

# Lessons and Perspectives from Water Security and Resilience Activities in the Sahel: Niger

Thursday May 30, 2024



# Interpretation

## Everyone must select a language!

Click “interpretation” at the bottom of your Zoom window  
Select the language that you would like to hear

## Chacun doit choisir une langue !

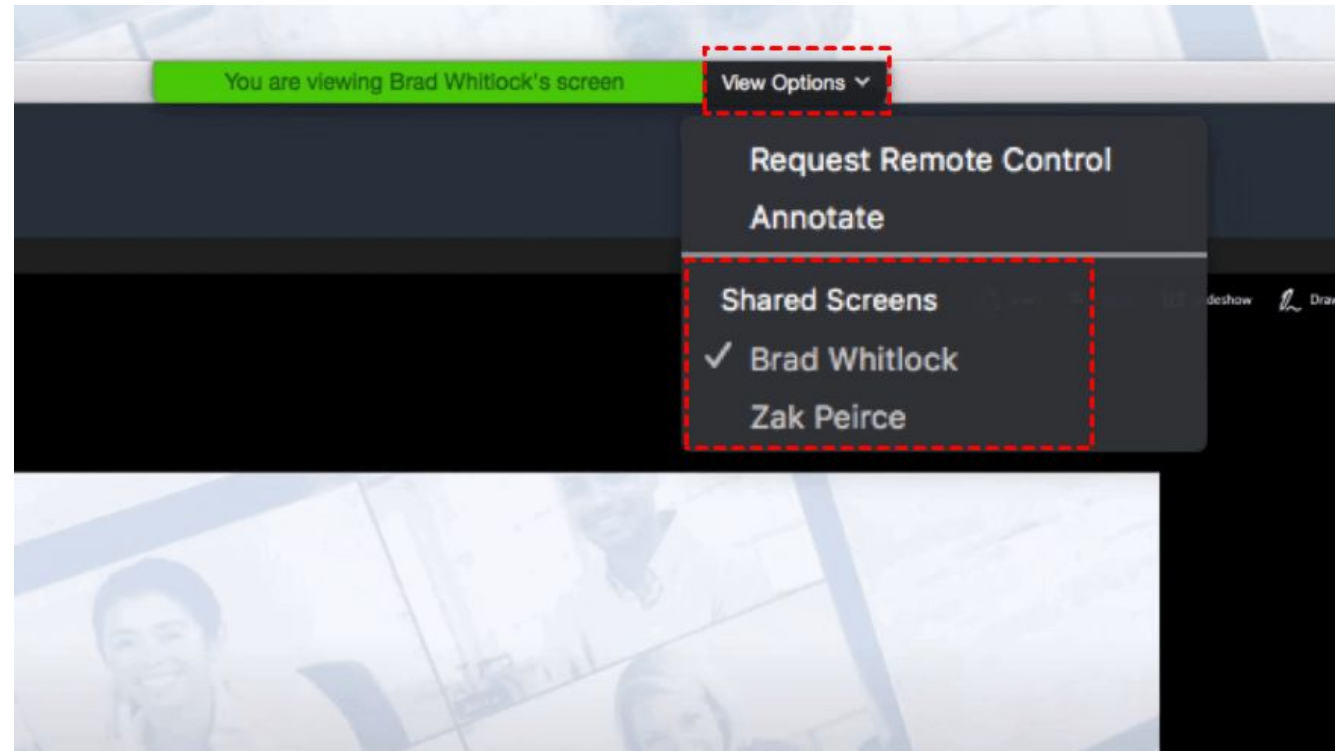
Cliquez sur « interprétation » au bas de votre écran Zoom  
Sélectionnez la langue de votre choix



# Presentation Language

Select a screen to view the slides in English or French

At the top of the meeting window, click **“View Options”** to see the screens you can view. You can view the slides in either English or French.



# Today's Moderator

**Professor Yahaya Nazoumou**

Professor of Hydrology /  
Hydrogeology



# Presenters



**Alhousseini Isaaka Miko**

Lead of Water Security,  
TerresEauVie, Winrock  
International



**Saley Boukari**

Regional Coordinator, Zinder,  
TerresEauVie, Winrock  
International



**Maman Kamissou Issa**

Food Security Technical  
Coordinator, Girma RFSA,  
CRS



**Sani Habou**

Programme Policy  
Officer, PF  
Développement Rural  
PAM SO/ZinderI



**Hamidou Marah**

Water Service Management  
Coordinator, WADATA  
(RFSA), Save the Children

# Opening Remarks

**Precious Sancho**

WASH Advisor

USAID / BHA





**How to promote concerted and sustainable management of ponds?**

*Initial experiences of collaboration, integration and innovation among USAID-funded projects in the Zinder region of Niger*

# Context



Location of actions  
in the sub-basins:  
Dallol Bosso, Goulbi'n Maradi  
and Korama of Zinder.

