

# Communities Regreen the Sahel

Half year  
report  
2020

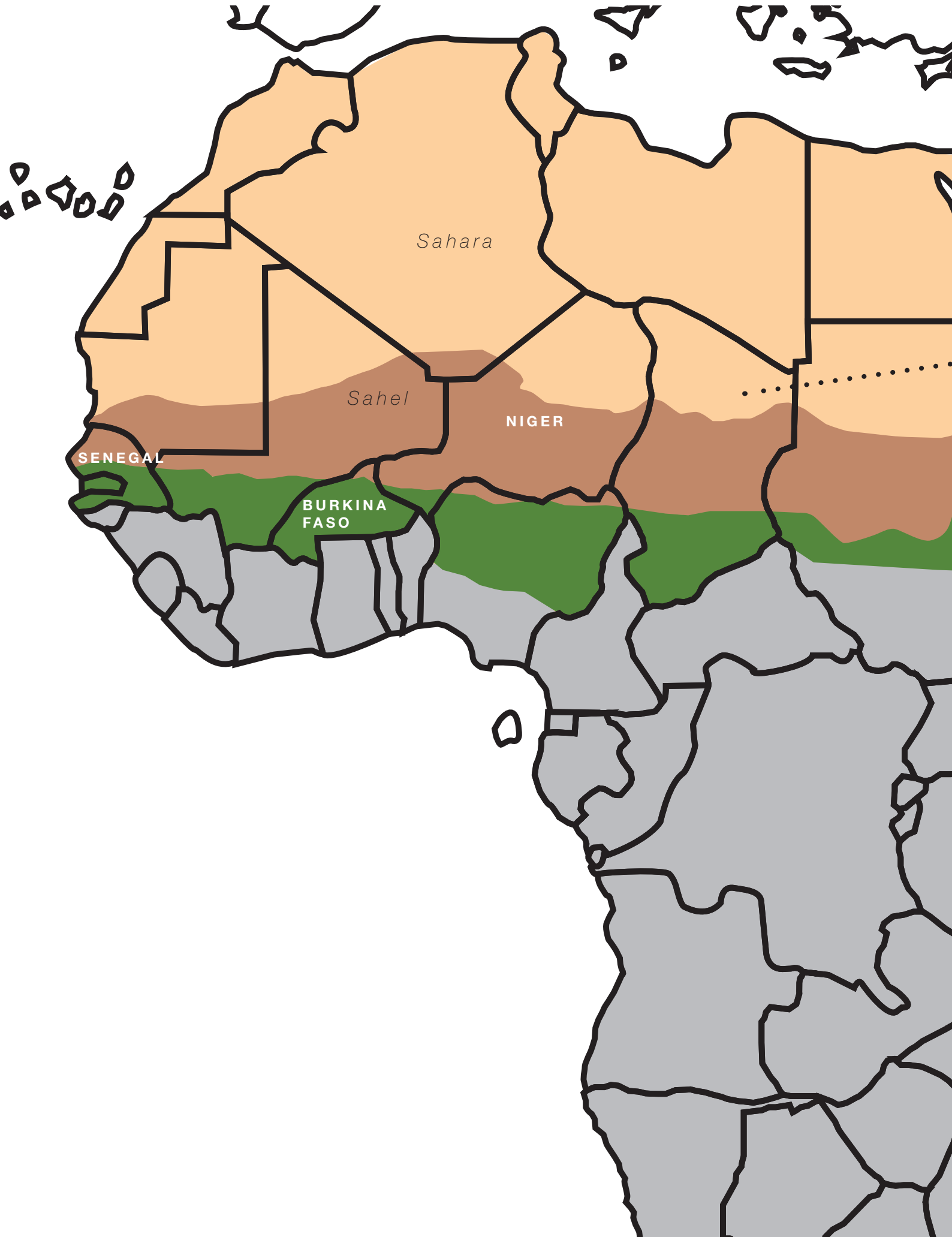


Half year  
report  
2020

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# Sahel



## Icons



Milestones



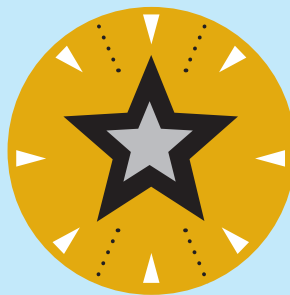
Collaborations



Preview



Budget / Finance



Specials



Policy



Personal stories



Region



Market

# Dear reader,

2020. What a 'year' this has been already, even though we are only halfway! We all started this year with loads of good energy. We were looking forward to evaluating the first phase of Communities Regreen the Sahel, to attending some very interesting international conferences and to continue working with increasingly better equipped and attuned teams. Fortunately, we had the chance to attend and participate in two important international conferences on agroecology, both held in Senegal. At the strategic regional [3AO meeting \(Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa\)](#), of which most of our partners are members, 31 organisations came together in Dakar to successfully develop a joint strategy to support the transition to agroecology and sustainable food systems in West Africa. This meeting was followed by the Senegalese Agroecology days, where the Senegalese multi-stakeholder platform DyTAES, led by ENDA Pronat and IED Afrique, pushes for the agroecological transition in Senegal. These days resulted in that president Macky Sall received a recommendation letter to accelerate this transition. After these inspiring conferences we started planning our external evaluation, but then COVID-19 shook the world...

***We all started this year with loads of good energy***



## REGREENING DURING COVID-19

Many African countries, including Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal, closed their international borders and areas around the big cities because of the global pandemic. This meant that our partners could not leave their own region or city for months. As frustrating as this was, our partners kept finding ways to keep the work going. In fact, this crisis pushed the whole consortium to think out of the box and to come up with creative ways to keep doing what needed to be done. The time and means we invested in connecting with locally-rooted, community-based organisations and building a large network around them, turned out to be well spent: it enabled most partners to continue training activities, although with limited numbers, and outreach to communities, even with the imposed restrictions in place.

In Burkina Faso, despite the growing violence and the difficulties that COVID-19 brought along, the team managed to quickly arrange the 'COVID-paperwork' that was needed to go back into the field and carry out support to local organisations, conduct FMNR trainings and meet with local authorities, to finish just in time before the start of the rainy season. In Niger, the team came up with new and strengthened partnerships with local radio stations, taking the opportunity to discuss the importance of trees and indigenous plants for traditional medicine and health: essential during a pandemic. The Niger team also had a

huge lobby success during the global pandemic: it managed to get an important Decree adopted by the state. More about this on page 9 of this report! In Senegal, the decision taken last year to add new local, community-based partner organisations to the consortium, especially in the very remote areas of Tambacounda, proved to be a great choice. Not just because local organisations adjust the approaches to FMNR and village committees to local needs, but also because Dakar was hermetically sealed for months, forcing the team to give online trainings through WhatsApp.

At Both ENDS we also had to adjust to this new situation. We have been working from home since March 16<sup>th</sup> and since we did not travel we could not execute the evaluation as we had wanted and hoped. However, not all is doom and gloom. We are happy to have welcomed our new team member Stefan Schüller, who joined the team in January 2020 and is responsible for the international lobby and advocacy. We have also found ways to increase and improve communication with the teams via Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp and other means.

We are happy and proud of the results and the progress the partners have made, despite all the current difficulties, and we are grateful for everyone's flexibility during the evaluation phase. We also see good things happening now that the rain started, and as Sayouba from APEDR (Yako, Burkina Faso) said: *"le sorgho donne beaucoup d'espoir"*.

We hope you enjoy reading this report.  
Kind regards, also on behalf of all teams,

**Roos Nijpels and Fiona Dragstra**

Co-coordinators

***In fact, this crisis pushed the whole consortium to think out of the box and to come up with creative ways to keep doing what needed to be done.***





ALGERIA

**NIGER**

MALI

CHAD

NIGERIA



# Niger



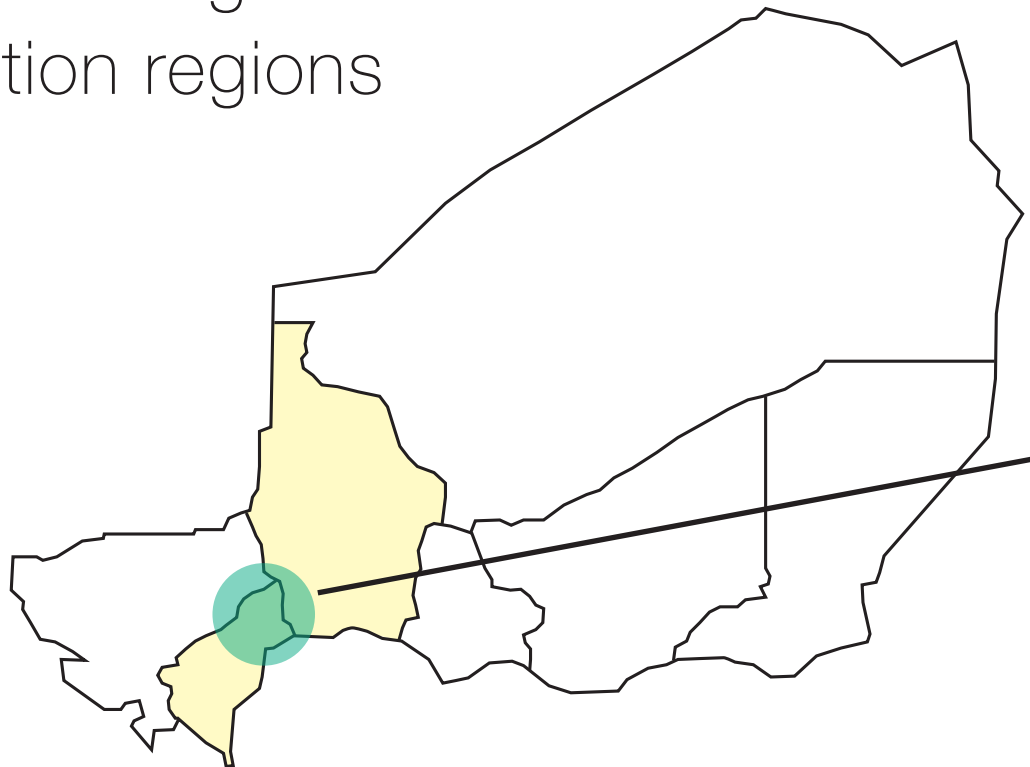
In Niger, most training and meeting activities had to be suspended because of the COVID-19 restrictions and social-distancing barriers. Fortunately, partners were able to carry out some activities such as the training of new village committees and the geo-referencing of fields under FMNR in the new sites. Next to monitoring the activities in the different communities and the continuous engagement with national and local government authorities, the team

focused on an awareness and advocacy campaign on COVID-19 and the role of trees in human health and environment together with strong and widespread local radio stations. Moreover, even during these strange times, the team in Niger's endless engagement with the Nigerien government resulted in a decree that exclusively promotes FMNR throughout Niger, officially signed and adopted by the State of Niger!

