

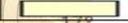
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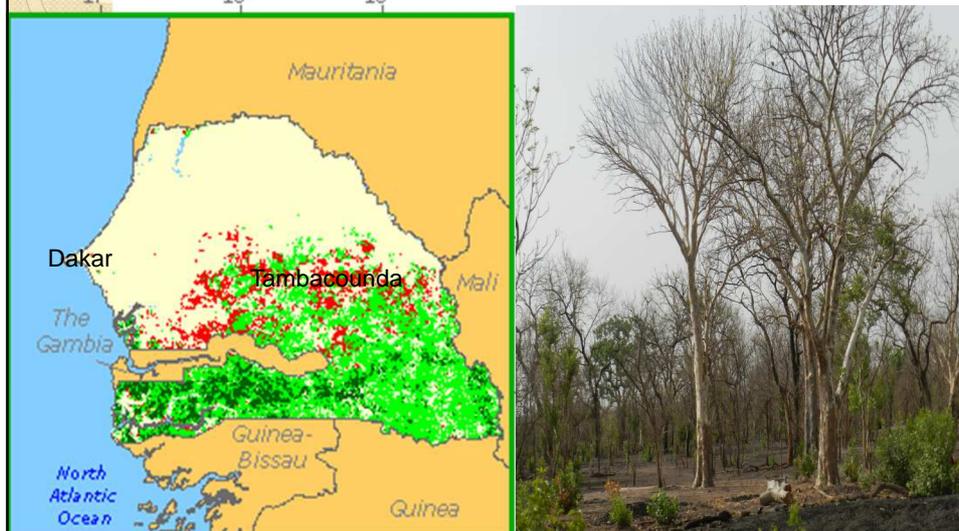
# Technical Domination and Local Resistance in the Senegal's Forest Decentralization: Power dynamics in PROGEDE

Papa FAYE  
University of Bern, Switzerland  
Institute of Social Anthropology  
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## Location & The Forests We Are Talking About

### Legend

	Water
	Closed Forest
	Open/Fragmented Forest
	Other Wooded Lands
	Other land cover



## CONTEXT & PROBLEM

- **Foundations for Technical domination in Senegal**
  - How to reconcile *forest degradation* and *charcoal production= scientific knowledge* as guarantee for *sustainability & regular supply with charcoal (26%)*
    - FMPs to save the day
    - FMPs are integral to forest decentralization policy
    - This enhanced the discourses of *technical support* & of *lack of capacity* at the local level
  - **Consequently, emergence of participatory management projects to expand FMPs throughout Senegal**

## PROGEDE, the leading project & case study

- The Sustainable and Participatory Energy Management Program known as PROGEDE
- **Objectives:**
  - Better participation
  - Regular charcoal production and supply
  - Maintenance or improvement of the forest cover
  - Open up the charcoal sector to the nearby forest people for *better management* of the forests and rural *poverty alleviation*
- **Timeline**
  - **PROGEDE-I:** 1998-2004, Ext. 2008
  - **Shutdown or Inter-phase:** 2009-2011
  - **PROGEDE-II:** 2011-2015
- Set of donors, the VVB being the main

## FOCUS OF THE PRESENTATION

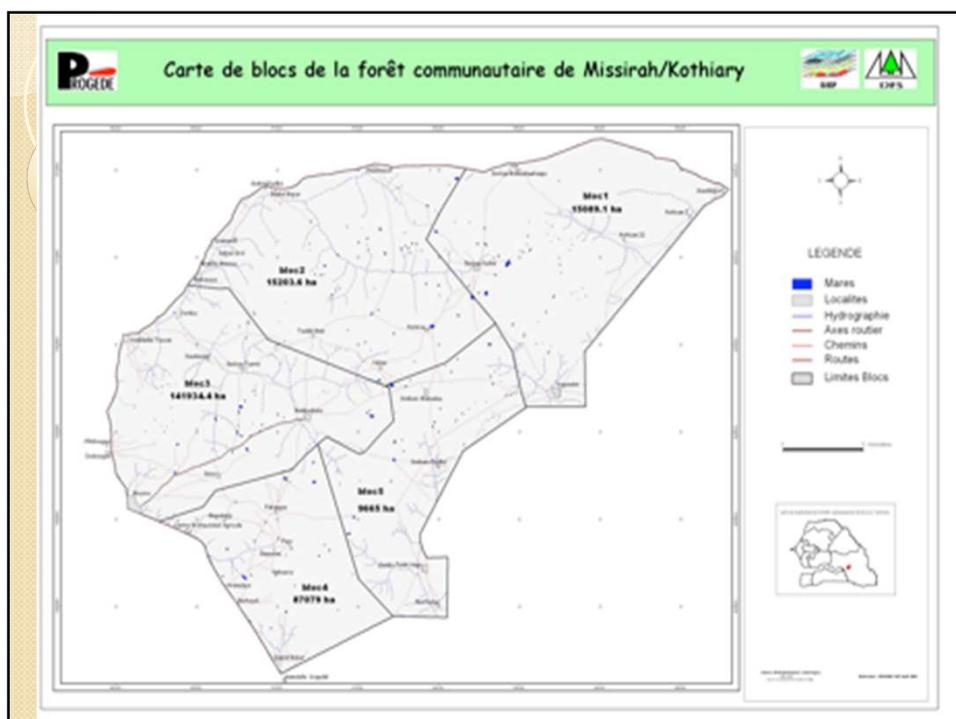
- The power struggles between the Forest Department (FD) and the elected local governments (LGs) during the implementation of PROGEDE in Senegal, highlighting the role of technical claims and political counterclaims on the flux of (technical) domination and (political) resistance in these processes.
- The perpetuation of dominance through various “*repertoires of domination*”—technologies to maintain and expand domination (Poteete & Ribot 2011) is now being challenged through some “*repertoires of resistance*” (Scott 1985; Peluso 1992)

