



Contact us!

Website

www.redes-ecovillages.org

Email

redes.ecovillages@gmail.com

Mailing Address (BP)

5622 Dakar Fann,
Sénégal, Ouest Afrique



@EcovillagesduSahel



+221 77 471 29 27



@REDESoutreach

RESEAU POUR L'ÉMERGENCE & LE DEVELOPPEMENT DES ECOVILLAGES AU SAHEL

GOAL

REDES envisions a prosperous and peaceful Sahel where all communities enjoy abundance of natural and cultural diversity. REDES actively participates in bringing practical, relevant and long-lasting solutions to the environmental and socioeconomic challenges facing the communities of the Sahel.

REDES seeks to:

- promote ecovillage practices in order to realize the vision of a green, harmonious and peaceful Sahel
- form socio-professional structures, especially youth and women associations, in the design and implementation of the ecovillages
- increase awareness of local actors and decision-makers to better preserve the biodiversity of the Sahel
- promote social entrepreneurship for the creation of local businesses and green jobs
 - promote social justice for more equitable and harmonious communities in the Sahel
- preserve our cultural, gastronomic and medicinal heritage, our sacred sites, our ancestral wisdom while opening ourselves to the fruitful contributions of new technologies
- educate international partners on the socio-economic, cultural and environmental realities of the Sahel to create strong, productive and sustainable alliances between local actors and partners sharing the ideals and values of REDES
- build local and international alliances to strengthen initiatives to promote social peace and the creation of community wealth in the Sahel region.

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Mission & National Context..... | 3 |
| 2. Who we are, What we want to do & What we are doing | 4 |
| 3. Why we are doing it..... | 5 |
| 4. State of the Nation’s Environment..... | 6 |
| 5. Ecovillage strategies to reverse the ecological and socioeconomic crisis in Senegal River Valley..... | 8 |
| 5.1 Introduction..... | 8 |
| 5.2 Lahel Ecovillage Hub..... | 9 |
| 5.2.1 Location | 9 |
| 5.2.2 Objectives..... | 10 |
| 5.2.3 Project Components..... | 10 |
| 5.2.4 Project Assets..... | 11 |
| 5.2.5 Project Implementation Strategies..... | 11 |
| 5.2.6 REDES partners..... | 13 |
| 5.2.7 Main achievements..... | 14 |
| 5.2.8 Sharing of experiences & media report..... | 15 |
| 5.2.9 Report on Lahel Ecovillage Hub Project (Phase I: January –April 2018)..... | 16 |
| 5.2.9.1 Blessing Ceremony..... | 16 |
| 5.2.9.2 Fencing..... | 17 |
| 5.2.9.3 Activities supporting the project..... | 19 |
| 5.3 City twinship between Guédé Chantier and Damanhur (Italy)..... | 20 |
| 6. Sierra Leone Visits the School of Ecovillage in Senegal..... | 23 |
| 7. REDES and GEN Mauritania | 25 |
| 8. Reinforcement of Cooperation between Mauritania and Senegal by the ecovillages..... | 26 |
| 9. The First Steps of the Cross-Border Ecovillage Federation Between Senegal and Mauritania..... | 27 |
| 10. REDES projects..... | 29 |
| 11. In the Heart of Community-Led Development Processes..... | 30 |
| 12. REDES Service Learning Programs in ecovillages..... | 31 |
| 13. Volunteers’ reports..... | 33 |
| 13.1 Heather Stepp..... | 33 |
| 13.2 Sabine Gunther..... | 34 |
| 14. Education is the only way out and forward..... | 36 |
| 15. RISE & REDES working together to contribute to the fostering of North-South healing and reconciliation and to the revival of indigenous cultures..... | 37 |
| 16. Célébration de Sembène Ousmane à Guédé Chantier..... | 37 |
| 17. Signature of a Partnership Convention between PUMA and REDES..... | 38 |
| 18. REDES leading team..... | 39 |
| 19. REDES in the press, in the news and in videos..... | 45 |

Our Mission

The mission of REDES is to make a significant contribution to improving the living conditions of communities in the South of the Sahara through education, training and the implementation of alternative community projects, focused on preserving our best traditions, biodiversity and ecosystems of the Sahelian region. In short, REDES works to create abundance and peace throughout the Sahel.



National Context

- Region bordering the southern limit of the Sahara Desert, stretching from Senegal to Eritrea. It includes countries like Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, etc.
- Two seasons:
 - One short rainy season which lasts for 2 to 3 months and has an annual rainfall of no more than 300mm in the last 10 years
 - One dry season which lasts for 10 months
- Average temperatures: 35 °C (heat peaks in May and June at 47 °C)
- Sand storms and land erosion with desertification leading to poor agricultural yields happen frequently
- Farming and nomadic herding in a region where pastures and green spots are dwindling lead to conflicts between farmers and herders
- Very fragile ecosystems cause mass impoverishment, exodus and emigration

Who we are

REDES (Réseau pour l'Émergence et le Développement des Ecovillages au Sahel) is a non-profit organisation, which was registered in Senegal in August 2015. REDES has its headquarters in the eco-community of Guédé Chantier (North of Senegal) as well as an office in Dakar.

Dr Ousmane Aly PAME, the founder and president of REDES, is a former mayor of Guédé Chantier. He is also a lecturer at the Department of English of Cheikh Anta Diop University. Moreover, he is a founding member and the president of GEN Africa.

REDES is the West African branch of the Global Ecovillage Network/ Africa.

What we want to do

REDES intends to be a major catalyst in regenerating the social and physical environments of rural as well as urban communities in the Sahel region in order to create abundance and establish peace and harmony among its inhabitants. This will be achieved on one hand through alternative education, research and exchange and on the other through productive alliances with like-minded organizations and community-based, sustainable, income generating projects, which together will create local socio-economic dynamics that will lead to the improvement of the population's living conditions and welfare.

What we are doing

We are promoting ecovillages concepts and practices in our community, communicating around these issues to inspire other local communities, decision makers and actors. Women and youth associations are core actors and allies in implementing ecovillage processes.

- Environmental protection programs (soil regenerating, biodynamic farming, reforestation, recycling plastic waste, community and women orchards, renewable energies, bee keeping, capacity-building in environmental entrepreneurship)

- Cultural heritage preservation and promotion (e.g. festivals, dances, legends, culinary art, religion, spirituality, traditions, medicinal knowledge and practices, arts, literacy programs, capacity building in cultural entrepreneurship)

- Income generating activities for local communities by promoting eco-tourism, fair trade, food security programs, cloth and cosmetics, capacity building in social entrepreneurship

Why we are doing

REDES intends to use all its resources and networks to stop environmental degradation, mass impoverishment and its inevitable consequences such as emigration, drugs abuse, juvenile delinquency, conflicts and terrorism.

5

REDES Ecolyco consists of greening schools and raising poultry to educate the schoolchildren and also generate income to support school expenses in order to reduce the school's financial dependence on the local government and the Ministry of Education. The public funds these institutions provide are far from being enough and always come too late, which makes the use of these resources somewhat inefficient. This program is coordinated by Ibou Ngom, head of Bambey High School and a core member of REDES.

The fencing around the Lahel Permaculture Demonstration site (North of Senegal) was implemented by REDES. In Ngogom, REDES had a meeting with the Mayor as well as representatives of local associations. They expressed a strong desire to build a partnership with REDES.



Senegal is a coastal country in West Africa. Today sea erosion is a growing challenge for our country. Coastal towns like Saint-Louis, Mbour, Dakar, Ziguinchor are heavily impacted by the rise in sea waters. Whole urban districts, villages, tourist infrastructures, rich pastoral and agricultural lands are disappearing every year because of the rise in ocean waters. This phenomenon is aggravated by the uncontrolled urban growth. Urban populations in Dakar extract sea sand and cut coastal vegetation to build their houses. This results in the increasing of the negative impact of coast degradation.

Fish reserves are dwindling because of foreign ships (Chinese, Russian and other nationalities) illegally fishing in our waters. These foreign fishing boats use huge vacuum cleaning systems to catch all kinds of fish. Old fishing nets are often left in the sea, killing unnecessarily a large quantity of surviving fish. Some fishermen use dynamites to maximize their catching. Irresponsible fishing practices like overexploitation and use of inappropriate nets cause a

lot of marine ecosystem damage.

In addition, we have a large number of industries directly dumping their chemical waste into the sea. Countless tons of plastic waste get into the sea every year as a result of poor garbage collection and recycling systems.



Waste management is another major challenge in Senegal. The entrances, centers and exits of urban agglomerations are overwhelmed by huge piles of garbage. The local business people and authorities still fail to take this situation as a business and job creating opportunities.

Senegal is also facing a crisis in the management and control of its forest reserves. International Wood smuggling are destroying our sacred forest, last forest reserves. Chinese buy it at cheap price from The neighboring Gambia and incite wood traffickers to cut more and more trees in the southern region of Senegal. This increases degradation

and poverty. Our fishermen who used to get wood in Casamance to build their fishing boats, now have to go to Sierra Leone to get the same wood they used to get in their own country.

The main cities and towns are invaded by second hand home appliances and cars from Europe. We import old refrigerators, computers and cars. The age of some of the cars (especially local public transportation Renault buses – known here as Car Rapides– is between 40 and 45 years on average. These materials and old cars contribute considerably to the degradation of the air quality and environment in the towns. Respiratory diseases, allergies and heart problems are becoming the hard realities of Dakar, Thies and other cities in Senegal.

As urbanization gains ground, green lungs like Mbao forest reserve (700 hectares in the outskirt of Dakar), the Hann forest, the fertile Niayes region which produces most of the vegetables and fruit consumed in Dakar are dramatically losing scale because of the creation of new road infrastructures and uncontrolled housing constructions. The humid lands and dry lakes are being

landfilled to host infrastructures like stadiums or hotels.

As the forests are being destroyed at alarming rate, wild life is also becoming less and less present in the country. In the fifties, there were lions, hippos, crocodiles, antelopes, boars and a diversity of birds in Senegal River valley. Today because of desertification and absurd agricultural policies and practices which consist of clearing forests to grow rice and cash crops (like tomatoes), this region resembles almost a lunar landscape. Wind erosion and higher temperatures are drying up the land very quickly. The result is socioeconomic poverty, rural exodus and emigration. This phenomenon is a fatality as some small villages have succeeded in one or two decades in restoring their village forests (e.g. Diara and Salayel Villages) while the regional interstate green wall project is failing to take off.

