



Faidherbia parklands under threat in South-West Niger

BOUBACAR Abdoul- Karim¹, GAFSI Mohamed², SIBELET Nicole³, ADAM Toudou⁴, MONTAGNE Pierre⁵, PELTIER Régis⁵



Background and aims



Many authors have emphasized the importance of *Faidherbia albida* Parklands 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 current status in the Niamey region.

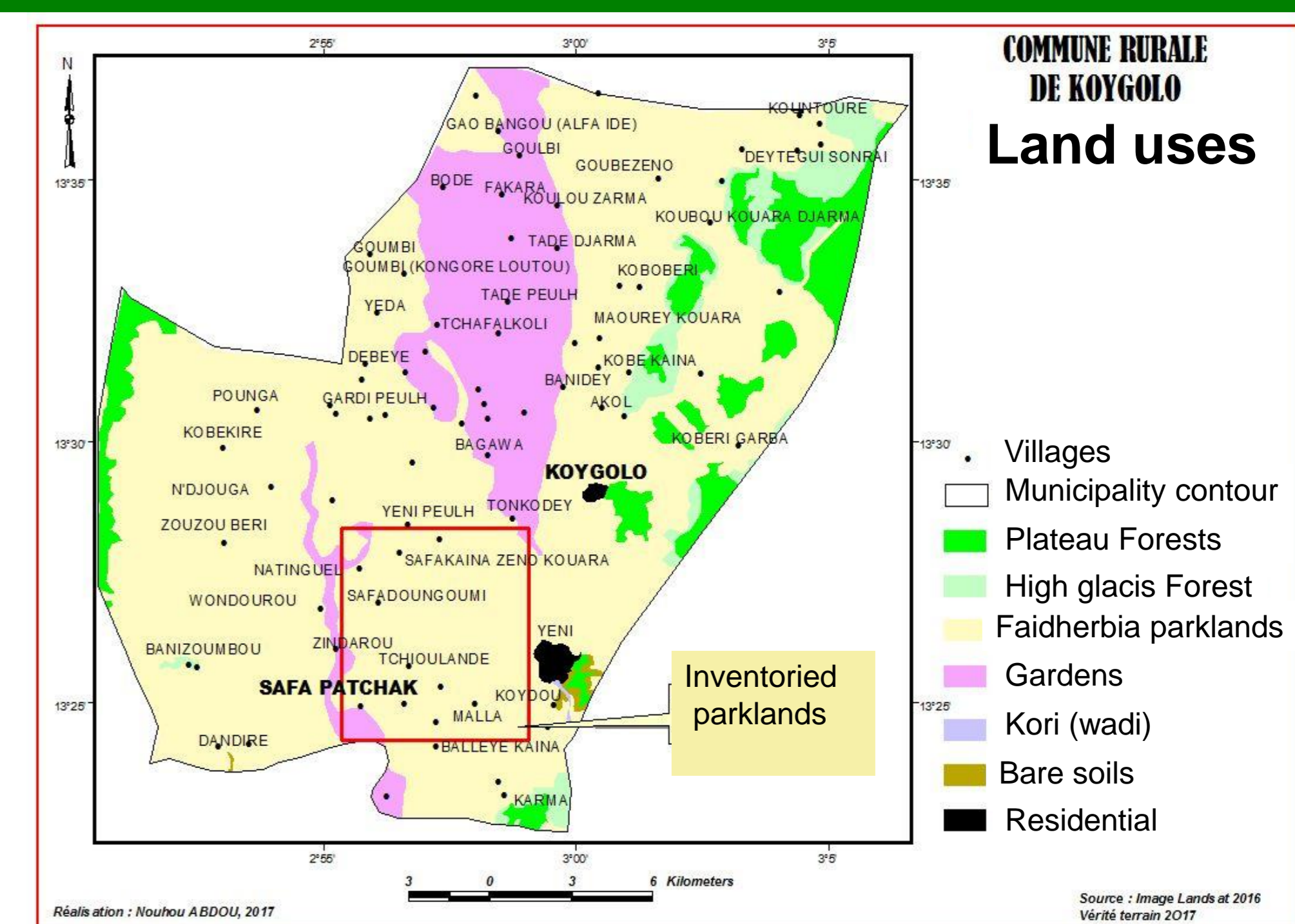


Methods



In 3 villages, a *Faidherbia albida* Parkland 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

