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PROJET D'APPUI A LA PROTECTION DE L'OASIS de BIDI DANS LE SAHEL AU BURKINA FASO

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Summary

Burkina Faso is a sahelian country of West Africa with very few water resources. This country constantly faces water deficit, which does not allow meeting the various needs in water. The existing water resources are also under a threat of degradation and even disappearance because of human activities and climate change: animal and human pressure, advance of the desert, silting, lack of awareness or negligence of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The latest issue affects the oasis of Bidi, a natural water source in the Sahel region of Burkina. That source is precisely located in Oudalan province where there are also important dams such as the Oursi pond, a Ramsar site. That province which chief area is Gorom-Gorom has an area of 9.797 square kilometers with a population of 197.240 people.

In view of that situation, young people involved in the Youth Network for Water and Sustainable Development (YNWSD / REJEDD in French) are willing to contribute to solving the problem through this support project for the protection of the oasis of Bidi in the Sahel of Burkina: "Let's save both the oasis and the people of Bidi".

Keywords

flood footprint, economic costs, physical damage, assets.

Issues addressed

Risks (mortality, economic losses caused by natural and human-induced disasters)

The main problem noticed is the degradation of water resources and biodiversity of the oasis of Bidi as a result of human activities and climate change.

The main causes are the advancing desert and the silting of the oasis; human and animal pressure on the resource; the lack of mastery of the IWRM mechanisms by the population; the impact of climate change in general.

The consequences: This situation results in a progressive degradation of the water resource and its biodiversity, causing drying water resources and soils due to climate change; water shortage for direct consumption, agricultural and pastoral activities; waterborne diseases; school leaving (mainly girls); an increase of the vulnerability of women and their lack of involvement in local governance; the impoverishment of the population through the decrease of revenues from agriculture and breeding; migrations and increase of conflicts between farmers and breeders for the water resource control (those conflicts are very frequent in the area); disappearance of some animal and plant species.

Tools for implementation

Financing/economic instruments:

Through our « Young Water Solution » initiative, we mobilize funds from financial donors to support concrete water related projects led by young people. Each activity of the project is budgeted and executed according to a detailed planning. The service providers are selected on the basis of the technical qualification and ability to give an excellent offer to our request.

Governance: Institutions / legal framework: Our organization has a bureau of 07 members. For each project we plan, a manager is designated for each project according to his ability to conduct the project. He then submits his implementation plan and needs to the rest of the board, which will amend and validate it. After that, the manager mobilizes the necessary human resources. During the project, he regularly report to the board, which is in charge of the monitoring, and evaluation to make sure that things are done as planned.

Technology: If we get all the financial support we need for this project, we expect to install a water supply system powered by solar energy.

Capacity Development: We intend to strengthen the capacities of local actors on IWRM for them to be able protect the resource.

Who is involved? Young people from associations which are members of YNWSD /REJEDD-BF, decentralized state services in charge of environment and water, mayor's offices, women and men's groups in Bidi.

What were the objectives? Ensure to people in Bidi a sustainable access to water resource to contribute to improve their living conditions.

Specifically:

- Fight against the silting of the oasis and the advancing desert by implementing a green belt
- Strengthen the capacities in sustainable management of water resources of the population by promoting IWRM
- Promote non-timber forest products
- Fight against pressure on the oasis through the implementation of decongestion relay infrastructures

Contribute to the protection of the biodiversity of the oasis.

Implementation challenges:

- Mobilization of financial resources
- The involvement of the population in the project and their appropriation of it
- Change in mentality and behavior of the users of the resource

Main task/activities undertaken /Tools used:

- Implement a green belt with non-timber forest type plants
- Train 30 peer educators to IWRM to sensitize the population
- Build some drinking troughs for breeding activities

Main outcomes / impacts (what has changed?):

- The green belt is implemented, the silting phenomenon and the advancing desert are reduced
- People have a sustainable access to safe drinking water
- People's capacities are strengthened, the users of the water resource are sensitized to IWRM and practice it
- Non-timber forest products are planted to make the green belt, generate revenues and contribute to fight against poverty
- Biodiversity is protected
- A drinking trough is built for animals and their pressure on the resource is cancelled