About 35 years ago the population along the Senegal River used to drink directly from the river without filtering the water. The health impact was not important. Today, thanks to the obsession with producing rice and other cash crops, tons and tons of dangerous

pesticides, herbicides and "humicide" products are drained into the river. As there are two dams on River Senegal (one anti-salt in Diama and a hydroelectric one in Manantali, the waters of the river are almost stagnant. A new ecosystem (parasites and new plants like typha for example) develops in the river. Today it's risky to swim in the river,

"Wind erosion and higher temperatures are drying up the land very quickly. The result is socioeconomic poverty, rural exodus and immigration."

not because of crocodiles which are nonexistent but because of the toxic poison in it.

Diseases like schistosomiasis (bilharzia) are widespread in the region. In some villages up to 80% of the population have kidney and bladder infections. This water polluted with chemicals and heavy metals is where the population in Dakar and the main urban areas in the mid north of the country get their drinking water from. I doubt that the treatment of the water is good enough to purify the water from these dangerous pollutants. Medical

researchers should see if there are any links between kidney problems in Senegal and the quality of the water we consume every day (and night).

As a result of climate change, Senegal is much hotter and dustier than it used to be few decades ago. We have more and more sand storms. During the fasting month, people leave the countryside for the coastal areas like Dakar which are a little cooler. People become climate refugees in their own country.

Farmers no longer know when to farm their lands as the rain cycles are totally unpredictable. Many abandon their plots for the cities, which increases the socio-economic problems in the urban areas.

In terms of gross and domestic national products and other standard indicators, my country has never accumulated much material wealth in its history but today because of massive environmental degradation, the happiness rate is lower than ever: traditional social bonds, solidarity values are getting disrupted as our ecosystems are dying.

-Dr. Ousmane Aly Pame President of REDES & GEN/Africa

Ecovillage strategies to reverse the ecological and socioeconomic crisis in Senegal River Valley

Introduction

8

Lahel is in the very north of Senegal. Lahel's proximity to the Sahara Desert makes the community susceptible to extreme weather. In the fifties and sixties, the rainy season lasted for about three months. It now lasts for one month and a half to two months which fundamentally impacts the agricultural calendar. Most farmers in the north of Senegal depend on the rains and floods to grow millet, beans and other crops. The continuous reduction of the rainy season has had a negative impact on the farmers in the region.

Irresponsible agricultural policies consisting of clearing forest for cash crops like rice and tomatoes have added another level of environmental degradation and communal poverty in the region. Today, almost every village in the valley has abandoned traditional crops for rice. As a consequence, large forest reserves have been cleared for rice fields.

These rice fields need dramatic amounts of chemicals. Pesticides, herbicides and many other 'icides' are now widely used and drained back in the rivers, polluting the water resources in the region. Not long ago, people used to drink the water directly from the river, without filtering it. The health issues related to river water consumption were minor and under control.

The vision of REDES is to establish an ecovillage hub in Lahel to promote sustainable regenerative practices in a region highly affected by desertification and climate change. In the last four decades, massive destruction of forest reserves, extreme temperatures, wind erosion, cyclical droughts, intensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in irrigated cash crops have resulted in an alarming degradation of ecosystems, which has also generated socio-economic poverty, rural exodus and emigration.

In spite of the depth, extension and complexity of the ecological and socioeconomic crises, it is still possible to reverse these heavy tendencies if appropriate strategies are implemented: ecovillage strategies can change the face of the Senegalese River valley in one generation. With the examples of Sekem, Auroville and other ecovillage communities around the world, REDES (Network for Ecovillage Emergence & Development in the Sahel) strongly believes in its capacity to turn this situation into an opportunity for radical action to shift mentality and development patterns and create abundance for the local population. The education of local leaders, actors and communities is key to a paradigm shift and to the creation of new socioeconomic dynamics that will regenerate the environment, create wealth for the population and make the valley not a departure region for the youth but a destination.

Lahel Ecovillage Hub

Location

9

The Lahel project site is located on the Ile à Morphil (Elephant Island) between Senegal River and its tributary Le Doué. It lies at the heart of over 35 village or small-town communities in Senegal and Mauritania. Many of which are within walking distance. Horse cart driving is a possible transportation means to get to Lahel. The distances between the project site and the communities around are as follows:

On the Senegalese side:

- Diaw (2.5 kms), Sabou Allah (3 kms), Ngane (4 kms), Beylane (4 km), Ando (4 km), Alwar (5 kms), Moundouway (4.5 kms), Thielaw (6 kms), Lidoubé (7.5 km) Diama Alwaly (8km), Mboya (8km), Guédé Ouro (10km) Korkadié (10 km), Diara (14 kms), Ndioum (12 kms), Gamadji (15 kms), Cahel (16km), Donay (16), Diatar (17km), Diatar (20 km), Guia (21 km), Thialaga (22 km), Madina Fresbé (23 kms), Eco-community of Guédé Chantier (25 kms), Podor (27 kms). Agnam (27 km), Guédé Village (28 km)

* The project is also accessible by car as it is connected to all these villages and small towns by two roads.

On the Mauritanian side:

Ngourdiane (3.5 kms), Sinthiane Awlube (6 km), Lobodou (7 kms), Salayel (8 kms), Ouro Aly Guele (10 km), Sinthiane Diama 15km, , Ouro Thiam (15km), Tétanguel (16 km), Darel Barka

It is important to note that the Senegalese and Mauritanian villages are separated by River Senegal. Both sides of the river Valley were part of the same Fouta Kingdom. The same ethnic groups and families live along the river, which was imposed as a border during colonization. This artificially divided families, people and their fields. Many of the populations live on one side of the river and have their fields or the majority of their family members on the other. They are aware of their historic, cultural and family bonds. Pulaar is the main language in the region. It is spoken by 98 % of the population on both sides of the river.

Objectives

The objective of the Lahel project is to closely connect all these communities and weave their efforts together to eradicate environmental degradation and poverty. The project seeks to turn these communities into a driving force to establish a new community consciousness and movement for a large-scale regeneration of their lands, forests and rivers. The leading eco-communities of Guédé Chantier, Salayel and Diara will play a major role in educating these communities, spreading best practices and speeding the transformative processes. Local community leaders will comfort and reinforce the transition initiatives in their own communities while supporting the new dynamics in the neighboring villages and small towns.

Project Components

Lahel project will have several interactive components:

- A permaculture demonstration site where farmers will learn and practice organic farming techniques. They learn reproducing, selecting local seeds and having a seed bank. It will encourage them to exchange seeds and share ancestral knowledge about land regeneration and traditional crops.
- Fruit trees (mango, guava, lemon, pawpaw, banana trees) will be planted in the site. One portion of the production will be consumed at the Center, the other will be processed and sold at the weekly market in Ndioum which takes place every Monday and attracts thousands of people. This will in the long run allow the financial autonomy of the Center.
- A Nubian Dome Center with a rainwater harvesting system will be built on the site. It will be a visible monument of alternative building techniques. The building will be a training moment for local volunteers who will learn the techniques. This type of building uses no wood and a small quantity of cement. It is very much adapted to arid zones and it gets cool when its hot outside and vice versa. If this building technique is adopted and widely used in the region, it will create new jobs, preserve the remaining trees and last but not least it's much more comfortable than concrete buildings with zinc roofing.
- The building and the project site will be equipped with a mix of renewable energy sources (Wind, solar and biogas energy). If widely adopted, this will help local communities make important savings and preserve the ecosystems. About 98% households use wood to cook meals. With the population increase, the pressure on the thin remaining green areas is very high at the moment.

- A bakery business will be implemented. Many households do not have access to fresh bread. They buy it in Ndioum.
- Ecotourism will be promoted. On bright sky nights, the view constellations in the region is pure magic. Some of the villages around Lahel have no electricity and have not been infected with the headaches of modern lifestyles. People are warm, generous and welcoming. They open their doors to all visitors and feel truly honored when they have - visitors. Eco- huts will be built around the project site for volunteers and visitors.

Projects Assets

- 1) REDES has access to land. Twenty hectares are available now and more land can be made accessible in the new future.
- 2) The project site is close to the river Senegal which means that water is available. The whole year. An irrigation system with a wind water pumping system needs to be implemented. located between Salayel ecovillage (Mauritania) and Diarra (Senegal). The first eco-community of the Region, Guédé Chantier is 45 minutes away by car. The availability of the expertise in these different locations will be instrumental in the success of Lahel ecovillage hub.
- 4) Three local community radios are available (Ndioum, Podor and Dodel). Partnerships will be developed with the stations for a regular coverage of REDES activities.
- 5) REDES is developing its academic programs for international and national students. These programs will support ecovillage initiatives in and around Lahel.
- 6) The Ambassadors, Advisory Board Members and Friends of REDES will spread the achievements of the organization, connect it with international and regional experts and help the organization find some financial resources to support the project. One of the ambassadors has donated 10,000 USD. REDES current fiscal partner will take almost a fifth of the amount for administrative fees, which is exorbitant. We are discussing with another fiscal partner. Now REDES is looking for 22,000 USD for the first phase of the project (fencing, building the Nubian Dome Center).

Project Implementation Strategies

In order to maximize chances of success and rapid scale up, the implementation of the project will rest on one hand on practical education and trainings and on the other on continuous communication. The transformative process of the region will take place through a coherent and dynamic planning of ecovillage education courses, academic and research programs, annual conferences, hands on workshops (on biodynamic farming, social entrepreneurship, food processing, local seeds preservation, medicinal plants, bee keeping and other environment friendly income generating activities. It will be built on the success of:

-the community actions in Diara (Senegal) and Salayel (Mauritania), two villages that have made outstanding progress in reforestation and biodiversity preservation, with almost no external financial support. Their experts, leaders and actors will be actively sharing their knowledge, skills and the processes they went through to achieve their impressive results.

- the eco-community of Guédé Chantier (7000). This community was the first village in the region to become a member of the Global Ecovillage Network/ Senegal. Since 2007, important initiatives have been taking place there in various sectors. Guédé is a vibrant rural campus.

Hundreds of American and Senegalese students have been in Guédé for their service learning programs and internships. They work on various community microprojects (women's orchards, biogas unit construction, greening schools, recording local oral history from the griots...).

In Guédé, there is a number of dynamic and committed youth associations like the eco-sentinelles (eco-guards), Renaissance de Guédé, Eco-commune fishermen's association, a large women's association (600 members). The headquarters of REDES are located in the eco-community of Guédé Chantier.

