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**Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Management Program  
(USAID WULA NAFAA)**

Capitalisation Document



**SUCCESS STORIES**

January 2013

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# Introduction

Financiers often say that two important elements are not reflected in the balance sheet of a company: its reputation and the value of its employees. Yet both these elements are vital for success.

In international projects the same holds true and for the Wula Nafaa Project, part of USAID Senegal's portfolio of country assistance, the achievements and successes of the program speak volumes about the quality of the project team. In the last 4.5 years alone (out of 10 years and 2 separate projects), the program has produced outstanding results. For example, data from the extensive list of project indicators shows that over 40,000 people have sustainably increased their incomes by \$ 36 million through management / conservation of natural resources, an additional 10,000 tons of primary foods, grains, have been produced by rural enterprises, and over 9,900 families have increased their production of key agricultural products. All of this has been accomplished hand in hand with improved, transparent, and responsive local governance by local authorities, local community organizations and small businesses.

A challenge of all development projects is how to perpetuate the successes, benefits, and accomplishments as activities and funding wind down to the close out date. Our answer has been to assure sustainability from the outset, to communicate approaches, methods, procedures, tools, field work, results, and evaluation of Program activities as part of each year's work planning. Thus reporting Success Stories is an essential part of the Communications effort to promote capitalization of program accomplishments.

The USAID Wula Nafaa program has operated like an entrepreneurial business. We've promoted continual learning via a rigorous feedback of information about our own experiences, from other programs, and all project stakeholders. We have concentrated on anticipating change and questioning and reviewing planning and control activities. We have very strong interrelationship between program management and operational teams in the field, developed through numerous participative strategic planning sessions over the life of the program.

These 25 Success Stories, in English and French, show the challenges and results of the program across the diversity of six major components: agriculture, natural resource management, governance, wealth creation, water and sanitation. They also show the context of the activities and many of the steps and approaches used for success.

In knowledge management Success Stories represent explicit knowledge, which is to say they've been formally collected and are part of the project "library." But there is a wealth of tacit knowledge that comes from an effort such as Wula Nafaa, knowledge that cannot be registered but stays with the field agents (facilitators) who were so vital to our results. I would like to dedicate this collection of Success Stories to those Wula Nafaa facilitators for their excellent work to assist the rural populations in Senegal. Finally, I hope that this document will be useful for all those working in or interested in development.

**Jeffrey J. Povolny**  
**Director, Agriculture and Natural Resources Project**  
**USAID Wula Nafaa**



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## SUCCESS STORY

# CF impresses Senegalese growers

**By saving time and producing stronger yields, “Conservation Farming” steals the show over old agricultural practices agricoles.**



*A GROWER IN AN EXPERIMENTAL PLOT OF CONSERVATION FARMING*

***“It’s the first time we have witnessed such a rich and positive experience. I think that with this method, it will be possible to recover barren lands abandoned by farmers in need of proper yields” stated a local grower and attendee of the exchange visit.***

“Conservation Farming” is becoming a bit of a craze in rural areas. The practice is difficult to get used to – the digging is time-consuming and involves hand labor ahead of the rains. Thus it is better suited to areas less than 2 hectares. However, productivity and performance are substantial and markedly better than with standard practices.

Traditional field preparation methods could cover larger areas, but they demanded additional field work after planting and resulted in weaker yields.

Those are the main lessons learned by Senegalese growers in the Kaolack, Fatick and Tambacounda regions after adopting the techniques of “Conservation Farming”, with the help of the USAID Wula Nafaa Project.

Now in its second phase, the Project promotes durable and competitive agricultural practices, as well as lasting management of natural resources in central, southern, and southeastern regions of Senegal.

“With Conservation Farming, all plants sprout without any delay in growth or development. The stronger plant sprouts are proof of the efficiency of this new system,” states a farmer. “The sorghum ears are longer than those in standard cultivation. This development carries additional seeds, which is an indication of increased harvest yield.”

Furthermore, says the farmer, “In the absence of crop damage at the beginning of the harvest, the plant develops all of its potential, allowing it to reach a better yield at the end of the cycle than with standard practices”.

To implement the technique, farmers must measure the field, count 80 cm between crop lines, and dig holes 30 cm wide and 15 cm deep, all of which should be 40 cm apart along the line. They must bring a compost heap and 12 grams of fertilizer to the seedbed, and an additional 12 grams of urea, 45 days later. Finally, farmers must make a mulching mixture just behind the seedbed, in order to suppress weeds.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# CF: Yields defy the climate

**The conservation farming technique, based on soil conservation and improving natural productive potential is a type of miracle for Senegalese producers.**



*THE AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST SHOWS THE DIFFERENCE IN THE PHENOLOGY OF TWO FIELDS - ONE CF, ONE NON-CF*

***“I applied the CF technique in that part of my field where the soil is poor, and strangely, I had a yield of 3.7 tons of maize per hectare”, explained producer Abdoulaye Ndiaye of Niore Alassane Tall (Fatick Region).***

Conservation farming, or conservation agriculture, was introduced to Senegal in 2009 by USAID-Wula Nafaa Program and appears to be a miracle for the producers. A panel organized on the technique during the 2012 International Agriculture and Animal Resources Fair (FIARA) was a big attraction for producers and technicians; not surprising, as results obtained with the technique are beyond comment. “The technique allowed village producers to obtain agricultural yields greater than those without the technique”, according to Falilou Faye, Regional Director of Rural Development (DRDR) in Kaolack Region, one of the zones where the technique is being applied.

According to Mr. Faye, a study comparing the yields from fields where CF is applied and those where traditional methods are used show a clear improvement. In the 2011 rainy season, additional yields for millet and maize grown using CF in Kaolack area are between 49 and 71% higher, according to data used to estimate yields as supplied by the technical services. In other regions in Senegal where the technique is applied, the same trend is evident. For Tambacounda and Kédougou Regions, additional yields are around 25% for the 2011 rainy season.

