



OUTCOME STORY FOR SENEGAL

The establishment of pastoral corridors and management committees in Senegal



Summary of the change

In Senegal, there is a growing interest in nature-based solutions to combat land degradation, improve livelihoods, and adapt to climate change. Sustainable agriculture, forestry, fishing, and livestock herding play a vital role in achieving these goals, especially for the rural population, which accounts for over 61% of the country's population. However, various pressures on land, tree resources, and water, coupled with weak or absent local governance frameworks, have led to conflicts between farmers and herders. Pastoralism management has emerged as a challenge to land restoration efforts (Regreening Africa, 2022), including through Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)ⁱ. Additionally, pastoralists and their animals, settled as guests in one village, can cause damage in neighbouring villages by cutting trees and destroying crops, without a formalised communication channel to mitigate potential disputes. These frequent conflicts threaten social peace in the groundnut basin.

The municipality of Touba Mbella, in the Keur Mbouki district of the Kaffrine region, is one of the largest pastoralist hosting zones in the country. To address these complex grazing issues, the Regreening Africa programmeⁱⁱ, implemented by World Vision Senegal, facilitated a participatory and multi-stakeholder process that resulted in the creation of five local committees for the integrated management of pastoralism, grazing, and agroforestry systems. These committees, consisting of village chiefs and local leaders, oversee and enforce regulations regarding the arrival and settlement of pastoralists and their flocks in the area. The committee members volunteer their services and receive support from the local government when needed. This cross-village, multi-stakeholder committee approach has proven effective in mitigating farmer-herder conflicts, promoting social peace, and incentivizing FMNR practices.

ⁱ Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) involves the selective pruning and management of naturally regenerating trees and shrubs from stumps, roots, and seeds in the soil to restore land at low cost. Land managers can select the trees and shrubs they wish to remain on their land during field preparation and prune the shoots and protect them to allow them to grow.

ⁱⁱ Regreening Africa is an ambitious five and a half year (2017-2023) programme supported by the European Union. Implemented by World Agroforestry (ICRAF) and a consortium of organisations including World Vision, Catholic Relief Services, Oxfam, Care and Sahel Eco, the programme aims to reverse land degradation among 500,000 households across 1 million hectares in eight Sub-Saharan African countries. By integrating trees into croplands, communal lands, and pastoral areas, Regreening Africa seeks to improve smallholder livelihoods, food security and resilience to climate change. The programme leverages science and research to measure impact, enhance social inclusion and livelihood efforts, and creates a sustainable enabling policy environment for land restoration at national and sub-national levels.



Context

Touba Mbella municipality, located in the Keur Mbouki district of the Kaffrine region, lies within the groundnut basin in Senegal, an area characterised by extensive farming and agroforestry systems. The area is also a significant destination for pastoralists from both within the country and neighbouring countries in search of pasture for their livestock. The diverse land use and ecosystem services present numerous implications for both the people, their livelihoods, and the environment (Camara et al., 2021). However, conflict often arises when pastoralists arrive during the rainy season, damaging young crops or when the harvest season is underway, resulting in disputes with farmers. The absence of a formal platform or means of appeal exacerbates these issues, leading to violent disputes between farmers and pastoralists. Such conflicts discourage the practice of FMNR as young trees may also be cut or grazed. Recognizing these challenges, the mayor of Touba Mbella municipality reached out to World Vision Senegal under the Regreening Africa programme, seeking assistance in finding a solution.



Description of the outcome process

The creation of local committees for pastoralism management in Touba Mbella municipality resulted from a participatory and multi-stakeholder process. World Vision Senegal engaged in discussions with key stakeholders, particularly traditional, religious, and local elected authorities due to their influence in the communities to gather their opinions on pastoralism management and potential solutions to address the issues. These discussions highlighted the need for further dialogue at the village and cross-village levels and the opportunity to create a formal multi-stakeholder platform that provides clear guidance on pastoralism regulations in the municipality. Consequently, a workshop was held at the Touba Mbella town hall in June 2021. The workshop aimed to analyse the causes and consequences of free grazing livestock in the area, establish local committees for pastoralism management, and discuss the roles and operational modalities of these committees.

