



Final Report: Agroecology for Resilient Territories in Senegal (ARTS)

Project number

213294

Project title

Agroecology for Resilient Territories in Senegal

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1. Context

Senegal experienced episodes of political instability during the project, without material impact on ARTS's fieldwork, partnerships and platform activities. The government kept food sovereignty central to its agenda, within the 'Vision Senegal 2050' framework and the National Development Strategy 2025-2029, an unusually favourable national discourse even if that agenda's orientation remained contested.

The economic context, by contrast, brought shocks central to the project's rationale. In early 2026, the US-Israeli military conflict with Iran effectively halted traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, through which the UN estimates around a third of global seaborne fertiliser trade passes, and Iranian producers suspended urea and ammonia output. Urea prices rose by roughly 50% between late February and mid-April 2026, while part of the 2025 rainy-season harvest went unsold. These shocks exposed an import-dependent, market-integrated productivist model and reinforced the project's central argument: that managing soil fertility locally and reorganising value chains around territorial dynamics is a resilience strategy, not only an ecological choice. They also risk shifting priorities, as noted previously, from long-term transformation toward short-term coping, with households and institutions securing volumes and inputs rather than investing structurally.

This coincided with a sharp fiscal deterioration: public debt rose past 119% of GDP, triggering a sovereign downgrade into speculative territory and a standoff with the IMF over a new programme, while growth is projected to fall to around 2 to 2.5% in 2026 from 6.7% in 2025. The input-subsidy system part of the territorial platforms' activity relies on (around 130 billion CFA francs for the 2025-2026 campaign) is therefore fiscally exposed, raising the stakes of low-input, territorially anchored approaches while threatening the public resources a transition would require.

Several political windows also opened. The Loi d'Orientation Agro-Sylvo-Pastorale, now broadened to include fisheries (LOASPH), neared adoption, the President having instructed the government in January 2026 to adopt the revised law and its decrees, with a new chapter on social protection for sector workers. The government also committed to a new agricultural and agro-industrial policy and a national agroecological transition strategy co-led by the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, while the fifth Journées de l'Agroécologie du Senegal in April 2026, where ARTS organised two sessions, were framed around institutionalising agroecology and moving from vision to action. Their direction is not settled: a modernisation framing, with subsidy and import measures justified by food sovereignty such as the onion and potato import suspension, does not automatically benefit the smallholder or agroecological producers central to the project's advocacy. ARTS partners are positioned to engage: IPAR and ENDA Pronat through their national policy-dialogue roles, CREATES through its territorial action-research, connecting living-lab outcomes with broader policy shifts.

NB: The report is available in an interactive online format with links to deliverables at arts.createz.ngo

2. Progress and results

1.1 Impact: Contribute to the transition towards a more sustainable and just food system in Senegal

At the start of the project, agroecology in Senegal was gaining traction but remained fragmented: isolated successes lacked coordination, visibility and political weight, while policy change remained limited. Against this baseline, ARTS advanced a research-based pathway grounded in the premise that just and sustainable food systems require moving agroecology from the plot to the territorial level and embedding it in systems linking actors, governance, natural resources and socioecological justice. The project impact statement defines ARTS' contribution to the broader objective of sustainable and just food systems,

including improved food security. Although ARTS alone could not achieve this objective, it made significant contributions towards it.

At the territorial level, ARTS supported the creation, structuring and implementation of roadmaps for the *Dynamiques pour la Transition Agroécologique Locale* in two departments. This helped transform informal dialogue and advocacy spaces into more stable coalitions, equipped them with tools for collective action, supported their brokerage of subsidised inputs and increased the visibility of agroecology in local media. ARTS also facilitated shared territorial visions and initiated evidence-based advocacy. Nationally, ARTS developed a georeferenced inventory of agroecological actors, supported the National Agroecology Caravan and contributed, through territorial consultations, to the positioning of the national DyTAES and the National Strategy for Agroecology and Organic Agriculture. It also brought territorial perspectives into the National Agroecology Days through two dedicated sessions and reached audiences beyond established agroecology circles through the Dak'Art Biennale.

Scientifically, the ATFS framework provides a systemic and transferable approach for analysing the conditions that enable or constrain territorial agroecological transitions and is now being formalised for academic debate. Technologically, the georeferenced database, open-source mapping tool and territorial diagnostic geoportal provide reusable infrastructure for documenting and steering local initiatives. Societally, participatory and arts-based methods broadened participation in defining the transition and reframed agroecology as a political and social project addressing intersecting inequalities related to gender, youth, land access and territorial marginalisation. A communication strategy combining local media, public events and digital content reinforced these efforts. Some outputs reached up to 150,000 views, substantially extending the project's reach beyond its direct participants.

