

Partners for Resilience

Annual Report Mali

1. Basic information

- **Reporting period: March –December 2011**
- **Total budget (€) for the reporting period: 166 299.08 €**
- **Name of the person who compiled the report: Bakary KONE**
- **Date of the report: February 14, 2012**

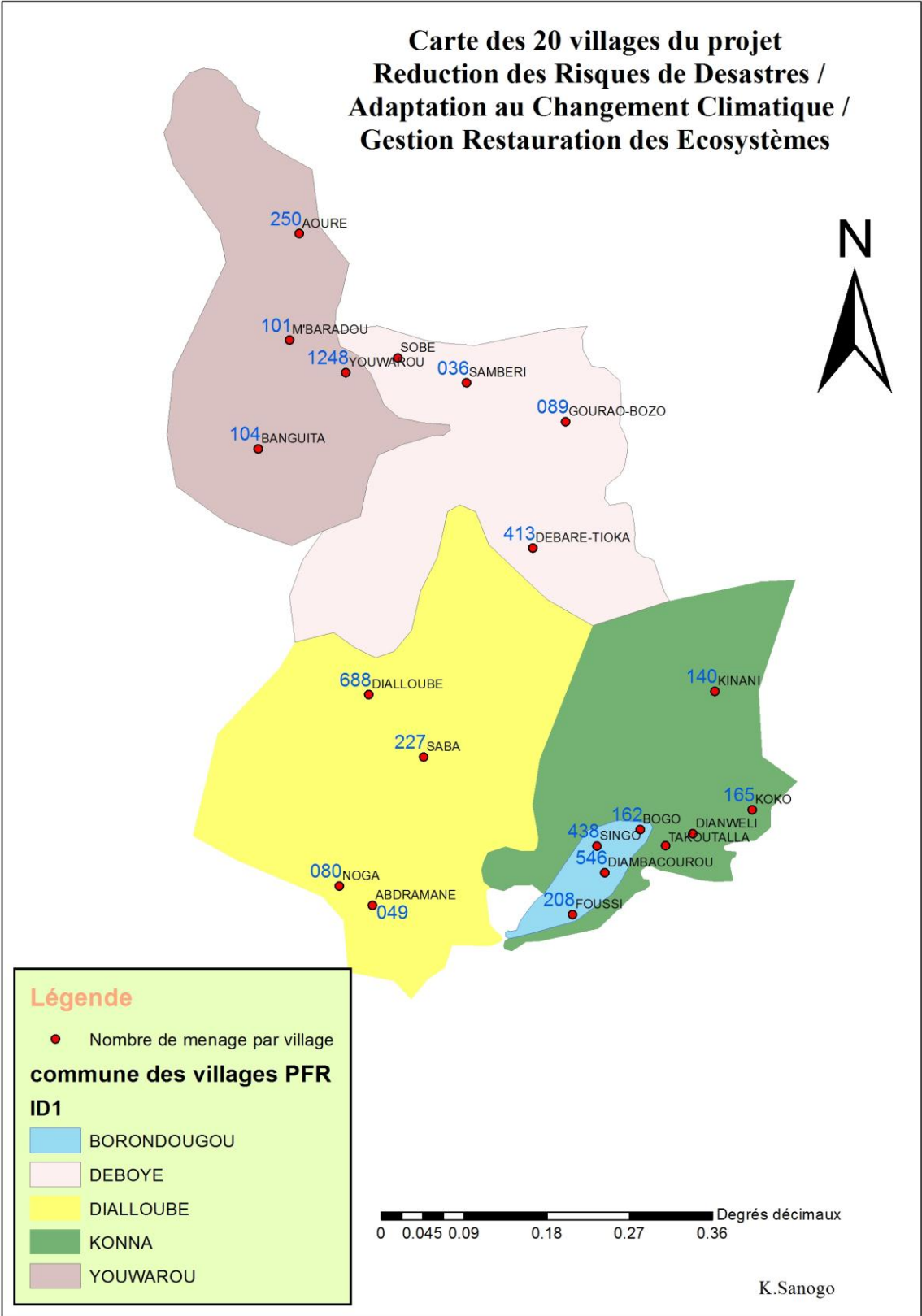
2. Context of individual organizations

2.1. Changes in the external environment

In the project area, the main natural hazards facing the local communities (3/4 live below the national poverty level) are: recurrent droughts, seasonal floods and permanent conflicts between different users of the natural resources which are continuously degrading.

