

Sapienza University of Rome
Bachelor degree in Geographical Sciences.
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Thesis

The role of the FAO's ERP (Education for Rural People) partnership in the fight for the food security and in territory sustainable management. Case study: the African country of The Gambia.

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Key aspects and purposes

- *Food Security* and *Sustainable Development*
- FAO's partnership “ *Education for Rural People*”
- The African country of The Gambia. Food Security and territory sustainable management
- *Data, statistics and graphics* about projects and results in the Gambian land
- The *Importance of Education* and *Training* in the development of rural population capacities

Food Security: the international scenery



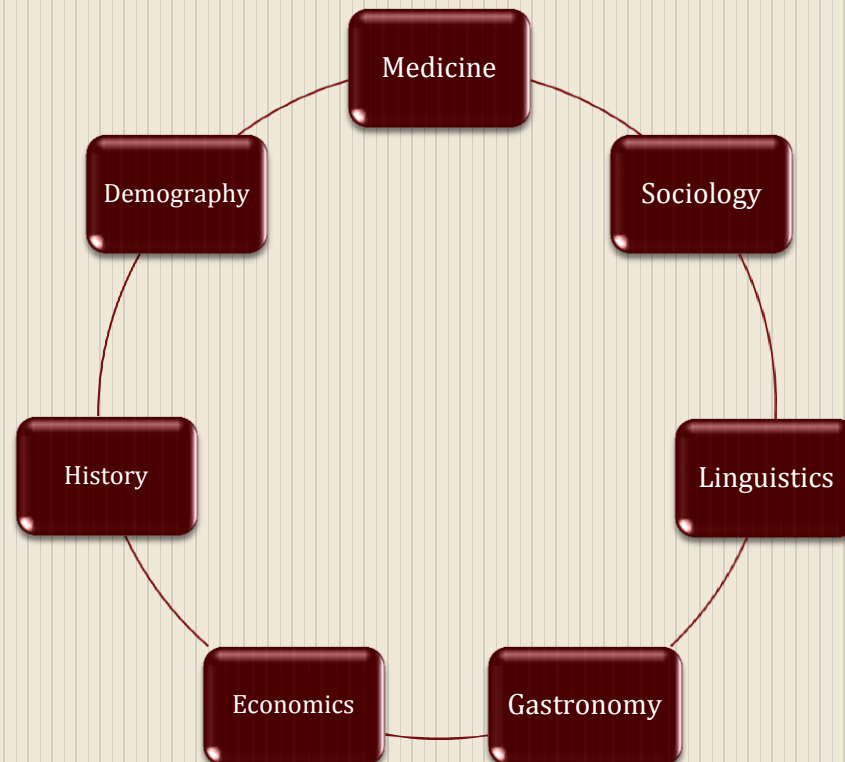
Source: Whataplantknows blogspot

- The **human beings** need to ingest food in order to live. From it they get energy to move and use the brain.
- The **tissues** grow up and develop because of the constant ingestion of food.
- In the **nutritional network** between plants, herbivores and carnivores, there is a decrease of the biomass, the total mass of all living organisms. In fact, a food's part gives energy to the vital processes and then it dissipates, even if not destroyed, with the form of heat.
- **Nutrition** is a base parameter to value the health system because it's connected to the per capita income, to the health and to the culture.
- Nations have got their **nutritional tradition**. A lot of countries identify themselves in a typical food, which has got typical, historical and religious connotations.
- Food has got an **economic value** and men can do wars to control it. Food production is a world business.

Nutritional Geography is a branch of medical geography and studies the different interferences that influence a human group and the single man in the group in the eating habits. Then it studies the eating habits distribution and the eating possibilities of the population (Palagiano, 2008)

Nutritional Geography

(Source: Palagiano et al. 2009)



Food Security: aspects

- To have **healthy food**
- To have **enough food**
- **Nutrition, agriculture** and **environment** are inseparable
- The **food supply** is an important way to guarantee peace and social cohesion, in addition to survivorship
- To do **rural and nutritional policies** according to the analysed country.



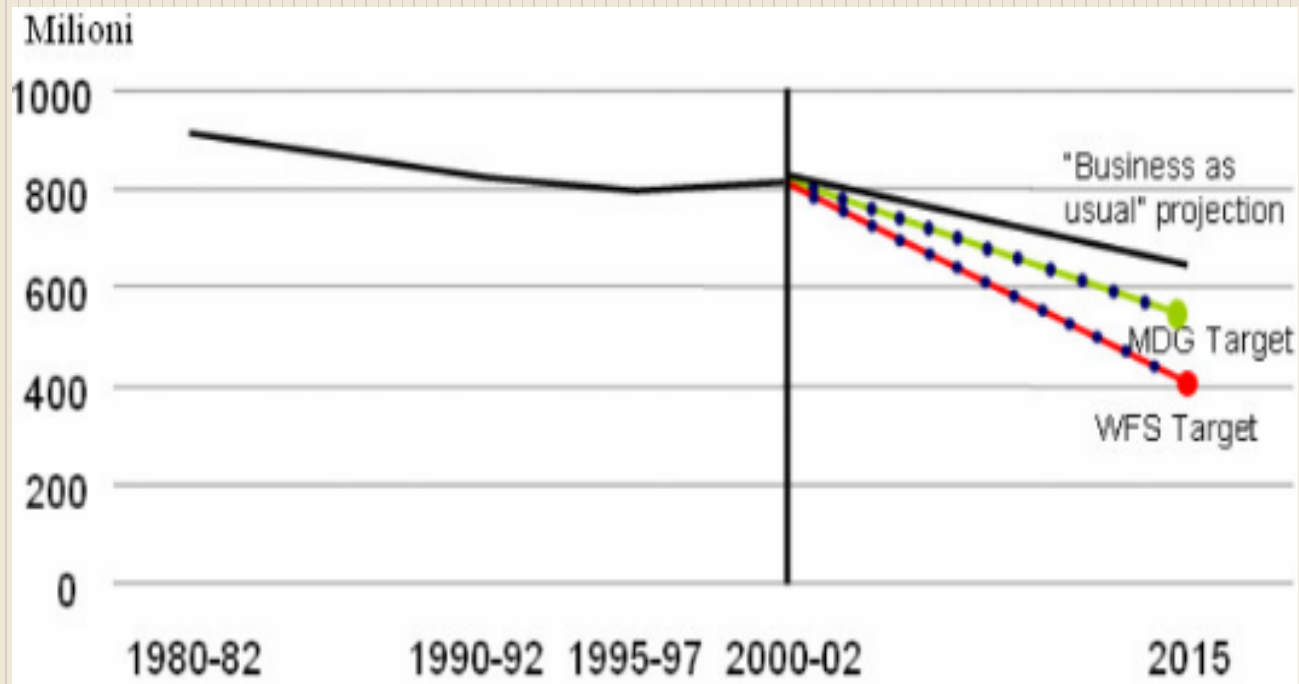
Source: ISPA CNR.

