



The Community-Based Natural Resources Management Project (CBNRMP)



Fact Sheet

- Goal** To increase private sector incomes derived from the exploitation of natural resources, consistent with decentralized, sustainable natural resources management. The sub-goal is to increase soil productivity.
- Purpose** To increase local community participation in the identification, planning, use and conservation of natural resources.
- Life of Project** 7 years (October 1994 - December 2001)
- Partners** The Government of Senegal, USAID (No. 685-0305), SECID and the rural populations
- Financing** USA = US\$ 25,000,000; Senegal = US\$ 10,678,300



Implementing agencies

The CBNRMP is implemented by the Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of Nature in collaboration with the South-East Consortium for International Development (SECID), an American nonprofit organization that represents over 20 universities and an important research institute. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) serves as the lead institution for the implementation of the CBNRMP through its Office for International Research and Development. This office currently works with over 20 international universities and institutions. SECID contracts with several nongovernmental organizations such as Arkansas based Winrock International , an organization dedicated to increasing agricultural productivity, improving natural resources management and promoting women in development. Other subcontractors include Senegal's Action Consulting Association and Washington based Action for Enterprise, International, both dedicated to improving organizational skills and human performance.



Project approach and interventions

Senegal is divided into 320 Rural Communities. The Project will work with a maximum of 50 Rural Communities to promote a viable system of community-based natural resources management with an accent on the implementation of land use management plans designed by and for the rural populations. The CBNRMP is currently working in 15 Rural Communities to reinforce the organizational, analytical and technical capacities of the rural populations.

A Natural Resources Management (NRM) Committee is democratically elected in each participating Rural Community. This committee works in close collaboration with elected leaders and is responsible for managing local Project activities.

Giving responsibility to the local populations for all levels of decision making has helped lay the basis for good governance in the Rural Communities. A needs-based training program is offered by the Project to local actors to build on this foundation.



The CBNRMP organizes exchange visits for participants with other Rural Communities in Senegal and other West African countries that face similar natural resources management problems. These visits allow participants to increase their knowledge of natural resources management practices and to share their knowledge and experience with others.

The Project's partnership with SECID provides an opportunity for selected individuals to receive specialized training in the United States. American stakeholders also benefit from these encounters as well as the experiences gained in Senegal by university professors who in turn share with their students.

The CBNRMP builds local technical capacities through the support it provides to the local extension agencies that serve the participating Rural Communities and by the recruitment of rural community animators who assist the NRM committees in accomplishing their tasks. Funds are made available to the NRM committees to cover part of their activities. These funds are managed by the committees after training.

In each Rural Community the local populations define a Land Use Management Plan with Project assistance. The Plan identifies existing problems and potential solutions and is used to organize local efforts to resolve prioritized natural resources management problems. In the first generation of Rural Communities participating in the Project, these plans are now being implemented. Subprojects are designed to address a priority natural resources management problem. The subprojects, funded to a large extent by the participants, include activities that together can resolve the problem.



A sophisticated monitoring and information system has been established by the CBNRMP that enables the Project to make appropriate recommendations for changes in natural resources management policies.

Information about the CBNRMP and its decentralized approach is widely disseminated throughout Senegal. Thanks to its state of the art audiovisual production unit, the Project houses a large collection of audiovisual materials about the environment and rural development that serves many partners in development.

The CBNRMP's partner-based approach provides a vehicle for implementation of Senegal's new decentralization laws, enacted in January 1997. These laws, which support the Project's efforts to build partnerships and to give responsibilities to the local communities, mark a decisive turn in the country's legal and administrative practices. The laws turn over all natural resources management related responsibilities to the local communities.

Results

- Adoption of improved natural resources management techniques which improve the environment
- Democratic and participatory land use planning in the Rural Communities
- Villagers' access to mapped inventories of local natural resources, relevant technical information and trained extension agents
- Mastery of financial and administrative skills by villagers
- Implementation of government decentralization policies for natural resources management
- Increased incomes within the Rural Communities

What people are saying ...

Abdoulaye Bathily, Minister of the Environment and the Protection of Nature



"We believe that this Project is one of the most important in the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection of Senegal. I think that this Project will result in concrete achievement that we will be proud of."

Anne Williams, Director of USAID - Senegal



"The people say 'This is our activity. This is our project. It is we who are designing it, we who are doing it. It belongs to us.' If we can keep that going it means that at the end we will leave something behind that can be sustained afterwards. I think this is the most exciting thing we are doing."

S.K. De Datta, Director of the Office for International Research and Development at Virginia Tech



"The CBNRMP is a unique experiment and experience. We believe this experience is tremendous and other West African and East African and Southern African countries are following in these footsteps and are developing methodologies similar to what we have here."