Project Completion report

Workshop title:	Cross-Border Workshop for Local Governments and Community Leaders on Using Ecovillage Strategies to Implement the Green Wall in the Sahel Region
Date:	30 - 06 - 2026
Location:	Centre de formation Communautaire du REDES, Lahel, Senegal
Organized by:	REDES
Partner organisation	Global Partnership Network (GPN)

Narrative Report

REDES conducted a day-long "Cross-Border Workshop for Local Governments and Community Leaders on Using Ecovillage Strategies to Implement the Green Wall in the Sahel Region" on 30 June 2026, Tuesday at the Centre de formation Communautaire du REDES in Lahel, Senegal. The workshop is organized by REDES, in partnership with the Salayel Loboudou Community Development Association and the Mauritanian Ecovillage Network (REMEV) and funded by the Global Partnership Network (GPN).

The overall objective was to strengthen inter-community and cross-border cooperation between elected officials and stakeholders in Senegal and Mauritania to promote sustainable development of ecovillages and to encounter climate change and socio-economic challenges.

In addition, the specific objectives are: to raise awareness among local students and community leaders about the challenges of climate change in the Senegal River Valley; present the concept and benefits of ecovillages; share successful experiences, particularly that of Loboudou; foster exchanges between stakeholders on both banks of the river; and identify avenues for collaboration in establishing a cross-border ecovillage hub.

The workshop brought together 80 (50 % female) administrative authorities, local elected officials (mayors, municipal councillors), community leaders, development actors, technicians from 8 villages in Senegal and 8 villages in Mauritania and experts specializing in sustainable development and ecovillages. The workshop generated knowledge sharing, enthusiasm, and a renewed and strong commitment to work together to preserve and reinforce the natural ecosystems in Senegal river valley through community cooperation, education and field work. Village representatives came from the following villages:
Senegal: Lahel, Guedé Chantier,Moundouwaye, Diaw Worgo, Ndioum, Halwar, Diama Alwaly, Pattude
Mauritania: Boghe, Loboudou, Tessum 1, Tessem 2, Dioullom, Righba, Diaw Réwo, Ngourdiane

Global Partnership Network
DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service
Funded by
BMZ Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung
exceed EXCELLENCE CENTERS FOR EXCHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

The participatory based workshop included thematic presentations from the experts, experience sharing from the participants and plenary discussions. During the session, recommendations were collected to formulate a roadmap. The welcome address was provided by the representative of the Mayor of Gamadji Saré. The other distinguished speakers included a Deputy Mayor of Guede Chantier (Senegal), the representative of Mayor of Darel Barka (Mauritania, President of Mauritania Ecovillage Ecovillage Network (REMEV), the coordinator of civil society in Boghe (Mauritania),

Thematic presentations included “Forest Resources and Climate Change in the Senegal River Valley” by Colonel Demba Ba, Former Director General of National Parks of Senegal, Former Director General of the National Agency and “Ecovillage Model: The ANEV Experience” by Colonel Moussa Diouf. “Shared vision and achievement of REDES-REMEV-ADC” was presented by Honorable Sow Moctar, Former Member of Parliament, Founder and President of REMEV and Member of REDES. Fallou Ndiaye, senior manager at Senegal Agency for Reforestation and The Great Green Wall presented the work of his agency in the country and pledge to create deeper synergies with REDES.This was followed by a case study of Loboudou, presented by Aly Ly, the Village Chief of Loboudou and Founder of ADC Salayel and Sow Moctar, member of REDES. The participants also shared their experience from their communities which were documented to develop a roadmap to reinforce REDES cross-border ecovillage hub.

The workshop provided a better understanding of climate issues and ecovillage solutions to the participants and established cooperation links between Senegalese and Mauritanian communities to formulate a cross-border hub. The speeches and presentations were simultaneously translated into Hassania, Pulaar, Wolof and French by volunteers

Follow up action(s)

Following the workshop and recommendations collected, REDES in coordination with the organising partners will create a roadmap for the next five years.

Photos from the workshop in progress

Caption: Participants attending the workshop "Cross-Border Workshop for Local Governments and Community Leaders on Using Ecovillage Strategies to Implement the Green Wall in the Sahel Region from Mauritania and Senegal hosted at the REDES centre.

Communication on the Workshop

The workshop has been widely covered by national and community television channels, local community radios and widely share on social media (TikTok, WhatsApp and Facebook. The TV coverage was made in Wolof, Pulaar, Madingo, Serere, Diola and French languages. Daandé Maayo Info produced a newsletter on the event and it was widely shared with REDES international partners and friends. Through the local community media and the word of mouth, the event impacted a large number of people. Many communities across the border have contacted REDES teams to become members of the network and also benefit from REDES programmes (trees, wells, trainings etc). Below are the links of the press reports in different languages

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Esaia9sEr/ (already 1,100 views)

https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSCswrm5F/ (200 likes)

https://youtu.be/TQlxaOFYYHw?si=bx5njY0lRt_s2u2Z

https://youtu.be/DmJPmAipebk?si=VlNmIkNg1ZO7khyc

https://youtu.be/lgsmGxyt00A?si=AG-mqC__4BAN_PWL

https://youtu.be/c1cMDRNoIyg?si=mILXmLoUzgxVeYbh

https://youtu.be/fLahxUXt1Iw?si=Vxtric2oUIDPusYb

Expenditure Report

The financial report will be provided separately.

About REDES

REDES is a nonprofit, action- oriented and community-led organization, dedicated to reverse the Sahara Desert and its socio-economic and cultural effects and build up the well-being of communities and individuals through education, cooperation and field work based on ecovillage principles and practices. REDES is developing a transborder community network of ecovillages to revive the degrade natural, cultural and socio-economic environments in 100 rural villages. REDES has produced over 600,000 trees for its member communities, constructed 60 wells so that people can access drinking water for themselves for their animals and to implement small orchards around them. REDES has built 14 classrooms, organizes free medical consultations and cultural events to connect with their best traditions. In a nutshell, REDES seeks to uplift the living standards of the local communities while caring deeply for nature.

Conclusion

The workshop was profoundly appreciated by the participants, REDES teams, the guest speakers and experts. Participants pledge to share their learning with their communities. It was definitely a new and empowering departure for REDES and its local partners on both sides of the border. A new green consciousness is clearly emerging and needs support and follow to achieve more tangible results in terms of ecosystem regeneration and intercommunity cooperation, peace building and community welfare. REDES teams and communities are extremely grateful for the support that GPN and all its partners (DAAD, Exceed, the German Foreign Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) have provided in terms of logistics and financial support and helping spread knowledge and the passion for the preservation of the environment in Senegal River Valley.

Enclosed

1. List of participants
2. Dande Maayo Info Newsletter in English
3. Dande Maayo Info Newsletter in French
4. A Photo Report of the Event