

**ENGENDERING EXCLUSION IN SENEGAL' S
DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALIZATION:
SUBORDINATING WOMEN THROUGH
PARTICIPATORY NATURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT**

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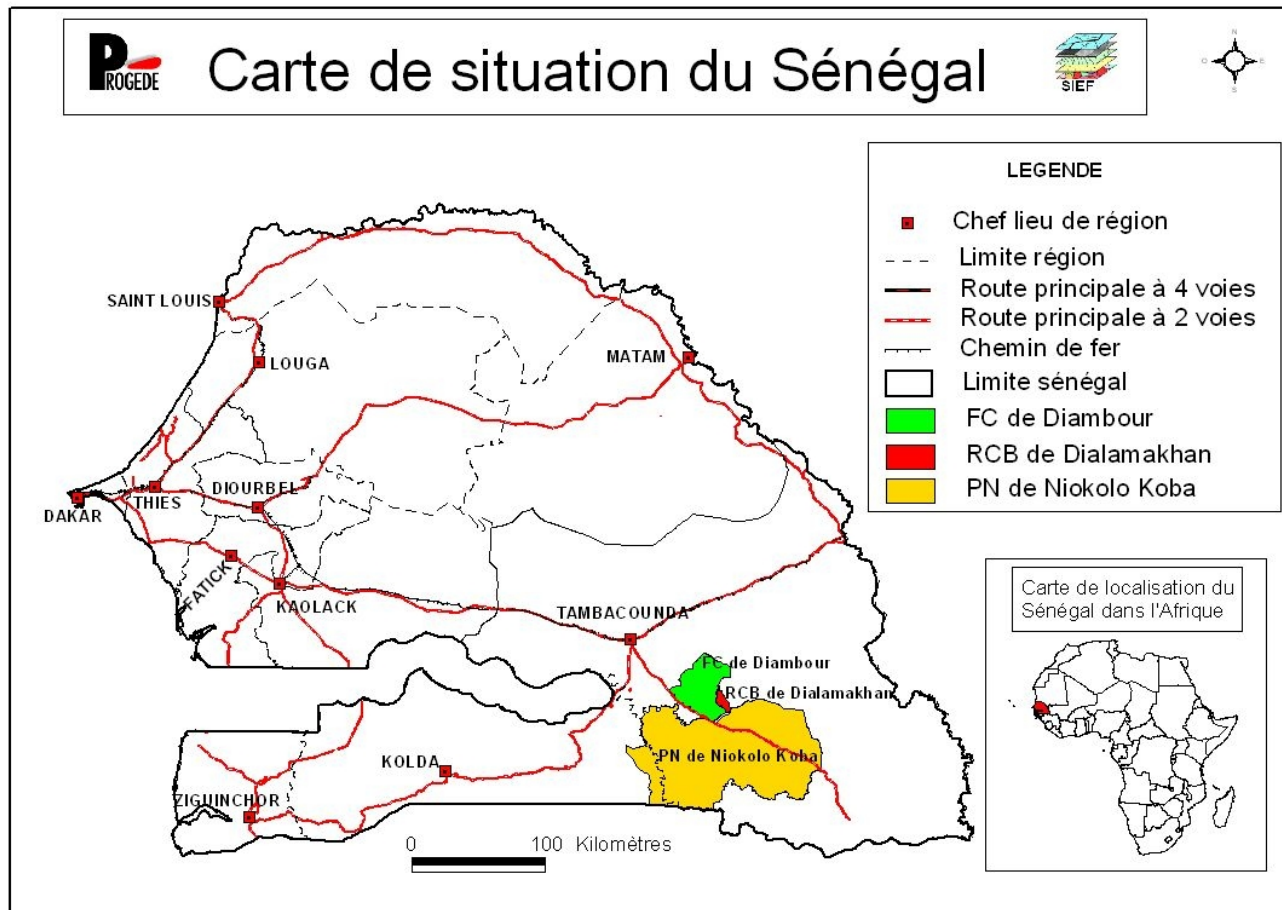
Background

- 1996: decentralization in Senegal
 - Transfer of power to local elected officials
- External agency intervention at the local level:
 - Village approach
 - creation of non-democratic parallel institutions: village committees
- Traditional authorities:
 - not accountable to the population
 - poor record in serving women's interests

