

Ferlo, Senegal

Putting local pastoralists
at the heart of restoration



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Mid-year update 2024

Ferlo, Senegal



Project status

Nearly 500 hectares under restoration

More than 120 000 trees protected & growing



Senegal's Ferlo region has its own stark beauty, lying within the dry savanna that characterizes the Sahel, a semi-arid zone marking the southern edge of the Sahara Desert.

Scattered trees and shrubs, predominantly acacia, break the flat stretches of this landscape, where irregular rainfall poses an obstacle to food security and poverty reduction.

Our project here with AVSF puts pastoralist communities at the heart of restoration. The community members outdid themselves in seed collection this year: they gathered a whopping 1900 kg of seeds. These are being nurtured into seedlings in the nursery or will be directly planted in the project's last planting in phase one, which will bring us to our target of 1000 ha restored.



The project's three tree nurseries have been raising the more than 109 000 seedlings of 13 species needed for planting in 2024, with a particular focus on *Adansonia digitata* (baobab) as it is multifunctional and adaptable, and disappearing in the region.



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In this phase of the project, we've also established experimental plots to test methods for ensuring consistent seedling survival and scaling up cost-effectively. Some plots were even designed to simulate a worst-case scenario, with no watering at all during the dry season.

After monitoring these experimental sites for 10 months, planted seedling survival rates range from 23% to 51%, while direct seeding survival rates range from 16% to 57%, even in areas without watering. With the return of the rainfall, we're expecting new germination from the direct seeding in these experimental plots.

The project's livelihood strategy – which will make sure that the people living here can raise incomes through sustainable activities that don't put pressure on forest resources – is now underway, and focuses on organising the communities to collect non-timber products such as animal fodder and fruits and improving market access.

These people are harvesting grass from the restoration areas – taking it carefully from between the lines of planted seedlings – which they will use and sell as fodder. It is packed into blocks for easier storage and transportation, and improved by adding multi-nutritional natural products that are easy to find locally: molasses, gum arabic, salt, water and wheat bran.



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You'll receive an annual update in March. Meanwhile, stay up-to-date with our interactive [Ferlo map](#), and check out the photos on [Flickr](#).

You can find an overview of all communications assets and guidance on how to communicate about your partnership with WeForest [here](#).



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