Several results are already being applied. Local actors have independently adopted project methods, as illustrated by the Mlomp women's group, which developed its own theatre play on land and gender. ARTS also contributed to the creation of CREATES, a locally anchored action-research centre sustaining the living lab and institutionalising territorial agroecology. Additional funding through Bey Diiwaan, LED and SNF Agora extended the work beyond the original project, while initiatives such as PRATAM integrated elements of the ATFS approach.

Important limitations remain. The platforms still depend heavily on external support, and their brokerage role links part of their activity to a state input-subsidy system that does not necessarily benefit agroecological producers. The initial mapping tool, built on proprietary University of Bern software, also raised sustainability concerns, subsequently addressed through the development of an open-source version..

Outcome 1: Context-relevant pathways toward sustainable agri-food systems are co-designed based on an improved understanding of ATFS

At outcome level, the proposal framed this strand as turning improved understanding of enablers and spoilers into practical tools for ATFS transformation. ARTS delivered this through diagnostics, actor mapping, the ATFS framework and scenario-based methods. The result is a tested methodological package combining spatial analysis, participatory inquiry, artistic methods and platform deliberation, even if the peer-reviewed publication pipeline remains ongoing. Against the two outcome indicators, the change is already observable beyond the project's own deliverables. The diagnostics, the actor database and the ATFS framework are being used as working tools by the territorial platforms and by partners such as CIRAD, the Joint Research Centre and PRATAM, and the ATFS reading now structures how the DyTAELs interpret their own transition pathways. Uptake in scientific and public discourse is therefore underway, even though full validation awaits the peer-reviewed publications still in preparation.

Output 1.1: Territorial diagnosis in 2 living labs

ARTS's ambition was also methodological: the objective was not only to produce diagnostics, but to test how different combinations of tools and forms of knowledge production could make agroecological transitions more visible, debatable and actionable. The two diagnostics were deliberately complementary. Bignona served as a case of consolidation around an already active territorial platform; Mbour as a case of diagnosis and structuring in a younger platform facing intense demographic, land and coastal pressures. In Bignona, the process built on the mapping of initiatives structured around the seven ATFS dimensions, combined with multistakeholder workshops, in-depth interviews, field data collection, transect walks and video documentation. Under IPAR Think Tank's leadership, a diagnostic report was produced and presented to the DyTAEL, highlighting territorial distribution of initiatives, gendered access to support, value-chain constraints, land issues and the need to strengthen local processing and collective organisation. In direct continuation, IPAR launched in April 2026 a dedicated study on horticultural price formation in Bignona, examining why local vegetables are often more expensive than produce from elsewhere in Senegal and West Africa, and investigating geographic origin, circulation flows, price-setting logic and the place of agroecological production in local food chains. In Mbour, we adopted a broader approach combining initiative mapping, an in-depth literature review and multistakeholder workshops using creative facilitation methods, including forum theatre, visioning exercises and collaborative scenario building. An artistic reading of the territory was introduced through Swiss photographer Serge Boulaz, who documented the tensions and contradictions shaping the area, and cartoonist Oumar Diakite (Odia). Serge Boulaz's photo exhibition is planned for the next SOR4D forum in August 2026. Spatial analyses covered available datasets and the digitisation of specific land uses, including large-scale concessions. The diagnostic showed that agroecological initiatives are often located precisely where land pressure, urbanisation, extractive activities and agrobusiness expansion are strongest. It was published as a technical report and as an interactive open-source geoportal, and later served as the knowledge base for the DyTAELs' roadmaps and advocacy strategies. The GIUB team, in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre, also completed a historical analysis of agricultural policies in Senegal, situating local challenges within the longer structural constraints shaping agroecological transition in the country.

Output 1.2: Comprehensive inventory of actors and initiatives

A database was developed for both pilot areas recording geolocation, photographs and more than 30 variables per initiative, including actor type, activities, agroecological practices, challenges and needs. The project counts 100 documented initiatives, well above the initial target of 50. The first version, built on Survey123 and ArcGIS Online, revealed a structural limitation: reliance on commercial licences and University of Bern infrastructure made it impossible to hand over to local actors after the project.

The project therefore developed a fully open-source system with additional support from Bey Diiwaan (Liechtenstein cooperation – LED), comprising a Leaflet-based visualisation portal, a data and user management backend, and a mobile field data collection application. The system is ready for deployment by other DyTAELs, allows platforms to document their territories and make information accessible for governance and advocacy, and was connected to the global Agroecology Map database. Its design allows DyTAEL data to be aggregated nationally, enabling the DyTAELs to build a mapping system from territorial platforms rather than in parallel to them. The tool was presented during the National Agroecology Days; uptake is already underway, with Rufisque opening its own instance.

