

Development of shea parks :

**A participatory and inclusive approach
in the service of environmental preservation
and economic development**



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éQUITÉ PROGRAMME

Conducted by  Commerce
Équitable
France



40 cooperatives

fair trade certified

supported in their projects

Nearly

125 000

producers

supported in their ecological and
social transition initiatives

6 national platforms

supported for

strengthen the dissemination of innovations

6 West African countries

Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast,
Ghana, Mali, Togo

4 labels

program partners



Initiatives by
action research

conducted by research centers and fair trade
cooperatives to measure the effects and impacts of
innovations in the field

A program of

11.5 million euros

Objectives

- Support the social and ecological innovations of fair trade cooperatives.
- Make the voice of West African producers heard in their plea for a fairer economy.

Spread the word to inspire

Supported by AFD and FFEM, and run jointly by Commerce Équitable France (CEF) and Agronomes & Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF), the ÉQUITÉ program, which ran in two phases over the 2016-2023 period, contributed to the economic and sustainable development of six countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana, Togo and Benin) by supporting fair trade-certified commodity chains (cocoa, shea, cashews, fruit and handicrafts). One of the central features of the ÉQUITÉ program in its 2^{ème} phase was to support some forty agroecological transition projects led by fair trade-certified cooperatives.

Collection files

The teams from Agronomes & Vétérinaires Sans Frontières and Fair Trade France, the national fair trade platforms (PNCE) and the 40 or so cooperatives involved have chosen to disseminate on a large scale the innovative services provided by cooperatives to their members.

- ❶ Setting up bio-factories within cooperatives to produce bio-fertilizers and bio-repellents for the cocoa industry.
- ❷ Production of planting material for cooperatives (shade trees, fruit trees and food crop seeds) to develop agroforestry practices and crop associations.
- ❸ Support for cooperative grower-members in setting up cocoa agroforestry plots in complex 3-layer agroforestry (SAF type N°1).
- ❹ Cooperative-scale valorization of production waste into biointrants or bioenergy (fruit, cashew, shea and cocoa sectors).
- ❺ Establishment by cooperatives of shea parks and park management (assisted natural regeneration techniques, firebreaks, erosion control).

The present document capitalizes on the services provided by cooperatives in Mali and Burkina Faso to set up and manage shea parks. 7 services from 3 cooperatives in Burkina Faso and 4 in Mali were used to support this capitalization, by sharing and analyzing the results and effects of their experiences individually and collectively.

► Shea: an economic resource and the environment

For the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian strip, from Senegal to Ethiopia, the shea tree, a semi-domesticated fruit tree, is at the heart of an industry that harvests the nuts, transforms them into butter and sells them on national and international markets. Mali and Burkina Faso are the main producing and exporting countries, accounting for 21% and 20% of the world market respectively.

This essentially feminine sector (over 8 million women are involved in the industry in West Africa) represents on average almost 12% of total rural household income, and contributes up to 32% of the financial resources available to women. The market is expanding rapidly, with growing international demand for cosmetics, where certified organic shea butter represents an important segment.

Shea trees are part of agroforestry landscapes where annual crops are grown. It contributes to climate change mitigation by fixing carbon (35 kg CO₂ / tree / year) and, in protected parks, helps preserve local biodiversity and protect flora and fauna.

However, the shea industry is under increasing pressure from human activity, with trees being cut down for firewood, and deforestation by felling and bulldozing to make land suitable for cultivation or even construction. This is all the more marked in areas subject to geopolitical and security problems, resulting in increased land pressure from displaced populations in search of land on which to settle and farm.

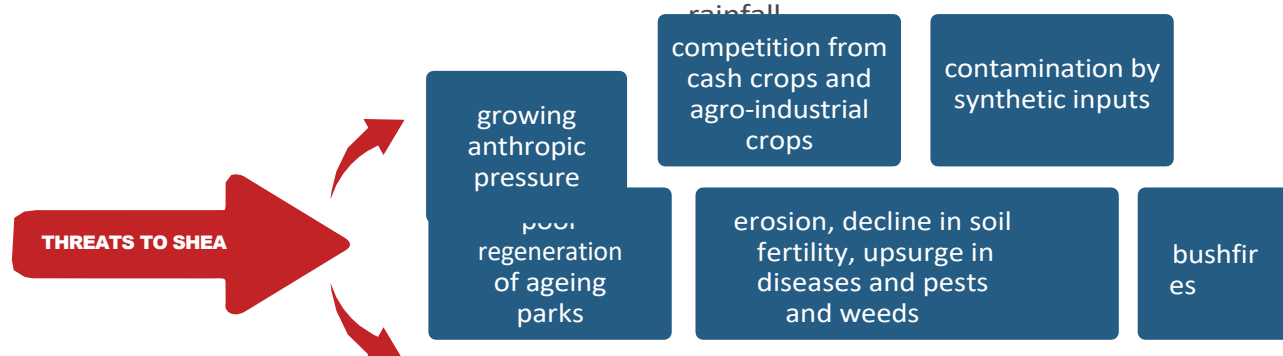


Fair Trade France

Member of
the UGF-CDN
cooperative

The development of cash crops and agro-industrial crops such as cotton is also increasing pressure on wild collection areas, and jeopardizing certified organic chains, which risk contamination by the synthetic inputs used on conventional crops. Such contamination can lead to significant loss of income, as supposedly organic butter is downgraded to conventional.

