



## HIGHLIGHTS

1

### Leadership in digital technology and data protection

Learn how UNDP is promoting skills development for digital transformation

2

### The story of the COASTAL Project

How the COASTAL Project is Empowering Women in Guinea-Bissau

3

### Discover how UNDP is supporting Guinea-Bissau on the path to Prevention, Resilience, and Transformation

**Learn more about our work in Guinea-Bissau**

[Download here](#)



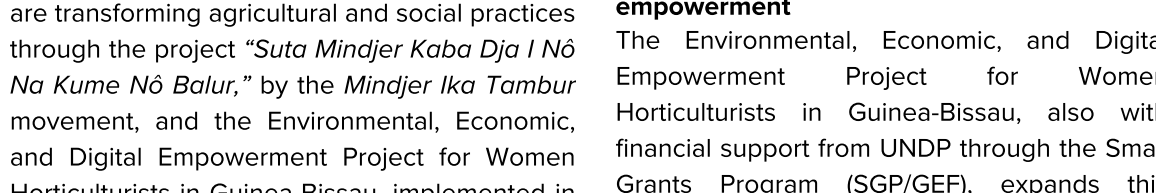
### Subscriptions

To receive our newsletter firsthand, please contact us at [communication.gw@undp.org](mailto:communication.gw@undp.org)  
For more news, visit <https://www.undp.org/guinea-bissau>



Join the **timbuktoo** Pan-African Network

## Agroecology with a Female Face: The Example of the Women of Granja de Pessubé



Around 50 women linked to Granja de Pessubé are transforming agricultural and social practices through the project *"Suta Mindjer Kaba Dja I Nô Na Kume Nô Balur,"* by the *Mindjer Ika Tambur* movement, and the Environmental, Economic, and Digital Empowerment Project for Women Horticulturists in Guinea-Bissau, implemented in partnership with the National Network of Young Women Leaders of Guinea-Bissau (RENAJELF-GB), with financial support from UNDP through the Small Grants Program (SGP/GEF). These initiatives share the same purpose: mitigate environmental impacts, reduce gender inequalities, and promote food security through sustainable agroecology.

### Training and sustainable innovation

Throughout the activities, the beneficiaries participated in theoretical and practical training on environmental education, agroecology, nutrition, food security, gender, and ecofeminism.

The women learned how to produce organic fertilizers, make natural pesticides, and sew reusable cloth bags, significantly reducing the use of plastics and harmful chemicals.

The activities culminated in a Biodiversity Fair, where participants presented and sold vegetables, processed products, and eco-friendly handicrafts. In total, around 3.5 tons of sustainably grown vegetables were harvested, demonstrating the concrete impact of the agroecological transition.

### Environmental and social impact

In addition to environmental gains, the project generated significant socioeconomic results, increasing the income of women horticulturists and strengthening the role of women in their communities.

The participants became multipliers, disseminating sustainable practices to more than 250 women in the Granja de Pessubé association.

Among the main challenges faced were low levels of education and initial resistance to replacing chemical fertilizers. However, the use of participatory methodologies in Creole and the direct involvement of women in project decisions made it possible to overcome these barriers, promoting inclusive, transformative, and culturally rooted learning.

### Environmental, economic, and digital empowerment

The Environmental, Economic, and Digital Empowerment Project for Women Horticulturists in Guinea-Bissau, also with financial support from UNDP through the Small Grants Program (SGP/GEF), expands this approach, involving women from different areas of Bissau.

### The main actions include:

Training on digital inclusion and economic empowerment.

Computer courses and delivery of tablets;

Support for mobility and logistics through the acquisition of motorcycles.

The initiative also promotes sustainable production and the transformation of local products through a mini biodiversity processing center, valuing endogenous resources and female innovation.

### Voices of change

Among the beneficiaries is Elisângela Vitor Mango, 35, who sums up the impact of the transformation:

*"I have had a connection with the land since my mother's womb. This is where I make my living. We used to use chemical pesticides and I had a lot of pain in my feet. Now we only use natural fertilizers that we prepare ourselves. We produce more and with better quality."*

Training on natural pesticides and organic fertilizers has led to improvements in women's health, product quality, and soil regeneration, strengthening the resilience of local gardens and the financial autonomy of families.

*"Today, I can pay the rent and my five children's school fees with what I earn from the garden,"* adds Elisângela proudly.

With these initiatives, the Small Grants Program reinforces the role of women as guardians of biodiversity and promoters of the family economy, showing that female empowerment is also achieved through connection to the land and care for the environment.

## UNDP strengthens ITMA's capacity to lead digital technology and data protection in Guinea-Bissau's public service



Aminata Baldé is a civil servant at the Directorate-General for Forests and Wildlife she participated in October this year in a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) course on Data Security and Protection, organized and funded under the +Digit@l Project by the UNDP, in collaboration with the Technological Institute for Administrative Modernization (ITMA). For years, she faced a growing challenge: with the rapid increase in digital tools, she and her colleagues had limited guidance on how to properly handle the data they work with on a daily basis.