The intensity and impacts of these natural hazards on the livelihoods of local communities have guided the members of PfR Alliance in Mali in cooperation with their three civil society partners and other stakeholders for choosing in Mopti region, five rural districts (Borondougou, Deboye, Dialloubé, Konna and Youwarou) belonging to Mopti and Youwarou Prefectures as meso-level for implementation. Twenty villages (communities) belonging to the five rural districts will be the main beneficiary groups of the project in addition to civil society organizations and local decision makers at different levels.

Figure1 : Map of the intervention area of the PfR project: 5 rural districts, site of 20 communities and their number of houtholds



The establishment of the full team of the project in all its component, field staffs (two field Coordinators), selection and contracting of the three main civil society organization partners have took time a lot of time because of, the rigorous selection process accepted by the PfR members. Nowadays all the project components are in place and operational the field with adequate resources for implementing the different tasks.

During the current flood year in the Inner Niger Delta, the project area has faced a rainfall deficit which has resulted to a weak flood and reduction of floodable areas, engine of the socio-economical and ecological development. The main consequences at the short term of this situation are: threat to food security for local communities and livestock, high pressure on productive site, increase conflict rates (farmers-herders, fishers-fishers, herders-herders, etc.) for remaining resources and migration of young person to the other regions of Mali or in neighboring countries. More frequent drought crises, changing regimes of river floods, changing patterns of use of water resources and land, traditional management systems inadequate and unproductive, ecological imbalance could be the long term impacts of such situation.