Output 1.3: ATFS framework including actionable transformative pathways

The ATFS framework, sketched at the proposal stage and the kick-off, was refined through internal project work, tested during the diagnostic phase, and now forms the backbone of both the data collection methodology and the analytical process. It offers a systemic lens on the enabling and constraining conditions for agroecological transitions at territorial level, moving beyond a purely technical reading of agroecology to address the interlinked dimensions that shape food systems in place-based and political

ways. The framework is structured around seven interdependent dimensions: productive base, work organisation, livelihoods, resource tenure systems, value chains, territorial governance, and sociocultural factors. These dimensions guided both data collection and stakeholder engagement across the two living labs. The framework was developed, presented and tested. It should therefore be considered an achieved methodological output. Its peer-reviewed publication, applying the framework to the two living labs, is not yet published and is among the manuscripts still in preparation (see Output 3.2).

Output 1.4: Development options and scenario co-developed and assessed through scientific modelling and creative tools

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Outcome 2: Increased synergies and effectiveness of collective action and territorial governance mechanisms in ATFS

The project achieved this most clearly at territorial level: consolidating an existing DyTAEL dynamic in Bignona and helping start and structure a new one in Mbour. The outcome represents a strong territorial achievement with partial national uptake, supported by roadmaps, advocacy strategies, public dialogues and digital tools. Roadmap implementation has begun but remains uneven; consolidation is carried forward through the consortium's continuing commitment rather than ending with the project.

Output 2.1: Joint ATFS vision negotiated through deliberative platforms at national (DyTAES) and municipal (DyTAEL) levels

At territorial level the target was exceeded: ten deliberative workshops were organised against the five planned, including the ARTS launch workshop, the Bignona and Mbour DyTAEL structuring workshops, the Bignona foresight process, the Mbour transformative scenario-building workshop, and consolidation dialogues with local authorities. The process continued through the final reporting period: in February 2026, a Departmental Development Committee in Mbour brought together 250 participants; in March 2026, a three-day structuring workshop gathered around 100; in April 2026, a departmental dialogue in Bignona strengthened institutional engagement. These processes helped the DyTAELs develop roadmaps from a shared reading of key challenges, opportunities and levers of change, and provided the basis for local work plans, advocacy priorities and strategy development.

At national level, the project contributed to debate and positioning rather than a formal negotiated vision. It supported the National Agroecology Caravan in both living labs, fed into the DyTAES and the National Strategy for Agroecology and Organic Agriculture through territorial consultations, and organised two sessions at the CID/JAES forum in April 2026. A consolidated national ATFS vision remains beyond what the project could achieve within its timeframe.

Output 2.2: Action plans co-designed based on joint vision and transformative pathways

The target was met through one territorial foresight report and two DyTAEL roadmaps. In Bignona, the foresight process produced scenarios and a plan of action around four strategic levers; the DyTAEL

roadmap was updated and an advocacy strategy co-constructed in a July 2025 workshop, with priorities including a inclusion of peasant organization in territorial planning municipal activities, rehabilitation of the Affiniam dam, the protection collective land rights, and the implementation of collective infrastructure for value chain improvement such as seeds bank and storage facilities. In Mbour, the 'Vision Mission' process and transformative scenario-building workshop produced the platform's roadmap, with priorities around territorial governance, land and water management, short value chains, natural-resource protection, and the inclusion of women and youth. The core challenge remains making the roadmaps more precise and strategic, grounding political positioning in diagnostics rather than generic commitments. Some plans still require consolidation in terms of prioritisation, timelines and implementation mechanisms. This output is achieved in deliverables but remains active in quality and use. Continuation is secured through the Bey Diiwaan project. The use of the knowledge generated also expanded beyond the DyTAELS, for instance by a Mbour intervillage committee on environmental protection to support their advocacy work against major land grabbing and unsustainable use of natural resources.

Output 2.3: Open access online knowledge platform

The initial target was one open digital platform with 300 unique users. The different components of the ARTS website reached over 10'000 unique users. The broader platform includes the bilingual ARTS website, open-source atlas and geoportal, YouTube channel, Facebook page, interactive reports, videos and maps. The open-source atlas and geoportal were presented at the CID/JAES forum in April 2026; interactive reports include the Mbour diagnostic, the Bignona 2045 foresight report and the Bignona initiatives report. Content is currently being migrated to the CREATES website to ensure sustainability, including an interactive version of this end of project report, including all deliverables: arts.create.ngo

Outcome 3: Awareness and perception of agroecology have improved among consumers, media, producers and government agencies

This outcome became one of the most distinctive contributions of ARTS. The project moved agroecology beyond technical and policy circles through theatre, music, film, photography, public events and digital platforms, while supporting advocacy by the DyTAELS. Scientific publications progressed more slowly than planned, but the knowledge and communication ecosystem expanded substantially. On outreach, the achievement is qualitative as much as quantitative: agroecology entered public debate through artistic formats rather than institutional communication alone. On policy influence, the clearest change is at territorial level, where the DyTAELS gained recognition in departmental policy spaces; nationally, the project shaped rather than producing a formal attributable decision.