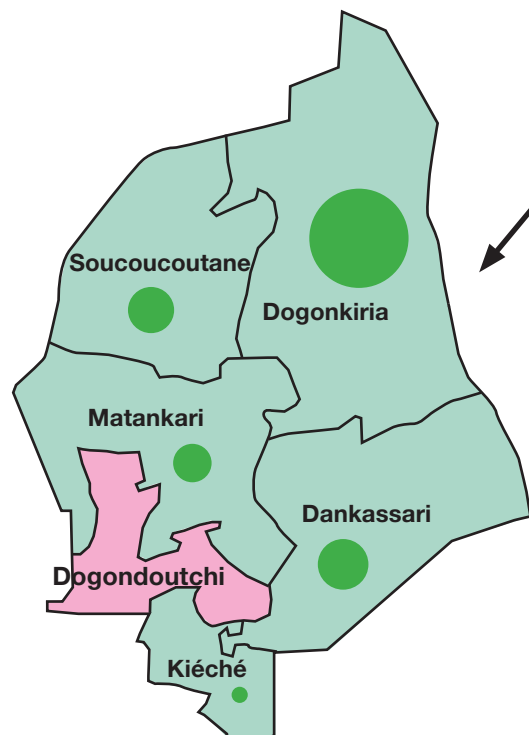


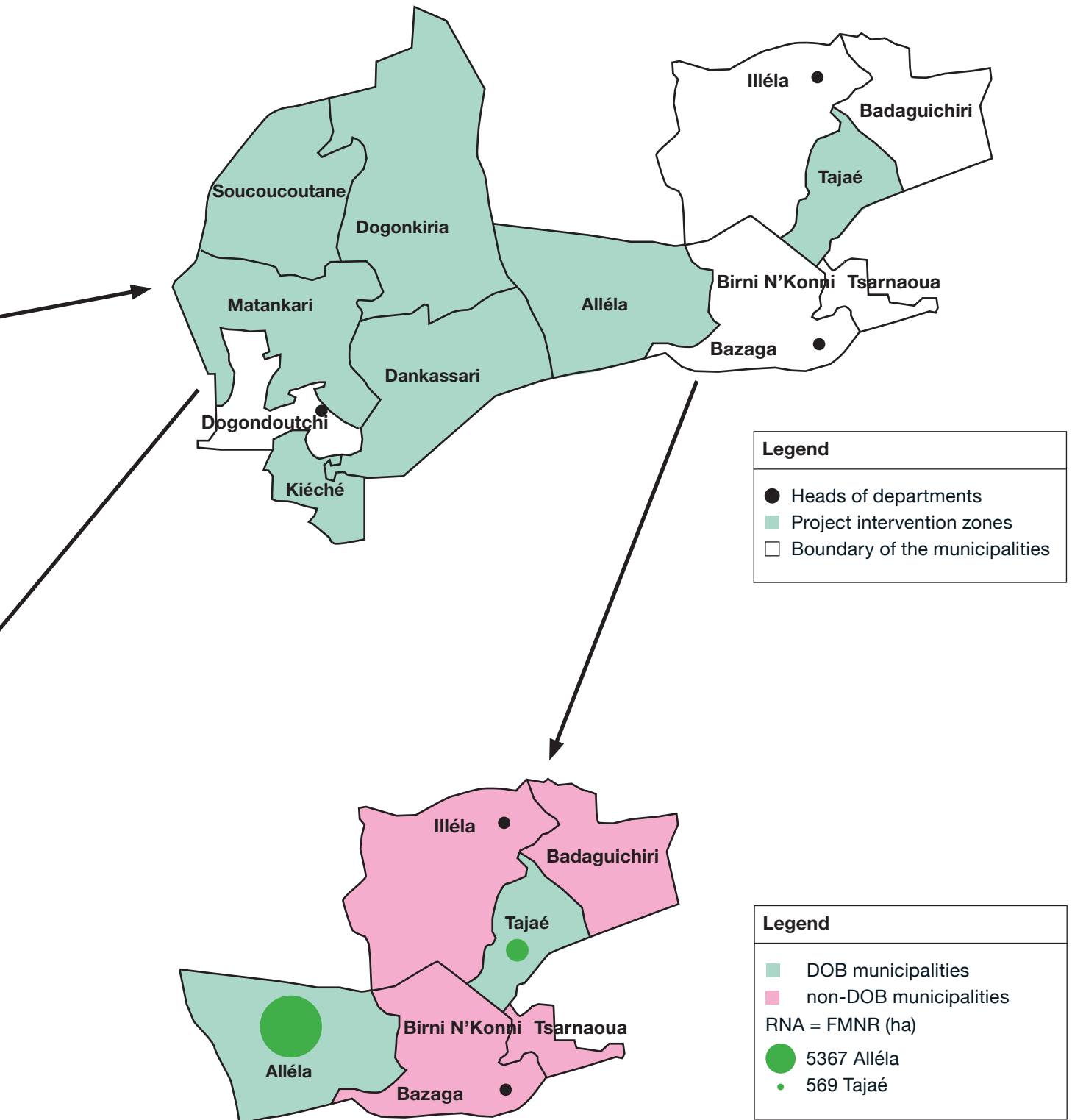
# Republic of Niger

## Intervention regions



Legend	
<span style="color: #8bc34a;">■</span>	DOB municipalities
<span style="color: #e91e63;">■</span>	non-DOB municipalities
RNA = FMNR (ha)	
<span style="color: #4caf50; font-size: 2em;">●</span>	9653 Dogonkiria
<span style="color: #4caf50; font-size: 1.5em;">●</span>	2764 Dankassari
<span style="color: #4caf50; font-size: 1.2em;">●</span>	2238 Soucoucoutane
<span style="color: #4caf50; font-size: 1em;">●</span>	1590 Matankari
<span style="color: #4caf50; font-size: 0.8em;">●</span>	294 Kiéché







**Programme goal 1: A total area of 200,000 hectares divided over Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal has been regreened by Farmer-led Regreening by and for communities**

	3 YEAR MILESTONE	BASELINE	RESULTS 2018	RESULTS JUNE 2019	RESULTS 2019	RESULTS JUNE 2020
Area regreened (ha)						
Area subject to regreening (ha)	20.000	0	13.688	19.205	22.475	29.646
Tree density per hectare	40-50	9-85	9-85	24-114	5-194	10-200
Trees diversity per hectare	5-10	2-38	2-38	2-24	2-34	4-35
Number of municipalities that implement regreening activities	7-8	5	5	7	7	7
Number of Village Committees (VC) established and strengthened	120-150	69	69	82	85	107
The overall ratio of women/men in the committees calculated as result of the ratio per VC	1/5	1/4	1/5	1/5	1.25/5	1/4
Number of (local) agreements between farmers and pastoralists established or strengthened	5-10	0	5	6	19	20
Number of farmers trained on FMNR direct by project partners	3.000	0	704	2.191	3.412	5.349
Number of farmers trained on FMNR indirect by peer-trainers	*	*	*	*	4.934**	6.841**
Number of farmers that have adopted FMNR	*	*	1.901	2.082	1.881**	3.256
Number of FMNR peer-trainers	*	*	*	12	52	52

\* not defined or not measured yet

\*\*not all data is measured yet. Figures show data that is available.



### Programme goal 2: There are laws, policies and support programmes in place in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal (local up to international) that support Farmer-led Regreening

	3 YEAR MILESTONE	BASELINE	RESULTS 2018	RESULTS JUNE 2019	RESULTS 2019	RESULTS JUNE 2020
Increased support for FMNR practices at international governance bodies and/or financial actors (like: GCF, UNFCCC, UNCCD, GEF)	*	*	*	4	5	6
Increased support for FMNR practices at local or national level	*	*	*	7	7	32
Proposals presented to national government and/or government agencies that support FMNR practices on a local or national level	*	*	*	4	4	5
Policy and budget measures introduced/improved at the (inter)national level supporting FMNR and/or good land governance. Done by regional and/or national authorities	*	*	1	1	2	2

\* not defined or not measured yet



### Programme goal 3: Farmers applying Regreening are organised and have access to markets for (added-value) Farmer-led Regreening products

Average yield (like: millets, sorghum and NTFPs) of farmers implementing FMNR practices	*	*	*	*	Millet & sorghum: 365 kg/ha Stems: 647 kg/ha Biomass for fodder fresh: 887 kg/ha Biomass for fodder dried: 743 kg/ha	65 tonnes of vegetables with a market value of 1 2.285.000 CFA.
Number of farmers applying FMNR with access to markets for their (added-value) products	*	*	*	3.856	3.856	3.856**
Number of farmers applying FMNR techniques that add value to their products	*	*	*	20	519	519**

\* not defined or not measured yet

# Results Niger



## FMNR IMPLEMENTATION

MBR organised an awareness raising caravan for stakeholders in four municipalities selected under the sponsorship of the administrative authorities, in this case the prefects of the two departments in which we are active. In each municipality, the various administrative, municipal and customary officials, officials from the environmental department (*Eaux et Forêts*) and the team from MBR intervened to raise awareness among the population on the importance of FMNR in relation to human- and environmental health. “The virtues of the tree, the roles that it plays on the agricultural, environmental, social and economic plan is of undeniable significance.” Next to this, MBR made people aware of COVID-19 and the measures for prevention. Local radio stations broadcasted the session simultaneously, and continue broadcasting the recorded messages periodically.

