

Exchange and Innovations Study, Niger 1-10.12.2017

Report

The first observation in this report is the historic character of the Exchange in terms of connecting the Sudanese and the Niger people. For many centuries, since Islam, Nigeriens have crossed Sudan to reach Mecca, and on return, quite many stayed over in Sudan. It is estimated that full one third of the present Sudanese people have roots in Niger, and that includes the actual President of Niger and many of his predecessors. However, over all those centuries visits by Sudanese representatives to Niger have been very rare. The present inter-sector visit by a Sudanese delegation is probably the first ever in history. This has been clearly reflected in the televised reception of the Sudanese delegation, broadcast on various channels.

The report is presented in two parts: first the description of daily meetings and innovations visited by the Sudan delegation. The second part is a series of annexes with detailed information. A large number of photos and film are available separately to the participants.

The Niger Exchange and Innovations Study has been supported financially, first and foremost, by DFID (UK Aid), and through 4 partners: World Bank/Redd+ project, IFAD, WFP and ZOA. The 5 organisations deserve our sincere thanks. The action was organised by the UN Environment ADAPT project.

Paul Kerkhof, 17.12.2017

Part 1: Report of the daily innovation visits and issues

Saturday 2.12: Travel and installation

The Ethiopian Airways flight was delayed by 3 hours. The Sudan delegation was provided with a VIP treatment upon arrival. Paul Kerkhof, international NRM consultant, and Mamalo Abdoul Karim, national NRM consultant, welcomed and accompanied the delegation. However, the participants were tired of the long travel time and it was decided to delay the country and programme presentations to the next day, Sunday morning. The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Water, as the highest-level member, represented the delegation to the various Niger television channels (broadcast that same day). The Grand Hotel and nearby Terminus Hotel hosted the 22 Sudanese participants.

Sunday 3.12: Kouré, Giraffe management by communities

On the following day, Paul Kerkhof and Mamalo Abdoul Karim presented the programme, the general Niger introduction and the first visit, giraffes under community management.

The first day was aimed at the giraffes and their management in Kouré, 50km East of the city. The mission has observed numerous giraffes on community land, providing evidence that communities have managed their wildlife in a sustainable way, in spite of many constraints. The population expanded from about 50 giraffes a few decades ago to over 500 animals by now.

The mission met with local people and their representatives (Native Administration and most of all, one elected mayor) who are very proud of their giraffes and insist on protecting them.

The protection of the natural vegetation is part of the story - without the forest there can be no giraffe. In this area, about 120,000ha of community forest and rangelands are concerned, used by giraffes that transit in nomadic fashion. They are in other areas during the latter part of the dry season; in fact they will soon move out of the area to search for water elsewhere.

Constantly awareness is raised by local leaders but also sanctions applied for those who insist on not respecting the forest - including imprisonment for the worst offenders. The community members identify culprits and sanctions are applied by the native administration and if that is insufficient, they are presented for justice in court. One culprit is in prison right now.

The Communes benefit from giraffe tourism taxes (50% of total fees paid) but much more important is international and NGO support, in the form of projects that are channelled through the Communes. That includes investment in social infrastructure (clinics, schools, grain stores, etc.). Furthermore, farmers whose crops are damaged receive some compensation in-kind, paid by another NGO. Although projects constantly

come and go, they are now supporting communities for decades. In fact, it has become an indefinite international biodiversity conservation financial support mechanism

Will the next generation protect the giraffes? That is a question because young people are very different from their parents, throughout the world.

Participant 1: *"but how are the mayors appointed? do the Governors appoint them?"*
"(answer: no, they are elected freely by the adult population in their Commune, once every 5 years) "really? that is amazing!"

The mayor of Kouré: *"Great to have all these officials from Sudan visiting us, but why did they not allow a few elected rural mayors of Sudan to join and see us?"*

Participant 2:

"decentralised management by Communes is what we need in Sudan, as it will avoid the corruption"

Monday, 4.12. Niamey.

The Rural Code.

The rural land tenure reform process in Niger was explained in some detail. It took some decades but it transformed rural land tenure in a profound manner and reduced rural conflict over land (it does not concern urban land) .

