



Support for local agreements and their contribution to multifunctional Landscapes in the department of Fatick. Case study of the Niakhar local agreement

February 2026

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1. Context and rationale

The MFL (Multifunctional Landscapes) project is a CGIAR scientific program that follows on from the Agroecological Initiative (I-AE) carried out between 2023 and 2024 in the department of Fatick. Thanks to the partnership between ISRA and CIRAD, the I-AE supported DYTAEI in implementing territorial mechanisms for agroecological transition.

The MFL program is being rolled out in nine countries and is based in Senegal on a partnership with ILRI. It aims to:

"Contribute to creating sustainable, healthy, and equitable landscapes through agroecological approaches that are nature-positive and regenerative at the landscape level, in order to support decent and resilient livelihoods, particularly for marginalized communities, vulnerable local populations and young people, while ensuring safe and nutritious food and generating gains in biodiversity and ecosystem services."

The project combines the protection, restoration, and regeneration of ecosystems with the promotion of sustainable agriculture through integrated management and governance practices for agri-food systems and landscapes.

In this context, the AoW2 work axis introduces an innovative approach focused on local natural resource management agreements. Some municipalities in the department of Fatick have already adopted them (with the support of the NGO Enda Pronat), such as the municipalities of Diouroup and Tattaguine, while others wish to update them (e.g., Niakhar) and still others are considering implementing them, especially from an intermunicipal perspective.

The project aims to support these dynamics so that local agreements become effective tools for endogenous landscape governance. The municipality of Niakhar has been selected as the pilot site for this first phase. Several workshops were held in Fatick (with the main actors involved in local agreements) and then in Niakhar to reflect on the expectations for the renewal of local agreements in general and that of Niakhar in particular. A reflection on the support modalities was to be initiated.

To meet this objective, the first two workshops were organized in Fatick and Niakhar. They aimed to take stock of the implementation of local agreements and define a support program, in line with agroecological transition and territorial governance, and to ensure their sustainable integration into the various land use planning tools and decentralized territorial management processes.

2. The workshop in Fatick

The workshop took place on Monday, September 8, 2025, at the Departmental Center for Assistance and Training for Women (CEDAF) in Fatick. It brought together 18 people (institutions involved in land use planning and agricultural advisory services ARD, ANCAR, Research and technical partners: ISRA, CIRAD, ILRI; NGOs and operators: Enda Pronat, Nitidæ, Agrisud International, ANPDI and local authorities: Niakhar, Patar, and Ngayokhème town halls.

The workshop aimed to promote collective reflection on the conditions and modalities for supporting local agreements in the department of Fatick, in relation to agroecological transition

nd territorial governance, and their sustainable integration into the various land use planning tools and decentralized territorial management processes.

The specific objectives were to:

- Present the MFL program and its specific AoW2 activity
- Present Enda Pronat's progress on local agreements.
- Understand the request from the municipality of Niakhar to update its local agreement and its possible articulation with an inter-municipal dynamic (Patar, Ngayokhème).
- To put into perspective the various experiences (local agreements, POAS) existing in the Department of Fatick
- Discuss the major challenges associated with the implementation and updating of local agreements
- Discuss the testing of participatory support tools to collectively advance the operational management of these issues, in particular the serious game TerriStories.
- Reflect on the nature and content of a support program to promote endogenous governance of natural resources, i.e., emerging and consolidating from local dynamics.
- Establish a work schedule for 2025-2026.

The workshop combined presentations and group discussions.

3. The workshop in Niakhar

The workshop was held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at the Niakhar Town Hall.

The objectives were similar to those of the Fatick meeting but applied specifically to Niakhar, focusing the discussion on understanding the municipality's request to update its local agreement and its possible articulation with an inter-municipal dynamic (Patar, Ngayokhème). The specific objective was to establish a work schedule for 2025-2026.

The expected participants were as follows:

- Public institutions: ARD, ANCAR, ANPDI, CPDT
- Research and technical partners: ISRA, CIRAD, ILRI
- NGOs and operators: Enda Pronat, Nitidæ, Agrisud International
- Local authorities: Niakhar, Patar, and Ngayokhème town halls
- Key stakeholders in the municipality of Niakhar

4. Results

4.1 Challenges

Attached is a summary table of the challenges identified during these two workshops.

Table 1. Key issues and challenges for local agreements in the department of Fatick.