Also, the team held FMNR trainings, especially in the two new villages of Kiéché and Tajaé where over 135 and 178 new hectares were respectively added to the areas under FMNR since the start of this year. The team could also welcome 1,375 new adoptants of FMNR in the new communities alone, which spilled over to other communities, resulting in a total of over 4,769 new hectares. When adding these new numbers to what had been achieved already, over 29,646 hectares are subject to FMNR

practices since the beginning of Communities Regreen the Sahel in Niger.

Besides this great progress, it must be noted that there is still a huge gap between the access and ownership of land between man and women, where respectively 85% of men own land versus 15% of the women on average in the communities we work in. This issue is high on the agenda of the team in Niger but not an easy nut to crack. Next to the work on FMNR practices, the team set up 22 new villages committees and within an area of approximately 65 hectares, all seven municipalities are engaged in creating grazing spaces [*aires de pâturages*] under agreement between herders and farmers. Each site has its own monitoring committee that overlooks these areas.



## LOBBY & ADVOCACY

For the first time ever in Niger, the state government has adopted a decree on the exclusive promotion of FMNR throughout Niger! This is a huge accomplishment: the adoption of this decree shows how the State of Niger finally officially recognises the importance of this practice and the need to harmonise and generalise it with other land restoration and sustainable land use practices. This decree will exclusively promote FMNR on a much larger scale, and will of course anchor the efforts the farmers and our programme.



This act is a reward for all the efforts made by many actors, both public, para-public and private, including the actions supported in Niger by Both ENDS, particularly through Communities Regreen the Sahel. This is one of the results of the advocacy conducted between 2018 and 2019 towards the Government of Niger (see Reference Study on Laws and Policies on FMNR done in 2019, available upon request). The next steps in this process are to get the decree implemented throughout all levels of (decentralised) government bodies. The team will closely follow up on this.

In June 2020, the team in Niamey (ReSAD, CRESA and INRAN together with the Ministry of the Environment with Colonel Ibro Adamou) organised the *Advocacy Day on Regreening and Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)*. It was meant for the Council members of the Rural Development and Environment Commission and the agents of the Permanent Secretariat of the

Economic, Social and Cultural Council (CESOC) and chaired by the Vice-President of CESOC. The workshop brought together 30 council members, aiming to promote the implementation of the national strategy for FMNR in Niger. The idea is to make Communities Regreen the Sahel known more broadly, identifying ways and means to achieve the implementation of the Decree on FMNR and by appointing Goodwill Ambassadors for the regreening of the Sahel through FMNR.

The advocacy strategy aims to facilitate active participation and raise awareness among communities, political, customary and religious leaders and community stakeholders to better understand the issues related to regreening through the promotion of FMNR. Specifically, it focuses on political, financial and technical support from decision-makers on FMNR to enable a large number of stakeholders to benefit from the technical and financial expertise of partners.

The workshop focused on measures to improve legislation, support the elaboration of proposals for regulatory texts (decrees, decisions), and to regulate access to the fruits of certain forest species in agroforestry parks, taking into account the ecological or socio-cultural specificities of each region. It also aimed to reinforce the definition and adoption, by ministerial order, of appropriate standards for partial cutting and tree pruning on agricultural land. Moreover, it sought to support the development of a ministerial order determining tree densities according to species, capacity building measures for stakeholders in the field and elaborate and popularise a methodological technical guide for agents of the *Eaux et Forêts* to help them in their role of support and advice on FMNR.

Other support measures for regreening through FMNR were mentioned such as organising competitions for the best adopters

of FMNR in each community and for the best mayor or local council in terms of FMNR (with a budgetary bonus for example) and instituting the “Departmental Monitoring Days on FMNR”. For the implementation of the decree it is necessary to extend lobbying to other institutions of the Republic such as the National Assembly. It is also important to improve communication and popularise texts relating to FMNR and to align fund raising activities for FMNR with other development projects and programs such as PASEC (EU funding).

Apart from their work on FMNR and national level advocacy, the team in Niger wanted to do something to address the urgent issue of COVID-19 in the communities. After the initial barriers around Niamey became less stringent, the team decided to work on awareness raising in the communities about the pandemic. They organised an awareness raising *caravane* on the importance of vegetation in the prevention and control of diseases such as the coronavirus, supporting the idea that healthy people and communities are needed to initiate or continue the greening of the Sahel and emphasising the link between plants and environmental and human health.

The *caravane* started by contacting the administrative authorities and technical services and ensuring direct and indirect involvement of as many people as possible. They did so by involving one of the local radio stations *Dallol Doutchi*, and preparing simple and clear messages in Hausa that can



easily be understood by everyone. During these radio sessions and small community gatherings, partners and farmers together highlighted the importance of soil fertilisation, erosion control, animal feeding and the role of traditional medicine. Also, they focused on the link between vegetation and diseases in general, including coronavirus, and the importance of trees as air filters, thermal regulators (creation of microclimates), providers of micronutrients and vitamins and sources of medicines in modern and traditional medicine.

During the *caravane* over 1,560 people including 638 men, 385 women and 540 youth and children participated in the awareness raising sessions and an estimated 62,000 men, women, youth and children followed the messages of the *caravane* from a distance. An estimated 350,000 men, women, youths and children listened to the various broadcasts

of radio *Dallol Doutchi* for the remaining period. The campaign was highly appreciated by the administrative authorities, the technical extension services of Health and Environment as well as by the beneficiaries themselves. It also highlighted the importance of vegetation in general, thus motivating the population to protect and safeguard the few forest resources still available.





## MARKET ACCESS

### Municipality of Dogonkiria

Structures	Total put in place	Accredited *	Non-accredited **
Cooperatives	114	96	18
Unions	20	13	7
Federations	1	0	1

\* They have an act of recognition by the Town Hall

\*\* Files under study with the issuing agent

### Municipality of Soucoucutane

Structures	Total put in place	Accredited *	Non-accredited **
Cooperatives	54	54	0
Unions	12	8	4
Federations	1	1	0

\* They have an act of recognition by the Town Hall

\*\* Files under study with the issuing agent

In a number of new municipalities, HIMMA undertakes activities to promote the access to markets. Their team recruits and trains local facilitators [*animateurs*] on their approach to the market, market gardening techniques and collection of NTFPs. After this, they conduct an inventory of vegetation, NTFPs, actors and traditional market access methods. With this knowledge they create and support community structures such as groups (cooperatives), unions and federations so they can develop a market gardening production plan. Among these groups and structures they organise study trips and participation in fairs, train them in how to manage

community structures, process products and develop a product marketing plan.

Another important activity is the estimation of the production of vegetable crops for women cooperatives. Success from Soucoucutane shows that local conventions have been established that allow women to use a site for 30 years, so they can produce market gardening products. An evaluation of the income of 82 women from Soucoucutane shows how their production levels have resulted in an income of 12,285,000 FCFA (approximately 18,800 EUR). These 82 women think of investing this income



towards a diversification of income generating activities or to strengthen market access capacities for NTFPs.

Finally, under 'access to markets', the team plans to support farmers practicing FMNR through the use of *zaï* and half-moons, the supply of improved seeds of millet and sorghum and by encouraging the addition of manure to the structures. A first follow-up mission showed how the fields with *zaï*, half-moons and organic manure did not need extra sowing. Unlike the parts of the same untreated fields, the structures ensure better maintenance of soil moisture. Also, the crops of millet and sorghum in the fields with *zaï*, half-moons and organic manure grow rapidly compared to those on the untreated parts and have the best recovery and growth rates compared to fields treated with only half-moons. It shows how completely bare areas and ground cover that used to be unproductive are now areas of strong and rapid crop growth, where treated plants are more vigorous. Moreover, in the *zaï* and half-moons with organic manure, there is a diversity of young woody seedlings that grow and the dynamics of vegetation are livelier.



### COVID-19

From March 2020, Niger, like almost every country in the world, was affected by the global pandemic. This pandemic made the Government decide to impose preventive or barrier measures, which resulted in restrictions on movement. Niamey was placed in isolation. People from abroad were confined, and there were travel bans and border closures. The latter in particular affected the trade of food and other products between Nigeria and Niger, which has also impacted our partners and communities tremendously, especially in food supply.

