Diffusion of the Nubian Vault in the Sahel
Strategy, methodology and partner roles
In order to promote the large-scale deployment of its adapted housing programme in Sahelian Africa, AVN is directing its strategic approach to model the diffusion of the Nubian Vault (NV) concept through the transfer of its methodology to Operational Partners (OP), thus guaranteeing strong and growing impacts.

Accordingly, AVN operates at three levels:

The continuing promotion and diffusion of the Nubian Vault concept as an operator in specific territories, so as to consolidate the deployment procedures and explore new technical and methodological approaches.

The mobilization, training, and accompaniment of Operational Partners who adopt AVN’s methodology, thus duplicating the development of the Nubian Vault market in their zones of action.

The organization of support functions essential to the implementation of this strategy: training, technical support, follow-up and evaluation, feedback, facilitation of a network of partners, advocacy, etc.

For organizations hoping to deploy the Nubian Vault, this document describes the steps to follow and the resources needed to successfully implement the concept in their zones of activity.
**The Implementation Unit (IU)**

The Implementation Unit (IU), the territorial base level of action, is defined as:

- **A municipality**: around 25,000 inhabitants

- **An optimal implementation period of 6 years**

- **Annual costs and benefits itemized** (see opposite)

- **An optimal implementation period of 6 years**

**The Implementation Units (IU) are deployed in an Implementation Territory (IT) managed either by an Operational Partner OP-IT, or directly by AVN.**

**An Operational Partner of the IU (OP-IU):**
- A local actor
- Implements the action plan in the IU
- Ensures the methodological deployment of the NV market in the municipality

**The Implementation Unit (IU)**

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**A municipality:** around 25,000 inhabitants

**An optimal implementation period of 6 years**

**Annual costs and benefits itemized** (see opposite)

**Actions implemented by the OP-IU**

- **Establishment of the NV offer**
  - Promotion of NV construction skills
  - Monitoring of training activities

- **Emergence of the NV demand**
  - Raising awareness of the NV concept
  - Management of financial incentives
  - Accompaniment of the developing market

- **Stakeholder involvement**
  - General awareness raising
  - Mobilization of actors wishing to integrate and promote the NV concept

**Involvement of the Nubian Vault Association:** (see p.1)
- Training and accompaniment
- Technical, strategic and operational support services
- Feedback and lessons learned

**Anticipated results**

Simple illustration showing the sequence of activities for a group of masons, and the minimum results estimated for an IU, over 6 years:

- **Paid initial training:**
  - 7 apprentices
  - 7 masons
  - 4 NV artisans

- **Continuing training:**
  - 7 apprentices
  - 7 masons
  - 4 NV artisans
  - 80 NV houses and X public NV

- **Financial incentives for NV construction boost an emerging market**

- **Autonomous marketing:**
  - The masons have become NV artisans and stimulate their market through financial incentives aimed at their future clients

- **Financial incentives:**
  - Groups of apprentices are trained in the NV technique and together build their own house

- **Year 1**
  - 3 apprentices
  - 3 masons
  - 3 NV artisans

- **Years 2-3**
  - 7 apprentices
  - 7 masons
  - 4 NV artisans
  - 19 NV houses

- **Years 4-6**
  - 10 apprentices
  - 10 masons
  - 10 NV artisans
  - 80 NV houses and X public NV

*If a new group of masons starts the process each year except in Year 6*
The Implementation Territory (IT)

The Implementation Territory (IT) groups together one or more Implementation Units (IU) and is defined by:

- A geographic deployment corresponding to a decentralised administrative entity: a region, department, district, or circle
- Building the NV offer
  - Coordination of the training of actors of the NV sector
  - Organizational and networking assistance (economic interest groups, federations of artisans, etc.)
- Emergence of the NV demand
  - Raising awareness amongst local actors for the construction of NV community buildings
  - Supporting the implementation of community building projects
  - Drawing up programmes for access to private housing
- Mobilization of partners
  - Collaborating partners: civil society organisations, NGO’s, institutional and public actors
  - Technical partners: micro-finance institutions, professional training centres etc.

AVN can also take on the OP-IT role pending the identification of a suitable partner.

Involvement of the Nubian Vault Association: (see p.8)
- Training and accompaniment
- Technical, strategic and operational support services
- Feedback and lessons learned

Actions carried out by the OP-IT

- Building the NV offer
- Emergence of the NV demand
- Mobilization of partners

A Sahelian Network of Nubian Vault developers

The OP-ITs are invited to come together in a Sahelian network of NV developers, animated by AVN.

The aim is to promote the sharing and ongoing improvement and development of deployment practices.

The network strengthens our representation and cumulative impacts, allowing for:
- Wider advocacy at national and international levels
- Mobilization of national political actors and their partners
- Financial negotiations through the consortium

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A Sahelian Network of Nubian Vault developers
What role for AVN?

As the original operator, AVN guarantees the support functions needed for a large-scale deployment of the Nubian Vault market, by accompanying Operational Partners in the Sahel.

What role for AVN?

As the original operator, AVN guarantees the support functions needed for a large-scale deployment of the Nubian Vault market, by accompanying Operational Partners in the Sahel.

This involves:
- Overall coordination of deployment, in the interests of effectiveness and efficiency
- Mobilization, training and accompaniment of Operational Partners
- Management of a training centre and resources (technical, entrepreneurial, training of trainers and of development actors)
- Hosting of a technical reference and resource centre
- Organization of a monitoring, evaluation, and feedback service to ensure the ongoing improvement and development of the methods and working tools of the OP-ITs and OP-IUs
- International advocacy to promote the NV as a relevant solution for adapted housing
- Transfer of strategic support services to States and regions wishing to implement or develop the Nubian Vault construction techniques
- Help in research for funding
- Facilitation and animation of the Sahelian network of NV developers

As an Operational Partner

- Civil Society organizations
- NGOs, development actors
- Implement the IU and IT methodologies in your action zones, for the benefit of your communities

As a Collaborating Partner

- Civil Society organizations
- NGO's, development actors
- Institutional and public actors
- Support the mobilization of local actors and the dissemination of the NV concept
- Implement construction programmes

As a Financial Partner

- Sponsors
- Foundations
- Public development agencies
- Finance AVN’s methodological offers (IU, IT, the overall programme) and the construction of community buildings

AVN may also act as an operator in certain territories so as to test its methods in different contexts and undertake R&D activities.

NB: Organizations wishing to construct NV buildings without becoming a formal partner can contact AVN to be put in touch with NV artisans and enterprises and benefit from AVN’s technical support.

Contact AVN: contact@lavoutenubienne.org
The Nubian Vault Association
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