

Decentralising Climate Funds (DCF)



Decentralising climate funds in Senegal and Mali

Near East Foundation consortium under the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) programme



Project summary

Decentralising Climate Funds (DCF) is an action-research and advocacy project supporting communities in Senegal and Mali to become more resilient to climate change through access to locally-controlled adaptation funds.

Where are we working?

We are working in three *Cercles* (Koro, Douentza, and Mopti) in the Mopti region in Mali; and in four *Départements* in the Kaffrine region in Senegal: Kounghoul, Kaffrine, Birkilane and Maleme Hodar.

The people of the Mopti and Kaffrine regions are vulnerable to climate extremes because of their dependence on natural resources and poor development infrastructure.

Why now?

Climate change is affecting local communities in the Sahel in many different ways; through unpredictable variations in the climate from year on year, or recurring extreme weather conditions such as droughts or floods. The impact that this has on crops and livestock affects food production and security, not only for farmers and herders, but also the wider population.

Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to climate extremes because they don't have the same access to common resources and are rarely involved in decision-making at community-level.

Experience has shown that local communities themselves are often best-placed to make decisions about resilience measures which would most benefit them. However, international funding for climate adaptation is currently channelled to national authorities, or to non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and communities and local governments have very little control over decisions for these funds.



What are we doing?

This project has four main strands of work:

Local climate adaptation funds

Local governments are given discretionary authority over a devolved Climate Adaptation Fund (CAF) with an initial value of £500,000 per fund. The project builds the capacity of local governments to manage the funds in a transparent, accountable, and cost-effective manner.



Community-prioritised investments

Local committees prioritise CAF investments on the basis of inclusive community consultations and resilience assessments. Local adaptation planning committees are inclusive of women and other vulnerable people.

Evidence and learning

To assess how climate change adaptation and development investments can strengthen local people's resilience to climate extremes (differentiated by gender), the project is establishing and institutionalising information systems and monitoring frameworks, including IIED's TAMD (Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development) methodology.

Engagement with policy-makers

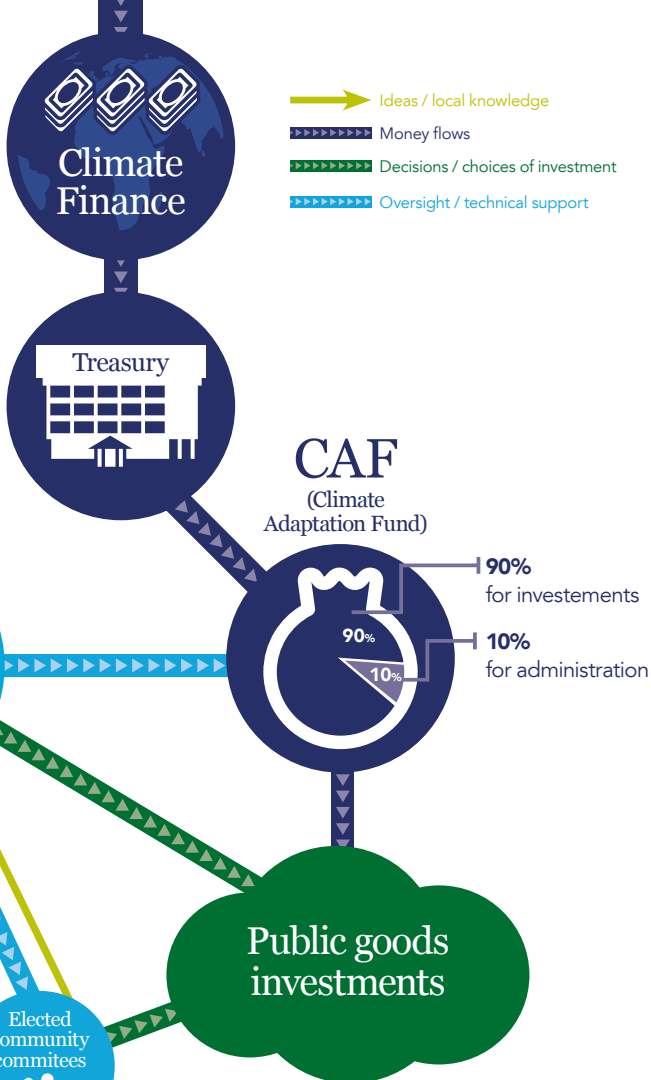
To ensure that locally-generated evidence from this project supports the integration of climate change in national planning and policy-making, we are working together with relevant national institutions to develop the fund mechanisms and to share findings and lessons from the project with national and international decision-makers.

We also are working with national governments to support their direct access to other sources of international climate finance, including the Green Climate Fund.



Decentralised climate adaptation funds

This is a generic representation of the DCF model; specific approaches adopted in each country vary according to local context.