*"The training went beyond theory,"* recalls Aminata, *"I learned practical skills for organizing, safeguarding, and protecting data in my office. All participants gained valuable knowledge that we must put into practice in all institutions representing the people of Guinea-Bissau."*

Digitization, she says, has become an essential part of everyday life.

*"We all work with digital devices, phones, computers, at work and at home. Understanding the data we handle, the risks involved, and how to protect it is critical for everyone in public administration."*

Equipped with new skills and confidence, Aminata now plans to transfer this knowledge to her colleagues throughout the ministry, ensuring that the lessons learned reach other civil servants.

Strengthening Digital Capacity in Guinea-Bissau's Public Service through the +Digit@l Project.

*"The aim of our training was to train a first class of ITMA staff who can, in turn, train others here in Bissau and throughout Guinea-Bissau. We equipped participants with methodological and pedagogical skills to adapt the training to their own context,"* said Rômulo Vilaverde, UNDP consultant who led the training.

The Training of Trainers strengthened ITMA's institutional and technical capacity, creating a multiplier effect by training participants who will, in turn, train others throughout Guinea-Bissau's public service.

Carlos Dinis, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, emphasized the strategic importance:

*"It is essential to train trainers who can transfer knowledge to ITMA employees and civil servants. Digital transformation is now fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals."*

Through the +Digit@l Project, UNDP is supporting Guinea-Bissau's public service in adopting digitalization, ensuring that data protection, digital literacy, and modern tools reach all institutions.

## Training on Recycling and Circular Economy Empowers 325 Participants in Antula and Safim

An intensive training programme on recycling, waste management and circular economy practices was held for the communities of Antula and Safim. The initiative is part of the project to strengthen the informal sector and MSMEs within the circular economy, developed under the Health Equity and Sanitation Project (GNB-HESP), implemented by UNDP funded by the Government of Japan. The training brought together 325 participants, including waste pickers from former dumpsites, students from technical and vocational schools, horticulturists and informal workers, with more than half of the participants being women, reinforcing the project's commitment to inclusion and gender equality.

The results and impact of this phase of the project focused on the direct involvement of various socio-professional groups connected to the Antula and Safim dumpsites. Significant progress was made in strengthening local capacities to implement circular economy practices and promote sustainable waste management. Additionally, the project enabled the valorisation of recyclable materials, the identification of new economic opportunities, improved working conditions and safety for waste pickers, and raised awareness among young students about green careers and innovative solutions. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about national environmental innovation initiatives, through presentations by companies such as Tach, Glonke, Renoverde and Eco Bissau,

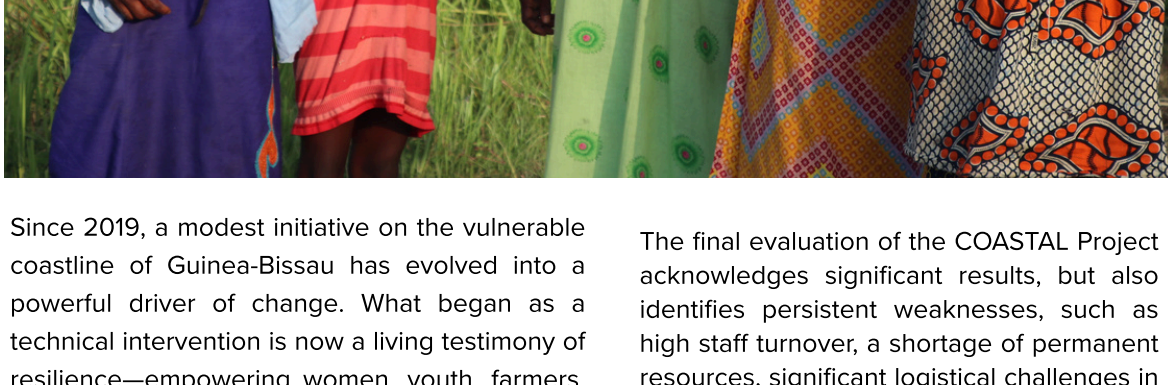


which develop solutions for composting, biofertilisers, biogas, ecological bricks and other initiatives that transform waste into products with economic value.

The results and impact of this phase of the project made it possible to engage various socio-professional groups directly linked to the Antula and Safim dumpsites, strengthening local capacities to implement circular economy practices, promote sustainable waste management, add value to recyclable materials and identify new economic opportunities.

With more than 300 trained participants, this activity represents a significant step toward building more resilient, healthier communities committed to environmental sustainability.

