

## 1. General Description:

**ID:CN-22018**

**Project resulting from this CN: N/A**

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

### 1.1 Project Title:

Support in enhancing the consultation framework for the participatory and sustainable management of the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest, Togo

### 1.2 Submitting Country/ies:

Togo

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

Centrale Region, Sotouboua Prefecture, Sotouboua 2 Municipality

### 1.4 Endorsement from ITTO Focal Point:

CN-2071-Togo-Endorsement.pdf

### 1.5 Intended Project Duration (in months):

24

### 1.6 Indicative Budget (in US\$):

<b>ITTO</b>	461,736
<b>Counterpart</b>	94,004
<b>Total</b>	555,740

## 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:

Following socio-political unrest in the country during the 1990s, the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest (GF) was subject to encroachments and natural resource loss, which resulted in significant impacts on the forest ecosystems and the management of forest resources by the forestry administration represented by the Office for Forest Development and Use (ODEF). To reverse this trend and increase forest productivity for the benefit of all stakeholders, ODEF developed this project concept note for submission to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). The pre-project aims to achieve the participatory and sustainable management of the GF. It will be achieved through community awareness-raising and training in forest regulations, establishing a joint management committee, promoting income-generating activities (market gardening and beekeeping), demarcating plots for agricultural working circles, and promoting sustainable farming practices.

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## 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)

#### Name of main Contact Person:

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**2.2 Type of Organization:**

Governmental Agency

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

Central Directories, Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources, namely: 1-Directorate of Forest Resources (DRF); 2-Directorate of the Environment (DE); and 3-Forest Resource Inspectorate (IRF)

**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 ha of forest plantations were established and are being managed by means of ODEF own funds.

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## 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 Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest. 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 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 soils, water and forest ecosystems through the full protection of forests against inappropriate practices to ensure forest cover maintenance in the area. This project is also in line with the ITTO Strategic Plan for 2013-2018 as set out in its Strategic Priorities 3 and 4, as follows: Strategic Priority 3: The project will include awareness-raising activities that can help raise people's awareness about the impacts of uncontrolled forest resource utilization. The project will also build the people's capacity in sustainable land management. All these actions will contribute to reducing impacts on forest natural regeneration and slow down biodiversity loss as a result. Strategic Priority 4: The project plans to train stakeholders in the rational use of resources and to promote income-generating activities (beekeeping), which will increase people's income while reducing adverse impacts on resources and thereby curb the effects of climate change.

### 3.2 Relevance to the ITTO Programme Lines:

The pre-project is in line with Programme Line 3: it aims to continue restoration efforts in the Aou-Mono Gazetted forest based on a participatory and inclusive framework. The aim is to enhance local stakeholders' capacity to facilitate collaboration with ODEF with a view to restoring the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest, which is severely degraded and subject to encroachments in some parts. In addition, the pre-project will contribute indirectly to Programme Line 1 as set out in its Objectives 4 and 5, as follows: Objective 4: The project will be implemented in the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest based on a development plan that provides for timber production and carbon-stocking working circles over a 3254.7 hectare (54.25%) area out of the 6,000 hectares total area covered by the forest. Building the capacity of local communities to ensure their full and proactive participation in restoration activities through reforestation using valuable forest species will increase Togo's capacity to produce quality timber. In addition, local community outreach on forest regulations aims to ensure sustainable and legal production and the development of forest resources and services provided by the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest. Objective 5: The project plans to raise local communities' awareness of rational resource use with a view to meeting their economic and social needs without undermining efforts to restore the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest ecosystems. In addition, the project will integrate six Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): SDG1 (No poverty); SDG2 (Zero hunger); SDG5 (Gender equality); SDG8 (Decent work and economic growth); SDG13 (Climate action); and SDG15 (Life on land) to contribute to the balanced and sustainable development in Togo.

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

The project will contribute to achieving six SDGs, as follows:

- **SDG1:** The project aims to increase the medium and long-term income of local communities through the development of products derived from thinnings and timber from teak plantations in the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest. The development of income-generating activities (IGAs) such as market gardening and beekeeping, and the marketing of fishery products (fish) from the Mono River will also be promoted and should contribute to increasing local population income.
- **SDG2:** The project plans to improve the standard of living of local communities by strengthening their capacities in integrated land management and good agricultural practices with a view to improving productivity and diversifying agricultural enterprises to ensure food security.
- **SDG5:** The pre-project will support women's participation in forestry activities and the promotion of IGAs to improve their income.
- **SDG8:** The pre-project will promote green jobs for local youth as well as capacity building in agriculture, beekeeping, fishing and forestry.
- **SDG13:** The pre-project will raise local communities' awareness of the need to contribute to addressing climate change by promoting private and community reforestation, by controlling and managing vegetation fires as well as possible, and by addressing deforestation and forest degradation (SDG13).
- **SDG15:** The project will create enabling conditions for restoration through intensive reforestation in the production and conservation working circles established in the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest. Rural areas as well as agricultural working circles (area within the gazetted forest allocated to agricultural activities for the benefit of local rural communities) will be used by local community households through the uptake of good agricultural practices and integrated land management.