Basically, from about 1999, Land Commissions (LC) were gradually established in the villages of Niger. The LC include the village Sheikh (called Chef), representatives of the different groups including the different clans, women, the young etc. They are trained and provided with a Land Registry, including that for sales, heritage, rent or loan. Those who wish to register land transactions, do so but there is no obligation (in some communities, there is traditionally very little conflict and little interest to register). The cost of registration are local, and are low. Copies are sent to higher level Land Commissions: the Commune LC, and the Departmental LC. Land Commissions also exist at Regional and National level, to set strategic and investment directions. By now, almost all 250 Communes and about 4,500 villages (out of 17,000) have their Land Commission. In addition to private land transactions, it also records community or public land such as local corridors, forest and rangeland and natural resources such as water bodies. Communal resources are GIS registered; the GIS equipment and capacity is permanently available in every Commune. While the delegation visited Kobaji, we were told about GIS registration of one nearby forest by the Commune LC that same day. Finally, the Local land Commission is the first instance to resolve conflict over land and resources.

While land conflict was widely happening in Niger before 1999, with as many as 10% of households involved in one conflict or another, this was greatly reduced as a result of the local Land Commissions. Furthermore, it helped diminish conflict between pastoralists and farming communities.

The Communes

The decentralisation process took several decades, starting with an experimental phase in the 1990s and early 2000's. By 2004 it was implemented as the national local government system with the entire country being declared and mapped as either a rural or an urban Commune. The decentralisation process was gradual: it started off as a principle, but putting it in practice evolved gradually. Some transfer of power from the central Government to the Communes is still not completed.

The Commune Council, consisting of 12-25 Councillors, governs the Commune. A small number of villages in the Commune together elect their Councillor (all adults are entitled to cast their vote). The Councillors, when they first get together after the elections, freely elect who among them is going to be the mayor. The mayor has the executive powers that is, to carry out the decisions made by the Council.

The water sector, health sector (except for large hospitals), education (primary and secondary schools) and environment are in principle the responsibility of the Commune.

The revenues are those provided by Central Government, the local taxes, and the international (or NGO) assistance, as we have seen in the case of the giraffe area.

The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development

The forest service (equivalent of FNC) is the core mission of this Ministry.

The national forest reserves in Niger are about 600 thousand hectares (0.5% of the country), but a much larger forest area is under community management, mostly starting from 1992. While deforestation is common in Niger, dense agroforestry tree cover is increasingly common in central and eastern parts of the country, now about 12 million hectares (20 times the national forest reserve area). This is known as the Greening of Africa, at least in those regions and it is happening on a small scale in other parts of Niger (a Powerpoint has been made available as there was no time to work on this).

Since 1992, Niger has organised natural community forest management through the so-called firewood market system. Communities manage their natural forest through inventories and management plans, and they enjoy a tax incentive, as they pay less than 1/3 of the taxes that are levied elsewhere (300-350F instead of 975F). Furthermore, they receive a large part of the taxes they do pay, for the community benefit or commune benefit (up to 90%). Some of the locally retained taxes will go for forest management, others to local social services (clinic, school, etc.).

The system is somewhat complex and not fully implemented according to the rules. Even so, it has become a model that has been replicated in other countries such as Mali, Benin and Madagascar. In Niger, the forest areas managed by communities under this system are now larger than the national (or state) forest reserves, and evaluations in the

past demonstrated that forest management is generally sustainable; there is generally no overcutting¹.

Since 1992, conditions changed such as widely available LPG (due to petrol production in Niger), availability of alternative energies, ever increasing population density, carbon forestry, refugees due to war and terrorism. All this means that forestry and energy strategies have to be adjusted continuously.

Tuesday, 5.12: Tchiko and neighbouring agropastoral villages

Tchiko and 5 other Fulani agropastoral villages share a forest of about 7,500ha that was much degraded by 1990 as it is situated only about 60km from Niamey, the capital. Communities decided to protect it from deforestation through interdiction to cut trees for the market. They put their own guards in place. Since that time, the forest recovered very much. Many external projects have discovered the initiative and wanted to support it since that time, and they have provided some support; they have come and gone as projects do. But the initiative and the sustainability of forest management are entirely driven by the 6 communities.

The forest management system is primarily aimed at the local agropastoral production system: satisfy needs for livestock production. Other products include woodfuel and construction wood and gum Arabic for the 6 communities. No one is allowed to take wood or other products to sell in markets. Valuable construction wood may only be cut if the need is recognised by the community, and the cutting will only take place in designated places as instructed by the village forest guards.

