

COUNTRY PROFILE: BURKINA FASO

Introduction

Burkina Faso is a low-income, landlocked Sub-Saharan country that borders Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Togo. Its population, which is growing at an average annual rate of 3%, is estimated to reach 20.3 million inhabitants in 2019¹. The economy is heavily reliant on agriculture, with close to 80% of the active population employed in the sector. Cotton is the country's most important cash crop, while gold exports have gained importance in recent years².

Despite a decade of sustained growth, averaging over 5.5%, poverty persists, particularly in rural areas. GDP per capita remains one of the lowest in the world and the country currently ranks 183 of 189 in the UNDP Human Development Index.

In July 2016, the government adopted a new development strategy, set forth in the 2016-2020 National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES) that aims to reduce poverty, build human capital, and to satisfy basic needs³. The PNDES is the reference framework for interventions by various national and international partners, an instrument for political dialogue with technical and financial partners, and a medium for mobilizing resources to finance development.

The National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES) for 2016 – 2020

The aim of the 2016-202 PNDES is to structurally transform the Burkinabè economy to generate strong, sustainable, resilient, and inclusive growth in order to create decent jobs for all and improve social well-being.

Taking into account the "Burkina 2025 Vision" and international commitments taken by Burkina Faso, the vision of the PNDES is "Burkina Faso, a democratic, unified and united nation, transforming the structure of its economy and achieving a strong and inclusive growth, through patterns of sustainable consumption and production".

Based on the lessons learned from previous strategies implemented by Burkina Faso to promote economic and social development, the Plan is built around three strategic pillars: 1) institutional reform and modernization of government; 2) development of human capital; 3) boost sectors with the potential for economic growth and job creation.

The third strategic pillar is crucially relevant for the environment as its strategic objective include the development of the agro-sylvo-pastoral, faunal and fishing sectors, the development and expansion of infrastructure, and reversal of environmental degradation and sustainably manage natural resources⁴.

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition. Accessed on August 8, 2019

² https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burkinafaso/overview#1

³ https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uv.html

⁴ PNDES 2016-2020. http://www.pndes2020.com/pdf/pndes.pdf. Accessed August 2019.



Population & Human Development

Demographic and other development indicators			
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.423	Literacy rate (ages >15)(2014)	34.6%
HDI rank	183	Mean years of schooling (2017)	1.5 years
Inequality-adjusted HDI	0.288	School enrollment primary (2017)	93.7%
Population size (2018)	19,751,535	School enrollment secondary (2017)	38%
Population growth rate (2018)	2.86%	Population living below income poverty line, PPP \$1.90 a day (2014)	43.7%
Projected population in 2030	28,414,000	GNI per capita, PPP (current int. \$)	1920
Urban population (2018)	5,798,656 (29%)	Labour force	7,245,640
Rural population (2018)	13,952,879 (71%)	Labour force participation rate	66.63%
Life expectancy at birth (2017)	60.77 years	Unemployment rate (2018)	6.06%
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	52.7	Political rights (1=Most Free, 7=Least free)	4
Population using improved drinking water sources (2015)	53.86%	Civil Liberties (1=Most Free, 7=Least free)	3
Population using improved sanitation facilities (2015)	22.97%	Corruption perception index	41/100 (rank 78/180)
Population with access to electricity (2017)	25.47%	CPIA gender equality rating (1=low to 6=high)	3.5

Despite an improvement in recent years, health indicators have not yet attained the targets set in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES). Malnutrition remains endemic, with a prevalence of acute malnutrition of 7.6% in 2016, and an incidence of stunted growth of 27% (compared to 35% in 2010)⁵.

In recent years, Burkina Faso has made considerable progress in the area of education. When disaggregated by gender, statistics reveal that girls and boys have access to primary education and complete this level in roughly comparable proportions, with a gross primary completion rate of 64.3% for girls and 56.6% for boys⁶.

Political context

The government system is a parliamentary republic; the chief of state is the president, Roch Marc KABORE, and the head of government is the prime minister, Christophe DABIRE since early 2019. The national assembly has 127 members, elected every 5 years.

