



Water in Africa: Hydro-Pessimism or Hydro-Optimism?

Água em África: Hidro-pessimismo ou Hidro-optimismo

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Between a Rock and a Hard Place

- Decentralisation and Struggle over Water Resources in Mali

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Introduction



- Conflict over water resources and decentralisation in Mali
- Water scarcity
- 2 events
 - Competition over access
 - Competition over control

Decentralisation in Mali



- Transfer of competences to municipalities
- Local participation in natural resource management
- Success story?



Lake Agoufou

- Between Gossi and Hombori municipalities

Geography - Facts



- Permanent in 1991
- Before temporary pond



Demography – Facts

- 3 ethnic groups
 - Songhai
 - sedentary cultivators
 - Tuareg
 - semi-nomadic camel herders
 - Fulbe
 - semi-nomadic herders and cultivators



[illegible]

- Seasonal mobility
- wetlands and drylands
Interdependence

- Seasonal mobility
- wetlands and drylands
Interdependence

Stakeholders and Interests

- **Stakeholders**

Permanent Inhabitants

Temporary inhabitants

Customary chiefs

NGO Liptako Gourma

Municipalities



- **Interests**

Domestic and productive purposes

Access to water and pastures

Control over land and rules

Planting of Bourgou

Revenue and power

Event 1

- Migrant Fulbe
- Transgression of Bourgou
- Network of power
 - Chiefs, NGO Liptako Gourma, municipalities





- Conflict over Access
- Contested ownership
- Creation and Marginalisation of “outsiders”?
- Decentralisation and exclusion

Event 2



- Information signposts
- Border regions administrative borders
- Protests
- Different claim making



Event 2



- Conflict over control
- Resurrection of historical conflicts
- Making of history to fix the present

Issues for Further Discussion



- Struggles over modes of belonging
- Inclusion and exclusion
- Identity formation
- Realism

Thank you for your attention