The major advantage of CF, according to technicians, is that the technique reduces risks linked to climate events. In 2011, which was considered a poor farming year (insufficient rainfall), the average yield in non-CF fields was 1,886 kg/ha, a 400 kg/ha reduction when compared with non-CF yields in 2010 -- said to be a good farming year -- that were 2,286 kg/ha (source: DAPS). In contrast, with CF, the yield was 2,634 kg/ha in 2011 (an increase of +348 kg/ha compared to 2010). The same trend is observed for millet in Niore du Rip area: CF brought an increase of +397 kg/ha.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Rice farming brings food security in Boly

**A dike erected, support for plowing work and seeds. The happiness of Boly's residents at seeing rice farming make a comeback is beyond words.**



*WOMEN WORKING IN THE RICE FIELDS NEXT TO THE BUILT DIKE*

***“There are households that will never again have to pay for rice at the village boutique. We will have enough rice to live on thanks to this dike and to the areas put into fields”, confirmed the President of the Valley Management Committee.***

It was just like in the good old days. To demonstrate their joy to the visitors who came to witness the development of rice farming in their valley, the people of Boly Mandaw in Foundiougne Department, Fatick Region, came out en masse to the rhythm of song, dance, and drums.

These people are happy because of the newly-built dike and the inputs and mechanized plowing that they received to eventually increase the land in rice fields from five hectares to 150 hectares, of which 50 have been put into use this 2011 season.

The USAID-Wula Nafaa Program supports the policy of the government of Senegal in its objective to achieve food security through promotion of sustainable and competitive agriculture.

In the lowland area of Boly Madaw, “there were only old nostalgic women who remembered the rice farming that their parents did in the old days. They tried fruitlessly to make small parcels work for them, using rudimentary means”, stated one young person. He continued, “Nowadays, all young people want to farm rice and to avoid going to the cities to look for work.”

The President of the valley management committee speaks emotionally of the support they have had from USAID-Wula Nafaa Program. “The Program built the dike and provided plowing services and seed, and we are satisfied because we have the promise of a good rice harvest never before achieved in this location.”

The committee will recuperate reimbursed loans for inputs in kind or in money to set up a fund for progressive extension of the areas under management around the dike. Other partners are materializing to add to USAID-Wula Nafaa Program's support. “All farming used to be by hand, and very difficult. With the mechanized plowing assistance from the Program, the work is easy and we earn more”, declares Mrs. Sagar Fall.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Rice farming: Women in the lead

**The phenomenon is extra-ordinary: men at the mercy of their wives' desires. With good reason - wives have done well with their rice fields, have harvested abundant crops, and have won the bread.**



*WOMEN IN A VALLEY MANAGED WITH HELP FROM USAID-WULA NAFAA FOR RICE PRODUCTION*

***“If not for the abundant rice produced by the women of the village, we would have had to live through an extra-difficult hungry period this year”, explained Abdoulaye Diakité, Village Chief of Samécouta.***

Women’s leadership has jumped the highest hurdles, and at a great speed. It is time for the rains and the harvest. The women of Samecouta, a Rural Community in Kedougou Region, in southeastern Senegal, have reached levels of power never seen by their husbands. And it’s because of the bumper rice crop that came through. While the men who farmed other grain crops on the plateaus were barely able to harvest anything for the 2011 season because of the rainfall deficit, the women filled the granaries with their rice from a managed valley that was farmed community-style. This was thanks to the technical, financial, and organizational assistance given by USAID-Wula Nafaa Program.

The women became part of a 150-strong group that farms a rice production site estimated at 22 hectares. “We had very nice rice fields, so green and lush. Thanks to advice from USAID-Wula Nafaa technicians who said we should sow seeds in lines and use high quality seed, we harvested so much. On one hectare, I got four tons of rice, and others got a little more”, explained Fanta Sakho, woman producer and member of the group. She reveals, “I sold about 20 50-kg sacks to make money, and all the rest of my production is stored in my warehouse for my family’s consumption. We are going into the rainy season now, and my family is still eating from the rice from last year”. It is somewhat ironic, this woman confides. “In all the homes, the men are nice to us because their fields didn’t produce anything. Here, it is the women who produce the rice, the staple food, and the men are obliged to cooperate. The women can boast of being the heads of the households this year.”

USAID- Wula Nafaa Program assists the government of Senegal in its “Feed the Future” strategy initiated by USAID, with the goal of attaining food security by managing valleys for rice production.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Rice fields replace city streets

**Back in the village he smiled. The drudgery of driving Dakar's broken asphalt roads in his taxi has faded away. Rice farming has given him hope. The taxi driver has become a rice producer, a very successful change.**



*PRODUCER MODOU MBACKE CISSE WITH A BUNDLE OF RICE "PANICLES" IN HIS RICE FIELD*

***"I manage to solve my needs with my rice production. I pay tuition and children's medical expenses by selling a part of my production"***  
***Modou Mbacke Cissé.***

It is possible that the rural exodus to cities may well be reversed! Although he is 60 years old, Modou Mbacke Cissé, salt and pepper beard, sweat beading his brow, proudly picks newly cut rice, with heavy panicles ("ears" on a rice plant) in his field. This is the harvest from the field of a former taxi driver in Dakar, who 3 years ago returned to his native village. His future and that of his family is linked to the development of the Ndinderleng valley, helped by USAID Wula Nafaa. There is now more than a glimmer of hope for the head of the family, who since 1999, was forced to live away from home.

Back then he was attracted by the mirage of city life.

But when he arrived in Dakar his job was to drive a taxi, hard work that separated him from his family for months.

"I stayed in Dakar for more than four months before gaining any money I could send down to the village to meet the needs of my family. What I earned allowed me to pay just rice and some other food for the family," he said.

"Thanks to the investments USAID made to the valley's agriculture infrastructure, I decided three years ago to stay here with my family and to cultivate the land."