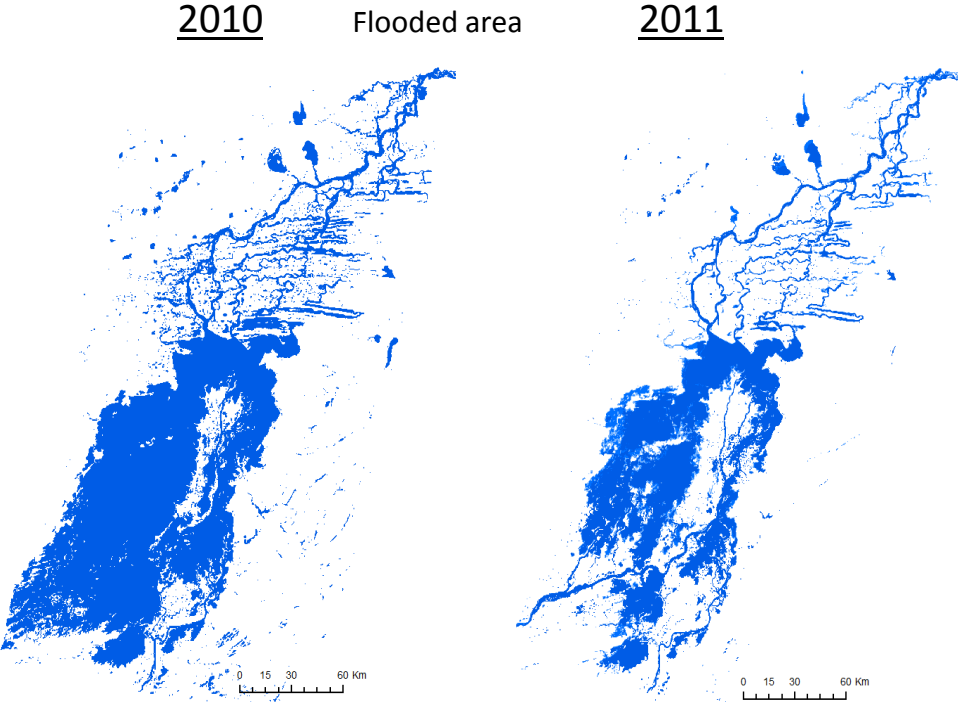


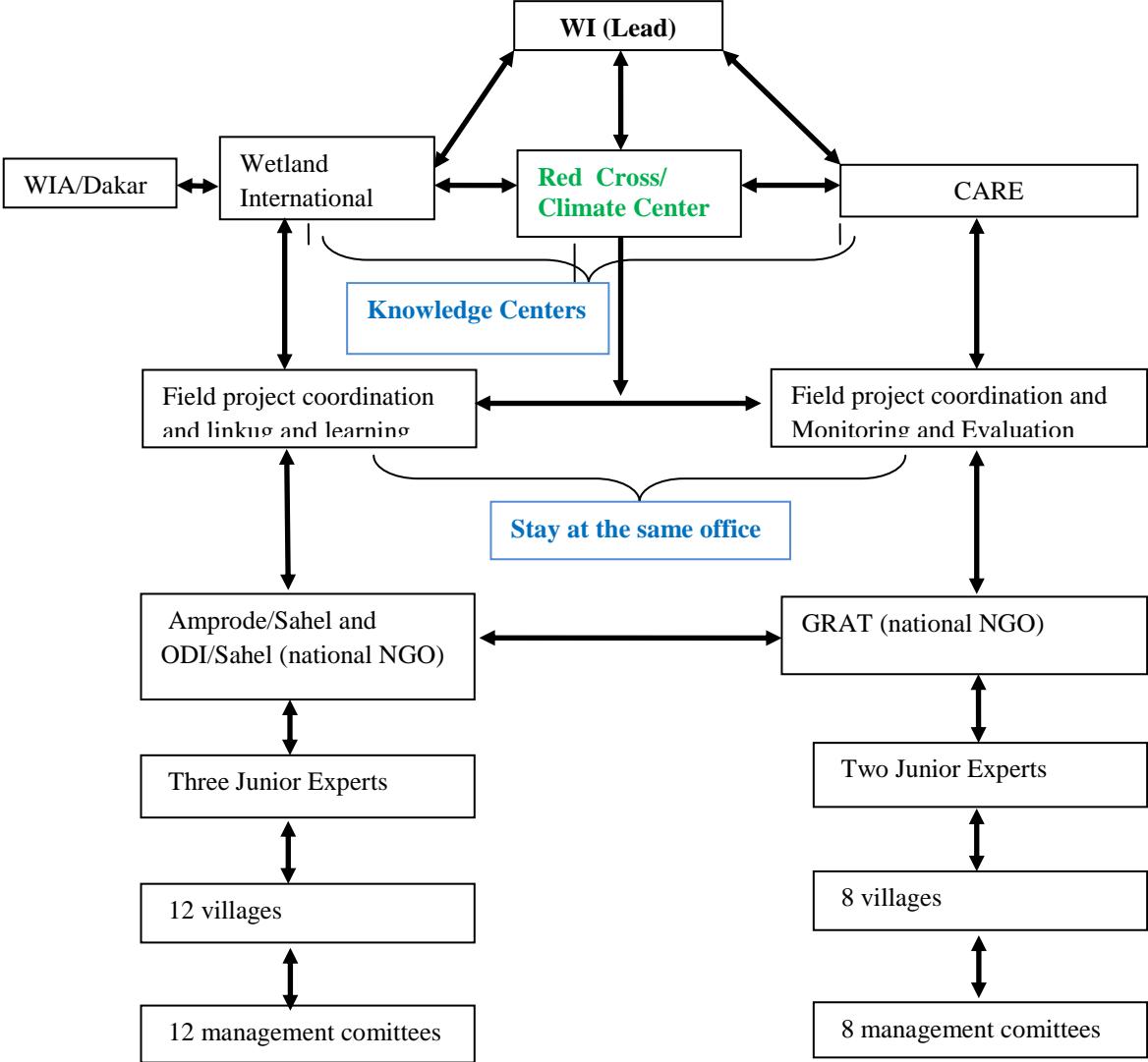
Fig2: Impact of river discharge of the flooded area of the IND 2010 and 2011