Output 3.1: Joint advocacy strategy

This output is closely linked to the territorial diagnostics, the formulation of shared visions, and the identification of transformative pathways. Advocacy was therefore treated as emerging from research, deliberation and field engagement. The original target has been met through two advocacy strategies developed at DyTAEL level. In Bignona, the advocacy strategy was co-constructed from the results of the territorial foresight process. In Mbour, the structuring of the DyTAEL Mbour-Petite Cote provided the basis for its own strategic positioning. These processes helped clarify priority issues, strengthen the visibility of the DyTAELS, and position agroecology as a territorial development agenda rather than only a set of farming practices. The advocacy chain is now clearer: diagnostics and foresight generated territorial evidence; DyTAEL workshops turned this evidence into priorities; departmental dialogues and media coverage made these priorities visible to local authorities and broader publics. These efforts will continue beyond ARTS through the Bey Diiwaan project, which provides a concrete pathway for consolidating advocacy briefs, sharpening political positions and maintaining momentum with the DyTAELS.

Output 3.2: Contributions to scientific debates on ATFS

The target of ten academic or policy events has been exceeded, with fifteen presentations delivered in Senegal, Switzerland and other international spaces. A distinct strand developed around feminist and decolonial epistemologies and the use of theatre and creative methods as research tools, presented at a colloquium on geography, gender and territorial development in Abidjan, the PACTE laboratory in Grenoble, a seminar on creative methods at the University of Geneva, and a co-organised panel on plural knowledges at the Swiss African Research Days in Bern. These contributions form a coherent output on situated knowledge, reflexivity and arts-based inquiry. The publication target of five peer-reviewed works has not yet been fully met but is in process: 1 article (in *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*) 1 article submitted (in *Frontier in Sustainable Food System*), 1 book chapter is published (L'Harmattant), alongside two non-academic articles and several substantial drafts covering the ATFS framework applied to the two living labs, land and gender, and an evaluation of the arts-based science experiments. Peer-reviewed publication continues after the funded period.

Output 3.3: Artistic communication products

The project far exceeded the targets, producing documentary videos, portraits, theatre recordings, event summaries, long interviews, a photo competition, music videos, podcast material, artistic retreats and public artistic interventions. These pieces are the project's method for making territorial evidence visible and debatable. A three-day retreat was organised in each living lab, bringing together artists, researchers and territorial actors for co-creation sessions in painting, poetry, music and graffiti alongside the presentation and discussion of project findings. These retreats created spaces where research results could be translated into artistic forms, debated collectively and connected to lived experience and public engagement. The music component became particularly visible: three music videos reached approximately 12,000, 14,000 and 150,000 views respectively, demonstrating that artistic formats circulate well beyond usual project and policy audiences. Other major outputs include the national photo competition Les Gardiennes du Vivant, the Dak'Art Biennale activities, forum theatre productions in Bignona and Mbour, the Mlomp women's theatre initiative, a series events in Lausanne, of the cashew reportage, and the compilation music video launched at the Casa Urban Festival in Ziguinchor, reaching around 800 people. The project generated at least 20 media publications, coverage by five national television channels and one one-hour broadcast. A multimedia studio is now permanently operational in Senegal, equipped for podcast recording and audiovisual production. The AgroVoices project, acquired by GIUB, funded by SNF Agora and facilitated by CREATES, brings together award-winning film directors, Swiss and Senegalese journalists, national music figures, internationally acclaimed photographers and a professional production team, significantly raising the creative and technical standard of future outputs. The current long-format documentary extend the communication work initiated under ARTS while keeping the focus on public debate, territorial advocacy and local food systems.

Indicator	Number				
Number of final beneficiaries reached by the solutions developed through the project, segregated by gender	Total	male		female	
	359	265		94	
Number of researchers/practitioners involved in SOR4D projects, segregated by gender and region (North/South)	Researchers	male	female	North	South
		4	4	3	5
	Practitioners	male	female	North	South
		6	3	1	8
Number of findings/solutions validated by users/beneficiaries	1 territorial foresight, 1 scenario, 3 theatre forums, 2 interactive maps, 2 Territorial diagnostics				

3. Implementation activities and stakeholder engagement

The ARTS project is grounded in a transformative research approach, in which researchers are not positioned as external observers but participate directly in the dynamics of agroecological transition. Research agendas are co-designed first within the consortium, and then with stakeholders through close engagement with the DyTAEL platforms. These actor-led spaces serve as the main interface for structuring knowledge production, exchange and use in both territories. In practice, ARTS contributed through four channels: territorial knowledge production, platform strengthening, open tools and public narratives. This shift in the role of science is reflected in the project's outputs. ARTS has largely exceeded most indicators related to knowledge production, public engagement, stakeholder mobilisation and methodological experimentation, but has been less efficient in producing peer-reviewed academic publications within the project timeframe. This raises an important question for programmes such as SOR4D: whether evaluation metrics should remain aligned with traditional scientific assessment, or whether they should better value other forms of scientific contribution to real-world transformation processes.