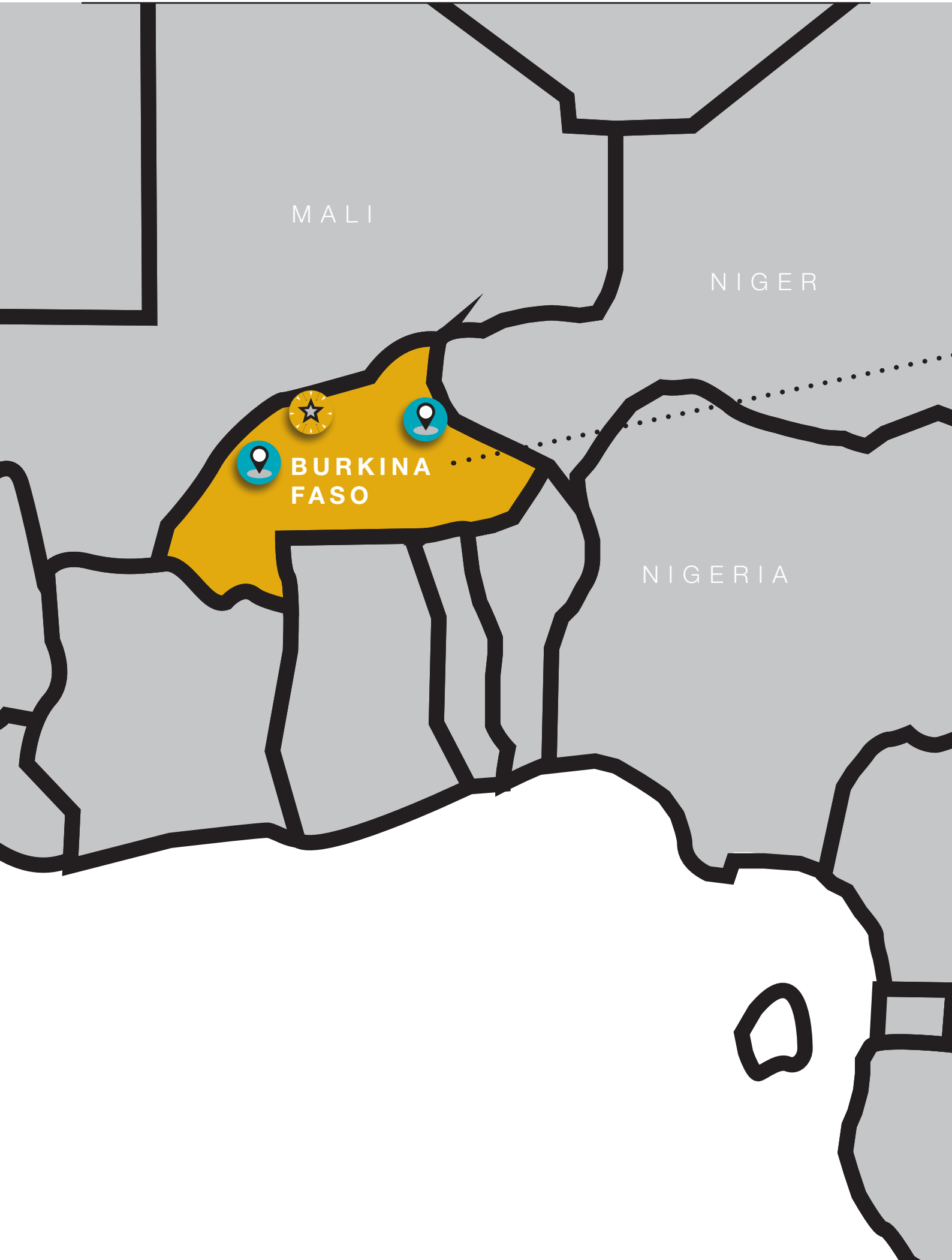


The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the implementation of activities planned during this semester. Thus, initial advocacy and media access activities were redirected towards awareness caravanes, and some exchange trips are planned for the second semester. Fortunately, partners were able to pick up a lot of the work immediately when internal borders started to open in May, and are working hard to make up for lost time.









MALI

NIGER

  
  
**BURKINA  
FASO**

NIGERIA

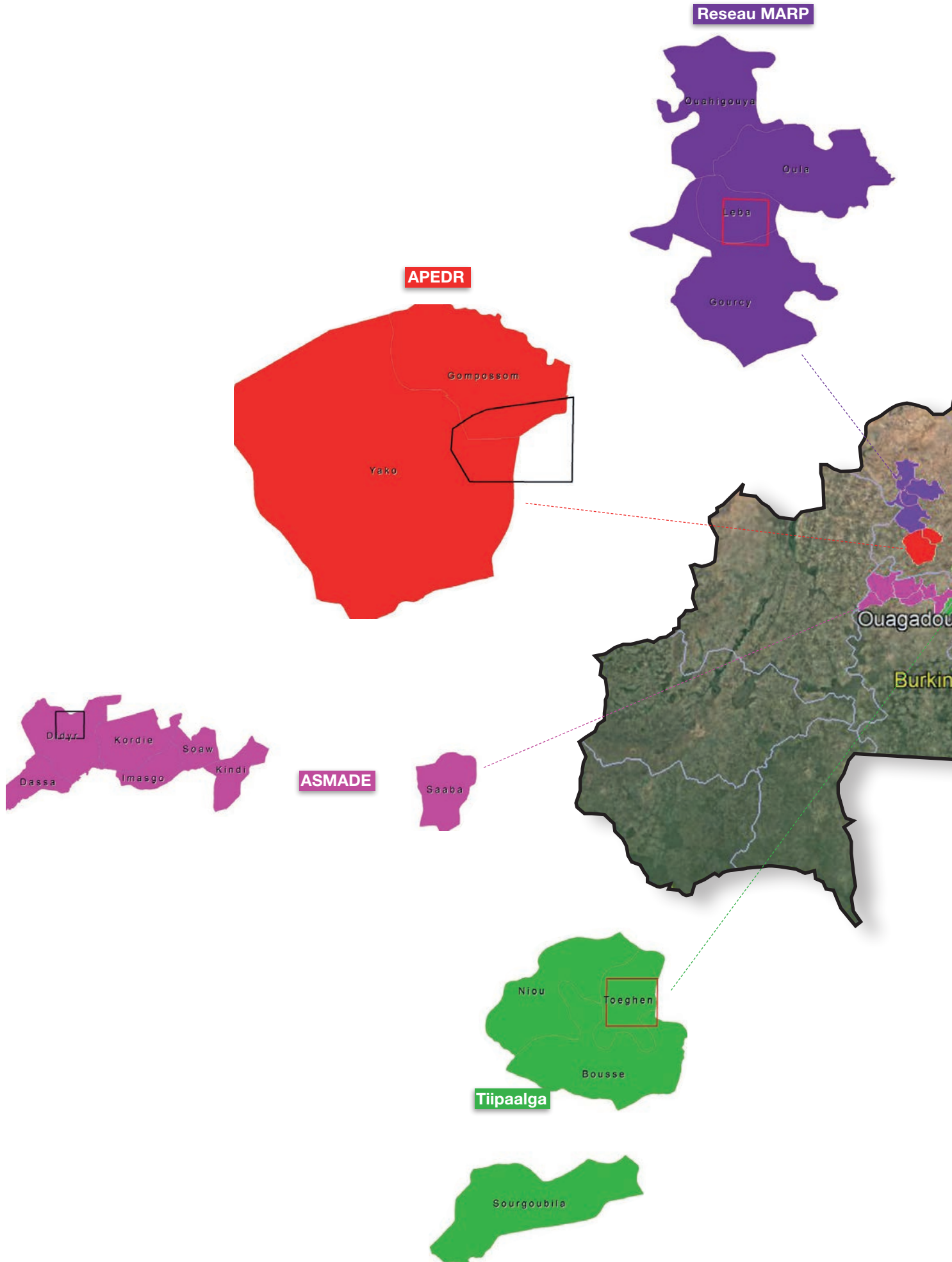
# Burkina Faso



The first months of 2020 started with many village meetings in order to run in on planned activities of 2019 and early 2020. However, after the first months of imposed lock-down in major cities, a curfew and travel bans, it became quite difficult to implement activities, and the organisations shifted their focus to informing communities and preventing the spread of COVID-19. The government asked some partners, especially SPONG as central network of NGOs, and APIL because of its large network of community-based organisations in the northern regions around Kaya, to support in information campaigns related

to sanitation and handing out of preventive goods like gloves, masks and sanitisers. Because of this position, SPONG was also able to quickly organise the needed paperwork for many of our partner NGOs in the Burkina team to go into the field and continue their work. Next to the difficulties due to COVID-19, Burkina Faso faces huge security challenges. The [UNOCHA reports](#) how worrying the humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso is in the current context of fight against COVID-19. In the beginning of June 2020, more than 921,000 people were registered as internally displaced. To date, more than 54% of the displaced are in critical need of shelter.