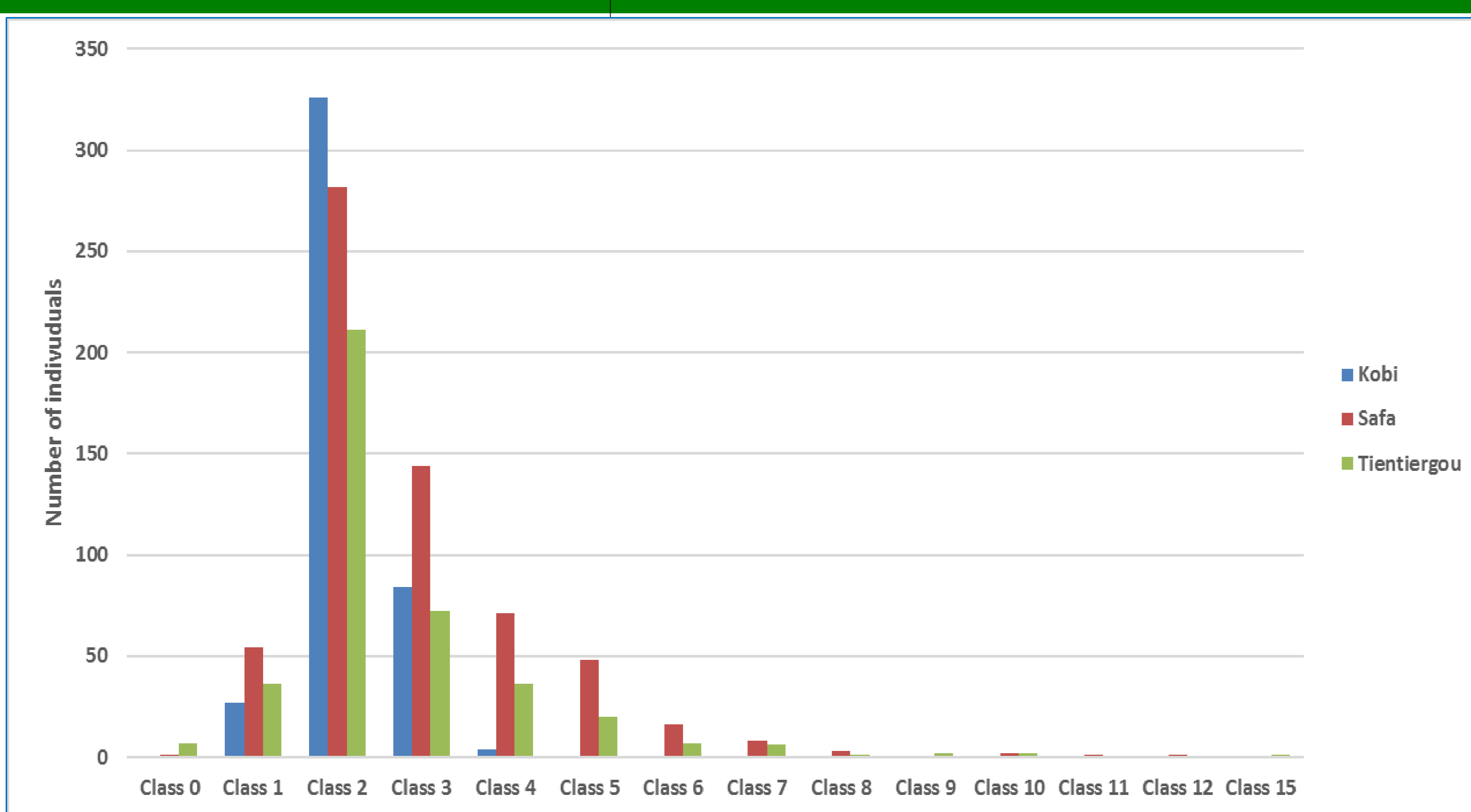
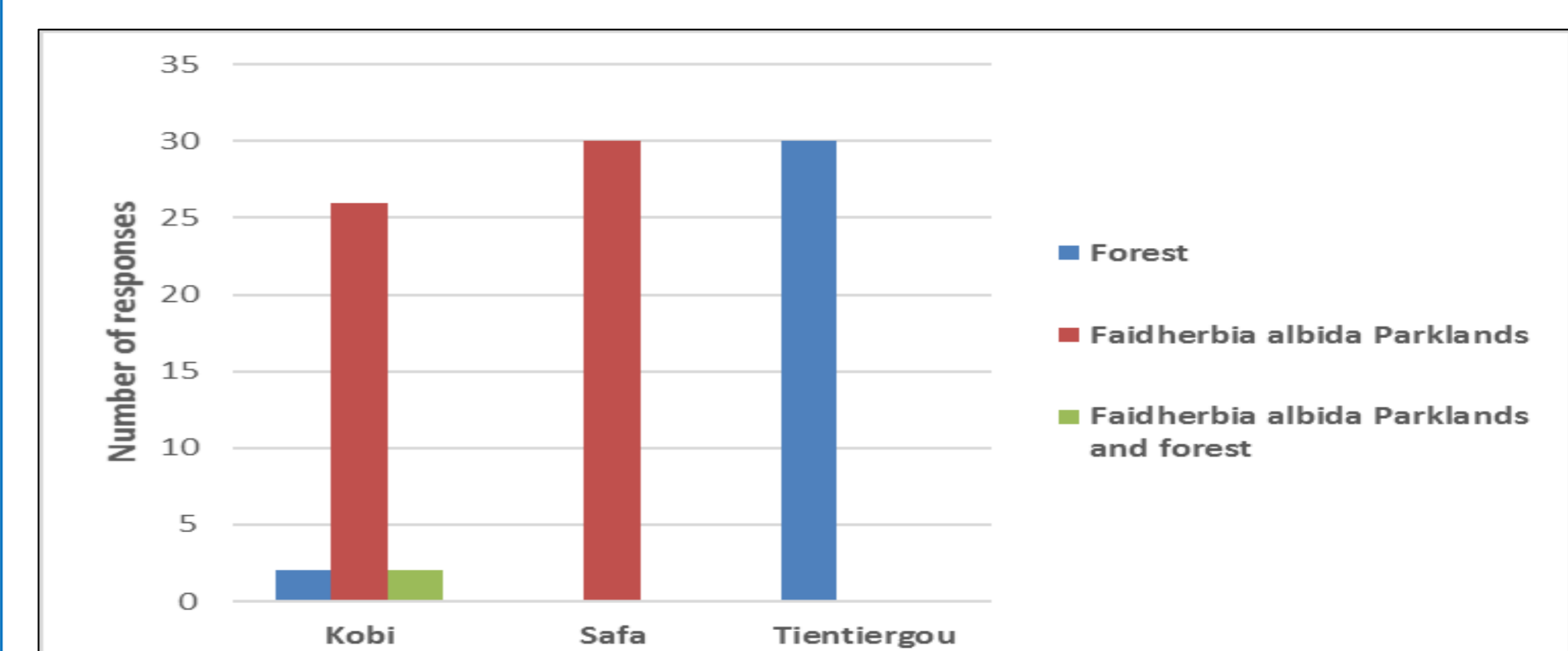


