

1. General Description:

ID:CN-22019

Project resulting from this CN: N/A

Note: CNs are developed into project proposals following consultation with donor(s).

1.1 Project Title:

Restoration and sustainable management of the Sirka Gazetted Forest in the Kara Region, Togo

1.2 Submitting Country/ies:

Togo

1.3 Specific Location & Country/ies/regions/areas benefitting from the project:

Kara Region, Kozah and Binah Prefectures, Kozah 1, Kozah 3 and Binah 2 municipalities

1.4 Endorsement from ITTO Focal Point:

CN-2072-Togo-Endorsement.pdf

1.5 Intended Project Duration (in months):

36

1.6 Indicative Budget (in US\$):

ITTO	996,157
Counterpart	300,890
Total	1,297,047

1.7 Programme Line Focus

Forest Landscape Restoration and Resilient Livelihoods

1.8 Project Type

Capacity Building/Training, Community/field-based project implementation, Workshop/meeting/seminar

1.9 Proposal Summary:

The Sirka Gazetted Forest is today characterized by a strong degradation of its resources, resulting from the irrational utilization of forest resources by local communities. To reverse this trend, this project was initiated with the participation of local people and aims at the rehabilitation and restoration of relictual forests, and the conversion of savanna areas with a view to improving socio-economic conditions for local communities. The project plans to establish 250 hectares of plantations for wood energy purposes and 50 hectares of private plantations. Collaboration between stakeholders will be promoted to ensure project sustainability and enable timber rational use and good land use.

2. Proponent Information:

2.1 Executing Agency Information:

Name of Agency/Organization/Institution:

Office for Forest Development and Use (Office de Développement et d'Exploitation des Forêts—ODEF)

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2.2 Type of Organization:

Governmental Agency

2.3 Collaborating Agency/ies:**Name of Agency/Organization/Institution:**

For project implementation, ODEF will collaborate with the Directorate of Forest Resources (DRF), the Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources, the Directorate of the Environment (DE), Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources, and the Forest Resource Inspectorate (IRF), Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources.

2.4 Relevant experience of EA:

Since its establishment in 1971, several projects funded by donors in various fields were implemented by the ODEF, as follows: Reforestation and forest management—ITTO (16 projects); FAO (1 project); World Food Programme (1 project); French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) (1 project); Climate change—European Union (1 project); ITTO (1 project); and Forest statistics—ITTO (1 project). Over 20,000 hectares of forest plantations were established and are being managed by means of ODEF own funds

3. Relevance:

3.1 Conformity with ITTO objectives (ITTA, 2006) and priorities (current SAP):

The project is consistent with the following objectives as set out in Article 1, ITTA, 2006: c): To contribute to sustainable development and poverty alleviation—The pre-project will carry out activities which will contribute to socio-economic development and improved environmental conditions in the Binah and Koza Prefectures. The project will support self-development efforts, including through the protection and development of forest resources in particular. (j) Encourage members to support and develop tropical timber reforestation activities, as well as the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest lands, with due regard to the interests of local communities dependent on forest resources—The project aims to protect the soil, water and ecosystem of the Sirka gazetted forest through the reforestation of 250 hectares of plantations for wood energy and 50 ha of private plantations. (r): The project will be implemented jointly by the forestry administration and the local people in the Sirka Gazetted Forest. The forestry administration will rely on the socio-economic network of grassroots communities for carrying out forest rehabilitation and restoration activities in the project area. It will define the extent of accountability of the various stakeholders based on consensus with a view to achieving sustainable management. Compliance with the priorities of the ITTO Action Plan: The project is also in line with the priorities and strategic actions of the ITTO Action Plan for 2013-2018, as it falls within one of the six strategic priorities defined in the plan, i.e., Strategic priority 4: during project implementation, reforestation and protection activities will be carried out with a view to restoring the Sirka Gazetted Forest cover. This project will follow a transformational approach with local beneficiary people and will share its experiences with the local communities of other gazetted forests.

3.2 Relevance to the ITTO Programme Lines:

The project is in line with Programme Line 3 “Restoration of forest landscapes and resilient livelihoods”. In project implementation, 250 hectares of state-owned plantations will be established based on the use and implementation of the ITTO Guidelines for forest landscape restoration in the tropics, and 50 hectares of private plantations will be created by the local people neighboring the gazetted forest using forest landscape restoration (FLR) techniques. As a result, the project will contribute to increasing the area of restored forest landscape and goods and services from planted and restored forests, and alternative sources of income will be derived from beekeeping and market gardening as a result.

