



June 16, 2015

**Approval by mail: Burkina Faso: Local Forest Communities Support Program (FIP) (DGM)
(World Bank)- Comment from Global Forest Coalition**

Dear Mafalda,

Thanks for your email sharing the information about the deadline for comments on the Local Communities Support Project in Burkina Faso. We have two main concerns and comments about this project:

1. The definition of Forests provided by the Forestry Code of Burkina Faso seems to be vague and a very broad. This definition could lead, among other things, to confuse tree plantations with real forests. In fact, is mentioned that *planted areas almost tripled between 1999 and 2007*. We believe that the promotion of tree plantation is not necessarily linked to forest conservation and certainly not to conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.
2. What kind of forests would be planted in “mixed forests and woodlands”? It should be clearly stated the type of species that are planned to be used in mixed forests and woodlands. Otherwise, this lack of clarity could lead to the use of alien species that are ecologically harmful for the remaining natural landscape of Burkina Faso.

For all the aforementioned, we would strongly suggest asking for more details about these issues before this project is further considered as a FIP project.