Local foresters work together with communities in the Commune and pose no problem. The problem is that foresters in Niamey sometimes issue cutting permits and those people come and cut trees in their forests if they are not stopped. Sometimes it is necessary that village guards intervene and physically take those people, and confiscate their carts, tools and wood (even lorries). They may be penalised by the native administration and mayors.

Participants during the farewell speech after the joint dinner in the village:
"We are highly impressed by the way you protect and manage your forests. We need to replicate this in our forests in Sudan".

ECOWAS international livestock corridor n°2.

This is one of more than a hundred international livestock corridors in the 15 ECOWAS countries. This particular corridor, 100-200m wide, crosses Niger, Burkina Faso to the West and Togo in the South. The 15 Heads of State signed an agreement in the 1990s for free circulation of pastoralists and their livestock, so that local or national drought can be better managed and livestock productivity improves. There is a system of livestock

¹ Paul Kerkhof was one member of a major external evaluation in 2003; the PDF report will be available to all members of the delegation.

² Due to information provided by CILSS since the Exchange event, it appeared that Sudan had already taken first steps to apply for membership. In 2016 Sudan/Minister of Environment requested

registration when moving across borders to avoid cattle rustling and proliferation of livestock disease.

Furthermore, there are pastoralists associations where young and dynamic pastoralists serve as scouts to improve the distribution of the herds in the ECOWAS space.

Sustainable management of a community surface water body

In Kobagué village, a temporary lake is essential for a wide range of services such as household consumption, livestock watering, fisheries, dry season gardening etc.

However, entrepreneurs from Niamey came every year to empty the lake then collect the entire fish stock. This was an enormous problem for the community.

In 2014, a village land commission was established in Kobagué and the members were trained in the Rural Code, and equipped. They immediately registered their lake as a community asset, and published the registration. Those who came from Niamey to empty the lake were informed and most of them simply left, some refused and were brought to the village chief where the matter was settled. Only one entrepreneur once came in the night and started pumping the lake. The noise alerted the local people who intervened and confiscated the equipment. The village chief then made the necessary arrangement to punish them. No problem has ever occurred since.

Due to better regulation, the lake has improved and become almost permanent, drying only when the rainy season is about to start.

Application of the rural Code in Kobagué

The Rural Code administration by the village Land Commission was studied in this village. Some examples were read out by Mamalo Abdoul Karim for the 4 different categories: *farmer so-and-so who had sold his land to another person, the nature and location of the land, the price paid, date of delivery, etc. etc.* We were told that copies are filed in the Commune and Departmental Land Commission, and of course they are provided to both buyer and seller.

Another function of the Land Commission concerns conflict management, noted in a separate file.

Wednesday 6.12.

The program was about natural forests managed by local communities of Bongo, Ballaré et Tchintchergou, through the so-called "rural firewood market" since 1992 (25 years ago) (local governance system that was explained on Day 3 by Ministry of Environment). The dominant ethnic group is the agropastoral Fulani. The Sudan delegation observed that the rather large natural forest, managed by these communities, was not degraded while the forest is naturally regenerated: tree planting is not necessary for sustainability. The village wood cutters know how to apply selective felling for sustainability. The forest is composed of indigenous tree and shrub species similar to that of Sudan. In spite of being harvested for Niamey firewood markets since 1/4 of a century, the forest is under sustainable management.

The natural forests are conserved and protected by the traditional leaders of the 6 communities surrounding the forests, and is done voluntarily. Permission for felling of some trees for provision of building material is accepted if the traditional leader of the specific community endorses the application.

The differential tax system that was explained by the Ministry of the Environment presenter in Niamey 2 days before, is being applied in these villages. Firewood is usually stacked in cubic meters. The clients pay the tax of 375FCFA/m³ and use the receipt as a transport permit. The sales price of the cubic meter is 1600FCFA, plus 375FCFA tax. Out of 1600FCFA, 100 FCFA is provided to the market manager responsible for all sales and tax transaction; he is a locally selected villager, trained by Government. Of course local people are aware about the importance of their tree cover and they contribute to its protection. After all, it is one of their sources of sustainable income, irrespective of drought.

Hamdallaye Commune was visited in the afternoon: the elected Commune Council (12 men, 2 women), and the elected mayor. Local government and Land tenure reform were discussed. The Commune Council has 3 commissions (Finance, Social and Humanitarian, and Rural Development). There are cross issues among the 3 commissions, and each commission consists of 4 members.