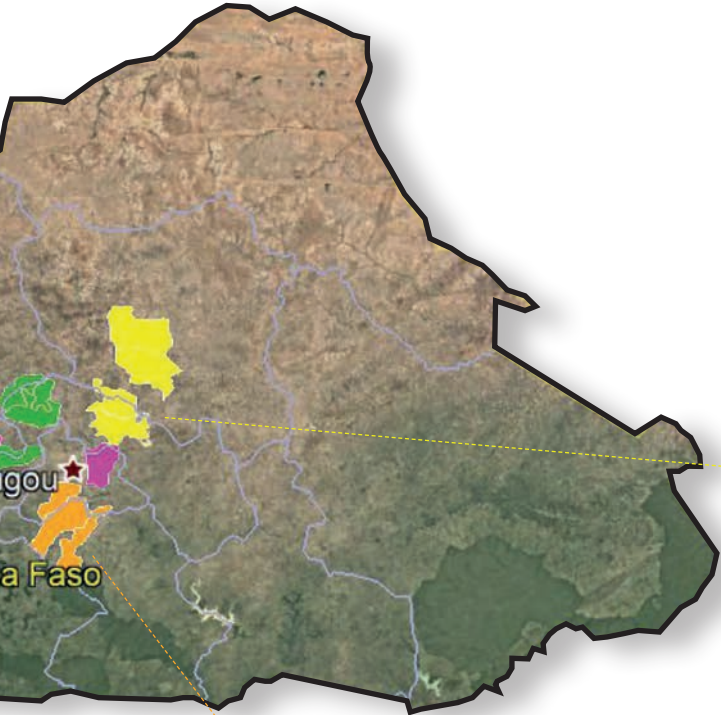






Legend	
■	Programme municipalities per partner
■	APIL
■	M.Ec.B
■	Tiipaalga
■	ASMADE
■	APEDR
□	Observatory site

In time we expect to be able to detail these maps with villages and regreened hectares



**\* Programme goal 1: A total area of 200,000 hectares divided over Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal has been regreened by Farmer-led Regreening by and for communities**

	3 YEAR MILESTONE	BASELINE	RESULTS 2018	RESULTS JUNE 2019	RESULTS 2019	RESULTS JUNE 2020
 Area regreened (ha)						
 Area subject to regreening (ha)	15.000	0	2.997	5.615	10.755	12.330
 Tree density per hectare	20-25	15-46	17	20	21	18-33
 Trees diversity per hectare	4-8	2-9	3	4	11	4-40
 Number of municipalities that implement regreening activities	4-6	22	14	18	15	19
 Number of Village Committees (VC) established and strengthened	50-80	37	44	82	167	152**
 The overall ratio of women/men in the committees calculated as result of the ratio per VC	1/5	1/5	1.15/5	1.66/5	1.42/5	1.5/5
 Number of (local) agreements between farmers and pastoralists established or strengthened	5-10	0	0	0	20	30
 Number of farmers trained on FMNR direct by project partners	2.000	0	0	3.311	4.577	8.142
 Number of farmers trained on FMNR indirect by peer-trainers	*	*	*	*	4.173**	8.538
 Number of farmers that have adopted FMNR	*	*	*	*	150**	3.445**
 Number of FMNR peer-trainers	*	*	*	*	169**	320

\* not defined or not measured yet

\*\*not all data is measured yet. Figures show data that is available.



**Programme goal 2: There are laws, policies and support programmes in place in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal (local up to international) that support Farmer-led Regreening**

	3 YEAR MILESTONE	BASELINE	RESULTS 2018	RESULTS JUNE 2019	RESULTS 2019	RESULTS JUNE 2020
Increased support for FMNR practices at international governance bodies and/or financial actors (like: GCF, UNFCCC, UNCCD, GEF)	*	*	1	1	3	17
Increased support for FMNR practices at local or national level	*	*	12	12	29	32
Proposals presented to national government and/or government agencies that support FMNR practices on a local or national level	*	*	4	6	17	28
Policy and budget measures introduced/improved at the (inter)national level supporting FMNR and/or good land governance. Done by regional and/or national authorities	*	*	*	0	0	12

\* not defined or not measured yet

**Programme goal 3: Farmers applying Regreening are organised and have access to markets for (added-value) Farmer-led Regreening products**

Average yield (like: millets, sorghum and NTFPs) of farmers implementing FMNR practices	*	*	*	*	Millet & sorghum: 666 kg/ha Biomass for fodder dried: 350kg/ha Bio charcoal: 750kg / ha	750 kg/ha
Number of farmers applying FMNR with access to markets for their (added-value) products	*	*	*	*	1.477	1.477**
Number of farmers applying FMNR techniques that add value to their products	*	*	*	*	102	320

\* not defined or not measured yet

# Results Burkina Faso



## FMNR IMPLEMENTATION

Even though some of the work in the communities was impossible in March, April and May, most partners have been active in FMNR trainings and practices.

ASMADE held training sessions for 200 participants (of which 15% was female) in 4 municipalities in Boulkiemde, 3 municipalities in Sanguie and in the municipality of Kadiogo. They used both theoretical and practical methods, not only focusing on FMNR but also on the relation between climate change, water erosion and soil degradation. For further implementation and dissemination of the trainings, they set up 40 new village committees. The participation of women remains a big challenge as most men do not allow their wives to participate in the training sessions. Therefore, ASMADE will do more awareness trainings and require a minimum number of women to attend general trainings.

Fortunately, starting end of May activities in the field were possible again. APEDR supported producers with zaï and half-moons to restore large tracts of degraded community farmland. With the first rains of mid-June, they immediately planted sorghum and peas. This method, combined with the use of organic manure in the zaï and half-moon pockets, enables farmers to reclaim bare land and improve soil fertility. The manure is a good fertiliser, but also holds the seeds of both annual and perennial crops, which increases

both natural regeneration and farmers' production. Among the species that regrow are moringa and baobab (leaves used in local dishes) and fruit trees (mango and guava). APEDR monitored that the survival rate of these species is above 70%. Now that the trees are growing, farmers want to know more about how to prune these trees, make stone bunds for water retention and gather organic manure for zaï and half-moons. A specialist from INERA therefore trained over 800 producers in villages of the municipalities of Yako and Gomponsom. The sites have sparked much enthusiasm in the regions and therefore also other associations (more than 200 producers) have visited the sites of APEDR to exchange, learn and bring back the experiences to their respective areas.

FMNR implementation and good functioning village committees need regular support by (re) training during the first years. Therefore APIL, APEDR and MeCB retrained over 26 village committees on their roles and responsibilities. Besides that, our partners give advice during the monthly meetings that are held by the committees to get into topics such as, FMNR in general, how to allow seedlings and stumps to grow, and pruning techniques.

Réseau MARP, Tiipaalga and APIL trained farmers, herders and traditional village chiefs on greening techniques, including FMNR, tree planting of indigenous trees and other erosion control measures. The positive side-effect of these trainings was that they brought together herders,



customary chiefs and land chiefs, allowing them to reconcile and align agro- and sylvo-pastoral actions and greening in the villages.

In order to support the action-research, INERA worked together with the Joseph Ki-Zerbo University of Ouagadougou to develop research protocols for the monitoring of the observatories. For this purpose, INERA recruited four students who will be stationed with the different partners. INERA organised introductory sessions with the host organisations (Tiipaalga, ASMADE and MEcB) during which the students exchanged with the technical teams to learn more about the development objectives. Because of the travel restrictions, up until now data collection has only been done at the observatory of Réseau MARP, entailing an area of 100 km<sup>2</sup>, straddling the province of Zondoma and Yatenga.

**Zoenabo  
Sawadogo,  
NTFP-producer  
from Bourbo,  
municipality of  
Oula**



“I think the time is not right for accusing each other between Mossi and Fulani men and women. We need to find solutions to all these problems.”



### LOBBY AND ADVOCACY

The adoption and ownership of FMNR by local and regional authorities is key to enable this method to successfully spread. Although this remains very challenging, APIL keeps advocating for the municipalities to integrate the practice of FMNR into the Communal Development Plans (PCD) and the Regional Development Plans (PRD).

At individual level there are also challenges to overcome. In Burkina Faso and especially the area of Bissiga Yarcé in the municipality of Zitenga many individual farmers are currently selling their agricultural land, which leave gaps between communal farmland and family farmland. This hampers the spread of FMNR and the land- and ecosystem regeneration it promotes, as land ownership and collective understanding of the importance of FMNR is crucial for its success in the long term. Producers thus need to be made aware of the disadvantages of selling agricultural land and of the rights and options they have to secure their land.

After having received a training by the Regional Directorate of Agriculture on Law 034 on rural land tenure, the APIL technical team went to 16 villages to inform farmers about it. The scope and the importance of the law were explained, as well as the law on land security in rural areas, which regulates the diversity of actors, areas of occupation and the prevention and management of conflicts. Farmers were interested to learn that they can use these laws to secure their land and avoid and even manage land disputes. During these sessions, some farmers also admitted that they are reluctant to invest in FMNR because they lease and not own the land they work on. They fear that overnight the landowner may reclaim his land, which will make them lose their investment in FMNR.

At international level no lobby and advocacy activities have taken place since most conferences were cancelled. Nonetheless, some partners participated in webinars and conferences concerning the Great Green Wall, the UNCCD processes and the Green Climate Fund.

## MARKET ACCESS

Even though most of the plots are too prematurely regreened to have a production that allows considerable sales, some partners develop local market actions. Most of these activities, mainly the selling of NTFPs harvested in the wide region, are led by women.

In Bissiga, a local women group harvesting and processing NTFPs has set up a sales shop. In Ziniare APIL trained 30 women on the use and processing of certain NTFPs such as *Parkia biglobosa* or *Néré* (Roaaga in Mooré) whose grains are used to make *soumbala* for various local dishes, *Adansonia digitata* or Baobab whose fruits are used to make juice and cookies, and *tamarindus indica* or Tamarinier (Pusga in Mooré), the fruits of which are used to make juice.

The techniques of the processing of NTFPs can be applied at home, which makes it easier for women to start with it, generate some income and potentially start a business. Some women that attended the trainings were part of the cooperative of transformers and sellers of NTFPs “*Yamwekre*” in Ziniaré. This cooperative is a potential wholesale buyer for the larger group of women that have benefitted from Communities Regreen the Sahel. The cooperatives has promised to buy the NTFP products of the trained women and resell them in the city.



**Aminata Ouedraogo,**  
producer member  
of the village  
committee of FMNR  
in Fili, municipality  
of Ièba

“I am curious and it is this curiosity that has enabled me to learn a lot of things such as agricultural clearing techniques, half-moons, zaï, stone bunds, staggered zaï and earthen ridges. I know that on my return home I will be an ambassador to those who have not had the chance to participate in this training. We thank our technical and financial partners for the donation of equipment from which we have benefited. They will go a long way to help us in the practice of FMNR.”



