



## Mangrove ecosystem restoration, Senegal

Mangrove ecosystems are threatened everywhere and West Africa is no exception. **Desertification and intense population pressures have caused a 24% loss of mangrove forest cover in the last 30 years alone.** This phenomenon is threatening livelihoods since locals depend on mangrove ecosystem services such as fresh water, soil erosion protection and habitat for fish.

**Women in the surrounding villages of this project are committed to restoring this delicate ecosystem.** This commitment stems from a desire to foster a safe and sustainable environment for their children. We therefore partner with local women's associations across 26 villages of the Sine-Saloum Delta in Senegal to restore a unique mangrove ecosystem that is part of a UNESCO Heritage Site.



Mangrove

### As a corporation you can

Sponsor the planting of mangrove forests in Senegal. Your sponsorship will empower local women's groups to rehabilitate a degraded ecosystem which will create employment and a restored environment. Tell us how many trees you want to plant.

### The four major threats to mangroves in Senegal



Degraded mangrove area: a possible planting site.

1. **Drought:** The long period of drought during 1970s and 1980s caused extensive death of mangroves in this region.
2. **Domestic use:** Unsustainable deforestation for fuel wood, fishing and construction are exacerbated by a 3% yearly population increase.
3. **Human infrastructure:** Roads and dikes are major threats to the mangrove ecosystems. In the northern Saloum delta, road construction has destroyed hundreds of hectares of mangrove forest.

4. **Upland clearance.** Lower density of vegetation results in rapid flow of water and high erosion which erode mangrove forests.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://bit.ly/vlrDQX>

## Designated a UNESCO heritage in 2011<sup>2</sup>

The Sine-Saloum Delta lies in the heart of Senegal and was designated in 2011 a UNESCO Heritage Site. 60% of the 300,000 hectare delta is covered with mangroves. This estuarine wetland is a globally significant breeding ground for numerous migratory birds. By planting in the area and promoting sustainable education we hope to fend off desertification to maintain and expand one of the last healthy mangrove ecosystems.



A healthy mangrove forest.

## Working closely with women organisations

The project works with existing women's associations. Many of them have prior experience in reforestation activities on a smaller scale, and are therefore able to provide training within their communities. Such cross-training activities also strengthens ties among locals, committed to preserving their environment.



Meeting with community leaders.

## A source of inspiration

60 years old Awa Ndong lives in Moundé, DJIRNDA a village near the project area. She is educated and heads a family of 25. She leads a group of 121 women who work together on solidarity, poverty alleviation, cultural value restoration and local resource conservation.

This group of women commercializes fish produce, local fruit and Palmyra handicraft. **“We have worked on our mangrove restoration for the last 12 years and have been able to replant over 100 ha near our village. We need these mangroves for our survival now and for future generations. The handicraft we produce enables me to pay for medicines when someone gets sick”**. Awa has been awarded the Honor Prize for mangrove restoration by the Sous-préfet of Niodior.



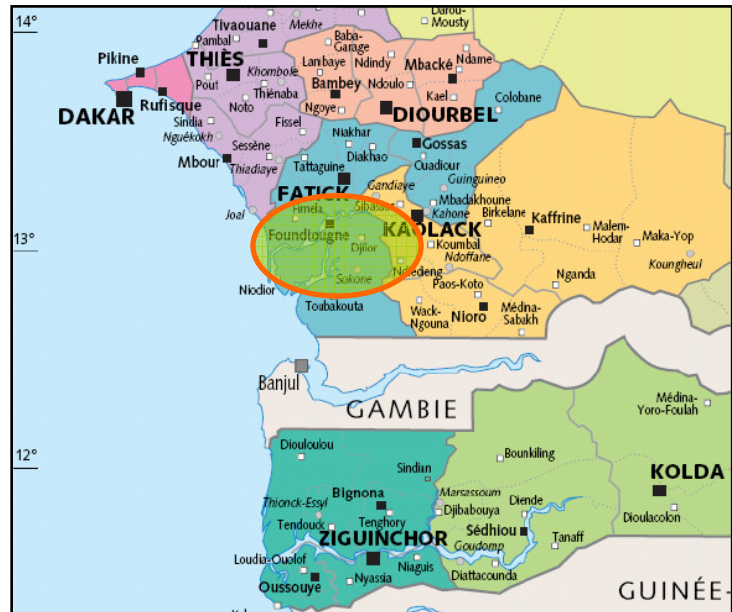
Madame Sall harvesting in Djilor

We are proud to work with great local leaders.

<sup>2</sup> <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1359>

## Project location

The 750 ha project is located in the Fatick region of Senegal, and concentrated in three communities: Djirnda, Djilor and Bassoul. All activities will be carried out in collaboration with 26 villages, 5 of which are located in Djirnda, 18 in Djilor and 3 in Bassoul.<sup>3</sup>



Fatick where we will plant.

### Contact us to discuss your needs

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<sup>3</sup> Djilor longitude 16 ° 19'60 West and latitude 14 ° 40'0 North Bassoul 13 ° 55' 0" North, 16 ° 36' 0" West