Food security: definitions and numbers



- The **food security** exists when all people in every time have physical and economical access to a sufficient, safe and nutritional amount of food, to satisfy their dietetic and alimentary needs living an active and healthy life (FAO, 1996).
- **Hungry** is the most extreme expression of poverty and human privation. Hungry in a abundance world is a moral outrage and represent a violation of one of the elementary human rights: the nutrition right (FAO, 2002).
- Today **963 million** of persons suffer hungry (FAO). Poor people suffer especially the crisis, the inflation and climatic changes.
- Every **5 seconds** a child dies because of hungry and undernourishment in a world where food is abundant (FAO, 2004).
- In 1996 the **World Food Summit** (WFS) has set the objective to halve the undernourished number by 2015.
- In November 2009 WFS took place in Rome and **FAO** explained the worsening of the situation due to the absence of the political will to resolve the food security problem.

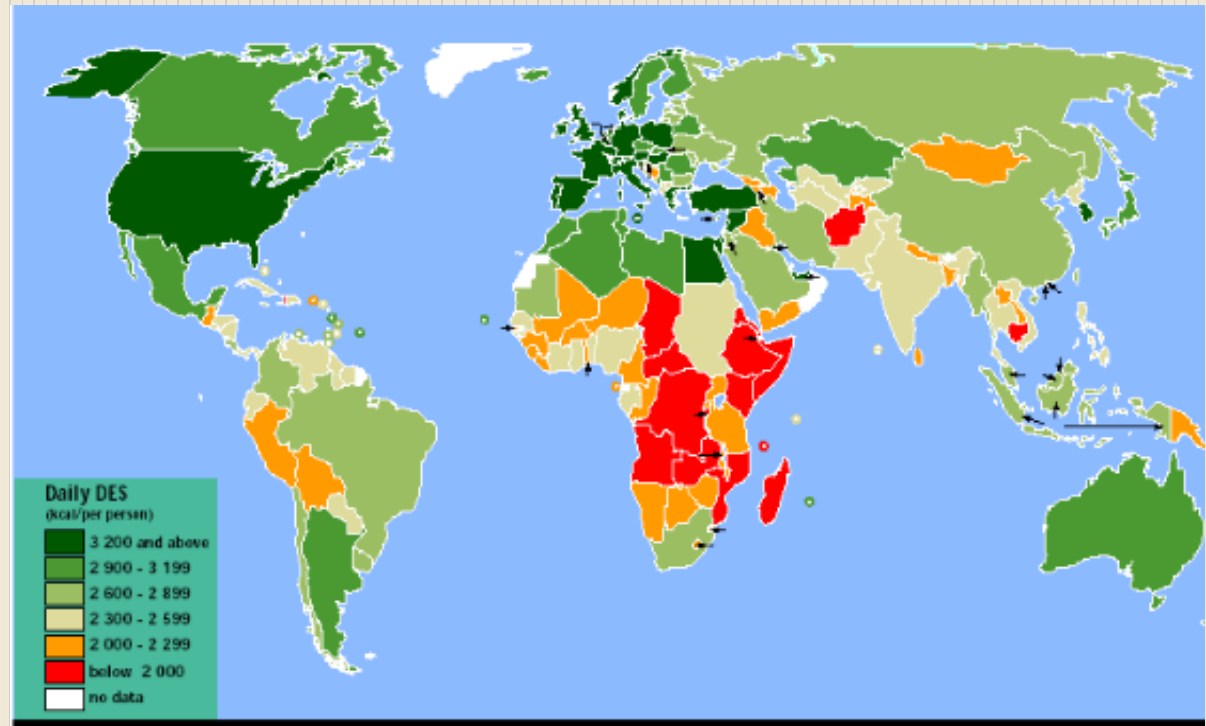
Trend of the number of undernourished and progress in perspective of 2015



Source: FAO, 2003
http://ww2.unime.it/sidea2007/relazioni/economia%20rurale%20nei%20paesi%20in%20via%20di%20sviluppo/SASSI_SIDEA_2007.pdf

DES Index (Dietary Energy supply index)

DES index classifies countries according to the seriousness of the problem of hunger and malnutrition. It's an indicator of pro – capita supply energy, through the measurement of the average individual availability of food in the country considered.



Source: FAO, 2005

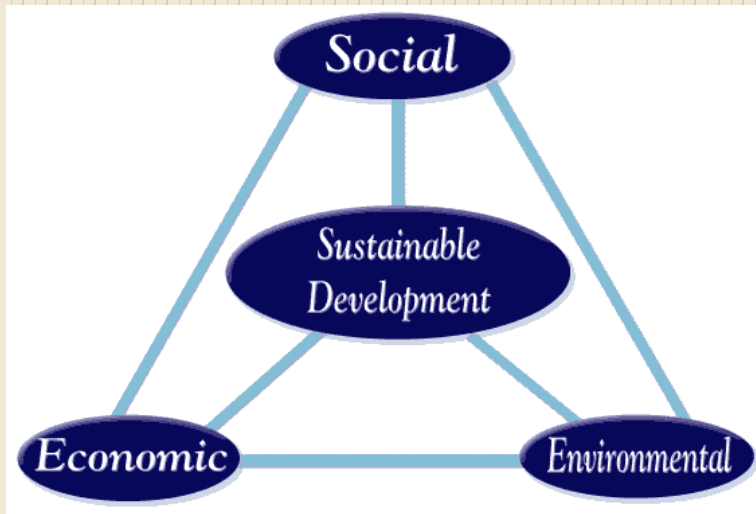
<http://geostasto.eco.uniroma1.it/didattica/matdid/geo/celant/geosvil/modulo5.pdf>