Research results are regularly shared with DyTAEL members and local stakeholders through workshops, restitution meetings and strategy sessions. Some outputs are directly handed over to local actors, including the georeferenced initiative mapping tool and database, territorial diagnostics, foresight reports and advocacy materials. These resources are being used by the platforms to support planning, dialogue and collective action. Collaborations have also emerged beyond the agroecology networks themselves. In Mbour, for example, the intervillage committee for environmental protection is now using some of the project's results and tools for its own analysis and advocacy.

To ensure that potential beneficiaries can meaningfully engage with the research, ARTS relied on inclusive and participatory co-creation methods. Forum theatre is one of the strongest examples. It brings together farmers, women, youth and local leaders not simply to react to research findings, but to co-create stories, roles and scenarios that reflect their own realities. These performances function both as spaces for dialogue and as media for communicating complex issues in accessible ways. Participatory mapping has also been used to collect local territorial knowledge, understand local aspirations and collectively explore how agroecology can be integrated into spatial planning. Artistic formats, including short documentaries, video portraits, exhibitions, music videos and public performances, further broaden the reach of the project beyond conventional research audiences.

At the policy level, dialogue is clearly established at the territorial scale through the DyTAELs. National engagement is ensured through IPAR Think Tank and ENDA Pronat, both of which are central actors in key policy spaces, including the DyTAES, the formulation of the National Strategy for Agroecology and Organic Agriculture, and debates around the revision of the agro-sylvo-pastoral law. The policy relevance of this network has also been reinforced by broader institutional dynamics: IPAR's former executive director has since been appointed Minister of Agriculture and CREATES has joined the DyTAES committee.

To date, the project has mobilised more than 600 direct participants across workshops, training sessions and artistic activities, including DyTAEL workshops, the Dak'Art Biennale, the National Agroecology Caravan and forum theatre performances. This direct mobilisation is distinct from the narrower SOR4D final beneficiary table and from broader public audiences reached through festivals, media and online content. In addition, the project has reached several thousand people through major national and local events, conferences, festivals, exhibitions and media coverage. Some materials have reached particularly significant audiences, including one music video with approximately 125,000 views. These outreach efforts have helped raise the visibility of local actors and narratives through both research outputs and creative documentation, including the Kaddu Yaraax theatre documentary and the Jambaars of Agroecology video series.

Indicator	Number
Number of organisations/implementing partners engaged in scaling of solutions	2 DyTAEL (each including >20 organisations), 1 RACINES network, LED, CREATES, Nitidae
Number of products presented/considered for scaling-up and/or replication	4 (interactive actors mapping, theatre forum, participatory mapping, territorial foresight)
Number of new relevant institutional collaborations started in the SOR4D projects' context	PRATAM project (CIRAD, INRAE), LED, 2 DyTAELs, DyTAES
Number of spin-offs/spill-over, follow-up (patents, start-ups, new research projects, etc.)	Bey Diiwaan Project (900,000 CHF), CREATES, an action research centre and territorial agroecology lighthouse. Teral project (SOR4D TAG) to setup a local alternative food system.

4. Challenges and opportunities regarding research and implementation activities

Most project objectives were achieved, and several outputs exceeded initial targets. The main implementation challenge arose from the nature of transformative research itself. Working with territorial platforms, combining scientific and creative methods, and supporting ongoing transition processes required sustained availability, close engagement and continuous adaptation from the project teams. The territorial diagnostics in Mbour illustrate this. The methodology expanded beyond a conventional assessment to combine mapping, spatial analysis, literature review, participatory workshops, artistic documentation and creative facilitation. This required substantial coordination and methodological flexibility, but produced richer outputs and stronger local ownership.

At the territorial level, advocacy advanced through the DyTAELs, which gained visibility, structure and operational relevance. At the national level, ARTS contributed evidence and positions to policy debates, although direct policy effects remain difficult to establish within the project timeframe. The role of the project co-applicants IPAR Think Tank and ENDA Pronat was decisive. Their established position in Senegal's agroecological landscape, policy credibility and access to national decision-making circles enabled ARTS to reach actors and spaces extending to ministerial level. This is reflected in the appointment of IPAR's Executive Director as Minister of Agriculture and of an ARTS team member as his technical adviser.

At this stage, ARTS can therefore claim a contribution to policy debate, agenda-setting and institutional positioning rather than direct policy change. The project generated a substantial body of knowledge, including territorial diagnostics, foresight and methodological reports, multimedia documentation and policy-oriented outputs. Further peer-reviewed articles will be submitted during or shortly after the project period. This reflects normal academic timelines, but also highlights a broader challenge for transformative research programmes such as SOR4D: conventional publication metrics do not fully capture research contributions embedded in real-world transition processes.