Shea groves are no longer able to regenerate, as fallow periods are becoming increasingly short and young plants are subject to animal raiding. Bush fires, which increase during periods of drought, are a scourge due to their recurrence, amplitude and intensity. Unprotected, the soil degrades and becomes less fertile, with erosion and the recrudescence of diseases and parasites such as African mistletoe further accentuating the decline in productivity of these fruit trees, already subject to climate change and reduced rainfall.



►

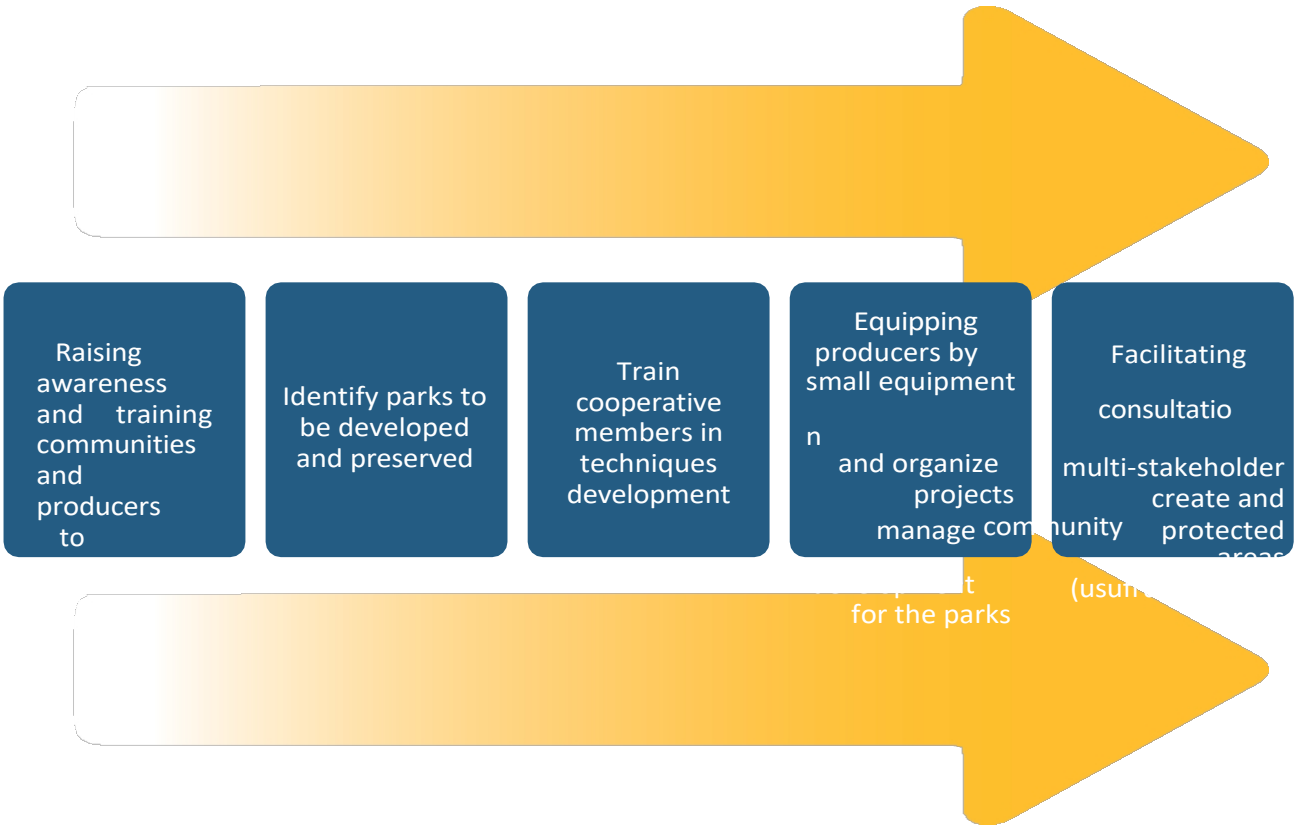
Preserving and developing shea parks: a solution to the issues facing the industry

Faced with these issues, 7 cooperatives in Mali and Burkina Faso involved in the ÉQUITÉ program on the certified organic and fair trade shea chain are getting organized and looking for solutions to sustainably preserve the resource and guarantee its quality.

