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# FRUIT TREES FOR SENEGALESE VILLAGES



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Naturefriends International



## PROJECT CONCEPT

Human-induced climate change and its present and future negative impacts hit the countries of the Sahel, whose economies are heavily dependent on natural resources and agriculture, particularly hard.

Senegal is fully concerned by this issue because the crisis is causing both an accelerated degradation of natural resources and a deterioration of the living environment.

Since 2013, the Association Sénégalaise des Amis de la Nature (ASAN – Naturefriends Senegal) has been involved in planting fruit trees, with the aim of helping rural populations adapt to the negative effects of climate change.

The "My plot, My orchard" project in northern Senegal (Saint Louis region), developed and implemented by ASAN from 2020-2022 and financed by the Naturefriends Climate Fund, has the overall objective of bringing fruit trees and orchards to each concession and handing them over to local families to take care of their well-being and benefit from their fruits.



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# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

## NOVEMBER 2020

### Awareness-raising visits in the villages

During the prospection of the four villages (Ndombo, Dimat, Loboudou, Doue) and the three hamlets (Niagorgo, Mbarane, Wouro, Kelle), the ASAN project team held participatory discussions with the population on tree-planting techniques and especially on the regular maintenance measures, which are essential for the success of the activity.

From 18 to 26 November, ASAN's project team travelled to northern Senegal (500 km from Dakar) to implement the first phase of the project. Various means of transport were used to reach these often very isolated places.





The project team held extensive consultations with traditional and religious chiefs, local leaders, and the population. The team has always taken advantage of these meetings to raise community awareness, not only about the causes and consequences of climate change related to human activities, but especially about measures to adapt to this scourge.

Like most villages in the Sahel countries, whose economies are heavily dependent on natural resources and agriculture, the selected villages are particularly affected by the effects of climate change.

Already scarce rainfall is decreasing further because of human-induced global warming. In addition, forests and woodlands are being cleared for fuelwood production or to gain arable and pastureland. Both phenomena lead to the destruction of people's livelihoods, which is accompanied by poverty and emigration.





To ensure the survival of the tree seedlings, the specific locations for the plantations were selected jointly. The digging of the holes for the plantings also took place in close cooperation between the project team and the population.



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## DECEMBER 2020

### The planting of trees

On 9 December, 2,000 fruit trees were transported by truck to the beneficiary villages.



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From 11 to 16 December, the ASAN project team, by bus, horse drawn cart, traditional canoe and sometimes on foot, criss-crossed the four villages and hamlets to proceed with the fruit trees planting together with very enthusiastic villagers.



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2,000 mango, sapodilla, and lemon trees are now growing in the villages and will stabilise the soil, improve the climate and provide people with valuable fruit.

Some highlights of the tree-planting in Ndombo, Dimat, Loboudou and Doué



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The planting has been accompanied by educational activities to raise awareness among local people about sustainable natural resource management. The project team visited the villages regularly after the planting operations, providing on-the-spot monitoring and support to the leaders.

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*"There are the sceptics and there are the optimists. I am one of the optimists. Those who think that planting a tree will do no good are very much mistaken."*

*Mamadou Mbodji, ASAN*

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As with previous tree-planting projects, this time the project especially targets village women, who traditionally tend the gardens. The project will also enable them to market the fruit in due course, thus contributing to the family income and improving their position within the families.

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After the planting, creative measures are taken so that the trees can withstand the two biggest challenges: poor climatic conditions and hungry goats and other grazing animals.



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# MONITORING/EVALUATION

## NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2021

During monitoring and evaluation in November and December 2021, an additional 900 trees were planted. These also compensated for the losses that unfortunately occur given the extreme climate and soil conditions, despite good care.

The project team used these visits to highlight the importance of regular irrigation and efficient protection measures against grazing animals.

Through the project, ASAN has contributed significantly to strengthening the resilience of regional communities to the drastic impacts of climate change, while also contributing to climate change mitigation.



## SUSTAINABILITY

### Fruit trees improve lives!

The primary need of the local population was to provide the families in the villages with valuable fruit. In just a few years, with proper care, the trees will be ready for the first harvest.

The tree planting was, in turn, a social activity in which hundreds of motivated young people and women from the villages participated. Not to mention the women who, thanks to the project, can better meet their family's nutritional needs and improve their income.

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*"When trees are planted in Africa, it benefits not only Africa but also Europe. Let us plant for our planet and for a good future for all people!"*

*Mamadou Mbodji, ASAN*

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Planting the fruit trees also raised the environmental awareness of young people in the villages and encouraged forms of green activism.

In addition, the trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, strengthen the soil, and provide shade and hope.



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"We are very grateful  
to all the donors  
whose generosity  
made this project  
possible!"

Mamadou Mbodji, ASAN

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