Community engagement March–June 2011

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Elephants at Banzena, Nomba Ganame
Community meetings at Tinabou, Ouro Allaye Kissi, Birol Kele, and Kazey-Kazey to integrate this area to the south of Banzena into the process
These have resulted in two more pasture reserves to the south of Banzena, with associated management committees and patrolling brigades.
Lunch-break
4 day visit to the project by the Secretary General and the National Director Adjoint

Inspection of the firebreaks and the limits of the relocation area

- The visit was a strong message to the local population of the importance of the initiative and that they were visible to the highest levels of government, which has helped the momentum of our work
- It also “brought the initiative alive” to these levels of government and aided their understanding of the project
4 day visit to the project by the Secretary General and the National Director Adjoint

Formal meetings with the community involving more than 75 people

The result has been much support and activity in finding ways that the process can be supported as for example in the Head of Legal and Regulatory Issues working on legal texts and structures to support the work of the Brigades de Surveillance; and in formalizing the rules of use and enforcement for the pasture reserves.
The result is that the Ministry and the DNEF have enthusiastically taken this on board and made available the Head of Legal and Regulatory Affairs to help with the process of drafting of new legal texts, such as that formalizing the status of the pasture reserve opposite.

They have also been active in formalizing the status and operation of the patrolling brigades.
The “Brigades de Surveillance” have begun patrolling

The effectiveness of the brigades has already been reflected in a reduction in livestock at Banzena. However they need legal status and official recognition by the state with clear articulated duties and responsibilities.
Register of the first Brigade at Banzena

Work is underway to give the brigades formal legal status.
Mobilization

The brigades have also been mobilized to fight fires. In this case they stopped two bush fires between Fifo and Inadiatafane and between Bambara-Maoude and Kayes-Kayes.
Visit to the PADESO project at Sokolo by representatives of the management committee & brigades

The “Programme d’Appui au Développement Durable de l’élevage au Sahel Occidental les actions du (PADESO) aims to reduce pastoralist pressure on the agricultural developments of the « Office du Niger ».

35 representatives of the Banzena community visited the project to learn about:

• the establishment of pasture reserves
• the patrolling and management of relocation areas
• the construction and maintenance of fire-breaks.

« Nous avons vu et su qu’il est possible de laisser Banzena pour les éléphants »

« We have seen and know that it is possible to leave Banzena for the elephants »

Top: meeting members of the co-operative. Bottom: visiting a store for grain so the herders do not have to travel to areas reserved for agriculturalists
Radio Dande – Douentza’s rural radio station

- The work of community engagement is supported by radio broadcasts on the local radio station (one of the first in Mali, launched in 1993)
- Listener numbers account for about 86% of the local population

- Save the Children have measured the impact of this radio station e.g. after broadcasts recommending marking and conserving naturally occurring trees, the number of farmers in the sample doing this had increased from 6% to 43%