



International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems

18–21 April 2017
Bali, Indonesia

Restoration and sustainable management of mangroves in Benin

LOKOSSOU Achille Orphée,
E-mail: lokossou@yahoo.fr

Plan

- 1. Context**
- 2. Analysis of the causes of mangrove destruction;**
- 3. Analysis of the opportunities of mangrove restoration;**
- 4. Basic principles**
- 5. Strategies of Mangroves Restoration**
- 6. Conclusion and perspectives**

1. Contexte

- Benin is a country located in West Africa in the Gulf of Guinea
- The mangrove ecosystems of Benin are located in south of Benin along the coast for about 100 km.
- These mangroves are rich in biodiversity and play an important role in the life of the local population.
- They have been severely degraded in recent decades and their size reduced by more than 60%.



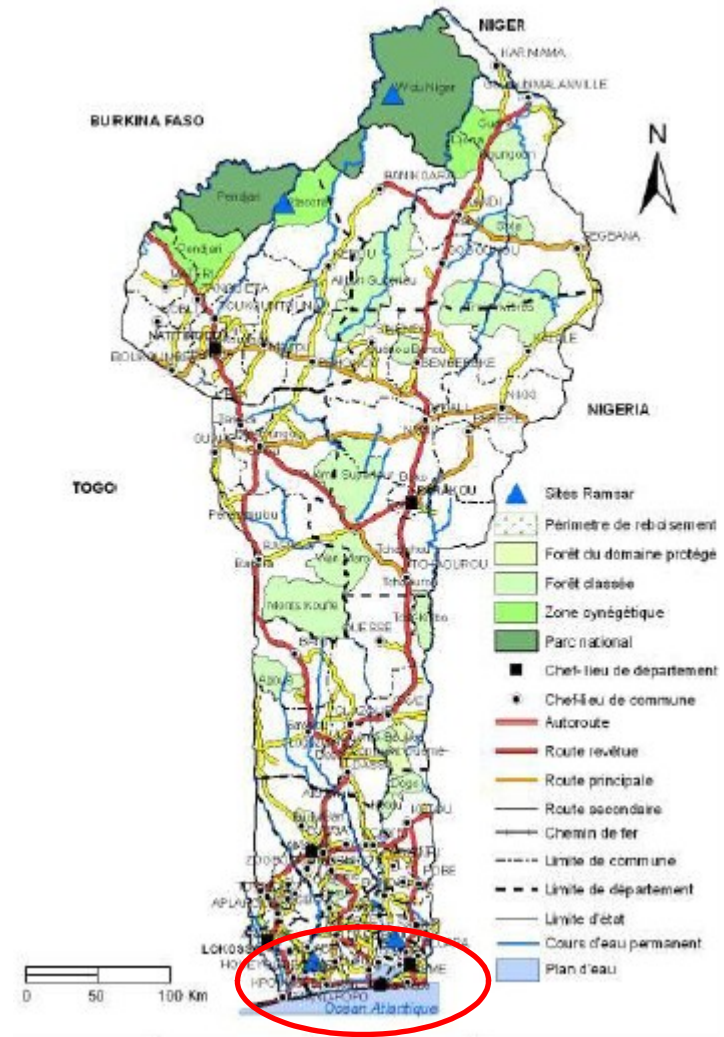
2. Threat Analysis

- Lack of awareness on the importance and roles of mangrove ecosystems by the local populations;
- Destruction of mangrove ecosystems through land, agricultural and urbanization pressures;
- Overexploitation of timber resources for timber and fuel for salt production;
- lack of a wetland management plan.



3. Analysis of the opportunities of mangroves ecosystem restoration

- Benin's mangrove forests are only in the south along the coast;
- Ecosystems are rich in biodiversity and play an important role in coastal stabilization and in the life of populations;
- Complex of Wetlands of International Importance
- Ecosystems containing Sacred Forests, historic sites and socio-cultural sites;
- Zone with strong potential of eco-tourism development.



4. Basic principles for the restoration of mangroves

- The management of mangrove ecosystems requires a decentralized governance approach with the active participation of the local communities;
- Wetland management should be based on an "ecosystem approach" and "integrated approach";
- The traditional values that local population can bring to all aspects of the rational use of mangroves and their culture must be recognized;
- National synergy in the implementation of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (CBD, Ramsar Convention, UNFCCC, AEWA, CMS, etc.) is required for the restoration and sustainable management of mangroves.