Questions

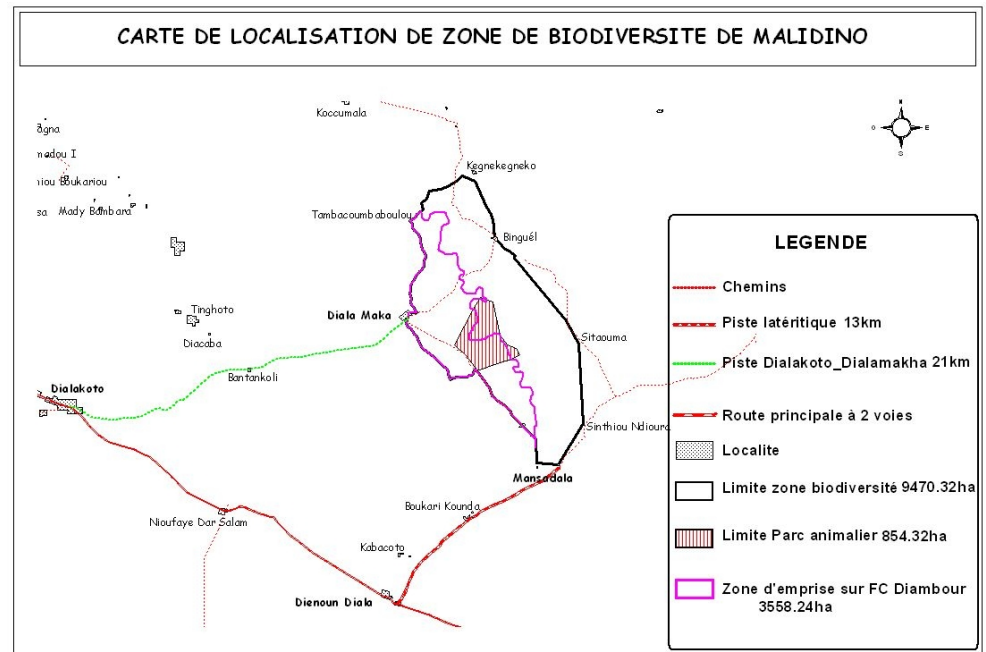
- How do institutional choices of village committees and electoral politics affect the gender distribution in decision-making processes?
- What processes shape the gender distribution of voices and material benefits?

Malidino Reserve: geographic situation



Malidino Reserve: Processes and Structures

- World Bank and Senegal forest service program: PROGEDE
- Two main objectives
 - Biodiversity conservation
 - Rural poverty alleviation
- Reserve committees
 - Traditional leaders
- Management Charter:
 - Local rules and regulations
- Abandonment of cultivation land inside the reserve



Gendered Membership

Positions	Sex
Executive board	
President	M
Vice president	M
Secretary	M
Vice- secretary	M
Treasurer	F
Two finance inspectors	F & M
Surveillance committee	
Chair and two members	M
Wise men committee	
Village chief, marabout, traditional doctor, and notable	M
Management and development committee	
Chair, vice-president, secretary, and vice-secretary	M
Forestry committee	
Chair and two vice-chairs	M
Farming committee	
chair	F
1st vice-chair	M
2nd vice-chair	F
Pastoral committee	
chair	M
1st vice-chair	F
2nd vice-chair	M

Gendered Participation & Representation in Decision Making

- Reproduction of existing power structures in reserve management.
- Women's positions
 - secondary or marginal in importance
 - Only on paper to satisfy donor requirements with respect to gender equality
- Women's presence based on friendship and kinship
 - co-opted by male leaders
 - Wives of male leaders
- No women leaders signed the reserve charter

GENDERED SOCIAL AND POLITICAL EXCLUSIONS

- Land abandonment: no choice, no accountability mechanisms
- Favoritism for the reserve leaders' families
- Exclusion from poverty alleviation benefits based on kinship and ethnicity
- Exclusion and marginalization based on political rivalries
- Fragmentation of women's traditional solidarity

Conclusion

- Parallel local institutions have served to reproduce inequity and exclusion
- The gendered effects of externally-driven interventions of government and donor interventions
- Parallel institutions have reproduced and deepened extant social hierarchies in the rural communities surrounding the reserve