



# PROJECT NEWS COMMUNITY SURVEYS

**UTILIZING REMOTE SENSING DATA, GIS, QUICKBIRD SATELLITE IMAGERY AND A HIGHLY TRAINED TEAM OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONALS, MDL IS PLEASED TO HAVE SUPPORTED AN IMPORTANT SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAND, ASSET AND LIVELIHOOD SURVEY AT BOTH ITS PROJECTS IN SENEGAL, WEST AFRICA.**

The aim of this project was to describe the nature and extent of land use in project areas, to identify and register ownership and use of assets, and to establish a livelihood baseline of households.



Both projects were surveyed over a two month period that commenced in March 2007. The study area for the Sabodala Project encompassed the settlements of Sabodala, Faloumbo, Dambankoto, Medina, Makhana and Bransan. The study area for the Grand Cote Project extended from the town of Fass Boye in the south to Lompoul in the north (initial 5-7yrs of the 25yr mine life).

The study teams comprised staff from Earth Systems (an Australian consultancy), Tropica (a Senegalese environmental and social consultancy), Senegal contract personnel, MDL community relations representatives and local Sous-Prefets.

The study involved consultation with village elders and key informants to obtain an understanding of livelihood, land administration and use, social organisation, development and history. Livelihood surveys, women's focus groups, in field measurements and registration of land and assets and land use mapping based on visual interpretation of high resolution satellite imagery were implemented along with in field confirmation with local villagers.

*Some interesting findings from within the Sabodala Project Development Area:*

- Almost 50% of the population is under 15 years of age. Less than 10% of the population is greater than 50 years of age.
- People have inhabited the area within and around the project area for at least 80 years.
- The attainment of education among the population is very low.
- Upwards of 65% of the population are farmers.
- Typical semi-subsistence forms of agriculture include rotational cropping of corn, groundnut, sorghum and millet during the wet season.
- Artisanal mining provides at least 15% of non-agricultural sourced cash income and 100% in the case of Dambankoto village.
- Principal forms of land use include rotational cropping, grazing, foraging and artisanal mining.
- Land ownership is principally traditional.

*Some interesting findings from within the Grand Cote Project Development Area:*

- A staggering 83% of the dune population is less than 15 years of age and less than 2% of the population is above 50 years of age.
- On the basis of village consultation it was reported that people of Peul ethnicity have inhabited the dunes for upwards of 100 years.
- There are no French schools available to populations on the dune.
- The principal livelihood of the project area is commercial market gardening
- More than 60% of the population own a horse or donkey to transport produce and farming materials to and from market.
- 95% of males and 78% of females classify themselves as farmers.

**THE STUDY PROVIDES MDL WITH THE NECESSARY DATA TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT SUITABLE SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND COMPENSATORY PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES. THIS WILL ENSURE THE ONGOING VIABILITY OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY AFFECTED BY MDL'S PROJECTS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.**