NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

Summary

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BURKINA FASO

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

1. The Burkina Faso National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) is designed to provide a strategic framework to enable the authorities to guide and coordinate and monitor actions that seek to improve environmental management so as to meet the needs of the current population while sustaining renewable resources in order to meet the needs of future generations of Burkinabè.

2. The Burkinabè have been managing their environment for centuries, mostly through cultivation practices that recognized the productive limits of the land being farmed by allowing the land to reconstitute itself. In modern times these practices have been overwhelmed by population growth. A burgeoning population means that there is simply not enough land to leave fallow, with serious consequences in terms of overutilization of the land.

3. Recognizing this fact relatively early, Burkina Faso acquired a reputation in West Africa as a leader in actions aimed at improving environmental management. It was one of the first countries to establish, with the assistance of CILSS, a National Plan for the Struggle against Desertification (PNLCD; 1986) with a coordinating committee (CNLCD; 1986). It promulgated in 1985 a Land Reform Act (RAF). It undertook in 1987 the three "struggles" (lutes): against brush fires, random tree cutting and overgrazing.

4. These activities had a predominantly rural natural resource management focus and led to the "Village Land Management" premise that the key to successful resource management was the voluntary participation of the villager. This would require security of tenure and a contractual arrangement ensuring technical and infrastructure support from national government services in exchange for environmental management activities carried out by the villagers.

5. Regrettably, although there were many activities underway, there was still a lack of significant results. The RAF did not in practice provide practical security of tenure. Government technical support was limited to a handful of pilot projects. Infrastructure support was largely limited to the initiatives of external donors. Only a handful of contracts were entered into and environmental management activities occurred mostly in response to NGO or donor initiatives. The coordinating committee for the PNLCD (the CNLCD) lacked an operating structure that would permit it to
coordinate effectively and the strong political support for environmental management that was evident at the launching of the programs was not consistently maintained.

6. In the meantime, population growth continued unabated at about 3% per annum nation wide and about 8% per annum in the two major cities. Migration from north to south continued and migration to Côte d'Ivoire became less attractive, resulting in additional pressure on the southern lands.

7. Conscious of the need to do more, the Burkinabé authorities called a National Workshop on the Environment in Bobo-Dioulasso in October 1989. Sixty participants debated the environmental problems facing the country, using as a base three documents produced by Burkinabé consultants on the physical, social and institutional environment.

8. The National Environmental Action Plan gives an operational form to the principal conclusions and recommendations of the workshop. Based on the recent experience of numerous programs and projects and the supplementary studies recommended by the workshop, the goal is to provide a simple but comprehensive framework which will enable the better organization, management and coordination of existing and future operations. The NEAP is thus an additional part of the continuing efforts to improve the management of the Burkina environment.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOP

9. The workshop reiterated the objective of environmental management as the search for a socio-ecological balance, i.e., a balance between man and nature. The workshop strongly endorsed several key elements of the programs that had been previously attempted, notably the attempt to achieve socio-ecological balance through the "Village Land Management" approach. However, the workshop identified the need to both deepen and broaden the range of activities that had been undertaken.

10. A key necessity identified was to provide more encouragement, instruction and motivation to land users to empower, enable and encourage them to undertake village land management. This should be achieved through strengthening the "Village Land Management" approach to improve the availability of technical services, to modify and strengthen the RAF to ensure security of tenure, and to accelerate the provision of social and economic infrastructure to villages.

11. A second important recommendation was to extend the concept of environmental management beyond the confines of the village first to include macro-management of national natural resources, and second to undertake measures to improve environmental conditions—notably water supply and treatment, sewerage, and household, industrial and toxic waste disposal—in urban and peri-urban areas. This should complement the measures required for—and should in no way divert attention or resources from—village land management.

12. A third recommendation was to improve national, regional and departmental environmental planning and coordination. This should include monitoring and evaluating environmental targets, ensuring that new programs and projects are consistent with environmental and economic planning objectives, initiating a program of environmental assessments and improving the quality and availability of environmental information.

13. A fourth recommendation was to improve the level of both formal and informal environmental education with the twin objectives of increasing the population's awareness of the need for environmental management and improving the technical capability of both the
authourities and the private sector. This need was judged to be an important prerequisite for achieving the workshop's other recommendations.