The concept of rural

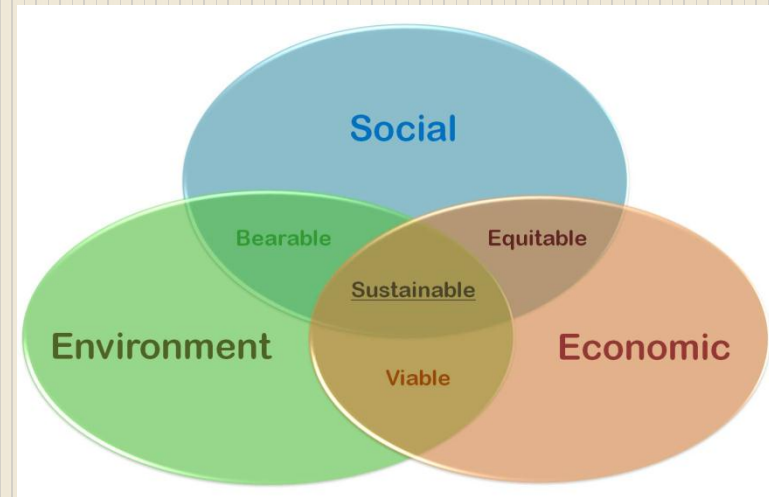


- **Rural concept** has a lot of nuances and implications. The nations may have different views regarding the perception of rural areas and it is not easy to compare ideas from social and ethnic backgrounds often diametrically opposed.
- The definition of rural areas should meet two criteria: one related to place of residence and land settlement pattern, and the other related to the type of work that residents engage in.
- Rural is the **morphological and territorial character** of an area, while agrarian includes the economic and legal character of agricultural activities.
- Usually rural areas are vast areas of open land, characterized by low population density. These areas are used for the primary sector.
- **United Nations** define rural population as the difference between the total population and the urban population. They depend exclusively on agriculture.

The sustainable development



Source: HSC Csu Edu



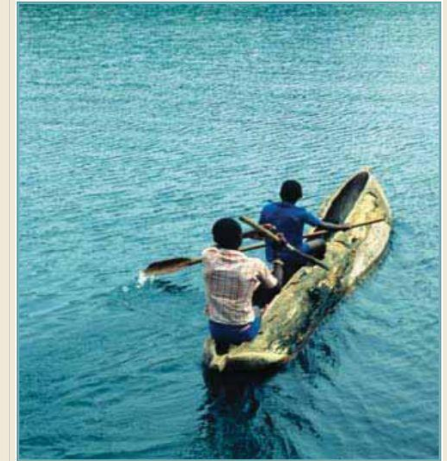
Source:
TheSustainableLe
ader.org

- *"A **development** that satisfy the needs of the present time without compromising the ability of future generations to Satisfy Their needs "(World Commission on Environment and Development)*
- A society can achieve the goal of sustainability by respecting both intergenerational equity and intra-generational equity
- In general, sustainable development is the economic development that lasts over the long term
- **Weak sustainability**: perfect substitutability between different forms of capital
- **Strong sustainability**: some elements of the stock of natural capital can not be replaced by man-made capital

FAO'S partnership ERP (Education for Rural People)

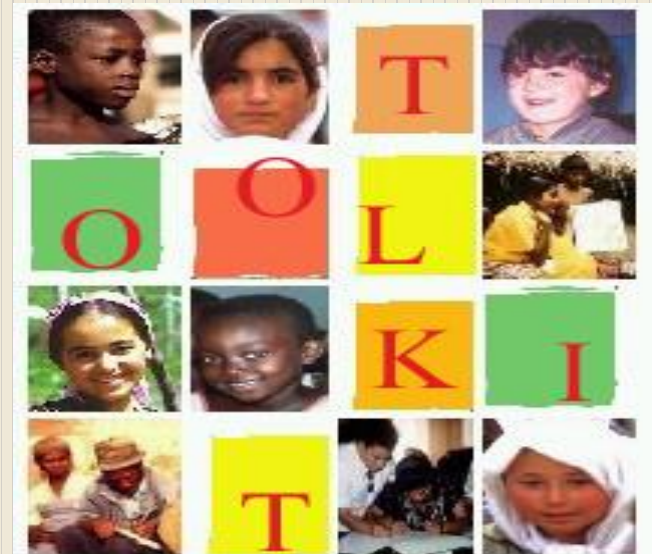
- ERP is a **political strategy** of FAO in partnership with UNESCO, aiming at reducing the current number of 963 million people affected by food insecurity.
- ERP was launched in September 3, 2002 during the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In 2008, ERP has already reached 350 members.
- ERP aims to raise the standard of rural households exposed to chronic poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and improper territory management.
- ERP researches new guidelines in the future of rural development by encouraging a holistic approach.
- Lavinia Gasperini (FAO Senior Officer, Agricultural Education) is the coordinator of the partnership

Photography by Lavinia Gasperini



Marcello Di Lonardo

Source:FAO



Source:
<http://www.fao.org/erp/en/>

ERP key asset: partnership aspects



Source: Induskids.com

- **Access to education:** to remove school fees, to provide teaching materials and to think about public transports.
- **Sustainable agricultural education:** education for rural people to give them a specific work formation to guarantee a future for their countries.
- **Quality of education:** high level and diversified education.
- **Education for atypical students:** training and formation also for ex child-soldiers, workers-children, nomads, elderly people, ethnic minorities, refugees, homeless people, disabled and sick people.
- **Food security:** to guarantee meals and food ration for rural children.
- **Decentralization of activities:** to reduce costs and countries bureaucracy.
- **Gender:** break down the barriers in rural villages



Considerations on Sub-Saharan Africa

- In sub-Saharan Africa the roles of governments in the provision of agricultural and food products have been strongly debated and challenged by the local population in recent decades. Then the demands for participation in these areas increase, especially by the private sector, such as NGOs.
- Towards the end of the 70s of the last century it was realized that progress was impeded by the lack of clear policies about agriculture, food and the environment (Wallace et al, 1996)
- Despite the efforts to integrate women, there is still a male prejudice and women are always relegated to roles of second order, which do not enrich their curricula (Wallace e Nilson, 1997)
- The improvement of the poor training of agricultural professionals has unfortunately not been seen in the past as a priority and agricultural development in developing countries requires major changes in the system and more attention to the market, to the productivity and to the competitiveness (Van Crowder, 1998)
- Essential steps for the revival of the extensive agricultural studies programme are the **analysis and the formation** of involved people (Zinnah et al., 1998)



