

Intervention:	Rural & Forestry development Jendouba
Country:	Tunisia
Date:	1983 – 2004
Challenge:	Jendouba governorate in the north-west of Tunisia contains the largest tracts of forest in the country (appr. 30% of national forest cover) and is of high hydrological importance in the national context. Beginning in the late 1950s, inadequate land use and increasing erosion presented a growing threat to the region's as well as nation's hydrological balance. In addition, the intervention area was known as one of the poorest, remotest and least developed regions in Tunisia, with poor living conditions of the rural population presenting a major challenge.
Objectives:	Contribution to sustainable natural resources management through the stabilisation of nationally important watersheds. Improvement of living and production conditions in the concerned area. Rational, sustainable, ecologically justifiable management of natural resources.
Approach of the Intervention:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Participatory approach: consultation, training and integration of target groups into land-use planning as well as organisation and implementation procedures of the programme; participatory planning and implementation became a "trademark". <input type="checkbox"/> Measures on public land: reforestation measures, improving grazing grounds, erosion control as well as infrastructure and equipment support for the national park "El Feidja" <input type="checkbox"/> Measures on private and communal land: integrated erosion protection, measures to improve grazing grounds, construction of feeder roads, promotion of agriculture (esp. improved cattle breeding and perennial cultivation – fruit trees etc.) as well as small-scale economic and social infrastructure.
Benefits and Impacts:	<p>Contribution to the protection and sustainable management of natural resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A sustainable contribution to the conservation of resources through reforestation and erosion control measures: Erosion damages identified in 1988 through remote sensing could no longer be detected in 2005. <input type="checkbox"/> The effects of protection measures and improved grazing grounds on private and communal land are clearly visible in situ. <p>The program positively affected the living conditions of the rural population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The living conditions of more than 20.000 inhabitants have been significantly improved. At least 75% of them had previously been part of the poorer population segment. <input type="checkbox"/> According to a survey in 2003, households draw 50% on average of their income from agriculture (compared to 30% in the 1980s). <input type="checkbox"/> Generally, incomes increased significantly due to the introduction or expansion of intensive livestock farming and agro forestry (olive and fruit trees) as well as improved market access through road construction. <p>Alleviation for women and contribution to gender equality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The work of women has been significantly facilitated through water supply, school and road construction. <input type="checkbox"/> The increased income level as well as improved access has almost completely replaced firewood with butane gas. <input type="checkbox"/> School attendance of girls has contributed to gender equality.

Lessons learned:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ In the beginning, a technocratic approach was pursued, which only foresaw to inform the population about decisions that had been taken. As the population was not actively involved in planning and organisation, “ownership” was weak and resulted in poor workmanship and/ or maintenance of the implemented measures. Therefore the conceptual approach as well as the scope of investments had to be adjusted, with enforced participation by the target group in order to ensure satisfactory quality in implementation and maintenance. As a result of that “conceptual learning process”, the quality of works and maintenance improved from 1989 on. □ Need for adequate incentives: conservation of natural resources on private or communal land can only be effective in the long run, if the users derive tangible benefits from the measures taken. Consultation and sensitization are essential, but not sufficient. Additionally, the potential for having ‘external environmental services’ remunerated by commercial “customers” (e.g. water works). If such potential “customers” are expected to benefit from the protection efforts, they should be integrated into conceptualising the project at an early stage. □ Given the methodological difficulties in retrospectively assessing the impact changes in vegetation cover, it is advisable to elaborate a ‘baseline’ at the beginning in order to be able to measure changes over time accurately.
Wider application:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The programme has significantly contributed to promoting the approach of participatory management of natural resources and to rural development. It can be (and has been) used as a model for similar programmes in other regions.
Implementing agency & partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Office du Développement Sylvo-Pastoral du Nord-Ouest (ODESYANO) (project-executing agency) □ GTZ (cooperation partner) □ INSTRUPA (Consultant)
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