14. A fifth recommendation noted the need for the Burkinabe political authorities to provide substantially increased support to environmental management. This meant that the authorities should not limit themselves to launching programs, but should also interest themselves in following program execution in order to satisfy themselves and report to the people on the amount of progress being made. The objective of effective high-level political support is to convince the Burkinabe people that the environment is the business of every citizen, from peasant to urban dweller, from forester to garbage collector, from infant to elder.

15. Finally, the workshop noted the importance of the intolerably high level of population growth which risked rendering all environmental management programs ineffective. The Workshop urged the authorities to give it their most urgent attention, and although resolving this problem is beyond the scope of a National Environment Action Plan, it has been addressed in so far as is possible.

ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

16. The main objective of the National Environmental Action Plan is to provide a coherent, action-oriented framework for carrying out a program of environmental management that will lead to a socio-ecological balance. This means grouping the multitude of programs, projects and actions that have a bearing on the environment into a manageable framework. In order to achieve this, the NEAP has been constructed around a series of "Programmatic Agendas" (Programmes Cadres), each of which addresses a key dimension of environmental intervention and responds to one or more of the obstacles to progress identified by the workshop.

17. The reason for regrouping existing and future environmental management actions into the Programmatic Agendas is threefold: first, it provides a useful organizing framework that simplifies the understanding of the structure of the NEAP; second, it facilitates the articulation of strategic guidelines to be followed in the execution of the programs and projects that make up each Programmatic Agenda; and, third, it provides a practical and readily understandable schema for monitoring and evaluating environmental management actions.

18. There are four Programmatic Agendas:

* The Programmatic Agenda for National Resource Management
* The Programmatic Agenda for Village Land Management
* The Programmatic Agenda for Improving Living Standards
* The Programmatic Agenda for Developing Environmental Capabilities

19. The Programmatic Agendas are complemented by two support programs:

* Managing Information on the Environment
* Coordinating and Monitoring the NEAP

20. The interactions between the four Programmatic Agendas are shown schematically in Figure 1, which illustrates the duality of the required interventions—citizen and state—in the context of changes that need to be brought about both in the management of natural resources and in the behavior of the citizenry.

21. On the physical side, there is a division
Figure I
Conceptual Structure of the NEAP

**NEAP OBJECTIVE**
SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

**SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT**
**BIO-PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

PROGRAMMATIC AGENDAS

- DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL CAPABILITIES
- IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS
- (VILLAGE) LAND MANAGEMENT
- NATIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

MANAGING INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
of labor between the state which is responsible for macro-management of the national heritage of natural resources and the individual who is responsible for micro-management of the land to which he has tenure or for his neighborhood. In the rural context, this translates into state responsibility for national forests, watersheds, soils, mineral resources, etc. and individual responsibility for managing the land, water and other resources that belong to the village. In the urban context, it translates into state responsibility for sanitary infrastructure such as water supply and drains and individual responsibility for sewage and garbage disposal.

22. These responsibilities have to be supported by information about the resources themselves, their potential and their management. These can take the form of soil maps, forest and wildlife protection plans, watershed usage plans, etc. at the national level, and village land potential and use plans at the village level. Thus the objective of each of the "bio-physical" Programmatic Agendas is to ensure the coordination and putting in place of programs or projects that provide the information and technical bases that will permit the national authorities and individual citizens to play their role in environmental management.

23. On the human side, the population has to be given both the means and the incentives to play their role. A population (or a national authority, for that matter) that is ignorant of the importance of environmental management or of the techniques available for carrying it out will be unable to play their role. This is where the Programmatic Agenda for Developing Environmental Capabilities demonstrates its importance.

24. But a population that lacks basic (rather than specialized environmental) education or has very poor health conditions may be unable to participate fully in environmental management. And a population that lacks access to markets or the time to develop economic alternatives is also likely to be disinterested in environmental management. Overcoming these obstacles is the objective of the Programmatic Agenda for Improving Living Standards.

25. Thus, it is essential that the authorities and the people work together to assemble the combination of information and education, services, and social and economic infrastructure that, together, will change attitudes towards the environment and stimulate voluntary individual participation in environmental management. This, in short, is the objective of the Programmatic Agendas. The two support programs are designed to provide a coordination, monitoring and evaluation structure for the NEAP and to initiate the process of developing an environmental data base that could eventually be used as a basis for a national program of environmental monitoring system.