5. Restoration strategies

1. Recognition of the importance and the richness of Benin mangrove ecosystems ;
2. Integration of sustainable mangrove management into national policies, actions plan and strategies of development ;
3. Sensitization of all actors and stakeholders;
4. Restoration of degraded mangrove areas;
5. Creation of Marine and coastal protected areas;
Valorisation of mangrove ecosystems;

5. Mangrove Restoration Strategies

1. Recognition of the importance and the richness of the mangrove ecosystems of Benin (Source: *World Atlas of Mangroves*)



5. Mangrove Restoration Strategies

2. Integration of sustainable management of mangroves into development policies, strategies and plans :

- Consideration of mangrove restoration actions in the Communal Development Plans of the municipalities concerned;
- Coherence and synergy of actions :
 - In Benin NBSAP 2011-2020, special attention was paid to the restoration and sustainable management of mangroves;
 - National Program for Adaptation to Climate Change in Benin (PANA-Benin);
 - National Strategy of Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- Mangroves issues are taken into account in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The rate of mangrove restoration is a national indicator of SDO 14

5. Mangrove Restoration Strategies

- Sensitization of all actors and stakeholders: Civil Society Organizations, Communal and Traditional Authorities, local populations, professional associations, political authorities and decision-makers;
- Implementation of projects of restoration and sustainable management of mangroves by many NGOs, associations and International Organizations



Photo : Source Eco-Bénin

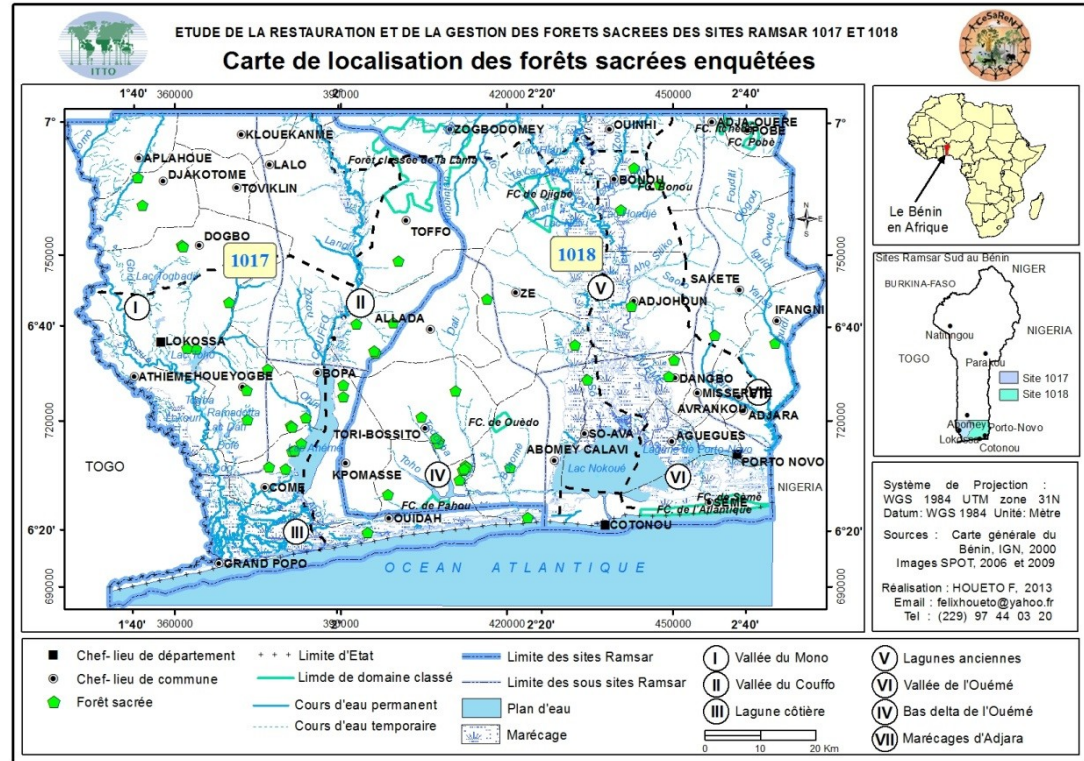


5. Mangrove Restoration Strategies

- Concerted efforts have been made to reforest mangroves. Several million seedlings have been planted along lagoons and degraded areas (about 50ha / year).
- Development of many alternative income-generating activities :
 - Planting of fast-growing firewood to meet the need for firewood and safeguarding the rest of the mangroves;
 - Production of salt by the methods called "Piratesses" : by using solar energy instead of fuel wood from mangrove;
 - Livestock breeding and production of vegetable crops;
 - Development of eco-tourism activities;

5. Mangrove Restoration Strategies

- In the restoration strategies of mangroves and wetlands in Benin, the **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)** financed Project PD 754/14 (F): **Restoration and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests of RAMSAR sites 1017 and 1018 of Benin**



This project aims to ensure the sustainable management of **40 sacred forests** by building the capacity of stakeholders to improve the livelihood of local populations.

5. Mangrove Restoration Strategies

➤ Creation of three Community-base Biodiversity Conservation Areas :

- ✓ Two (02) in site 1017

- ✓ One (01) in site 1018

Managed by the local committees to assure the ownership and the accountability

6. Conclusion et Perspectives

- The different actions carried out do have an impact on the reconstitution of mangroves in Benin. These actions must continue on the long term;
- Coherence and synergy of national MEA actions and strategic plans can improve the sustainable conservation of mangrove ecosystems in term of efforts mutualisation and resources mobilisation ;
- Investigation to create a National marine and Coastal Protected Area is on going ;
- In the Government Action Program (GPA), one of the flagship projects is the development of seaside Resorts in a managed mangrove ecosystems.



FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL



Thank you for your attention



Cercle pour la Sauvegarde
des Ressources Naturelles

