

NIGER

Intensification of goat breeding to help vulnerable women adapt to the effects of climate change

Grantee: N'NIYAT National NGO

Type of organization: NGO

Number of participants: 2,216 residents

Location: 14 villages in Tamalolo, Department of Tanout, Zinder Region, Niger

CBA contribution: \$62,686

Project partners: Department of Breeding and Community Development in Tanout

Co-financing: Community contribution, \$5,572 in-kind; NGO contribution, \$6,416

Project dates: November 2010 – May 2012

BACKGROUND

The Community-Based Adaptation Programme (CBA) is a five-year United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) global initiative funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) within the Small Grants Programme (SGP) delivery mechanism. The UN Volunteers partners with UNDP and GEF/SGP to enhance community mobilization, recognize volunteer contributions, and ensure inclusive participation in the project, as well as to facilitate capacity building of partner NGOs and CBOs. In addition, funding is provided by the Government of Japan, the Government of Switzerland, and AusAID. The CBA's goal is to strengthen the resiliency of communities to address climate change impacts.

This CBA project focuses on the women of the 14 villages of Tamalolo, an area in the Zinder Region of Niger.

Women make up 51 percent of the population there (2,216 residents); and are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which are hindering goat breeding, an ancient tradition and an important source of income, and leading to climate change-driven poverty. The project site is located in an arid zone that is experiencing irregular rainfall. The change in weather pattern has led to deficient cereal and fodder production, and recurring floods have decimated the zone's livestock. Additionally, the increase of violent winds that cause sand dunes and glacis to invade farm lands has led to land degradation, wind and water erosion. As a result, the communities' farming, pastoral and agricultural production has become uncertain, and the poverty level, in particular amongst women and children, is on the rise. The reduction in goat breeding caused by climate change is forcing women to pursue income-generating activities such as small trade (sale of doughnuts, condiments, boule, straw, firewood, etc.). This shift in activities is contributing to land degradation and preventing communities from reaching previous levels of goat breeding. To address the population's extreme vulnerability, the project is focusing on reducing degradation and protecting the affected ecosystem to improve living conditions in the site area. Simultaneously, the sustainable practices developed for women, such as goat herding, should increase family incomes and improve Tamalolo's ecology and biodiversity.



A community meeting on planning the activities of the CBA project in Tamalolo-Karaptou/Niger

CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

Tamalolo is located in the Sahelo-Saharan zone of Niger, an area characterized by shortage of precipitations, violent winds, droughts, extreme temperatures, dust storms, grasshopper infestations, and bush fires. The Nigerian National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) reports that these environmental conditions have created harmful effects on agricultural production and ecosystems. For example, in 2006-2007 desert locusts (*schistocerca gregaria*) devastated most of the farming and fodder production. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects that these climatic phenomenon will intensify, leading to an increase in average temperatures, persistent droughts, growing precipitation variability, sand and/or dust storms, rising evapotranspiration and aridity. These changes will have damaging consequences on the local ecosystems, means of livelihood, breeding, etc. Specifically, the need for water by plants, animals, cultures and grazing will rise sharply while persistent drought will put food and pastoral production at risk. In addition, the projected increase in soil erosion will augment the vulnerability of natural and agropastoral ecosystems. Over the long-term, the production risks and the survival of communities dependent on these natural resources will be seriously endangered.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ADAPTATION MEASURES

In order to reduce soil degradation and vulnerability, the project helps women develop strategies to adapt to climate change. These are based on *savoir-faire* and the adoption of positive behaviour toward the management and protection of natural resources. N'NIYAT, an NGO based in Tanout, together with the target community, mainly women, is implementing this project. This NGO is familiar with the Tamalolo area and is aware of the problems being experienced by the populations in this zone. The project undertakes the following activities:



A 'revolving loan' system of local goats has been established by the CBA project and is now operational. This system helps the most vulnerable, poverty-stricken women in the 14 villages around Tamalolo.

- Conducting awareness raising campaigns and trainings (particularly for women) on the effects of climate change and on fodder (stray and farming by-products) conservation techniques.
- Identifying the most vulnerable women in the area who would most benefit from goat breeding (on average 20 women per village, corresponding to a total of 280 women for the 14 villages organized into 3 groups, that is 1 group per subzone).
- Assisting with the process of acquiring and managing goatherds and livestock food inventory.
- Constructs three livestock feed stores, including one per zone, and purchases/implements an initial stock of livestock feed comprised of 17 tons of wheat bran and 17 tons of cottonseed.
- Purchasing and distributing caprines, including goats (two per woman) and billy goats (one billy goat per village).
- Training women to recognize and diagnose the most common goat illnesses and identify their symptoms, and to understand the importance of vaccination and treating the animals.

Together, these activities make the Tamalolo zone more resilient to the projected climate change impacts, thereby decreasing the vulnerability of the ecosystem and improving food security and the community's livelihood conditions.

FOCUS ON...

Global environmental benefit

The key global environmental benefit of the project is the prevention and deterioration of soils. The project aims to reconstitute the female goatherds in the area through the purchase and distribution of goatherds to vulnerable women. Introduction of goatherds will reduce the adverse effect of soil degradation as there will be less entropic pressure on these resources (e.g. wood harvesting and gathering straw). In addition, the effects on biodiversity should be positive as certain herbaceous species, such as perennials, grow better under the 'pasture effect'. Similarly, the project should increase biodiversity through the promotion of the 'Sahel goat,' which is the caprine (goat-like) breed in Tamalolo.

Community ownership and sustainability

This project targets women and ensures their active participation in all project phases, including development. Capacity building activities enable this group to participate effectively in project implementation and it empowers participating women to sustain their actions for years to come. This process allows women to determine criteria for goatherd eligibility and then establish a list of local women who would benefit from a goatherd. The women take part in purchasing the goats, learning how to choose goats and negotiate the purchase price.

Policy influence

This project promotes the sharing of acquired knowledge in the area climate change adaptation. The sharing of experiences and lessons learned, by disseminating project results, will influence local and national politics on how to adapt to climate change.

For more information about CBA or CBA projects visit: www.undp-adaptation.org/project/cba

Further information, lessons learned, and experiences gathered from climate change adaptation activities globally can be found at the Adaptation Learning Mechanism: www.adaptationlearning.net

