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The achievements of the women's led forest landscape restoration ITTO projects in Togo and Benin



By:

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Content



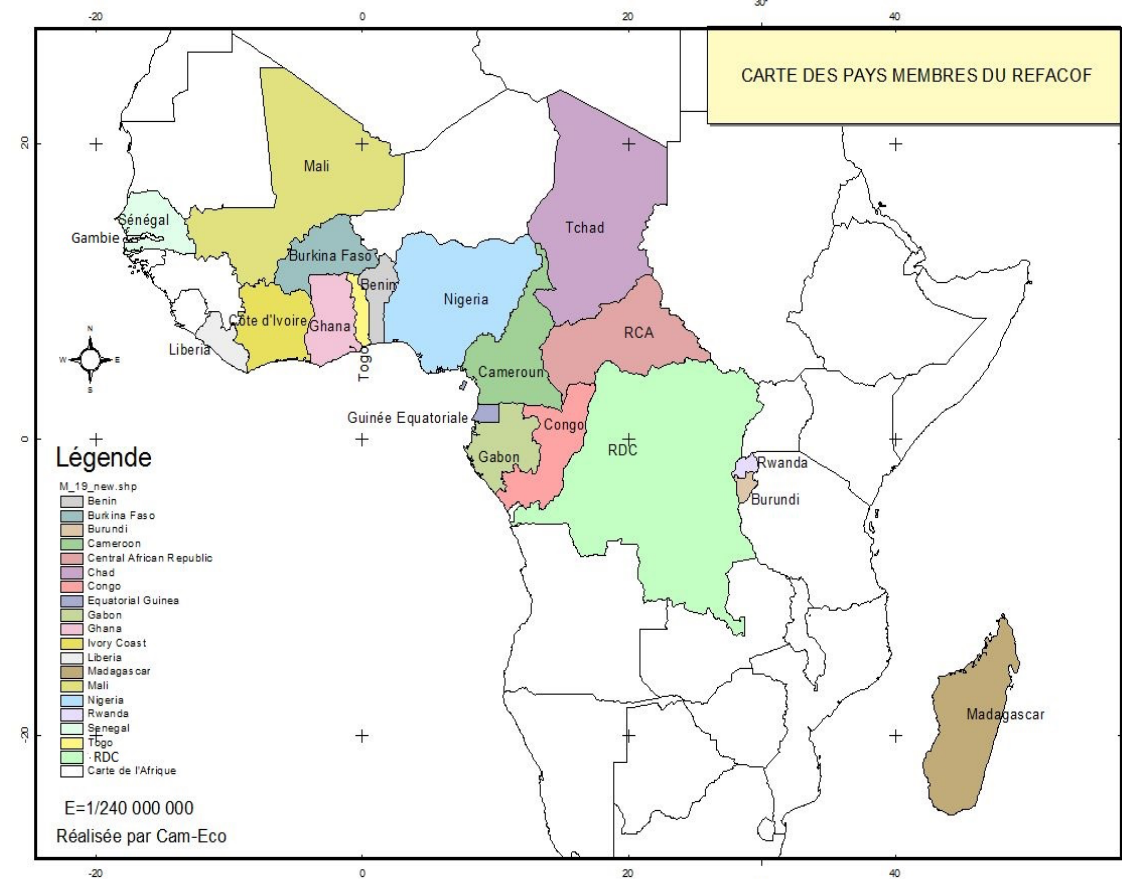
- REFACOF: Who we are
- Objectives of the initiative
- Main Results
- Major impacts on landscape and on livelihoods for women groups
- Conclusion

REFACOF: Who we are!

- Africa Women's Network for Community Forest Management (REFACOF, French acronym)
- Created May 2009 in Yaoundé, Cameroon
- 20 West and Central African countries and Madagascar
- **Advocacy platform** for African women's **tenure rights** in land and forest reforms

Mission:

Promote women's rights in Africa and advocate to shape policies and practices for gender equity in land and forest tenure.



Impacts and Results

- **The women's led landscape restoration initiatives in Togo and Benin have 3 objectives:**
 - To promote the participation of women in the restoration of deforested and degraded lands;
 - To combating climate change; and
 - To improve livelihoods of the families and communities in the project areas.
- **4 main results achieved:**
 - Increase in the areas reforested by women, from 20 ha in phase 1 to 35 ha in phase 2 and 43 ha in phase 3, including 17 ha in open areas and 26 ha in agroforests;
 - 7 women groups representing a total of 150 women involved using the Taungya method; in two implementing sites: **Agouegan** in the Lakes and **Pagala-Gare** in Blitta;
 - At 18 training sessions were organized on issues related to nursery establishment and maintenance, tree planting and income generation activities value chains;
 - Construction of 2 storage warehouses and provision of a variety of equipment acquired to strengthen the development of Income generating activities in order to maximize profits.



Major impacts:

- Increased forest cover and potential;
- Women capacity building improved:
 - In nursery establishment and production of tree seedlings;
 - In Agro-forestry plantation (crops combined with trees);
 - In income generating activities development and value chain;
- Improved food production for household consumption and for the market;
- Improved income from the sale of food products and by-products;
- Improved livelihoods and diversification of sources of income;
- Increased motivation of women to perpetuate their activities in order to maintain their status of becoming permanent suppliers of by-products food such as gari, tapioca and coconut oil in their respective localities;
- Social cohesion strengthened;
- Improved their visibility at the regional, prefectural and national levels;
- Improved recognition of women as model in tree plant production, restoration and livelihoods development in Togo.



Conclusion

- The implementation of the women's led landscape restoration initiatives in Togo has been a great success;
- This successful implementation encouraged ITTO to expand the initiative to Benin where activities have just started;
- REFACOF is grateful to **Soka Gakkai** for their financial support;
- REFACOF would like to encourage other funding partners to contribute in the upscaling of these successful and impactful initiatives in other parts of the countries and in other countries;
- African women are key actors in addressing climate change, lost of biodiversity and poverty in Africa. Please trust and support them!





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Thank you!



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