The main challenges confronting the commune council include inaccessibility of some sites during the rainy season and remoteness of some sites.

Thursday, 7.12. Niamey.

CNEDD

The National Environmental and Sustainable Development Commission is quite similar to the HCENR but under the Prime Minister's Office.

It is responsible for discussion and preparation of all documents relative to the 3 major environmental conventions. Once adopted by the Government, the MoFA takes care for communication of the Niger contributions to the UN.

The Council meetings took place in 2011 and 2015. The number of meetings is clearly too few (due to financial constraints), and more regular meetings are expected from 2018.

(A translation of the CNEDD text will be prepared)

Close inter-sector coordination through 3N

Inter-ministry coordination is traditionally hard to achieve and Niger is no exception.

However, it attempted a consistent cross-sector rural development framework since 2009 and this has been much improved by the current president by about 2015. The cross-cutting coordination institution is called "3N" ("Nigériens Nourish Nigériens").

Since that year, monthly coordination meetings with all relevant sector Ministries are chaired by the President and attended by all the Ministers concerned. Since the Ministers are there, they take their SGs and DGs along. The 3N High Commissioner met by the Delegation has the rank of a cabinet Minister. The Adviser who participated in the meeting with the Sudanese Delegation is Advisor to the President.

As a result, the long term (3*5 year) and annual plans for rural development in the country have been formulated with all Ministers and non -governmental partners, including the international donors. As a result, the donors feel responsible for the implementation and they contribute significantly. The present plan, at about 2.5 billion Euros (2.9 billion \$) is financed by Niger government for about 1/3 and others, principally donors, for the remaining 2/3. The 3N system has a very high level of buy in from international donors and banks. One sign is that the present 5-year budget was increased by about 50% in respect to the previous 5-year budget.

There are 12 sub-plans that to some extent correspond to 12 sectors while some may concern a number of sectors. A Minister is responsible for the execution of a sub-plan and is President for a sub-plan committee. The national committee under the President as chairman monitors the achievements. All donors adjust their assistance to the 3N framework.

For instance, as a result of the 3N system in recent years, about 200,000ha of degraded lands are regenerated annually and Niger received one of the highest scores among dryland countries. This year (2017) it received the third price of an international agency that monitors rural development globally. The Food security indices measured since many years in Niger (based on the international CILSS system) demonstrates increased food security at national level. Similar indices are available for all Communes since the national data is the aggregate of the Commune indices.

As voiced by the 3N General Secretary: *Before 2010, there were inter-sector coordination institutions and meetings, however, the Permanent Secretary at that time sometimes found that if he (or she) knocked on the door of a Minister, the door would not open. Since 3N, if the High Commissioner knocks on any Minister's door, it will open.*

The limitation is probably insufficient capacity of the Commune Councils and mayors since they are the institutional building blocks of 3N at their level.

Ministry of Water

The new 15-year plan water plan is designed to achieve the SDGs of 2030, which includes 100% clean drinking water cover in Niger. It is expected that the intermediate objective of 70% cover by 2020 will be achieved (up from about 40% 5 years before).

A detailed Guide for all water and hygiene investment applies to the whole country. All international donor support is adjusted to that guide. After all, donors were closely involved in the preparation of both plans and the guide. As a result, it is normal that they adhere to the Guide, and they all do adhere. There is no problem in Niger with one donor applying so and so norm, and another donor a different norm.

Public-Private Partnership in the Communes is the new modality to implement water and sanitation schemes. Technical services of the Water Ministry are attached to the Communes.

The Commune has a contract for the services provided and if those services are inadequate the service provider will be dispelled with. Communities have water user committees for all water infrastructure (at community level or pastoral group). In the case of sanitation and hygiene, the latrines are limited to 7% of the rural population (measuring individual households), which is expected to increase significantly but not as much as clean drinking water cover. Raising awareness in communities was for some time concentrated on the link between sanitation-hygiene and health status. That was not successful. The new orientation is on human dignity (along with hygiene arguments), which is more effective as demonstrated by the household latrine statistics in recent years.

Pastoral hydrology is a major component of the national water plan covered by major funding.

IWRM is beginning to be applied in the 15 major subcatchments of Niger. The key institution is the subcatchment committee that has representatives of all Communes in that catchment, in addition to other stakeholders such as industry, mining and civil society organisations.