Burkina Faso is experiencing increasingly challenging security conditions. Relative to its Sahelian neighbours, it was until recently considered one of West Africa's more peaceful and moderate countries. However, over the past two years the authorities have lost control of large regions to a spreading insurgency. Militant groups linked with al-Qaida and Islamic State have gained ground, mainly through exploiting anger

⁵ https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burkinafaso/overview#1

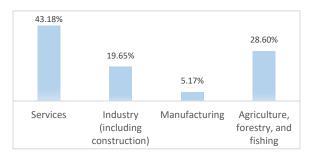
⁶ https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burkinafaso/overview#1



with the government in the most impoverished regions⁷. In February 2019⁸, President Kaboré, assumed the role of rotating president of the G5 Sahel in February 2019⁹.

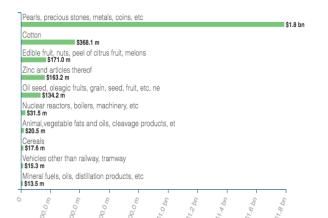
Economic Overview

The economy is heavily reliant on agriculture, with close to 80% of the active population employed in the sector. Cotton is the country's most important cash crop, while gold exports have gained importance in recent years. Economic growth held steady at 6% in 2018, despite a challenging national security context and an increase in international oil prices. Economic activity was driven by the services sector, particularly telecommunications, financial services, and the organization of international events and was supported by the mining sector and the rebound in agricultural production. The inflation rate was estimated at almost 2% in 2018, against 0.4 percent in 2017¹⁰.



GDP composition by sector

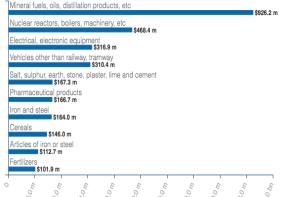
Cotton and gold are Burkina Faso's key exports and economic growth and revenue depends largely on production levels and global prices for the two commodities. Switzerland, India, Singapore and Côte d'Ivoire are the main export partners while the bulk of imports come from China, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Netherlands and the US.



Burkina Faso - Top-10 exports of goods to World in 2017

International Trade in Goods and Services based on UN Comtrade data

Developed by the Department for International Trade and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in the UH https://comtrade.un.org/labs/dil-trade-vis/?reporter=854&partner=0&type=C&year=2017&flow=2&commodity



Burkina Faso - Top-10 imports of goods from World in 2017

International Trade in Goods and Services based on UN Comtrade data

Developed by the Department for International Trade and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in the UH https://comtrade.un.org/labs/dil-trade-vis/?reporter=854&partner=0&type=C&year=2017&flow=2&commodity

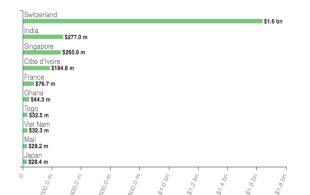
⁷ The Guardian, April 2019. https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/apr/22/kalashnikovs-and-no-go-zones-east-burkina-faso-falls-to-militants

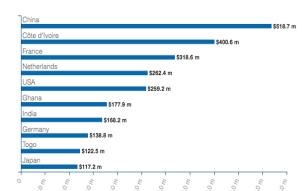
https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burkinafaso/overview#1

⁹ https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burkinafaso/overview#1

¹⁰ https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burkinafaso/overview#1







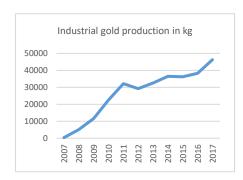
Burkina Faso - Top-10 export markets for goods in 2017

International Trade in Goods and Services based on UN Comtrade data
Developed by the Department for International Trade and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in the UP
https://comtrade.un.org/abs/it-trade-vis/?reporter=8548.partmere0&type=C8year=2017&flow=2

Burkina Faso - Top-10 import markets for goods in 2017
International Trade in Goods and Services based on UN Contrade data
Developed by the Department for International Trade and the Department for Business. Forms and Industrial Strategy in the UN

The mining sector in Burkina Faso is considered one of the most dynamic in West Africa. The main resources are gold, zinc, copper, manganese, phosphate and limestone. Traces of diamonds, bauxite, nickel and vanadium have been recorded in various geological formations. However, gold remains the most exploited ore in Burkina Faso¹¹.

