

A photograph showing two farmers in a lush green field. One farmer in the foreground is wearing a vibrant yellow and black patterned dress, while another in the background wears a blue and orange patterned dress. They appear to be tending to rows of crops. The background is filled with tall trees under a clear sky.

PROMOTING NATURE POSITIVE FOOD SYSTEMS IN BURKINA FASO

Client: IUCN
Year: 2024 - 2025
Service: Sustainable Financing

Burkina Faso is experiencing urgent environmental and societal challenges, including biodiversity loss, land degradation, water pollution, climate change, and increasing food insecurity. Agricultural expansion and unsustainable practices have contributed significantly to soil erosion, reduced productivity, and loss of ecosystem services, leaving rural communities more vulnerable, especially women and other marginalized groups. There is an urgent need to support and scale nature-positive food systems in Burkina Faso.

Symmetry supported the development of the full Project Document and the CEO Endorsement Request for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project 'Promoting Nature Positive Food Systems' (PNPFS) will support this transformation in Burkina Faso, delivering major global environmental benefits in the areas of biodiversity, land degradation, and climate change. The most direct and concrete benefits of PNPFS will be perceived in relation to the rice, ruminants, farmed fish, and maize supply chains, which are prioritised under the project due to their abundance and association with pressing environmental issues in the project regions. The project area is covering the regions of Center, Boucle du Mouhoun, Hauts-Bassins, and Sud-Ouest. This represents a major grain hub of the country.

The project has been designed to be closely aligned with the GEF Global Food Systems Integrated Program (FSIP). To create conditions for lasting transformation, PNPFS has been designed around the four levers of transformation that are central to the GEF-8 FSIP Theory of Change, namely governance and policies, financial leverage, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and coordination and innovation. The project will engage and support companies and banks towards nature-positive outcomes. This will be facilitated through supporting government policies and standards, providing positive signals for more nature-positive practices. It also requires direct investment in farming systems at the local level to support farmers, businesses, and governments to bring about the transformation needed.

Over a seven-month process, Symmetry has facilitated multi-stakeholder consultations and technical workshops to design a project aligned with national development goals and the GEF-8 FSIP. This project will be implemented by the Standing Committee of the National Council for Sustainable Development with IUCN acting as the GEF Agency. The project is expected to begin in Q1 2025.