<p>Key issue: How to ensure the autonomy and viability of local agreements through synergistic action between partners for the municipalities within their districts and the department.</p>
<p>Development and application of rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take into account the diversity of compliance with rules (which varies greatly depending on the issue: major problem with animal mobility/better with RNA and wood cutting). Analyze why some work better than others. - Integrate a dynamic character into the rules of the agreement (particularly in relation to changes in rainfall). - What degree of formalization of local rules, how to build on existing successes? What link between types of rules (if local rules differ from the legal framework)? - What levels of participation by the population and authorities? Lobbying, power games (pastoralist associations, for example). - Strengthen the learning process in the development and application of rules - Strengthen ownership by village committees and the legitimacy of committees and watchmen (there is considerable diversity in this regard) - How to enforce local rules at the level of outsiders (such as transhumants) or sometimes border villages (in other municipalities) pose problems - How to incorporate the diversity of areas: is an agreement per area necessary or not?
<p>Political support from the municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involvement of authorities and municipalities, taking into account the high turnover of sub-prefects, for example
<p>The Multi-scalar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the relationships between villages/areas/municipalities/districts (given the great diversity of villages)? - How can the inter-municipal perspective be integrated (one or more agreements per area)? - Address the issue of scaling from the outset: what strategy should be implemented at the departmental, district, and inter-municipal levels? - Take into account the time required for the process, which must be reduced in the replication process
<p>Availability of budgetary resources for the process (including for activities) What is the economic viability of the agreements and what about dependence on the project?</p>
<p>Consistency of tools and other mechanisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider consistency between POAS, agreements, PDC, development plans, and therefore with infrastructure (roads, vaccination parks, drinking troughs, etc.) and in light of the diversity of agreements with resource and/or space inputs - Relationship with the Galileo project innovation platform?
<p>What information should be used as a basis? What databases are available and need to be built? What about land use? What about foresight (e.g., highways), what about the vision?</p>

In general, the discussion focused on the following elements:

- multi-scale integration (local, inter-municipal, departmental),
- coordination with POAS, PDC, and future land use plans managed by ANAT
- dynamic and evolving nature of agreements,
- conditions for sustainability and coordination,
- prospects for scaling
- endogenous governance.

2. Summary of the Fatick and Niakhar workshops

2.1 Fatick departmental workshop: clarification of issues and strategic framework for support

The workshop organized in Fatick provided an opportunity to put local agreements into a departmental perspective, bringing together technical services, local authorities, NGOs, and

research partners. It made it possible to move beyond a strictly municipal interpretation of the agreements and reposition them as **a potential tool for landscape and multi-scale governance**.

The Enda experience should be promoted. In Tattaguine in particular, an evaluation was conducted and evaluation indicators were defined. The first phase of construction took three years, with a strategy developed across 14 villages divided into five zones (one meeting per village on the diagnosis + meeting with local elected officials and village chiefs (with zone) + meeting at the municipal level to harmonize rules + feedback with support from technical services in the district).

The discussions highlighted several structural issues:

- The autonomy and viability of local agreements, particularly in view of dependence on projects and the weakness of dedicated municipal budget lines.
- The development and effective application of rules, with marked differences depending on the theme (livestock mobility, timber management, assisted natural regeneration), and the need to strengthen the learning and legitimacy mechanisms of monitoring committees.
- Coordination with other planning tools (POAS, PDC, development plans) to avoid the overlapping of uncoordinated measures.
- The inter-municipal and departmental dimension, particularly for issues of transhumance, cutting dates, and livestock corridor management.
- The need to integrate forward thinking and territorial data (climate change, infrastructure such as highways, land dynamics) into the discussion of agreements.

The workshop also validated the value of innovative participatory tools, in particular the serious game *TerriStories*, as a means of facilitating understanding of multi-scale issues, testing scenarios, and strengthening the appropriation of rules by elected officials and populations.

In summary, the Fatick workshop made it possible to:

- a shared diagnosis of the current limitations of agreements,
- identify the conditions for their sustainability,
- to frame the basis for a support program linking agroecological transition, territorial governance, and scaling up.
- Consider a meeting with elected officials on local agreements, to be determined at a later date.
- Reflect on mobilizing funds to ensure a territorial development policy to consider the sustainability of the agreements (attention to project logic).

2.2 Niakhar municipal workshop: operational update and inter-municipal perspectives

The Niakhar workshop provided an opportunity to translate these general reflections into a concrete plan for updating the local agreement adopted in 2011. It was part of a process to strengthen territorial governance, integrating 32 official villages, in conjunction with the new PDC and the local agreement since 2011 (GTD), which covered three specific areas. The agreement was drawn up with ANCAR. It was one of the first to be established in Fatick.

