

The Economic Development Pole (EDP) approach in Niger: the case of the Niger-IFAD Program

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I. Context

An integrated approach has been developed in Niger by the *Family Farming Development Program* (ProDAF), in the frame of the Niger-IFAD Program, for strengthening local agricultural, political and economic development. According to this approach, local development is pursued through a better networking of all sub-areas, factors and actors involved in it. A partnership between the public and private sector ensures a sustainable development and financing of each activity. This paper tries to explain the Economic Development Pole (EDP) approach through the case of ProDAF. The results demonstrate that this new approach is likely to promote local and sustainable development.

II. Economic Development Pole: the Example of the River Basin of Tabalak

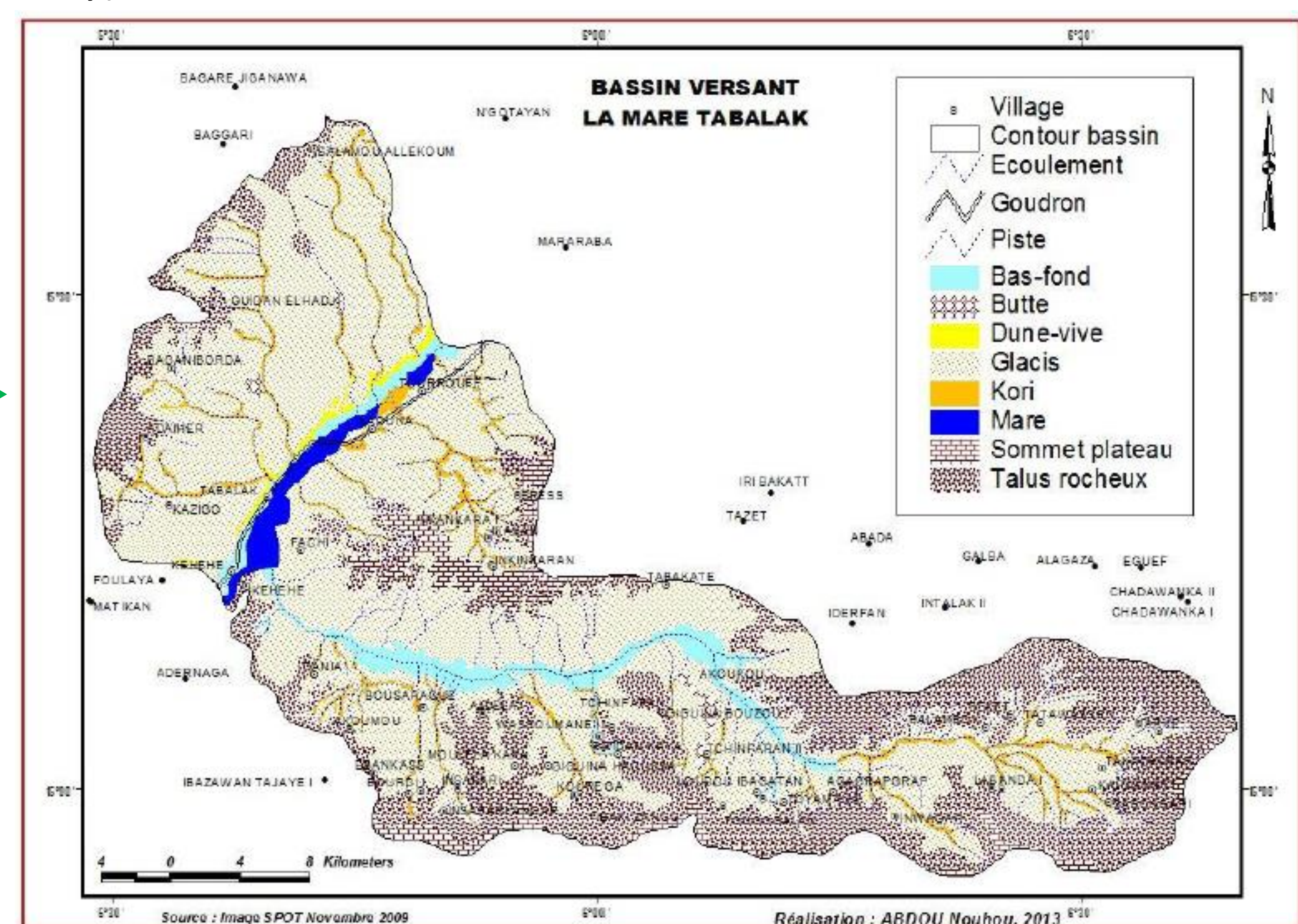
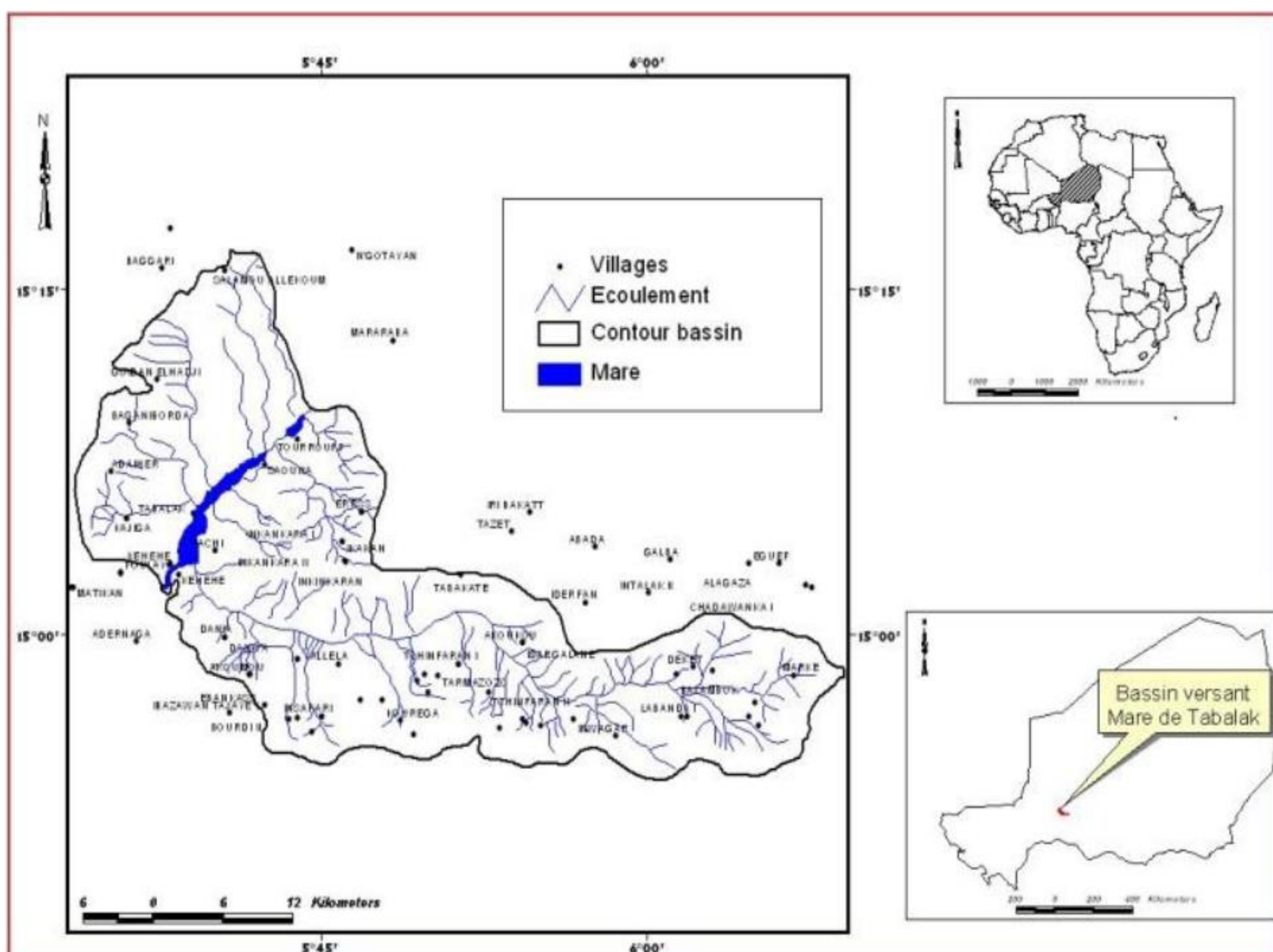
In the case of ProDAF, Economic Development Pole is defined as a space for concentrating economic activities linked to the marketing of the main agricultural and livestock products of production basin, It differs from the rural pole, which refers to the whole rural area as a whole, driven by a project of territory.

1, River basin

- *Contour stone bund, anti-erosion system*
- *Dam;*

2, Production basin

- Rainfed production (farmer field schools, greening, seeds distribution);
- Irrigated production (gardening farmer field schools, irrigation management, water availability).



5, Commercialization

- *Sub-regional markets (mainly Nigeria)*
- *Urban areas (Tahoua, Agadez & second cities of the area)*

4, Wholesale Market



3, Collection points and access by feeder roads



IV. Conclusion

The most important innovation of this territorial and spatial approach is its systematic and transversal view. In fact, this concept is not only an improvement of a value chain approach, but a transversal development approach through environment (natural resources management at a river basin scale), social change (participative decision-making, implication of all stakeholder groups, local approach), economy (building road and market infrastructure, increase of agricultural production, enhancement of internal and external trade)

V. References and Acknowledgements

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Bottom up & participatory approach