- 4 permaculture and forestry projects in Guédé Chantier, Diara, Moundouway and Lahel communities. This project was funded by UKaid and implemented by Cifal/ Scotland and Le Partenariat NGO with and for the local communities. The alternative projects have been successful implemented without chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The beneficiaries learned how to fight pests with organic products and make a living from their own work in their permaculture plots. They know how to process their harvests to preserve it and put it on the market when

- food processing workshops carried out by Damanhur for 55 women from five villages in the region. They form a network of food processors. Their expertise and enthusiasm will be a major asset to the project in Lahel.

Women and youth associations will be the main pillars on which the project will rest on.

In addition to a partnership with 3 local community radio stations which almost cover the whole region of Podor, REDES will continuously reach out to

- 250 journalists nationwide
- about 1,000 university teachers and researchers,
- 200 mayors, and high Government officials in Senegal
- 10,000 followers in total on REDES various social media)
- like-minded NGOS and associations structures. (REDES has searched for and made master lists of NGOs in Mali and Mauritania. Next, the same research will be done for other Sahel countries like Burkina Faso and Niger.)

The activities and outcome of the project will be continuously shared with influential institutions, organizations and individuals to increase the chances of getting REDES voice actions heard and supported in various ways and in different circles.

REDES Partners

To successfully implement the ecovillage hub project, REDES will work hand in hand with local government authorities and institutions, government services, local community leaders and actors, spiritual leaders as well as traditional village chiefs.

REDES strategic partners include:

1. The Municipality Council and Mayor of Gamadji Saré
2. Central Government Forestry Services in Podor and Ndioum
3. Ndioum/ Dodel/ Podor community radios and national press stations
4. Genetic Resource Center in Guédé Chantier
5. Youth and women's associations in every village (e.g. Eco-sentinelles, Renaissance de Guédé)
6. Farmers Association for the Promotion of Traditional Seeds
7. International Universities (City College of New York)
8. Environment Institute of Cheikh Anta Diop University
9. International volunteer Platforms (France, Belgium and Spain)
10. Context Institute (REDES fiscal partner)
11. CAPE (Custom Academic Programs in Ecovillages)
12. Gaia Education
13. Global Ecovillage Network/ Africa
14. Damanhur Ecovillage (Italy)
15. Soutenir l'Enseignement en Afrique (Nice-based association, France)
16. PUMA (Programme d'Urgence de Modernisation des Axes et Territoires Frontaliers), Government agency
17. Municipalities of Toubatoul, Ngogom et Ngoye
18. ISEDE Institut Supérieur en Ecovillage Design Education (Dakar)
19. A pool of experts, university teachers and researchers

More NGOs, US Universities and Networks are expected to join the journey.

Main achievements

- 600 children in rural areas have access to formal education (with the support of the NGO Souvenir l'Enseignement en Afrique (S.E.A)).
- Over 1400 fruit trees planted in 10 sites in 6 villages with the support of Damanhur APS. Over 100 women from 15 villages benefitted from two workshop editions of training in food processing.

14

~ Featured Activities ~

2016 edition: 55 women from 5 different villages have received a training in Food processing thanks to the support of Damanhur (Agricultural activities are mainly possible during a short period of time in the year (December/ March). Vegetables are abundant during that period and rare the rest of the year. More on this story below.

Freedom Schools: 12 classrooms built in rural villages in Senegal River Valley with the support of Prof Keith and Mrs. Marie Edith Cameron and their association Soutenir l'Enseignement en Afrique (S.E.A). 600 children in deprived villages are given a unique chance to attend school.

The introduction of schools in their villages brings hope for a brighter future. Now in Lahel, parents do not have to walk miles to have their letters read to them. Their children can read their letters or help with basic domestic economic management, much to the joy of entire village communities.

Two drinking water wells dug in two villages (Moundouwaye and Lahel): For half a century, the people of the valley of the River Senegal, have watched, almost entirely powerless and resigned, the indefensible spectacle of the agonizing death of their river, the source of their socioeconomic and cultural activities. Under the combined effect of climate change, hydro agricultural development and industrial activities in the region, the Senegal River and the ecosystems which depend upon it have suffered a continual degeneration and loss of vitality. They die slowly, constantly, and quite visibly, yet among widespread quasi-indifference. About 30 years ago, the populations in the Senegal river valley used to drink directly from the river with very limited health impact. Now with the combination of rice fields and the construction of dams, the water is polluted. Water pollution contributes to the sickening of fish, which then humans consume and get diseases. People live close to fresh water which they can use for their needs. Some people in the villages have the choice of dying of thirst or of drinking polluted water. The cost of a well is around 300,000 CFA (\$545 USD). More and more villages are in need of these wells.

REDES is building its programs from:

- Its core community members' experience in implementing 8 biodynamic farming projects in REDES communities (Lahel, Diarra Moundouwaye, Fresbe and Guédé Chantier) (3,000 people have been trained in)

- Its president's experience as the mayor of the eco-municipality in Senegal and connection with local governments

- Its president's years of experience in running international academic programs and connection with US and Senegalese Universities

- Its president's experience in running the Global Ecovillage Network/Africa since its foundation in December 2012

15

REDES share news and experiences with:

- 280 journalists in Senegal
- 120 Mayors across the Country
- 2,000 academics in Senegal
- 180 national NGOs
- 150 NGOs in Mauritania
- GEN Networks
- Gaia ed Networks
- Findhorn Fellows
- Context Institute Bright Future Network
- Community trainings, workshops and conferences

Facebook pages:

Redes: Network for Ecovillage Emergence and Development in the Sahel (*3900 followers*)

Service Learning Programmes in ecovillages/ Senegal (*2, 358 followers*)

Eco-commune Guédé Chantier (*3,361 followers*)

More Classrooms in Senegal (*348 followers*)

The following media have reported on REDES Work

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>International Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kulturaustausch Magazine (Germany) • Gruener-journalismus (Germany) • Media I TV (Morocco) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al Jazeera TV (Qatar) • Guardian (Britain) <p style="text-align: center;">National media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Le Soleil (National Government daily newspaper) • 2STV (Private TV station) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TFM TV (Private television channel) • RTS (National TV Station) • Radio Senegal • Community Radios in Podor, Ndioum and Bambey |
|--|---|---|

Report on Lahel Ecovillage Hub Project

Phase I: January –April 2018

1. Activity 1: Blessing ceremony

16

On the morning of 28 February 2018, spiritual leaders from eleven villages (Alwar, Ndioum, Guédé, Lahel, Moundouwaye, Ngane, Sabu Allah, Gourdiane, Diaw, Ando and Beylane) gathered on the Lahel Permaculture demonstration site to pray together and bless the REDES project. These highly respected elders entirely read the Holy Book Quran during the ceremony and formulated prayers for peace and abundance on the site. This ceremony was of great importance as on one hand, it protects this community project against negative energies and on the other it encourages REDES and the local populations to work closely together in openness, love and solidarity for the success of the project. As it is common in the area, a traditional dish made of boiled millet flour and milk was served as an offering to the participants.



The REDES team had the opportunity to share the vision and programs of the organization.

The ceremony is a solid foundation on which the pillars of the future permaculture demonstration site and community center will rest. This first gathering will consistently nurture and inspire REDES and the communities in the collective journey to transform both people's mindset and their environment to break the cycle of ecosystem degradation and poverty. For these processes to be deeply rooted in people and communities, it is essential to build on this initial blessing ceremony, to involve elders in community work. In addition to that



continuous youth and women associations will continuously meet to exchange experiences, strengthen their social bonds and plan their work together. This is a real challenge for REDES to get the communities focus their energy on environmental regeneration as people are busy trying to survive on their own in a context of dwindling resources. Long term community attention, leadership and commitment is key to the ecosystem regeneration and qualitative socio-economic transformation in the region.



More moments from the ceremony

17



2. Fencing

Thanks to the donation of a REDES Ambassador, Amy Cohen, REDES has been able to finish fencing 5 hectares which will serve as a practical community biodynamic

farming school in Senegal River Valley for REDES community members. The fencing of permaculture demonstration and community center sites were preceded by several visits

and also exchanges between REDES Swiss volunteer and permaculture expert, Olivier, a local topographer, Sao, who has over 30 years' experience and also Abdoulaye the

representative of the Pame family who is willing to lend 20 hectares to REDES. Choosing the right location, the shape of plot to be allotted to REDES were at the center of the exchanges. The land allocated to REDES should not prevent the surrounding plots from having access to the river. The final agreement was REDES site would be of a rectangle shape, the width of

which has direct contact with the river.

Amy Cohen's donation to REDES was enough to fence 5 hectares. This was done by a local technician, Mamoudou Ndiaye and his assistants. The members of eco-rennaissance movement based in Guédé Chantier, US students from Washington DC and Dakar University

students were on the site to participate in the fencing.

The completion of the fencing is very important because it already prevents wandering goats and other animals from getting into this space and eating the few shrubs and trees on the project space. Thus, the fence is ought to protect the plants REDES will grow in the space

18



Fencing in Action



3. Activities supporting the project

During the fencing phase of the project, REDES received two separate groups:

19

1) 10-13 March 2018: Ten Students from the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) of the University of Washington DC, six students from Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD) and three faculties visited and worked on the site. They helped with the fencing. They interviewed agroforestry experts in Guédé and four representatives of Salayel Loboudou (Mauritania).

Together with the representatives of Salayel, the students also had a productive meeting session with the population of Lahel and exchanged about the local socio economic, cultural and agricultural situation. The purpose of this session was to understand the dreams of the people, share the success story of Salayel, and to better design REDES community projects.

This process will be reinforced with the second

visit of CAUSES and UCAD students, this summer.

For eight weeks (4 June- 4 August 2018), the students will be touring 12 villages around the project to document the villages and present REDES vision and programs to the population.

On the first visit, a press conference was organized in Dakar, which created a lot of enthusiasm among local authorities, students and the population.

2) 25 March - 1st April 2018: a delegation from Damanhur (an Italian ecovillage officially twinned with the eco-community of Guédé Chantier since June 2014) visited Guédé for the second time. More information on the Damanhur partnership can be found below.

What's Next?

REDES wishes to start its programs before the next rainy season (end of August 2018). In order to do so, REDES will write a concept note to get a solar water pumping station and fruit trees. The land preparation process will start before the rainy season (August).

We are expecting another student group visit from June 4 to August 10, 2018 in Lahel Biodynamic Demonstration Site.

Senegal, pioneer of ecovillages

In Senegal, the government took inspiration from the eco-citizen initiatives of the National Network of Ecovillages to create in 2008 a Ministry and a National Agency whose mission it is to accompany the transition of 14,000 traditional villages into ecovillages.