3.3 Relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and other forest related global agenda:

The project is in line with the strategic framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the internalization of SDG 15 targets, which include: (i) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems; (ii) Sustainably manage forests; (iii) Combat desertification; and (iv) Halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss. The project is also in line with the Global Forest Goals (GFGs), including Target 1.1.1 in particular. Project implementation will also contribute to restoring 1.4 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes by 2030 (AFR100 Initiative).

3.4 Relevance to submitting country's policies:

Togo's forest resource policy as contained in the country forestry policy is based on the optimal and conservatory use while taking into account the current state of forest resources, and it aims at: preserving land and biological assets and restoring their productive potential; addressing environmental degradation and desertification; contributing to food production through effective interactions between forestry and agricultural techniques; and contributing to the improvement of people's living conditions by ensuring their basic needs in forest products and by-products following sustainable practices. Aware of the precarious state of forests in the country, the Government of Togo demonstrated its will to increase the current vegetation cover rate from 24.24 % to 30% by 2050 with the adoption of the first three five-year plans for economic and social development (1966-1970; 1971-1975; and 1976-1980) and of its forest policy. In addition, Law No. 2008-005 of May 30, 2008, establishing the framework law on the environment, and Law No. 2008-009 on forestry were also adopted and their implementation decrees are currently under adoption. Also aware that efforts should be intensified to lay and consolidate the foundations for the development of Togo as an emerging country by 2030, the Government of Togo has developed a National Development Plan (PND) for 2018-2022 in order to better position itself on the path of structural economic transformation. The PND was updated in 2020 to become the "Plan Togo 2025", which plans to achieve a forest cover rate of 25% by 2025.

3.5 Linkages to previous/ongoing ITTO and other projects/activities (if any):

The main previous/ongoing projects and activities funded by ITTO and other donors are as follows: Project PD 217/03 Rev.2 (F) "Establishing a cooperative framework between ODEF and the communities living in the Eto-Lilicope forest complex for the sustainable participatory management of this complex"; PD 30/96 Rev.3 (F) "Project for a 2,500-hectare timber production plantation in the reserved forest of Haho-Baloe"; Project PD 9/99 Rev.2 (F) "Sustainable management of the Missahoe reserved forest forestry resource with the participation of the local rural communities for an optimal timber production (Kpalime, TOGO)"; and Project PD 51/99 Rev.2 (F) "Support to grassroots forestry promotion initiatives in the Yoto area". The FAO project for the reforestation of plots over a 50 hectare-area and grazing prohibition over a 17-hectare area of state-owned natural forests. The United Nations Environment Programme project for the restoration of vulnerable and degraded mountain landscapes and improved biodiversity conservation and livelihoods of local communities in Togo. The support project for addressing climate change funded by the European Union.

4. Project synopsis:

4.1 Objectives (reflecting reference to elements within all ITTO Guidelines as applicable):

Development objective: To restore and sustainably manage state-owned forests in Togo. Specific objective: To restore the Sirka Gazetted Forest ecosystem in the Kara region.

4.2 Key problem(s) to be addressed:

The Sirka Gazetted Forest resources, both wildlife and plant, have been degraded for several years. Forest degradation results from uncontrolled use of resources, the failure to meet local community aspirations, and the low capacity of technical services. Despite awareness-raising sessions conducted by technical services for traditional chieftains and opinion leaders in local communities, people remain poorly informed about the importance and status of the Sirka Gazetted Forest. In addition, implementing the resource restoration initiatives undertaken by the Office for Forest Development and Use (ODEF) is a challenge, as access to the Sirka Gazetted Forest is impossible for a large part of the year due to flooding of rivers bordering the Forest. Today, these issues are compounded by the harmful impacts of climate change, resulting in altered environmental conditions, especially the destruction of ecosystems and wildlife natural habitats, and the degradation of the socio-economic potential of the environment. If no action is taken to restore these ecosystems that were once preserved by the Forestry Administration, they could become degraded beyond repair within a few years. The consequences would be catastrophic for the forest and even more so for local populations. Therefore, as a first step, the project will make it possible to initiate the establishment of a permanent consultation framework to be followed with the signature and implementation of agreements between the populations and the ODEF. As a second step, various structures will be established for managing the Sirka Gazetted Forest while creating IGAs and social and economic infrastructure. Gaining the trust of communities will be a great help in achieving the sustainable management of the forest.

