

55TH ITTC SESSION IN TOGO

PROPOSED SITE FOR THE FIELD VISIT

In relation to the field visit planned during the 55th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) to be held in Togo, the proposed site is the Missahoé Gazetted Forest. The Missahoé Gazetted Forest is located in Togo's Ecological Zone IV, 124 km northwest of the city of Lomé. It takes approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes to reach the Missahoé Gazetted Forest by car via the N° 5 National Road.

With an estimated area of about 1,400 hectares, the Missahoé Gazetted Forest (gazetted in 1953) extends between 6° 54 and 7° 5 North latitude and 0° 34 and 0° 38 East longitude, and is located between 500 m and 704 m altitude. It extends along the southern slopes of the Togo Mountains range, between the Hanyigba and Todji villages in the South-West, and the Kuma-Tsamé village in the North-East, straddling the three townships of Agomé, Hanyigban and Kouma.

The Missahoé Gazetted Forest consists mainly of natural formations, including a number of interesting non-native species, and harbors a remarkable biodiversity. Tree species such as *Milicia Excelsa*, *Khaya Senegalensis* and *Terminalia Superba*, and many other tropical tree species can be seen while walking around. This forest of high conservation value is also a tourism area with a number of cultural landmarks such as the tomb of German settlers and the remains of the *Château Vial*. Built during the Second World War, the construction of this castle began in 1940 and was completed in 1944. It affords a panoramic view over the entire Missahoé Forest landscape (see image below).



Panoramic view of the Missahoé Forest landscape from *Château Vial*.