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The Tropical Energy Farm concept:

Evolution from renewable energy to integrated rural development through social enterprise – an innovativ approach from AID

Presentation at EED, Germany, June 2011

From MFC to AID-SA….

What about the other major challenges facing Mali and Africa…?

Food insecurity… due to out dated agricultural system

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The Mali context

- Malian economy is essentially based on Agriculture which occupied more than 80% of the population;
- This main activity and income source for the country of 14 Million people is now affected the climate change;
- The agricultural productions are not the same any more
- Urgent need to go for innovation and modernisation through the value chain approach, the development of agro-business and public private partnership bringing Universities, research centers and private sector together;
- Limited access to modern energy in rural area
- Mali has good legislation making this possible: “La Loi d’Orientation de l’Education” et “La Loi d’Orientation

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Why Mali needs Energy Farm – Creation of AID-SA:

- 80% of the employement is coming from Agricultural sector
- Limited start up agribusiness from Msc & Bsc. due to lack of modernisation
- Difficulties for operating agro-businesses and create added values locally due to lack of access to modern energy
- Limited cooperation between agro-businesses, universities and research institutions and energy experts
- Limited job opportunities for students coming out from agricultural and energy institutes and universities
- Lack of integrated energy development together with agricultural development plan
- Occupation of fertile farming land by big national and foreign investors with limited vision on local interest and ecosystem

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Vision of the Energy Farm of AID-SA

A dynamic entrepreneurial Mali founded on leadership, innovation, and research delivering the knowledge, products and services that will make agro-business development a reality in Mali & Sahel. Become an incubator for Agrobusiness for the Sahel countries

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AID-SA's approach:

AID is bringing the keys agricultural and energy Institutes, research centres, private sector actors, and the farmer's union in Mali with support of international institutions who have lot of experience in the field. These organisations will pool their skills, expertise and experience to create the incubator, which will be uniquely placed in the Malian market to provide business development services and incubation to innovative agro-forestry enterprises.

The activities could be expanded to other Sahel countries.

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Global objective of AID-SA

Rejuvenation and modernisation of agricultural and forest production in the South of Mali, through public private partnerships and joint ventures for sustainable socio-economic development and conservation of resources and biodiversity and the creation measures for adaptation and mitigation to the effects of climate change.

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Approach

AID has an integrated approach which links agricultural productivity directly with the sustainable management of ecosystems through creation of added value with access to locally produced renewable energy.

Therefore AID is open to bring in it intervention areas partnership that can bring added value.

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AID S.A. works with local population and the Cooperative Union of Bougouni Yanfolila (a cooperative representing 1200 farmers) on 5700 Ha and 200,000 ha of forest to protect.