During the 2011 campaign, despite the low rainfall, Cissé, farmed one hectare and harvested 3 tons of rice. He sold one ton to pay for school and supplies for his children, buy farm equipment, pay for medicines and other products and food for the family. This year, he has more ambitions.

He increased his area by half a hectare more, and hopes to raise more than 4 tons of rice. "I no longer need to drive a taxi or envy those who are in town. Here I earn my living by staying home," he says as he lays a bundle of rice at our feet.

The USAID Wula Nafaa Project is supporting Senegal in achieving food security through the development and enhancement of valleys in the Central, Eastern and South Eastern Regions. These activities are part of the USAID Strategy "Feed the Future" in Senegal



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Charcoal producer improves his family's housing

**Benefits from sustainable management of forests go towards investing in urban area habitat.**



*IBRAHIMA BALDE IN FRONT OF HIS HOME MADE FROM MUD BRICK (SANDY-CLAYEY SOIL MATERIAL), POINTING HIS FINGER TOWARD THE TOWN WHERE HE WILL CONSTRUCT A MODERN HOME*

***“Charcoal’s origin is from the Peulhs from other lands, according to legend.***

***My experience with USAID-Wula Nafaa let me understand that charcoal making does not change anything in my social standing; quite to the contrary.” Ibrahim Baldé, GPC Pelital de Niandiaye, Saré Bidji.***

Forest management is, for the USAID-Wula Nafaa Program, a means to contribute to increased revenues of populations while assuring sustainable management of natural resources. It has become a reality in the Region of Kolda, in southern Senegal. In the Community Forest of Saré Bidji, where the people were culturally reticent to exploit trees for charcoal, a new horizon is forming: the sustainable management of the forest brings revenues to the population. Producers got organized into producer groups. Innovatively, profits from the exploitation are being used to invest in other sectors such as building in urban settings. This is the case for Ibrahim Baldé, from the Charcoal Producers’ Group.

“I had a gardening site that brought me annual revenues of 200,00 to 300,000 FCFA per year, and a peanut field that helped me take care of family expenses and to build my home in mud bricks. Upon joining the GPC, I had minimal profits.

Nevertheless, after six months of exploitation, I was able to send a truckload of charcoal to town and made 1 million FCFA,” declares Ibrahim Baldé with pride. He continues, “Taken by surprise by so much money in six months, I devoted myself a little bit more to making charcoal. Then I was able to send two truckloads the next quarter, with the same per-unit profit, for two million FCFA total. thus, I decided to to build something in Kolda that costs 3.5 million FCFA.”

The USAID-Wula Nafaa Program supports the government of Senegal in the fight against poverty by assuring sustainable development and sustainable management of natural resources in the central, southeastern, and southern regions.

Ibrahim Baldé indicates that he is advocating for the entry of local populations into the charcoal exploitation industry that brings back substantial revenues while preserving nature.



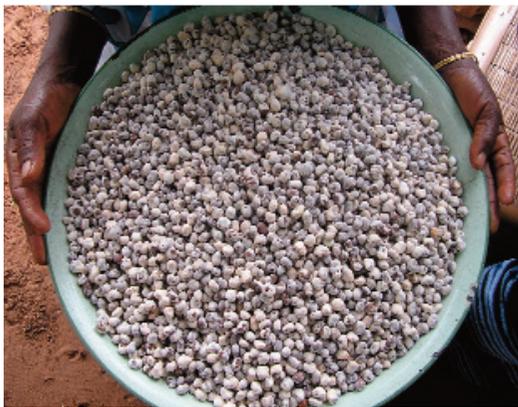
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## SUCCESS STORY

# Baobab seeds are bringing in the money

**Collecting seeds to make cosmetic products, another way of improving financial gain.**



*GATHERED BAOBAB SEEDS. A SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE WOMEN OF KEDOUGOU, THANKS TO SUPPORT FROM THE USAIDWULA NAFAA PROJECT*

***“I have seen that women are transforming and selling. I have the produce, so I can transform it to make even more money.” Khawka Camara, grower of raw baobab fruit.***

For the first time, the women of Dindéfelo, a village in the southeast of Senegal, are increasing the value of a significant portion of their fruit production with a seed by-product that is satisfying the market. The seeds used to be thrown away, but today these gathered seeds sell for 75 CFA francs per kilogram.

“Transforming the baobab into powder has provided a great deal of revenue”, explains Fatoumata Diallo, member of the Dhoukha Bourakha group. “It’s quite interesting because we have not been able to achieve this with other activities”. Moreover, she continues, “this work is not as difficult as other types of agricultural work”. Following the example of Dindéfelo, all zones under the wing of the USAID Wula Nafaa Project in the Kedougou region are partaking in this transformation activity.

“This year, the facilitator of the USAID Wula Nafaa Project came to inform us of a partner who wanted to buy the seed, thus, so we should not throw them away,” said Aicha Bousso, Secretary General of the Bourakha Federation. “We’d like to thank the USAID Wula Nafaa Project, they are our number one ally.”

In reality, it is all a result of the partnership initiated over the course of this year (2009) between the USAID Wula Nafaa Project and BIO ESSENCE. The starting price per kilogram is 40 francs, but the USAID Wula Nafaa Project was able to negotiate an increase in this to 75 CFA francs.

“I am encouraging all women to participate in this activity,” says Diallo, whose advice is also beginning to attract attention from men.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Cashew: profitable market chain in 2011

**Prices were good for the producer; volumes produced shot up; cashew earned exceptional profits in 2011.**



*QUALITY CASHEW NUTS  
AVAILABLE FROM PRODUCERS  
WHO ARE WEARING A SMILE*

***“The fact that we organized into a network helped us gain easy access to credit for investments in cashew centers. We work better with a vision that is based on an action plan”, explained Mamadou Diatta from the producers’ network in Bambali.***

The trends had been announced since the first quarter of 2011. A favorable increase in prices, along with greater volumes compared to the 2010 season, a concurrent climatic phenomenon with negative impacts on Senegal’s overall supply, all added up to producers and processing enterprises realizing exceptional sales. In Senegal, prices paid to the producer were negotiated to between 200 and 450 FCFA per kilogram on average, with spikes between 500 and 550 FCFA per kilogram.

