



**GRET**



# Natural resource management

Sustainable collective management of natural resources.

## Thematic factsheet



Production of sticky rice in the Pu Luong nature reserve in Vietnam, an alternative to relieve pressure on the forest © Than Toa

### BENCHMARKS

GRET has been working on this subject area for **35 years**.

Since 2012, **24 countries of operation** mainly in West Africa, the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia.

**53 projects** since 2012.

Humanity depends directly on natural resources for its livelihood and is therefore directly affected by environmental degradation. This is why GRET encourages the participation of local populations in maintenance or restoration of ecosystems, through more inclusive governance of territories and common goods. Its actions contribute to the fight against climate change and preservation of biodiversity (SDGs 13,14 and 15).

GRET designs, implements and supports initiatives in the area of integrated water resources management (IWRM), social management of agricultural water, integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), sustainable management of forests and non-timber forest products, agroforestry, management of marine and terrestrial protected areas, and support for rural development. With regards the economy and the environment, it develops and implements incentivising economic instruments such as payments for environmental services. It also provides cross-sectoral expertise on the inclusion of adaptation to climate change in territorial planning.

GRET's support is delivered through strengthening of capacities, expanding the roles and contributions of local populations, facilitating collective learning processes targeting the construction of balanced governance systems, and the promotion of institutions capable of ensuring a sustainable offer of technical and facilitation services.

## Methods of intervention

GRET's work – conducted as part of projects, studies, technical assistance to public project owners, and facilitation of networks – is based on concrete experiences in the field enabling the development and testing of intervention methods that are subsequently analysed, capitalised and shared via publications, networks and training courses. It regularly collaborates with research institutes such as Cirad and IRD.



Reforestation in Kalalao, Madagascar



## GRET's approach

» «Faced with an increasing number of societal crises, struggling democracies, and the ecological and climate crisis compromising our living conditions, our political models need to be reinvented. At GRET, we are working to enable civil governance to emerge around environmental issues, and to facilitate dialogue between public authorities, the private sector and civil society, in order for the latter to co-construct local solutions to ecological and economic challenges.» **Barbara Mathevon, Natural resource management projects manager.**



Basket-making in Ban Xiengman, Laos © GRET / Photos by CinePanorma.de

## Key stakeholders' views

“Ten years ago, men in Ban Nayom (Sopbao) and Ban Phoungnakhao were making rice baskets, which they sold locally. GRET provided them with training (...) and they were able to increase their production and find markets, in particular in Vientiane. Their success encouraged others to make baskets and, today, approximately 80% of women and men living in the villages are making them. (...) We have also observed that older people are transmitting these skills to their children, so that the impact of GRET's work will continue for the next generation.”

**Ms. Phonevanh Inthavong, Deputy Chief of the Provincial Office of Industry and Commerce, Houaphan**

“For us, the Forest scientific and technical committee, created by AFD and facilitated by GRET, is a forum in which it is possible to keep abreast of policies on sustainable forest management and to contribute to major current subjects around research and development in the sector.” **Benoît Jobbe-Duval, General Director of the International technical association for tropical woods**

### SOME REFERENCES

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- Violas D. (dir.) (2020), *Stratégie de développement de l'agroécologie dans le Grand Sud malgache : retour d'expériences autour des blocs agroécologiques*, Nogent-sur-Marne, Editions du GRET, 63 pages, Cahier projet.

## Focus on two actions

### Action-research on integrated water resources management in Niayes (Girel projects 1 and 2)

2017-2022 | **Budget:** 635 k€ | **Funding:** Seine-Normandie Water Agency, Belgian technical cooperation | **Partner:** Directorate of water resources planning and management (DGPRES).



GRET is supporting the Senegalese State to operationalise its Integrated water resources management (IWRM) strategy via the implementation of pilot Local water platforms in the Niayes area, a territory with many horticultural and industrial activities, and contributing to supply of drinking water for the capital.

Having been structured and trained, the members of the platforms define and implement local actions aimed at more sustainable management of water resources. The DGPRES, which is strongly involved in the process, is benefitting from capacity-building.

### Tsara Kobaby – Protecting biodiversity in Sainte-Marie through local governance of resources and the territory

2019-2021 | **Budget:** 193 k€ | **Funding:** Maisons du Monde Foundation, Agence française de développement | **Partners:** Cirad, PCADDISM (Platform for concertation and support of sustainable development in Ile Sainte-Marie).



In this insular territory with a wealth of remarkable ecosystems, where the population is very much dependent on ecosystem services, GRET is supporting the growth of PCADDISM, which federates the population of the island around sustainable management of common goods.

The project is supporting the creation of a Marine and coastal protected area (MPA) that was proposed by the population as a better solution to deal with the decline of resources; strengthening the capacities of local stakeholders for governance and management of natural resources; and strengthening the socio-economic resilience of the most vulnerable communities.

Taking a commons-based approach, the project is specifically focusing on analysing and constructing the conditions necessary for truly inclusive local governance of the future MPA.

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GRET is an international fair development NGO that has been actively fighting poverty and inequalities for more than 40 years in the field and at political level. For more information on GRET's activities in the area of "Natural resource management and energy": [www.gret.org/themes/resource-energy/](http://www.gret.org/themes/resource-energy/)