

1. General Description:

ID:CN-22017

Project resulting from this CN: N/A

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

1.1 Project Title:

Study for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of forest resources in the Mô Plain, Togo

1.2 Submitting Country/ies:

Togo

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

The pre-project will be implemented in the Mô plain area, which extends over three prefectures, namely, the Bassar, Sotouboua, and Mô Prefectures. Geographically, the pre-project area is located between 8°30' and 9°35' north latitude and 0°45' and 0°90' east longitude. The pre-project area straddles the Centrale Region and the Kara Region. The area hosts a high diversity of wetlands located in Togo's Ecological Zones I and II (Ern 1979). It is bordered by the Bassar Prefecture (Kara Region) to the north, the Sotouboua Prefecture (Centrale Region) to the east, the southern part of the Mô Prefecture (Centrale Region) to the south, and by Ghana to the west. Specifically, the pre-project area will cover seven districts (cantons), including ten villages located in three different prefectures. The seven districts are Djarkpanga, Tindjassi, Bassar, Kagnigbara, Shoudè, Baghan, and Boulou; the ten villages are Mô, Bandjeli, Fôlô, Banda, N'Kota, Kagnan, Tassi, Kouida Soukou, Boughan, etc.

1.4 Endorsement from ITTO Focal Point:

CN-2062-Togo-Endorsement.pdf

1.5 Intended Project Duration (in months):

12

1.6 Indicative Budget (in US\$):

ITTO	124,096
Counterpart	29,940
Total	154,036

1.7 Programme Line Focus

Forest Landscape Restoration and Resilient Livelihoods

1.8 Project Type

Analytical work/studies, Workshop/meeting/seminar, Other

Project Type - Other (please explain):

Diagnostic survey in the Mò Plain, Togo

1.9 Proposal Summary:

The pre-project aims to take stock of the situation in the southern part of Togo's Ecological Zones I & II with a view to developing a project for the conservation and sustainable management of the Mô plain forests, Togo. The guiding idea is to reduce, or even eliminate, the adverse impacts resulting from ecosystem destruction in the area and to contribute to improving living conditions among beneficiary communities. The main outputs will be: (i) data from forestry, socio-economic, legal, and environmental surveys are available for the project area; (ii) a strategy and a local community support project for the promotion and sustainable management of the Mô plain community forests in Togo are developed for submission to ITTO. There is a need for developing this pre-project due to the lack of data and to the now outdated surveys carried out in the area that will be covered by the future project. The lack of data is also compounded by the absence of national expertise and material and financial resources. These are all major constraints that hinder the direct development of a full project proposal.

2. Proponent Information:

2.1 Executing Agency Information:

Name of Agency/Organization/Institution:

Friends of the Environment (Les Amis de l'Environnement—AMEN)

Name of main Contact Person:

Komlan SAMAH

Email:

amen2002_kara@yahoo.fr

Other E-mail address:

skomlan@yahoo.fr

Phone:

00228 90 35 91 35

Fax:

00228 92 87 45 72

2.2 Type of Organization:

Civil Society Organization

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

Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources (Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources Forestières—MERF); BP: 355 Lome, Togo

Name of main Contact Person:

Dr MONKOUNA Lardja

Email Address:

monld_12@yahoo.fr

Phone:

00228 90 25 15 26

2.4 Relevant experience of EA:

AMEN has 16 years of experience in the restoration and sustainable management of forest resources in Togo, which enabled it to foster long-lasting and trusting relationships with local communities in the course of development projects implemented in rural areas, namely: Pre-project PPD37/02 Rev.1 (F); Pre-project PPD136/ Rev.1 (F); Pre-project PPD 191/18 Rev.1 (F); and Pre-project “TGO/SGP/OP5/CORE/BD/06/08” “Support for the restoration and management of the Welly community forest.”

3. Relevance:

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

The pre-project is consistent with the following objectives as set out in Article 1, ITTA, 2006: (c) To contribute to sustainable development The pre-project will carry out activities that will contribute to socioeconomic development and improved environmental conditions. The project will support self-development efforts through the protection and development of forest resources in particular. (j) Encourage members to support and develop tropical timber reforestation, as well as rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest land, with due regard for the interests of local communities dependent on forest resources The pre-project will develop reforestation activities using tropical timber species and will restore degraded forest lands for the benefit of local communities. It aims to protect soils, water, and forest ecosystems through the integral protection of forests against wildfires and illegal logging, with a view to maintaining the forest cover in this area. (r) To encourage members to recognize the role of forest-dependent indigenous and local communities in achieving sustainable forest management and develop strategies to enhance the capacity of these communities to sustainably manage tropical timber producing forests Empowerment of communities will be achieved through contracting forest management to local communities, participatory management uptake as a modus operandi, identifying endogenous techniques to be disseminated, and various training and awareness-raising sessions targeting local communities, with a view to sustainably managing their forest assets.