USAID-Wula Nafaa Program supports adding value to forest and agroforestry products in the central, southern, and southeastern regions of Senegal, working with actors in the cashew market. During the 2011 season, the Program assisted the market chain to get organized by integrating individual producers and producer groups in Ziguinchor and Sédhiou regions into the Casamance Cashew Producers’ Cooperative (COPROCA).

The cooperative has marketed 1600 tons of raw nuts, for a value of 720 million FCFA, according to the head of the Wealth Creation component of the Program. “We very much appreciate assistance from the Program, which has helped us to improve our group structure”, acknowledges Mamadou Diatta, General Secretary of the producers’ network in Bambali, in the Sédhiou region.

For the cashew market overall, 9,609 tons were sold in 2011, compared to 2,887 tons in 2010, with revenues of 5.825 billion FCFA and 1.159 billion FCFA respectively. The market has involved 3,877 persons, of whom 470 are women; they have all profited from the increase in revenues brought in by cashew.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Financial markets “find” forest products

**The forest product market has been a favourable business for decentralized financial services.**



*A CLIENT PAYS AT THE COUNTER OF ONE OF THE PROJECT'S PARTNER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS*

**« The USAID Wula Nafaa Project has freed us from the vicious debt cycle » stated president of the farmers associations of the community forest of Missirah.**

Local branches of Senegal's banks used to be unaware of the existence of the forest product market. But a partnership agreement between the USAID Wula Nafaa Project and Crédit Mutuel du Sénégal for the implementation of a guarantee fund has now raised the amount of credit available to 31 affiliated businesses by an estimated total of 37,800,000 CFA francs for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. This has created a sense of trust between financial institutions, producers associations, and rural businesses.

As an example, in the zone of Missirah, Tambacounda Region, the repayment rate on loans is 100% for the year of 2010. “We work with a lot of different clients, but those supported by the USAID Wula Nafaa Project, especially those in charcoal production, have been the best clients in the Missirah zone,” said Djibril Soumaré, accounts manager in Missirah.

“They respect their commitments and repayment plans without any trouble. We never need to chase them for collections.

The funds have propelled new and interesting private initiatives, such as the mobilization of funds for investment financing (the purchasing of trucks and of chainsaws) and the development of mutual aid between various associations of charcoal producers.

These initiatives line up with the objectives of the USAID Wula Nafaa Project, which are to work against poverty via sustainable local development and sustainable management resources.

The USAID Wula Nafaa Project supports the government of Senegal and its local communities in the development and lasting management of natural resources.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# FRA: Enterprises export

**The sustainability of businesses depends on their ability to adapt to market conditions and on legislation. Enterprises are paying attention to these requirements.**



*FONIO AND BAOBAB POWDER IN SACKS BEARING LABELS*

***“With FRA authorization, our products have a presence on supermarket shelves and in the export market, and this is going to increase our revenues and make our enterprises more sustainable”, explains Awa Diallo, Head of “Nourou Enterprise”.***

Senegalese law requires preliminary authorization for all preparation, processing, packaging, and sales of products destined for consumption.

This authorization comes in the form of an FRA code assigned by the Division of Consumption and Consumer Safety of the Interior Commerce Ministry upon request from the relevant enterprise.

The request is submitted along with samples for analysis, sample product labels and containers, the certificate of entry in the trade register, and a description of the processing used. FRA authorization is necessary to obtain a certificate of origin in cases where the product will be exported.

USAID-Wula Nafaa Program supports rural enterprises that add value to natural resources to increase their profit and create wealth.

The Program works in the central, southern, and southeastern regions of Senegal, thanks to a grant from the American people.

USAID-Wula Nafaa Program has trained producer groups, mainly those composed of women, in preparation of baobab and fonio under the required hygienic and healthy conditions; has built their capacity for financial management; and has assisted these enterprises in obtaining appropriate containers that result in significant revenue increases.

The Program selected pilot enterprises to assist in the process of obtaining FRA authorization.

That is how Thioossane Fuladu precooked fonio enterprise in Kolda, GIE Baobab Fruit in Bala, and Norou Enterprise which sells powdered baobab in Tambacounda, were able to obtain their FRA codes, according to the Program’s head of marketing.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Local Groups Now Providing Business Development Services

**Local producer groups are leveraging their expertise and selling services to their neighbors.**



EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE GADAFARO UNIT OF KOUSSANAR

***"In the past, I was not confident about explaining various development issues to the public ; I no longer have this fear and my people see me as a true leader".***

***Kadiatou Ndao, President of the Kambeng Gadafaro Association.***

In Senegal provision of "Business Development Services"(BDS), is no longer a matter for specialists. Groups of producers supported by the USAID Wula Nafaa Project are now providing specialist help to other rural associations. Such is the case for the processing units GIE Baobab Fruit Company of Bala and Gadafaro of Koussanar in the Tambacounda region.

With the help of their president, Baobab Fruit is providing training in processing techniques for forest products. "More and more, we are being called upon to provide training sessions on product processing. For the moment, we are charging for trip costs and management services" stated Khadiata Cissé, president of Baobab Fruit. The president of Gadafaro has been especially sought out in the Tambacounda region to provide various services for other associations. "People come from all over with their raw produce and I organize demonstration sessions on the spot. The people I train take care of it", explains Kadiatou Ndao of the Gadafaro unit.

For some years now, these associations have participated in the USAID Wula Nafaa Project, which seeks to enhance the value of natural resources and to create wealth in rural populations. They have received business management and marketing training, help in commercial negotiation techniques, and in forest product processing techniques.

These units and associations have also been training other association in "Analyzing critical points in matters of hygiene during the processing of consumer products" or HACCP, the standard international best practice for food preparation!