- Selection Criteria: Investments must...**
1. Be focused on public goods and benefit a large number of beneficiaries, especially women and young people;
 2. Enhance resilience to climate change (adaptation) and where possible, propose mitigation measures;
 3. Ensure a participatory approach in design, management and monitoring and evaluation;
 4. Meet local development priorities and national strategies and policies on sustainable development and climate change;
 5. Foster peace and strengthen social relations between actors;
 6. Not have a negative impact on the environment;
 7. Provide a realistic and achievable work plan and provide value for money.



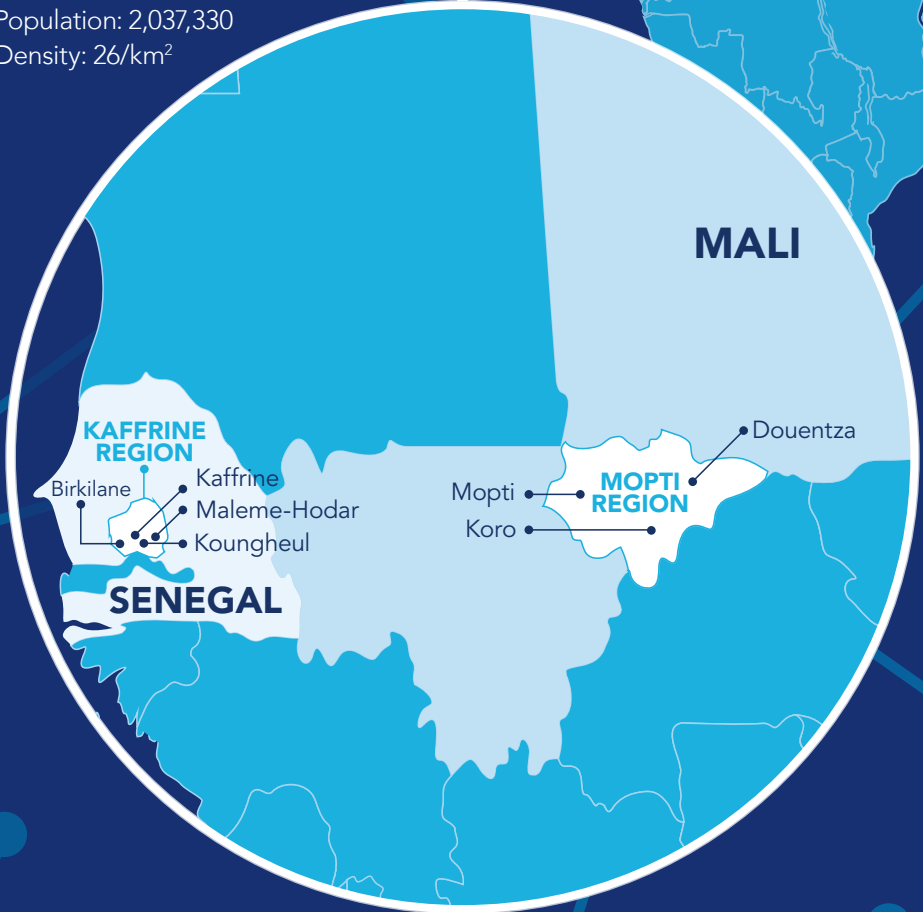
On the map

Kaffrine Region Senegal

Area: 11,262 km²
Population: 566,992
Density: 50/km²

Mopti Region Mali

Area: 79,017 km²
Population: 2,037,330
Density: 26/km²



Decentralising Climate Funds – Who's who

Our consortium is led by the Near East Foundation (NEF). Country activities are led by NEF in Mali and by IED Afrique in Senegal. IIED provides technical expertise in action research, communications and monitoring and evaluation.

Near East Foundation (NEF)

For over 30 years, NEF has developed sustainable, community-based approaches to manage forests, fisheries, rangelands, and agricultural lands in Mali. Operating out of a principal office in Sévaré, the NEF team of approximately 40 works to implement community-based, multi-sectoral programs. NEF's headquarters in Syracuse, United States, provides overall project management and governance oversight to the consortium.

Innovation, Environnement, Développement (IED Afrique)

IED Afrique is an independent not-for-profit organisation based in Senegal. The organisation builds on more than 20 years of experience in francophone West Africa and works on issues related to sustainable development and citizenship in Africa by prioritising methodological and participatory innovations.

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

IIED is a policy and action research organisation. IIED promotes sustainable development to improve livelihoods and protect the environments on which these livelihoods are built. IIED is based in London and works in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific.

To find out more:

The project shares lessons and experiences through a variety of publications that are available online:

www.neareast.org/braced

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Project
Materials



This material has been funded by UK aid from the UK government; however the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies.

Cover photo: Spring catchment in the Mopti region, Mali. (NEF)

Inside photos: Amadou Diawara, a craftsman cutting a metal bar (Diawara) Traditional cotton spinning or "Mottude" (Wendu Bosseabe)

Pastoralists and farmers in the Mopti region, Mali. (NEF)