Figure 1: Distribution of trees (Y axis: number of individuals) by diameter class (Class 0 = 0 to 9 cm, class 1 = 10 to 19 cm, etc.) and village, over 75 ha.

Figure 2: Origin of wood energy in 3 villages



Faidherbia parklands are poor in biodiversity (24 sp.), natural regeneration has even fewer species (21 sp.), tree density is low (5 to 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 to 8% of all trees in 2 villages) (Boubacar et al, 2018).

In 2 villages, wood has become so scarce that people must use wood from parklands (Fig. 2), palm leaves or straw for domestic energy. It is therefore estimated that the efforts to restore the Faidherbia parklands by ANR either were not continued over the past 20 years or were ineffective.

Discussion

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.



Conclusion

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 parklands by ANR and plantations.

References

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- Larwanou et al, 2010. Tropicultura 24(1) 14-18.
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Authors and affiliations

- 1 : Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et de la Salubrité Urbaine : D. G. des Eaux et Forêts, Niamey, Niger.
- 2 : Université de Toulouse Jean Jaurès, UMR LISST-Dynamiques Rurales, Toulouse, France.
- 3 : CIRAD, Univ. Montpellier, UMR INNOVATION, Montpellier, France.
- 4 : Université Abdou Moumouni, Faculté d'Agronomie, Niamey, Niger.
- 5 : CIRAD, Univ Montpellier, UPR Forêts et Sociétés, Montpellier, France.