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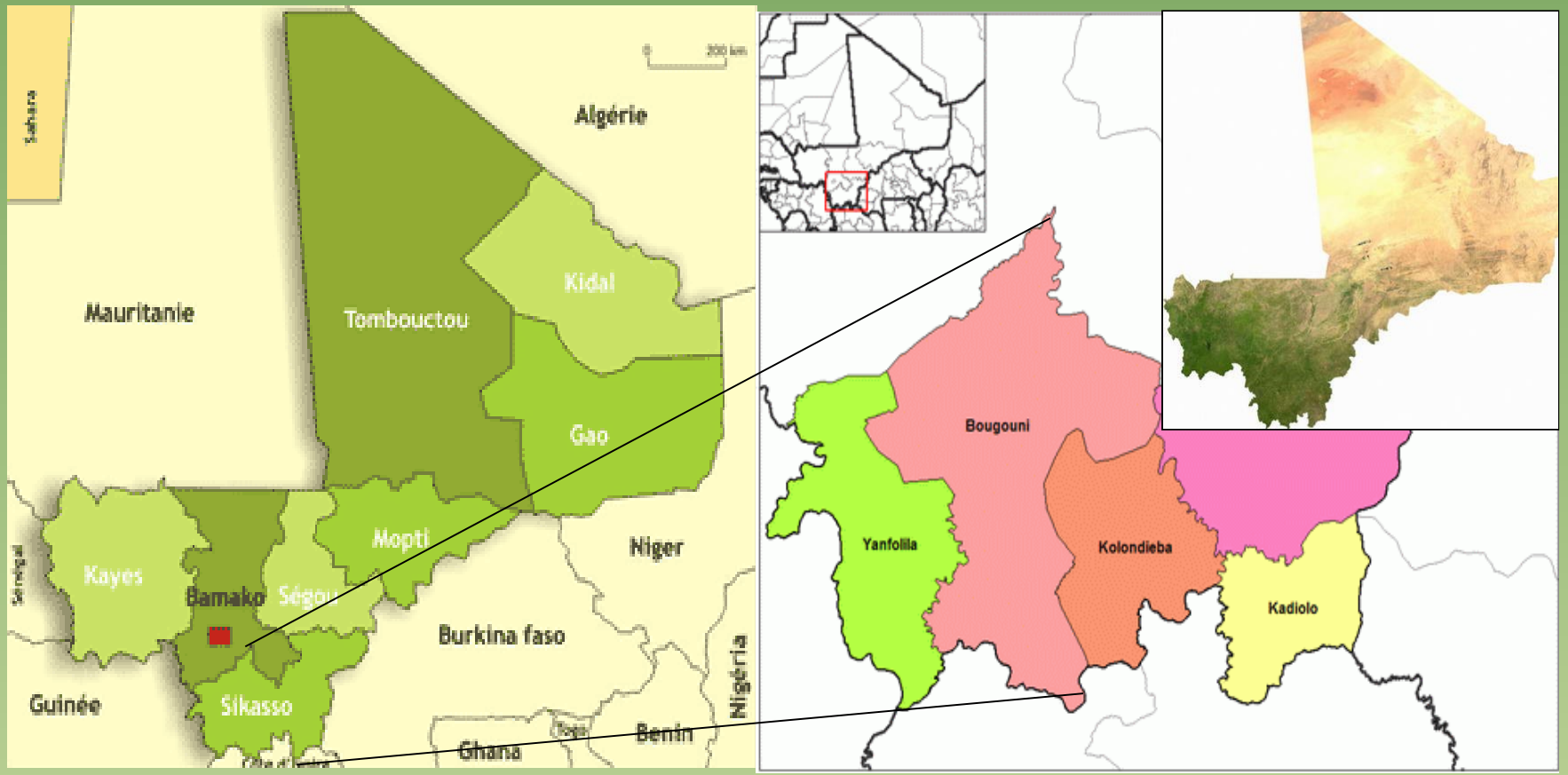

Zone of AID-SA

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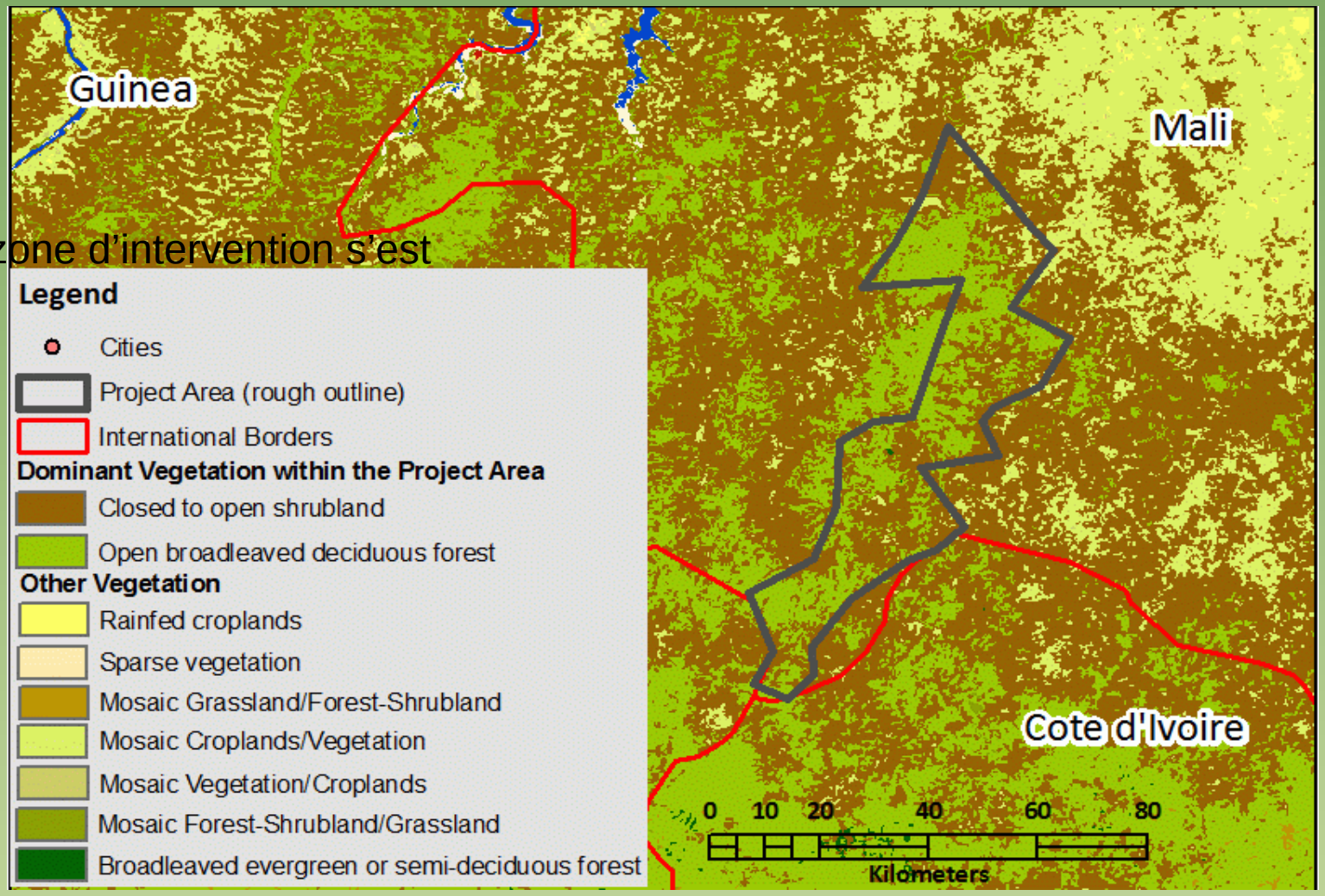
La zone d'intervention s'est



