

CASE ONE

SENEGAL

REDUCING POVERTY THROUGH INCREASED INCOMES AND FOREST PRESERVATION

The World Bank is supporting a US\$20 million innovative project to help meet Senegal's rapidly growing urban demand for household fuels. The challenge is to do this without the loss of forest cover, while enhancing and diversifying local incomes and empowering rural women. More than 300,000 hectares of environmentally sustainable, community-managed forests have been established in the Tambacounda and Kolda regions in southeast Senegal, creating a protection zone around the Niokolo-Koba National Park, a biosphere reserve. By early 2004 the project had met or exceeded its goals, except for a lower rate of dissemination of improved charcoal stoves than was expected. In March 2004 the project produced more than 400,000 tons of sustainable fuelwood per year while reducing deforestation related to fuelwood in the area by almost 30,000 hectares per year, and reducing net carbon dioxide emissions by more than 1 million tons annually. Biodiversity is being preserved and enhanced by establishing sustainable forests and a protective buffer zone around the park.



The creation of jobs in the participating villages and the inclusion of women in the management and marketing of fuelwood and related income-generating activities has already enhanced the quality of life locally. The project is supporting the creation of real assets for local communities through crop diversification, animal husbandry, honey production, and value added products. It is also supporting the supply of clean drinking water. Through an educational program, local women are learning how to improve their health and the health of their families, while the children are learning about the importance of maintaining natural resources within the local schools curriculum. In March 2004 the project had generated additional annual income to rural communities from the sale of sustainable fuelwood and new agricultural and animal husbandry products estimated at more than US\$9.5 million.

The World Bank is already replicating the Senegal model in other parts of Sub-Saharan Africa: the payoff is a potentially powerful model for sustainable management of forest resources, fuelwood production, and local economic and social development.

Efficient stoves are also being promoted as part of the project.