The current worst situation on local communities and negative impacts on the ecosystems of the project area. It is a challenge for the project because the community expects a more adequate response to the food crisis rather than the preparation in the reduction of risk. However, this situation could be seen as an opportunity for the direct beneficiaries of the

PfR project and the implementing team, because it will allow a better definition of resilience and adaptation measures on the short and long terms.

Even though it has not have an impact on the project implementation, the area has faced a cholera outbreak during the year.

2.2. Organisational developments



The members of PfR Alliance in Mali, Wetlands International, CARE International and Red Cross/Climate Center have during the current reporting period work, in symbiosis manner as one team on all the project aspects: administration, planning, implementation, communication and experience exchanges. The project team from bottom to top is in place and operating fully.

Wetlands International is the country lead. As a result, the regional office of Wetlands International in Dakar is supporting the Mali office in terms of finance management, capacity building and communication.

Wetlands International and CARE International through two staff members based at their respective headquarters at Bamako are: a) supervising the Field Coordinator activities and verifying the quality of their field reports, b) Act as a steering committee for the project, c) play a major role in advocacy and lobbying activities and d) play an inter face role between their Mali offices and their respective headquarters in Netherlands on technical, administrative and finance issues. In addition Wetlands International is in charge of documenting best practices and lessons learnt and CARE International, monitoring and evaluation.

The Red Cross/Climate Center is involved in the project through technical support t by the assistance of its Technical Adviser for the West Africa based at its Dakar office. This support is related to capacity building in the climate change adaptation, and lobbying and advocacy, and activities "Linking and Learning ", particularly through participatory video activities, and provides the inter face with its parent structure.

The two Field Coordinators (respectively one for each organization) are sharing the same office at Wetlands International headquarter at Mopti as result they coordinate, plan and implement jointly activities of a common work planning in their respective rural districts : Borondougou and Konna for CARE International and Dialloubé, Deboye and Youwarou for WETLANDS International.

AMPRODE/SAHEL and ODI/SAHEL, NGO partners are under the supervision of the Field Coordinator of WETLANDS International, and GRAT, NGO is under CARE International Field Coordinator. Three NGO partners are represented in each rural district by a junior expert in charge of supervising four villages. In each village it will be put in place a committee for risk management and prevention with clear Terms of Reference.

The Centers of knowledge and Expertise, the National Agency of Meteorology and University of Bamako intervene in the project by making available scientific information, strengthen

project team and civil society capacities and carrying out researches through thesis of their students.

A partnership has been established with the National Agency of Meteorology with the following objectives: a) support this project by making available any scientific information (data, database, documents) needed for its implementation and b) participate to the capacity building sessions (training courses, advocacy sessions) of the project by making its expertise on climate Change and adaptation strategies in Mali

Different faculties of Mali Universities are and will send students for doing research in the frame of the project. The research subjects have to be agreed between the Universities and the PfR project team. During this current reporting period one student has been selected for doing thesis. The subject of his research is still discussed between the two parties.

3. Results.

The following results show the level of implementation of the project according to the three strategic direction namely: a) Community poverty reduction (direct intervention), b) civil society (capacity building) and d) the institutional environment (political dialogue). It is important to point out approaches for implementing the project are: a) the participatory approach of all direct or indirect beneficiaries at all stages of planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of project, b) the make-do by organizations of civil society and other partners and c) the establishment of committees for prevention and disaster risk management in each village.