As a result of the workshop, a total of five committees were formed, representing clusters of seven to nine villages out of the 37 villages in the municipality. Each committee comprises village chiefs and local leaders selected during the workshop. These committees oversee the reception and orientation of incoming pastoralists and play a role in dialogue and conflict resolution related to pastoralism. Committee members volunteer their services and can receive support from the mayor in challenging situations.

The issue of transhumance and animal wandering has been widely addressed in the intervention area, including the Gossas department of the Fatick region. Other initiatives supporting the effective management of pastoralism pertain to the creation of local conservation areas. For instance, in Kaffrine's municipality of Katiotte, four villages collaborated with the head of the forest sector to release lands for protection. The mayor provided agreement through the signing of the decision. Subsequently, committees were formed around the conservation/protection areas as part of the programme. In Fatick, specifically in the commune of Fimela (Marlodj), village committees have been revitalised to manage the natural resources of Marlodj Island.

Rangeland identification missions were carried out in collaboration with sub-prefects, mayors, resource persons, religious representatives, and representatives of the herders. The demarcation of these areas was conducted by the communities with the support of technicians, leading to increased social cohesion and reduced conflict. For example, in Kaffrine, the districts of Katakell and Gniiby benefited from the demarcation of these cattle routes, with the support of the head of the regional program for local development.



Significance of the outcome

The establishment of committees as a tool for effective pastoralism management in the area is significant as it provides clear rules and guidance, promoting social peace and environmental preservation. Pastoralists now have a designated area for grazing their cattle and clear guidelines, including Dos and Don'ts related to fields under FMNR. Enforcing the rules and related sanctions will help reduce conflicts, as mentioned by the deputy prefect during the establishment of the committees. The Regreening Africa programme has been commended for providing technical and financial support to this initiative, and the committees are expected to contribute to reducing farmer-herder conflicts and the associated complaint cases. The mayor expressed his satisfaction that the municipality is closer to finding a durable solution for improved pastoralist-farmer relations and aspires for the committees to serve as a model for effective pastoralism management in the area.

From another perspective, the creation of the committees represents a behavioural shift towards integrated and cross-village approaches to environmental management and conflict resolution. A wide range of stakeholders, including administrative authorities such as the Governor, Prefect, technical agents responsible for the environment, traditional and religious authorities, farmers (both men and women), and herders, supported the consultation processes and the establishment of the committees. This dialogue among stakeholders opens up new opportunities for social learning and collective action in the local environmental sector.

This transformation in governance and practices is a noteworthy innovation in the area, reflecting a heightened awareness among communities of their essential roles and responsibilities in decentralised environmental management. Specifically, this governance improvement is significant as it will help safeguard FMNR fields from unauthorised tree cutting and grazing. It will also contribute to the reduction of conflicts related to the environment and pastoralism, thereby fostering peace within communities. Moreover, this outcome promotes a more comprehensive and cross-village approach to pastoralism management, mitigating the displacement of pastoralism-related damages from one village to another. For instance, prior to the establishment of the committees, pastoralists settled in one village could cause crop destruction in neighbouring villages where their animals were not hosted, leading to conflicts that extended beyond individual disputes.





Contribution of Regreening Africa

The Regreening Africa programme, through World Vision Senegal, has played a crucial role by providing technical and financial support for the stakeholders' consultation processes and the workshop that led to the formation of the committees. The programme funded the workshop and covered the time of field technicians who assisted with the consultation processes.



Next steps

- ✓ World Vision Senegal will continue to enhance the capacity of committee members in integrated natural resources management and conflict resolution, ensuring their ability to carry on with their work beyond the programme's completion. The programme team is also extending this experience to other municipalities that have expressed a need for support. Advocacy efforts will be made with local governments to integrate FMNR and other land restoration practices, as well as the committee model, into local development plans. Continuous sensitisation and empowerment of religious leaders and authorities working with technical services will also be prioritised.

Suggested citation

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References

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- ² Regreening Africa. 2022. Pastoralism: Climate smart, effective grassland management. Regreening Africa Insights series volume 1. World Agroforestry, Nairobi, Kenya.



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