REDES works to extend the dynamics of eco-villages to all the countries of the Sahel by combining the initiatives in progress in the region and encouraging the village communities to begin their transition towards an endogenous solidary development.

Damanhur (Italy) has been twinned with Guédé Chantier, the first eco-commune of Senegal and seat of REDES, since 2014. Successful and fraternal cooperation unites the two twin cities.

20

A concrete step for a “Twinship”

The Non-Profit Association Damanhur Education APS serves as the container for the realization of the twinning of an eco-village in the South, Guédé Chantier, Senegal, and an eco-village in the North, Damanhur, Italy. The vision brings concrete proposals for exchange between different realities, which have much to share with one another. The first step, after an initial visit by representatives from Guédé Chantier to Damanhur, consisted of a workshop for the preservation of vegetables and tomatoes, which was held in Guédé Chantier. The workshop engaged 55 women from Guédé and 4 other villages to fight undernutrition in Guédé and in the nearby villages.

Damanhur APS and REDES planted over 1400 fruit trees in six villages. The sister town of the ecocommunity of Guédé Chantier offered a food processing training to sixty women from 10 villages.



The idea of a twinship between Damanhur and Guédé Chantier was born during the General Assembly of Gen-Europe in 2013. It is implemented through the Association Damanhur Education. Ousmane Ali Pame, President of Gen-

Africa (Global Ecovillage Network), then Mayor of Guédé Chantier, and Macaco Tamerice (Martina Grosse Burlage), then President of Gen-Europe, currently President of Damanhur Education, speak of their respective realities, imagining how exciting and mutually beneficial it would be to facilitate a partnership between Damanhur and Guédé Chantier, an eco-commune in northern Senegal. The Damanhur Education APS is identified as the suitable container to promote the twinship.

It took nearly a year to implement the first trip, but in 2014 two representatives of Guédé Chantier—the same Ousmane Ali Pame and

Hamet Thiam—came to Italy, hosted by Damanhur Education. On several occasions, they shared stories about life in the Senegalese village with Damanhurians.

21 Representatives of Guédé Chantier and the representatives of Damanhur identified together a few points to make the twinning concrete and not solely an exchange of courtesy visits. The first key point identified was the transformation of food, a crucial theme for Guedé Chantier. There, food is in abundance for two to three months per year, with no ability to conserve it, resulting in the waste of tons of vegetables which are thrown away; subsequently creating an undernutrition problem for the following 8-9 months.

It took two years to bring a workshop on food processing to Guedé at which point the project became reality: in the beginning of March, 2016, two members of Damanhur Education—Macaco Tamerice and Pelicano Altea (Carla Dacomo)—lead a workshop on food preservation in Guédé

Chantier. This also benefited representatives of other neighboring villages.

During the visit,



meetings with the entire village of Guédé were held to identify other projects to make the twinning even more fruitful. When the representatives of our organization came to Guédé Chantier, after a long trip from Dakar, a crowd of about 300 people gathered to welcome them with a ceremony. The Elders expressed words of brotherhood and their greetings. The next day, the two women visited a permaculture project promoted by Gaia Education in Diarra, a nearby village. Many women from Diarra wanted to participate in the workshop on food

transformation, which began the same afternoon.

The practical workshop educated 55 women from 5 different villages in various techniques to preserve vegetables and tomatoes. The women were so enthusiastic that they decided to create an Association for food processing in order to continue the work.

The Senegalese women sold preserved foods produced during the workshop at the market, in one of the villages. The goods were highly appreciated and represented a new source of revenue. There will be annual meetings with the experts from Damanhur Education to further the education in food preservation, with the aim to improve the quality of nutrition while simultaneously creating income sources for the village women.



Cooking tomatoes for canned tomatoes



On a roof of the REDES office building in Guédé Chantier

Damanhur Education APS and REDES have brought concrete support to the population of Guédé in its fight against environmental degradation and community vulnerability by organizing a reforestation campaign on 10 sites in 6 different villages. The delegation of Damanhur Education APS together with the population of the villages have planted over 1400 fruit trees. In one village, a fence was also built to protect the trees against grazing animals.

This was the second visit made by a delegation of our Association in order to create concrete actions that can make a big difference to the population.

Thank you so much,



The eco-community of Guédé (7000 inhabitants) lives in an oasis located in the north of Senegal by the border with neighboring Mauritania. It is close to the Sahara Desert. Guédé community is striving to preserve its environment against the combined dramatic effects of the Sahara Desert and climate change.

Guédé has a unique community orchard that the population is desperately trying to save. The site produces a lot of fruits, medicinal plants and provides shades to the population during the extreme heat waves of May. It is a sanctuary for rabbits, colonies of bees, many different sorts of birds. It has also given birth to



many small orchards in the villages around as people come to collect plants and seeds to grow in their homes and farms.

Sierra Leone Visits the School of Ecovillage in Senegal

By Jeggema – December

Following the meeting between representatives of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the World Ecovillage Network, at COP 23 in Bonn, Germany, a strong official delegation from Sierra Leone visited our country from 18 to 22 December 2018. This important delegation, composed on the one hand of Directors General of the Environment, Water and Forests, Energy, Local Governance and Regional Planning and on the other of journalists from press organs public and private, went to

meet the actors of the ecovillage communities of our country.

Welcomed on arrival in Senegal by Dr Ousmane Aly PAME, President of the African section of the World Network of Ecovillages, the Sierra Leonean delegation visited the ecovillages of Ndem and Bacoumbel where it was warmly welcomed by the local populations. The actors of these model communities in the implementation of ecovillage strategies, were both delighted and proud to share, with their hosts, their

respective experiences. They made the genesis of their community initiatives and showed the various projects in progress by highlighting the successes recorded but also by explaining the strategies implemented to overcome the multiple challenges that face them.

In Ndem, the Sierra Leone delegation visited the agro-ecological perimeter of the village, the workshop of transformation and conservation of organic agricultural products, the artisanal center which employs dozens of dyers,

tailors, weavers who use a cotton grown on place with biodynamic methods, without pesticides or chemical fertilizers. Sewing machines, fans, computers and other devices work exclusively in the sun. In Bacoumbel, Sierra Leoneans visited a community bakery and domestic kitchens that run on biogas. The public and domestic lighting as well as the energy supply of the school's computer room are provided by a solar panel unit, located at the entrance to the ecovillage. The use of solar lamps in homes has prolonged the study time of schoolchildren and considerably improved the school's school results. The Bacoumbel private school is now a victim of its success. It attracts children from neighboring villages and continues to grow. It now has 549 students whose tuition fees are largely covered by generous benefactors.

Bacoumbel (which means in Serere a baobab with sweet fruit) is surrounded by lush family orchards and a large community farm. This

community area of six hectares is a field school where agroecological training sessions are held for the benefit of the village and a dozen surrounding villages. In the community strategy to combat food insecurity, in addition to allotment gardens, five different fruit tree species are planted in each family home. The inhabitants also proceed to the artificial insemination of their livestock and the crossing of the poultry. In Ndem as in Bacoumbel, the emphasis is put on the careful management of water, in the fight against the degradation of ecosystems, in the creation of substantial and sustainable incomes allowing inhabitants to live in a dignified and decent way.

Successful socio-economic enterprises are managed by the people themselves, including women and young people. Resource management is done on a rotating, transparent and supportive basis and the quality of life of the inhabitants of Bacoumbel and Ndem is much higher than that of the residential districts of Dakar because

the populations produce and consume organic natural products, breathe of unpolluted air and live in a remarkable serenity.

The socio-economic dynamism of the communities of Ndem and Bacoumbel is also reflected in a significant demographic growth: the neighbors come to settle there and the young people who had settled in Dakar or elsewhere return to their soil to find better living conditions and work.

Very satisfied with his tour, the Sierra Leone delegation plans to create pilot ecovillages in the different regions of their country before extending it to their entire national territory in order to fight more effectively against the growing vulnerability of their rural environment. To succeed in this challenge in their country, the Sierra Leone delegation intends to draw inspiration from the experience of ecovillage in Senegal and also rely on the support of GEN Africa and REDES (Network for Emergence and Development Ecovillages in the Sahel).

-Mr Ousmane Aly PAME,
President of the Global Ecovillage Network/Africa & REDES

REDES and GEN Mauritania:

Transformation of 35 traditional Mauritanian and Senegalese villages into a hub of ecovillages in order to create community wealth and well-being.

Label: open community biodynamic farming school. 5 hectares enclosed.

Looking for a solar water pumping (Cost 9,000 USD)

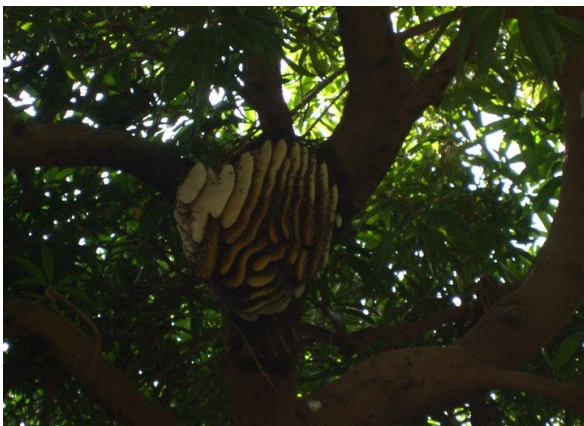
Community Center (Looking for funds)
Project blessing ceremony: Spiritual guides from 11 communities



25

“Dear friends from around the world, I'm very pleased to inform you that the fencing of the community orchard in the eco-community of Guédé Chantier is completed today. This means that no more wandering goats, donkeys and kids can enter the green sanctuary, which will allow the orchard to regenerate better and provide more fruit, medicinal plants and shade to the community. Birds, bees and small animals in there will not be disturbed anymore and can to maintain life around. This major community achievement has been possible thanks to the massive support of David Hensley and Robert Gilman who have both made donations and helped raised the funds on gofundme and through the Bright Future Now Network. A big and warm thank you to all our donors for having spontaneously responded to our call for assistance. Special thanks to my friends Gina Martin, Brigitta Spälti, Johanna Sugrue, Dorota Owen, GG, Stephanie Kasten, Marilyn Labadie, Sarah Chase- Walsh, Valeria Breiten, Victoria Mora, Vikas Gupta, Keira Crawford. This would not have been possible without the contribution of a number of anonymous donors. May you all the contributors and supporters find here the gratefulness, heartfelt thanks and appreciation of the community of Guédé Chantier. Again, on behalf of the beneficiaries and REDES (www.sahel-ecovillage.org) thank you all donors, thank David Hensely, Robert Gilman and all the members of the Network of Bright Future Now for making the difference in rescuing this unique green heritage. In gratitude and celebration.”

