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Local convention on the management of natural resources in the Senghor Valley

Experience by Caritas Kaolack, Toubacouta, Fatick Region, SENEGAL

Context: Threats to the natural resources of the Senghor Valley and its surroundings: multiple irresponsible uses, - anthropogenic factors of degradation, effects of climate change. Consequences: conflicts and poor sustainability of the natural resources of the area. Number of villages involved: 11.



Solution: Community-based and consensual management of natural resources around the valley. It consists of a sustainable and participatory management tool involving all stakeholders. This is how the project for a local convention for the management of natural resources in the Senghor valley was born, taking into account the organisation and functioning of local ecosystems and socio-systems.



Description of the experience

The approaches adopted have been strongly structured around the issue of conservation of existing potential, resource efficiency and sustainable management for the benefit of present and future generations.

Implementation process (in line with the concepts of transferred competences):

- Request for a local convention by the locals population, through the village chiefs and addressed to the local authorities;
- Consultation between municipal authorities, territorial administration, technical services of the state and development actors;
- Diagnosis of existing potential and identification of degradation factors;
- Village general assemblies and a workshop for consensus building and proposals for rules of access, control, management and exploitation of resources;
- Drafting of the local convention and harmonisation with the regulatory framework;
- Feedback to community actors for agreement and approval;
- Validation of the local convention by authorities; Installation of management bodies: village committees, inter-village committee and a Community Interest Group.



Other characteristics



Impacts

- Regeneration of plant potential and use of forest products;
- Fodder for livestock and habitat for wildlife;
- No more conflicts related to the use of natural resources
- Mico-climate in protected areas and contributes to the eco-climatic balance;
- Soil conservation



Challenges

- Rigour and dynamics of village committees in applying management rules
- Native and non-native populations respect the established management rules, impartiality
- Control of land boundaries, for the delimitation of protected areas



Lessons learned

- Collaboration between communities, local authorities, and partners allows for the safe management of natural resources in a given area
- The involvement and support of the population is important in the application of a local convention
- The good application of a local convention must be maintained by communication with and consultation and information of these actors

Field: Natural Resource Management

Period: (2019 – 2022)



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