Water security is at the heart of  
the objectives of USAID-funded  
projects

Many of the interventions focus  
on the knowledge and use of  
surface water

Some ponds are  
semi-permanent, others are  
permanent or temporary.

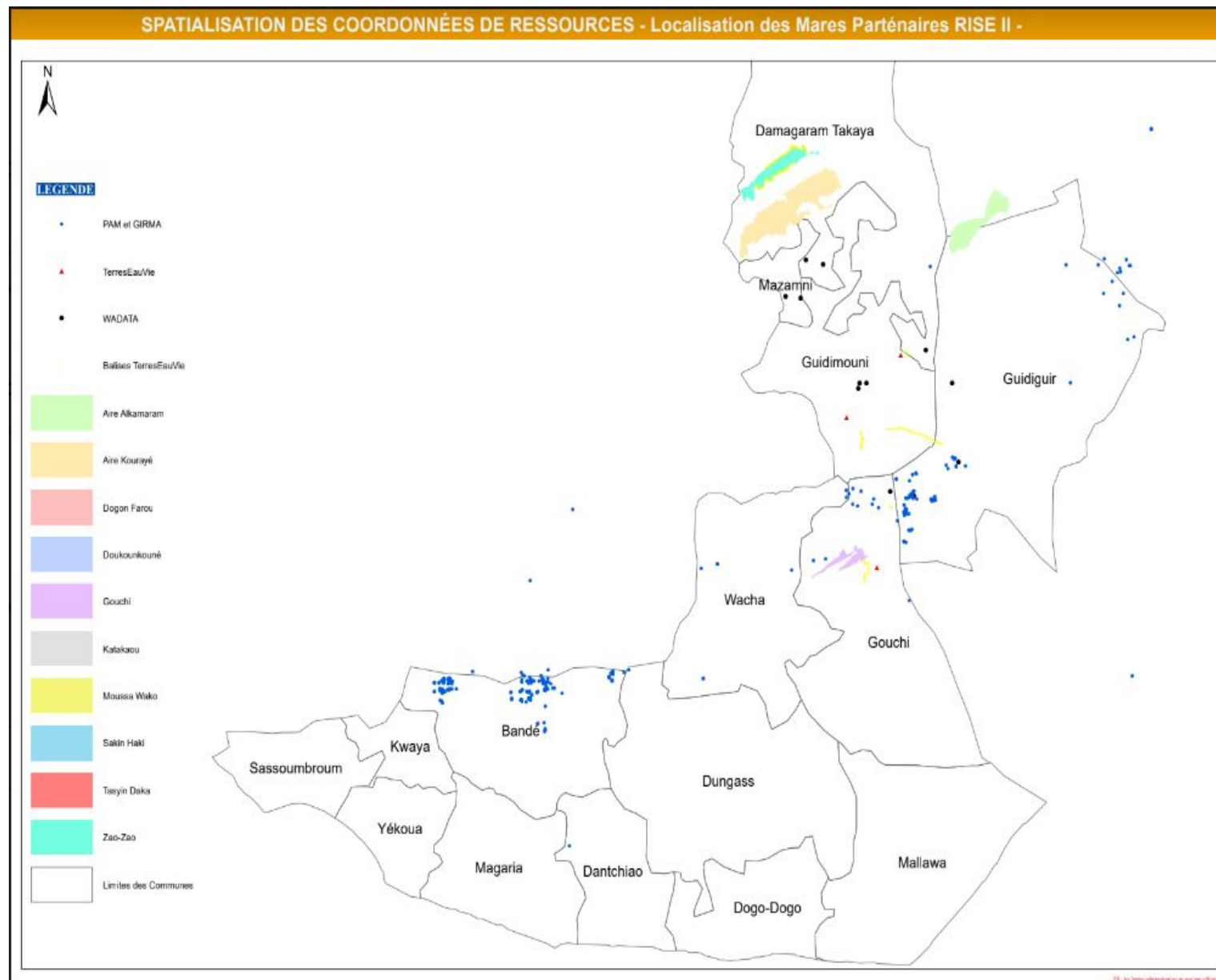
The multiple uses of water  
approach (for domestic needs,  
irrigation, animals, fishing,  
businesses, etc.) takes the  
community as the starting point  
for services

