

Evaluation summary

Combating Desertification through Support for Pastoralism in the Ferlo

Country/Countries: Senegal

Topic: Forests and Agriculture

Assessed by: **SalvaTerra**

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Key FFEM support data

Project name: Ega Egga

Project number: CSN 1469

Amount financed by the FFEM: 1 650 000 EUR

Project grant date: 3/07/2015

Duration: 5 years (2016-2020)

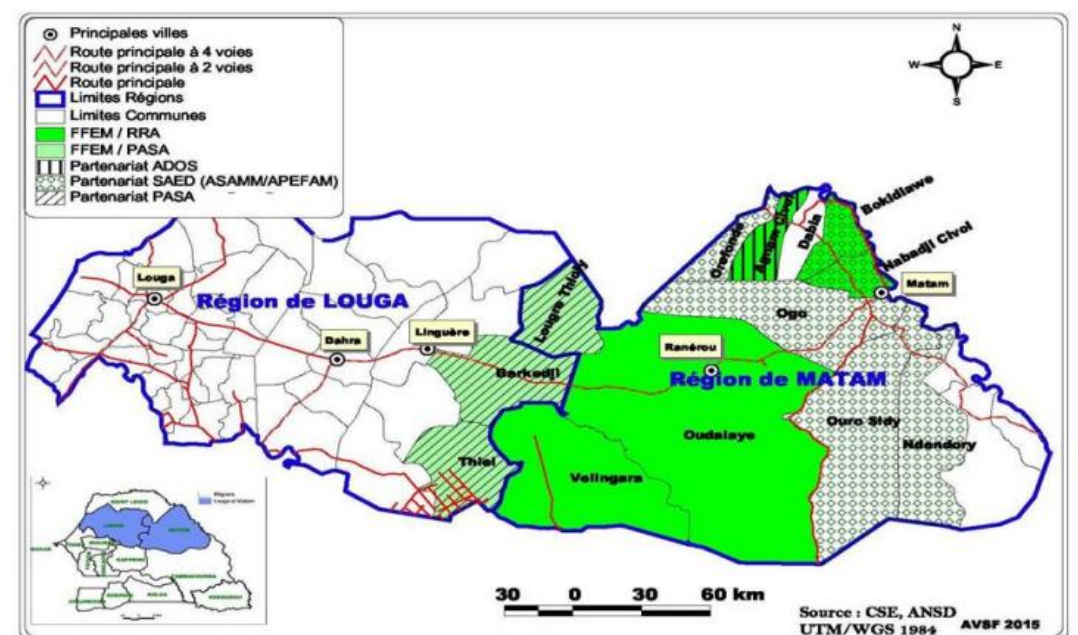
Context

In Senegal, livestock farming contributes 4% to the gross domestic product, and 30% of the population depends on livestock products. The sector is essential for the country's food security. The main livestock area is the Ferlo, a semi-arid territory covering 40% of the country and accounting for two-thirds of the national herd. The local pastoral system is characterized by shared access to space and natural resources: pastures, water, and wood.

Over the past few decades, many deep boreholes have been drilled in the region, profoundly changing the area's economy: agro-pastoral populations have gradually settled, started exploiting forage resources year-round, and begun cultivating the lands around the boreholes. Due to climate changes in the Sahelian zone and increasing pressure on resources (expansion of cultivated areas, overgrazing, increase in bushfires), resource degradation and progressive desertification are observed in some areas of the Ferlo.

Participants and operating methods

Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF), an international solidarity association recognized as a public utility, was responsible for both project ownership and implementation.



Objectives

Main objective

Improve the management of pastoral resources in the Ferlo region and the Senegal River Valley, and combat desertification in this region particularly vulnerable to climate change.

Specific objectives

- Support collective management of pastures through "Pastoral Units" (Unités Pastorales or UP)
- Organize and network local actors for better resource management
- Provide technical support and promote diversification of economic activities

Performance appraisal

Relevance

The project was deemed highly relevant. Indeed, it addresses the fundamental needs of the population by helping them sustainably manage pastures in a context of increased resource pressure; better prevent and manage conflicts amid a rising number and intensity of disputes, especially between indigenous and transhumant herders; strengthen their economic and nutritional autonomy in a context of poverty and chronic malnutrition; and adapt their pastoral practices to evolving conditions for greater resilience against climate disruptions.

Coherence

The project was considered coherent with ongoing dynamics in the territory, complementary to local actors, while integrating many innovations for continuous improvement of practices.

Effectiveness

The project demonstrated real effectiveness. Notably, the characterization of the 26 Pastoral Units (UP) was well conducted through a participatory, concerted approach that allowed better ownership of roles and responsibilities by Committee members and community buy-in. This led to the operationalization of the UPs.

Efficiency

The project was judged overall efficient.

Impact

The project has already demonstrated significant impacts. Moreover, support for the creation of communal Federations of UPs will strengthen coherence and experience-sharing between UPs. Support for revitalizing regional Federations of UPs will enable advocacy roles. Despite support from partner Farmer Organizations (OP), the support period for the Federations was too short for them to fully assume their roles.

Viability/Sustainability

The project's sustainability still needs to be secured, although reflections are underway. The main current challenge is ensuring the continuation of UP activities. In past projects, UPs have often lacked dynamism and effectiveness once the project ended.

Added value of FFEM support

FFEM enabled an integrated and innovative approach. Beyond supporting the UPs, the project incorporated new innovative and integrated activities targeting a broader and more diverse audience.

Recommendations & learnings

1. Support the sustainability of the Pastoral Units (UPs)
2. Strengthen the durability of the UP Federations
 - Enhance their capacities (advocacy, financial and administrative management)
 - Clarify their functioning among themselves and with the Ups
 - Support the establishment of a national-level tier for UPs, integrated within MEPA (Ministry of Livestock and Animal Production)
 - Build alliance strategies between the UP Federations, livestock farmers' organizations (OP) already involved in supporting UPs, DIRFEL (Regional Directorate of Women in Livestock), and MDE (House of Livestock Farmers)
3. Support the scaling-up of initiatives led by the project
 - Share AVSF's feedback and lessons learned with operational partners and local actors (OP, UP, Federations, DIRFEL, MDE, etc.) through workshops, including in local languages, and through dissemination of capitalization documents (translated into local languages when relevant)
 - Develop educational videos in local languages aimed at communities, easily watchable on mobile phones and accessible from a single website, to support capacity building of agro-pastoralists in the addressed areas
4. Support phase 2 of the SPAI tool (Pastoral Alert and Information System of Ferlo)
5. Project management
 - Ensure the retention of the existing project team until the start of the next project; indeed, the funding gap following the Ega Egga project raises concerns about losing part of the team
 - FFEM and AFD: support AVSF in leveraging its experience and the many positive project outcomes to seek funding to support the next sustainability phase