**LINKS WITH EXISTING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

26. A question that is frequently asked concerns the relationship between the NEAP and existing and future programs and projects. The answer is very simple: the NEAP is a strategic framework that spells out an action plan; the specific actions under the plan will be carried out by line ministries and government agencies as part of their normal responsibilities. The only difference from current practice is that the ministries' and agencies programs and projects will be--for purposes of coordination and monitoring--grouped under the NEAP's Programmatic Agendas.

27. For example, the Programmatic Agenda for National Resource Management includes *inter alia* programs for land use planning, for conservation and protection of soils, water, forests, flora and fauna, the Sahel Burkinabé, and the environmental impact of such activities.
as mining and resettlement.

28. The Programmatic Agenda for Village Land Management includes \textit{inter alia} the proposed LUCODEB program, the National Village Land Management Project and a variety of other donor and NGO initiatives.

29. The Programmatic Agenda for Improving Living Conditions includes \textit{inter alia} the Second Urban Project, the proposed Secondary Cities Project, the Village Well Program, as well as various school, clinic and feeder road programs.

30. The Programmatic Agenda for Developing Environmental Capabilities includes \textit{inter alia} elements of primary, secondary and tertiary education programs, mass media campaigns and technical assistance to both the public and private sectors.

31. In some cases, the NEAP provides endorsement and reinforcement of existing programs; in some cases, it proposes new initiatives. The new initiatives make up the bulk of the project proposals (fiches de projects) that are the main operational arms of the NEAP (Volume 2). The CNLCD is identifying many existing programs and projects which make up each of the Programmatic Agendas. The basic objectives, principles and strategic guidelines for the Programmatic Agendas are set out below.

\textbf{PROGRAMMATIC AGENDA FOR NATIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT}

32. This Programmatic Agenda recognizes the fact that, despite the fact that the individual citizen should be responsible for managing resources at the level of the village or neighborhood, the government bears the responsibility for the policies and plans that define the global use of national natural resources and for the direct management of specific areas—such as national forests, national parks and wildlife reserves, and lakes—that have been defined as having characteristics that set them aside as part of the national heritage.

33. In effect, this macro-management of the nation's resources provides the technical and policy framework within which micro-management of resources at the village or neighborhood level can be carried out. It starts with the development of a solid body of knowledge concerning the availability and potential of natural resources such as soils, water and vegetation and sets this information into a socio-spatial context through land use planning. This balances human aspirations with the potential of the national territory to meet the needs of a growing population in a manner that ensures that the natural resources are used on a sustainable basis. This is the main objective of the Programmatic Agenda for National Resource Management.

34. This is the context in which the various natural resources plans—soils, water, forests, etc. can be coordinated—in a manner that will improve the management of resources under competing demands, eg., forestry versus livestock raising versus agriculture. It is also the way the population dimension can be better incorporated into natural resource planning through the integration of demographic and natural resource information into regional land use plans.

35. In parallel to attempts to improve the planning and management of national resource use, it is important to improve management of specific natural resources areas that make up the national heritage and that have been judged worthy of or in need of protection. Thus, there is a need to develop better plans for the management of national forests, national parks, wildlife reserves, endangered watersheds, etc. This is the secondary objective of the Programmatic Agenda for National Resource Management.
PROGRAMMATIC AGENDA FOR VILLAGE LAND MANAGEMENT

36. This micro-management, popular participation approach to environmental management has been the focus of much thinking and program development and is already well underway, notably in the context of the Village Land Management approach adopted some years ago by the Burkinabè. The RAF and the PNLCD established the basic principles that should guide programs and projects in this domain. Village land management should be carried out through the voluntary participation of villagers. Security of tenure is required to empower the villagers and to give them the confidence to make long-term environmental investments on their own and on communal land. The government should make available to the villagers the technical know-how and the social and economic infrastructure necessary to enable them and encourage them to understand the potential of their land, to manage it in a sustainable way and to undertake environmental investments. The NEAP fully endorses these guiding principles that should apply to all village land management programs and projects.