It is expected that the gold sector will experience an increase in its production in 2019, in particular thanks to the launch of commercial production at the Boungou mine in September 2018. Largely financed and operated by foreign private investors (Canadian SEMAFO for Boungou), the sector could, however, suffer from the fragile security environment, as well as from possible gold price fluctuations in 2019.



Gold production in kg				
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Artisanal production	200	300	200	107
Industrial production	36500	36200	38320	46291
Total Production	36700	36500	38520	46398

Source: Annuaire statistique 2017. Institut National de la Statistique et la Démographie (INSD)

Burkina Faso has some of the most expensive electricity in the region. Further, Supply of electricity, insufficient to satisfy increasingly growing demand, consists of 6.4% renewable energies, 62.9% thermal productions and 30.7% imported energy. Access to energy (electricity and hydrocarbons, renewable energies) remains problematic for households and firms¹². Although in 2017, Burkina Faso inaugurated the Zagtouli solar power plant with support from the European Union and the French Development Agency (AFD)¹³, the primary form of renewable energy in Burkina Faso is wood, which meets 85 percent of household energy demand.

¹¹ https://eiti.org/burkina-faso#production

¹² PNDES 2016-2020.

¹³ https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1860/Burkina_Faso_- November_2018_Fact_Sheet.pdf Accessed August 2019.



Infrastructure			
Energy		Transportation	
Electrification total population	19.2%	Airports (with paved runway)	23 (2)
Electrification urban areas	60.7%	Railways (kms) (2014)	622
Electrification rural areas	0.8%	Roadways (unpaved) (kms)	3,642 (11,662)

Cotton production (the second largest export) is also expected to increase benefitting from higher prices resulting from lower production and rising global demand, as well as from the quality of its (GMO-free) cotton fibre. PNDES investments also aim to develop the agri-food and textile sectors with the aim of moving the country's economy, mainly production-oriented, towards the processing of agricultural raw materials, with a processing target of 25% by 2020. With this in mind, the artisanal cotton processing plant in Bobo-Dioulasso is expected to open in 2020, thanks to the mobilisation of a PPP¹⁴.

Other agricultural products include, peanuts, shea nuts, sesame, sorghum, millet, corn, rice and livestock 15

Agricultural production (2017/2018) ¹⁶			
Food crops	Tonnes	Hectares	
Millet	828,234	1,222,575	
Sorghum	1,365,898	1,667,193	
Maize	1,533,431	956,386	
Rice	325,566	165,086	
Fonio	10,068	15,679	
All cereals	4,063,198	4,026,919	
Cash crops	Tonnes	Hectares	
Cotton	844,343	844,895	
Peanut	334,328	554,832	
Sesame	163,787	291,173	
Soy	18,500	17,434	

The economic outlook remains favourable in the medium term, with GDP growth projected to stabilize around 6% over the period 2019-21¹⁷. However, irregular patterns of rainfall, poor soil, and the lack of adequate communications and other infrastructure contribute to the economy's vulnerability to external shocks¹⁸.

Economic indicators 2018 ¹⁹	
GDP (current US\$)	14,441,763,759
GDP growth (annual %)	6.5%
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP)	28.6
Industry (including construction), value added (% of GDP)	19.6
Services, value added (% of GDP)	43.18
Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	28.7

¹⁴ https://www.coface.com/Economic-Studies-and-Country-Risks/Burkina-Faso

https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uv.html

¹⁶ Annuaire statistique 2017. Institut National de la Statistique et la Démographie (INSD)

¹⁷ https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burkinafaso/overview#1

https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uv.html

¹⁹ World Development Indicators, The World Bank. Data retrieved August 2019



Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)	34.8
Gross capital formation (% of GDP)	25.7
Domestic credit provided by financial sector (% of GDP)	34.0
Tax revenue (% of GDP)(2017)	17.5
Merchandise trade (% of GDP)	52.5
Personal remittances, received (current US\$)	437,431,737.1
Index of economic freedom	59.4 (rank=96)

Environment

Burkina Faso has a tropical climate with two distinct seasons: rainy and dry. Burkina Faso's ecological zones range from the Sahelian zone in the North to the Sudanian zones in the center and south of the country²⁰. Agricultural land is around 44 percent of the total land area. Forests covered 19.3% of national surface area in 2016, down from 20.8% in 2009.