- Ousmane Aly Pame



This community orchard which plays a key role in the community food security was threatened by the destruction of its fence. Goats, donkeys and other wandering domestic animals and kids enter the orchard destroying the production and even threatening to kill the trees. The population of Guédé wants to stop this degradation process and preserve its green heritage by surrounding it with a wire fence. The site is 200 meters long and about 150 wide.

Reinforcement of Cooperation between Mauritania and Senegal by the ecovillages

Bay Debbo Mballo - January 25th, 2018

26

Following the visit of the official delegation of Sierra Leon, from the 18th to the 22nd of December in 2017, it was the turn of the President of the Global Ecovillage Network/Mauritania, the honorable Deputy Moctar Sow, to come to meet with the heads of the Senegalese ecovillages affiliated with REDES/NEEDS (Réseau pour l'émergence et le développement des écovillages au Sahel, with an English translation as the Network for Ecovillage Emergence and Development) and the NGO SOS Environnement. Throughout this week-long stay, marked strongly by a cordial feeling of mutual friendship, the president of GEN Mauritania and the Senegalese REDES ecovillage leaders had highly fruitful discussions concerning their respective experiences in community development and in exploring the possibilities for increasing

cooperation between the ecovillage communities from both sides of the Senegal River, which forms the border between the two countries.

Being conscious that environmental problems are not simply the responsibility of any single state, and cross man-made borders, and that due to having insufficient resources, individual nations alone cannot hope to deal with on their own the many catastrophes which are created by the destruction of ecosystems, the leaders of the countries's ecovillages worked together to attempt to join their efforts so as to better fight against the dangerous socio-economic effects born from desertification and climate change. GEN Mauritania and REDES are collaborating together for transforming 35 ecovillages on both sides of the Senegal River into ecovillage hubs. SOS

Environnement, a partner of REDES, aims to assist this new regional undertaking with technical help, notably in training, permaculture, and renewable energies. A particular focus will be placed upon the production of Moringa (a type of plant with various useful functions economically and in other regards), but also upon the design and the construction of biogas generators which will be used to produce local energy.

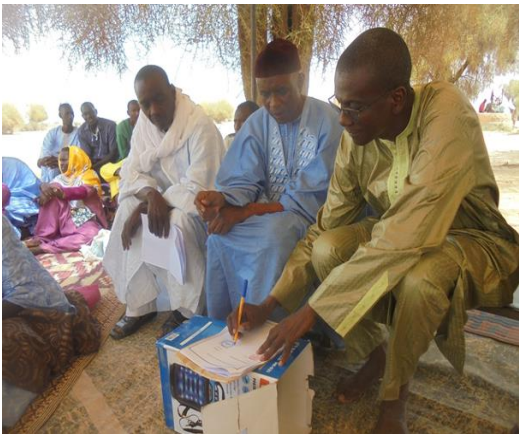
Throughout his visit, marked by important and rich meetings and work sessions, the GEN Mauritania President, Moctar Sow, had been moved by his Senegalese partners and remarked that he was "Pleased, and filled with feelings of satisfaction and optimism concerning the future of the ecovillage communities of the Senegal River."

The First Steps of the Cross-Border Ecovillage Federation Between Senegal and Mauritania

27 With the impetus of REDES (Réseau pour l'Émergence et le Développement des Ecovillages au Sahel, known in English as NEEDs or the Network for Ecovillage Emergence in the Sahel, a sub-affiliation of the World Ecovillages Network, with the email address of redes.ecovillages@gmail.com), community development leaders, both Mauritanian and Senegalese, have been brought together in a meeting on August 4th, 2018, at the



permaculture demonstration site of Lahel (in Senegal) so as to share their experiences and adopt coordinated strategies to solve the ecological crisis plaguing the region. Leaders from the two countries have been constantly engaged together in a struggle against desertification and socio-economic impoverishment of their land. The participants at this workshop are from both sides of the border, coming from the Mauritanian side from Wouro Aly Guelel, Lobouda, Andlous, and the commune of Darel Barka, while on the Senegalese side they principally hail from the villages of Aporphil Island, the zone which extends from Diatar to Ngane in passing through Guédé Ouro, Guédé Village, Mboya Walo, Moundouwaye, Diaw, Alwar, and Sabbou Allah. Guédé Chantier, Gaddou Zoga, Medina Fresbe, Gamadji and Diara had been represented as well at this meeting. In addition to the presence of peasants, livestock farmers and fishers, there were also community association leaders and women groups, a dozen of chiefs and the mayor of the Gamadji Saré commune (a collectivity which counts some thirty villages and a hundred hamlets).



The exchanges at this important grouping, presided over by the Mayor of Gamadji Saré, Mr. Thierno Kalidou Ndiaye, revolved around the particularities of the Cross-border Ecovillage Center, permaculture and food security. These themes had been introduced by respectively Dr. Ousmane Aly Pame, the president of REDES and the African section of the World Ecovillages Network, Mr. Khaly Mbengue, an expert in biodynamic agriculture and the head of Permaculture Projects of REDES, and finally Mr. Assante Pearson, an American volunteer serving with REDES. According to the participants and speakers, the shocking decline of ecosystems in the region has been provoked by abusive forest clearing of the last forest reserves which were destroyed in favor of growing rice, compounded by insufficient forestry replantation practices, massive and uncontrolled usage of herbicides and the dams on the Senegal river which alter the nature and the quality of the river waters. It can be confidently said that the ecological and socio-economic crisis in the region is largely one which stems from the agro-industrial operations which have been undertaken there to such dismal effect.

A former agricultural worker who participated at the workshop and had worked with the Chinese agricultural mission in in the 1970s at Guédé Chantier had strongly recommended that the ecological and socio economic disaster which has befallen this once-pioneering rice growing village should serve as an example to the whole region: "The lands of Guédé Chantier", he declared, "have become sterile because of the combined

effects of both monoculture and the intensive usage of various dangerous poisons, ie. agricultural chemical products.” Additionally, he stated that “It is rare to see people there that are older than 60 years. They have all been felled by the pesticides and the survivors of this plague are sunk into crushing debts.”

For fighting against the rapid spread of the “Guédé Syndrome” throughout the entire area, and to counter the continuing drying out of the region and the food security problems which are the result of this, REDES has been involved in starting an important program for the creation of community organic orchards in Podor department and is working to extend this to the other side of the river with the help of its partners. REDES is also in the process of creating a permaculture demonstration site which will work to train the population of the zone, notably the youth associations and the women’s associations, in biodynamic agriculture. A community teaching center has been created at Lahel, at the heart of the Northern Senegal and Southern Mauritania Ecovillage Center. REDES furthermore envisions drawing upon the spectacular successes of biodiversity regeneration programs in the villages of Loboudou (Mauritania) and Diarra (Senegal) so as to contribute to deep changes in the affairs of the two border regions.



In the middle, the Mayor of Gamadji Saré, Mr. Thierno Kalidou Ndiaye. To his left, Dr. Ousmane Aly Pame, President of REDES and GEN Africa.

At the end of the day, the Municipality of Gamadji Saré and REDES (redes.ecovillages@gmail.com) signed a partnership accord. The sub-regional organization of the World Ecovillages Network/Africa will proceed next to sign other cooperation conventions with the communes of Ngogom, Ngoye, and Toubatoul and will work to mobilize national and international expertise as well as financial resources and other necessary elements in order to put into place identified community projects in the partnered collectivities.

Mr. Ousmane Aly Pame, Doctor

President of the Global Ecovillage Network /Africa (www.gen-africa.org)

and of the Réseau pour l’Emergence et le Développement des Ecovillages au Sahel



1. REDES Multifunctional Community center in Guédé Chantier for Workshops, Conferences, Meetings, Exhibitions, Film projections, Theatre

Location: Eco-community of Guédé Chantier (7000 inhabitants)

Beneficiaries:

The Eco community of Guédé Chantier

Satellite villages around Guédé

Youth and women associations

REDES members

Objectives:

Community capacity building

Building community resilience

Environmental regeneration

Celebrate cultural heritage

Approximate Cost: (9,000 USD)

2. Global Learning Center in Lahel for a Thriving in Senegal River Valley

The Senegal River Valley is located in the Sahel Region and borders the Sahara Desert. It is on the front line in dealing with entangled challenges of desertification, climate change, mass impoverishment and immigration. The drastic and rapid degradation of its ecosystems is one of the main causes of the increase of tensions between farmers and herders in the region. The armed conflict and terrorism in Northern Mali results mainly from fierce competition to have a control over scarce resources.

REDES believes that it is possible to reverse the current ecological and socio-economic trends if the right community dynamics are established. One way to implement those community transformative processes and changes is through a vigorous comprehensive educational program aiming at establishing a fecund partnership within and between local communities.

In order to shift cultural paradigms, regenerate ecosystems and create abundance in a highly affected region, REDES educational program will create enchanting social dynamics by weaving together the talents, wisdom and efforts of indigenous farmers, traditional healers, spiritual leaders, artists, griots (traditional historians and storytellers), comedians, teachers and journalists. Local and International students and volunteers as well as global ecovillage designers will play an active part in reconnecting people with their land and values.

In these multidimensional regenerative processes, REDES partners such as Gaia education, Context Institute, GEN, Soutenir l'Enseignement en Afrique, CAPE Damanhur, national Universities, and international academic institutions will be actively working with and for the local communities to design a better future.

The communities from thirty-five villages around Lahel will be generously sharing their knowledge, learning from their challenges and celebrating their successes. They will be planting the seeds of happiness in their children's hearts while rediscovering together the secrets of the cultural legacies, ancestral values and the joys of rebirth and of a more harmonious existence.

Organisations, families and individuals wishing to take part in this exciting universal rendez-vous of giving and receiving, can contact us at redes.ecovillages@gmail.com

3. The Lahel Permaculture Demonstration Site aims to plant 2,500 fruit, vegetable, and medicinal plants on a hectare of land in the northern region of Senegal. An agroforestry project will help to jugulate the massive wind and soil erosion; provide essential fruits and medicinal plants to the community, combat malnutrition and desertification. In conjunction with the agroforestry component of the project, REDES wants to train 500 people, predominantly targeting women, to understand the benefits and intricacies that permaculture, renewable energy and technology and agricultural autonomy can bring to the community. This is a crucial time; starting from 2023 onwards the population growth will add more pressure on the remaining resources. The demonstration site will serve as a local hub for surrounding villages to find work, learn necessary information for planting trees and generating income. With this project we will reverse the many of the causes of poverty in the region.