Niger has scored high on the application of environmental standards for mining, expect for one case with serious pollution, where it is expected to clean up by 2019. CBOs are strong and vocal in Niger so that pollution by private or industrial interests is rapidly denounced in the media and attacked in the courts if need be.

Niger Basin Authority (NBA)

The NBA has 9 member States that cover the Niger water catchment. The 9 Heads of State meet from time to time and govern the NBA. More regular meetings concern the relevant ministers and technical committees that deal with specific themes such as water science in the basin.

NBA relies heavily on water science, but also economics and other fields, to clarify how significant interventions in the catchment affect several member countries, positively or negatively. The most recent dam project studies and negotiations took 6 years to complete. By that time, consensus was reached between the 9 countries and this is the general rule for any project: consensus between member States should be built before the project is implemented. Right now, 3 major dam projects are prepared or under implementation.

Given the detailed PP available in English, the present summary is kept short.

Nevertheless, the NBA model raised a great deal of interest and enthusiasm among the Sudanese delegates.

Friday, 8.12. Agrhymet Regional Centre (ARC) - CILSS

The Inter-State Committee to Combat Desertification in the Sahel (CILSS in French) was established during the great droughts of the 1970s, initially between 5 Sahel countries, later on is counted 9 countries and is ever expanding: presently, 15 countries. It is headquartered in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso.

The Agrhymet Regional Centre is one of 2 specialised institutions of CILSS that provides information and capacity building in Agronomic, Hydrological and Meteorological fields (hence the name Agrhymet). The information component also concerns research. The capacity building is realised through long courses (2-5-7 years) and short courses (e.g. 1-2 weeks).

The only country missing among this Sahelian organisation is Sudan, and the Centre would very much like to see Sudan as the next member². The Powerpoint presentation provided by ARC is in English so that this part of the report is kept short. However, the visit at the ARC solicited a great deal of interest among the Sudanese participants.

Evening 5 to 6.30 pm, Grand Hotel evening event

The Sudan and Niger partners met at the main hall of the Grand Hotel in Niamey to discuss conclusions and raise any issues of joint interest.

The main issues raised are summarised on the next page.

Saturday, 9.12. Evaluation, communication and action

All participants completed a brief written evaluation. The results will be available in the final report.

The communication of PowerPoint presentations, word documents and film/photo was discussed and the subsequent action will be spelled out in the final report. The list of immediately available documents is provided in the annexes.

Action plan after return to Sudan.

Participants agreed to the idea that television broadcast in Sudan of the innovations in Niger would be of interest for wide dissemination, based on the film material produced by Mariama, who accompanied the Delegation (in particular, during field visits). This will be facilitated by the media experts of the UN and relevant Ministries, in particular for the week of 18.12.17. That may take the form of a televised 'debate'.

Specific action points in Sudan are enumerated in the following page: recommendations of the round table. While some of the recommendations are of a general nature, others are the start of specific action points that can be recommended to Ministers or Council of Ministers, and others again may be taken up by specific projects or NGOs. The outcome of the televised debate and the CoM meeting will shape some of the action points for

² Due to information provided by CILSS since the Exchange event, it appeared that Sudan had already taken first steps to apply for membership. In 2016 Sudan/Minister of Environment requested membership in June 2016 and was given positive reply two months later. It is not clear what has happened since that time.

2018. International organisations such as the UN organisations may assist the Government of Sudan in their implementation. This will require follow up as specific steps are formulated in the course of 2018.

Sunday 10.12. Return to Khartoum

Recommendations of the round table, and action points

1. Many study tours of Sudanese professionals have taken place in East, Central, or South Africa. Niger is much more appropriate because it has the same Sahel environment, similar people, land-use and traditional institutions.
2. The NBA model is to be studied in detail by the Nile basin countries. The high level of scientific support and the regular meetings of Heads of States, Ministers and technical committees prove to be roadmap to consensual water resources distribution, avoiding conflict for water between Nile basin countries.
3. The Agrhymet Centre/CILSS is more or less cutting across sectors, it is of high quality, and may inspire improvements in the equivalent centre in NE Africa.
4. Close ties between Sudan and the Agrhymet Centre are recommended, given the Sahel orientation with Sudan being the only non-member so far. The Centre has expressed a strong interest in Sudan as a member State.
5. In the same line of thought is that the climate change challenge of the Sahel should be tackled together; close ties between Sudan the international Agrhymet Centre will contribute to achieving that.
6. The Niger experience on forest management is unique and should be replicated in Sudan through local organisation of forest management, including fiscal incentives (for community management) and disincentives (without management).
7. In spite of political constraints in Sudan to natural resource management by communities, several innovations can be picked up and tested in Sudan
8. The wildlife-livestock interface and community management of wildlife is very impressive and may be considered for Sudan
9. Land tenure organisation by local institutions (=communities and Communes) has proved to be effective in Niger and the experience should be considered in Sudan