37. However, in order to operationalize these principles, action is required: first to provide better and more universally available technical services to villagers; second, to strengthen the ability of the government to meet its responsibilities at the provincial level; and third to reorient programs aimed at providing social and economic infrastructure to give priority to villages that are undertaking village land management.

38. National programs aimed at providing technical services to villages to survey, map and analyze the natural resource potential of their village with a view to developing a village land use plan will be strengthened. The RAF is being amended to provide effective security of tenure to villagers. The special circumstances and needs of pastoralists will be recognized.

The Provincial Coordinating Committees will be strengthened to enable them to perform an enhanced role in animating villagers to participate in VLM programs and to enter into legal contract with villagers. These contracts will specify the Village Land Management measures that the villagers will undertake and the social and economic infrastructure that the government commits itself to providing. National infrastructure programs will be designed from the bottom up, on the basis of provincial plans made up by the Provincial Coordinating Committees and will give priority in financial resources allocation and program execution to villages that have Village Land Management Contracts. In this way, villagers will be empowered, enabled and encouraged to carry out land management plans and investments.

PROGRAMMATIC AGENDA FOR IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS

39. This programmatic agenda also has a rural and an urban component. The rural component aims to provide the social and economic infrastructure necessary to enable and to encourage the voluntary participation of villagers in Village Land Management activities. As such, it is an essential complement to the Programmatic Agenda for Village Land Management. The urban component aims to provide the water supply, sanitation and waste disposal infrastructure that is required to permit the urban population to manage better their personal health practices and household waste disposal in order to reduce pollution of groundwater sources and to reduce the incidence of sanitary-related and water-borne diseases.

40. Improvement of Rural Living Conditions. It is unrealistic to expect uneducated villagers, in poor health, with access to neither clean water nor economic infrastructure such as markets to have the capability or the incentive to undertake long-term investments in environmental management.
In repeated surveys, villagers have demanded these services and for good reason. Without minimum education, villagers are unlikely to be able to understand the need for environmental management or to be able to absorb effectively the measures and techniques required. Therefore, the villagers demand schools. Without minimum health, they may well be physically unable to undertake the environmental management measures that are needed or to take advantage of the increased production possibilities created by environmental management. Thus, they demand clinics. Women who spend hours each day fetching water and wood and grinding grain are unlikely to see much benefit in environmental management activities that would permit expanded production opportunities. Thus, they demand wells, improved stoves and grinding mills. Finally, villagers with no access to markets see no benefit in increased possibilities to produce things that they cannot sell. So they demand feeder roads and improved marketplaces.

41. Thus, it can be seen that the process of enabling and encouraging villagers to undertake Village Land Management activities depends on a complex set of factors. The villagers are quite capable of articulating their needs in this regard. It is up to the government to respond in such a way as to meet its part of the Village Land Management contract. This is not just a matter of resources. For the moment, the resources available for rural infrastructure are by and large adequate or could be made available under existing and planned projects. It is a matter of substantially reorienting government resource allocation procedures to ensure that these facilities are provided in the villages that have prepared a Village Land Use Plan and are prepared to enter into a Village Land Management Contract with the government. Reorienting resources and priorities in the provision of rural infrastructure is the first objective of the Programmatic Agenda for Improving Living Conditions.

42. Improving Urban Living Conditions. The problem of the urban environment is a hitherto neglected subject. Nonetheless, it is growing daily as more and more people crowd into cities and towns, new infrastructure provision stagnates, existing infrastructure collapses for lack of maintenance and the waste products of industry and services such as public transport, abattoirs and hospitals are disposed of in a haphazard manner. Even air pollution is becoming a serious problem. In the future, the urban population is forecast to grow at an increasing rate as the productive potential of the land diminishes and the population continues to grow.

43. Urban neighborhoods also need careful management by the individuals who live there to avoid destruction of scarce natural and human resources. Unmanaged disposal of household and industrial wastes—human and institutional—is creating a growing problem in terms of groundwater (and, hence, drinking water) pollution and in terms of public health, mainly through water- and waste-borne diseases that take an appalling toll on the young and have a substantial economic cost through lost productivity. At the micro level, urban dwellers have to learn to manage their environment through improved personal and household sanitary practices and better solid waste disposal. Industries have to improve their methods of disposal of industrial waste and their management of toxic substances and waste.