Various preliminary results have been obtained before starting the execution of three strategic directions of the project in the field: a) The inception workshop was held on 9, 10 and 11 March 2011 in Mopti and brought together all key project partners and members of the Alliance PfR and b) several information sessions and awareness about the project were held including with government institutions in charge of developing strategic documents of Mali (Unit in charge of Strategic Framework for Growth and Poverty Reduction), the Agency for Sustainable Development, etc.).

3.1. Communities (Direct intervention)

Strategic direction1 : Strengthen the resilience of the communities

Regarding this component many activities have been carried out in 20 villages with some outputs. The population of 20 villages, direct beneficiaries is about 28 411 inhabitants (RACE 2001), 51.50% women and 48.5% men.

The identification of real needs of the communities related to this component has required the use of different surveys many tools such as : Community-based Risk Screening Tool –

Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRISTAL), Community vulnerability and Capacity Adaptation (CVCA), which has been improved into CVCA++ during the first training course organized during the frame of the project and Rapid Rural Appraisal. These tools consist of a) resource maps, b) table of risks by resource, c) table of impacts/resource, table of strategies per resource, c) table of vulnerability matrix, d) table of seasonal calendar, e) historical profile of each village and f) semi-structured questionnaire. The implementation of these tools has mobilized about 678 inhabitants among which 41.29% women.

3.1.1. Sensibilisation sur le projet : objectifs, activités, résultats et impacts

Awareness sessions and networking took place not only in the 20 villages, but also with local and regional services, such as of agriculture, forestry, hydrology, sanitation and agriculture research.

At all levels they have taken on the project and promised to accompany it.

3.1.2. Development of resource maps of beneficiary villages (communities)

In each of the twenty villages, resource maps have been designed and contained the list of existing natural resources (landscapes, farming and no farming land, water resources, pastures, forests, etc.) and the physic resources such as: houses, mosques, churches, cemeteries, health centers, schools, etc.)



Fig3: Dialloube Rural district : Session of the resource map development of Abdramani village by women

3.1.3. Development of risk maps of villages and related resource issues.

A summary risk map result of individual map designed by three focus groups (women, young and old) has been developed for each of 20 villages with the technical support of junior experts and partner ONG . The risks links to each resource are described as well as impacts of risk on each resource.