Drawing on agro-ecological farming practices identified in their cooperatives or networks (notably through exchanges between cooperatives on national fair trade platforms and in the sub-region), and in consultation with local agricultural and rural development stakeholders, the cooperatives have chosen to develop and protect shea parks as a strategy to meet the economic, environmental and social challenges facing the sector.

This strategy is based on multi-stakeholder consultation and mobilization, by creating discussion forums where the diversity of stakeholders is represented to identify levers for the development and protection of shea parks: farmers and herders, local communities, youth associations, territorial authorities, decentralized environmental and agricultural services (including Eaux et Forêts), customary authorities, traditional practitioners have mobilized to develop and protect shea parks.

The multi-stakeholder consultation and mobilization process for developing and securing shea parks is as follows:



► **Shea park management practices**

Developing shea parks involves identifying and selecting the park to be developed, training cooperative members and mobilizing the community to carry out collective work.

The identification of the park to be developed is carried out in consultation with the various stakeholders: producers, members and non-members of cooperatives, breeders, local community members, traditional and public authorities, public agricultural and environmental services. Management cannot be carried out without the agreement of the various stakeholders, hence the need for dialogue, consultation and awareness-raising sessions. This is all the more important when development work precedes the securing of the park.

Training is provided either by a trainer directly to cooperative members, or by a cascade of endogenous animators or relay farmers who have been trained and are responsible for delivering the training. The cooperatives have also been able to call on external trainers, notably from the Water and Forêts departments and Regional Environment Directorates. The training courses are essentially practical and enable producers to understand the intérêt of the practices and experiment with their implementation. They arouse the participants' intérêt in terms of their technical content and their applicability to other agroforestry sectors, and are easily transmitted by the relay farmers to the farming communities.

Community development work takes place over several days, mobilizing men and women according to a schedule agreed with the stakeholders. Various agroecological practices are implemented, depending on the needs of the park to be developed:



FOCUS ON CASCADE TRAINING STRATEGIES

The size of the cooperative, lack of financial resources and travel difficulties are all possible obstacles to training a large number of producers directly. Opting for a cascade training strategy, by training farmer leaders, relays or endogenous animators, makes it possible to :

- Internalize and perpetuate endogenous skills and resources
- Overcome language barriers (transmission in local language)
- Reach all members when the cooperative is large, with branches spread over a wide area
- Spend less because cascading returns are handled internally/by members

Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)

To maintain density and tree renewal, identification and protection of young karités (wildings and stump sprouts), using organic fertilizer where possible

Pruning and grafting

Maintenance of karités by pruning and grafting young or adult plants to maintain their productivity and quality. disease/parasite resistance

Stone strings

Anti-erosion devices composed of rubble blocks or stones arranged in one or more rows along contour lines.

Agroforestry

Intercropping between shea trees

► Securing shea parks

Securing the park is the subject of a consultation process involving all the stakeholders concerned by life in and around the park. The aim is to find a compromise that guarantees the protection of a shea harvesting area from anthropic pressures (logging, deforestation for agricultural purposes, contamination by synthetic inputs used in neighboring crops) and from animal roaming. Secure parks generally have a buffer zone that communities can use for human, agricultural and livestock activities. The secure zone is the subject of official documents that guarantee shea nut collectors living near the parks secure access to the resource for a period of 15 to 30 years, and sometimes longer, while defining management and operating rules:

- ✓ The usufruct pact: an operating agreement between the cooperative, the park's management/ownership body (depending on the country, the local authority, the Eaux et Forêts) and the local management committee responsible for managing the forêt ;
- ✓ The "cahier des charges", which is the participatory definition of the rules for operating the forêt and the commitment of the various users to respect these rules.
- ✓ The five-year management plan, which commits the cooperative to seeking funding to carry out development work in the forêt to compensate for logging and ensure the sustainability of the forêt and the resource.



FOCUS ON SECURING THE NUNUNA FEDERATION'S SHEA FARMS IN BURKINA FASO

Through the ÉQUITÉ 2 program, the NUNUNA federation has been able to secure 3 shea parks in the communes of Léo, Sapouy and Boura with the mobilization of various local legitimacies, namely customary leaders, members of the Village Development Council (CVD), village councillors and women's groups, managers of forest management sites (CAF), forest management unions (UGGF).

The process culminated in an operating agreement authorizing the use of the park by collectors, and the drawing up of specifications and a five-year plan for future development and maintenance. A management committee has been set up for each park. In all, 1,800 shea trees have benefited from RNA, pruning and grafting, 40 km of firebreaks have been erected, and 200 m buffer zones installed between the parks and the fields.