44. Since the problem has only been recognized recently, the NEAP calls for a two-pronged attack. First, efforts must be made to accelerate the planning, design, and implementation of critical sanitary infrastructure in Ouagadougou and in Bobo Dioulasso. Second, efforts must be made to improve conditions in secondary towns as a way of containing some of the effects of the rural exodus before they reach the large towns. Third, a modest program of technical work is required to understand better the issues of
industrial waste disposal, as well as methods of increasing public awareness of public health problems and ways of combating them through improved personal health measures and increased popular participation in the provision, maintenance, and use of sanitary infrastructure. This is the second objective of the Programmatic Agenda for Improving Living Conditions.

**PROGRAMMATIC AGENDA FOR DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL CAPABILITIES**

45. Since national level environmental management is a relatively new field in Burkina Faso, it is imperative to begin to develop a body of expertise and competence in environmental matters. In this context, competence should be interpreted in the broadest sense, covering both the technical expertise required in both the public and private sectors to permit environmental management to be planned, executed, monitored and evaluated and the general level of environmental awareness in the population that will elicit the changes in attitudes and mentalities that will provide the base for public participation in environmental management. Needless to say, this programmatic agenda is at the least advanced stage of development and needs to be almost fully articulated under the NEAP.

46. A key element of this program will be an increase in the technical capacity of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to permit it to expand its activities beyond forestry issues to do full justice to the demands of environmental management. At the same time, technical line ministries will require strengthening to enable them to take better account of environmental issues in the planning and execution of their programs. In the private sector, it will be important to develop a consulting capability to meet the requirements called for under the NEAP for technical environmental studies and plans as well as for environmental assessments. This applies equally to the NGOs. For the population at large, it will be important to develop a renewed public awareness of the importance of environmental management and the need for popular participation in its activities. This will require modified and strengthened programs in the formal education sector as well as mass media campaigns through radio, television and the press aimed at the population at large.

**MANAGING INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

47. The National Environmental Workshop recommended the establishment of a program of permanent environmental monitoring for the national territory. Further investigation has revealed that, in the current state of development of environmental information data collection and treatment in Burkina Faso, it would be unrealistic to attempt to move directly to a national monitoring program. First, the currently collected data are underexploited; second, work is needed to make existing data sets compatible; and third, there is no evidence of strong demand for improved environmental information either from political decision-makers, technicians or the scientific community.

48. As described above, the NEAP proposes the setting in place of a National Program for the Management of Information on the Environment (PNGIM). The formulation of the follow-up component of the National Program for Village Land Management in June-July 1990 already raised the more general question of the institutional organization of information on the environment at the national level. The intention of establishing the PNGIM developed from this unstructured general feeling. While the local professionals had become well aware of the possibilities offered by new technologies of Information Management and the stakes within their control, the scope and the complexity of the implementation of an information system
such as the PNGIM was generally underestimated. This is why a thorough reflection on the content, organization and function of the PNGIM started in October 1990. It led to a workshop of discussions from 13 - 15 May 1991 at Bobo-Dioulasso.

49. The workshop prepared a final formulation of the objectives of PNGIM and adopted an institutional formula consisting of three basic elements: a network of partners, a coordinating unit and a processing unit for geographic information. The workshop allowed the identification of 17 project proposals on environmental information management covering the majority of the current needs. Thirteen of these projects will be finalized and included in the investment program of PNGIM. Finally the workshop agreed that the General Secretaries of the Ministries of Environment and Tourism, Agriculture and Livestock, and Equipment, should take the initiative to form a working group for the follow up of the PNGIM.

**INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN**

50. Coordination and Monitoring. The National Environmental Workshop noted that the coordination and monitoring of the PNLCD (Figure II) had fallen short of expectations in two main areas: the level of political support accorded to monitoring and the level of resources allocated to make the Permanent Secretariat of the monitoring committee (CNLCD) operational. The support program for coordinating and monitoring the NEAP will redress these shortcomings.

51. The Ministerial Monitoring Committee (CMS/PANE). In order to ensure high-level attention to the execution and monitoring of the NEAP, a Ministerial Monitoring Committee will be established, assembling the Ministers whose ministries touch on the environment. This committee will be responsible for ensuring that the NEAP receives the political and financial attention that is necessary to assure its satisfactory execution. It will meet every six months to review the progress report prepared by the CICT/PANE, to debate the issues raised by the progress report and to resolve any conflicts that might arise.