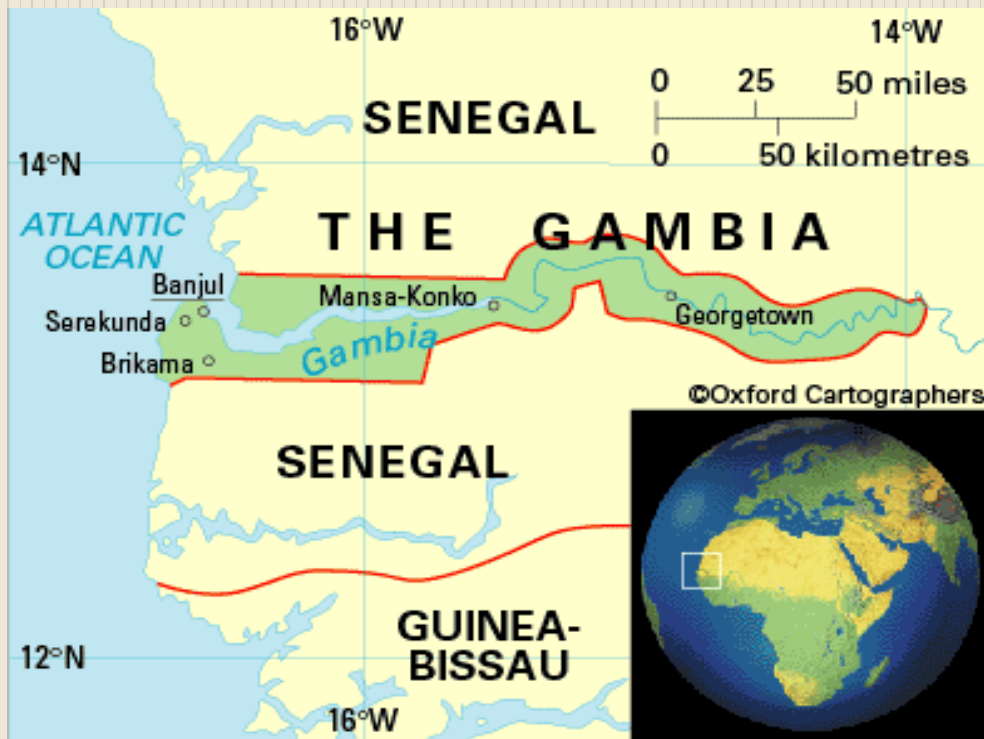
Source: https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-jf3BsZ0vYwQ/TWjB3Qqy5DI/AAAAAAAAACNk/rTFPiQWvrvs/s1600/1_111.jpeg%29



ERP

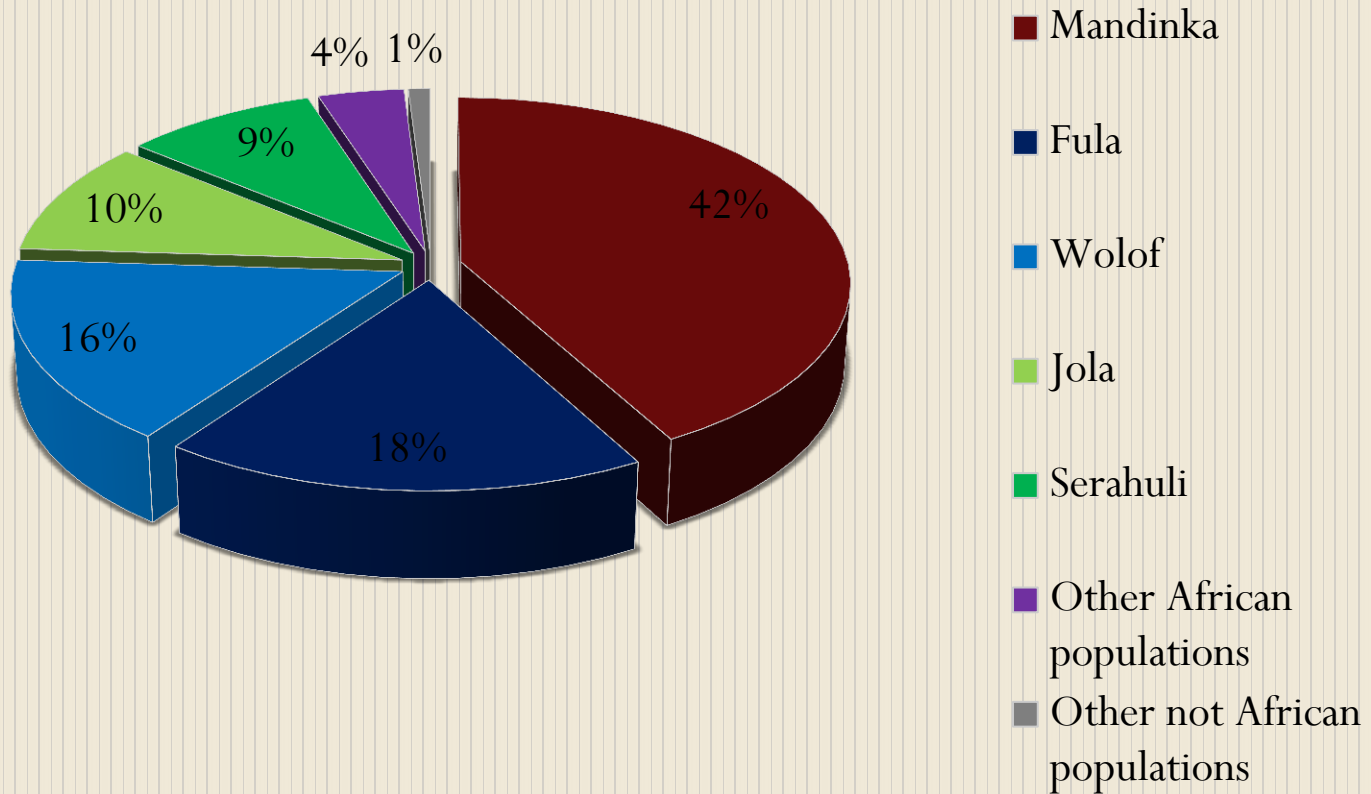
The African country of The Gambia

The Republic of The Gambia is a country of Western Africa. Its territory is completely surrounded by Senegal, except for the point where the Gambia River enters the Atlantic Ocean. It is an independent nation since 1965 and a presidential republic since 1996. The capital city is Banjul (46700 inhabitants).



