areas, speculative crops and population migration
- **Bush-fire** practice, especially late, with negative impact on development of wood and grass vegetation
- Use of **techniques that are destructive** of plant genetic resources. For example, use of inappropriate harvesting methods, pesticide applications with residual effects on normal pollination cycle of some species.

# Forest policies & legislation (1/2)

- ❖ Existence of a strong and consistent legislative and regulatory framework: legal mechanism, national plans, programmes and strategies
- ❖ Global strategies: Development Fast-Track Growth Strategy (SCADD), Rural Development Strategy (SDR), etc.
- ❖ Legal framework, planning mechanism and strategies for the forest sector:
  - *The National Forest Policy (1995)*
  - *The National Rural Land Development Policy (2007)*
  - *The National Classified Forests Development Policy*
  - *The National Environment Policy (PNE) adopted in 2007*
  - *The Rural Sector National Programme (PNSR, under elaboration)*



# Forest policies & legislation (2/2)

## ➤ **Acts**

- ✓ Agrarian and land reform in Burkina Faso (Act n° 014/96/ADP dated 23 May 1996)
- ✓ Forest code in Burkina Faso (Act n° 005/97/ADP dated 31 January 1997)
- ✓ Environment code (Act n° 005/97/ADP dated 30/01/1997)
- ✓ General code of local governments (Act n° 055-2004/AN dated 21/12/2004)
- ✓ Rural land tenure system (Act n° 034-2009/AN)
- ✓ Etc.

# Forest governance in Burkina Faso

Forest governance can be defined as: **All rules, policies, institutions and practices aiming at enforcing principles such as transparency, accountability and participation in the sector**

Categories of stakeholders responsible for forest governance: **public agencies, local governments, private sector, grassroot (traditional) communities, and partners**

# Market and investment opportunities

- Forest products with potential market opportunities include:
  - *Wood products*
  - *NWFPs*
  - *Wildlife products*
- Trading places:
  - Village markets in production areas and road sides. Such markets attract individual consumers, collectors and wholesalers as well as some processors
  - Secondary centres, supply points for wholesalers/exporters;
  - Big towns, supply points for big exporters and processors



# Challenges in sustainable forest management

- Protection, reforestation/restoration of forest reserves
- Decentralized management of forests, down to the village level
- Strengthening private forest management through smallholders' activities
- Protection of wild trees, creation of agro-forest parklands and promotion of soil fertility techniques

# Challenges to be taken up **at State level** for investment in the environment sector

- Establish a platform for permanent dialogue between stakeholders involved in the management of forest and wildlife resources
- Develop a vocational strategy in rural land development
- Create a reference agency to capitalize research studies on biodiversity
- Develop a consistent policy between different ministerial departments, and to have appropriate staff
- Ensure that ToRs are respected by all

## Challenges to be taken up **at State level** for investment in the environment sector

- Review the distribution key of revenue from forest and wildlife exploitation to consider of the decentralization process
- Expedite the transfer of skills to local governments in terms of forestry for them to take part in conservation actions
- Establish self-evaluation mechanisms for promoted forestry approaches
- Ensure that environmental impact studies are absolutely and regularly conducted for all actions, as well in monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures



## Challenges to be taken up **at State level** for investment in the environment sector

- Take all necessary actions for Burkina Fas to ratify the « Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Deriving from their use »
- Engage local communities more in managing wildlife resources by increasing their access to fauna-related benefits
- Repair the damages caused by some terrestrial fauna species (mitigation/compensation)

# Challenges to be taken up **at the level of local governments** for investment in the environment sector

- Integrate the environmental dimension into planning tools at communal and regional levels
- Assume their role as key stakeholders in the sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources

## Challenges to be taken up at the level of civil society to increase its contribution for investment in the environment sector

- Strengthen civil society networking not only to better enhance its visibility and credibility, but also to better enforce the principle of accountability in the management of biological diversity
- Establish/strengthen the culture of capitalization, learning, dissemination of information and knowledge to secure transparency and sustainability in the management of biological resources
- Establish self-evaluation mechanisms for promoted forestry approaches



# Main lessons (1/2)

## From the standpoint of rural organizations

- ❑ More than 80% of the country's population are rural, 70% illiterate, making life out of natural resources (land, water, forests)
- ❑ Existence of a well-structured traditional society, which means:
  - Dynamic rural modern organisations
  - Increased awareness about the country's limited natural resources, therefore the need to properly managed such resources

## From the legislative and regulatory standpoint

- ❑ The recent laws and regulations on land tenure and in the forest sector make room for the private sector and local governments

# Main lessons (2/2)

## From the financial standpoint

- ❑ Little dynamism from classic local banks as they do not actually believe in rural organisations, thus impacting initiatives in the private sector and hampering the dynamism of rural organizations
- ❑ With the development of proximity banks about twenty years ago, there has been greater mobilization of local savings, which means funding opportunities for community and private initiatives

# THANK YOU!