10. IFAD in Sudan works in environments similar to that of Niger and needs to take up the Niger experience

11. The cross-cutting issue of the Niger experience is the bottom up approach.

12. The question remains now how to further develop the relations, and how to look deeper into the experience we found in Niger.

Finally, the participants thanked the facilitators not only for making the Exchange

possible but also to make it so useful.

PART 2. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. Communication of information to participants after the Exchange in Niger

The following PPs are available in English and will be made available through

Sanjak Elamin / Burae Balla:

- Introduction to Niger (Mamalo Abdoul Karim)
- Giraffes managed by communities and Communes (Paul Kerkhof)
- Presentation of the NBA
- Agrhymet Regional Centre welcomes the Delegation Of Sudan

Powerpoint Presentations only available in French that will be translated by UN Environment in English:

- Forest Management approaches in Niger (Ministry of Environment)
- Presentation of 3N, Nigeriens Nourish Nigeriens (3N)

The following text will also be translated (and may be enhanced with pictures of the photographer):

- Rural Code (text)
- Decentralisation in Niger (Communes) (text)

The presentation of the Ministry of Water was already available beforehand and was sent to participants on 1 December. It will be resent to ensure receipt.

There is an in-depth information need for some topics. The priority of most delegates is as follows:

- Decentralisation (process, achievements)
- Land tenure reform/rural code (process, achievements)
- Forest-range management (firewood market system, 'greening of Niger, international corridors etc.)
- CILSS (emphasis on Agrhymet)

This will be pursued by UN Environment and may be available in Q1 2018, depending on the speed of translation.

ANNEX 2. NIGER EXCHANGE AND INNOVATIONS STUDY LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Role
UN Environment Funded 7 (71% men, 29% women)	
1.Fadul Yassin	Ministry of Agriculture Director General
2.Sawsan Khair Elsied Abdel Rahim	Ministry of Animal Resources Range and Pasture General Directorate Director General
3.Mussa Omer Abuelgasim	Ministry of Water Resources Undersecretary
4.Mohamed Ali Elhadi	Forest National Corporation Director General
5.Bushra Hamid Ahmad Beshir	Ministry of Environment Director of Environmental Affairs
6.Elamin Sanjak	UN Environment, NRM Expert
7.Faiza Siddig MoahmedAhmed	Project Coordinator-FNC/AFD
IFAD Funded 5 (100% men)	
8.Nadir Yousif Hamdan	Livestock Marketing and Resilience Programme/IFAD
9.Ibrahim Rahamtalla Hamad	Livestock Marketing and Resilience Programme/IFAD
10.Mohammed ELhassan Ali	Butana Integrated Rural Development Project. (BIRDP)//IFAD
11.Rashid Abdel Aziz	Butana Integrated Rural Development Project. (BIRDP) / Director
12.Musa Hago Elfaki	SUSTAIN /SPO NRM and Acting Project Manager
25% women)	
13.Burae Balla Elhassien	Team Leader FNC/RED+
14.Hafiz Mohammed ELhabib Hamad	FNC/RED+
15.Hanadi Kamal Eldin Yagoub	FNC/RED+
16.Ali Abaker Ali Abdelrahman	FNC/RED+
17.Ali Elamin Abdallah Ahmed	FNC/RED+
18.Mohamed Abd Elrahim Mohamed Amin	FNC/RED+
19.Nouh Mohamed Abd Elgadir Ahmed	FNC/RED+
20.Amna Ahmed Osman Omer	FNC/RED+
World Food Programme (WFP) Funded 1	
21.Ahmed Sabil	ZOA Funded 1 Programme Associate-WFP
22.Mohamed Hegazi Idris	WASH program Coordinator- ZOA – Gadaref
TOTAL 22 participants: 18 men (82%), 4 women (18%)	