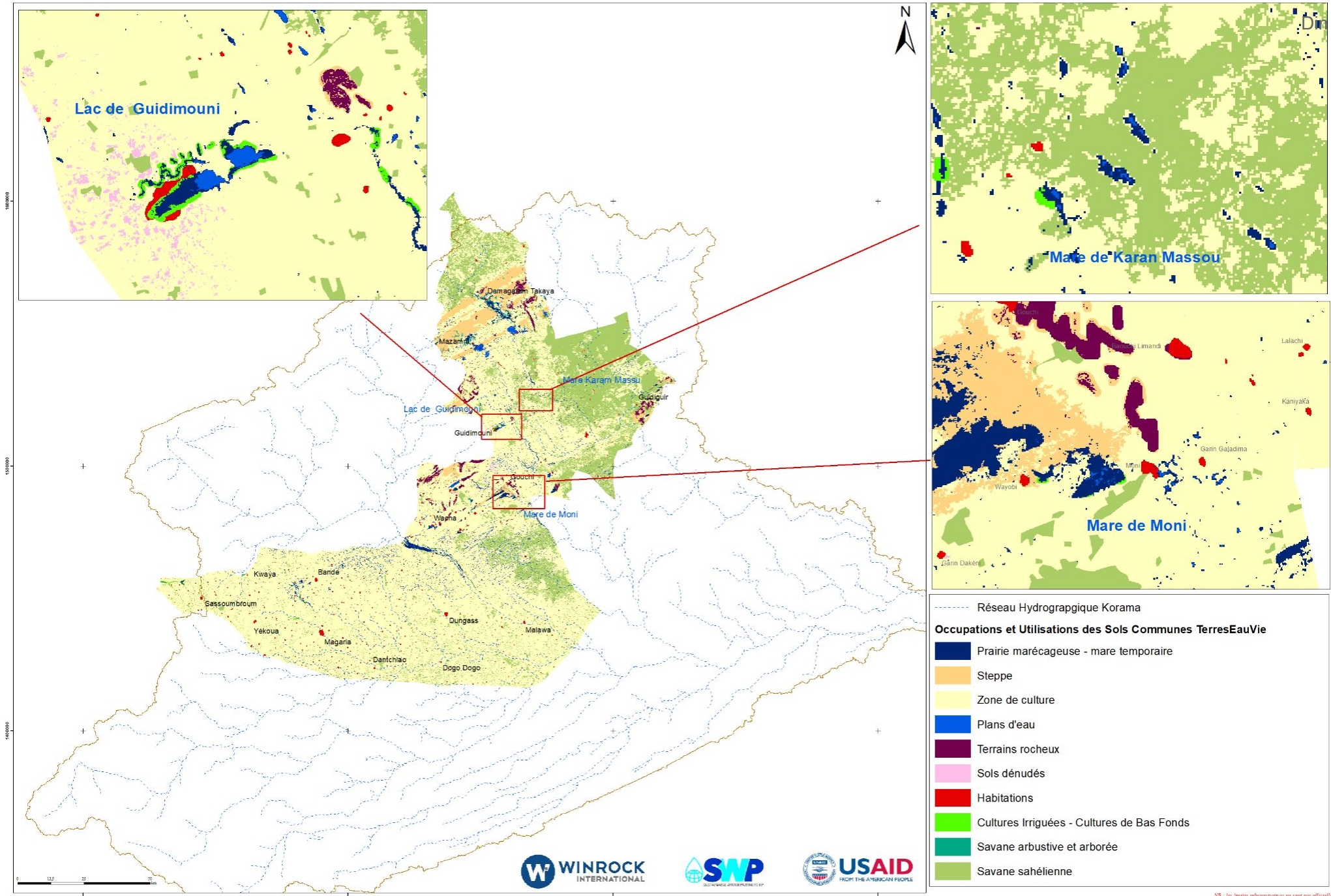
This integrated management of  
surface water resources at a  
local level is potentially more  
profitable and more sustainable  
than managing different uses  
aside.