Several key points emerged from the discussions:

- The local agreement is a recognized achievement, having produced visible effects (reduction of conflicts, forest regeneration, better appropriation of rules), but its application remains uneven depending on the issues and areas concerned.
- The main challenge identified concerns the effectiveness of the rules, particularly through the revitalization of village committees, monitoring, surveillance, and management of sensitive situations (reporting, family relations, transhumance).
- The municipality is facing new structural challenges (urbanization, climate change, demographic pressure, infrastructure), requiring an update of rules and mechanisms.
- The inter-municipal issue is central: harmonization with Patar and Ngayokhème, coordination at the district level, and consideration of a possible inter-municipal agreement or coordinated mechanisms.
- The importance of strong involvement by women and young people in the updating process was emphasized. Women reiterated their central role in forestry and called for greater inclusion.
- Testimonials showed that the convention remains a major achievement, with visible results: the return of animal species, forest regeneration, and women's ownership of the rules.
- Participants emphasized the need for simple, appropriate, and enforceable rules, and the importance of sustained awareness-raising efforts.
- Concrete actions are already in place: discussions, community reforestation day, revitalization of monitoring committees, demarcation of livestock grazing areas (work has already begun in some villages), agreement on distances to be marked with markers, nursery, impoundments, and protected areas (50 ha).

In the process of drafting the agreement, which was carried out in 2011:

- Three areas with similar issues (PGDT) were identified based on land management type, wind erosion, soil fertility, etc.
- Formal management rules were clarified.
- A management and monitoring committee for the RNs was established at the village level.
- Laws and regulations are compatible with the rules: no cutting, harvest date for monkey bread, firewood, tethering of animals, impounding of animals, information on procedures, transhumance (welcome from January 31), two types of transhumance (native, passage), etc. Inter-municipal cooperation on tree cutting dates, agreement in place but with three different dynamics, trajectories? Conflicts have decreased.
- The sylvo-agro-pastoral cooperative at the municipal level has made a small assessment: the application of rules is problematic (only Yenguele works with its community forest) with support from Proder, NGOs, ARD, and technical services.
- Strong partnership dynamics in the municipality with the support of ANPDI: framework for consultation at the municipal level, territorial conference, with village committee and CVD, citizen participation, municipal councilors.

The workshop resulted in several concrete guidelines:

- A discussion on a 2025–2026 roadmap, specifying the key stages, the roles of the actors, and the monitoring mechanisms with the updating of the two agreements (Patar and Niakhar) + creation of a new one in Ngayokhème

- The integration of participatory tools (serious games) to strengthen co-construction, ownership, and training of elected officials.

In this regard, a discussion took place on the TerriStories® game, the value of which was validated.

3. The TerriStories® serious game

The TerriStories® participatory simulation platform was chosen by the project partners to provide methodological support for their analyses and experiments on enriching the methodology of local agreements to meet the specific challenges of the project, drawing on the positive experience accumulated by local partners on this issue.

3.1 Discussion during the workshop

Participants expressed great interest in this methodology, considering it relevant for supporting the co-construction of management rules and strengthening the ownership of local agreements and their enrichment to support agroecological transition and multifunctional landscape management. The workshop provided an opportunity to clarify the various issues for which the TerriStories® methodology could be tested to provide answers:

- Local agreements must involve the entire population from the outset, not just their representatives.
- The establishment and operation of village monitoring committees remains a challenge, requiring greater ownership, revitalization, and participatory monitoring.
- Progress still needs to be made on specific issues.
- Better demarcation of livestock trails and regeneration of woodlands.
- Successful protection of strategic areas (e.g., Sanghaie Forest).
- Strengthening awareness-raising activities by forestry services and NGOs.
- Establishment of community nurseries and an arboretum.
- Updating the Niakhar local agreement and extending it to the inter-municipal level.
- A multi-level approach that better links local agreements, POAS (municipal level), and beyond that, inter-municipal coordination, is necessary and needs to be developed. This inter-municipal synergy (coordination?) to be developed for coherent landscape management at the inter-municipal level has been widely discussed, with the aim of linking Niakhar with Patar and Ngayokhème.
- In this multi-level approach to be developed and tested, the dimensions of support for the development of multifunctional landscapes and for a gradual agroecological transition must be explored in greater depth.