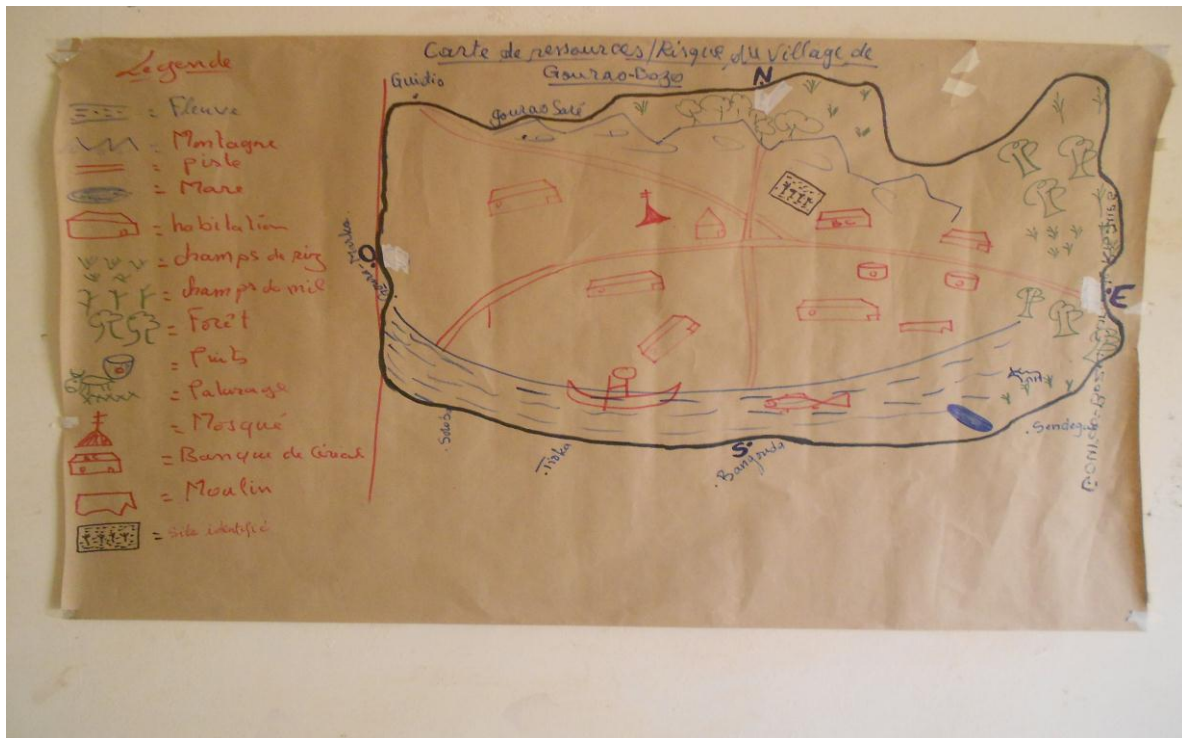


Fig4: Rural district of Deboye : Resources and risks maps of Gourao-Bozo village

Case study of Saba village, rural district of Dialloube, Mopti, Prefecture

Natural resources: a) farming lands (crop fields, small scale irrigated rice fields, women gardens), b) water resources (rivers, channels, seasonal and permanent ponds, forests, pastures).

Physical resources : traditional and improved wells, schools, mosques, houses, vegetable gardens.

Risks link to resources : **a) ponds:** water insufficiency, silting, invasive weeds, **b) rivers and channels:** water insufficiency, silting, water pollution, **c) forests:** overexploitation of green woods, rainfall insufficiency, invasive weeds, **d) farming lands, vegetables gardens:** weak flood, invasive weeds, conflicts between farmers-herders, high costs of fertilizers, lack

of agriculture materials and equipments, **e) pastures:** weak flood, overexploitation, droughts

Impacts of risks on resources: **a) ponds:** decrease fish production, decrease of monetary income, perturbation of boat transport, **b) pastures:** livestock lost, malnutrition, high mortality rate, **c) farming lands:** decrease of food production and income of farmers, food insecurity, destruction of crops of livestock, **d) forests:** desertification, rain scarcity, destruction of young plants, **e) rivers and channels:** decrease of fish production, and income of fishers, perturbation of boat transport, **f) vegetable gardens:** decrease of production and income of women groups, food insecurity, livestock ramblings, **g) housings:** human deaths.

Strategies adopted by communities in case of hazards on resources : **a) Ponds/rivers/channels :** over digging of river and ponds and their water provision channels **b) flight against invasive weeds** and information and awareness of communities about threats for drinking polluted water **c) pastures:** Bourgou planting and storage of fodders, small scale irrigated rice fields **d) farming lands: vegetable gardens, small scale irrigated rice fields (PIV):** PIV planning, carry out alive fence, planning protection dikes, use of improved seed, research microcredit for fertilizers, crop diversification, capacity building mechanics of agricultural pumps, **e) forests:** natural reforestation, put in place of management and monitoring committees, planning protection dikes and **f) Houses:** protection by dikes.

3.1.4. Development of action plans for risk reduction

As a prerequisite for elaboration of the action plan of risk reduction, certain activities have been carried out utilizing different tools such as: a) Assessment of level of risk vulnerability on resources has been carried out for each village (vulnerability matrix), c) assessment of the risk impacts on resources and d) inventory and definition of the different endogen and proposed strategies per risk.

Twenty action plans for risk reduction have been developed, one for each village, containing well defined and prioritized activities by the communities, as well as the listing of stakeholders which will be involve in their implementation during the lifespan of the project.