These documents are approved by the relevant local authorities, such as the Regional Environment Directorates.

20 of the 34 parks have been secured, because they were not already secured and the cooperatives made a strategic choice to apply for security. In fact, the parks belong to the local authorities, with usufruct rights guaranteed for local residents and management rules defined by the authorities. Thanks to an operating agreement signed between the cooperatives, the traditional chiefs and the local authorities (mayor's office, sub-prefecture), the cooperatives benefit from the usufruct with operating rules that they define in consultation with the stakeholders, for periods ranging from 30 to 70 years depending on the agreements negotiated. These stricter rules guarantee more sustainable use of the parks, with the implementation of agro-ecological practices that help to preserve and regenerate them.

Park securing is complemented by the revitalization of existing local management committees, made up of members of the local community. Young people are generally involved, as the committees provide an opportunity for paid manual labor, skills enhancement (through training), and even the provision of small equipment for income-generating activities such as beekeeping. These committees ensure compliance with the security rules established with the communities.

and local authorities. The management committees monitor the parks, report infractions and help to raise awareness among local populations. Concerted action to secure the parks gives the management committees a sense of responsibility, reinforces their skills, and boosts their structure and capacities, possibly by providing them with small-scale resources (e.g. remuneration for members to carry out surveillance).



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Prefects and mayors meet at the community management workshop in Léo, Burkina Faso-NUNUNA Federation

► Investing in landscaping and preservation of shea parks

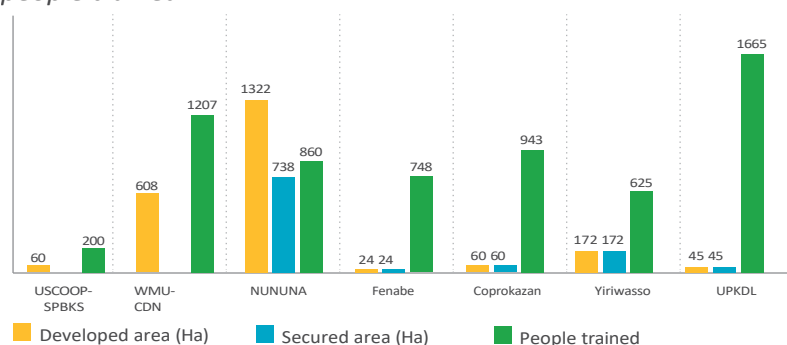
Landscaping and securing parks are free services offered by cooperatives to their members in response to their issues. These services were financed by a grant from the ÉQUITÉ program, which the cooperatives topped up to a minimum of 25% of the total budget. The cooperatives invested between €6,800 and €32,000 to train, develop and protect shea parks. These amounts include:

- ✓ training for producers: on facilities, agro-ecological practices and, for some cooperatives, additional training in beekeeping. Strategic choices in terms of direct or cascade training explain higher or lower training costs (cascade training carried out in-house costs less than direct training by an external trainer),
- ✓ the provision of small equipment for landscaping: machetes for pruning and firebreaks, grafting tools, pruning shears, shears, paint to identify landscaped plants, adhesive tape for grafting, tape measures, and beehives to promote beekeeping activities,
- ✓ set-up costs, including external supervision (notably by Eaux et Forêts technicians in charge of training or other external service providers), catering and travel expenses for producers,
- ✓ and the costs of securing land tenure, which include travel expenses for technical teams and cooperative administrators to raise awareness and run consultation meetings, the costs of meetings to draw up park protection and management deeds (travel, accommodation and meals for participants), and any document production costs.

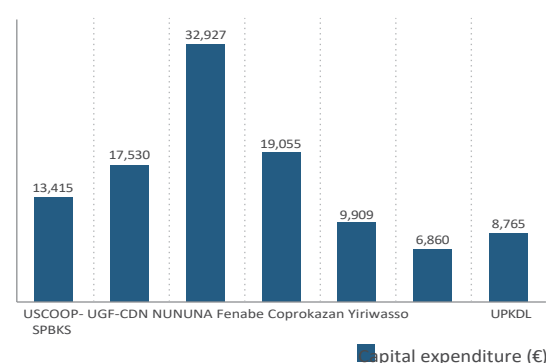
The ÉQUITÉ 2 program has enabled the development of 34 shea parks, representing over 2,900 hectares in Burkina Faso and Mali, and the securing of 20 parks for over 1,000 Ha.

The average cost of development per hectare varies between 10 and 220 euros, depending on the development carried out, the number of people mobilized, the choice of direct or cascade training, with trainers and supervisors for internal work (community workcamps carried out by the cooperative) or external work (call on service providers for development work requiring the supply of equipment or infrastructure), and security costs to protect the parks.

