

Transhumant practices and its effects on natural resource management in the Sudano-Sahelian Zone of Mali

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Key research activities

- Documentation of local perceptions on transhumant practices
- Identification of advantages and disadvantages of transhumant practices in southern region of Mali
- Assessment of impact of transhumant practices on natural resource management

Results and main findings

- Koutiala district was a transit point for transhumant herders while Bougouni district was a destination point for many transhumant herders
- More than 90 % interviewed in Bougouni and Koutiala stated that there have been more southerly movements by transhumant herders into the Sudano-Sahelian Zone of Mali over the past two decades (Figure 1).
- Advantage of transhumant practices in the study area were: manure deposition on farmers crop fields, availability of animals for purchase at low cost, availability of milk, local trade
- Disadvantage of transhumant practices and impact on NRM in southern region of Mali : abusive cutting of trees, damage to crop, Increase in conflict , natural resource degradation
- Distance travelled by transhumant herders was positively associated with the transhumant herd size.
- From farmers and pastoralist herders perceptions, transhumance was no longer a practice dedicated to Fulani group as it was the case in the past. Today, the transhumant practices concern diverse ethnic groups.

How this work would continue in Africa RISING phase 2

- Assessing the effect of climate change on transhumant pastoralism
- Identifying the role of livestock mobility in the livelihoods strategies of rural population in Mali
- Mapping and demarcation of pastoral corridors

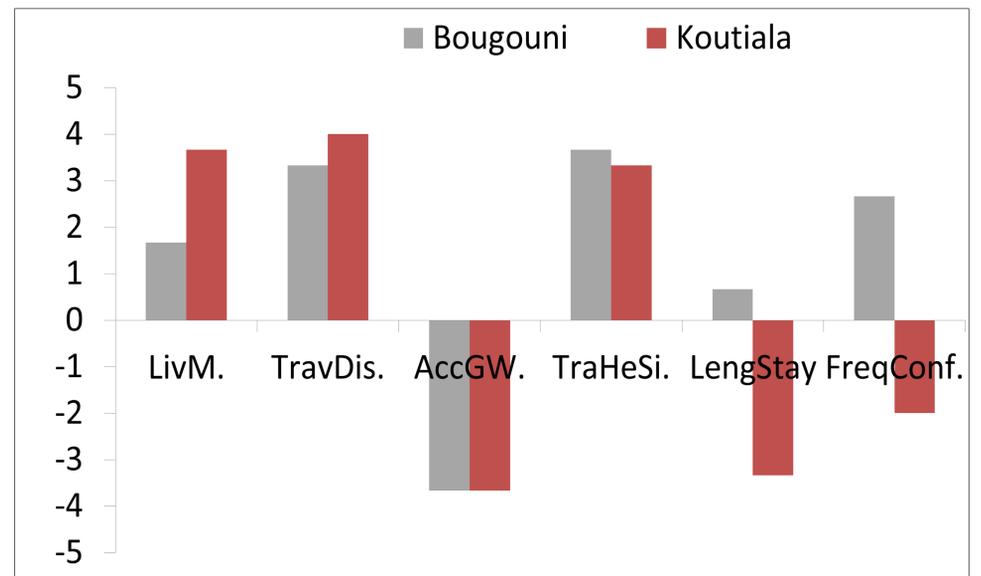


Fig. 1: Trend of transhumant pastoralism in the southern region of Mali in the past 30 years.

Magnitude of change: 0 =none; 1=low; 2=average;3= High; 4= Very high

LiveM.: Livestock mobility ; **TravDis.:** Distance travelled; **AccGW.:** accessing grazing area and water points; **TraHeSize:** Transhumant herd size; **LengStay:** Length of stay;; **FreqConf.:** Frequency of conflict.

Implications of the research for generating development outcomes

This research will help to identify the key options to enhance the sustainability of transhumant practices in Mali

Current partnerships and future engagements for out scaling

- Partnerships with the Association Malienne d'Eveil pour le Développement Durable (AMEDD)