

Africa

BURKINA FASO

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION THROUGH PROMOTION AND VALORISATION OF SHEA AND OTHER RARE PLANTS

Reseau MARP, a local organisation from Burkina Faso, presents an interesting and quite rich recipe that involves producing and selling shea butter, the “gold of Faso”.

KEY INGREDIENTS



SUSTAINABILITY



Permanence

- Foster collaboration between CSOs, government, communities by creating spaces for open dialog



Effectiveness

- Map and utilise local capacities (including resources, material, knowledge)



INSTITUTIONALISATION



Policy environment

- Promote synergies between different policies including those for sustainable development, poverty reduction, CCA, food security, etc.
- Embed CBDRM projects in local government work plans and reporting



Capacities

- Encourage sharing of capacities and best practices between communities



Culture

- Promote a culture of including marginalised groups in disaster risk governance by establishing mechanisms where marginalised groups are adequately included

Despite what may seem, the “gold of Faso” is actually something you can really cook with, in addition to selling it to generate income: this is how local women in the Reo county of Burkina Faso refer to the collection of shea kernels and the production of shea butter.

Reseau MARP, a national NGO, partnered with a women grassroots organisation (UGF/CDN) to strengthen the local production of shea butter in this part of the country. Women were at the forefront of the project, and led the activities which were aiming not only at generating income and thus reducing poverty, but also at protecting the environment and safeguarding endangered plant species.

Since its start, women have been trained in planting and caring for shea trees (but also baobab and moringa plants), and have involved all the community in the production of shea butter from the kernels. Activities are all run and led by the local organisation, which now has personnel trained in data collection and monitoring and evaluation.

Activities for environmental protection had been identified as they also served the purpose of combating climate change effects and reducing the risk of disasters such as drought, desertification and occasionally flooding.

As activities were managed and implemented by community members, all income generated by the project went to improving the economic situation of local women: this was acknowledged by the municipality of Kyon (where the activity is taking place) who is now backing the project and pushing for its continuous implementation, as it “makes the city emerge” (as the Mayor said).

