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Water Security and Resilience

The Sahel today is marked by food and water insecurity, persistent poverty, poor governance, high population growth rates and recurrent climate shocks that enhance vulnerability to conflict and extremism. The magnitude of shocks has so exceeded local coping capacity that people and systems are less able to manage the risks they face and recover when a shock occurs.

USAID's Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) project has been in Niger and Burkina Faso since 2012. The Water Security and Resilience activity in the Sahel continues the same efforts with the overall goal that *chronically vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso and Niger, supported by resilient systems, effectively manage shocks and stresses and pursue sustainable pathways out of poverty.*

Led by Winrock's Sustainable Water Partnership, the USAID Water Security and Resilience activity's first objective, to "Enhance social and ecological risk management systems," is achieved through three components:

1. Improved water security.
2. Enhanced sustainable productive land use.
3. Improved management of shocks, risks and stresses.



Winrock will implement this Activity across forty rural communes in the Centre-Nord, Est, and Sahel regions of Burkina Faso and in the Maradi, Tillabery, and Zinder regions of Niger, to:

- Promote and ensure adequate, equitable, and sustainable access of all populations to land and water resources for all types of needs.
- Improve the monitoring and management of these resources from both qualitative and quantitative points of view.
- Develop and support the implementation of water, land and risk management plans.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities among national, regional, sub-regional and commune institutions in resource management and improve the coordination between these entities.
- Prevent and facilitate the resolution of conflicts related to resource sharing.
- Define and promote the application of local conventions and agreements for the fair and reasonable allocation and use of natural resources.
- Promote and disseminate more responsible, effective and sustainable practices for resource use.
- Reduce the exposure of populations, infrastructure and resources to natural hazards such as droughts and floods.
- Promote and disseminate the use of climate information services to improve livelihoods.