The DyTAELs remain relatively young and partly dependent on external support. Their long-term impact will depend on their ability to move from internal consolidation to strategic action and to maintain autonomy beyond project-based facilitation. Several mechanisms have been put in place to support continuity beyond the project life. [CREATES](#) provides a locally anchored structure for facilitation, data consolidation, methodological development and platform support beyond the ARTS funding period. Spin-off projects secured through CREATES and GIUB extend key strands of the work: [Bey Diiwaan](#) focuses on advocacy, artistic engagement and platform consolidation, while [Teral](#) supports implementation around local food systems. [NICE](#) brings agroecological transition to urban environments. These initiatives are part of ARTS' indirect outcomes.

Research partnership

The consortium brought together Swiss and Senegalese research and development institutions, civil society organisations, grassroots platforms, artists and actors of agroecology. This diversity enabled the project to combine scientific quality with territorial anchoring, policy engagement and creative communication. A key factor in bridging the North-South divide was the continuous field presence of the GIUB team, whose time in Senegal significantly exceeded what their formal project allocations covered. Each partner brought distinct added value. IPAR Think Tank and ENDA Pronat are central actors in the agroecological movement in Senegal, with established roles in national policy dialogue, advocacy and the institutionalisation of agroecology at sector and regulatory level. Within ARTS, IPAR led territorial foresight and facilitated the DyTAEL platforms; ENDA Pronat, a pioneer of agroecology in the country, led communication and advocacy. GIUB provided scientific direction and overall coordination. Partners contributed across work packages, promoting shared responsibility and learning. Working across institutional cultures was at times difficult: differences in timelines, expectations and epistemic approaches created friction, addressed through regular dialogue, joint fieldwork and the shared understanding that disagreement is part of honest collaboration. The KFPE principles of co-design, mutual learning and long-term commitment run throughout the project. The research agenda evolved through ongoing dialogue with actors on the ground, and creative methods, including forum theatre, scenario workshops and participatory mapping, made these processes inclusive and accessible. This long-term commitment also produced a structural response to a recurrent limitation of project-based scientific cooperation: the discontinuity that allows networks, knowledge and institutional trust, built over years, to dissolve when funding ends. CREATES (Centre de Recherche-Action sur les Transformations Ecologiques et Sociales, <https://www.creates.ngo>), founded in Mbour by Patrick Bottazzi and Joan Bastide, two UniBern researchers involved in the project, was established to accumulate and carry forward the gains of successive projects rather than reset with each cycle. What began as an institutional response to a structural problem has become one of the most significant unexpected outcomes of ARTS. In a few years, CREATES has grown into a team of 15, joined or acquired more than six projects, secured land and begun construction of a permanent research centre. It is now implementing partner in the SDC-funded NICE project and the Liechtensteinischer Entwicklungs Dienst (LED) programme, and engaged in several SNF Agora, Spark and TAG projects. Though legally independent, CREATES would not exist without the extended field presence, relationships and institutional credibility built through ARTS. As a locally anchored structure with growing capacity and infrastructure, CREATES provides a durable base from which the results of ARTS, and of future projects, can be consolidated.

5. Feedback on recommendations from previous report

The review panel's feedback was broadly positive, recognising the project's progress, adaptive management, strong partnerships and interdisciplinary approach. The recommendations were treated as points for clarification and consolidation rather than redirection.

1: Positionality and situated knowledge. This was consistent with the foundations of ARTS. The project was designed as a transformative research process: researchers worked closely with DyTAEL platforms, co-designed activities with partners and local actors, and were directly involved in artistic, deliberative and advocacy-oriented processes. Reflexivity was part of everyday transdisciplinary practice, including internal debates on methods, facilitation, scientific robustness and the role of researchers in action-oriented processes, and was carried into scientific debate through a presentation on the tension between 'safe space' and 'brave space' drawn from the Senegalese fieldwork.

Intersectional inequalities. ARTS approached agroecology as a social and political process shaped by access to land, resources, voice and decision-making. Gender, youth, land tenure and territorial

marginalisation appeared throughout the diagnostics, theatre processes, artistic work and advocacy discussions. Specific activities included the feminist agroecology forum at the Dak'Art Biennale, the Mlomp women's theatre initiative on land and gender, Les Gardiennes du Vivant, and the Guelewar writing and photo-elicitation workshops with adolescent girls in Somone. This concern was theorised too: researchers presented work on feminist and decolonial epistemologies in international scientific forums, and a scientific article on gender and agroecology is under development.

Tangible benefits in terms of food security, income and jobs. ARTS was not designed as an employment-generation project or as an impact evaluation of food security outcomes; claiming direct attribution would not be methodologically sound. What the project produced was a stronger basis for future implementation: georeferenced data, territorial diagnostics, foresight reports, DyTAEL roadmaps, advocacy strategies and open-source tools. Follow-up projects, including Bey Diwaan and Teral, now provide a more appropriate framework for documenting local food system effects.