Numerical results of developments carried out by cooperative: surfaces developed and secured, number of people trained



Investment costs in € per cooperative



► Significant economic benefits for developed and protected parks

In view of the investments made per park and the areas developed and protected, the strategies chosen by the cooperatives to preserve their shea parks are highly efficient. The agroecological developments and practices carried out in the parks have led to an increase in tree productivity, and the protection of the areas preserves the resource: women collectors have noted an increase in the volume of nuts collected, and an improvement in their quality (larger nuts, not damaged by diseases and parasites) as early as 1^{ère} year.

The trees are more productive, and the more secure areas allow women to collect nuts for processing close to their villages. They no longer have to travel long distances to collect nuts (wild collection), as the resource is available in quality and quantity nearby. This time-saving and less arduous operation is of particular benefit to the women, who can devote the time saved to other economic or domestic activities.

Rainfed crops grown in association with karite, such as maize, sorghum and millet, diversify sources of income if sold on local markets and contribute to household food security.

"Before, we used to pick almonds without respecting the standards because we didn't have a buffer zone. Of course, we had large quantities of almonds, but very little of it was organic. This affected our income, as the Federation was obliged to downgrade a good proportion of our almonds to conventional."

Ms Marama Nébié, technical advisor to the Sapouy cooperative, member of the NUNUNA Federation.



Fair Trade France

Practical training for members of the SPBK/CAS cooperative in Burkina Faso

if self-consumed. Combining annual crops with shea generates positive interactions: fertility transfer, protective ground cover, higher cereal yields. The integration of beekeeping activities supplements community incomes by exploiting the melliferous qualities of shea trees. Honeys from protected parks fetch higher prices on local markets, as consumers recognize the specific quality of this honey, particularly its healing properties.

The cooperatives are seeing an oil-spill effect, with agroecological practices being reappropriated at farm level, on the farms of members and non-members alike. The economic benefits generated by improved agricultural productivity thanks to agroecological practices are transferred to other crops (cereals, market gardening), improving yields and associated gains (food security and household income).

For certified organic cooperatives, securing the shea groves makes it easier to comply with specifications by protecting the trees from possible contamination by conventional crops using synthetic chemical inputs. Securing the parks demonstrates the cooperative's commitment to preserving the quality of its resource. The risk of downgrading the cooperative's products on organic markets is reduced, guaranteeing a more remunerative price for producers. Moussa BARRO, AVSF's country representative in Burkina Faso, points out that *"shea butter from protected parks is better remunerated on organic markets, but it should also be promoted on local markets: consumer awareness of the origin of butter from a protected park should be mentioned on the labels of products sold"*.

The establishment of this park development and security service also creates jobs: the cooperatives have created positions, in particular for the management of nurseries that supply seedlings for the reforestation of shea parks. This young salaried workforce is drawn from local communities (6 jobs created for the YIRIWASSO cooperative in Mali, for example) and supplemented by a temporary workforce mobilized during the season to process the shea nuts into butter. The higher productivity of the trees and the increase in the quantity collected boost the profitability of the cooperative's processing activity, and help finance salaried and temporary jobs.



Fair Trade France

Young people trained in RNA techniques-
Burkina Faso-USCOOP-SPBK/CAS

► A participatory approach that federates and strengthens players over the long term

By mobilizing all stakeholders - farmers, herders, women, young people, traditional and legal authorities - the process of identifying sites, defining security rules and carrying out collective work has enabled stakeholders to get to know each other better, recognize each other and work together towards a common goal. Respective issues, roles and responsibilities are discussed in consultation forums run by the cooperatives. *"Local authorities have a better understanding of the difficulties faced by local communities, while the usefulness of public services such as Water and Forestry, previously regarded as "gendarmes", is better understood and appreciated by communities"* (Idrissa OUEDRAOGO testimonial).

- AVSF Technical Assistant in Burkina Faso).

This participative approach strengthens the capacities of the players involved: by relying on local expertise, notably from environmental services for training and supervision of collective workcamps, local communities have been able to benefit from technical training that is useful for park development, can also be replicated on a farm scale and complements their activities (beekeeping). In cooperatives with several sections, the choice of cascading training enabled the number of beneficiaries to be multiplied significantly: endogenous animators from each section passed on the training to the producers in their section. For example, the UGF-CDN cooperative trained 50 people (5 from each of the 10 cooperatives), enabling knowledge to be cascaded to 1,200 people. It should be noted that the cooperatives operate with endogenous animators, members of the cooperative who have been trained to play a role in training and facilitating meetings within the cooperative. They are members of the cooperative and have a good understanding of its internal dynamics. The relay producers are farmers

selected to relay information and innovative farming techniques to their peers. They act as a bridge between the agricultural technicians or animators and other farmers, both members and non-members of the cooperative.