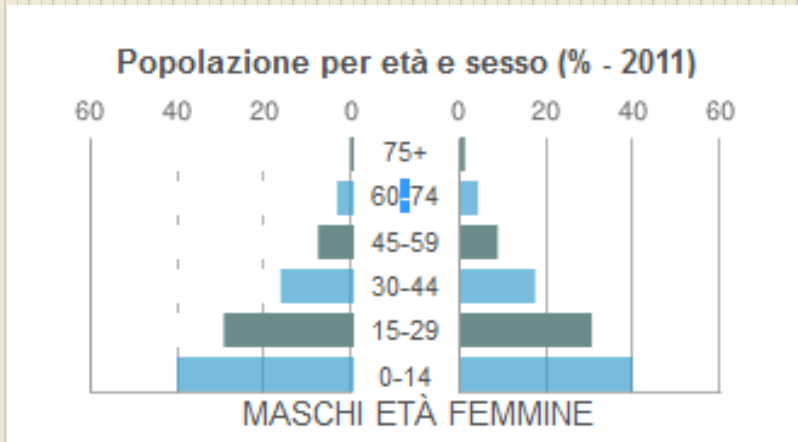
Source: bandiere-nazionali.it

Ethnic composition of The Gambia

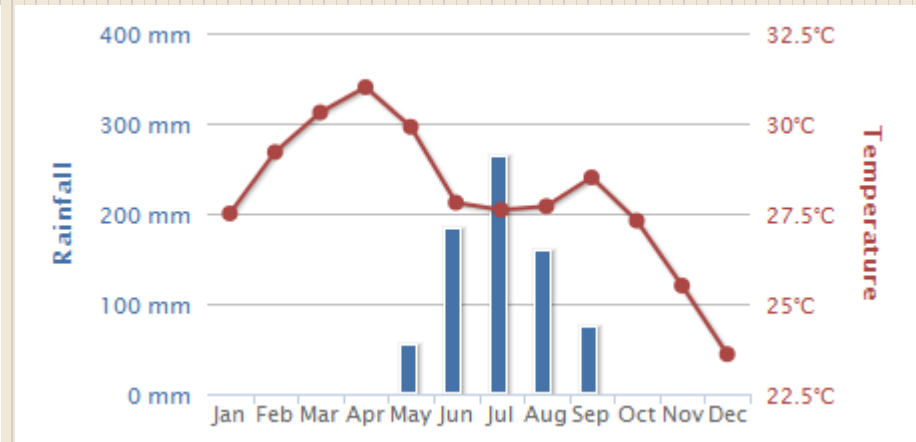


Data source:
DeAgostini

Graphics and statistics about The Gambia

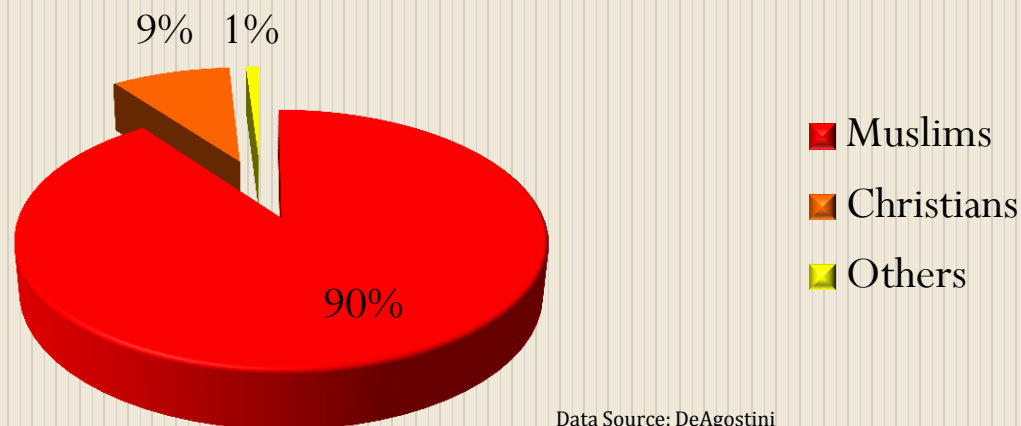


Source: DeAgostini



Source: The World Bank

Gambia's religions



Data Source: DeAgostini

FAO and ERP in The Gambia

FAO is based in Gambia since 1979. Currently 8 representatives are working there.

FAO was fundamental for the development of natural resources, agriculture and food security with more than 120 projects realised on the territory.

FAO maintains a dynamic presence in the Gambian territory, having excellent close relationships with the major ministries of the country, with local communities and civil society.



Source: CoinFAO



Source: CoinFAO

Babagana Ahmadu is FAO representative in the Gambian territory.

1 - Eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

GTFS/GAM /025/ITA	Food Security through Commercialisation of Agriculture (FSCA) in the Gambia	2009	2012
GCP /GAM/026/EC	Improving food security through crop production intensification and school feeding program	2013	2015
TCP/GAM/3402	TCP Facility	2012	2012
GCP /RAF/461/SPA	"Building Capacity of ECOWAS for effective CAADP Implementation in West Africa"	2012	2015