Prioritization of activities / risk reduction activities: Case study of Dialloubé community

Strategies identified	Over digging connecting channels to lateral habitats such as permanent ponds (breeding grounds for fish and feeding grounds for waterbirds)	Rehabilitation of five vegetable gardens and wells for women groups	Replanting four hectares of forests with local tree species	Strengthening the provision system in improved seeds adapted to climate change	Regeneration of <i>Echinochloa stagnina</i> (bourgou fields) pastures in favor of livelihoods and biodiversity	Assisted natural regeneration of forests
Over digging connecting channels to lateral habitats such as		1		1	1	1

permanent ponds (breeding grounds for fish and feeding grounds for waterbirds)						
Rehabilitation of five vegetable gardens and wells for women groups	1		2	2	2	2
Replanting four hectares of forests with local tree species	1	2		3	3	3
Strengthening the provision system in	1	2	4		4	4

improved seeds adapted to climate change						
Regeneration of Echinochloa stagnina (bourgou fields) pastures in favor of livelihoods and biodiversity	1	2	3	4		6
Assisted natural regeneration of forests	1	2	3	3	5	
Total score	5	4	2	2	1	1

3.1.5. Investigation on early warning tools at local and national levels

This activity is in course of implementation. However, a similar survey in the PfR project area and it has been carried out in the framework of the project entitled “**Improved Drought Early Warning and FORecasting to strengthen preparedness and adaptation to droughts in Africa**” (DEWFORA) funded by European Union has provided an inventory of scientific tools of early warning in Mali and traditional knowledge related to reading the climate. The traditional knowledge are related to the atmosphere, observation of stars and moons, observations of behaviors of wild animal mainly birds. Wetlands International and its partners have developed a flood predicting tool called “OPIDIN” which gives information to the stakeholders (farmers, herders and fisher) about the behavior of the flood. This latter is the engine of the socio-economic and ecological development of the IND. The higher is the flooding, the inundated area is large and consequently rice production, fish production, cattle fodder, survival rate of waterbirds are at their highest. Also, OPIDIN is a preparedness tool for forecasting severe drought and unexpected seasonal floods (which could destroy human lives, settlements and belongs).

3.1.6. Putting in place prevention and management risk committees

The prevention and management risk committees are community based organizations in each of 20 villages for preventing and managing natural hazards monitor and evaluate project activities and outputs. The process of putting in place these committees has started by the development and discussion its Terms of References

3.2. Strategic direction2: Strengthening civil society

3.2.1. Strengthening of capacities of civil society, technical institutions of the government and project team.

The first training course was held in Sevare/Mopti November 9-12, 2011. It has been organized and animated by the members of PfR Alliance in Mali with the center of knowledge of National Agency of Meteorology and the regional Directorate of Hydrology of Mopti. The 23 participants were from civil society, technical government institutions and project team.

The added value of this training course has been: a) understanding of climate change concepts, its causes and consequences and impacts, b) improvement of the existing CVCA by incorporating ecosystem management and climate aspects (CVCA++). The latter has been a “linking and learning” case not only for the members of PfR Alliance in Mali, but also the participants to the course, c) field visit during which CVCA++ has been carried out in Kineni village for strengthening intervention strategy of the civil society and the project team

and d) the how, why and when for establishing a communication platform and tools for facing, mitigating and adapting natural hazards.



Fig5: Presentation for taking into account de Ecosystem based approach in DRR/CCA

3.2.2. Strengthening of communities based organizations capacities

In addition to the continuous awareness sessions carried out by the five junior experts in the 20 villages, training courses on DRR/CCA/EMR have been organized and carried out in favor of local population of 12 villages out of the 20 by the two Field Coordinators. About 140 participants have attended those training courses among which 120 participants from partner villages (10 participants by village) and the remaining participants were made of local decision makers of rural districts and state technical institutions at the grassroots levels. During the next planning the remaining 8 villages of Deboye and Youwarou rural districts will benefit from the same training course.

The participants to these training courses have been selected according to their dynamism, understanding of climate change issues, social status and mobilization capacities of communities. These trainees will constitute the thinking tank for the future prevention and management of risk committees.