ANNEX 3

Exchange and Innovations Study activities carried out by the Sudan Delegation in Niger 2-10.12.2017

Day	Time	Activities	Location
Day 1 Saturday <small>2.12</small>	17:00 <small>17:00 : 18:00</small>	Arrival at the airport of Niamey and transport to Hotel <small>1) ...and tomorrow's programme, and to the National vault system</small> 2) Assignment of daily reporters 3) Introduction of the photographer and media	Niamey <small>Grand Hotel</small>
Day 2 Sunday 3.12	09 : 30	activities Breakfast Travel to Koure exchange, and updated programme 2) A general introduction to Niger, ancestral country of many millions of Sudanese citizens today 3) A brief presentation on the giraffe & community interaction 4) Visit last giraffe herds of West Africa, roaming on community land 5) Visit some of the communities that manage giraffes and visit the community tourist infrastructures 6) Discussion on natural resource management, interaction between giraffes and communities 7) Lunch with Native Administration and locally elected official (Mayor of the local Commune; Discuss with mayor and Chiefs on how they manage the giraffe-community relations and local investments based on giraffe revenue	Road Grand Hotel Meeting room Kouré
Day 3	17.00	Return to Niamey	
Monday <small>4.12</small>	09 00 : 10 30	Breakfast <small>1) Transport to the National Land Tenure Committee (SPCR)</small> 2) Presentation of land tenure reform in Niger, including land pastoral tenure, since the 1990s and debate 3) In the same institution: visit the international pastoralism project	
	10 30 : 12 15	1) Transport to the Ministry responsible for decentralised, elected governance (equivalent of Sudanese Localities, though smaller: called Communes) 2) Presentation of local government through Communes since 2004: achievements and	
	12 30 : 14 15	Lunch constraints, and debate	
	14 15 : 14 30	Transport to the Ministry of the Environment (in Niger, mostly forest service)	
	14 30 : 16 00	Ministry of Environment 1) Presentation of the forest and NR sector with emphasis on the 'Rural Firewood Market' system 2) Discussion	
Day 4 <small>5.12</small>	16 00 : 16 15 08 30 : 09 30	Return to the hotel <small>Breakfast</small> Departure for Torodi Department (towards Burkina Faso)	

5.12	09 30 : 09 50	Transport to Tchiko village (Fulani agro-pastoral community) via Kobagué	
	09 50 : 14 30	1) Visit the forest/rangeland managed by this community since the 1980s: achievements and problems 2) Discussion with the community, followed by a joint lunch in the village	Village of Tchiko
	14 30 : 16 30	On the way back, visit 3) an international livestock corridor ("CEDEAO Corridor n°2") 4) a natural water body managed by a neighbouring village by the 'Village Land Commission' 5) Discussion with the Village Land Commission	Village of Kobagué
Day 5 Friday day	16 30 : 17 30	Return to Niamey	
	08 30 : 10 00	Departure for Say Department (towards Benin-	
6.12	10 00 : 12 00	1) Burkina Faso 2) Visit the forest managed by these communities since the 1980s: achievements and problems 3) Visit Rural Firewood Markets Discussion with the community	Village of Bongo
	13 30 : 14 30	Lunch at ICRISAT	
	14 30 : 15 00	Transport to Hamdallaye	
	15 00 : 16 30	1) Visit the Commune 2) Presentation of the elected Commune Council, the elected mayor, the Commune administration, and how they manage local affairs 3) Visit the Land Commission to see tenure reform in practice	Hamdallaye
Day 6 Thursday 7.12	16 30 : 17 00	Return to Niamey Breakfast	CNEDD
	09 00 : 10 45	1) Transport to the CNEDD office, the equivalent of the Management, with an important difference: it is under the Prime Minister's Office 2) Presentation of environment as a cross-cutting theme in the Niger government system; 3) Discussion	
	10 45 : 12 30	4) Transport to the Office of the High Commission: HCI3N, , the cross-sector development coordination institution 5) Presentation on coordination between sector Ministries in Niger, and of international funding, and debate	HCI3N
	12 30 : 14 30	6) Return to the hotel 7) Lunch	Hotels
	14 30 : 16 15	8) Transport to the Ministry of Water 9) Presentation of the new National Water Programme, donor coordination; and efficiency and sustainable impact issues 10) Discussion	Ministry of Water
	16 15 : 18 00	11) Transport to the 9 country Niger Basin Authority (NBA) headquarters, Niamey 12) Presentation of the international organisation 13) Presentation of the NBA mandate and projects: how international waters are negotiated and managed, case of the Niger River;	NBA

