

PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF THE FERI FERI HILL

ADPE Bonferey, our local chefs from Niger, have been pioneering this recipe to restore their hill's environment in a participatory manner.

KEY INGREDIENTS



SUSTAINABILITY



Permanence

- Frame the CBDRM initiative as part of risk-informed development plans, by for example aligning activities and targets with other local initiatives including development plans



Ownership

- Encourage self-organisation e.g. establishment of local governance and thematic committees



Adaptiveness

- Encourage integration of innovative thinking into traditional practices, so as to couple local experiences with new ideas



INSTITUTIONALISATION



Culture

- Sensitize political leaders to the priorities of communities through visits and impacting perception data

When you live in a hill that used to be green and now is completely yellow, you ask yourselves some questions and start thinking about what could turn this hill green again.

This is what the community living in the Feri Feri hill, in the region of Tillaberi, in Niger, has done: by discussions and consultation with the local authorities, the local leaders, the elderly, and technical experts, they designed an environmental restoration plan, which would serve also as DRR plan. Indeed, a yellow hill means no trees to stop the speed at which rainfall water runs down into the main town at the foothill of Feri Feri; green hills means not only better environment, but also reduced impact of flooding.

The ADPE Bonferey group, created for this purpose about two decades ago and made of a variety of stakeholders including community members and local authorities, has led the project since its start: environmental restoration activities (such as tree planting) were coupled with income generating activities, mainly linked to the production of straw to be used for cattle feeding. All activities are planned to ensure active participation of women and other marginalised groups.

Communities are all involved in making the Feri Feri hill a greener place: whether or not an individual is part of the Bonferey group, he/she can benefit of the group's activities, and pay back a small percentage. Securing the support from local authorities was crucial, as the government was instrumental in ensuring that the land acquisition process would run smoothly. In addition, all activities run by Bonferey are in line with the local development plan and support its implementation.

Ensuring the buy-in from the community, by showcasing the value of the activities and the potential individual benefits that each could gain, has been essential for the project sustainability: communities' determination and engagement result from a common understanding of the importance of these activities in the long term, but also from a recognition of the short-term benefits of the environmental restoration activities.