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Oyster farming ups rural incomes

**Sustainable management of oysters, mollusks, and shrimp leads the fight against poverty.**



*OYSTER FARMING USING THE GARLAND TECHNIQUE LEADS TO SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE RESOURCE AND GAINING BIGGER PROFITS*

***“Today, our village no longer knows hunger”, reveals Diarratou Sarr, group member.***

In the recent past, mollusks, oysters, and shrimp were becoming more and rarer in Médina Sanghako, Sandicolu, and Soukouta. These fisheries species were the pride and the wealth of villages located in the Rural Community of Toubacouta, Fatick Region, in central west Senegal. They have made a comeback, to the benefit of the population, who will forever remain conscious of the issues involved in environmental protection and good management of natural resources. In the bolongs, the populations have definitively turned their backs on practices that have caused the scarcity of these resources. A veritable silent revolution is in progress.

“We have been trained and sensitized on sustainable management of our resources. This has led to a definite increase in yields”, says Doudou Diamé, congratulating himself as the Vice President of a group specialized in oyster farming. This group is composed of 84 members, and is supplying the Dakar market with fresh oysters. Oyster farming has become an effective way to fight poverty and improve people’s standard of living.

Passing through the bolongs of Soukouta and Sandicolu, the visitor is impressed by new methods for harvesting oysters implemented by the locals. It involves raising them on garlands, a technique that is part of oyster farming on strings the same length as the roots of mangrove trees. “On one cord, sometimes you can harvest 50 oysters”, Vaque Ndiaye informs us as fisheries specialist at USAID-Wula Nafaa.

This is a solution to reverse degradation of a mangrove ecosystem that was being abused by poor cutting and oyster harvesting practices.

According to Mr. Diamé, sales by his group went from six to 11 million FCFA per year, “which was unthinkable a few years ago”, he remarked.



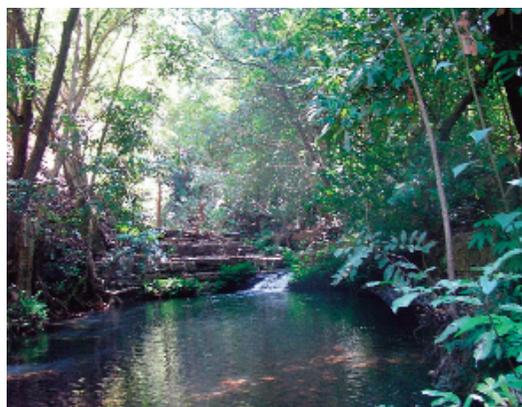
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## SUCCESS STORY

# Dindéfelo : Ecotourism in motion

**Ecotourism will be the bread and butter of the economy in Dindéfelo, with its new reservation created for the protection of chimpanzees.**



*THE BEAUTIFUL CASCADE IN DINDÉFELO – A VERY POPULAR TOURIST DESTINATION*

**« The first attempt at creating the reservation was met with the fear by inhabitants that they would be cleared off the land. The Forum that brought together all of these perspectives, as well as the informative tour, gave us a much better understanding, »  
M. Kikali Diallo, President of the Rural Council.**

The reservation in Dindéfelo, in southeastern Senegal, which will be one of the most important ecological reservations in the country, has the unique feature of being initiated by the Rural Council supported by the inhabitants themselves.

This new initiative contrasts with Senegal's first attempt to create such a reservation in 1984. "The approach was not right," explained Liliana Pacheco, the Jane Goodall Institute Specialist currently living there, who acts to safeguard chimpanzees in the region with the help of the USAID Wula Nafaa Project under its Biodiversity component. "The timing was not ideal because it coincided with the removal of communities from Niokolo Koba Park, and the people in these populations were afraid. Inviting their participation is an important aspect when it comes to educating the populations."

The approach used by the Project was to first, organize a community forum to explain the objectives of the reserve, then to take chosen individuals on an information tour to another Senegalese community that successfully set up a community reserve. The entire community of Dindéfelo was delighted with this initiative. "It brings us a sense of victory, pride and hope. Victory, because the idea of the reservation came about long before today, but had never worked. Pride, because chimpanzees are an endangered species, and to make the world aware of this reservation through the safeguarding of this species is important. Hope, because in addition to the chimpanzees, the reservation gives us the opportunity to enhance the value of various tourist sites, such as the water falls", stated the President of the Rural Council of Dindéfelo.

The reservation covers approximately 13,000 hectares and it will have a management plan that takes into account agriculture, chimpanzees, ecotourism, the water falls, various tourist sites, and the tourist camps in the area. The USAID Wula Nafaa Project supports the government of Senegal and its local communities in the development and lasting management of natural resources.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Value-added package increases sales

**Enterprises are improving their wrappers. Result: the product is valued more by customers.**



*SHELVES STOCKED WITH FONIO AND BAOBAB POWDER IN BAGS WITH A DESIGN SPONSORED BY USAID-WULA NAFAA*

***“Before, charcoal came in 40-kg sacks that sold for 6,000 FCFA; but with smaller bags, we were able to obtain 8,500 FCFA for the same quantity, or 2,500 FCFA more per sack.”*** ***ADY Diallo, Secretary of the charcoal producers of Missirah.***

It is no longer a secret. Consumers are becoming more and more demanding in terms of food products. This reality has been well understood by certain rural enterprises working in adding more value to agricultural and agro-forest products.

USAID-Wula Nafaa Program has been helping rural enterprises to subscribe to this philosophy, considered an innovation for better positioning in a competitive and exacting market.

“The objective sought is to bring benefiting processing units to improve packaging and presentation of their products in order to increase their sales and thus their revenues; we are doing this through sponsorship of design and acquisition of packaging.

The first order for packaging was entirely supported by the Program; then, benefiting enterprises took it on themselves to send subsequent orders that actually brought them economies of scale”, explained Mrs. Bineta Coly Guèye, Head of Marketing for the Program.