### **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 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.

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## 4. Project synopsis:

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

Development objective: To contribute to the sustainable management of the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest with a view to increasing the production of forest and agricultural products. Specific objective: To sustainably manage the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest with a view to improving the living conditions and environment of local people.

### 4.2 Key problem(s) to be addressed:

The Aou-Mono forest was gazetted by Decree No. 945-54/EF on October 21, 1954, and experienced an increased degradation of its resources in the 1990s resulting in plant cover loss. After a period of political turmoil, the ODEF, which serves as the guarantor of the State's forest assets, took the initiative to restore the forest vegetation cover through reforestation. As a result, 400 hectares of plantations have been established in the Aou-Mono forest between 2005 and today. However, reforestation work gave rise to misunderstandings between the ODEF and local people, with various consequences, such as frequent instances of seedlings planted in combination with crops found mutilated and uprooted, illegal harvesting of valuable timber for sawing, and charcoal production being recorded. Other damage resulted from transhumant herders during their journeys and the fragmentation and illegal sale of land in the area. For instance, 64 hectares of plantations under establishment were destroyed by the population in 2013. Today, seven villages are located within the forest. The forest and the plantations established by ODEF are gradually being subject to encroachments. To address these issues, the forestry administration proposes to conduct an initial diagnostic survey, and then set up mechanisms and tools to secure and allow the sustainable management of forest assets in this area based on a participatory approach with local communities living in the vicinity of the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest.



### 4.3 Main stakeholders and beneficiaries:

ODEF: Responsible for planning the development of state-owned forests and contributing to the preservation of natural resources

Farmers: Include native residents and non-natives who practice shifting slash-and-burn agriculture.

Charcoal producers: Harvest wood from valuable species to meet the strong demand in wood energy and supply large urban centers, such as the city of Lome.

Hunters: Often do not hesitate to set fire to plantations to dislodge game during the dry season.

Herders: Allow animals to graze in the forest, which is associated with soil trampling and compacting and results in soil degradation and the destruction of newly established plots.

Prefectural and municipal authorities: Representatives of the central government who settle social conflicts and conduct public awareness work.

Traditional chieftaincy: Local authorities who settle socio-cultural conflicts and conduct public awareness-raising work.

NGOs and associations: For their activities to have positive outcomes, a peaceful atmosphere is essential.

CVDs and CDQs: Local entities in charge of development, and local authorities rely on them for mobilization.

Local elected officials: Representatives of the people to the central administration.

Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources (MERF): Supervises ODEF, serves as the forestry administration, and is responsible for preserving the forest assets.

ITTO: Extends support to Togo in achieving the objective of 30% forest cover by (sic).

### 4.4 Key activities:

- Establishment and operationalization of a joint management committee for the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest.
- Raising communities and other stakeholders' awareness of project objectives, land sustainable management and regulations in force.
- Training of people in market gardening and beekeeping. This activity will provide communities with food products and a source of income, thus reducing community vulnerability to the uncontrolled use of natural resources.
- Allocation of plots to households for agricultural working circles. The project will take into account the gender aspect through the planning and implementation of activities, such as awareness raising on forest regulations and good land use practices; income-generating activities through the promotion of market gardening and beekeeping; capacity building of stakeholders in good land use practices; and the establishment and operationalization of the joint forest management committee.

#### **4.5 Expected outcomes and impacts, including innovation/transformation:**

At pre-project completion (two-year duration), outcome indicators will be as follows: - One Aou-Mono gazetted forest joint management committee has been established and is operational; - 60 people from the villages neighboring the Aou-Mono gazetted forest have been trained on forest regulations and are disseminating them; - 90% of the population is aware of the rational use of resources; - 15 people from five neighboring village groups have been trained in market gardening techniques and provided with equipment; - 40 people from four groups have been trained and provided with beekeeping equipment; - 60 people have been trained in good integrated land management practices and are following them; - 2,000 ha of plots have been allocated to households for agricultural working circles; - 2000 ha of agricultural working circles have been established and demarcated with 100 small markers.

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

A management plan was developed and validated for the Aou-Mono Gazetted Forest as part of implementing 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).

#### 4.8 Risk mitigation measures:

This project will be efficiently implemented provided that: 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 the message are therefore to be expected although opinion leaders will help raise awareness of current forest regulations. People will benefit from proposed income-generating activities: people have free access to forest products which they collect fairly easily and free of charge from the forest. Other activities included in the project 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 support by providing them with the necessary equipment as part of the promotion of IGAs (market gardening and beekeeping). By project completion, trained populations will be familiar with required techniques. Advisory support will be continued through other ministry departments to ensure outcome sustainability. All stakeholders will 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 Aou-Mono forest.

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#### 5. Indicative Budget (in US\$):

**Indicative Budget (in US\$):**

<b>Description</b>	<b>ITTO</b>	<b>Counterpart</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	131,120	24,000	155,120
<b>Sub-contracts</b>	41,200		41,200
<b>Travel and DSA</b>	66,200		66,200
<b>Capital Items</b>	85,564	4,800	90,364
<b>Consumables</b>	123,892	1,920	125,812
<b>Publication / Dissemination</b>		59,444	59,444
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	13,760	3,840	17,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>461,736</b>	<b>94,004</b>	<b>555,740</b>