Typha Charcoal in Senegal
Changing a National Threat into Durable Wealth

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The Country: Senegal
• The western most country in West Africa
• Area of almost 76,000 square miles
• Population: about 13M
• Capital city: Dakar (about 2.6M people)
• French, Wolof and other local languages
• Loosing 45,000 hectares of forests each year.
• Facing threat of desertification

The Problem: Typha Plant
• Large parts of the Senegal River are covered by Typha
• A weed rooted in the soil that requires less than 5 feet of water depth
• Problems caused by Typha:
  - Introduces water born disease
  - Disrupts irrigation channels
  - Impedes livestock from drinking water
  - Reduces fishing productivity
  - Shelter for agricultural pests

The Opportunity: Typha Charcoal
Economic
• Revenues for SupDeCo
• More affordable household fuel
Social
• Jobs available to rural women
• Greener jobs
Environmental
• Reduce deforestation
• Combat typha
• CO2 Emissions reduction

The Challenges: Scaling Up?
• Harvesting over the river
• Eradication versus continuous supply
• Market acceptance
• Diseconomies of scale
• Competition
• Regulation risks

Industrial Charcoal Production: Value Chain Analysis

Harvest
Rural entrepreneurs/ Factory

Production
Rural entrepreneurs

Transport
Transporter

Wholesale Retail
Dakar Retailers

Consumption
Dakar households

Dakar households