This reinforcement of skills is long-term, since it is internalized within the cooperatives and their sections. The improvements and security provided are also long-term, with effects expected to be ongoing for at least fifteen years (the duration of the usufruct pacts).



Fair Trade France

Consultation with forest users by the NUNUNA Federation in Leo, southern Burkina Faso

► A service that raises the profile and professionalism of cooperatives

Through this participative approach, the cooperatives have multiplied their partnership relations and collaborations with all local players. The federations and cooperatives deploy services that can be replicated throughout their sections. These services are a vehicle for cohesion and mobilization of members within the cooperatives, thanks to spaces for dialogue and for strengthening members' skills and capabilities.

By communicating on their services (social networks, press and media), by carrying out visible actions on the territory, in developed and secured parks, but also in pilot spaces (as part of the ÉQUITÉ 1 program with the development of pilot farms to experiment with different practices), the cooperatives are better known and recognized on their territories: they gain notoriety among local players by diversifying their collaborations and partnerships and arouse the interest of producers who wish to join them.

These development and security services also have a leverage effect on the development of new partnerships: by removing non-conformity points and meeting the requirements of organic farming specifications, these services encourage the creation of new commercial partnerships with organic and fair trade markets, as shown by the progress made by Malian cooperatives (COPROKAZAN, YIRIWASSO and ULPKD), which have signed a total of 6 new annual contracts. These services also had a leverage effect in developing new financial partnerships with players supporting the agroecological transition in these territories, which were able to be developed. Mr. Lassina DAO of the YIRIWASSO cooperative in Mali testifies that

"The services put in place demonstrate the cooperative's commitment and professionalism, and have fostered the interest and confidence of financial partners for complementary projects or for a change of

scale (development of other parks)". Another direct effect of the participatory approach, Mr Toumani SIDIBE of the cooperative

FENABE in Mali notes that *"collaboration with state services is now easier, and administrative procedures facilitated grâce the links created during development, trust and inter-knowledge being the foundations of collaboration between players"*.

Within them, the cooperatives have strengthened their skills not only in landscaping techniques, but also in facilitating consultation forums to secure the parks. Setting up these services has mobilized both the technical team and the board of directors, fostering operational

collaboration within the cooperative between administrators, technical teams and cooperative members. The cooperatives have become better structured around this service, by reorganizing the operational team around the technical management aspects of the service (organizing and carrying out developments) as well as administrative management (drawing up usufruct pacts) and financial management (managing service-related expenses).

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photo



► A service that helps position women and young people

The services provided to develop and secure shea parks are part of a sector that is already predominantly female. Women play a predominant role in collecting shea nuts and processing them into butter. As a result, they have been targeted primarily for training in shea nut management, but also in complementary income-generating activities (beekeeping and agroforestry crops associated with shea). However, security conditions (linked to the rise in religious extremism and geopolitical unrest) have weakened the position of women in the sector, with some of them having to stop their activities due to the insecurity of going to parks (places of refuge for small groups).

The cooperatives have chosen to give priority to women and young people in the implementation of the development service: in addition to technical training, it is women and young people who have been encouraged and mobilized for community development work (insofar as the work can be carried out by women and their availability). It's an opportunity for young people and women to develop their own

to participate in community life and make their contribution to the economic and environmental issues facing their region.

The local park management committees, for their part, are mainly made up of young people, who are willing and motivated to look after the parks, while women occupy more administrative positions (secretariat, treasury). The cooperatives have also favored them in seasonal and salaried jobs: in particular, young people are employed by the cooperatives to maintain and manage the nurseries created within the cooperatives. As Mr. BARRO Moussa puts it: *"the cooperative helps to keep young people in the area by offering them economic and employment opportunities"*.

The results of the monitoring and evaluation system also confirm the trend towards the integration of young people into the shea industry (+6% compared with the reference situation): we are seeing a rejuvenation in cooperatives linked to the integration of young people: older cooperative members are retiring and making way for their children.





