

Ferlo Senegal

Mid-Year Update 2023



Project status

Year 2
out of 3
(phase 1)

54.86 hectares
under
restoration

5100 trees
planted
and growing

456 hectares
planned for
2023



Welcome to the first progress report for our Regreening Ferlo project!

WeForest and its partners are restoring 1000 hectares in the first phase of our project in the Sahelian region at the western end of Africa's Great Green Wall, where desertification is bringing hunger and drought, driving migration and disrupting education.

The second planting season is about to start at the beginning of August, and the restoration areas in all three pastoral units – Younouféré, Vélingara and Labgar – have been fenced in preparation. At the time of writing, the communities are receiving training in planting techniques.

Read on to find out more about what's been happening in the Ferlo project in 2023.

The view in the main image on the previous page is typical of how the three pastoral areas covered by our project looked before the restoration project started. The degraded landscape is made up of both lightly wooded and non-wooded areas, with many tracks crisscrossing the land.

The first planting (below) took place in the three pastoral units Younouféré, Vélingara and Labgar just under a year ago, in mid-August 2022. The landscape looks greener during planting, when it's the short rainy season.

Here's how the seedlings are looking now! This *Zizyphus mauritiana* (top right) and *Moringa oleifera* (bottom right) are both growing in the Vélingara planting site.





The 15 native species planted will boost incomes from non-timber forest products and increase the availability of fodder in the long dry season. The species selected had been identified as disappeared or threatened with extinction during the consultation workshops held with the local communities, and include *Sclerocarya birrea*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Combretum glutinosum*, *Guiera senegalensis*, *Acacia seyal* (gum tree), *Adansonia digitata* (baobab), *Acacia nilotica*, *Moringa oleifera* and *Ziziphus mauritiana* (jujube).



This is a meeting of the management committee in Vélingara (above). After training, this committee oversees all the project activities carried out by the community members from their pastoral unit, such as seed collection and protecting the restored plots. By putting local pastoral communities at the heart of restoration, the project addresses the interrelated issues of poverty, food insecurity, land degradation and biodiversity loss.



August 2022

This view (above) was taken during planting in Younouféré last August. Here's the same site (right) photographed in July 2023. Look how well the seedlings are doing!



July 2023

How do we know our restored forests are growing and making an impact?

Every hectare under restoration is mapped with GPS points to generate polygons (areas on a map) that are assigned to sponsors. Permanent monitoring plots are established in our sites and our forestry and science teams conduct surveys to monitor progress of biomass growth, tree density, survival rate and species diversity, among other indicators. Where social impacts are also critical, we measure socio-economic indicators such as the number of individuals or families directly benefiting, people trained, and income generated from forest-friendly livelihood activities.

Please visit our [What We Do](#) webpage for more information.



You'll receive an annual update in March. Meanwhile, stay up-to-date with our interactive [Ferlo map](#), and check out the [photos](#) on Flickr.

[Here](#) you'll find all information about how to communicate about this project and your partnership with WeForest.