Two steps have been planned before the effective implementation of TerriStories within the framework of the project: a workshop to adjust the platform's indicators to the specific priorities of the project, which will bring together project resource persons with experience in applying local conventions, resource persons supporting local practices aimed at agroecological transition, and experts in the TerriStories approach to identify the necessary adaptations of TerriStories® to specifically target the project's needs; and training local facilitators in the implementation of TerriStories, so that the approach can more easily cover a maximum number of sites and the skills required to facilitate it can be transferred in a sustainable manner.

For logistical reasons, the process began with the training of local facilitators, with the workshop to finalize the indicators scheduled for the beginning of 2026. It is within this framework of support that the training, as described in this report, takes place.

This training of local facilitators in the TerriStories® approach was conducted at the end of 2025 (see specific report). It had two main objectives:

- to develop the capacities of a pool of local facilitators by providing them with TerriStories® facilitation skills, in line with the specific characteristics of the Fatick area and the priorities of the MFL project;
- to select six local facilitators capable of implementing, leading, and promoting the TerriStories® approach throughout the regional consultation process planned for 2026 as part of the revitalization of local agreements;
- The training took place over nine days, from December 10 to 14, then from December 18 to 23, 2025, in Niakhar, and brought together a group of local actors involved in the region's agroecological transition.

3.2 TerriStories® approach

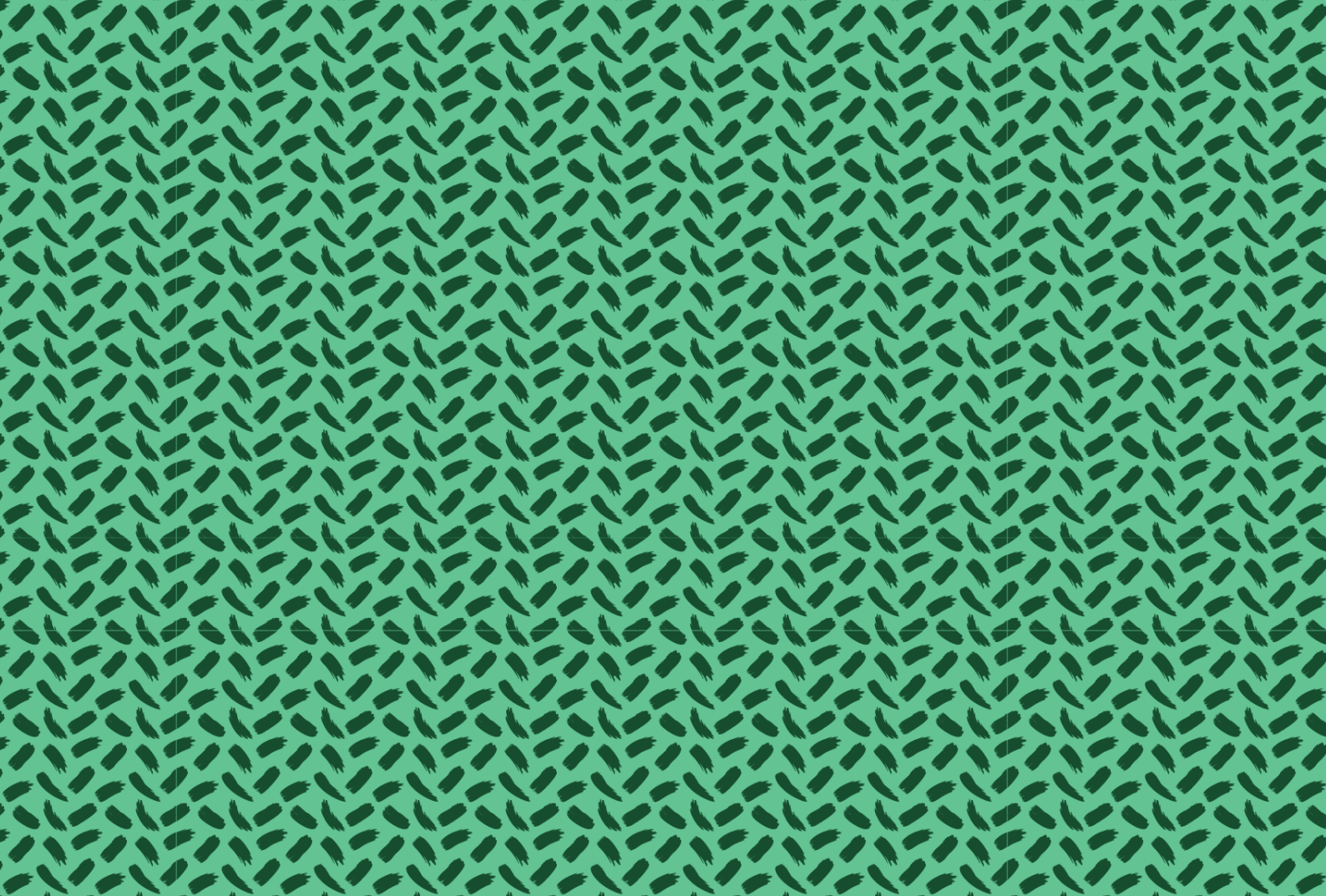
The TerriStories® approach has been used for several years to support local initiatives for the collective management of natural resources and territorial consultation. It aims to strengthen collective reflection and dialogue processes between stakeholders by providing a structured, inclusive, and operational framework for discussion and decision-making at the territorial level. This approach is based on an innovative participatory mechanism that uses a game board representing a portion of the territory. This tool allows participants to interact, simulate realistic situations, and collectively explore different paths for the territory's development. By bringing together a diverse range of actors with varied profiles and interests, TerriStories® promotes direct, balanced, and constructive exchanges on territorial issues. By making visible the interactions between uses, actors, and resources, as well as the resulting tensions and trade-offs, the approach facilitates the emergence of a shared understanding of territorial dynamics. Role-playing is a central element of the program: it allows participants to immerse themselves in concrete situations, collectively experiment with new ways of thinking about action, and confront different points of view. Through this process, stakeholders mobilize their knowledge, skills, and experience, test hypotheses for action, integrate new knowledge, and strengthen their capacity for collective action.

