

Faidherbia parklands under threat in South-West Niger

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Many authors have emphasized the importance of *Faidherbia albida* Parklands (FaP) in Niger, and have described their restoration by Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) (Montagne et al, 1996; Larwanou et al, 2010). A study was conducted in 2018 to check the parklands biodiv. status in the Niamey region. In 3 villages, a FaP area of 15,000 ha was mapped and an inventory was carried out on 75 plots of 1 ha. A survey was conducted to assess the importance of wood in household consumption. Results show that: FaP are poor in trees diversity (24 sp.), natural regeneration has even fewer species (21 sp.), tree density is low (5-8 / ha), trees with a diameter greater than 40 cm and less than 20 cm are rare (Fig 1) and many old trees are dead (4-8% of all trees in 2 villages) (Boubacar et al, 2017). In 2 villages, wood has become so scarce that people must use palm leaves or straw for domestic energy. It is therefore estimated that the efforts to restore the FaP by ANR either were not continued over the past 20 years or were ineffective.

Further studies are urgently needed to understand the ecological and socio-economic determinants of the degradation of this AFS that is vital for the populations. A large-scale policy then must be launched to support the restoration of trees in the landscapes, one that probably should include training, the shared and secure management of territories, and subsidies for community forest management and the restoration of parks by ANR and plantations.

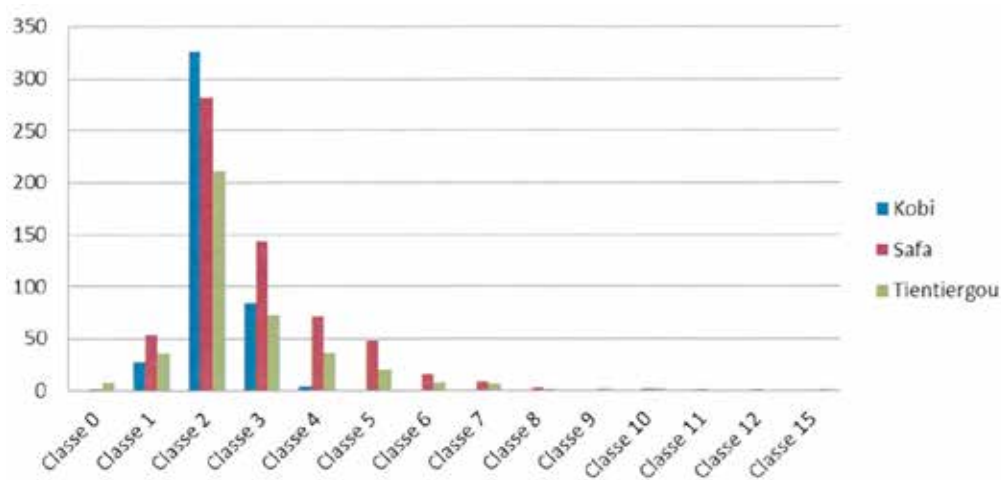


Figure 1: Distribution of trees (Y axis: number of individuals) by diameter class (Class 0 = 0 to 9 cm, class 1 = 10 to 19 cm, etc.) and village, over 75 ha.

Keywords: Sahel, Agroforestry systems, *Acacia albida*, Degradation, Restoration.

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