## KEY CONCEPTS

- **Technical claims** refer to any action (through any mechanisms or rules) and narrative that the Forest Department or PROGEDE employs in the name of ‘technical requirement for “better, scientific and productive forest management” (Kumar 2008: 140).
- **Political counterclaims** refer to any act and narrative by which the local governments react to any technical domination attempts or tendency by means of technical claims or requirement

### PROGEDE-I: the uncontested repertoires of domination

Repertoires of domination (RD)	RD effect on power relations	Repertoires of resistance
Misrepresentation of the project goals & FMPs	Taken for granted technical prescriptions	Absent
Dissimulation of the 'legal' implications of FMPs	the LGs' loss of authority over the CFs	Absent
Participation as "indirect rule"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creation of subordinate committees for indirect control over forest</li> <li>- LGs Exclusion from decision-making on charcoal access</li> <li>- Institutional competition = LGs delegitimation</li> </ul>	Absent



### Inter-Phase: Resistance becomes a position of dominance\_ Political Counterclaims\_ I

Repertoires of resistance (RS)	RS effect on power relations	Repertoires of domination (RD)	RD Effect on power relations
<p>Elimination of PROGEDE-I committees Creation of some ad hoc committees representing the LG &amp; the forest blocks</p>	<p>Re-assertion of the LGs authority over forests and institutions thereof</p>	<p>Absence of recognition for the LGs committees “Technicalizing” charcoal access decisions (ex: assessment &amp; quota calculation)  (Political) threatening</p>	<p>Position of weakness Perpetuation of technical prescriptions by all LGs  Involuntary decisions (ex. Signing in 2010-11)</p>

### Inter-Phase: Resistance becomes a position of dominance\_ Political Counterclaims\_ 2

Repertoires of resistance	RS effect on power relations	Repertoires of domination	Effect on power relations
<p>New financial management procedures by LGs Rejection of the “ecocentric, technical prescription (Wulli, Gumbee, Uul)</p>	<p>Delivery of public investments e.g. 20,000 USD in Nieriko in 2011  e.g. Roads and bridges in Wulli</p>	<p>Stigmatization of the LCs as corrupted Instrumentalization of the former committee leaders in battle</p>	<p>Corruption blame game Involuntary decisions (ex.</p>

## PROGEDE-II: Struggling for Power, technical claims versus political counterclaims

Repertoires of domination	RD effects on power relations	Repertoires of resistance	RS effects on power relations
Creation of associations to rule over the CFs— membership denied to LGs members	Privatization of public powers in the name of efficient technical prescriptions implementation	Disagreement with the associations (Withdrawal in Wulli) Intrusion into the associations Sabotage (e.g. Gumbee) “Legalization from below” (e.g. Uul) Plotting to match the rule on membership (e.g. Nieriko)	Increase of bargaining power Making ‘public’ the ‘private’

## CONCLUSIONS

- When the FD is present in the structure of a project, the intervention is technically framed and cannot promote participation; rather it empowers the FD through more resources and legitimacy to perpetuate technical domination.
- Since projects are ephemeral, the asymmetries in power relations are also temporary, and that open rooms for the weak to enter in positions of dominance as in the shutdown of PROGEDE.
- However, even in the presence of projects, the weak actors (LGs) argue for inclusive choices using many repertoires of resistance to counter the repertoires of domination, when they come to know the stakes around the control of forest as in PROGEDE-II—**power relations are dynamic.**
- The mobilization of science in the Senegal’s forest governance is not simply an issue of technical requirements, but a dissimulated political project to recentralization. —**Forestry expertise is REALLY political !**