Each implementation of the TerriStories® approach requires specific adaptation to the context and challenges of the project in question, in order to ensure that local issues are taken into account and that stakeholders effectively take ownership of the project. In the context of the MFL project, this adaptation focused in particular on the mechanics of the game (board configuration, sequencing of game phases, types of activities offered, events introduced), following a co-design workshop bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders with in-depth knowledge of the territorial context of the Fatick department. Another specific feature of this implementation of the is the choice of local facilitators from DyTAEL in Fatick to lead the rollout of the TerriStories® approach in 2026 in this area. This choice aims to strengthen the local roots of the approach, encourage its adoption by local stakeholders, and ensure the sustainability of the consultation processes undertaken. Once the platform indicators have been finalized during the next workshop (early 2026), TerriStories sessions will be organized at different levels of territorial organization (villages, municipalities, inter-municipal communities) in order to develop local agreements (existing or under development depending on the villages and municipalities) towards multi-level management of the territory's

multifunctional landscapes, taking into account the various issues raised during the initial diagnostic workshop (see introduction): stronger support for a gradual agroecological transition, involving the entire population from the outset, not just their representatives; revitalization and participatory monitoring of village and inter-village monitoring committees; better integration into official Senegalese land use planning tools (Poas, municipal land use plans) with a view to sustainably integrating the methodological innovations developed at the national level; inter-municipal coordination between Niakhar, Patar, and Ngayokhème.

Conclusion

The process initiated as part of the MFL project in Fatick shows that local agreements are much more than regulatory instruments: they represent potential levers for endogenous territorial governance in the service of agroecological transition. The workshops in Fatick and Niakhar clarified the issues related to their viability, political support, multi-level coordination, and consistency with existing planning tools (POAS, PDC, territorial plans). They also highlighted the persistent challenges in terms of the effectiveness of the rules, sustainable financing, and ownership by village committees. The updating of the Niakhar agreement, in an inter-municipal perspective with Patar and Ngayokhème, thus paves the way for more integrated and multi-scalar management of natural resources. The introduction of the participatory tool TerriStories® reinforces this dynamic by facilitating dialogue, simulating conflicts of use, and co-constructing appropriate rules. Through this mechanism, the MFL project contributes to embedding local agreements in a multifunctional landscape approach, linking production, ecological restoration, and sustainable territorial governance.



Support for local agreements and their contribution to multifunctional Landscapes in the department of Fatick.

Case study of the Niakhar local agreement

MFL project

This report presents the support provided for local agreements in the department of Fatick, as part of the CGIAR Multifunctional Landscapes (MFL) project. It analyzes the workshops organized in Fatick and Niakhar to define the conditions for updating and sustaining these natural resource management tools. The discussions highlighted key issues: financial autonomy, effectiveness of rules, municipal political support, inter-municipal coordination, and articulation with land use planning tools. The Niakhar agreement, adopted in 2011, appears to be a structuring achievement but needs to be updated in light of new environmental and social challenges. The project proposes a 2025–2026 roadmap that includes revitalizing the committees, scaling up to the inter-municipal level, and institutional alignment. The introduction of the