## COVID-19

All of our project partners have carried out sensitisation campaigns in the areas they work in and provided *lavabos* [hand washing dispensaries], face masks, liquid soap, sanitary cans and thermos-flashes to farmers and communities. Most of this equipment aims to avoid the spread of COVID-19 (and other diseases) and some is even mandatory by the government. Next to some of these hygienic measurements, partners also had to adhere to government imposed restrictions on community gatherings with a maximum of 50 people, and preferably less, especially when giving trainings and when having in-door meetings.

In order to reach out to as many farmers in the villages as possible, APIL provided the local communities in the regions of *Centre-Nord* and the *Plateau Central*, more specifically the municipalities of Kaya and Ziniaré, and the town halls of Kaya and Ziniaré with *lavabos* at all entries. This should especially protect the many internally displaced people in these municipalities. APIL was one of the NGOs that was asked by the government to also help in food aid distribution, while closely adhering to government rules and respecting social-distance barriers, wearing face masks and washing hands. The APIL team helped many of the internally displaced – over 100.000 people in Kaya alone – to understand the provided information and supported them at the same time.

Next to the necessary dissemination of information, some partners also resorted to some more long-lasting impacts and trained women in communities to manufacture organic liquid soap to wash their hands. The liquid soap is sold and used at home, but can also be attached to the *lavabos* that were distributed to the cooperatives and unions. APIL trained over 40 women to do this, and asked them to take their new skills home and teach others how to produce the soap at home and make it an income-generating activity.

Next to that some partners, like Réseau MARP, did awareness-raising radio broadcasts for the prevention of COVID-19, such as one on the radio *La Voix du Paysan* in Ouahigouya and another on *Savane FM* in Gourcy.



Salam Zorome,  
producer member of  
the FMNR committee  
of Sissamba,  
municipality of  
Ouahigouya

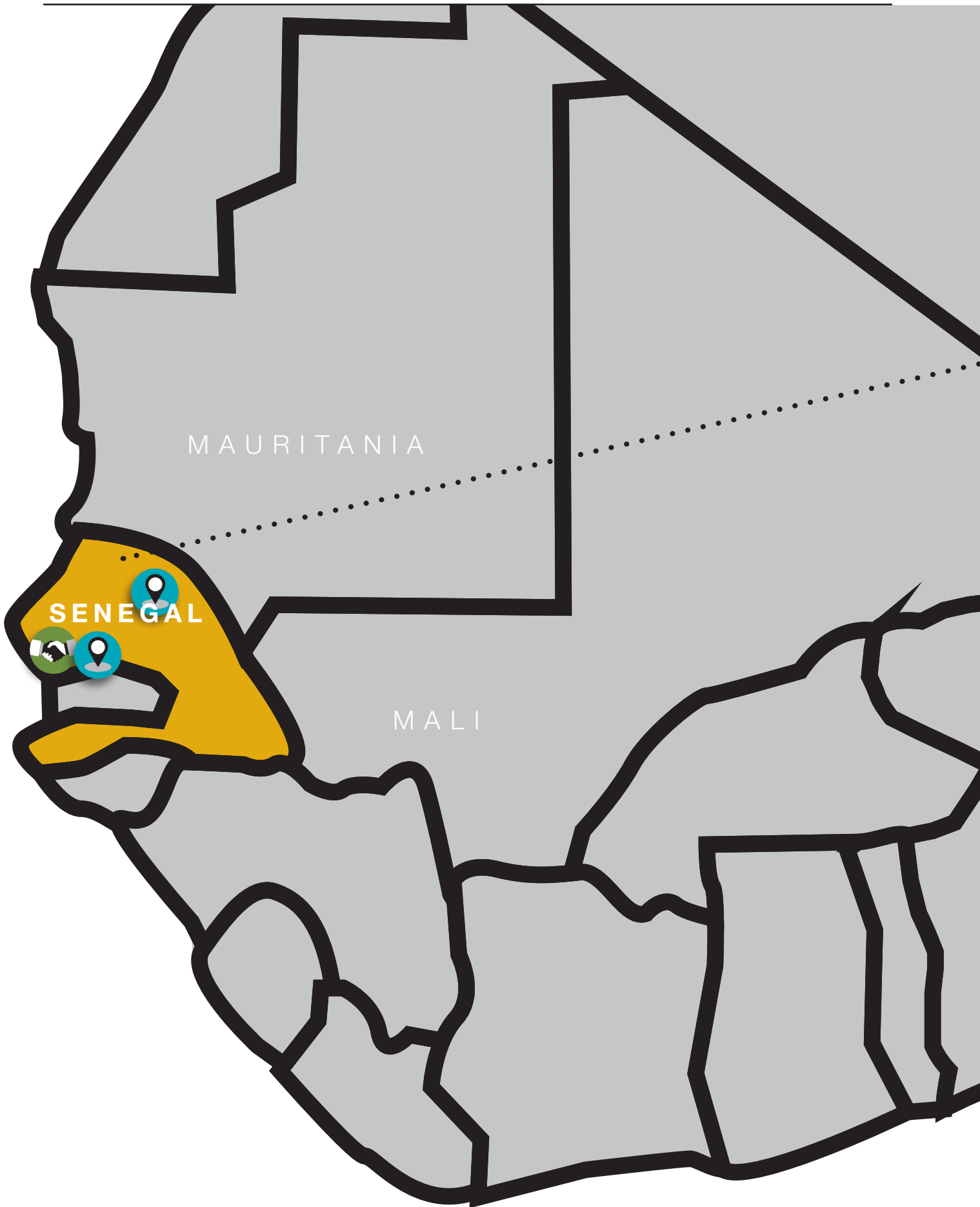


“We greatly appreciate this approach involving the local actors in the planning of project activities. This shows us that we also have value and a great responsibility. It is also an invitation for us to be more committed.”









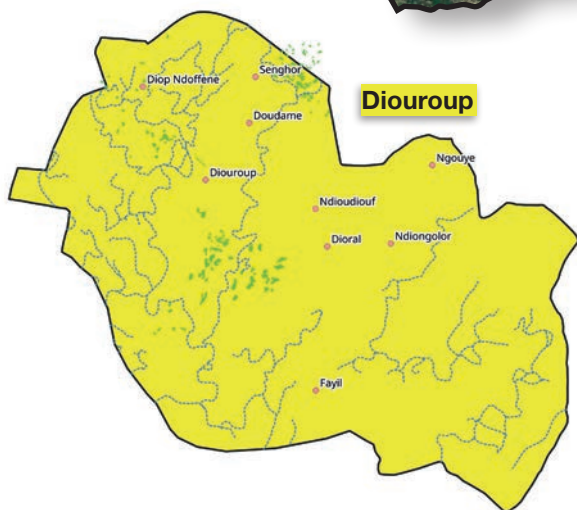
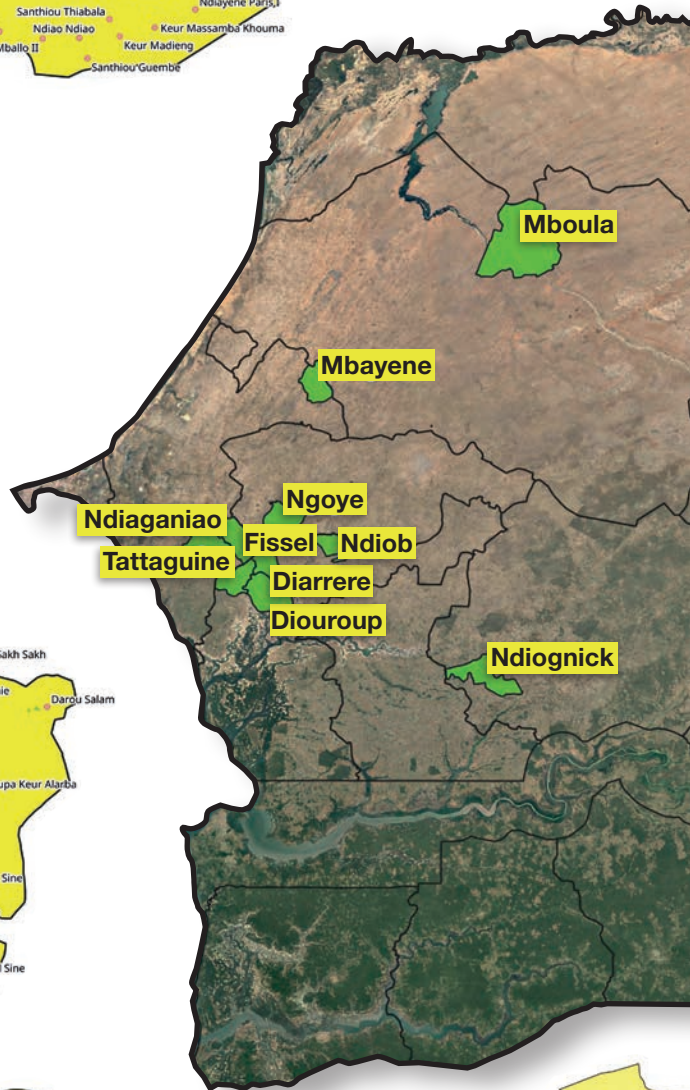
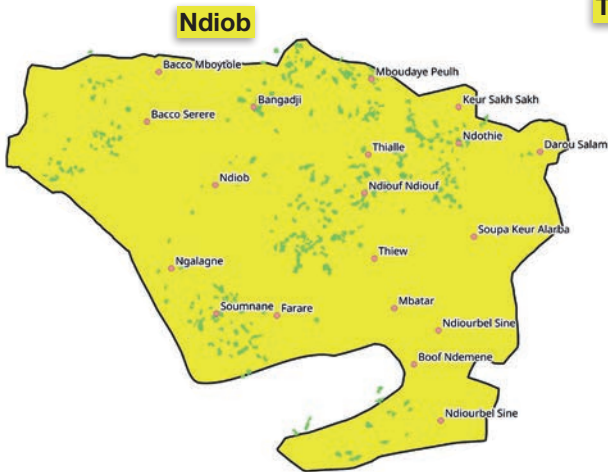
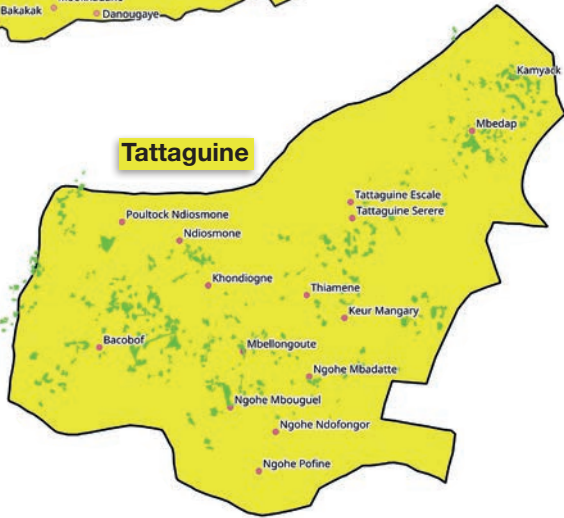
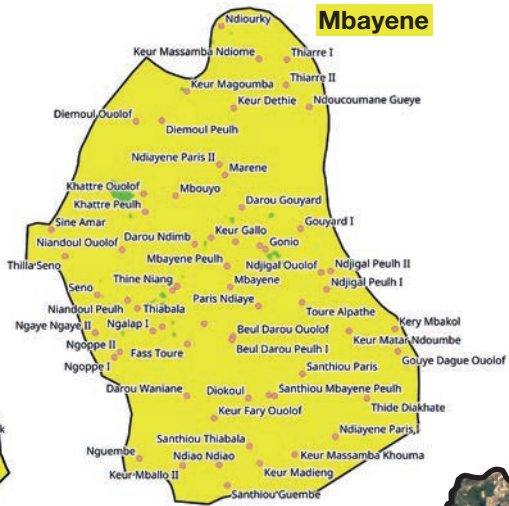
# Senegal