Members of the ULPK-D cooperative in Mali

►

Effects on
preserving the environment

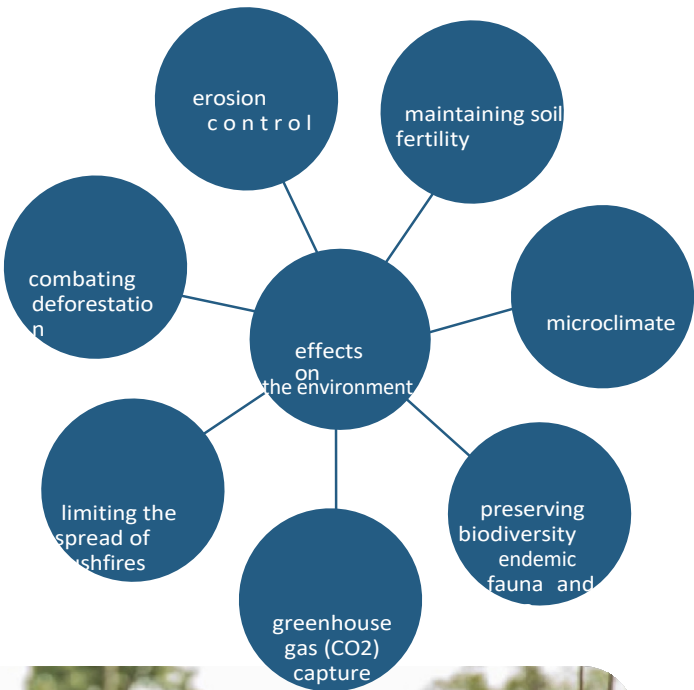
By combining a range of proven agro-ecological practices, the development and securing of shea parks generates rapid and lasting environmental benefits.

Agroecological practices such as assisted natural regeneration, stone cordons and agroforestry help combat erosion and maintain soil fertility.

Securing parks and installing firebreaks has a direct effect on deforestation. Preserved and regenerated parks encourage the establishment of micro-climates (cooler temperatures, higher humidity levels), and help to preserve plant and animal biodiversity, with the return of endemic species that were becoming increasingly rare.

These areas help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration.

Over and above the direct effects on the environment, this also involves a change in the behavior of communities, which develop environmental awareness and intérêt thanks to the dialogue, awareness and co-responsibility of stakeholders.





Shea plantation by a member of the UCPPK-Houet cooperative in Burkina Faso

► Sustainability factors

The technical, financial and organizational viability of development and security services depends on a set of factors and conditions identified by the cooperatives as follows:

TECHNICAL VIABILITY

Empower and support local park management committees in monitoring and reproducing facilities.

Provide training, refresher courses and internal policies to help maintain skills within the cooperative and pass them on to peers.

Evaluate the effects of developments in collaboration with action research in order to scientifically validate the technical and economic results and disseminate them.

Combine landscaping services with cooperative-run nurseries to leverage the supply of trees needed for reforestation initiatives in parks and on the land.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Biodiversity funds set up within cooperatives to finance improvements: the market price is increased by a percentage paid back to the cooperative to carry out the improvements. community park development and safety. These funds can support the work of local management committees.

Reinvest revenues generated by the increase in volumes processed and marketed, particularly on organic and fair trade markets, in park developments.

SOCIO- ORGANIZATIONAL VIABILITY

Continuing to lead discussions between stakeholders on usufruct pacts, to adapt and develop them: maintaining a participative and inclusive approach guarantees the social support of communities and traditional and public stakeholders.

Integrate the development service into the cooperative's overall policy and strategy: it is not a one-off service that must be dependent on subsidy opportunities.

Involve all local players in consultation forums and encourage their participation in the employment opportunities created by the cooperative (salaried and seasonal labor).

► Challenges and opportunities for scaling up

While the initial investments required to secure and develop the parks are substantial, and currently depend on external subsidies, the cooperatives are developing internal mechanisms to generate and reinvest the resources needed for these services. Financial leverage is not, therefore, the main constraint cited by cooperatives, which, in the Burkina Faso and Mali contexts, place the security issue at the top of the list of difficulties. In these countries, many areas still need to be developed and made safe, but the security situation is not conducive to such investments, while the displaced populations fleeing the country's dangerous zones continue to increase the pressure on the parks.