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The project zone is characterised by :

- *Dangerous deforestation that compromises the ecosystem and the development of agriculture especially around the rivers, e.g. the Wassolou Ballé, which feeds in to the lake behind the Selingué dam, and the Baoulé ;*
- *Traditional gold panning, with all its consequences for the environment and young people ;*
- *Lack of infrastructure to transform local produce ;*
- *Lack of road access in rainy season;*
- *Lack of access to credit;*
- *Badly organised private sector*
- **However, great potential exists for agriculture, forestry, livestock and fishing which are extremely under-exploited ;**
- Rainfall of > 1200 mm/year (Pre-Guinean Zone)
- Easy access (>3 hours) to Bamako, Guinea & Cote d'Ivoire (a crossroads)
- AID-SA with its cooperatives has more than 5000 hectares of fertile land with abundant surface water resources (the Sankarani, Baoulé et Wassolou Ballé rivers), allowing agriculture in all seasons
- Low population density, meaning less pressure on the environment

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AID also manages 200 000 ha of forest
for the government

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Forest is cutting down for energy and for income generation by young people

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Training of AID cooperative members

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Processing of Shea nuts to Shea butter by women's cooperative in AID zone, need solar boilers or coockers

Promotion of the use of the compost

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Green pepper production

A 6 ha potatoe plantation planted in cooperation with students
from IPR and the Union of Cooperatives with efficient irrigation system

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AID has a new concept for a tropical energy farm to produce agricultural produce and energy side by side in synergy. The agriculture will provide energy raw materials and the energy will support agro-processing and added value.

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AID wants to develop this concept to work with young talent from rural areas ad from agricultural training institutions, to give them new vision and trust and confidence that rural life can be a better source of income than destroying Mother Earth or going to Mali's cities or to abroad.

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Site of AID-SA, beside the lac of Selingue on 100 ha

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Guagala, 2,5 hours from Bamako

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The Energy Farm of Mali

- The Energy farm of Mali is on his way
- Activities started
- In two to three years, AID-SA will have his site completely build
- Ecotourism and training center
- Advocacy and lobbying environment for sustainable development policy in Mali
- Change the way how the rural area have been consider in African Development
- Less production, more added values

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Perspectives

- Established and operate the Energy Farm of Guagala;
- Establish Renewable energy cooling storage of patatoes, fruits and vegetable;
- Instal solar dryer for fruits and vegetable
- Power the farm with 100% RE (Solar, biomass and Wind)
- Have training Program for yound people

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Anicié, Thank you, Merci

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