



Ensuring Inclusiveness in Sustainable Land Use Practices

CAN BE USED FOR:

- Creating greater awareness of local land issues
- Increasing uptake and spread of sustainable land use practices
- Transparent and representative local land governance mechanisms
- Building collaborative networks for both advocacy and implementation

► Overview

Encouraging the uptake, spread and political support of sustainable land use (SLU) practices can play a key role in protecting and regenerating land, and in turn the livelihoods of those dependent upon it. Agroecology¹⁴ in general and an agroecological approaches like Analog Forestry¹⁵ in particular have proven to be SLU approaches that offer great potential. Beyond the mere technical implementation of the practices that those approaches entail however, it is vital to ensure inclusivity in both implementation and advocacy to achieve long term and meaningful success. This will be the focus of this section, rather than the actual practices themselves.

“Analog Forestry can allow communities to seize the rural capacity to restore degraded areas whilst empowering themselves. Improved social and economic standing enables them to lobby to sit at traditional councils and influence decision-making.”

PERRY NDZEFEMMEGHU
(CENDEP, CAMEROON)



TOOL #1

Awareness raising and training

Striving for inclusivity in SLU practices requires a wider awareness of land governance issues amongst a diverse group of stakeholders. Training and sensitisation of stakeholders on the issues affecting land governance, such as land degradation and financial pressures, as well as on existing land and forestry laws, can prepare the ground for follow up training and advocacy. Additionally, raising awareness of the solutions that Analog Forestry and other agroecological practices can provide for farmers as well as for local economies and ecosystems can help to build support for their implementation. This should not only target farmers, but also mayors, local elected officials, technical service employees, customary and religious authorities, landlords and representatives of farmers', women and youth organisations.

In Senegal, Environnement Développement Action pour la Protection Naturelle des Terroirs (**Enda Pronat**) have found that effective methods for exchanging information include village forums, radio broadcasts, and even inclusion of these issues in functional literacy and education programs. Trained facilitators also continue awareness-raising work at village or household

level. These approaches have resulted in increasing levels of community organisation and calls for greater transparency and participation in local land governance processes. For example, in three particular communes, 544 land titles have been issued across the past three years, covering a total land area of 820ha. The fact that local officials had already been sensitised on the importance of land tenure security has helped to facilitate this process. In Cameroon, the Centre for Nursery Development and Eru Propagation (**CENDEP**) encourages communities that it works with on Analog Forestry to engage with their local land consultative board as a way of securing legal ownership of their land, but also note that the productive use of land, especially tree planting, can serve as an effective informal way of improving tenure security. The economic gains brought about through increased productivity can also serve as a form of empowerment, particularly for those typically excluded from traditional decision-making circles.

TOOL #2

Building an enabling environment

Ensuring that supportive policies and governance mechanisms are in place is another key component in promoting inclusiveness. Supporting the establishment or functioning of village committees or consultative boards can be an effective tool in promoting participatory decision-making. These should be democratic institutions comprising a range of stakeholder representatives, such as the village chief, municipal councillors, religious leaders, and leaders of farmers', women's and youth groups. In Senegal, Enda Pronat has supported the establishment of these bodies, and notes that they are now systematically consulted by government commissions or municipal authorities on interventions concerning natural resources and land use. Earlier awareness raising work has helped to make these institutions more open to engaging with organised groups at the local level. In this way, local realities can be worked into municipal adaptations of national laws, for example in local natural resource management charters or development plans. Grassroots SLU approaches such as agroecology and Analog Forestry then have a stronger basis through which to spread.

TOOL #3

Territorial or landscape approaches

Whilst trainings on specific SLU practices are important, such as composting, paddocking, crop diversification or the integration of trees, emphasising the importance of a territorial or landscape approach can help to achieve long-term buy-in from a diverse range of stakeholders. This promotes the need for inclusive collaboration between arable farmers, pastoralists, water users and environmental authorities, amongst others, based on an understanding that their activities are interlinked and

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We must pursue the work of supporting communities at the territorial level by ensuring the creation of synergies between various development sectors.

EL HADJI FAYE
(ENDA PRONAT,
SENEGAL)

that joint co-benefits can be created together. For example, CENDEP's Analog Forestry trainings emphasise the connection between watershed protection and local food security and incomes. Organising exchange visits can also provide a powerful tool for knowledge exchange and promoting collaboration.

Potential collaboration pathways can also be integrated into trainings. For example, CENDEP demonstrates how compost can be managed at community level, and Enda Pronat advocates for urban waste recovery programs for rural compost provision. Encouraging and building the capacity of local actors to co-design territorial agroecological transition plans can help to scale SLU practices up. As previously mentioned, earlier awareness raising work and establishment of local governance mechanisms provide the foundation for this.