USAID-Wula Nafaa Program supports increasing value of agricultural and agro-forestry products in the central, southeastern, and southern regions of Senegal.

The beneficiaries of the packaging appreciate it greatly. When asked, Mr. Kadiali Konté, President of Soutoura processing unit, states, “USAID-Wula Nafaa Program gave us 2,300 bags for fonio and baobab, trained us in packaging techniques, and gave us information on how to order more bags. That’s how I went to the factory to buy another 4,000 bags to prepare for the next batch, after quickly selling my entire first batch. The bags are attractive and led us to improve the way our products look, so they sold better.”



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Fisheries: an economic lifeline

**The Casamance river has found a lifeline through USAID-Wula Nafaa and IDEE-Casamance resource conservation activities.**



*PIROGUE CAPTAINS USING FISHNETS ON THE CASAMANCE RIVER*

***“We have seen many changes. We have stopped using monofilament netting and now use nets with coarser mesh. And that helps in conserving the resource”, explains Aliou Badara Cissé, President of the Bambali fishermen.***

The Casamance, a river that winds through the southern regions of Senegal, sees a lot of shrimp fishing. Fishing activity is disorganized and not controlled. In the context of its assistance to the continental fisheries sector, USAID-Wula Nafaa Program and IDEE-Casamance, a local organization, have been working closely with the regional and local technical fisheries services. In the process, a fishing area of 36 hectares called Boudhié-Balantacounda was identified for assistance. A consensus-based group of seven local collectivities, two towns, and 25 villages along the river’s banks was set up. A local convention joining all these entities with common rules was written and implemented. The results are already being felt after less than two years since the local convention was initiated.

From the production point of view, a satisfactory haul has been noted. According to the Kaour weighing clerk, “A comparison of tonnage before and after the Program shows the real impact of its intervention.”

According to the Regional Inspector of Fisheries in Sédhiou, 95,000 kilograms of shrimp had been offloaded in 2009, with a commercial value of 169 million FCFA. In 2010, 374,000 kilograms were weighed, with an estimated value of 3 00 million FCFA. This increase was similar to that noted for the fish catch.

The Inspector noted that the local convention has also led to fewer conflicts in the fisheries; improved collection of statistical data on fish; a truly higher level of awareness by the population of the need for sustainable management and rational exploitation of fisheries resources; improvement of fishing practices; and reinforced control and monitoring. This is confirmed by one fisherman’s perception: “We have seen the return of bigger fish and of shrimp in greater quantities. The measures taken to save the resource are the reason why.”



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Budget assistance improves local governance

**Never-ending administrative procedures are over for the strengthened local communities, upon the development of a new budget.**



*A TRAINING SESSION ON BUDGET DEVELOPMENT*

**« This year, for the first time ever, one meeting was all it took to have our budget approved by the sub-prefect without any reservations. We can not thank the Project enough for having given us the power to do so. »**  
**Diouldé Sow, President of the Rural Council of Pass Koto.**

Rural communities encounter numerous difficulties in developing and finalizing their budgets and the associated documentation, so this became an opportunity for the USAID Wula Nafaa Project to come up with a budget assistance program, one which the local communities requested.

The presidents of the rural councils declared that this assistance program saved them a lot of the back-and-forth travel and harassment that they had faced previously. According to the President of the Rural Council of Pass Koto, “Every year my assistant and I go back and forth about five times before the sub-prefect approves the rural community budget. The administrative authority either rejected something or demanded never-ending corrections. There was also a cost in time and money lost from the numerous trips taken and for the processing of documents.”

The technical assistance and budget development workshops allowed those local communities partnered with the USAID Wula Nafaa Project to better understand budget principles and procedures, and also aided them in preparing the Public Procurement Plan and General Opinion on Public Procurement.

The USAID Wula Nafaa Project works in Senegal to support local partner communities in the improvement of governance in managing their natural resources. Formally establishing partnerships with local communities has been a key element of the USAID Wula Nafaa Project. Its vision to support institutional partnerships for the promotion of better government has been realized at all levels with successful implemented of local municipal activities for the benefit of the communities.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Oyster farming ups rural incomes

**Sustainable management of oysters, mollusks, and shrimp leads the fight against poverty.**



*OYSTER FARMING USING THE GARLAND TECHNIQUE LEADS TO SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE RESOURCE AND GAINING BIGGER PROFITS*

***“Today, our village no longer knows hunger”, reveals Diarratou Sarr, group member.***

In the recent past, mollusks, oysters, and shrimp were becoming more and rarer in Médina Sanghako, Sandicoloy, and Soukouta. These fisheries species were the pride and the wealth of villages located in the Rural Community of Toubacouta, Fatick Region, in central west Senegal. They have made a comeback, to the benefit of the population, who will forever remain conscious of the issues involved in environmental protection and good management of natural resources.

In the bolongs, the populations have definitively turned their backs on practices that have caused the scarcity of these resources. A veritable silent revolution is in progress. “We have been trained and sensitized on sustainable management of our resources. This has led to a definite increase in yields”, says Doudou Diamé, congratulating himself as the Vice President of a group specialized in oyster farming. This group is composed of 84 members, and is supplying the Dakar market with fresh oysters. Oyster farming has become an effective way to fight poverty and improve people’s standard of living.

Passing through the bolongs of Soukouta and Sandicoloy, the visitor is impressed by new methods for harvesting oysters implemented by the locals. It involves raising them on garlands, a technique that is part of oyster farming on strings the same length as the roots of mangrove trees. “On one cord, sometimes you can harvest 50 oysters”, Vaque Ndiaye informs us as fisheries specialist at USAID-Wula Nafaa.

This is a solution to reverse degradation of a mangrove ecosystem that was being abused by poor cutting and oyster harvesting practices.