3.2 Relevance to the ITTO Programme Lines:

The pre-project aims to develop a sustainable project that will be fully in line with Programme Line 3 goal, i.e., to scale up the area of forest landscapes restored and to increase the provision of goods and services from planted and restored forests, thereby generating opportunities for local employment and contributing to wider development goals, and will develop reforestation activities and restore degraded forest land for the benefit of local communities to this end. The pre-project also aims to protect soils, water, and forest ecosystems through the integral protection of forests against wildfires and illegal logging, with a view to maintaining forest cover. The pre-project is also fully in line with the objectives of Programme Line 3, namely, (i) Promote the utilization and implementation of the ITTO Guidelines for forest landscape restoration in the tropics; and (ii) Facilitate the improvement of knowledge and skills in Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and the sustainable management of restored and planted forests". Since the pre-project will involve forest restoration and forest rehabilitation/reforestation work, it should comply with the ITTO Guidelines for forest landscape restoration in the tropics. It should also be consistent with the commitments made by the relevant ITTO member under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and contribute to the national action programme of the relevant ITTO member. It will involve the management/development of forest plantations in compliance with the ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Forests; and the selection of tree species in close consultation with local stakeholders, taking into account the environmental, social, cultural and economic value of species.

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

The pre-project objectives, as well as the various activities to be carried out, are fully in line with the ITTO guidelines endorsing five principles derived from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Forest Goals (GFGs), which are essential to achieve ITTO's core objectives, namely: (1) Environmental sustainability; (2) Social viability; (3) Gender equality and empowerment of women; (4) Good governance; and (5) Forest tenure security and access to forest resources. In addition, the general principle framework includes seven social and environmental standards relating to the following issues: 1) stakeholder engagement; 2) gender analysis; 3) conservation of biodiversity and protection of ecosystem services; 4) climate change mitigation (including carbon storage in timber products) and forest-based adaptation to climate change impacts; 5) sustainable management of natural tropical forests; 6) restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forest landscapes; and 7) production and processing of forest products (timber and non-timber). Pre-project objectives are in line with above social and environmental standards.

3.4 Relevance to submitting country's policies:

The Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Promotion of Employment (SCAPE) was adopted by Togo for its medium-term development for implementing Togo's general policy statement and enabling Togo to become an emerging country within 15 to 20 years. SCAPE is based on solid outcomes in connection with democracy strengthening, peace and national reconciliation, human capital development, environmental management, and sustainable development. Strategic pillars were defined with regard to the environment sector, natural resource sustainable management, and the living environment, as follows: (i) Maintaining ecosystem services; (ii) Sustainable land management; (iii) Addressing climate change; and (iv) Cross-cutting actions in environmental management; and (v) Transition to a green economy. Based on this global vision, the Government of Togo adopted a forest policy statement that places particular emphasis on forest restoration with a view to achieving 30% plant cover by 2050. The pre-project also meets the objectives of the following plans and programmes: (i) National Action Plan for the Environment; (ii) National Forestry Action Plan; (iii) National Action Plan to Combat Desertification; (iv) National Environmental Management Programme; (v) National Investment Programme for the Environment and Natural Resources. Several ITTO-funded projects addressed some aspects of participatory management and can be built upon for pre-project implementation. These ITTO projects include: Pre-project PPD 191/18 Rev.1 (F) Support to the local communities of the Mono plain for the promotion and sustainable management of community forests in Togo. Pre-project PPD 136/07 Rev.1 (F) Study for the conservation, development and sustainable management of mountain biodiversity in the sub-northern region of Togo; etc.

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

Pre-project objectives are also similar to those of previous ITTO projects/pre-projects, namely: (i) Pre-project PPD 136/07 Rev.1 (F) Study for the conservation, land management and sustainable mountain biodiversity management in the center north region of Togo, funded by ITTO and implemented by Togo's Directorate of Forest Resources with the technical support of AMEN, which provided the pre-project Coordinator; (ii) Pre-project PPD 37/02 Rev.1 (F) Study for the conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable management of mangroves in Togo, funded by ITTO and implemented by the NGO Réveil de la Jeunesse Rurale (RJR) with the technical support of AMEN, which also provided the pre-project Coordinator. AMEN also provided support to: (a) the Department of Wildlife and Hunting for implementing a support project for the conservation and development of wetlands in the Oti-Mandouri Basin and the Mono Basin; (b) the PGICT/MERF for implementing the support project for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of mountain biodiversity in the sub-northern region, Togo; (c) the NGO RJR for implementing the Support Project for Rural Women for the Development of Beekeeping in the Northern Region, Togo. The pre-project formulated for the Mô plain will follow the same dynamics and process as pre-project PPD 191/18 Rev.1. (F) implemented in the Mono plain with a view to developing the future project for the conservation and sustainable management of forest resources in the Mô plain.

