

# SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

**Country: Burkina Faso**

Project/Initiative Title: PATECORE

Nos. farmers: 10,000                      Hectares: 17,000  
households

Agro-Ecological Zone: II

Improvement types

1x	2	3	4	5x	6x	7x	8x	9
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## A. Key Impacts

### A1 – Productivity

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Sorghum	870 kg/ha	1650-2000 kg/ha	90-130

## D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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## E. Project Narrative

### PATECORE in Bam and Passoré Provinces, Burkina Faso

The Projet d'Aménagement de Terroirs et Conservation de Ressources (PATECORE) is a government project working on the Mossi Plateau in Burkina Faso to improve village land use and conservation. It is a collaborative effort between a consortium of various ministries (Agriculture, Environment and Tourism, and Livestock) and NGOs operating in the field of resource management, and is funded by GTZ. It began in 7 villages in 1988, and has since expanded to work in over 200. Rainfall is some 550 mm/year, but soil erosion can reach 200 t/ha/year. There is much evidence of land degradation in the two provinces.

PATECORE staff do not intervene directly in villages but work through existing local governmental and non-governmental institutions. The project involves local groups in the planning and implementation of soil and water conservation, with the objective being to develop the self-help capacity at local level. The project staff coordinate activities at provincial and district level and train village extensionists (VEs) in technical skills and planning methodology. The VEs facilitate analysis and planning in villages, so as to develop village resource plans. The villagers conduct analyses, plan and implement resource-conserving technologies based on their own needs. One land-use committee is set up in each village, and members elected by the community.

The main technologies adopted have been permeable dams, stone bunds (*diguettes en pierres*), contour ploughing, tree planting, the establishment of protected zones for regeneration, composting and

increased use of manures. Rocks are collected from outside communities and transported in trucks provided by the project (although ways are being sought on how trucks, too, can be managed locally). The impact on yields is immediate, with sorghum yields increasing from 870 kg/ha to 1650-2000 kg/ha.

The project has a special focus on supporting women in developing income-earning enterprises, and giving them access to time-saving technologies so that they have the opportunity to devote time to conservation activities. Loans are provided for sheep-rearing, beer-brewing equipment, bee-keeping, grain mills, and wells with pumps. Other major impacts include rapid replication to neighbouring communities (the project only provides support to villages at their request); decreased flood damage and soil erosion; stabilised yields; increased capacity of villagers to plan and implement changes on their own; and increased understanding between government agencies and NGOs who are able to work together with fewer prejudices and better coordinated activities. An important element of success is the national political will that supports decentralization and *Gestion de Terroirs*.

Data for this project is in hard copy format and is not currently available electronically. If you would like further information please contact Rachel Hine