

Growing Out of Trouble

Mobilizing to maintain local habitat

Local community associations in Mali launched an initiative to build the capacity of local nurseries and promote the regeneration of endangered plant and tree species.

In collaboration with local NGOs, associations and the Service Conservation de la Nature (SCN), three nursery sites were selected. They are managed by community associations for targeted assistance in the villages of Kanikombole (Bankass), Kokodiogougou (Bandiagara), and Borko (Bandiagara). Sites were chosen based on an assessment of nursery staff and associations in all four cercles (regions) of Dogon. Sites assessments determined the tree and plant species currently being produced as well as those they hoped to produce. Seeds of various native and endangered species are not widely available and difficult for communities to obtain.

Two of the chosen sites are managed by community associations that are actively involved in conservation and environmental protection endeavors. The Kanikombole nursery is managed by a community association focused on desertification issues and raising awareness of disappearing tree species. It is committed to planting initiatives that build stock of endangered species. The nursery in Kokodiogou is managed by the Federation of Traditional Healers of Bandiagara (FATTB). This nursery is devoted to the regeneration of endemic and endangered medicinal plants as well as other tree species dwindling in the area due to irresponsible use and climatic causes.



A volunteer committee was formed at the Borko village nursery through the direction of local leaders. This group received training on basic nursery management techniques and collected a list of endangered tree and plant species. Committee members also identified where the nursery would be established, ensuring adequate access to water and protection from animals.

Technical support has provided all three nurseries with native plant and tree species as well as basic nursery equipment. An irrigation system will be set-up at the FATTB nursery sustaining increased production of plant and tree species year-round for distribution to surrounding villages and FATTB members. The USAID funded Global Sustainable Tourism Alliance Pays Dogon (GSTA/PD) is providing technical support to all nursery staff on how to keep records of seedlings produced and distributed. GSTA/PD has held workshops to promote the understanding of basic germination techniques for different endangered species. Over the long-term, it is expected that the nursery management groups will apply the knowledge gained and lead community efforts to reverse threats to tree and plant life through well-run, sustainable nurseries.