According to Mr. Diamé, sales by his group went from six to 11 million FCFA per year, “which was unthinkable a few years ago”, he remarked.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Royalties motivate forest rangers

**Forest rangers increase their surveillance with the new policy of royalties in place**



***“People have criticized our failure to properly enforce surveillance. The problem was that we were never motivated. These royalties act as a motivation.” Bocar Diamanka, Technical Manager of the Saré Bidji Forest***

Forest surveillance has become a public concern in the south of Senegal, and rangers in the Saré Bidji forest are on patrol to track down offenders. The financial incentives have motivated them motivation, with funds coming from the sharing of revenues from forest funds.

For the first time since the implementation of the Forest Development Plan in 2008, the surveillance committee is getting a share of the Forest Fund, having been granted a total sum of 113,100 CFA francs. This initiative was well received by the committee, which takes a keen interest in strengthening forest surveillance.

Moved to action, the surveillance committee organized a forest patrol. Results were quick and clear: approximately 30 bags of coal, 16 trunks of Venn (*Stercula Erinaceus*) and 6 carts were seized and turned over to the leader of the closest village. Offenders were obligated, by law, to pay an official fine to the forest administration authority. These initiatives are made possible through the support of the USAID Wula Nafaa Project, which helps the state and its local communities in improving the management of natural resources.

Before the Forest Management Plan was implemented with the help of the USAID Wula Nafaa Project, forest surveillance was weak and so there was frequent illegal tree-cutting, which was feeding the wood market in the village of Kolda, 9 kilometers away. Awareness efforts made by the Water and Forest Authorities were not successful in putting an end to this trend.

The USAID Wula Nafaa Project strengthened the implementation of a management program, helped to organize adjacent resident populations, and promoted the Management Plan throughout the community, gaining local support.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Local tax revenues from better natural resources management

**A parking tax has created a new source of income for local communities.**



*TRUCKS PARKING ON RURAL LANDS HAVE CREATED A NEW SOURCE OF INCOME FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AS PART OF THE PLAN TO IMPROVE THE GOVERNING OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS*

***“On an even better note, other sources of funding are in the works, including the establishment of a weekly market”.***  
***Ndiouga Diop, President of the Rural Community.***

At first the rural community of Koulor seemed not to welcome change. But today, it is a hallmark of good governance in terms of natural resource management, as a result of the training organized by the USAID Wula Nafaa Project in July of 2009. This rural community has established a parking tax for trucks that transit the community to transport products such as charcoal and wood. This created a supplementary source of local income.

The training sought to improve local stakeholders' governance abilities, to improve the quality of resource and property management in the community and to help them identify opportunities to create a common vision of local government. “After the training, I was able to recognize revenue opportunities in the rural community” explains the President of the Rural Council of Koulor. “With the new Forest Management Plan, there are trucks constantly passing through. Thus, we have implemented parking taxes for vehicles”. The new tax charges charcoal trucks 3,000 CFA francs and wood trucks 2,000 CFA francs. Four collections sites have been set up throughout the rural community.

The sum of the collections has amounted to more than 200,000 CFA francs in the three months since the implementation of the tax, “and I am hoping to see the sum surpass a million francs before the end of the year,” states Ndiouga Diop, President of the Rural Community. The USAID Wula Nafaa Project supports local communities in Senegal by helping them manage community forests and natural resources in the south and south eastern regions of Senegal.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# Local representatives weigh in on reforms to the Forestry Code

**Meetings clarify local community roles and responsibilities, for a better idea of the population's needs.**



*SEEN HERE – PARTICIPANTS ATTEND AN INFORMATIVE WORKSHOP AND TESTIFY ON THE REFORM OF THE FOREST CODE OF SENEGAL*

*« I have been newly elected. It is over the course of this meeting [of the USAID Wula Nafaa Project] that I feel strengthened to carry out my duties. » President of the Environment Commission of the Regional Council of Tambacounda.*

Since 2003, the USAID Wula Nafaa Project has followed the Forestry Code revision process and has participated in its development – even financing studies about how rural populations have been affected by the old Code, specifically in relation to forest taxation.

An information workshop, organized in Tambacounda in November of 2009, allowed community members to advocate various issues, gives them access to the contents of the new Forest Code, explains issues about the Code's revision, and clarify their roles and responsibilities for a better idea of how the revisions will affect local needs.

Because the USAID Wula Nafaa Project's objective is to reduce rural poverty through a local development of natural resources, the Project seeks to establish better management of natural resources and stronger local government, « We are ahead of the Forestry Department officers situated in the field, » stated Baganda Sakho, president of the Rural Community of Koar, in Tambacounda. "We are obligated to learn the local community code and the forestry code, which complement each other in many ways."

"As it is not possible to defend an accused person without knowing the details of his guilt, so knowing the content of the forestry reform allows us to better respond to the concerns of the people" says Mamadou Mbaye, President of the Environmental Commission of the Rural Council of Missirah. He cites clarifications on forest taxation, on the creation of development funding, and above all, on organizational responsibilities and changes in the production quotas. "We are now prepared to face possible cuts in the national quota for 2010" said Mbaye.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# “Thon” saves the palm grove

**The local convention is a community regulation that ensures the sustainable management of natural resources, protecting the palm groves in Senegal.**



*A PALM GROVE ENCIRCLING A LOWLAND AREA IS CREATED FOR THE CULTIVATION OF RICE*

***“To better manage the forest as part of the local convention, we have proceeded with a zoning process. In each zone, there will be a relay officer and two supervisors. We have also asked village leaders to keep watch“ explained Younouss Mbo Massaly, President of the Rural Council of Bambaly.***

The rural regions of Southern Senegal are characterized by exuberant vegetation. Among other things, there are beautiful palm groves, as seen in Bamably, in the administrative region of Sédhiou. The palm groves line the lowlands along the Casamance River. Having been threatened by abuse and exploitation for several years, the palm groves have become the object of local public surveillance and control. The people of this region have created a method of managing these palm groves, called “thon” (meaning, in the local language, periodic gaps in cultivation of the palm grove, to allow it to develop and flourish).

