



# Conflict prevention in pastoralists' societies in Niger

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- Introduction
- Background of pastoralists' situation in Niger
- The role of civil society in pastoralists' conflicts prevention today:

- Lessons learned

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## Introduction Niger

- Area: 1.267.000 km<sup>2</sup>, but no direct access to the sea
- Niger river length: about 550 km
- Agropastoralism economy: 40% of GNP of Niger republic.
- Pastoralist: 22% of the population are pastoralists 14,7 of population.
- Pastoralists and farmers are very vulnerable because of the restricted access to natural resources:
  - Climat change and Cycles of drought and food crisis.
    - RIESCA and PASPA try to produce responses to these crucial issues which interest to human rights and social development, democracy and decentralization.
    - Understanding the Niger society's own mechanism of peace building

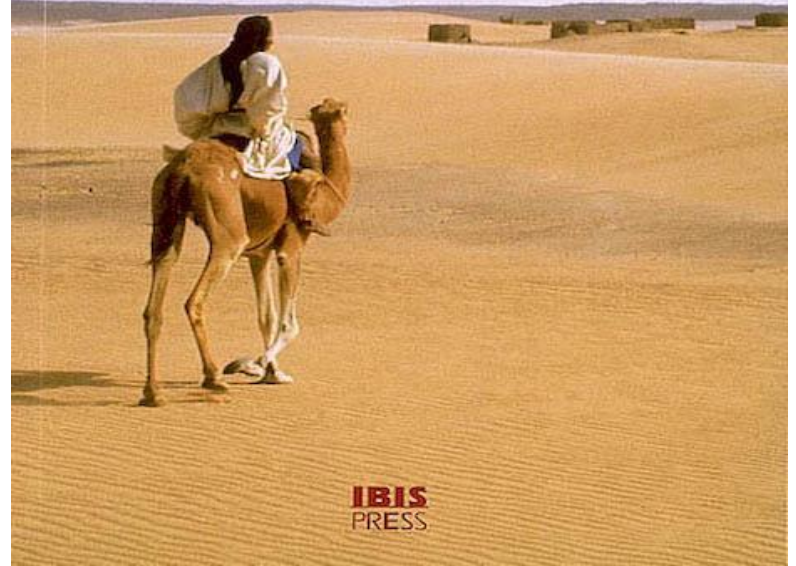


## **Background Pastoralists' situation in Niger Republic**

- In Niger, 4 ethnic groups are considered like pastoralists' society: Fulani, Touaregs, Arabes, Toubous.
- The other part of rural population are the farmers. But things are more complex than it appears. The country contains more agropastoralists.
- These two activities which must stay complementary develop violent relationships in several areas in Africa (Sudan, Mali, Nigeria, Kenya). In Niger for some years with the democracy process, the higher demography, and the weakness of the state, it became too difficult to manage the rivalities between farmers and pastoralists.
- The national approach is trying to handle the mentioned conflict, but the difficulties exist in the management the land rights the equal access to natural resources (grass, water)

Bernard Nantet

# Histoire du Sahara et des Sahariens



# The role of civil society in pastoralists' conflicts prevention today

The role of civil society in pastoralists' conflicts prevention today

- Sensitization (law, factors of conflicts, mediation)
- Training (media, NGOs on this society's challenges)
- Advocacy towards Gvt and EU, AU, UN
- Bringing development project on environment and decentralization through international fund: ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) and ADA (Austrian Development Agency):
  - \* RECPAN (funded by ifa for 1 pilot year)
- Research on pastoralists' presence in local power,
- Training about their rights and participation in local power institutions (3 – 6 November in Niamey),
  - \* EPREP (funded by ADA)
- Equal access to natural resources,
- Fight against desertification
- Reduce analphabetism in pastoralists' community,
- Respect of human rights (especially daughters and boys must go to school)



## \*EPREP: Environment, Poverty Reduce and Peace Building)

- Micro project created in March 2006 during Niger's food crisis to bring a deep solidarity within pastoralists and farmers communities in the rural municipality of Karma by the combination of Environment restore
- 90 persons are employed (70 women and 20 young men).
- 10.000 trees were planted
- Every year the project's activities goes from June to October



# Lessons learned

- To resolve the touareg's rebellion against Niger state (1990 – 1997), the government and its partners propose 4 efficient responses:
- Political response (the decentralization even rebels claim federalism with);
- Economic response: Funding several development projects in Aït and Azzawack areas;
- Social responses: integration of ex-rebels in administration army's forces and paramilitary ones;
- Cultural response: (cultural realities of touaregs in media)
- Absence of pastoralists in the local councils. Their presence in the local power became a new problem of conflict prevention in Niger in which RIESCA and PASPA act with two important projects funded by ifa and ADA
- The full participation of pastoralists to decentralization process becomes a pertinent way of conflict prevention. A large part of Niger's civil society believes in this process.





**Technische Universität Berlin**



# Thank you very much!



**The site of Karma where RIESCA and PASPA restor the environment: this tries grows in a very dry space**



# Visit of the pastoralist and the municipalities' offices

