



The Birds, Bees & Business project combines the restoration of biodiversity, climate and business activities in the shea value chain in Burkina Faso. ICCO/ FairClimateFund and Vogelbescherming (Bird Life Netherlands) work together to create a rich landscape that provides food and a sustainable income to local communities, while nature can restore itself. Economy and ecology are linked in a unique way.

### Background

In the south of Burkina Faso, many women depend on the harvest and processing of shea nuts, a raw material for food, but also for many care products. However, the habitat of the shea trees is deteriorating rapidly. Climate change and pressure on the land as a result of the use of pesticides and overgrazing has affected the landscape of the shea trees. But the processing of shea nuts by the local women also has an impact on the environment. Cooking the nuts on a traditional “three stone fire” in particular means that a lot of wood is used. Soils have become less fertile and more susceptible to erosion from disappearing trees.

All this has major consequences. The people who live there see their harvests, from agriculture, but also from shea nuts and other crops, are declining. For the migratory birds, which arrive in this area after a long journey, this means that there is little to eat. There are fewer insects in the sparse landscape. Insects are not only needed as food for the millions of migratory birds, but also for the pollination of the shea trees.

### Approach

Since 2018, Vogelbescherming and ICCO/FairClimateFund have been working together on a rich landscape for people and nature in the south of Burkina Faso. We plant new trees, protect existing trees against logging, stimulate biodiversity and promote sustainable entrepreneurship. This provides more food for people and birds, more insects and more yields from agriculture and the production of shea nuts.

FairClimateFund offers local women the opportunity to use improved cookstoves. These so-called F3PA cookstoves are made from local materials and reduce wood consumption by 23.4% and thus the pressure on trees. The CO<sub>2</sub> reduction is certified as carbon credits.

### Impact

However, using the cookstoves offers even more benefits to the local women. They spend less time collecting firewood and living conditions improve because harmful smoke is reduced. Women are trained in producing and maintaining the cookstoves and in return receive a micro loan that allows them to set up other income generating activities.

We also train women in a Climate Academy. Examples of activities are planting different trees, which leads to a more diverse landscape. This attracts bees and other insects, which in turn leads to better pollination and agricultural production. Women will benefit from an increase in the yield and sales of shea nuts and other (tree) products. With this we offer future generations of women a chance for a sustainable income.

For more information:

<https://www.fairclimatefund.nl/en/projects/burkina-faso-birds-bees-business>



**18,000**

Households use efficient cookstoves



**190,000**

People helped



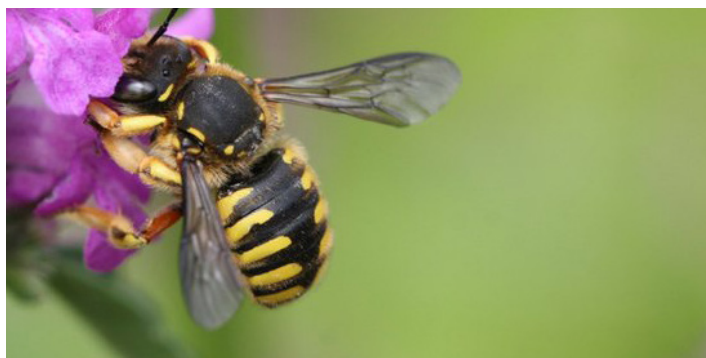
**120,000**

Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction

## Ambition

The ambition is to let 190,000 people benefit from an integrated landscape approach. FairClimateFund has been supporting this project since 2018 with the implementation of improved cookstoves for around 18,000 families. This reduces the use of firewood by 234%, so that fewer trees are cut down. The CO<sub>2</sub> savings resulting from the reduced wood consumption are certified by Gold Standard and the Fairtrade Climate Standard. With the income from the sale of these certificates or carbon credits, we ensure that the women in Burkina Faso can invest in climate adaptation activities and that their income position is improved.

**"THIS PROJECT BRINGS US TOGETHER AND GIVES US A REVENUE"**



## Benefits of the project

## Contribution to the SDGs

### Health

- Less trouble with burning eyes and coughing due to reduced smoke development
- Less physical strain and back pain because less wood has to be collected



### Climate and environment

- Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and wood use in the region
- Climate adaptation measures made possible through premium income from Fairtrade carbon credits



### Women empowerment

- Women have more time to participate in local village meetings
- Women are trained and provide training on how to make cookstoves and climate adaptation activities



### Economic

- Time saving opportunities for women to generate more income
- Women who provide training on the production of cookstoves are given access to micro-loans



Do you want more information about this project?

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This project is certified by Gold Standard and the Fairtrade Climate Standard.



**Gold Standard**  
for the **Global Goals**