# The types of ponds and their uses

- Large and small ponds
- All these ponds are threatened by *Typha Australis* [bulrush]







# Collaboration: why/how?

- **Collaboration** has become standard operating procedure within and among USAID-funded projects.
- For the **choice of sites**, TerresEauVie produces a land use map which allows the teams to identify the strategic resources on which the collaboration will be carried out.
- The collaboration occurs in variable ways depending on the zones, the partners' budgets and the nature of the ponds.
- The fact that several partners intervene in a coordinated way makes it possible to take into account and articulate all the uses and all the users. Otherwise, the partners' support would have been provided in isolation, without really bringing all the actors together.
- This collaboration was an opportunity to approach the problem in its entirety and enabled more sustainable solutions for multiple-use water services.

The partners  
(who intervene  
in different  
combinations)

**USAID**

**TerresEauVie –**  
*COFODEPs, COFOCOMs,  
COFOBs, Local Water  
Committees (CLEs)*

**Wadata (RFSA) –**  
*Groups of market gardeners,  
fishermen, herders*

**Girma (RFSA) –**  
*Groups of market  
gardeners, fishermen,  
herders*

**World Food  
Programme –**  
*Groups of market gardeners,  
fishermen, herders*

# A methodology adapted to the types of ponds

- For ponds of tens or hundreds of hectares: development and use of large ponds
- For ponds of 0.8 to 2 hectares: development of a string of medium-sized ponds
- Compliance with environmental standards and monitoring of environmental impacts

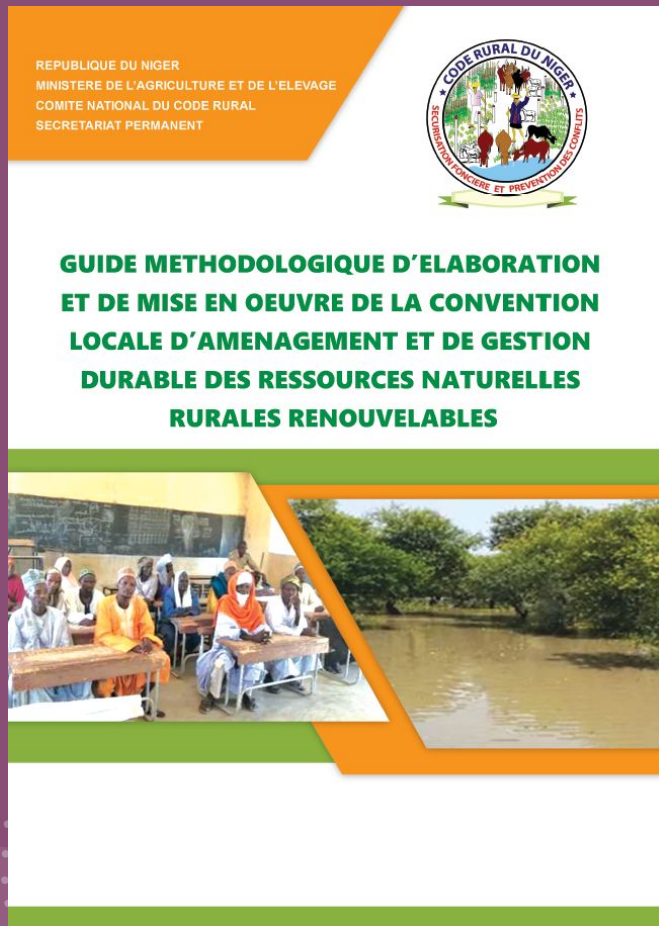


# Concerted and inclusive management around large ponds:

- Guidimouni Lake and Moni and Karan Massou Ponds are sites where there are several competing uses.
  - Promotion of MUS for ponds already under development
- 
- Guidimouni: improved relations among users
  - Moni: improved multiple-use approach
  - Karan Massou: the primary use is pastoral, but other uses are allowed



# Main tools used to provide planning frameworks for participation and sustainable management



- ✓ The development of local conventions which cover ponds and adjoining natural resources: they allow all users (tools for social cohesion and inclusive participation) to express themselves, to be heard and to agree on management rules to guarantee equitable access to different rural stakeholders (inclusion of ALL stakeholders who all have the opportunity to contribute at different stages: discussion, restitution, marking; there is a lot of back and forth, the process is iterative, we take the time .)

The Development and Management Plan (PAG) made it possible to define the interventions which will enable the sustainable management of the ponds.

## Examples of activities implemented:

- The initiatives planned by the PAG are implemented in a coherent and sequential manner. This made it possible to:
- Take measures to prevent contamination of the groundwater by fertilizers;
- Treat *koris* and other ravines that could lead to silting of the pond and/or cause landslides and flooding in inhabited or agricultural production areas;
- Secure passage corridors and grazing areas;
- Promote market gardening and small irrigation and rice growing;
- Fight against invasive species, particularly *Typha australis*.