Geography and land-use data	
Land area (sq. km)	273600
Terrestrial protected areas (% of total land area)	14.92
Forest area (% of land area, 2016)	19.34
Primary Forest (% forest land)	0
Planted Forest (% forest land)	4.52
Other naturally regenerated forest (% forest land)	95.48
Permanent cropland (% of land area)	0.37
Arable land (% of land area)	21.93
Agricultural land (% of land area)	44.23

The three major river systems in Burkina Faso are tributaries of the Volta River, specifically the Black, White and Red Volta Rivers. The country also benefits from two other international river systems: the Niger River, and the Comoé River on the southwest border with Côte d'Ivoire. In order to reduce its vulnerability to droughts and water shortages, Burkina Faso has built many dams and levees along major rivers and their tributaries. These reservoirs meet the water needs of the urban population and provide for irrigation of horticultural crops during the dry season.

Wildlife and protected areas

Biodiversity's importance in West Africa is well established. The various ecosystems, ranging from dry savanna to tropical forest, provide habitats to a large number of species. These ecosystems are critically fragmented and under increasing human pressure. In West Africa today, most of the endangered species and highly biodiverse habitats are confined to protected areas. Burkina Faso has a similar pattern even if the protection of the environment is enshrined in the constitution, which also stipulates that natural resources are part of the national patrimony.

²⁰ https://www.land-links.org/country-profile/burkina-faso/#overview



Inventory of species in Burkina Faso ²¹			
Fauna		Flora	
Insects	1515	Algae	191
Reptiles	60	Higher fungi	28
Birds	482	Herbaceous plants	812
Mammals	139	Ligneous plants	376
Fishes	118		
Amphibians	30		
Shellfish	6		
Molluscs	28		
Zooplankton	16		
TOTAL			3 801

The majority of protected areas at the national level in Burkina Faso are classified forests whose IUCN management status is "Not reported". There are three national parks (IUCN category II), one of which (the WNP) is part of the transboundary biosphere of the W. The Hippopotamus Mare (IUCN Category IV) is also a Biosphere Reserve. There are 20 Ramsar sites.

Given the current pressures on soils for agricultural, resource extraction, or other purposes, and because of the increase in human populations, it is difficult to determine whether it is possible to significantly increase the coverage of official protected areas for medium and large vertebrates. Nevertheless, in the majority of sites there is a real potential to increase the effectiveness of the protection²².

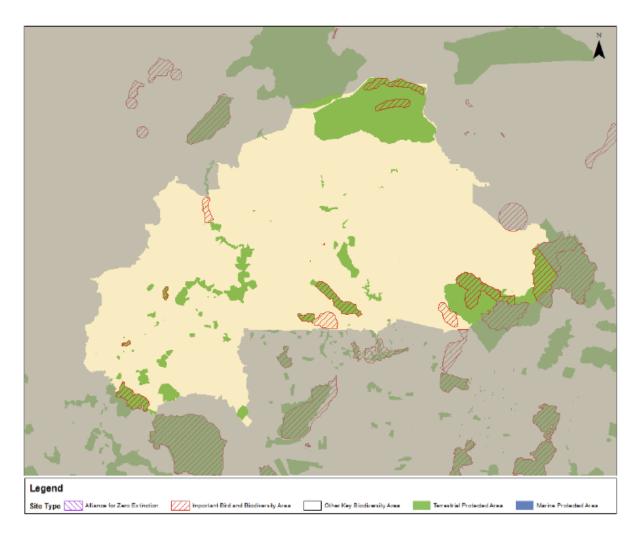
Protected Areas		
Designation	Number	
Bird Reserve	1	
Classified Forest	60	
Faunal Reserve	4	
National Park	3	
Partial Faunal Reserve	4	
Ramsar Site	20	
UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserve	2	
World Heritage Site	1	
Coverage: 14.89%	Total: 96	
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)	10	