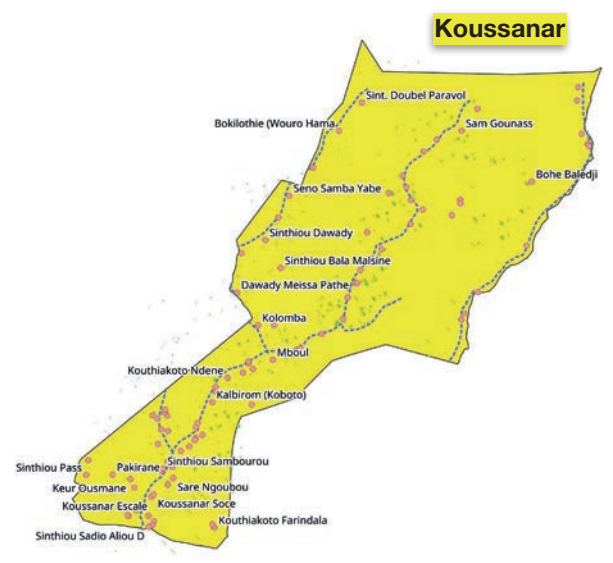
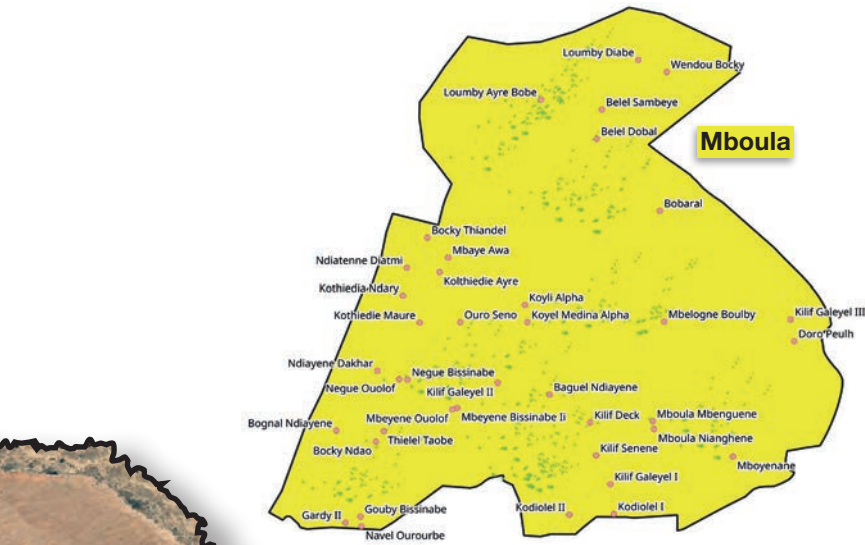


The implementation of the programme in Senegal was disrupted by the situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the activities such as meetings, field visits and trainings that were planned during the first semester were not carried out because of the health and security measures taken by the State of Senegal. Fortunately, despite all this and because of the support of local partners and community actors, some activities could still be executed. The partnerships at the local level with RECODEF,

JIG JAM, Association Jambaar and URAPD proved to be very valuable. In order to better involve them in programme activities, the partners had regular contact by telephone (WhatsApp, voice- and video messages) with certain actors, in particular mayors, technical extension services (agents of the department *Eaux et Forêts* and the national agricultural and rural advisory agency), administrative authorities and those in charge of community radio stations.









**Programme goal 1: A total area of 200,000 hectares divided over Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal has been regreened by Farmer-led Regreening by and for communities**

	3 YEAR MILESTONE	BASELINE	RESULTS 2018	RESULTS JUNE 2019	RESULTS 2019	RESULTS JUNE 2020
Area regreened (ha)						
Area subject to regreening (ha)	15.000	0	1.100	3.500	11.135	12.054
Tree density per hectare	20-25	10-15	7-10	10-15	11-25	11-25
Trees diversity per hectare	4-8	3-6	3-6	3-5	4-8	4-8
Number of municipalities that implement regreening activities	4-6	4-7	4-7	10	12	12
Number of Village Committees (VC) established and strengthened	50-80	10	10	14	135	166
The overall ratio of women/men in the committees calculated as result of the ratio per VC	1/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5
Number of (local) agreements between farmers and pastoralists established or strengthened	5-10	2	2	4	7	8
Number of farmers trained on FMNR direct by project partners	2.000	0	500	900	1.100	1.111
Number of farmers trained on FMNR indirect by peer-trainers	*	*	*	*	5.562	5.562**
Number of farmers that have adopted FMNR	*	*	*	*	*	738
Number of FMNR peer-trainers	*	*	*	*	742	742

\* not defined or not measured yet

\*\*not all data is measured yet. Figures show data that is available.



**\* Programme goal 2: There are laws, policies and support programmes in place in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal (local up to international) that support Farmer-led Regreening**

	3 YEAR MILESTONE	BASELINE	RESULTS 2018	RESULTS JUNE 2019	RESULTS 2019	RESULTS JUNE 2020
Increased support for FMNR practices at international governance bodies and/or financial actors (like: GCF, UNFCCC, UNCCD, GEF)	*	*	*	1	3	4
Increased support for FMNR practices at local or national level	*	*	*	10	10	10
Proposals presented to national government and/or government agencies that support FMNR practices on a local or national level	*	*	*	2	5	5
Policy and budget measures introduced/improved at the (inter)national level supporting FMNR and/or good land governance. Done by regional and/or national authorities	*	*	*	0	1	1

\* not defined or not measured yet

**\* Programme goal 3: Farmers applying Regreening are organised and have access to markets for (added-value) Farmer-led Regreening products**

Average yield (like: millets, sorghum and NTFPs) of farmers implementing FMNR practices	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of farmers applying FMNR with access to markets for their (added-value) products	*	*	*	*	142**	142**
Number of farmers applying FMNR techniques that add value to their products	*	*	*	*	105	105**

\* not defined or not measured yet

\*\*not all data is measured yet. Figures show data that is available.

# Results Senegal

## FMNR IMPLEMENTATION

Before the start of the pandemic the team organised a community workshop on FMNR and related practices in the municipality of Ndiognick in the Kaffrine region with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. Overall, the workshop aimed to implement the greening plan for the municipality of Ndiognick and its surrounding villages. Also, the team organised three awareness meetings on FMNR in the municipality of Mbayène reaching with over 180 participants. To facilitate work at the level of the pilot municipalities for the observatories, they set up three value chain innovation platforms in the municipalities of Mbayène, Mboula and Ndiognick.

After March things became more difficult, but fortunately through the local partners and community actors most of the in-field activities could continue. Among other things there were awareness-raising activities with the support of community radios in the communes of Ndiob, Mbayène, Fissel and Ndiagianiao, and the start of a census of new voluntary farmers and producers who want to start practicing FMNR on their fields and sought guidance. This included 231 farmers in Diouroup, 125 in Diarrère, 257 in Ndiagianiao, 231 in Mbayène and 125 in Ndiob. Moreover, the team established new village committees in the municipalities of Diouroup, Mbayène, Mboula and Ndiognick. The village committees in Fissel were revitalised and strengthened,



as they did not function very well. Partners also counted the many new young shoots in the fields, and thanks to the FMNR implemented a year ago in the municipalities of Fissel, Ngoye and Ndiagianiao, identified new areas that could be used as natural defence barriers against livestock. In the municipalities of Mbayè and Ngoye newly trained farmers geo-referenced their fields, supported by the facilitators from the local organisations who were trained and guided by IED Afrique and ENDA Pronat from a distance over WhatsApp from Dakar.