# Quantified Achievements in Gouchi



## **Moni and Karan Massou**

- 212 people sensitized on the use of fertilizers;
- 15 km of livestock corridors are being marked off;
- 1,526 ha marked off along the 48 km perimeter of the Fagué rest area;
- 5 km marked off around the Karan Massou pond;
- 125 individual land deeds established;
- 240 linear meters of ravines treated in Gouchi



*Some figures from Guidimouni*

- 45 women (30 in 2022 and 15 in 2023) from 3 groups trained on making compost and on the MUS approach. They in turn trained the other members of their groups, making a total of 135 women.

- 629 people sensitized on the use of fertilizers;
- 22 km of livestock corridors marked off (11 south of Guidimouni pond and 11 km along National Highway 1).

- 24 km marked off in the Dissemba area (20 km in 2022 and 4 km in 2023);
- an average of 60 kg of fish produced daily (or about 22,000 kg per year)
- 186 individual land deeds established;
- 280 linear meters of ravines treated.

A photograph of a pond with a sandy bank in the foreground, lush green grasses, and a body of water in the background. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Development of  
medium-sized ponds  
located in  
privately-owned areas**

# The development of a series of ponds

Selection criteria used for sites and interventions:

- Availability of space for market gardening or rice growing;
- Low salinity level;
- Land agreement with the landowner;
- 3 methods of developing the site.



# Methods for developing the sites

## Reed/Brush-cutting

- ❖ Either solely for herding (watering) or for domestic use
- ❖ Or combined with:
  - Fish stocking; or
  - Market gardening and/or rice farming.



# Some quantified achievements:

- 204 ha set aside for watering animals and for other uses;
- 53 ha (in 19 ponds) stocked with fish;
- 187 ha (in 158 ponds) set aside for rice cultivation;
- 288 ha (in 32 ponds) set aside for market gardening.



# Testimonials from Guidimouni beneficiaries

“There are 16 women on this site. We grow various products such as rice, onions, moringa, okra. Everything is working normally, thank goodness. We have enough water here. We say thank you to TerresEauVie, WFP, KARKARA and GIRMA. The development of this site was possible thanks to their steady support”

**Abou Tangam**



“Before, this pond was unusable, there were reeds [brush] everywhere. But with the support of TerresEauVie, WFP, KARKARA and GIRMA this site is now fantastic. We have been trained in the processing of our products, to promote them locally. We say thank you to these projects for everything that they have done for us and continue to do today.”

**Nana Badako.**



# Lessons learned

- Take into account climate change or variability
- Use more GIS maps and images to visualize current or potential spaces and uses;
- Promote Rapid Rural Appraisal (MARP) tools which are visual and easy to use for community leaders;
- Strengthen synergies among municipal institutions: CL management committees, Village Development Committees, COFOCOMs (and COFOBs), and CLEs;
- Highlight in a simple way for all users the key link between the CLs, the Land Development Plans (SAF) and the PAG which are tools at their service, not just administrative documents;
- Model these different approaches to collaboration so that they can be applied in other communities, regions or contexts. (This on-line meeting is a first step.)





# Conclusion

The contribution of ponds to improving living conditions of households and to the local economy is very important.

These ponds, given their number and productivity, could play a key role in the effort to achieve food sovereignty.

Knowledge, mobilization and inclusive sustainable management of surface water will make it possible to improve the lives of rural people.

To develop the ponds to their full potential, it is important to take into account all the dimensions of their uses.

Collaboration among all of the local actors and users present is critical for success.

Likewise, the technical and financial partners must work together in order to succeed together. Our experience shows that it is possible!



**Thank you for your attention!**

# The following presented and prepared this presentation:

---

## Activity **TerresEauVie** du Programme Résilience de l'USAID Niger



(Development Food Security Activity)



et ses partenaires

---

## Activity **Wadata** (Development Food Security Activity)



**Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial**



**Q&A**

# Reflection

# Thank you!

**Website:**

[www.fsnnetwork.org/prowashandscale](http://www.fsnnetwork.org/prowashandscale)

**Email:**

[prowashandscale@savechildren.org](mailto:prowashandscale@savechildren.org)



Disclaimer: This presentation was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of the PRO-WASH and SCALE Award and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.