		14) Discussion	
<i>Day 7</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>8.12</i>	18 00 : 18 30 08 : 30	15) Return to the Hotel 1) Transport to the Regional Agrhymet Centre (RAC/CRA) part of the intergovernmental (13 countries) CILLS institution 2) Presentation of CILSS, RAC training and research 3) Visit to the various Departments of the RAC 4) Debate on how a country can become a member of CILSS and the opportunities and benefits	Agrhymet
	12 00 : 12 00	Return to the hotel	
	13 00 : 14 30	Friday prayer	
	14 30 : 15 00	Lunch	
	17 00 : 18 30	1. Round table with Niger government officials, and media (2. Discussion: how can Sudan-Niger ties be strengthened <i>meshoui</i> 3. Followed by a joint	Grand Hotel
<i>Day 8</i> <i>Saturday</i> <i>9.12</i>	09 00	Break fast 1. Joint evaluation of the exchange and study contents, and of the overall organisation. 2. Action plan for delegates in Sudan.	Grand Hotel Grand Hotel
<i>Day 9</i> <i>Sunday</i> <i>10.12</i>		Breakfast To the airport, and departure for Khartoum	

ANNEX 4. Evaluation

Evaluation by participants, Saturday 09.12.17. (anonymous)

	EXCELLENT	SATIS-FACTORY	POOR
Professional documents provided in advance	21%	63%	16%
Travel information provided	50%	50%	
Accommodation (hotel)	24%	65%	11%
General relevance of topics in Niamey	67%	33%	
Presentations & discussion in Niamey	62%	38%	
Field site visits: relevance of topics	86%	14%	
Balance of different topics and sectors	67%	33%	
Transport logistics	47%	53%	
Meeting room logistics Niamey	71%	29%	
Field site visits: logistics	45%	55%	
Meals shared with communities	67%	33%	
Evening event	43%	29%	24%
Communication/ language facilitation	29%	62%	9%
Likelihood of inspiration for your work in Sudan	43%	57%	
Average of above notes	52%	44%	4%

The question on 'Evening event' was not understood by all: some participants thought this was about organising events to occupy participants during any evening, not the round table event of Friday 08.12. If that question is eliminated, the persistent response of participants to all elements of the Exchange is "Excellent" or "Satisfactory".

Many participants found the hotel rates and cost of other services in Niamey high. Some participants had not received information from the organisers in advance, as their email addresses, communicated to the organisers, were not correct. The addresses have been corrected in the meantime.

There are numerous comments provided on page 2 of the evaluation form that cannot be provided in tabular format. Some can be amalgamated and include, for example:

- Whilst Niger has a very similar environmental and historic context, the present institutional and policy context is different. The relationships between Government and international donors is also very different; for instance, donors in Sudan only provide short term funding, as a general rule (with exceptions, such as IFAD). That requires considerable adjustment before adoption of Niger innovations in Sudan will be successful.
- The countries in NE Africa co-exist in a relationship of competition rather than collaboration that prevails in Central/West Sahel.
- It is important to convince a larger number of Sudan Government officials including Ministers of the innovations in Niger, before they can be adopted in Sudan. More exchange and formal networking between Sudan and the other Sahel countries will be required, including Ministers, and finance to achieve that should be sustained.

Other evaluation issues.

It has been very hard to achieve minimum 30% women's participation, as UN Environment goal. The moment that activities are considered 'attractive' such as the Niger Exchange, men tend to make sure that they participate. In the case of training courses that are generally considered less attractive (for example, tree nursery techniques) women quotas can easily be achieved.

The language gap was a major concern but has been managed more or less satisfactorily. The organisers had insisted on presentations in English but this was not respected in many cases, even in the ABN. One problem encountered is that senior Niger staffs (SGs and DGs) were not ready to leave the presentations to young, more junior English speaking staff for reasons of pride and rank. That problem may be resolved if exchange becomes a more regular action.

ANNEX 5

List of emails of participants of the Niger Exchange 1-10 December 2017

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