

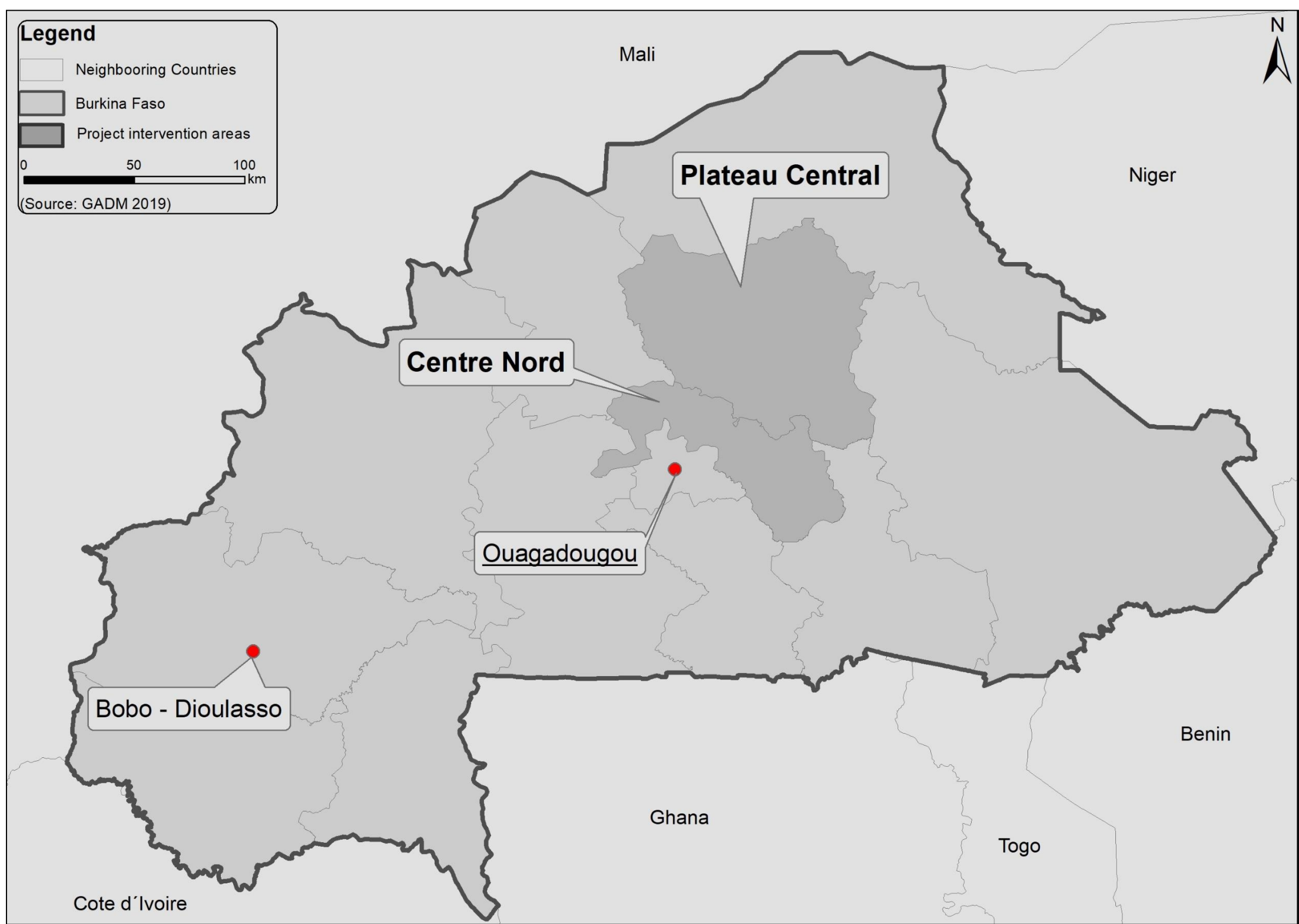
Self-Organised Natural Resource Management in Burkina Faso

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Background

Burkina Faso

- Among the poorest countries in the world
- Rural areas particularly hit by poverty and food insecurity
- Most of the rural population work in the agricultural sector (subsistence agriculture)
- Agricultural sector is characterised by increasing degradation of soils, climate change induced weather extremes and overgrazing
- Rapid population growth further aggravates the situation



Cartography by Fabio Prus 2019 based on GADM

Research Design

Research question:

- How has the promotion of natural resource management by the NGO IDD-Burkina contributed to the improvement of food security and poverty reduction?



Methodology:

- Focus group discussions including PRA tools, field visits and individual interviews with farmers in four villages in the NGO's project area on the *Plateau Central*

Self-organised natural resource management and awareness raising

Objectives of IDD-Burkina

Promoting food security and poverty reduction through

- Engaging farmers in water soil conservation measures

Self-organised construction of contour stone bunds

- Reduction of rainwater runoff and soil erosion
 - Soil rehabilitation
 - Increase of soil fertility
- Increase of agricultural yields

Increase of farmers' income and food security



Activities

- Training of farmers to organise themselves as a producer organisation (*organisation paysanne*)
- Technical training of producer organisation on water and soil conservation measures, such as the construction of contour stone bunds, the Zai technique and composting
- Provision of tools to extract stones from quarries and to construct contour stone bunds
- Provision of trucks to transport the stones from the local quarries to farmers' fields
- Exhibition Center (*EcoCentre*) for awareness raising and training on environmental protection



Results and Conclusions

Conditions for Success

- Promotion of farmers' self-organisation and social cohesion in the villages
- Beneficiaries understand the purpose and importance of the project measures
- Involvement of women
- Follow-up of farmers' activities



Challenges

- High labour migration of younger people and their lack of interest in agriculture (cereal production)
- Financial support is a basic requirement for the project's implementation (e.g. for the trucks)
- Difficult physical access to many villages hinders marketing of products
- Strong population growth intensifies demand for land

Outlook

- Beneficiaries' participation and ownership are key for a project's impact and sustainability
- Sustainable resource management is a prerequisite for agricultural production in areas with high soil degradation
- Further income generating activities during the dry season are needed to generate additional income and to diversify people's livelihoods
- Infrastructure development is key to improve physical access to the villages and markets