Climate change. ARTS was not a climate modelling project, but climate-related pressures appeared throughout the work: rainfall variability, soil fertility decline, water stress, land-use change and dependence on imported inputs. The project addressed these through territorial agroecological resilience, exploring how agroecology, local soil fertility management, shorter value chains and stronger local governance can help actors respond to environmental uncertainty.

6. Communication

Communication was conceived as a lever for engagement and transformation, aimed at broadening public debate, raising awareness of agroecological issues and making research outputs accessible beyond academic and policy circles. Thanks to ENDA Pronat's communication team, major public activities received strong media coverage across television, radio and print. The project generated at least 20 media publications, coverage by five national television channels and one one-hour broadcast, across outlets including Sud Quotidien, Le Quotidien, Seneweb, eMedia, 2STV, Bignona TV and GMS TV. A multimedia studio was established with professional equipment and a full-time technician, enabling continuous documentation and high-quality in-house audiovisual production, consolidated into a dedicated YouTube channel and media repertoire. The range of outputs was broad: the Jambaars of Agroecology video portraits, long-format interviews, a documentary on the cashew sector in Bignona, a documentary on the Kaddu Yaraax forum theatre festival, forum theatre recordings, workshop summaries, Guéléwar workshop capsules, and videos linked to the Lausanne Festival and the Dak'Art Biennale. The artistic and musical dimensions became particularly significant. Three music videos reached approximately 12,000, 14,000 and 125,000 views respectively, demonstrating that artistic formats circulate well beyond conventional research and policy audiences. Artistic retreats in each living lab brought together artists, researchers and territorial actors for three-day co-creation sessions in painting, slam, music and graffiti alongside the presentation of research findings, translating project results into more accessible and emotionally resonant forms. At the Dak'Art Biennale, ARTS organised a public programme around Raphaël Belmin's photo exhibition, including counter-visits, photo-elicitation, a roundtable on feminist agroecology, theatre and public debates. The national photo competition Les Gardiennes du Vivant extended this work by centring women's roles in agroecological transitions through visual storytelling. Written outputs included articles in Rooted and Grain de Sel and a set of online resources: the bilingual ARTS website, interactive reports, the open-source atlas and geoportal, and the Les Gardiennes du Vivant website. The SNF Agora project supports a long-format documentary directed by Thomas Grand and an illustrated book based on narratives from rural women in Senegal. Together with Bey Diwaan and Teral, these follow-up initiatives ensure that the communication work continues beyond the project period.

Annex: logframe for SOR4D progress reports and final report

Impact (goal)	Impact Indicators	Sources and Means of Verification	
Contribute to the transition towards a more sustainable and just food system in Senegal	Reduced food insecurity Adoption and replication of ATFS	Food security statistics Documents on new ATSF initiatives DyTAEL established in Somone living lab	
Outcomes (Project objectives)	Outcome Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Outcome 1: Context-relevant pathways towards sustainable agri-food systems are co-designed based on improved understanding of ATFS	Scientific and non-scientific publications enhance the understanding of ATFS transition ATFS living lab lesson learned are included in the discourses of scientists, practitioners and public agents within local, national and international communication platforms	Examples of use of the project's products in science and policy References to the work of the project in presentations, media, policies	Political stability and peace in the target areas
Outcome 2: Increased synergies and effectiveness of collective action and territorial governance mechanism in ATFS	New norms and ATFS collective action plan elaborated with the participation of women, youths and minority groups that are adopted in support of ATFS initiatives Number of civil society, private and public actors jointly engaged in support of ATFS initiatives (i.e. purchase of local organic products, logistical support, transformation devices, etc.)	Gender and age disaggregated number of participants in the project. Level of implementation of the action plans Reports and participant list of the deliberative events	Willingness of actors to collaborate around a common goal. DyTAES continues to be an inclusive space for deliberation
Outcome 3: Awareness and perception of agroecology have improved among consumers, media, producers and government agencies	Outreach of the communication materials and advocacy strategy Local or national policy processes influenced	Disaggregated # people reached by communication events and campaigns Evidence of decisions made in relation to the project's contribution	Interest for sustainable agriculture in mainstream media in times of elections.
Outputs	Output Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks

Outcome 1: Context-relevant pathways towards sustainable agri-food systems are co-designed based on improved understanding of ATFS			
Output 1.1: Territorial diagnosis in 2 living labs	<u>Land use and land cover maps</u> <i>Target: 2 maps, 1 report</i> Achieved: <i>interactive, open access geoportal for Mbour territorial diagnostic including >20 map layers on land use and cover, 2 diagnostic reports.</i> <i>3 village level participatory maps documenting land use</i> <u>Territorial governance analyse report</u> <i>Target: 1 report</i> Achieved: <i>2 territorial diagnostic reports, which include governance analysis along with 6 other dimensions of the ATFS framework</i> Level of achievement: beyond	Copies of maps and GIS data Report	Field work is possible in the target regions
Output 1.2: Comprehensive inventory of actors and initiatives	<u>Database of agroecological initiatives in Senegal</u> <i>Target: at least 50 initiatives documented</i> Achieved: <i>106 initiatives documented and mapped,</i> <i>An open-source interactive inventory system developed, and taken up by a new territory to be transferred to DyTAES</i> Level of achievement: beyond	Digital copy of the database	Willingness of actors to share information
Output 1.3: ATFS framework including actionable transformative pathways	<u>ATFS Framework published</u> <i>Target: 1 scientific article, 1 ATFS framework</i> Achieved: <i>1 framework developed, presented and tested and published as territorial diagnostic report</i> Level of achievement: article not yet submitted.	Copy of the article and framework	Willingness of stakeholders to collaborate and experiment new approaches
Output 1.4: Development options and scenario co-developed and assessed through scientific modelling and creative tools (forum theatre, participatory photography and video)	<u># Scenarios developed</u> <i>Target: 2 scenarios</i> Achieved: <i>1 territorial foresight report (Bignona) developed through Dy-TAEL</i> <i>1 transformative scenario report (Mbour) through DyTAEL</i>	Copies of scenario Videos of the theatre forums	

	Level of achievement: as planned <u>Art performed and produced</u> Target: 2 Theatre Forums and 2 videos Achieved: 4 theatre forums, 13 videos Level of achievement: beyond expectation		
Outcome 2: Increased synergies and effectiveness of collective action and territorial governance mechanism in ATFS			
Output 2.1: Joint ATFS vision negotiated through deliberative platforms at national (Dy-TAES) and municipal (DyTAEL) levels	<u># Events organised through the various deliberative platforms</u> Target: 5 workshops Achieved: 10 workshops Level of achievement: beyond expectation	Workshop reports, photos, participant lists	Willingness of stakeholders to collaborate Willingness of stakeholders to collaborate
Output 2.2: action plans co-designed based on joint vision and transformative pathways	<u>Action plans for the living labs</u> Target: 2 action plans Achieved; 2 DyTAEL roadmap Level of achievement: as planned	Copies of action plan documents	
Output 2.3: Open access online knowledge platform	<u>A digital knowledge platform is openly accessible and used by researchers and practitioners</u> Target: 1 platform - 300 unique users Achieved: ARTS project website (1500 unique users), photo competition website (7681 unique users). ARTS knowledge platform, including interactive mapping platforms, videos, interactive report, geoportal etc ready for launch at arts.create.ngo Level of achievement: beyond expectation	Online platform URL Online users statistics	Willingness of stakeholders to share data publicly
Outcome 3: Awareness and perception of agroecology have improved among consumers, media, producers and government agencies			
Output 3.1: Joint advocacy strategy	<u>DyTAES advocacy strategy co-developed through deliberative platform</u> Baseline: 0 – Target: 1 strategy	Copies of advocacy strategy documents	Willingness of stakeholders to collaborate

	Achieved: 2 strategies Level of achievement: modified. This output was revised to target DyTAELs, instead of DyTAES.		
Output 3.2: Contributions to scientific debates on ATFS	<u># of articles published in peer-reviewed journals</u> Target: 5 articles Achieved: 2 articles and 1 book chapter published 2 articles in non-academic magazines published 1 draft article on theatre forums; 1 draft article on land and gender; Level of achievement: slightly below expectations (3 peer review publications out of 5), but expected to meet expectations in the coming months as we finalise the draft articles, and compensated by non-academic publications <u># of participation in academic events</u> Target: 10 Achieved: 15 presentations in academic events Level of achievement: beyond expectation	Copies of articles Registration certificate, presentations.	
Output 3.3: Artistic communication products	<u>Report detailing the methods and success for co-creative communication tools</u> Target: 1 report - 1 academic article Achieved: 1 report on the theatre forum experience, 1 draft article Level of achievement: below expectations: draft article not yet submitted. <u># Artforms and communication material co-produced with engaged ATFS</u> Target: 3 videos, 2 songs, 3 podcasts, 3 forum theatre Achieved:	Copy of report Copy of article Copies of videos, songs, podcasts Report and videos of forum theatre	



	<i>13 videos (2 documentaries, 3 jambaars, 1 ARTS presentation, 3 theatre forum captures, 4 events summaries, 4 long format interviews),</i> <i>4 theatre forums,</i> <i>4 long format interviews,</i> <i>1 photo competition.</i> <i>4 music videos,</i> <i>1 podcast</i> <i>Level of achievement:</i> <i>Beyond expectations</i>		
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