



GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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USAID's climate change activities in Senegal focus on building the capacity of local communities to manage their natural resources. The program provides training in community-based natural resource management and also guidance for farmers on regenerating lost forest lands. By helping to restore and preserve Senegal's carbon sinks, these activities are mitigating the effects of climate change.

Background. Like its neighboring countries in the Sahel, Senegal was hit by a serious drought in the late 1960s. Since that time, Senegal's ecology has changed under the influence of dramatic threats to the environment. Average annual rainfall and agricultural production have decreased, livestock mortality has increased, and the country's forest resources are disappearing.

Sector-Specific Climate Change Activities. To address this situation, USAID supports Senegal's efforts to increase forest cover through the rehabilitation of degraded forest and agricultural land. Improved management of these areas is beneficial to the climate because it leads to carbon dioxide removal from the atmosphere and carbon storage, both above ground in biomass and in the soils below. USAID in this way helps rehabilitate Senegal's natural resources by building local capacity to manage them in a more sustainable manner.

In Senegal, USAID-sponsored training in community-based natural resource management has led to the establishment of protected zones within communal areas and the development of local agreements for the management of these areas. In addition to management training, farmers have received specific guidance for regenerating forest lands. As a result of these efforts, nearly 1,000 hectares of land are being rehabilitated through the establishment of "community-protected areas" in rural villages throughout Senegal.

The USAID Mission's agriculture and natural resource management program focuses on building the capacities of local communities to assume their devolved responsibilities to manage natural resources, thereby increasing their access to and control of natural areas and profits derived from them. Decentralized natural resource management is a big step toward placing management responsibilities for resources closer to the people who are actually using them. Even though communities may have certain rights and responsibilities devolved to them, they may lack the capacity or awareness to carry out their new roles. USAID recognizes this and has targeted capacity-building efforts at local resource users, community-based organizations, private sector enterprises, and local governments in a number of regions in Senegal.

Through these improved management measures and capacity-building activities, USAID is helping to preserve carbon sinks, thus mitigating the effects of climate change.

USAID's partners in climate change activities in Senegal include*:

- International Resources Group (IRG)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Senegalese Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection

* Because partners change as new activities arise, this list of partners is not comprehensive.

For more information on Senegal, visit USAID/Senegal's Mission Web site at:

- **<http://www.usaid-sn.org>**