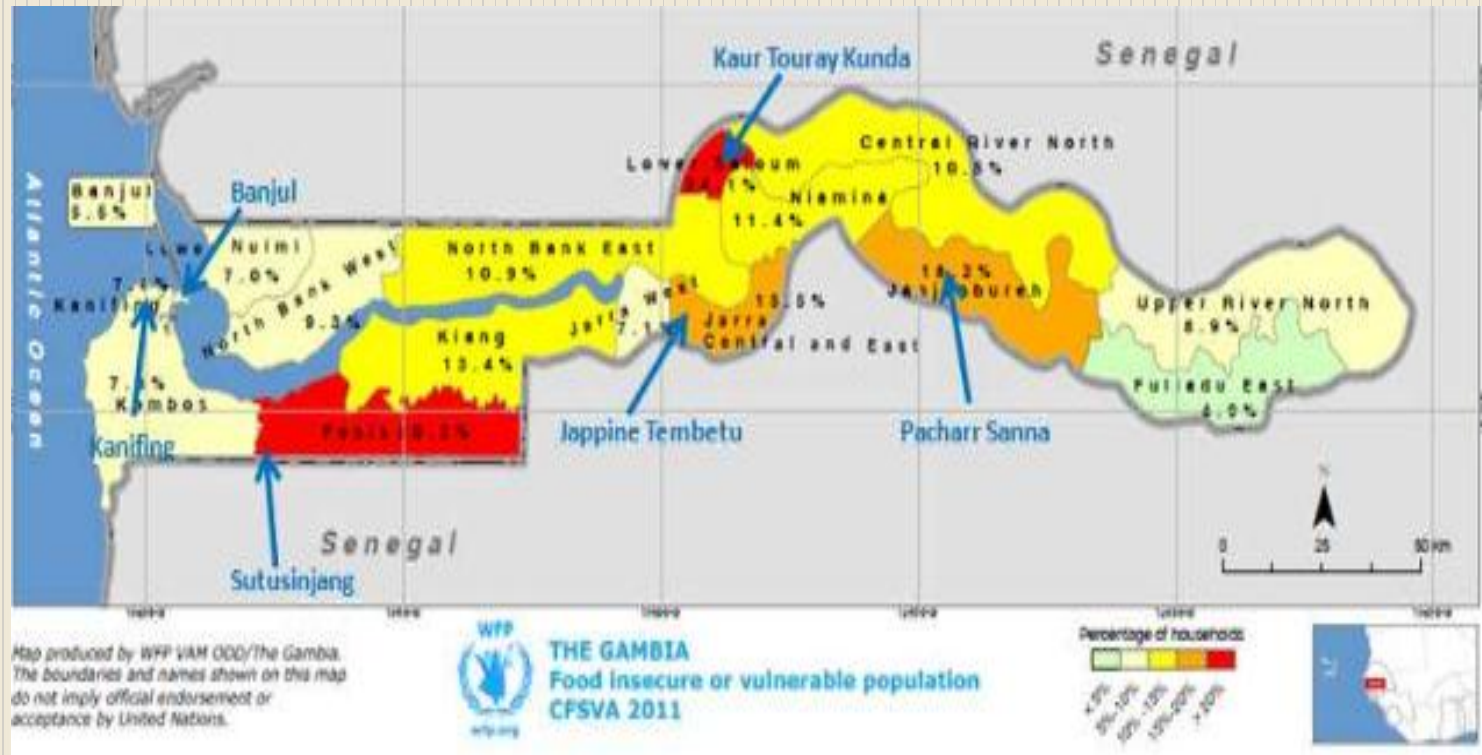
Marcello Di Lonardo

Education and Training for Forestry (ERP project) aims to develop capacity for the rural populations of The Gambia.

Source: FAO Gambia
country profile

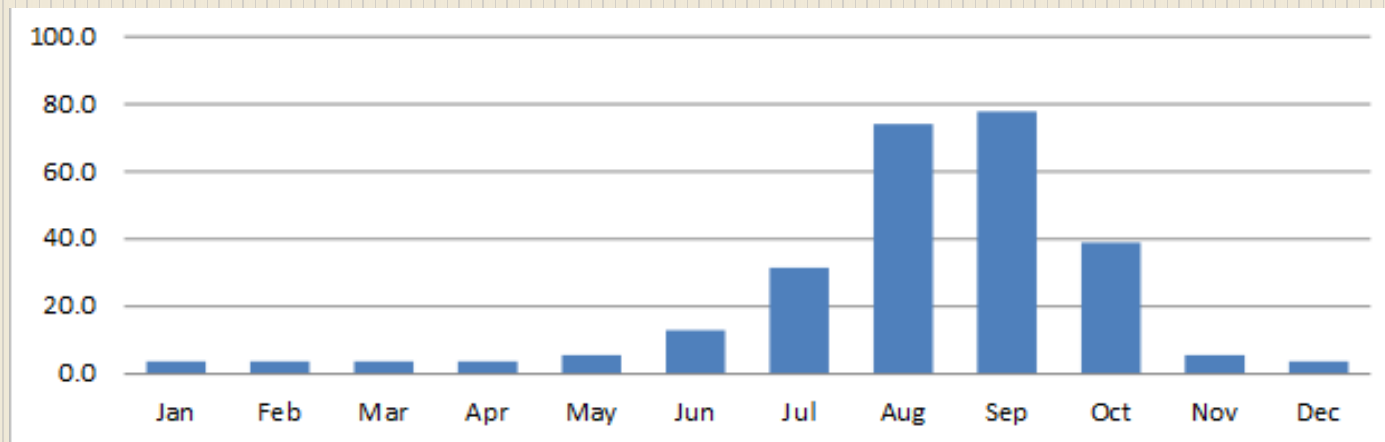
Food Security in The Gambia. Activities and results

- Agriculture is the main food source of livelihood for the majority of the population. The agricultural sector accounts for about 29% of the total GDP of the Gambia. 29% of the territory of the Gambia (2,850 km²) is considered arable, but less than 1% is currently under irrigation (20 km²). The majority of Gambians have access to land: 66.1% of households use the land, among these 77.5% are owners, for agricultural purposes, (FAO).
- The 4 main products of Gambian crops are: peanuts, millet, rice and corn (Comprehensive Food Security and



Food Security in The Gambia. Activities and results

- In **2011** food stocks lasted over 5 months only for a third of households . Among these, only 13% reached a year with their products.
- On average, farmers expect that the products of a harvest last for about 2-3 months.
- The constant **migrations** of boys able to work, are a huge damage to familiar agriculture.



% of households with difficulties in finding food during 2011. Source: WFP.

Food Security through the commercialisation of agriculture. FAO Project 2009 – 2012

Objective: increase agricultural productivity in a sustainable way, market the production and improve the income of small farmers and agricultural organisations.

Areas involved: North Bank, Central River.

Results: increase of livelihoods for rural populations and greater food security. 12,000 people have benefited from the project. 12 people were hired as technical staff. 2 offices were built and 40 agricultural schools were opened to educate rural people.

Technical Cooperation Programme. FAO Project 2012

Objective: support the Gambian government

Results: supply of rice, fertilizers and other products to increase the value of rice itself, basic food for the nutrition of the population.

