



MANSA CARBON

# GUA TELIMAN PROJECT

EMPOWERING RESILIENT  
COMMUNITIES IN RURAL MALI



## MORE INFORMATION

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## WHO WE ARE

Mansa Carbon operates the *gua teliman* (fast cookstove) project in Southern Mali, registered with Gold Standard GS12891.

Since 2023, we have already empowered nearly 20,000 women in rural areas to have total agency over the most effective way to foster local climate resilience – improved cooking.

We are a team of young Malians of diverse ethnic backgrounds, permanently embedded in our communities, striving for improved social and environmental outcomes.

## OUR POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

Although we measure our carbon impact through Gold Standard's cookstove methodology, we are not a generic cookstove project.

Rather than a model of mass distribution of a manufactured device, we focus on what is appropriate for our communities.

Our focus is on training women to build a fit for purpose mud brick stove to replace the inefficient, smoky, three stone fire. This approach greatly improves usage and therefore impact.

We combine regular community exchanges with digital technology for innovative and thorough MRV.





## WHY MALI?

While the excitement in global carbon markets is increasingly on bilateral agreements between countries, what does this mean for countries like Mali who don't presently have the political capacity for such structures?

One of the compelling mechanisms of global carbon markets is channelling funds from the global north to least developed countries (LDC) who are often at the front line of climate change.

Mali is one such country – straddling the Sahel where erratic weather patterns directly impact vulnerable communities. With a restless, rapidly increasing population, the imperative for climate resilience has never been greater.

## WHY TARGET COOKING PRACTICES?

Mali is a landlocked country with a challenging political situation. Population growth is amongst the highest in the world, fuelling increasing demand for charcoal and raw firewood. The political and geographic situation therefore rules out any projects with high capex, as well as mangrove regeneration and afforestation.

Addressing cooking practices, if done correctly, has an instant impact (-70% firewood use), enduring social co-benefits and, in Mali's case, protects its most valuable species, *Vitellaria paradoxa* (the shea nut tree).

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE, COMMERCIAL IMPACT

Just as mangroves are nature's best defence against coastal erosion, the shea tree's extensive root system is Mali's best defence against terrestrial erosion. The best way to protect it is to reduce demand for firewood.

Unlike Mali's main agricultural export, cotton, shea products require no ag chemicals and therefore have a high profit margin, paid to women harvesters.

The social and commercial consequences of the project are profound. Women spend less time collecting firewood and hence have more time to collect and process organic shea. This results in a better standard of living and more money for the local economy.

## OFFSETTING IMPACT, ENABLING ENDURING CHANGE

The vast gold and lithium mines of Mali are an important source of revenue for the Malian Treasury as well as shareholders of international mining companies.

Scope 1&2 emissions for each product annually amount to several million tCO2e, dwarfing the carbon offsets the gua teliman project can generate. This is a powerful example of how carbon finance provides the required mechanism to foster enduring, genuine benefits to LDC communities.

