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Resilience in the Sahel

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Sequencing Layering Integrating



USAID | WFP – Wadata – TerresEauVie

USAID-Funded Activities (WFP, Wadata, and TerresEauVie) Join forces to preserve pastoral resources in Kourayé village- Zinder

In 2019, World Food Program, Wadata, and TerresEauVie developed a collaborative action plan to reclaim degraded lands in Mazamni municipality using a watershed approach. To achieve this goal, micro-watershed maps were produced by TerresEauVie. These maps allowed Wadata and TerresEauVie to identify the grazing area of Kourayé village in the Mazamni municipality (Zinder region). The word Kourayé means "hyena" in Hausa language, as the area was home to hyenas.

Covering an area of nearly 11,000 acres, this grazing area was a vital resource for the communities, as it provided the communities with all their fodder needs. This area is currently in advanced degradation due to both climate change and human activities, notably excessive tree cutting and expansion of agricultural land. As a result, there is a great impact on herders' and farmers' activities, often leading to farmer-herder conflicts and sometimes to inter-farmer conflicts. In search of more land for crops, farmers in the area created a multitude of fields that overlap with the grazing area, a vital space for herders. A combination of these factors, coupled with community conflicts, negatively affected key livelihoods, jeopardizing households' food security and social cohesion.

Last year, a Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) exercise was conducted on this site (led by World Food Program in conjunction with Wadata and TerresEauVie), clearly identifying the need to secure and develop grazing areas, to drill water points, and to support agro-silvo-pastoral production and livestock reconstitution.

The need for grazing land was multidimensional: It required coordinated efforts among partners as recovery of degraded land could not be achieved if grazing area limits continued to erode and tensions between herders and farmers continued to exist.

To strengthen communities' resilience, WFP, Wadata and TerresEauVie under USAID's RISE II program joined forces to provide an innovative combination of multi-sectoral, multi-year activities, including investments in agro-silvo-pastoral production, food assistance, nutrition, education, WASH,



Credit : WFP/Drone Africa

local early warning systems, and income-generating activities with a particular focus on youth and women, as well as land issues and literacy. The annual planning framework requires each RISE II partner to act according to its mandate and level of intervention. This required a great deal of discussion among RISE II partners; yet the result is evident today.

Since interventions began in March 2021, under the leadership of WFP, communities have restored over 270 acres of degraded grasslands within the grazing area. Basic household food and nutritional needs were met through WFP's "Food for Work" approach.

Simultaneously, with support from TerresEauVie, the Departmental Land Commission (COFODEP) delimited this vast grazing area. Within this grazing site, in addition to the area developed jointly by WFP and WADATA (270 ac), other improvements are noted on the same site, i.e., 300 ac by Wadata, 181 ac by IFAD, and 11 ac by l'Agence des Collectivités Territoriales (these sites appear in pink on the map below, provided by TerresEauVie), totaling 762 ac recovered on Kourayé site. A total of 270 ac recovered by WFP were entirely seeded and another 50 ac were covered by tree planting and put in reserve over a 3-year period.



Half moon pasture realization. Credit: WFP/Mariama Ali

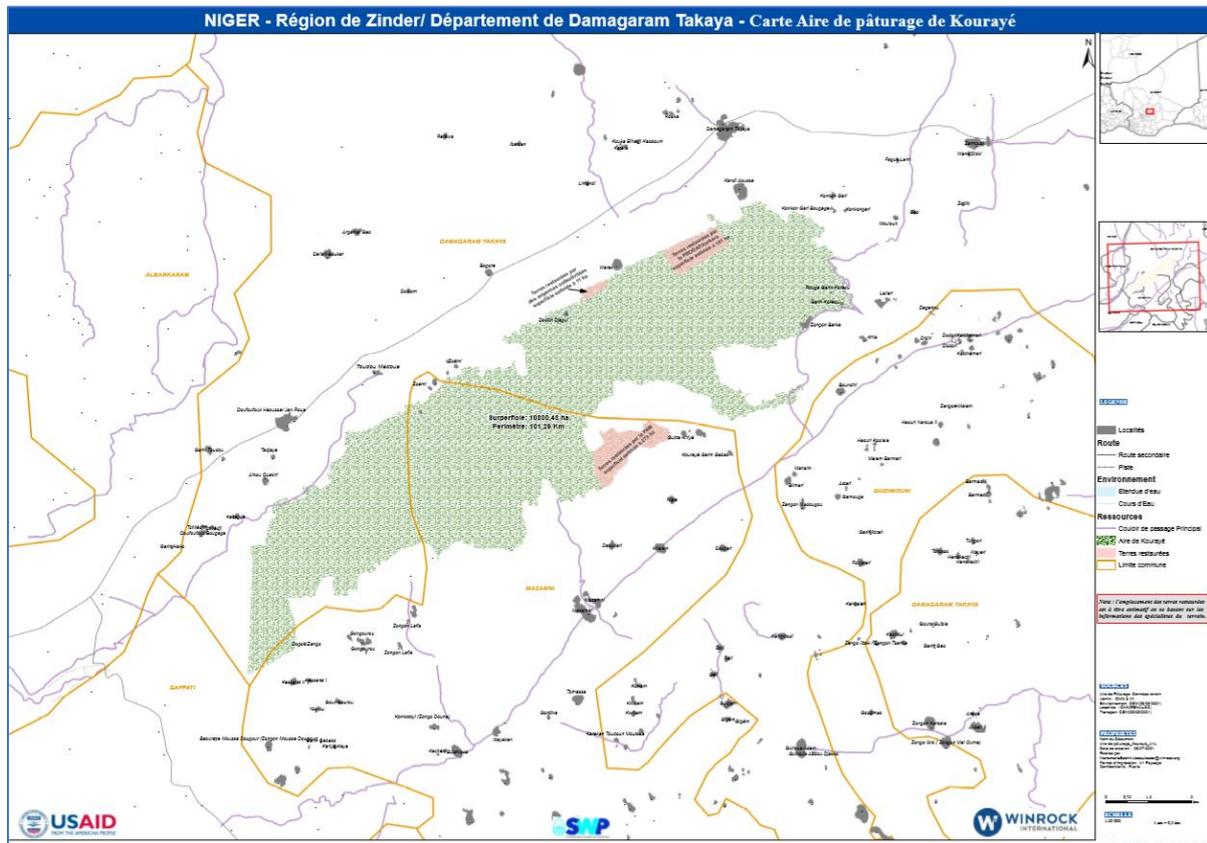
Through the Local Natural Resource Management Agreement developed by Wadata in conjunction with TEV for Mazamni area, which includes Kourayé grazing area; rules were defined by the community for consensus management of natural resources among farmers to ensure sustainable management and prevent conflicts.



Meeting between USAID Niger's Mission Director, implementing partners and community. July 2021

Overall, this coordinated action highlighted the involvement and dedication of stakeholders at the community, municipal and departmental levels-whether members of the community itself (social agreements, creation of a site management committee), traditional leaders (group and canton chiefs), elected officials (mayors), or State technical services (prefects, COFODEP). Such collaboration enabled the success of initiatives and promoted sustainability in the development and peaceful management of sites, ensuring that communities benefit over time from the reclaimed lands.

For more information (Site brief).



Caption : The mapping of the grazing area of the Kourayé site, carried out with the support of TerresEauVie, enables the users of the site and the management committee to better manage and protect the area.