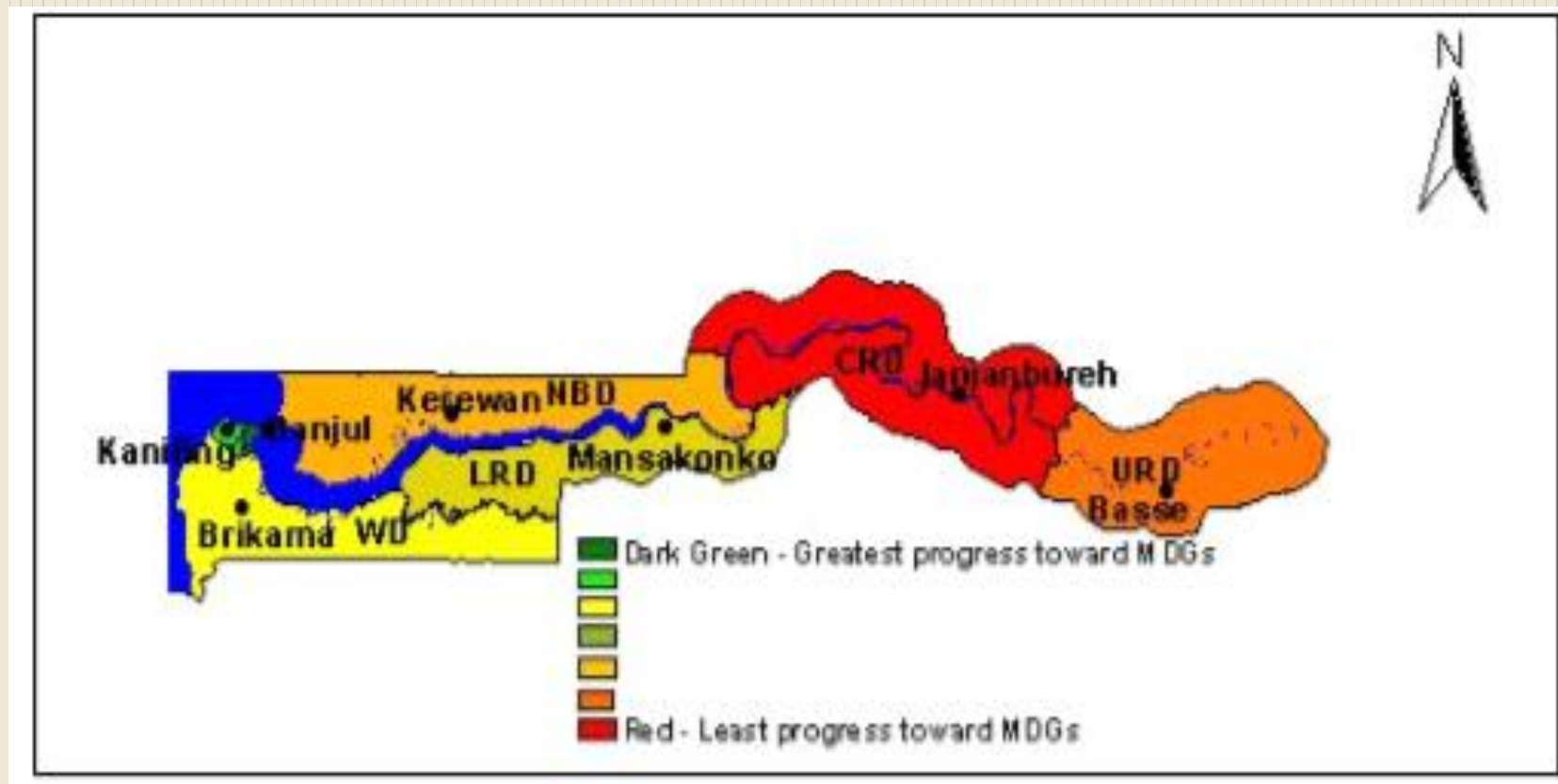
Food security through the intensification of crop production and nutrition program at school. FAO Project 2013 - 2015

Objective: improve food security and reduce hunger in the country, helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Enhance agricultural production with an emphasis on local products.

Involved Areas: some districts of the country.

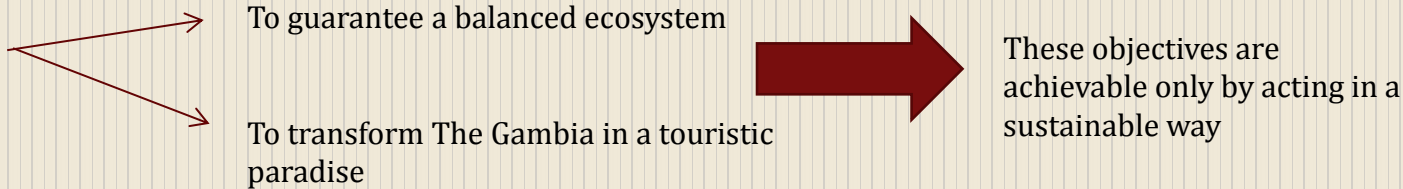
Results: at the moment there are benefits for small farmers and for children, which are receiving a real education for rural people. These are bases for the country future.

Gambian under 5 years old children underweight



Source: UNDP 2004-2005

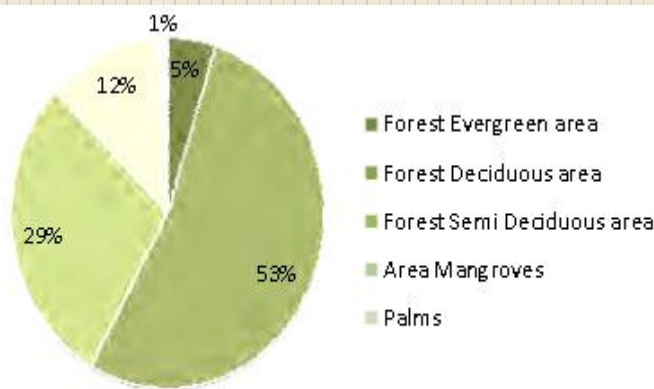
Sustainable territory management in The Gambia. Activities and results

- The Gambia's approach to sustainable development is oriented towards **the National Vision 2020**. With this expression Gambians indicate their socio-economic aspirations for the near future.
- The **ambitions** are
 - To guarantee a balanced ecosystem
 - To transform The Gambia in a touristic paradise

These objectives are achievable only by acting in a sustainable way
- One of the possible approaches to improve the productivity and the sustainable agricultural development is the strategy for the **management of soil fertility** (National Report on Sustainable Development).
- **28 October 2008**: beginning of the Technical Cooperation Programme which provides the technical collaboration between FAO and the Gambian government in the sustainable forests management.