In the Heart of Community-Led Development Processes

REDES International Service Learning Programs bring together International and Local University students, eco-design educators, researchers, entrepreneurs and leaders to support integrated community-led, ecological, social and cultural initiatives in the Sahel Region.

REDES programs are designed to meet diverse interests, academic goals and local sustainable development objectives. Through a coherent combination of interactive lectures, hands-on field work, various cultural experiences, designs and implementations of grassroots community projects.



REDES allows participants to develop a much deeper understanding of the interactions between global politics and local social dynamics, current environmental issues and alternative development models. REDES is committed to play an active part in bringing relevant solutions to the complex environmental and socio-economic challenges that communities in the region are facing in their daily lives.

REDES envisions a green, prosperous and peaceful Sahel where all human communities enjoy natural abundance and cultural diversity.

REDES Service Learning Programs in ecovillages

Each program will include:

- a placement of international students in Senegalese host families
- meals and snacks (special meals for vegetarians will also be provided)
- recruitment of local English-speaking university students who will participate as interpreters and learning peers
- Cross cultural orientation, followed by a visit of the museum of African Art/ Théodore Monod
- a guided tour of Dakar historic, institutional and economic centers (University of Dakar, Monument of African Renaissance, Presidential Palace, Independence square, Sandaga Market)
- Academic lectures on the four dimensions of ecovillages (ecology, culture, economy and social)
- a day on Gorée Island (visit of historic sites, museums and arts galleries)
- a hands-on, experiential service learning week in an ecovillage project (according to local needs and students' interests they will be divided in teams to work on projects)
- a visit of Saint-Louis, a UNESCO Cultural heritage site (colonial architecture)
- shopping afternoon day
- Transportation (pick-up from the airport and transportation in the country will be provided)

31

Example of program: REDES is expecting a group of students from Washington DC and Dakar to tour around REDES village members to exchange with the villagers to understand their challenges, successes and aspirations. This will help design a five-year plan. As you might imagine the presence of international and national students and volunteers creates a lot enthusiasm in the local communities and the excitement their presence creates is essential in mobilizing youth and women and making change possible.

Participants would have the opportunity to learn practical ecovillage design, sustainability, French and Wolof languages, diverse local cultures and traditions. In Dakar as well as in the rural areas, they will stay in host families and take our service learning programs with Senegalese peers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAypWAcLDhc&t=3s>

Without the great generosity of our main donors, we could have never realized this number of change-making projects. Therefore, the team of REDES would like to especially thank

Amy Cohen

Audrey Davidson

Mme Marie Edith Cameron & Prof Keith Cameron
for their precious, continuous support.



Published by Ousmane Aly Pame, January 17

My greetings to the community. I am happy to inform you that we just received a batch of books from our Canadian friends, to go to our schoolchildren. I hope that they will take note of our deepest gratitude for the joy and happiness that they bring to our children. With gratitude,

Ousmane Aly Pame, President of GEN/Africa and of REDES

REDES: Network for Ecovillage Emergence and Development in the Sahel (Network for Ecovillage Emergence and Development)

Guédé Chantier Renaissance Movement

October 21st, 2017

Quote of the day:

„It is unfortunate to become lost, but if there is one thing which is worse than losing one’s way, it is to lose the reason to keep moving forward. To fall is not a failure in of itself, the failure is to remain there on the ground where one fell.“

Mika Diop: „It is a movement which protects our environment with doctor Ousmane Aly Pame. My best wishes and thanks to you!“



Heather Stepp's Report

33 Hello friends of REDES! I am writing to tell you of my time in Senegal working with REDES. My name is Heather Stepp and, in the spring of 2017, I had the honor of spending two months learning about the thriving ecovillage movement in Senegal. I am a budding farmer-activist from the United States, where I have spent my time in university studying global development, social justice, and sustainable agriculture. My interests in permaculture and agroecology led me to the ecovillage movement, which takes a holistic approach to social and ecological sustainability. I set out to learn about the thriving ecovillage movement in Senegal as part of a wider project to explore how agriculture as a community movement can be healing for our fractured global food system.

I hope that my account will be encouraging to all individuals interested in becoming involved with REDES, because I arrived in Dakar with no knowledge of French or Wolof, having

never been to West Africa before. But when I arrived Dr. Ousmane Pame greeted me with a big hug and having one person I could communicate in English with was very helpful as I struggled to learn some French to get by during my days in Dakar. Though the language barrier was at times difficult, it was also a healthy, humbling challenge that provided me the opportunity to connect with everyone I interacted with as teachers. I found that once I showed my vulnerability as a learner, people were more than willing to help and were especially excited to teach



me phrases in Wolof and Pulaar!

The exciting challenges of being in a new environment were more than offset by the incredible hospitality I was received



with. As soon as I arrived Dr. Pame welcomed me into the world of REDES. We convened over delicious meals to talk about the projects of the organization and determine how I could contribute to their work. Dr. Pame was incredibly supportive during my stay, by helping me to find housing and welcoming me to meet his family in Dakar and Guédé Chantier. I had the exciting opportunity to join Dr. Pame and some friends of the ecovillage movement who travelled from Switzerland to collaborate with the Women's Association of Guédé Chantier to establish herbal medicine gardens for the ecovillage. During our trip to Guédé Chantier we got to see many of the projects REDES has been working on, including the village orchard, the Women's Permaculture Gardens, and the schools that have been

built. Spending time in Guédé Chantier was so special because the village illustrates what is possible to



34

create through community

organizing in the ecovillage model. There is a thriving ecovillage movement in Senegal, and the ecovillage of Guédé Chantier is really at the forefront of this work! Becoming involved in REDES presents the opportunity to dive right into the heart of the lively ecovillage movement of the Sahel.

For all those interested to contribute to the work of REDES in some way, I highly encourage you

reach out to Dr. Pame to discuss your involvement because I cannot more highly recommend another opportunity, and I know that you will be welcomed and cared for to the highest degree. Simply, an internship with REDES will open up so many opportunities for learning and connection. Good luck and thank you for your support of this special movement growing in Senegal.

Sincerely,

Heather

Sabine Gunther's Report

Report on my stay at Guédé Chantier from March 18 to April 12, 2018

Working in the field of sustainable development in Tunisia, I discovered REDES and its president Ousmane Pame when searching for ecovillages and permaculture practices in Sub-Saharan Africa.

I stayed for a month with the wonderful family of Ousmane at Guédé Chantier who made me immediately feel like a member of their

family. Part of my activity consisted in preparing the ground for a visit of a group from the Damanhur ecovillage in Italy to Madina Fresbe, a hamlet which is close to Guédé, where a number of women have a garden which is managed according agro-ecological principles. The field around this garden was fenced and planted with fruit trees by us

in order to protect it from the ravages of goats and sheep.

Another important activity of mine was contributing to the planning of a future ecovillage hub at Lahel, a place a little bit over three quarters of an hour from Guédé, which will include, among other things, an education center, a permaculture demonstration

site, eco-buildings, and a local seed bank. This hub comprises 35 ecovillages in Senegal and in Mauritania, which makes it a cross-border project as well, quite important due to the fact that families are often separated by the border between the two countries. Both nations are affected by the same ecological problems (such as in particular desertification), socio-economic difficulties (rural exodus, the loss of food sovereignty and an exorbitant rise in the cost of input resources for agriculture).

I spent most of my time during my trip at Guédé itself, which is a calm and pleasant place to be. In contrast to other villages in the region, Guédé is nicely green, planted with trees alongside the streets, and possessing a community

garden as well which has trees for food production and others which help to create a wonderful microclimate even during the hottest months. But be careful – one shouldn't go there alone, because if you get too close to the beehives, you'll be in a risky spot since African bees, while more productive, are also a lot more aggressive than their European counterparts!

During my stay, I was also able to participate in food processing activities, enabling the local women to better store and sell their vegetables, which is one of the approaches for helping to produce income for the women in the village. This method also helps to contribute to a healthier and more diversified nutrition as well as an increased food sovereignty for the local people.

I also had the possibility to visit several primary schools in the region, who have either already started, or plan to start in the near future, projects for their own gardens which will provide healthy food in their canteens. They'll also help to teach children how to be able to manage a garden and ecosystems and learn about natural food. I enjoyed a lot animating a waste collection action with the children on their schoolyard one day! The enthusiasm of the children gives such hope, and with good leadership and by granting them appropriate responsibility, the young generation will be able to be the ecologists of tomorrow!

- Sabine Gunther

Long before REDES came into existence and thanks to the dedication of Mrs Marie Edith Cameron and Professor Keith Cameron (Ousmane's friends and family members) and their association, Soutenir l'Enseignement en Afrique, have been creating education opportunities in villages in Senegal River Valley.

***Education is the only way
out and forward***

MORE CLASSROOMS IN
SENEGAL · DIMANCHE 17
DÉCEMBRE 2017

Thanks to the Association
Soutenir l'Enseignement (Nice,
France), over the last years, we
have been able to distribute free
school supplies to thirty villages,
build twelve classrooms in villages
and send 600 kids to school.
Many villages in remote rural
areas have no schools and
thousands of kids are left in the
dark with little chance to escape
ignorance and misery. Your
contributions will make a huge
difference.

*Special thanks to Laurence Calais,
Paulette Raybaud and to all who
contributed to the success of the
freedom school programme.*



RISE & REDES working together to contribute to the fostering of North-South healing and reconciliation and to the revival of indigenous cultures

37



RISE and REDES believe that raising the spiritual dimension of human kind is the solution to the crisis of our collective consciousness: Joining efforts can revive Indigenous Spirituality and ecosystems in a context of uprooted urban youth being heavily impacted by globalization among others through TV.

RISE and REDES seek to promote cross cultural as well as inter-faith knowledge and exchange.

As part of its program to foster North-South healing and reconciliation, RISE & REDES are creating a common platform to develop sustainability education and entrepreneurship programs. The team of the academy DNA together with Rise & REDES plan business trips to Senegal for a cultural and spiritual immersion in February 2019.

Our dream is a tight partnership where RISE and REDES support the creation of a community center hub bringing together other RISE and REDES communities at the heart of our twinship.

10th of June, 2018, Celebration of Ousmane Sembène in Guede Chantier

The father of African cinema, Sembène Ousmane was celebrated this last weekend by the high schoolers, middle schoolers, and the members of the eco-rennaissance association of the Guédé Chantier eco-commune. Three films had been screened, Xala, Sembène of Professor Samba Gadjigo, and the Mandate. There were deep discussions concerning the vision of Sembène, a giant who dreamed of an Africa upon her feet, proud, independent, and open to the world!