The implementation of the local convention, initiated by the Rural Council and the community, with the help of technical services and of the USAID Wula Nafaa Project, has made it possible to assure the protection of forest as well as sustainably develop it.

“The USAID Wula Nafaa Project has contributed greatly to the improved management of natural resources in the rural community” states the President of the Rural Council. “We are monitoring the harvesting of nuts and the pruning of the palm leaves, which are used to make brooms for women” the President of the Environmental Commission of the Rural Council tells us.

It was in 2007 that the Rural Council created the local convention to protect the palm grove and other tree species in the forest. It aims to The Local Convention specifically protects those species that provide inhabitants, especially women, with some income, and that helps them out of poverty. Approximately 10,000 litres of palm oil are extracted every year from the palm groves of this zone.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# WASH: A big leap forward

**The results posted on water and sanitation activities are promising and undeniable. This is thanks to collaboration with the technical services and the local collectivities.**



*THIS WATER IS FLOWING FROM A FOUNTAIN LINKED TO A NETWORK OF WELLS.*

***“The local collectivities have never been so closely associated with a project from start to finish”, declared Bangadan Sakho, President of the Koar Rural Council.***

A big boost has been brought to Tambacounda Region in eastern Senegal in the domain of providing access to potable water and sanitation infrastructure to the people. USAID-Wula Nafaa Program built 30 structures in two years, including wells with manual pumps, wells with solar pumps, manually-drilled wells, and 258 latrines.

In addition, the Program assisted with setting up and training 30 water management committees that can contract with local operators for maintenance. This is a gleaming record and a comfort to the people in this part of Senegal. “With this program, the objectives were well defined and doable, and that’s why success was possible. Behavior change with utilizing latrines and adding bleach to water has become a reality in our areas”, explains the President of the Rural Council in Ndamé, one of the beneficiaries of Program support. Better still, adds his colleague from the Rural Council of Goumbayel, “Many partners work with us, but this is the first time that we have been associated with the entire process, and that is indicative of the participatory approach promoted by the Program from the beginning.”

The technical services of hydraulics and hygiene that worked with the Program are full of praise for its approach.

“Projects have a habit of turning their back on us once the activities are completed, without worrying about sustainability and continuity by the technical services. This is very different here; we are sharing the achievements and we take ownership of the works,” claims one of the hydraulic service bosses. “We are more confronted with water quality issues, and by targeting more than 1,000 persons, the majority of whom are women, and by assisting them with these issues, it is easy to understand the impact the Program has had on the life of the populations.”



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## SUCCESS STORY

# New well promotes health in the village

**The results are remarkable. The installation of a well has changed the whole appearance of the village. Sanitation began with that well.**



*A SANITATION MEETING IN THE VILLAGE, WITH MOBILIZED CITIZENS*

***“Before the Program, the village was quite dirty. Today, cleaning days are organized regularly,” confirmed the PCR of Sakho.***

The village of Tivaoune Kroum-Coupé in the Rural Community of Koar, Tambacounda Region, is remarkably clean. One can breathe fresh, healthy air there.

This qualitative change, described with satisfaction by the population, happened with the arrival of USAID-Wula Nafaa in the village. It all started with a well built by the Program as part of its water and sanitation activities. “It’s great to drill a well because that lets the people have access to clean water. But the Program went a little further when it did sensitization on personal and group practices that can preserve and improve health”, explained Abdoulaye Boly, head of the Water and Sanitation component of the Program.

USAID-Wula Nafaa Program supports populations through their local governments in collaboration with technical services for better access to potable water and sanitation. The well’s management committee that the Program assisted to set up has allowed the youth and women of the village to become familiar with good hygiene practices. The impact of training given by Program staff is visible on the ground.

In Tivaoune Kroum-Coupé, everyone now knows how to wash hands and why this simple action is important. “We have learned much about hygiene. Now we know which behavior to use to avoid water-borne diseases”, says a proud Aissatou Sarr, woman vice president of the well management committee.

The President of the Rural Council is particularly jubilant about having a well in a Rural Community where people are “very thirsty”. “Out of 20 villages in the Rural Community, only three have clean water available”, emphasized Baganda Sakho, who added that the only motorized drill in the area dates from 1982.



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## SUCCESS STORY

# WATSAN: Governance is Key to Success

**USAID WN executed works through a partnership with USAID and the Coca Cola Foundation. Providing Access to drinking water: A USAID Wula Nafaa Success in Tambacounda, Eastern Senegal.**



*THE WELL IS EQUIPPED WITH A SOLAR PUMP THAT SUPPLIES WATER TO OVER 700 PEOPLE*

***"There has been a decline in diseases from drinking unsafe water. The water from this well has really helped village hygiene," said Mamadou Mane, the village chief.***

Water is the source of life. This assertion is well known to people in the region of Tambacounda, in the eastern part of Senegal. And under the Water and Sanitation Component of the Wula Nafaa Project the installation of improved drilled and hand-dug wells has greatly helped local village populations.

In Touba Fall, a village located a few kilometers from Tambacounda, there stands a shining new, white water tower with a large black cistern, being filled by a solar-powered pump. The works include a system of water distribution points in the village. At first view one could forget the painful drudgery of women who have traditionally fetched water in buckets from local wells. "The well and spigots have made easy access to potable water and its availability. It is very satisfying because it really eased the tasks of the village women " emphasized Abibatou Diallo, a member of the Management Committee responsible for the new well and village sanitation.

The Management Committee ensures good governance of the new system on behalf of the community. The committee sets the hours of operation, collects fees for household use, ensures the safety of the installation and its immediate surroundings, maintenance, etc.

The system has eased the work of women and decreased usage pressures on traditional wells, which caused conflicts between women in the past, "said the President of the Management Committee of drilling, Bouba Bané. To the village chief, drilling is a godsend. "Before drilling, good potable water was sometimes 2 kilometers distant. Currently, women do not experience such difficulties and traditional wells can now help ensure the irrigation of small garden plots "noted the head of the village, Mamadou Mane.