Education and Training for Forestry (ERP project)

- Education on **sustainable forests management** in the Gambia.
- In 2001, the Community Forestry Programme of the Department of Forests of the Gambia, with the support of the forestry Gambian - German (GGFP) project, began the implementation of the **MA & D** approach (Approach for market analysis and development) of FAO in an area of the Western Division of the country. The area included 11 villages who ran 11 traits of forest.
- As part of the ERP methodology MA & D is carried out in 3 phases: - Assessment of the situation - Identification of products, markets and marketing perspectives - Projects for the sustainable development of areas considered.
- Objectives: To **build the capacities** of forestry workers at the field level , committing them to enhance their own territory and to detect illegal exploitation of forest soil. Learn the connection between sustainable forest management and income opportunities. Introduce the concept of community forestry.
- After first improvement the project was extended also to the Central River Division and to the Lower River Division.



Source: FAO

Scientific name	Common name	% of tot. trees
Combretum glutinosum	jambakatango	13.9%
Terminalia macroptera	wolo	8.5%
Mitragyna inermis	jungo	8.3%
Pterocarpus erinaceus	keno	7.3%
Cordyla pinnata	duto	5.9%
Prosopis africana	kembo	5.3%
Elaeis guineense	tengo	4.8%
Lannea acida	bembo-fingo	4.3%
Bombax costatum	bunkungo	3.5%
Rhizophora mangle	mankwo	2.5%

Source: FAO

Education and Training for Forestry

(ERP project)

Results: In the 26 villages actively employing the Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) methodology of FAO, 11 products are being marketed effectively: fuel wood, logs/timber, honey, netto, palm-oil, handicrafts from Rhun palm-based products, Rhun palm splits, ecotourism, forest walks, tree nurseries and kembo posts.

By the end of 2004, 484 members of the interested groups were engaged in MA&D activities. 60.7 % lived in the Western Division where 121 people were working in fuel wood-related enterprises.

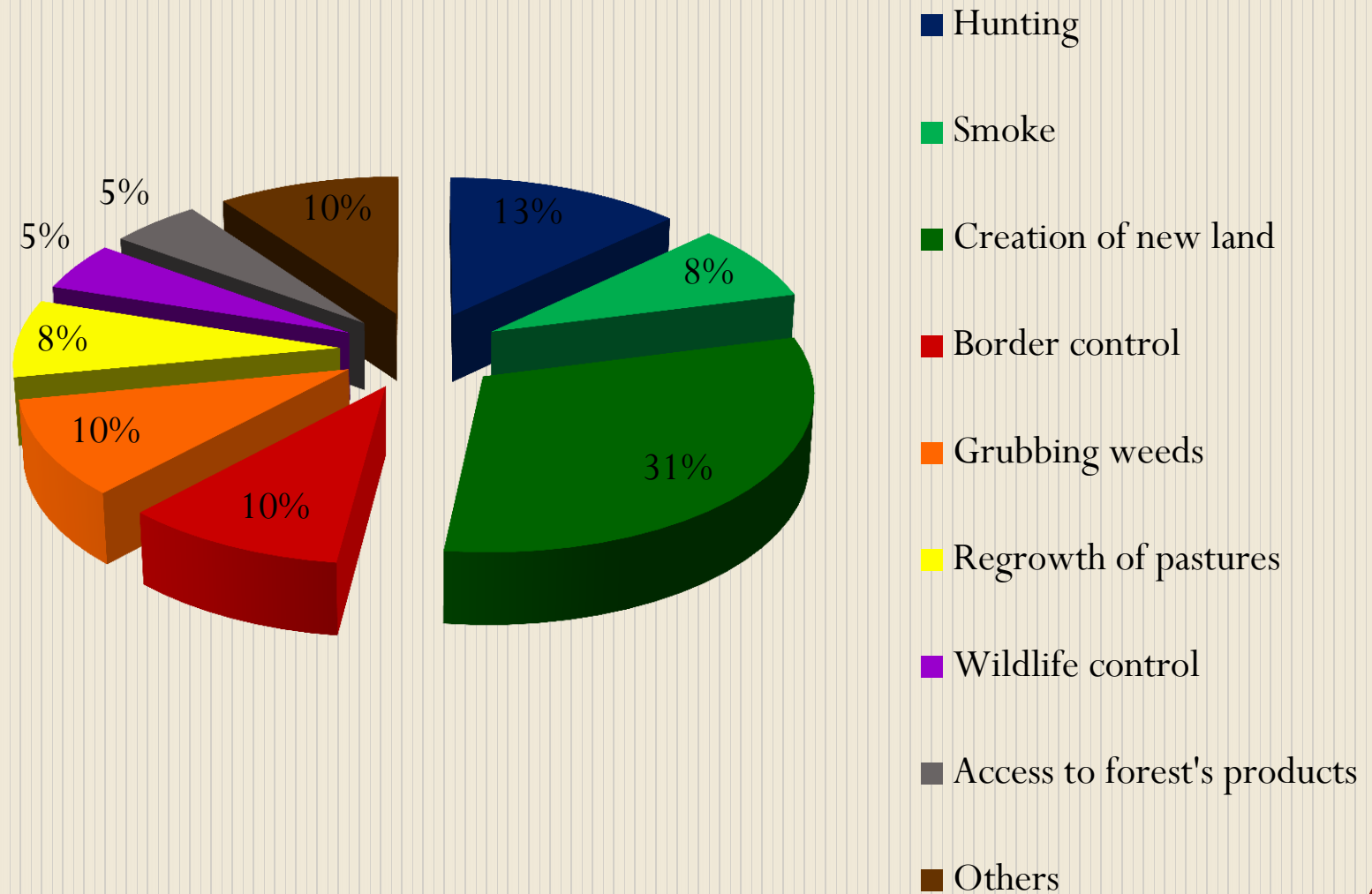
The Lower River Division accounted for 18.8 % of the total number of interested group members, and the Central River Division the remaining 20.5 %.

Other important achievements in the following years are the realization of a number of goals stated in the Forest Act and the increase of economic incentives for local rural forest users.

It is important to underline the education impact of the programme, especially regarding the development of capacity building of the rural population.

Furthermore social impacts like the increased attention to rural women and positive ecological impacts to the Gambian environment, must be considered among the achieved goals.

Causes of bush fires in the forests of Gambia (Data Source: FAO)



Is one of the most powerful partnership to eliminate hungry

Is a community of practice in the field of education and training, skills development and sharing of knowledge for agriculture and food security

ERP

Is a *political strategy* which need support and empowerment

Is the *future* of rural people

Thanks for your attention