²¹ Country study on Burkina Faso Biodiversity. Conducted by the permanent secretariat of the national Council for the Management of the Environment and the National Technical Committee of the Convention on Biological Diversity under the aegis of the Ministry in charge of Environment and Water. February 1999

²² Mallon, D.P., Hoffmann, M., Grainger, M.J., Hibert, F., van Vliet, N. and McGowan, P.J.K. (2015). An IUCN situation analysis of terrestrial and freshwater fauna in West and Central Africa. Occasional Paper of the IUCN Species Survival Commission No. 54. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK: IUCN. x + 162pp.



Figure 5. Map showing the overlap between Key Biodiversity Areas and Protected Areas.



Main pressures and drivers of biodiversity loss

Data provided by the IBAT Country Profile for Burkina Faso identifies the global threats to species occurring in the country. The major threats are related to agriculture, biological resource use, followed by natural systems modifications, pollution, invasive species and diseases, and climate change.

Direct threats	Number of species impacted
Agriculture & aquaculture	35
Crops planted for food, fibre, fuel, or other uses	19
Wood & Pulp Plantations	13
Livestock Farming & Ranching	3
Biological resource use	31
Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals	20
Logging & Wood Harvesting	11
Natural systems modifications	16
Dams & Water Management/Use	7
Other Ecosystem Modifications	5



Fire & Fire Suppression	4
Invasive & Other Problematic Species, Genes & Diseases	1!
Problematic Native Species/Diseases	7
Viral/Prion-induced Diseases	4
Invasive Alien Species/Diseases	4
Pollution	1!
Agricultural & Forestry Effluents	15
Climate Change & Severe Weather	14
Droughts	10
Temperature Extremes	4

Species with extinction risk assessments in Burkina Faso published on the IUCN Red List			
Taxonomic group	Number assessed	Known threatened species	
Amphibians	21	0	
Birds	451	10	
Fishes	114	4	
Mammals	130	9	
Reptiles	23	3	
Arachnids	3	0	
Crustaceans	2	0	
Insects	77	0	
Molluscs	22	1	
Ferns	3	0	
Flowering plants	155	3	
Total	1001	30	

In Burkina Faso specifically, frequently cited environmental issues concern drought, agricultural expansion, and more generally pressures on land resources from increasing population density (urbanization) and growth that result in increased deforestation, habitat fragmentation and overgrazing. Other environmental threats include uncontrolled bush fires, erosion from wind and water, and loss of soil nutrients.

National legal environmental framework

Burkina Faso adopted an Environmental Code in 2013 (Loi 006-2013/AN du 02 avril 2013 portant Code de l'environnement au Burkina Faso) that defines the principles for environmental preservation. The Code directs public authorities at the province level to oversee: sustainable management of natural resources, improved living conditions of all living beings; prevention or management of technological risks and natural disasters, and restoration of the environment.

The national government sets the framework for the protection of the environment. The ministry in charge of the environment is the Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change (MEEVCC).

Other Ministries and organisms with some relation to the environment include the Ministry of Water and Sanitation (MEA), the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Quarries (MEMC), the Ministry of Livestock and Fishing (MRAH), Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing (MUH), the Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable



Development (SP-CNDD) – in charge of preparing the State of the Environment Report- and the Permanent Secretariat for the Coordination of Animal Genetic Resources Management (SP / CGRGA)²³.

Burkina Faso has also put other important pieces of legislation in place (e.g. Environment Code, Forestry Code, Guidance Law on Water Management; Mining Code; Law on Pesticide Control; Health Code; General Code for Local Governments; Law on the National Strategy for Genetic Improvement)²⁴

International legal framework

Burkina Faso subscribed to a number of international conventions of which the following have impacts on biodiversity (non-exhaustive):

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)
- Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- Montreal Protocol (Ozone Layer Protection)
- Ramsar (Wetlands)
- World Heritage Convention (WHC)
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

National Commitments in Rio Conventions

In fulfilling its international obligations in these agreements, the country has submitted a number of national targets and/or plans to implement them.

