

# Mauritania Technology Fosters Tradition (TFT)

## Participatory Research Mapping (PRM)

### (4) Layers of data and knowledge (En)

v 1, May 2004

#### A. The ephemeral wetlands (i.e. the study areas)

1. **Use rights and property rights.** *Focus:* (i) Who has access to which resources, where and when, and (ii) who owns which resources, and where. *Comments:* (i) resources include, among others, pasture, agriculture land, pasture and salt licks, (ii) important to include both private lands and common lands. *Sources:* (i) questionnaire “Customary rights”, (ii) sketch maps, and (iii) local people, partly through group interviews.
2. **Resource use.** *Focus:* Location where people utilize (a) resource(s). *Comment:* (i) devise a ‘resource code’, and (ii) construct resource use zones. *Sources:* (i) questionnaire “Resource use”, but also “Toponyms”, and (ii) sketch maps.
3. **Toponyms.** *Focus:* Location of all place names. *Comments:* cf. layer ‘Human use and impact’. *Sources:* (i) questionnaire “Toponymy”, (ii) sketch maps.
4. **Human use and impact.** *Focus:* locate places of human use and impact. *Comments:* examples include: (i) habitation/villages (permanent and transitory), (ii) paths, roads and trails (incl. types, that is, used by whom for what purpose), (iii) wells (permanent and transitory), (iv) dams, and (v) fencing (traditional and modern). Cf. layer ‘Toponyms’. *Sources:* (i) sketch maps, (ii) local people (group interviews).
5. **Vegetation.** *Focus:* location of major vegetation ecosystems, including forested areas, grass lands, etc. *Sources:* (i) local people (group interviews), (ii) Ramsar Convention Bureau.
6. **Hydrography and topography.** *Focus:* (i) ephemeral water bodies, river beds, and canals, and (ii) topography. *Comments:* (i) the implications of the very large variation in the time, location and amount of rainfall needs to be considered, and for this reason the focus should probably be on the location of water that stays longest (which has overlaps with layer 8 topography), and (ii) the differences in topography is slight, and detailed topographical maps may not be available, so one way of showing this would be by means of arrows that show the direction of flow of water. *Sources:* (i) local people (group interviews), (ii) sketch maps, (iii) official maps.
7. **External borders.** *Focus:* demarcate each wetland through identifying its natural borders. *Comment:* based on natural, manmade and/or traditional knowledge, as well as official data.

#### B. The catchment area

8. **Administrative borders.** *Focus:* (i) the overall catchment area is shared between units at two administrative levels, namely Communes and Maughataas, and (ii) the proposed Ramsar sites. *Sources:* (i) official maps, (ii) Maughataa and Commune administration, (iii) Ramsar Convention Bureau.
9. **External borders.** *Focus:* demarcate the catchment area or bioregion through identifying its natural borders. *Comments:* (i) based on natural, manmade and/or traditional knowledge, as well as official data. *Sources:* (i) official maps, (ii) interviews with people at the local and regional levels.