## Success stories and lessons from a project that changed the Guinea-Bissau coast



Since 2019, a modest initiative on the vulnerable coastline of Guinea-Bissau has evolved into a powerful driver of change. What began as a technical intervention is now a living testimony of resilience—empowering women, youth, farmers, and fishers to adapt to climate change and strengthen their livelihoods. This is the legacy of the COASTAL Project, funded by the GEF through the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity, and Climate Action.

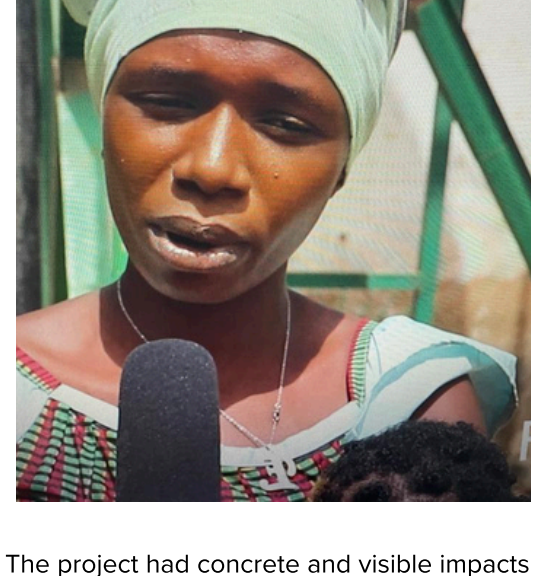
In Fulacunda, this transformation is embodied by Djenabu Djassi. Once constrained by exhausting daily routines over access water, her routine—and her prospects—changed with the project's support. Improved water access enabled her to expand vegetable production, enhance her family's nutrition, and generate income. Her story reflects a broader shift: women are no longer merely beneficiaries, but key agents of food security and community development.

On the *Bijagós Islands*, the project has transformed the relationship between communities and their environment. Through youth-led mangrove restoration in Bubaque and Rubane, more than 120 hectares of vital ecosystem have been restored in just two years. These efforts enhance coastal protection, support fisheries, and reduce erosion, delivering concrete benefits acknowledged by both communities and environmental authorities.

The project also left its mark on institutions. Technicians from the Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity, and Climate Action, the Coastal Planning Office, IBAP, and local government technicians received training in:

- coastal management,
- environmental monitoring,
- climate planning,
- social and environmental safeguards.

The final evaluation of the COASTAL Project acknowledges significant results, but also identifies persistent weaknesses, such as high staff turnover, a shortage of permanent resources, significant logistical challenges in an archipelagic context, limited mobilization of the planned co-financing (29%), late integration of the gender perspective, and insufficient operationalization of social safeguards.



The project had concrete and visible impacts by directly supporting community livelihoods through productive equipment, rural infrastructure, access to water, and improved market linkages, translating environmental and climate adaptation gains into real economic benefits. Despite the difficulties, the results on the ground—recovery of agricultural areas, regeneration of mangroves, and strengthening of livelihoods, especially for women and young people—confirm the relevance and value of the intervention, demonstrating that climate resilience is achievable when communities are placed at the center of the solutions.

## Discover I-participate - The digital platform for civic participation

**iParticipate**

Google Play

App Store

**Participa, Decide, Transforma.**

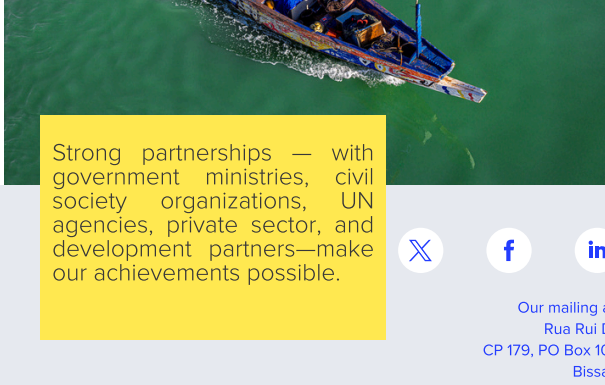
Uma app para dar voz às tuas ideias e ligar-te às decisões que importam.

UNDP, in partnership with Tiniguena and the Franco-Bissau-Guinean Cultural Center, is piloting the new iParticipate app — a digital platform designed to strengthen civic participation and public dialogue in Guinea-Bissau.

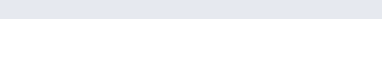
Scan the QR code, install the app, and share your feedback. Your input is essential to refining the platform ahead of its official launch.

**Participate. Decide. Transform.**  
An initiative funded by the European Union.

### MANY THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



Strong partnerships — with government ministries, civil society organizations, UN agencies, private sector, and development partners—make our achievements possible.



Our mailing address is:  
Rua Rui Djassi,  
CP 179, PO Box 1011, UN Building,  
Bissau.

