



Community-based Natural Resource Management by means of Local Charters and Agreements

Methods and Tools

Context

As a Sahel country, Chad is facing severe ongoing degradation of its environment and forest ecosystem. This process, which is linked with successive droughts and strong demographic pressure, is threatening the survival of the local people and the national economy. In this context, the fight against desertification and efforts to protect forests and restore natural resources are among the government's priority programmes to improve people's living conditions and lay the foundations for sustainable social and economic development.

The 'community-based management of natural spaces and resources by means of local charters and agreements' approach is part of the continuing experience of the project to conserve and manage natural resources that are vital to the economy of Mayo-Kebbi (soil, forests, pastures, fish, wildlife and water). It aims to regulate access to and coordinate the use of these spaces and resources, and if possible to limit the frequent conflict between crop farmers and livestock farmers in the country.

The local charters and agreements comply with the following principles:

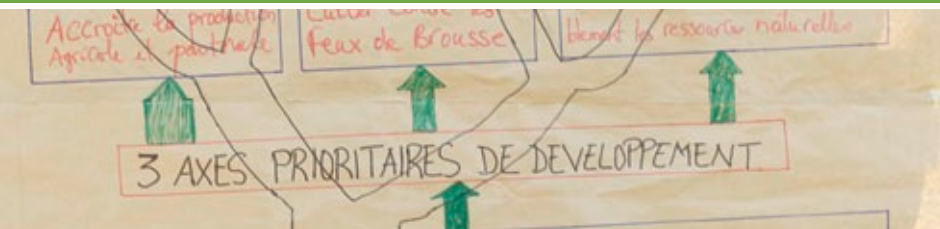
- The written agreements formalise the rules, standards and clauses to be complied with;
- These rules result from a process of coordination and negotiation among the different interest groups, users, communities and traditional authorities, while taking account of traditional rules and technical studies;
- The negotiations result in a plan of action that aims to implement decisions and apply the agreed rules and clauses;
- The actions and regulations that result from this process do not conflict with existing laws or plans;
- A management and planning structure to ensure the implementation of specific activities is in place and is legally recognised;
- Local charters and agreements are validated, recognised and supported not only by user representatives, but also by institutional stakeholders (technical services, decentralised collectivities, traditional chiefs and local authorities), who are involved in drawing them up;
- A resource monitoring system forms part of the negotiations.



The drafting of a charter or agreement includes the following steps:

- Identification and **participation** of all interest groups, the neighbouring population, traditional chiefs including rural farmer leaders, local authorities and technical services concerned;
- **Raising awareness** of the problem(s) concerning the resource(s) in question;
- **Dissemination of information** that is vital for an understanding of all the steps in the process, for advancing the process, and for assessing proposals;
- **Visualisation of the area** covered by the charter or agreement. The information provided by studies, workshops and other sources must be prepared or presented using appropriate methods that aid comprehension and participation by everyone concerned. Diagrams and maps illustrating the appropriation of the area, which are used during the negotiation process related to the management of this area, play a key role;
- **Use of participatory** tools for structuring reflections and discussions at workshops in order to reach conclusive and transparent results: problem tree, diagnostic framework, diagram of land/ territory.

The drawing up of a charter, discussing and signing it, and then implementing and monitoring its plan of action validate these



steps and ensure the commitment of users and the population in general to their resources. The charter is designed on a larger scale than the agreement and may present diverse but interlinked problems of a complex nature (e.g. scattered forest, lakes, gallery forest and pastoral resources). It lays down the main thrust of



activities and the guidelines for managing and protecting these resources, and helps to prepare local agreements and town and country planning schemes. It does not spell out solutions and actions, but defines the type of local agreement to be signed for each sub-zone and its broad lines.

The local agreements to be drawn up as part of a charter's plan of action may refer to no-take zones for fish, areas targeted for the regeneration of fishery resources (*marine protected areas*, MPAs) or zones in which grazing is prohibited, core zones of classified wild-life or forest reserves, or forest management and development.

The charter and its agreements also constitute a guide for the actions taken by the technical services, local authorities and government.

Stakeholders

- Service providers;
- Committee that draws up the basic texts;
- Programme teams;
- Local authorities;
- User representatives;
- Traditional chiefs;
- Local leaders;
- Producer organisation, socioprofessional groups;
- Village monitoring committees;
- ILODs (*local orientation and decision-making bodies*);
- Decentralised technical service departments.