Convention on Biological Diversity - NBSAP

Burkina Faso submitted its second National Biodiversity and Action Plan (NBSAP) in January 2011, for the period 2011 - 2015. Although it states that the plan would be renewed at the end of its term, no new document has been presented. The NBSAP builds on a number of existing policies and plans, including the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) to climate change under the UNFCCC, a long-term strategy on biological diversity (until 2025), the national land use planning policy and the national strategy for concerted implementation of the Rio Conventions.

The objectives of the Action Plan are:

- ensure the conservation of ecosystems and threatened and / or significant species;
- ensure the sustainable use of valuable biological resources known and potential;
- ensure equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the development of biological resources, especially genetic resources.

A number of priority actions and activities were identified (Details can be found in Annexes 1 through 3 of the Plan)²⁵

²³ FAOLEX provides a comprehensive database of policies, legislation and international agreements for Burkina Faso: http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=BFA

²⁴ Mallon, D.P., Hoffmann, M., Grainger, M.J., Hibert, F., van Vliet, N. and McGowan, P.J.K. (2015). An IUCN situation analysis of terrestrial and freshwater fauna in West and Central Africa. Occasional Paper of the IUCN Species Survival Commission No. 54. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK: IUCN. P 59-62.

²⁵ https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/bf/bf-nbsap-v2-fr.pdf



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - NDC²⁶

Burkina Faso submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in September 2015. In it, the country committed to achieve the mitigation and adaptation targets below by 2030 in the sectors of agriculture, forestry and land use, waste, transport, power generation, residential. Energy in manufacturing.

<u>Mitigation:</u> In an unconditional scenario, it aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 7808 Gg per year in 2030, or 6.6% compared to BaU. In a hybrid conditional scenario, greenhouse gas emissions reduction would amount to 13 766 Gg per year in 2030 or 11.6%.

The proposed mitigation measures contribute to the achievement of the Government's objective, i.e. the restoration of degraded land at the rate of 30,000 ha/yr; the increase of natural forests from 170,00 to 500,000 ha; the reduction of forest areas burned by wildfires from 30% of the national territory to 20%; the development of village hunting areas through the awareness and training of the population; and the spread of knowledge regarding techniques for sustainable management of natural resources.

Adaptation: Aims among others

- To restore and develop 5,055,000 hectares of degraded land in 2030, corresponding to 55% of the current total area of degraded land in the country. These adaptation projects will also contribute to reducing GHG emissions by 43 707Gg CO2 or 36.95% compared to BaU.
- Rehabilitation of 1,125,000 ha of degraded land for forest and grazing purposes, i.e. an investment of 75,000 ha each year
- Establishment and classification of 900,000 ha of regionally focussed biodiversity conservation areas in 12 regions or 180 communes
- Completion of 800,000 ha of assisted natural regeneration in 200 rural communes.
- Restoration of 150,000 ha of degraded land for agricultural production through the completion of 10,000 ha of micro watersheds (or half moons) each year
- Rehabilitation and protection of 30,000 ha of stream banks

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification – LDN target

In 2017, to stop land degradation, the country committed to reaching land degradation neutrality by 2030 by restoring 5 million hectares of degraded lands and by preventing degradation of non-degraded lands.

More specifically, the country commits to do everything possible in order to:

- Put an end to deforestation by 2030;
- Improve the productivity of savannas and cultivated lands that show productivity decline, that is, 2,5 million hectares;
- Improve carbon stocks in 800.000 ha to reach a minimum of 1% of organic matter (bring 5T of organic matter (OM) per hectare every 2 years);
- Retrieve 300.000 hectares of bare land from a total of 600.000 hectares²⁷.

https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Burkina%20Faso%20First/INDC%20Burkina_ENG.%20version_finale_.pdf

²⁶ Burkina Faso NDC:

<u>.pdf</u>

27 Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, 2018. Country Profile of Burkina Faso. Investing in Land Degradation Neutrality: Making the Case. An Overview of Indicators and Assessments. Bonn, Germany.