4. Project synopsis:

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

4.1.1. Development objective: To increase the national production of timber and energy by restoring and sustainably managing forest resources in the Mô plain with a view to improving the living conditions and environment of local populations. 4.1.2. Specific objective: To provide technical assistance in the development of a support project for the restoration and sustainable management of forest resources in the Mô plain, Togo.

4.2 Key problem(s) to be addressed:

A diagnostic mission was carried out in the area with the participation of local people, who expressed concerns about the continuous degradation of their environment, the hampering of economic development in the region, and their desire to rehabilitate the forest cover as a result. This wish stems from the continued decrease in the production of their core agricultural and pastoral activities, from which their main sources of income are derived. There is a need for developing this pre-project for the following reasons: lack of data and outdated surveys carried out in the area that will be covered by the future project; unavailability of expertise at the national level; and lack of material and financial means. These are all drawbacks that constitute major hurdles in the direct development of a full project proposal. The decrease in production is due to: (i) the overuse and uncontrolled harvesting of forest and wildlife resources to meet the needs in wood fuel and utility timber, which feature among the deforestation factors in Togo; (ii) agricultural pressure, which relates to agriculture that is carried out using traditional methods, such as shifting and slash and burn cultivation and the belting of trees, resulting in the loss of flora, wildlife, and biodiversity; (iii) recurrent bushfires, which occur when fires consume most of savanna areas, open forests, and grasslands, endangering habitats and the species that depend on them. These threats have the following impacts: (a) loss of certain biological species; (b) scarcity of timber products; (c) forest land degradation and decline in agricultural production; and (d) increased poverty among local people.

4.3 Main stakeholders and beneficiaries:

The pre-project will be implemented with the participation of all stakeholders involved in developing the future project, namely local people, local NGOs, forest administration, agriculture, social affairs, and other actors involved in the management of forest resources. Raising people's awareness to promote their engagement, availability, and expectations with regard to the future project will be emphasized. Consultations with all stakeholders, in particular Village Development Committees, grassroots organizations, communities, etc., will be held prior to future project implementation. A Committee for the Management and Protection of Natural Resources (CGPRN) will be established with the future project management team. The role of the CGPRN will be to participate in the planning and organizing of reforestation work and to organize the protection of community forests against fires, illegal logging, poaching, etc. The CGPRN will be supported by the Local Committees for the Management and Protection of Natural Resources (CLGPRNs) representing the target districts. Their role and operations will be discussed and decided between the CGPRN and the districts. The CLGPRNs will decide on their membership and the allocation of rights and duties. The forest administration and the CGPRNs will assist village communities to establish legal entities that are in charge of community forest management, such as Cooperatives, Common Initiative Groups (CIG), or Economic Interest Groups (GIE). Awareness-raising and consultation meetings targeting relevant community stakeholders will be held by the local forestry administration and AMEN for the establishment and management of community forests to ensure the participation of all community members, and to determine the objectives and priority uses of community forests.

4.4 Key activities:

Output 1: Data from forestry, socio-economic, legal and environmental surveys are available. Activity 1.1: Raise communities' awareness and identify existing community forests in the Mô plain Activity 1.2: Conduct forestry, mapping and wildlife surveys Activity 1.3: Carry out socio-economic surveys Activity 1.4: Conduct legal surveys Activity 1.5: Conduct environmental and social impact surveys Activity 1.6: Hold a workshop to report survey findings to stakeholders Output 2: A strategy and a support project for the promotion and sustainable management of community forests by local communities in the Mô plain are developed and submitted to ITTO. Activity 2.1: Hold a symposium for validating pre-project results Activity 2.2. Develop a strategy and an action plan for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of the Mô plain Activity 2.3: Hold a workshop including all stakeholders for developing and validating a full project proposal to support local communities in connection with the promotion and sustainable management of community forests in the Mô plain, Togo, for submission to ITTO for funding Activity 2.4: Produce the mid-term report and the pre-project completion report for submission to ITTO.

4.5 Expected outcomes and impacts, including innovation/transformation:

Expected outcomes will be: (a) Data from forestry, socio-economic, legal and environmental surveys are available for the Mô plain area; (b) A strategy and a support project for the promotion and sustainable management of community forests by local communities in the Mô plain, Togo, are developed. The environmental and social impact survey will identify the potential impacts and the mitigation and compensation measures for ensuring sustainable development that should be taken into consideration when developing the future project for the conservation and sustainable management of forest resources in the Mô plain area.