Activities

The following activities have been conducted:

- Training of 12 guides and trackers by the ecotourism development programme;
- Organisation of awareness-raising campaigns to combat the improper cutting of green wood in the cantons within the programme's area of operation;
- Dissemination of improved stoves;
- Introduction of controlled burning;
- Organisation of people living in the areas concerned to help manage natural resources;
- Preparation of a guide to drawing up local charters and agreements.

Products and their use

- Capacity building for the people, their organisations and technical services with regard to natural resource management;
- Showing users methods and techniques to valorise natural resources;
- Implementation of investment projects for natural resources management;
- Limiting the deforestation process due to increased agricultural production.

Direct results

PRODABO zone:

- (7) local agreements on the management of water-spreading weirs;
- (4) local agreements on the management of forest areas.

PRODALKA zone:

- 6 charters and 35 agreements have been drawn up to protect and conserve natural resources;
- 355,000 ha (18.3%) of the surface area is covered by local agreements.

Monitoring and evaluation

The ILODs and members of the programme teams and decentralised state service departments monitor the stocks of fauna, classified forests, agropastoral areas and zones of interest for wild game and fishing within PRODALKA's area of operation. In the area where PRODABO operates, *the management and maintenance committees* (CGEs) are responsible for this task, in cooperation with the members of the programme teams and decentralised state service departments.

**PROGRAMME INDICATIF DE L'ATELIER CANTONAL
DE CHOIX DES PROJETS PRIORITAIRES SUR LA
MARGE DU PDL DU CANTON LERE**

HORAIRE	THEME	RESPONSABLE
1er Jour: 05/11/2016		
8h00-8h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mots de bienvenue du CAC Mots du Prestataire Mots du représentant du PROCELKA Mots d'ouverture du chef de canton Présentation des participants Programme et objectifs de l'atelier 	Moderation
8h30-9h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rappel du concept du PDL et des conditions de sa révision Rappel des étapes précédentes de la révision Restitution des des Commissions 	Prestataire

**RESTITUTION DES TRAVAUX DES COMMISSIONS
DOMAINE: SOCIO-CULTUREL**

AXES PRIORITAIRES DE DEVELOPPEMENT

Lutter contre l'analphabétisme et la consommation excessive d'alcool.

Promouvoir la tradition par la construction des infrastructures culturelles et sportives.

STRATEGIES DE MISE EN ŒUVRE (INTERMEDIATE)

1. Alphabetiser la population non lisa
2. Sensibiliser la population en cadre relatif à l'alcool
3. Aménager les infrastructures culturelles et sportives
4. Construire les infrastructures culturelles et sportives
5. Encourager la participation communautaire
6. Réaliser les infrastructures culturelles et sportives
7. Constituer des commissions de suivi et d'évaluation

LOCALISATION

PORTEUR

pour les villages du Canton	Comité de village de [nom]
les villages de [nom]	[nom]
[nom]	Assoc. de Jeunes [nom]
[nom]	Union [nom]
[nom]	[nom]
[nom]	[nom]
[nom]	[nom]



Eternel ô Jésus Christ
Soutiens moi dans
ô père divin

à travers la maison
baissée, seul Jésus ne
peut faire passer
sans que nous ne passions
par lui



Scaling up

The results achieved with regard to the conservation and management of natural resources have prompted projects and people in the regions not covered by the *Programme for Decentralised Regional Development* (PDRD) to replicate this approach.

The local people are in favour of the adopted measures and can already see the benefit of their actions.

Environmental impact

Combating the improper cutting of firewood is one of the strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change. The same applies to prohibition and regeneration zones for other natural resources like water, wildlife and the rational management of agropastoral zones.

Constraints

The delay in implementing decentralisation, which is the institutional framework for implementing the charters and agreements, and the lack of official recognition of the support structures set up, such as the ILODs, constitutes a major obstacle to achieving a sustainable impact. The ILODs made up of citizens chosen by the people supplement the democratic bodies that should normally be in charge of governing these charters and agreements in their capacity as municipal authorities.

The low level of involvement of the decentralised technical environmental services, which are supposed to support and advise the people, is another major constraint.



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Project to improve livelihoods in
the refugee area in eastern Chad (ENÜH)

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