Signature of a Partnership Convention between PUMA and REDES (Press Release)

PUMA (Programme d'Urgence de Modernisation des Axes et Territoires Frontaliers or in English the Urgent Program for the Modernization of Border Territories) and **REDES** (known in English as NEEDS or the Network for Ecovillage Emergence and Development) signed on Wednesday, 11 September 2018, at the premises of PUMA, a

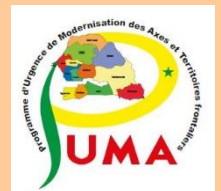


partnership framework convention. The two organizations are both aware that when operating together, they can work to help various localities hitherto left becalmed without assistance. PUMA is a governmental agency which is charged with the development of peripheral regions situated at our borders with Mauritania, Gambia, Mali, and both Guineas. Asides from the small coastal region, Dakar, Mbour, and the great northern coast up to Saint Louis, PUMA operates everywhere along the borders with an eye to better strengthening them, developing socio-economic potential of these peripheral regions, and better including their populations into the national effort of the development of our country. It works to open up its project zones to the world, to resolve infrastructure shortcomings, and to better stabilize the population, above all else our youth, in their own land. REDES, affiliated to the World

Ecovillages Network, is engaged in a process to convert numerous villages across the country into ecovillages to fight against the scourges of desertification, endemic poverty, rural exodus, and illegal emigration. PUMA and REDES are going to put into practice strategies to create and develop ecovillages. REDES already has substantial concrete experience in ecovillage conception and development, and is currently involved, with the assistance of GEN Mauritania, in the transition of 35 traditional villages situated throughout the region



of the Senegal River into an ecovillage center. PUMA and REDES both share the same ambition of regenerating ecosystems and improving the standard of living of populations living in the periphery regions of the country. This convention foresees involving the bordering countries in the undertaking of programmes created by the two organizations so as to further improve and reinforce good neighborly relations. REDES has also signed partnership conventions with the commune of Gamadji Saré in Podor and envisions to undertake further ones in local collectivities in the center of the country, particularly at Baol. Mamadou Thior - Ambassador of GEN Africa, head of REDES Communications



REDES Leaders

Founder and President of REDES

Dr. Ousmane Pame is an educator and a community leader. He earned his PhD in 2002 and his Doctorat d'Etat in 2015 at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar (Senegal). He is a lecturer at Dakar University and has taught French and English languages, African literature and traditions in several American study abroad programs in Senegal.

39

He also worked as the resident Academic Director of Living Routes at the Dakar Earth Rights Ecovillage Institute. This Institute trains international and Senegalese students in ecovillage design and organizes service learning programs in villages in Senegal.

For the past two decades, he has been actively involved in community development projects in rural Senegal (capacity building, permaculture, fish farming, drinking water, nutrition and food



processing programs). He has been supporting deprived schoolchildren in rural areas through distribution of free school material and classroom construction. Thanks to his programs, 35 village schools have received a donation of materials and over 600 have got access to formal education every year.

Dr Pame introduced the ecovillage principles and practices into his small town, Guédé Chantier (7000 inhabitants) in 2017. Two years later, he was elected as mayor of

Guédé, the first in the history of his community. During his mandate, he strove to transition his municipality in an eco-community through various initiatives. He also developed an inspiring and productive twinning between Guédé and Damanhur eco-communities.

He is the founding member and President of REDES (Network for Ecovillage Emergence and Development in the Sahel) (www.redes-ecovillages.org). REDES current projects include an important school green program and the transformation of 35 Mauritanian and Senegalese villages into an ecovillage hub.

He has been the president of the Global Ecovillage Network/ Africa since its creation in 2012 in Sekem, Egypt. He co-organized the first World Ecovillage Summit in Dakar in December 20



Colonel Demba Ba is a passionate expert on biodiversity conservation and community development. He is a developer of community development, environmental management and natural resources programs. He

has served as technical advisor in Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal and has been responsible for the management and monitoring of national parks, reserves and marine protected areas in Senegal. He was General Director of the National Park of Senegal.

From September 2011 to December 2015, Colonel Demba Ba headed the National Agency for Ecovillage (ANEV) and was

responsible for the implementation and transition of Senegalese villages into ecovillages. He has actively supported countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Togo and Benin to design and implement their national ecovillage development programs.

Since retiring from the public administration in December 2014, Colonel Demba Ba is an active member of REDES, being in the advisory council.

Colonel Papa Waly Gueye

started his professional life as a Water and Forest Works Engineer. He holds a degree from the National School of Applied Agricultural Sciences (ENSSAA) in Dijon, France (Option Productions Forestières) and from the National School of Rural Engineering and Water and Forests (ENGREF) of Montpellier.

Colonel Gueye obtained a Diploma of Specialized Advanced Studies (DESS) in Regional Planning and Forestry at Paul Sabatier University in Toulouse and the Laboratory of Tropical Ecology of Montpellier in France (1987), a Post Graduate Diploma in University Development integrated soil at the Institut National Agronomique (INA) of Paris-Grignon, France (1986).

From 1998 to 2003, he was Regional Manager for World Bank Forest Management Projects in Kolda and Tambacounda. From 2003 to 2010, Papa Waly Gueye held the strategic position of National Coordinator of the Planning and Monitoring Studies Cell (CEPS) of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD).

During this period, he gained a lot of practical experience in fiscal and financial reforms, in particular in the Medium Term Sector Expenditure Framework (MTSF), Results Based Management (RBM) and Budget Support.

Colonel Gueye also directed the Djibélor Forest School in Ziguinchor and taught at Master II "Sustainable Development and Environmental Management" at the Resource Center of the Bambey University, based in Dakar.

From 2010 to 2012, Colonel Gueye served as Permanent Secretary of the Higher Council of the Environment and Natural Resources (CONSERE) and Permanent Secretary of the National Committee of CILSS (CONACILSS) from 2012 to 2014.

In his capacity as Technical Advisor No. 1 to the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development for five (05) years, he represented the Ministry (MEDD) on the Boards of Directors of ISRA, the Office du Lac from Guiers (OLAG), SONES, to the Supervisory Board of the National Agency of the Great Green Wall (AN-GMV) and the National Agency of Ecovillages. For three years (03) of



his rich professional career of thirty-eight (38), Colonel Gueye directed the National Agency of the Great Green Wall as Director General. These responsibilities have allowed him to have a good knowledge of Sustainable Development, environmental policies (including Ecovillages) of Sahelian and West African countries as well as texts and regulations related to decentralization, international conventions and the major files of the Administration.

Having officially retired in 2017, Colonel Papa Waly Guèye intends to invest fully in the REDES framework to continue serving rural communities in the Sahel.



Analyst-programmer of training, Oumar Seck is webmaster and trainer in Information Technologies and Communication, capitalizing an experience of more than 15 years in this profession. He discovered this vocation with the creation of the training center "3CTIC" (Center of Creation of Capacities in ICT) of the NGO CRESP (Resource Center for Participative Emergence) located in Yoff, and of which he is a founding member. From 2000 to the present day, he has served as the Educational Manager of the ICT Training Center and Webmaster for the Structure (CRESP).

Khaly Mbengue is the Director of the Higher Institute of Development Education of Ecovillages, ISEDE. He is an environmentalist, Project and Program Manager, consultant in Permaculture and Agroforestry. He is also a specialist in alternative Agricultural and Environmental Technologies.

41

Khaly Mbengue is a committed activist of Endogenous Sustainable Development in the service of African communities through REDES and GEN-Africa. He has acquired twenty years of socio-professional experience in the planning, implementation,



monitoring and evaluation of various projects with NGOs and public government programs. Khaly Mbengue graduated from the National School of Forestry and National Parks of Senegal and the National School of Applied Economics of Dakar in the Department of Economic Planning

and Management of Organizations. Born in January 21, 1976 in Dakar, married and father of four children, he studied and obtained the Certification in the latest version of the E.D.E. (Ecovillage Design Education) with GAIA and the endorsement of UNESCO, Ghana Permaculture Institute (GPI), Techiman, Ghana. He is very attached to his city, Yoff-Dakar of which he is today elected Municipal Councilor and President of the Commission Communication and TIC. He is also member of the board of the APECSY, a community association in Yoff.



Better known as Aly Ly, **Aboubacry Ly** is Mauritania's focal point for the Network for Emergence and Development of Ecovillages in the Sahel.

He was born in Loboudou, Dar el Barka. He is a teacher by training and worked as such from October 1982 to October 2017 when he was retired.

In parallel with his work as an educator, he voluntarily carried out community development activities for the benefit of the local population in his commune of Dar el Barka. Thanks to the many trainings he has attended he has acquired additional skills in literacy, primary health care, community animation, organization-management and agroforestry.

He has led many community organizations:

- LOBOUDOU Youth Association
- Community Development Association (CDA) of Loboudou
- Loboudou Agricultural Cooperative
- Zonal Committee for the Preservation of the Environment
- Salaayel Association

For the sensitization of the local communities on sustainable development, it is important to underline that this cultural group, who is made up mainly of young griots, currently animates for other partners at other places.

Thanks to the song Salaayel, through the voice of these young griots, Loboudou (and even Mauritania) got known by JEUNEFRIQUE and the global network of Ecovillages. The song was also a catalyst for the creation of the Mauritanian Network of Ecovillages (REMEV) of which Aboubacry Ly is a founding member.

He facilitated many inter-village meetings and was the initiator of:

- Periodic meetings of women's inter-cooperative exchanges in the area;
- the creation of village environmental protection committees;
- a natural regeneration project around the village of Loboudou and its surroundings
- the organization of fishermen from four villages around the Marigot Diou in the exploitation committee - preservation of natural resources;
- the establishment of eleven health committees (USB) having health boxes with technical and financial support from partners in the region. These USBs are managed by the village health committees;
- the training, equipment and organization of twelve beekeepers of the commune with the support of World Vision and the US Embassy in Mauritania;
- the intercultural exchange process for sustainable development according to Salaayel; the establishment of an inn, development of an eco-tourism program and circuit with the aim of bringing the south of Mauritania to become a new destination for visitors (nationals and foreigners);
- the constitution, the formation of the SALAAYEL cultural and artistic group, whose objective is to animate and convey messages from ADC / SALAAYEL de Loboudou.

Abdoulaye Touré, Head of the Solar Energy Office at the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR) from 2007 to 2015, President of GIE PALETTE initiated the project: Promotion of social entrepreneurship through local production of solar equipment in rural areas. He is a founding member of GEN Senegal as well as head of the Energy Department of the Higher Education Institute of EDE Ecovillages (ISEDE).