3.2.3. Francophone workshop on DRR/CCA at Benin

November 21-25, 2011 the head of food security, adaptation of climate change of CARE International, Mali accompanied by the Field Coordinator and one of the junior expert of GRAT ONG have participated at Cotonou, Benin to a francophone workshop on DRR/CCA (co-organized by CARE/Netherlands. CARE Management Unit, West Africa and CARE International, Benin). The training course have allowed the participants to: a) having a better understanding of DRR/CCA, better practice at project and program level, b) bring a better understanding on the manner to integrate DRR/CCA in programming, c) having capacity to integrate DRR/CCA in different steps of projects and programs and d) having a better understanding of the field work and related to DRR/CCA.

3.3. Strategic direction 3: Lobbying and advocacy at local and international levels

3.3.1. Awareness of the five rural district partners for taking into account

DRR/CCA/EMR in the local development action (PDSEC)

The PDSEC of each of five rural districts have been collected par the project team in order to deeply analyze them. The next step will consist of in cooperation with municipal councils of partner rural districts for insertion of DRR/CCA in their PDSEC during the annual revision during the lifespan of the PfR . Also the project plans to contribute financially to implementing some priority actions in favor of the local communities.

3.3.2. Advocacy around the water crisis in the Inner Niger Delta

A consultation on « Water crisis in the Inner Niger Delta” has been commissioned by CARE International and carried out by Royal Haskoning and Altenburg &Wymenga in collaboration with Wetlands International with the following objectives: a) contribute to assessing the current hydrological situation of the IND, facing negative impacts of climate changes, b) analyze the causes and consequences resulting the current weak flooding situation of the IND, c) propose concrete mitigation and resilient actions facing negative impacts of such drought situation of the IND on pastures, fisheries, farming and on local environment and d) put in place an operational scheme for prevention and management of crisis and hazards.

Some of the proposed solutions at the short and long terms by the consultation have been advocacy subjects in favor of the IND stakeholders including decision makers at local and regional levels and some partners of the capitol city, Bamako. The proposed solutions reflect how to increase resilience of the populations and ecosystems in the project area. Some of the proposed solutions mainly those of the short and medium terms are in line with some activities of the action plans for prevention and management of risks of partner villages of the PfR project.

Pour les activités futures en matière de plaidoyer autour de la crise de l'eau dans le DIN les activités suivantes sont planifiées : des sessions de plaidoyer auprès des membres du Gouvernement, des Partenaires Techniques et Financiers et des grands utilisateurs des ressources en eau en amont et aval du DIN : Office du Niger, Office du Perimetre Irrigued de Baguineda, Office de Developpement de Selingue, Energie du Mali, la Commission de gestion du barrage de Selingue, Office riz Segou et Office Riz Mopti

For future activities in advocacy around the water crisis in the delta following activities are planned: the advocacy sessions with members of the Government, Technical and Financial partners and major users of water resources upstream and downstream of the DIN: Office du Niger, Office du Perimetre Irrigued de Baguineda, Office de Developpement de Selingue, Energie du Mali, la Commission de gestion du barrage de Selingue, Office riz Segou et Office Riz Mopti

Conclusion and Perspectives

The preparatory activities for launching the project have took half of 2011 and implementation the rest of the year. None external factors has hampered the project implementation. However, during 2011, there has been a drastic reduction of the floodable area of the IND due to the weak discharges of the Niger and Bani rivers, This situation has seriously impacted the livelihoods of the communities and significantly reduce the remaining natural resources of the IND. The short strategy develops by the communities has been short term migration to other parts of the country and neighboring countries The Government of Mali has declared a food crisis this year which will seriously affect communities in the PfR intervention area and which will require the mobilization of emergency aid, both for human for their food security and nutrition as well as for livestock.

The implementation of the activities according to the three strategic directions has started during the first year by putting in place a dynamic team of the project, with civil society organizations sufficiently committed and establishment of mutual confidence with the direct beneficiaries.

With the adoption of the 2012 work plan, the implementation of the project reach its cruising speed.