52. The Interministerial Technical Coordinating Committee (CICT/PANE). In the same way as the NEAP is an evolution of the PNLCD, the coordinating body of the NEAP could be conceived as an evolution of the CNLCD, strengthened and complemented to resolve the problems mentioned above and expanded to reflect the broader scope of the NEAP. Thus the concept of an interministerial technical coordinating committee has been retained, with membership made up of representatives from all the ministries whose programs affect the environment and chaired by the Minister of Environment and Tourism. The attributes of this committee would be to: ensure the technical coordination of the programmatic agendas that make up the NEAP; verify that programs and projects impacting on the environment are consistent with the guidelines of the NEAP; help the concerned ministries and agencies to mobilize resources for the activities that make up the programmatic agendas; monitor the execution of these activities; identify problems and obstacles and prepare a six-month report on progress in meeting the targets of the programmatic agendas. The CICT/PANE would report to the ministerial level committee and would be supported by a Permanent Secretariat.

53. The Permanent Secretariat (SP/PANE). Since the members of the CICT/PANE are ministerial representatives with other day-to-day responsibilities, they will need to be supported by a Permanent Secretariat with a small staff covering each of the programmatic agendas. This will be responsible for determining the precise composition of the programmatic
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN
COORDINATION AND MONITORING STRUCTURE

MINISTERIAL MONITORING COMMITTEE
CMS/-pane

INTERMINISTERIAL TECHNICAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
CICT/pane

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT
SP/pane
agendas, agreeing with ministerial representatives on program and project targets, collecting and analyzing the data required to monitor progress towards the targets and preparing the six-monthly progress report. Since the Permanent Secretariat will need to mount a substantial effort in the beginning to establish a data base for program monitoring, it will be supported initially by an international expert in environmental planning and monitoring and an expert in data base design and maintenance. It will be adequately housed and provided with the logistical means necessary to make it operational.

54. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Until very recently, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has focused almost exclusively on the forestry operations for which it had inherited responsibility. For the NEAP to be successful, it is essential that the Ministry be structured, staffed and equipped to carry out its environmental management vocation. In terms of structure, the importance of the environmental management function will be clearly signalled by the creation of a Director General responsible for Environment. The General Directorate will be progressively staffed with experts in environmental planning and management and supported by a strong training and retraining program. One of the main responsibilities of the directorate will be the establishment of an Environmental Assessment Program in response to the determination of the National Environmental Workshop that many undesirable environmental impacts and side effects could be avoided if programs, policies and projects were a priori subjected to an assessment of their potential environmental impacts. Steps will also be taken towards the establishment in the ministry of a National Environmental Laboratory that would eventually be responsible for monitoring water and air quality as well as industrial waste.

55. The next critical step is to set up the implementation of the NEAP in motion - to move from plan to action. Execution of existing activities must be continued and intensified. New activities must be fleshed out, funded and implemented. A key element will be the establishment of the monitoring and coordination structure described in the previous section.

56. This will permit the objectives and outputs of existing programs and projects to be defined in more detail and a monitoring program to be put in place. This is particularly important since the activities of the existing projects will form the bulk of the activity under the NEAP in the first year of execution and, hence, will constitute the main results to be reported in the first few six-monthly reports.

57. With respect to the complementary new programs, projects and studies that are set out in Tome II, the next critical step is to present them to the donor community so that they can be detailed, firmed up and funded. Since the Fiches Techniques contain only the basic elements of each activity, it will be essential for each interested donor to enter into detailed discussions with the agency or unit responsible for each activity in order to develop the full information necessary to permit the donor to carry out its appraisal of the activity and to secure funding. Undoubtedly, this will take some time, so it is essential to start as soon as possible.

58. The watchword of the NEAP is action. It is essential, therefore, that the basic messages of the NEAP be communicated to each Burkinabè - in the civil service, in the private sector and in NGOs, in the cities and in the
countryside. This is the second important next step towards setting the NEAP in motion. This will sensitize the various actors on the scene to the necessity to think of the environment in everything that they do, to foresee the effects of their actions on the environment. Only then will the environment receive the attention and respect that are the prerequisites to sound environmental management.