4.3 Main stakeholders and beneficiaries:

Local communities living in the vicinity of the Sirka Gazetted Forest will be involved in the pre-project, both through the forest management unit that will represent them and local organizations in charge of fire control and combating illegal timber harvesting. Local communities are fully familiar with the forest environment and boundaries and provide an important source of local labor; Loggers are the main destroyers of the forest vegetation cover and will be the first target of awareness-raising activities, and through them the farmers; The Kozah 1, Kozah 3 and Binah 1 municipalities will benefit from improved climatic conditions and socio-economic and ecological benefits derived from sustainable forest management. The Sirka Gazetted Forest is the most important protected area in the Binah Prefecture. However, activities undertaken by ODEF in the Sirka Gazetted Forest are carried out by labor originating from the Kozah Prefecture (from the Abouda, Kpinzindè municipalities, and the town of Kara) exclusively. This is also true for farmers and agricultural activities stakeholders. The Forestry Administration represented by the ODEF is the project proponent and will serve as the project executing agency. ODEF is experienced in working in partnership with other stakeholders. Recruited local NGOs will establish a consultation framework for stakeholders and strengthen their capacities in participatory management as well as the development of Income Generating Activities (IGAs) as part of the project. NGOs will be recruited in the project area in priority, and specifically in the Kozah and Binah Prefectures. ITTO supports Togo in achieving the objective of 30% forest cover by 2050.

4.4 Key activities:

Output 1: Collaboration between stakeholders is strengthened - Create a consultation framework for stakeholders - Strengthen the capacities of stakeholders in participatory management
Output 2: Timber harvesting is rational - Disseminate forestry regulations - Create alternative income-generating sources based on beekeeping and market gardening - Establish 250 hectares of wood energy plantations
Output 3: Land-use practices are improved. - Train stakeholders in sustainable agriculture - Establish 50 hectares of private plantations.

4.5 Expected outcomes and impacts, including innovation/transformation:

Implementing project activities will: - establish a consultation framework between the various stakeholders for enhancing the relationship between the Administration and communities; - increase the forest cover in the area and stabilize the forest and soil ecosystems through the rehabilitation of 300 ha of plantations; - improve the standard of living of local people in the project area by increasing incomes through the promotion of income-generating activities; - involve local people in the rational management of their forest resources by introducing them to forest rehabilitation based on a participatory process.

4.6 Existing funding for (related) initiative(s)/established contacts to potential donors:

As part of the implementation of the support project for addressing climate change in Togo (2018-2021) funded by the European Union (EU) in the form of a direct grant (PALCC-Direct Grant No. ENV/2017/393-547) to the Office for Forest Development and Use (ODEF), a management plan was developed and validated for the Sirka Gazetted Forest and 118 hectares of plantations were established. The implementation of the Eco-village project in Togo jointly funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Local Development, Handicrafts and Youth Employment (MDBAJ), the Sirka District (Binah Prefecture, Kara region) benefited from micro-solar power plants with grid injections, multifunctional platforms powered by micro-solar power plants and photovoltaic solar kits, for a production capacity of 30 kwp to provide villages with public lighting.

4.8 Risk mitigation measures:

This project will be efficiently implemented provided that: all stakeholders collaborate —If local people are not united, they will not be able to work towards the sustainable management of the forest. A consultation framework involving all stakeholders will be developed through the establishment of a joint management committee with a view to engaging relevant people towards the sustainable management of the Sirka Gazetted Forest. People will benefit from proposed income-generating activities: people will have free access to forest products, which they will be able to collect fairly easily and free of charge from the forest. Other activities included in the project will incur physical and financial costs being borne by the communities, resulting into some reluctance to implement IGAs. For this reason, the project plans to conduct community training and extend support by providing the necessary equipment as part of the promotion of IGAs (market gardening and beekeeping). Trained populations will be familiar with appropriate techniques by project completion. Advisory support will be continued through other ministry departments to ensure outcome sustainability. People are receptive to messages disseminated during awareness-raising work: Uptake of forest resource sustainable use by local people has been achieved. Difficulties in conveying messages are therefore to be expected although opinion leaders will help raise awareness. Documents on current forest regulations will also be disseminated.

5. Indicative Budget (in US\$):

Indicative Budget (in US\$):

Description	ITTO	Counterpart	Total
Personnel	93,070	39,000	132,070
Sub-contracts	573,500	50,000	623,500
Travel and DSA	72,800	0	72,800
Capital Items	41,246	60,000	101,246
Consumables	44,330	600	44,930
Publication / Dissemination	0	151,290	151,290
Miscellaneous	18,480	0	18,480
Total	843,426	300,890	1,144,316

ITTO Project Monitoring & Review	21,000	-	21,000
Annual/Final Audit	15,000	-	15,000
ITTO Programme Support	106,731	-	106,731
ITTO Ex-post Evaluation	10,000	-	10,000
GRAND TOTAL	996,157	300,890	1,297,047