With the support of the Senegalese Agency for Industrial Property and Technological Innovation (ASPIT) and of the Global Environment Facility Micro Finance Program (PMF / FEM), he has developed and distributed solar ovens for food cooking (first prototype in 1990) and solar streetlights for public



lighting (2013). Today, he develops solar kits for domestic electricity and solar pumps for water control.

His technological initiatives were crowned by the 1st Prize of the President of the Republic of Invention and Innovation in 1998 (Senegal) and the ILCA Prize for Business Creation (International Center for the Creation of Enterprise in Africa) in 1999. In

addition, he received the 1st prize of the Techno-fair in Tambacounda (Senegal-Oriental) in 2001 and he was nominated at COP22 in Marrakech in November 2016. Lately, he won a bronze medal at the International Exhibition of invention and innovation of Kuwait City in January 2017.

Mr. Touré was named a knight of the national order of merit of Senegal in November 2015. By his qualities of educator and his expertise in solar energy, Mr. Touré has largely contributed to the development of ecovillages in Senegal. With the Network for the Emergence and Development of Ecovillages in the Sahel, he intends to put his skills and passion at the service of all communities in the sub-region.



Mr. Abdoulaye Konté is a training instructor, and as professor of history and Geography, in his 27 years of service has worked in succession at Tamacounda and Bambey, and is now the principal of Ndéme-Meïssa Middle School since 2011. A militant for the School Environment Concept, he started at the Ndéme-Meïssa middle school an agro-ecological experiment for the students covering one hectare, then expanded that to include a broader grouping: teachers, students, and the students' parents.

He is the co-founder of the ECOLYCO program: (Écologie dans les Lycées et Collèges, or in English, Ecology in High Schools and Middle Schools), which principally aims to promote "an environmental education for durable development", among both students and communities. He has undertaken both training and reciprocal educational internships in alternative pedagogy. From this, he has received a degree in Organization Management, and another in Human Resources.

Mr Konté is a partisan for associational movements both at the national and international level, where his involvement in the undertaking of multiple actions launched by non-governmental organizations in the Bambey Department and the Diourbel region, in the domains of education, good governance, public policy evaluation, institutional reform has stemmed from in the operational plan of these NGOs.

Ibou Ngom is a professional in education, with a degree from Odessa State University in Ukraine where he had obtained a master in Slavic Philology as well as the title of Translator-Interpreter. He is the principal of the Bambey Sérère High School where he introduced the idea of an Eco-High School. Furthermore he has coordinated the activities of REDES in the Diourbel region, in the center of Senegal, where more than 50 villages have been engaged in collaboration to become ecovillages. In his role as the



leader of RDN (Réseau pour le Développement de Ngoye, or the Network for the Development of Ngoye in English) he has participated in

the First World Ecovillage Summit held at Dakar and the 3rd Pan-African Ecovillage Conference held at Techiman in Ghana. For his own establishment, he has introduced the students to the practice of agroecology and social entrepreneurship so as to nourish in them a passion for the preservation of the environment, and competences in the management of green micro-project. This concept has started to bear fruits and has spread to other establishments in Senegal.

A tireless craftsman of integrated local development and bringing people together, Mr. **Moctar Aliou Sow** is a member of the Boghé Department at the National Assembly of Mauritania since December 2013. He is the Chief of the village of Dioullom (Commune of Boghé) and an active founding member of several community and social organizations.

44

He is President of :

- the Board of Directors of Mutual Savings and Credit called: Union for Solidarity and Mutual Aid (USEM) (headquarters in Boghé), whose goal is to fight against rural poverty by directing its actions to women's associations and young people, grouped into an economic interest group.

- the Family Cooperative (agropastoral Kondo focal point of agro-ecological activities to develop)

- The Twinning Committee between the Commune of Dar El Barka (Mauritania) and that of Réau (France).

- the Twinning Committee Cooperation without Borders (CSF) Léon (France), twinned with Dioullom (Mauritania)

President of the Ecovillages Network of Mauritania, which advocates for Sustainable Development in all its forms. It is in this context that the Association implemented several agroecological programs in several localities of the country.



- Secretary Executive of the NGO Association for the Protection of the Environment in Mauritania (APEM) and member of the advisory board of the Network for the Emergence and Development of Ecovillages in the Sahel (REDES), the Honorable Deputy Moctar Sow dreams of a green Sahel, where harmony, peace and abundance reign for all the communities that live there.



Since December 2012, Mamadou Thior has been the editor of the Journal 'Parlé de la Radio' after having been reporter, Head of the Desk Nation, Chief Editor and Editor-in-Chief for the News. He is a graduate of the World Press Institute based in the United States (the 2nd Senegalese journalist at that day.) M. Thior is a fellow of the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center in Haifa, Israel.

Many times, the US government chose him for media coverage trips across the United States. In September and October 2008, he attended the

presidential debates between the candidates Barack Obama and John Mc Cain.

In July 2009, President Barack Obama called on him and two other English-speaking journalists (from Kenya and South Africa) to help him choose from thousands of questions he had received from young Africans, the most relevant to respond. He made the pilgrimage to Mecca thanks to an invitation from the Saudi King of Saudi Abdelaziz Al Saoud. Moreover, he is a graduate of CESTI - Center of Studies of Sciences and Techniques of the Information with a specialization on the questions of environment as well as a graduate of the Department of English. In addition, he is fluent in French and English and speaks some Spanish; of course he is perfect in Sereer. Finally, he has directed several documentary films in French and English on radio and in television.

For more information

CONTEXT INSTITUTE

www.context.org

SEA

<http://enseignement-en-afrique.blogspot.sn/>

G E N Afrique

www.ecovillage.org/region

CAPE

www.cape.consulting

DAMANHUR

www.damanhur.org

GAIEducation

www.gaieducation.org

GEN

www.ecovillage.org

SENEGAL PRESS REPORTS ON REDES ACTIVITIES

- <http://redes-ecovillages.org/eng/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/article-oap-soleil.pdf>
- <https://www.faapa.info/blog/un-ecologiste-previent-sur-la-mort-progressive-du-fleuve-senegal/>
- <http://www.directactu.net/2018/03/27/7021/>
- <https://senegalinfos.com/podor-des-partenaires-revolutionnent-les-pratiques-agricoles>
- <http://apanews.net/news/il-y-a-une-revolution-silencieuse-des-ecovillages-responsable/>
- <http://www.seneweb.me/292247/education-respect-et-protection-de-lenvironnement-87-enfants-de-la-maternelle-initives>
- <http://www.senepius.com/article/l%E2%80%99insalubrit%C3%A9-galopante-ou-la-honte-nationale>
- <http://www.aps.sn/actualites/economie/agriculture/article/quelques-3000-villageois-du-departement-de-podor-initives-en-techniques-de-l-agroforesterie>
- <http://www.ecovillages.sn/index.php/actualites/en-brevets/58-developpement-durable-le-senegal-veut-creeer-100-eco-villages-cette-annee>

ENGLISH

<https://gaiiaeducation.org/news/senegal-river-valley/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/aug/14/five-eco-villages-around-the-world>

<https://loyalty.humboldt.edu/content/loyalty-feature-me/award-helps-students-thrive-french-speaking-africa>

GERMAN

<http://gruener-journalismus.de/blog/wir-muessen-unsere-oekosysteme-wiederherstellen/>

http://www.kulturaustausch.de/index.php?id=103&tx_amkulturaustausch_pi1%5Bview%5D=ARTICLE&tx_amkulturaustausch_pi1%5Baid%5D=2632&cHash=7ee6cced8b73b6909dfec0ac4b9aee12

MY PRESS ARTICLES

46

- <http://www.lactuacho.com/gestion-calamiteuse-de-lagence-nationale-des-ecovillages-ca-suffit/>
- <https://www.vivafrik.com/2018/03/26/vallee-du-fleuve-senegal-un-hub-transfrontalier-decovillages-en-gestation-entre-le-senegal-la-mauritanie-a16510.html>
- <https://www.vivafrik.com/2018/01/25/renforcement-de-la-cooperation-entre-la-mauritanie-et-le-senegal-par-les-ecovillages-a15002.html>
- <http://www.jeggema.com/2017/12/23/la-sierra-leone-a-lecole-des-ecovillages-du-senegal/>
- http://www.farmandranchguide.com/news/opinion/senegal-officials-praise-the-holistic-development-efforts-of-ecovillages/article_ec2bc9e4-9c25-11e4-9851-c3c7775ad058.html
- https://www.facebook.com/genafricanetwork/posts/1071456536318217?notif_t=like¬if_id=1497746660183556
- http://www.visiobooks.com/news/Environnement/lutte-contre-l-insalubrite-les-sachets-plastiques-une-menace-sur-l-rsquo-environnement_n_94159.html

News Coverage of REDES

Moroccan tv channel, Media 1

<http://www.medi1tv.com/fr/capsule.aspx?type=entretien&date=25%2F05%2F2017>

British newspaper, The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/aug/14/five-eco-villages-around-the-world>.

Al Jazeera TV

<http://video.aljazeera.com/channels/eng/videos/senegal-charities-fear-eu-aid-cuts-post-brexit/5084569937001>

Video lists

Desertification

<https://vimeo.com/264703758?ref=fb-share&1>

REDES Overview

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Nr0DdgKhgo&feature=em-share_video_user

Student Interest Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAypWAcLDhc&t=3s>

GEN Africa Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/genafricanetwork/posts/1160106280786575>

CAPE video

<https://youtu.be/nhKc2r2SVJo>

47

Women in Podor, Northern Senegal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRYI7duLWA>

Dr. Pame on MEDIA1TV Africa

<http://www.medi1tv.com/fr/capsule.aspx?type=entretien&date=25%2F05%2F2017>

Dr. Pame on Télé Futurs Medias

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCW9mLK5auc>

Brexit effects of UK aid in Senegal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wi0hZNTUt18>

Le Grand Rendez Vous

<http://xalimasn.com/video-2stv-le-grand-rendez-vous-du-vendredi-28-juin-2013-mary-teuw-niane-ministre-de-lenseignement-superieur-et-recherche-dr-ousmane-aly-pame-maire-eco-commune-de-guede-chantier-et/>

L'agriculture de demain à Guédé-Chantier

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsPFjF3b-o8>

Last but not least, a very big thank you to all the persons who donated their precious time for giving content, designing this brochure, translating texts, etc. Especially without the generous support of Tomoko Sekiguchi, Ryan Thomas and Fiona Faye, this work would not have been possible.