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SNAPSHOT

Enhancing ephemeral water body management in the Ferlo ecological region of Senegal



Photos: Farmers receiving information on the location of Ephemeral water bodies during the dry season in the Ferlo

Objective:

To enhance resilience and increase productivity of agro-pastoral systems. SERVIR WA through Consortium member Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE) will monitor ephemeral waterbodies using existing free and open source high resolution imagery. The information generated will be disseminated to beneficiaries by Short Message Service (SMS) and local radio

The Ferlo region of Senegal is almost exclusively reserved for pastoralism, both by tradition and by government policy. During the rainy season, water points and forage are fairly abundant. However, during the dry season (March to June), water and forage become extremely scarce, which limits productivity. Traditionally, local populations could rely on information based on historical observation (local knowledge) as a guide to the location and volume of accessible water points at any given time during the dry season. Due to the effects of climate change, this is becoming less and less reliable. A different approach, which provides accurate information, is needed to maintain (and increase) productivity levels.

This development problem was identified by the principal stakeholders during the SERVIR service planning process as the most critical issue which could be addressed with the support of SERVIR WA.

This service is meant to provide accurate and timely information concerning the availability of water and forage in all parts of the Ferlo throughout the dry season and to provide forecasts which will inform the beneficiaries to allow more efficient use of the available natural resources.

Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE) in Senegal, along with the Senegalese Government, Veterinarians Without Borders and CBOs, is leading the development of a service to deliver high resolution monitoring information directly to the field. This will make use of imagery provided by NASA and tools co-developed by the implementation team to monitor water points and associated forage and to forecast water and forage availability with sufficient accuracy to permit the local authorities and CBOs to improve decision making on resource use.

“As a result of their importance in the life of pastoralists, ponds that retain water for a quite long time (5-6 months) all bear a name and are known by most transhumant. Having reliable information to better manage them, would be of great help to us”

Demba BA, EGAB President.

This service will contribute to the enhanced resilience of agro-pastoral systems and increased productivity in response to climate change in the region.

Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
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