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

AMEN recently completed the implementation of pre-project PPD 191/18 Rev.1 (F) “Support to the local communities of the Mono plain for the promotion and sustainable management of community forests in Togo”. AMEN also conducted the forestry surveys for pre-project PPD 136/07 Rev.1 (F) Study for the conservation, development and sustainable management of mountain biodiversity in the sub-northern region of Togo and was in charge of coordinating pre-project PPD 037/02 Rev.1 (F) Study for the conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable management of mangroves in Togo”. In addition, AMEN previously received funding from (i) the World Bank, Integrated Land Disaster Management Program (PGICT), in connection with the project Support for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of mountain biodiversity in the sub-northern region, Togo”; and (ii) the United Nations Development Programme for project TGO/SGP/OP5/CORE/BD/06/08 “Support for the restoration and management of the Welly community forest.”

4.7 Any other information deemed necessary/important:

According to the 2010 general population and housing census, the project area has a population of approximately 716,787 inhabitants, i.e., 12.46% of Togo population. Most people live in rural areas, and 80.25% (575,212 inhabitants) are distributed over three prefectures (Sotouboua, Mô, and Bassar), where the poverty rate is 60.2% in rural areas vs. 36.5% in urban areas. It is essentially an agricultural region where cotton, maize, cowpea, yam, groundnut, and rice are harvested. The Mô plain region is dominated by the Kabyè, Cotocoli, and Losso people, who respectively occupy the districts of Djarkpanga, Tindjassi, Bassar, Kagnigbara, Shoudè, Baghan, and Boulou, and the villages of Mô, Bandjeli, Fôlô, Banda, N' Kota, Kagnan, Tassi, Kouida Soukou, Boughan, etc. The municipalities specifically targeted by project activities are located in the districts of Tindjassi, Tcharkpanga, Kagnigbara, Baghan, and Boulou, and the villages of Mô, Bandjeli, Fôlô, Banda, N'Kota, Kagnan, Tassi, Kouida Soukou, Boughan, Bandjeli, Mo, and Bassar. Those municipalities identified for reforestation will be selected after consultations with local communities and validated by a technical workshop. Both targeted and neighboring communities and village development committees will participate in reforestation work, forest seedling production in nurseries, modern beekeeping, and improved traditional poultry breeding. Therefore, communities will directly benefit from project impacts through: (a) remuneration for reforestation, nurseries, beekeeping, and poultry-breeding work; (b) the establishment of self-managed private forest reforestation and nurseries, allowing them to access new financial resources; (c) huge sales of high quality honey and poultry; and (d) increased agricultural income resulting from improved climatic conditions in the project area.

4.8 Risk mitigation measures:

Considering the fact that the pre-project will be implemented with the effective participation of local people in the relevant districts, no major risks are expected during future project implementation. However, the land tenure system in place in Togo is of a traditional type and non-farming land remains the family property of natives. This traditional system should not give rise to issues in connection with the establishment of community forests and the participation of non-native people in reforestation work as communities demonstrated a strong commitment toward this effort during project preparatory work. Community forests are under management agreements (contracts) between village communities and the forestry administration, and village communities will be in charge of their management with the technical assistance of AMEN and the Forestry Administration. Community forests will be designed to allow local people to become involved in the long-term management of all forest resources for population well-being and village development. Additional measures aimed at promoting the participation of non-native people will also be taken during the development of community forest simple management plans and management agreements. Considering the fact that the process of community forest establishment, management and implementation is a highly participatory process, and that project communities will derive direct and indirect benefits from established community forests, the risks of non-participation will be minimized. The issue of land tenure will be partly resolved through management agreements, which will specify that the forests will belong to villages, provided that the populations comply with the forest management terms and conditions set out in the simple management plans for these forests in the Mô plain.

5. Indicative Budget (in US\$):

Indicative Budget (in US\$):

Description	ITTO	Counterpart	Total
Personnel	13,800	7,500	21,300
Sub-contracts	52,500	1,500	54,000
Travel and DSA	17,500	1,000	18,500
Capital Items	4,000	9,800	13,800
Consumables	8,500	5,440	13,940
Publication / Dissemination	1,500	1,500	3,000
Miscellaneous	6,000	3,200	9,200
Total	103,800	29,940	133,740

ITTO Project Monitoring & Review	7,000	-	7,000
Annual/Final Audit	0	-	0
ITTO Programme Support	13,296	-	13,296
ITTO Ex-post Evaluation	0	-	0
GRAND TOTAL	124,096	29,940	154,036