

# Project for a 2,500 ha Timber Production Plantation in the Reserved Forest of Haho-Baloe (Plateaux Region) Togo

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## Final Report

PD 30/96 Rev.4 (F)

### I. Introduction

The project, which was a follow-up to project PD 204/91 Rev.1 (F) "Identification and Study of a Plantation Project for the Production of Timber (2,500 ha) in the Reserved Forest of Haho-Baloe (Plateaux Region)" was approved by the Council at its Twenty-second Session in May 1997. During the Twenty-third Session, the Governments of Japan, Switzerland and USA provided full financing for the project.

### II. Project Objective

The project aimed at bringing the Haho-Baloe Reserved Forest (4,000 ha) under sustainable and integrated management for the purpose of optimal production of timber with the cooperation of the local population. Specific objectives of the first phase were to: (1) establish 500 ha of new plantations for the production of industrial timber; (2) regenerate 100 ha of old teak forests; (3) prepare documents on participatory forest management for 940 ha of natural forest and the security of land tenure for the people living in the 660 ha enclaves allocated to agriculture.

### III. Project Strategy and Activities

The project team took into consideration the outcomes of the studies carried out under the above-mentioned ITTO project PD 204/91, within the framework of a participatory approach in order to ensure the effective involvement of local communities who live in enclaves within the forest area.

### IV. Project Achievements and Outputs

The project was completed in August 2002. The planned activities were carried out during forty-one months and achievements can be summarized as follows:

- 658 ha of plantations (500 ha were planned for the Phase I) were established using 970,700 seedlings of Teak, Gmelina, Frake and Samba either through sub-contracts (495,000 seedlings) or with local communities (475,700 seedlings);
- 100 ha of old Teak plantations were regenerated;
- 600 ha of enclaves allocated to agriculture and to the local communities were demarcated and 30 ha of natural forest were managed;

- Three km of new roads/trails were created and covered with laterite, 17 km of existing roads/trails connecting villages were fitted and covered with laterite, 30 km of new roads/trails were created in plantations, and 15 km of new roads/trails were covered with laterite in plantations;
- An operational unit for reforestation and forest management of Haho-Baloe (URAF/HB) was set up in Notse;
- The involvement of local communities in the sustainable management of the Haho-Baloe Reserved Forest was ensured through the following activities: training of members of Village Development Committees; implementation of income generating activities; setting up of a consultation structure at the local level; putting into effect incentive measures (building of a primary school with three classrooms, construction two new water wells, rehabilitation of two existing ones, reinforcement of the Health Center of Tsinigan through the engagement of a midwife nurse).

## **V. Target Beneficiaries Involvement**

Target beneficiaries were actively involved in all stages of the planning and implementation of the project. Beneficiaries included the Togo Forest Development and Production Authority (ODEF), the local communities and the Togolese Government.

## **VI. Lessons Learnt**

The main lessons learnt from the implementation of the Phase I of this project are as follows:

- The participatory approach has improved the relationship and collaboration in forest management between stakeholders, particularly between the State and local communities. This approach has also induced a change in the attitude of local communities who have become more receptive to the implementation of development actions;
- Allowing local communities to organize themselves in enclaves within the Reserved Forest has greatly contributed to ensure their identification with the goals of the project;
- The monitoring and evaluation of project implementation through self-evaluation workshops and local steering committees including stakeholders and partners from other departments (agriculture, education, health, etc.), has contributed to the development of the guidelines for the Phase II of the project; and
- Seedlings of Frake did not resist the drought observed in this area of Togo in 2001.

## **VII. Dissemination of Results**

The dissemination of results was mainly carried out through the above-mentioned self-evaluation workshops and local steering committees, with the participation of all stakeholders.

## **VIII. Recommendations Related to Future Work**

The following recommendations were made by the Executing Agency based on the lessons learnt from the implementation of the project:

- The need to avoid delays between the completion of Phase I and the inception of Phase II, in order to maintain the identification of the local communities with the goals of the project; and
- The importance of involving local communities in forest management activities throughout the project cycle from the identification of problems to the implementation and completion of the project within the framework of a participatory approach.

## **IX. Concluding Remarks**

As the ITTO Secretariat has received the Project Completion Report and the Final Financial Audit Report, the project PD 30/96 Rev.3 (F) can be reported as completed.