When travel restrictions were lifted, the team acquired equipment to carry out pruning and tagging activities for young shoots, and made this available to the local facilitators in the municipalities of Fissel, Mbayène, Ndiagianiao, Ndiob and Ngoye. In addition they trained 14 new volunteers - of course in compliance with barrier measures - on the use of GPS and configured smartphones in order

to strengthen geo-referencing and monitoring of trees in the communes of Mbayène and Ngoye.

One of the challenges that was very visible in the past months is that the technical implementation of FMNR implies a strong commitment from farmers and producers, while the economic and social situation and uncertainty, also linked to the pandemic, the buying of land by private investors and sometimes simply poverty, make the attention of producers shift towards other existential problems, to the detriment of the trees and the practice of FMNR, which requires patience and monitoring. In the near future, the partners aim to counter this tendency by better supervising and supporting FMNR practitioners, and strengthening the implementation strategy with activities compatible to the context, including kits, awareness raising and support for agricultural inputs.



## LOBBY & ADVOCACY

At the local level, our partners in Fissel organised two discussions on land tenure security to ensure better access to land for farmers, and especially women. Although the work in the communities could largely continue, at the national level most of the planned lobby and advocacy work and the partnerships have been largely affected by the restrictions linked to COVID-19. Most of the structures such as the Network of Green and Ecological Cities and Communes of Senegal, the Network of Parliamentarians for the Protection of the Environment in Senegal, the Senegalese Agency for Reforestation and the Great Green Wall have been operating in slow motion. This situation, combined with the inability to organise meetings, made it difficult to co-facilitate the CNIS-GDT (National Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management) platform as planned.

The ambition is to have an exchange framework bringing together all categories of stakeholders interested in or affected by greening through the CNIS / GDT platform. In the absence of facilitation activities for the platform, the team produced two documents to share the results and lessons learned from the programme with stakeholders. The first is a bimonthly newsletter on agroforestry practices which focuses on greening and the [work of a FMNR champion](#).

The other is an issue of BREVE titled "[Greening the Sahel through FMNR: innovations and approaches by and for communities](#)" in which the first experiences of the programme were capitalised to share the process and the main lessons with other stakeholders, including the government.

When it comes to lobby and advocacy during a global pandemic, in which the main focus is to combat the pandemic and prepare for the post-COVID period, the mobilisation and engagement of stakeholders can be a real challenge. The priority at the national level will certainly be the revival of production activities and the economy of the country. In order to meet this challenge, the team in Senegal will reorient its advocacy strategy and align it with current concerns, emphasising the role of greening in preventing and managing pandemics but also in revitalising growth.



Ismaila Ka, living in Mbayène Peul, municipality of Mbayène

"The training in GPS and Kobocollect that I have received has been very beneficial for me. The training was very simple and easy to understand. Today, I know how to work with these two data collection tools. I can also use it for other activities, such as measuring fields. Also, my interest in small shoots increased. Indeed, before the training, I was very quick to cut the regenerating young shoots. But now I am very careful and I ask other young farmers to do the same."



## ACCESS TO MARKETS

At this level, ENDA Energie carried out a participatory analysis of the development potential of the non-timber forest products sectors in Daga Birame (municipality of Ndiognick), Koyli Alpha (municipality of Mboula) and Diouroup (municipality of Diouroup). This analysis made it possible to familiarise the beneficiaries of the programme with the basic principles and practical applications of the Market Analysis and Development (ADM) approach.

ENDA Energie also did an assessment of the existing potential in terms of NTFPs, identifying potential entrepreneurs and organised groups, preselecting resources and products with high added value and, ultimately, assessing the economic and financial feasibility of the selected products.

Because of the travel restrictions, work in the communities to this extent has not been carried out yet, but will start as soon as possible in the second semester. These past few months, the team has put a lot of emphasis on valuing NTFPs. However, the marketing of the products resulting from this recovery in this context of pandemic where households are economically affected, constitutes a real challenge. It will therefore be necessary to advocate for the integration of NTFPs into national and local strategies for relaunching post-COVID economic growth.



**Ndèye Sarr,  
coordinator,  
village of Thiallé,  
municipality  
of Ndiob**

“Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration is an effective system for reviving trees. This is something I have definitely seen while participating in the pruning and tagging activities. Identifying young trees to protect them is an essential and fundamental element for greening. This is why we thank the program for its commitment and its technical and financial support for the implementation of the activities. Currently, with the intervention of the project in our municipality of Ndiob, all the producers are thinking of greening their fields”



## COVID-19

Faced with COVID19, the Government of Senegal has taken exceptional measures such as the establishment of a state of emergency and a curfew, the prohibition of mobility between regions, groupings of people, the closing of schools and universities, the restrictions of gatherings of people and the closing of weekly markets. The need to respect physical and social distancing has led many services to reduce their staff to the strict minimum. While these measures are aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19, they also constitute an obstacle to the smooth running of activities.

Despite the use of virtual meeting means, the fluidity and diligence in exchanges at the team in Senegal have also slowed down due to inexperience with teleworking and technical difficulties.

In the communities, the emergency measures taken by the State had an impact on production activities and the usual functioning of agro-pastoral economic sectors. In addition, it was increasingly difficult for communities to access agricultural inputs and to sell their products, which prevented growers from concentrating on greening activities. Due to the situation, activities such as exchange visits, training, meetings of committees (village, zonal, municipal), environmental education, meetings on the integration of FMNR into local planning and animation of innovation platforms have not been carried out.

This situation might create an overload in the second part of the year (July-December) in addition to the impacts of the rainy season on the availability of producers and the execution of certain activities. The uncertainty in the current evolution of the pandemic constitutes a real handicap,

especially in terms of planning. Keeping in mind these difficulties, the team in Senegal will aim to be as flexible as possible in their activities and focus on what can be done, and finding new ways of working together, in case a new lockdown occurs.



**Malick Diouf,**  
 president of the  
 zonal committee  
 of Mbafaye,  
 municipality of  
 Fissel



“By participating in the tagging activities of natural young shoots in the FMNR plots in Fissel, I realised that the program came on time for us. It has given people the opportunity to take more responsibility for the management of the rest of our natural resources. There are not many illegal cuts of trees and young sprouts this year like in previous years because everyone has made the fight to regreen our land their own.”



# Evaluation and next steps for 2020

## EVALUATION

We are very happy and thankful for the extensive and thorough evaluation that our external evaluator Peter Gubbels from Groundswell International has done. While Peter initially set out to do in-depth and interactive in-country workshops together with farmers, farmer organisations, community-based partners, NGOs, research institutes and the relevant government actors, the restrictions of COVID-19 made us take a different approach. Instead of having reflection workshops focussing on the three main objectives of our programme, Peter organised evaluation teams consisting of multiple people of our different partner organisations. These co-evaluation teams were responsible for data collection (if not available), joining in on multiple Zoom discussions and reading Peter's drafts and providing input for these. This interactive approach (as far as possible over a video screen) resulted in a well-elaborated and usable evaluation report that is co-owned by the partners. The collected data and recommendations now form the basis for further discussions on how to improve our methodologies for data collection, to assess whether we are measuring the most evident indicators, and to see if our approach to community-based land- and tree restoration needs adaptation. Moreover, we are assessing if we are lobbying at the right arenas and if our approach to NTFPs and the opening up to the local Sahelian market is the right path forward.

As of September, we will be working with all partners to assess the evaluation report, finalise our vision for the next years, and already work on harmonising our thoughts and ideas. We aim to have a regional workshop to accommodate these discussions, although virtual, to set the scene for the coming years.



### NEXT STEPS FOR 2020

Thankfully, now that most of the in-country travel restrictions have been lifted, partners are able to tackle a big chunk of 'lost time' in the months of July, August and September. All partners are very busy with FMNR trainings, working with cooperatives on NTFPs and estimating what lobby activities they can do within their countries to improve the policy environment for sustainable land practices such as FMNR. Moreover, our partners and Both ENDS are invested in multiple international webinar-discussions concerning the Great Green Wall, the Green Climate Fund and the newly set-up platform from World Resources Institute 'TerraMatch'.

The past months have been quite challenging with months of worrisome developments around COVID-19, food shortages, ever increasing violence in Burkina Faso and Niger, followed by a quite intense period of evaluating, reporting and a lot of activities in the field for our partners. However, we are confident that the coming months will be fruitful in terms of reflection, new ways forward and improved ways of working together. Moreover, we are happy to soon present to DOB Ecology the evaluation of Phase 1 of Communities Regreen the Sahel and our proposal for a joint way forward for the coming four years. And as always, we will continue to work hard to attain all – if not more – of our set goals for Phase 1 by the end of 2020.

Yet, for now we are looking forward to some green months after a good rainy season!





This report has been developed as a result of the activities carried out in the first semester of 2020 under Communities Regreen the Sahel, a programme funded by DOB Ecology and coordinated by Both ENDS. This programme aims to scale-up Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal to ensure food security and increase biodiversity and community resilience to the effects of climate change and desertification.

We would like to thank our teams and all farmers and communities they work with in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal for the hard work they put in to learning from each other and working together, especially during these very difficult times.

We would specifically like to thank our external evaluator Peter Gubbels from Groundswell International who has helped us tremendously the past year despite the often challenging circumstances. And we would like to thank Chris Reij, senior fellow at World Resources Institute and advisor to our programme for his valuable input, energy and enthusiasm.

**Design:** Margo Vlamings

**Date:** September 2020

#### PHOTO CREDITS

Photos have been made by: Thérèse Kondombo, Sayouba Bonkougou, Abasse Tougiani, Adama Gnanou, Mamadou Diop, Assane Diouf, Fiona Dragstra and staff of local partners and facilitators in communities.

Where possible and appropriate, we have asked the people in the photo for approval to use of the picture for communication purposes.