TOOL #4

Unified advocacy

National level advocacy also forms a key component of any strategy to promote legislative support for inclusive SLU practices. The challenge is to ensure that this advocacy is brought with a unified voice at the national level, as in this way government institutions and officials are more likely to engage. In order to try and achieve this, Enda Pronat has been part of the formation of Dynamique pour une Transition Agroécologique au Sénégal, a network containing CSOs, as well as research and training organisations. In Cameroon, CENDEP has been working together with other CSOs to present cases to the government that demonstrate the benefits that Analog Forestry can bring, while also being involved in the land reform process, suggesting solutions to current loopholes and gaps in it.

Things to consider and anticipate

- ❑ **LOCAL LEVEL FOLLOW-UP.** Any laws and regulations adopted at the national level must be well understood by grassroots actors, communities and elected officials to ensure successful implementation at the local level. Disseminating this information in an understandable and relevant manner is therefore key.
- ❑ **BEHAVIOR CHANGE TAKES TIME.** Meaningful long-term change requires behavioural changes across a broad range of different actors. Unfortunately, there is no 'quick fix' for this and a certain level of patience is required. Rushing the process can prove to be counterproductive.
- ❑ **INFLUENTIAL ACTORS.** Collaboration with research institutions and media is fundamental in order to convince the different government actors. Building alliances with state institutions can also be of help, as well as with international institutions, who in turn have leverage with national policymakers.

CASE STUDY // ENDA PRONAT, SENEGAL

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration

Promoting the spread of agroecology and Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration

Farmers and authorities in the department of Fatick, Senegal, are faced with the issue of severe levels of land degradation. In response, Enda Pronat has worked with communities and other stakeholders to promote the restoration and regeneration of these lands through agroecology and a reforestation practice called Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (**FMNR**). Within these approaches, farmers are seen as the engines through which to affect long-term change, meaning that ensuring inclusivity is paramount.

Enda Pronat therefore supported farmers to engage in a participatory diagnosis process, in which the state of local ecosystems was assessed. Farmer field schools were set up as a means to learn, share and experiment with regenerative practices, which in turn provided the framework for further research and training activities, where farmers, researchers and technicians could interact in a participatory way.

In parallel with this, awareness-raising sessions were held with a range of different stakeholders. This included national and municipal authorities regarding waste recovery systems for the provision of compost, researchers to encourage them to place questions of land management and fertility on their research agendas, and schools to ensure a better understanding of soil fertility from a young age onwards. The aim was to sensitise stakeholders to the issues at hand, but also emphasise the potential role they could play in offering solutions as well as reaping the benefits.

Because farmers were central in these processes, their concerns could be quickly identified and addressed. For example, FMNR requires some level of upfront investment, with the benefits only being felt after a number of years. In the meantime, farmers still need to earn a livelihood. In recognition of this, self-managed village funds were set up to either allow access to means of production or to develop parallel income-generating activities. 38 self-managed funds have now been set up across 6 municipalities, managing a total of around 40 million francs, to facilitate access to agricultural inputs and equipment. Despite tenure insecurity providing a barrier in balancing between the long-term nature of FMNR payoffs and the short-term economic pressures experienced by most farmers, a strong focus was placed on sensitising local officials about these issues. Together with increased awareness and training at the community level, an increase in land title allocation has been observed. The inclusion of both the local community as well as officials thus provided fertile ground for simultaneously tackling land governance and land use challenges in the region.

Over the past three years, Enda Pronat has trained 1,132 producers in FMNR, who together have reforested a total of 1,654ha in the communes of Diouroup, Tattaguine, Diarrère, Koussanar and Ndogo Babacar. Grazing corridors have been organised at the village level and 'FMNR control stretches' formed to facilitate monitoring of excessive cutting. Action research has been able to track progress, revealing dramatic increases in yields, dietary diversity and incomes. The

statistics generated can then be used in local and national level advocacy to demonstrate the need for policies that promote an agroecological transition. Together with farmer exchanges, they also provide a powerful tool to convince other farmers to adopt similar practices in their own contexts.

The successes achieved have been built upon the focus on participation within the process: farmers were involved from the very beginning, a diverse range of stakeholders were included, and communities have set up their own finance, monitoring and collaboration mechanisms.

- 14 Both ENDS (2019). Unlocking Public Finance for Agroecology: Catalysing the potential of agriculture in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. [Online]. Available at: <https://www.bothends.org/nl/Actueel/Publicaties/Unlocking-Public-Finance-for-Agroecology-Catalysing-the-potential-of-agriculture-in-achieving-the-Sustainable-Development-Goals/>
- 15 Both ENDS (2015). Rich Forests: Making a living under the canopy. [Online]. Available at: https://www.bothends.org/uploaded_files/document/Rich_Forests_making_a_living_under_the_canopy_webvev.pdf