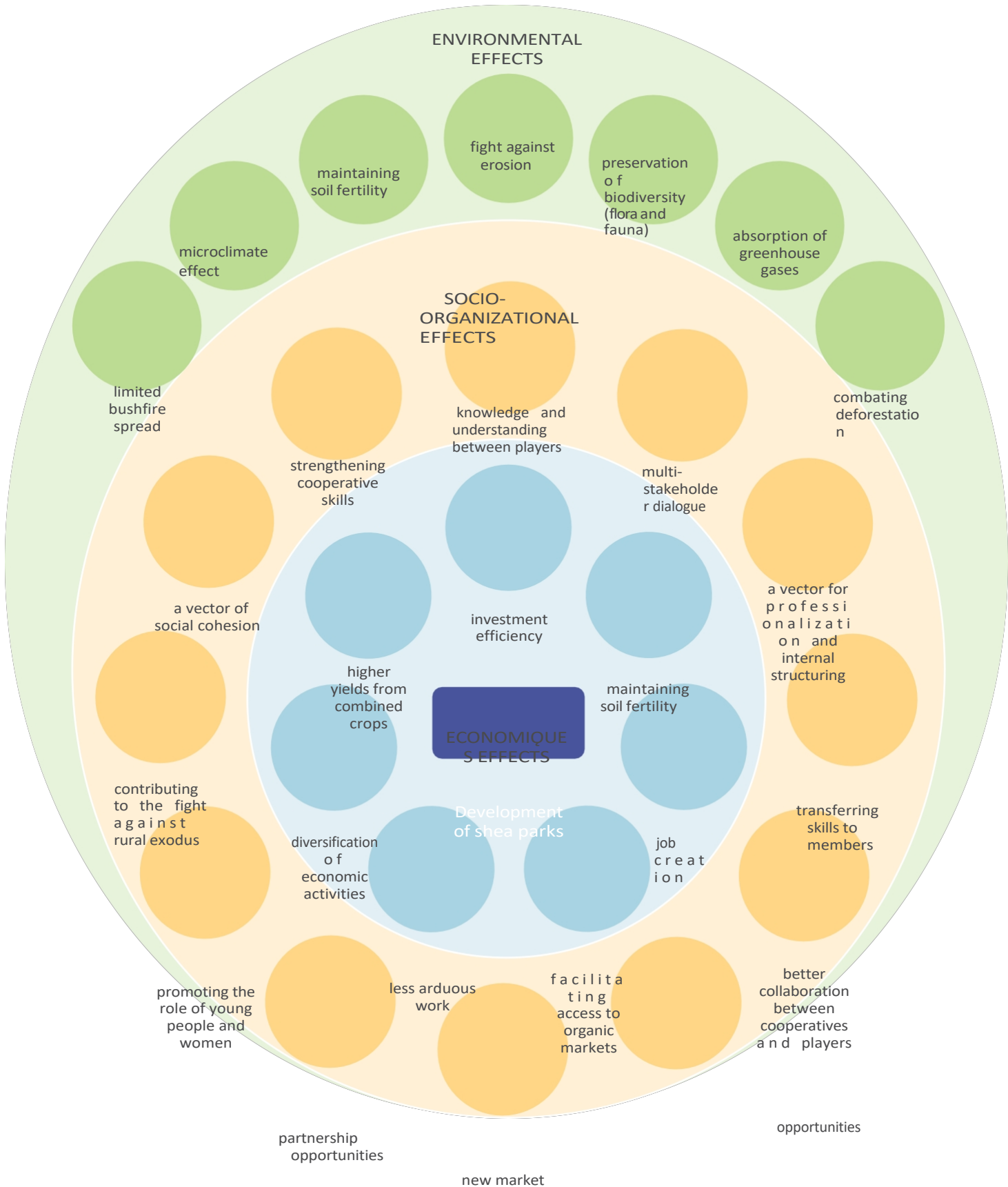
Management techniques are sufficiently simple and accessible, with little equipment, to be re-appropriated by local players: we can see cooperative members, but also non-member farmers, transferring these practices to mango and cashew orchards (individual/collective), or to farmers' annual crops. Mr. Drissa DAO of the COPROKAZAN cooperative in Mali testifies to spontaneous mutual aid between farmers following collective workcamps: *"they get organized and help each other to build bunds or stone barriers in farmers' plots"*.

The role of the endogenous animator is significant in the wider dissemination of agroecological practices: in contact with local farmers, he passes on his knowledge and know-how, and uses the parks already developed as training and demonstration facilities. Relay farmers contribute to peer-to-peer dissemination, beyond the cooperative's membership.

Finally, fair trade platforms are also driving forces for change of scale: representatives of these platforms regularly visit and monitor their member cooperatives, identifying relevant innovations and disseminating them to the cooperatives in their network. According to Mr. SAMBARE Harouna of Burkina Faso's Plateforme Nationale de Commerce Equitable, *"platforms also have a role to play in terms of communication and lobbying with public players to encourage and facilitate the securing of parks and large-scale development"*: they are co-responsible for local development, and the shea industry is one of the most interesting sectors for women and young people to preserve in the long term, both socially and economically.



► **Summary of the effects of shea park development and securing**





ACCELERATING THE
ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL
TRANSITION IN WEST
AFRICA
WITH FAIR TRADE

A program led by :



Commerce Équitable France is a non-profit association under the French law of 1901. It is the collective of French fair trade players and promotes the values of fair trade in France and internationally.

The collective works to bring about fairer world trade rules, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, and to democratize sustainable consumption. Fair prices for producers and a transformation of public regulatory frameworks are the levers of fair trade to achieve social justice and ecosystem protection.



Agronomes & Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (Agronomists & Veterinarians Without Borders) is an international non-profit organization that mobilizes the skills of professionals in the fields of agriculture, livestock breeding, animal health and local development.

For over 45 years, AVSF has been providing communities and farmers' organizations with technical advice, training and financial support, while promoting traditional farming knowledge.

Our aim? To defend their rights, improve their living conditions, participate in the socio-economic development of their territories and protect the planet's resources.

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