

ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL INTELLIGENCE FOR RESOURCE CONFLICT AND INCLUSIVE RESILIENCE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Africa is confronted with difficult choices to rebuild its transition economies based on business-as-usual development models. Addressing fragility and security-sustainability challenges calls for innovative environmental intelligence to avoid setbacks to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs' progress is still very limited in the context of exacerbated development challenges. While various means of support and technical assistance have been provided, the major impediments of weak governance, extreme poverty, climate insecurity, and managing shared natural capital resources are largely overlooked. The project will address drivers of fragility risks and conflicts to enhance natural resource sustainability, peace and prosperity, and resilient livelihoods. The project will be multinational in scope involving the following countries: Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Somalia, South Sudan, and Togo.

PROJECT RATIONALE

Africa security is a global public good that cannot be dissociated from sustainability. Armed conflicts are causing long-lasting and irreparable damages on transition economies, social cohesion and on the environment. These are raising more complex sustainability issues by aggravating the already existing development challenges including social inequality, regional disparities, armed conflicts, and poor governance. The situations have been compounded by weak capacity to manage shared natural resources, economic instability, rising populations, poor incomes, and gender inequalities which have heightened tensions over resource use and access in the transition economies. The project strategically aligns with national priorities in the transition countries to address climate-induced security, gender-inclusive growth and resilient development. Recognizing these interconnected challenges head-on require environmental intelligence based on decision support tools, community-led natural resource governance, and private sector managed infrastructure, the project aims to create a conducive environment for sustainable development, peace-building and inclusive livelihood resilience in the region.

The objectives of the project are to:

- Assess policy approaches and gaps in managing shared natural resources
- Generate evidence on climate-induced conflicts for climate security programming
- Develop environmental intelligence with decision support tools for conflict management
- Design Socio-Technical Innovation Bundles for transboundary social inclusion
- Stimulate private investments in climate-sensitive infrastructure and gender-inclusive livelihoods

The primary beneficiaries are government institutions and agencies involved in environmental and climate governance, economic development, adaptation plans, and conflict management; civil society, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector entrepreneurs directly involving in climate smart livelihoods and conflict management. The final primary project beneficiaries are the country's population, particularly men and women-led community-based networks, and youth

groups whose livelihoods will be improved and enjoy better living conditions from increased peace exchanges, private investment in alternative income livelihoods, efficient management of natural resources which align with national strategies, prioritizes pro-poor programme and duly mainstreams gender and social inclusion, and youth employment promotion issues.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The project will be organized into five major components as described below.

Component 1: Assessment of policy approaches in managing shared natural resources

Activities:

- Review policies and approaches to governing natural resource management and conflicts
- Assess capacity needs and sub-national governance structures for conflict resolution

Component 2: Generate evidence on climate-induced conflicts for climate security programming

Activities:

- Undertake stakeholder analysis and climate-conflict vulnerability assessment and capacity workshops
- Develop guidelines and tools for policymakers and practitioners to assess and improve on dealing with climate conflicts

Component 3: Develop environmental intelligence from decision-support tools for conflict management

Activities:

- Perform real-time analysis and interactive GIS maps of conflict-vulnerable hotspots
- Generate decision maps for climate-conflict warnings to reduce communal and transboundary conflicts
- Establish community-led climate information centers for early warnings and advisory services
- Workshops and platforms on resource management and knowledge exchanges

Component 4: Design Socio-Technical Innovation Bundles for transboundary social inclusion

Activities:

- Conduct comprehensive assessment of water source mapping and water quality
- Gendered assessment preferred options for crop, livestock, soil and water conservation practices and technologies
- Pilot innovative best-energy efficient climate smart irrigations
- Scale-up best community-led practices regarding protection of built and natural water infrastructure

- Develop pasture landscape and water use plans strategies for optimum land use

Component 5: Facilitate domestic investments in climate-sensitive infrastructure and gender-inclusive livelihoods

Activities:

- Economic assessment of crops, livestock, and fisheries alternative value chain potentials
- Facilitate domestic private investments in climate-sensitive infrastructure and gender-responsive rural empowerment
- Pilot seasonal land use management plan to enhance and maintain peaceful transhumance movements

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes after the implementation of the project will include:

- Strengthened management capacity and governance structures of shared natural resources in communities affected by climate-induced conflict.
- Increased private investments in climate-sensitive infrastructure and gender-responsive sustainable livelihoods.

THEORY OF CHANGE DESCRIPTION

The theory of change posits that conducting comprehensive assessments, generating evidence on climate-conflict dynamics, establishing responsive systems for knowledge sharing and innovation, and facilitating targeted and practical investments will strengthen capacity of policy institutions, heightened awareness of climate-conflict risks, empowered communities, adoption of innovative practices, and increased private sector engagement. These outcomes are anticipated to culminate in reduced conflict incidences, improved resilience to climate impacts, sustainable resource management, and inclusive economic growth, thereby contributing to the overarching goals of enhancing natural resource management, fostering peace, building resilience in fragile economies and contributing to sustainable development.

BUDGET

The following table provides a breakdown of the overall budget needed for the project.

	Component of activities	Amount (USD)
1	Assessment of policy gaps, approaches, and generation of evidence on climate impacts and conflicts	750,000.00
2	Develop environmental intelligence from decision-support response system	1,400,000.00

	Component of activities	Amount (USD)
3	Design of Socio-Technical Innovation Bundles	2,000,000.00
4	Facilitating domestic investments in infrastructure	500,000.00
5	Administrative Costs for implementing the project activities	350,000.00
Total		5,000,000.00

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND KEY MILESTONES

Year 1: establish project teams, conduct policy reviews, document policy gaps, and capacity need assessments. Identify local governance structures. Conduct vulnerability assessment and GIS mapping. Develop decision-support tools and guidelines.

Year 2: establish community-led climate centers, conduct capacity building and workshops, pilot innovative practices and gender-responsive initiatives, conduct economic assessments and facilitate private investments.

Year 3: evaluate outcomes, forge partnerships for scaling up best practices, and conduct final assessments and reporting.

Key milestones:

- Month 6: report on policy gap analysis and capacity needs.
- Month 12: launch of decision support systems.
- Month 18: establishment of climate information centers.
- Month 24: implementation of innovative climate smart practices.
- Month 30: knowledge sharing workshops and final project evaluations.
- Month 36: project completion and final reporting.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The long-term impact will depend on strong private sector driven involvement in advancing capacity development across governance levels, NGOs, and community organizations, empowering them to take ownership of and continue project activities autonomously. Knowledge sharing platforms and networks established during the project will facilitate ongoing collaboration, resource sharing, and best practice dissemination. Engaging private sector partners for continued investments in climate-sensitive infrastructure will ensure economic sustainability. Moreover, integrating project outcomes into national policies and development plans will institutionalize project interventions, scaling up impact across regions. By fostering ownership, building capacities,

and mainstreaming outcomes, the project will have a scalable model for long-term impact in enhancing natural resource management, peacebuilding, and resilience.