

République du Bénin

Fraternité- Justice-Travail



Centre international pour la Promotion de la  
Gouvernance Environnementale et Forestière



**CIPGEF**



## ACTIONS OF ENRICHMENT OF SACRED FOREST OF AVEGANME

**Jun, 2009.**

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## ACTIONS OF ENRICHMENT IN THE SACRED FOREST OF AVEGANME

### Introduction

The sacred forest of Avéganmè covers a area of 5 ha. It is a part of the sacred forests of Benin. It is surrounded with the hamlets of Gbehounkochihoué, Houètognonhoué, Koyihoué, Avéganmè and of Sossouhoué. The some first initiatives of its planning carry up by the PGRN. Natural Resources Management project funded by World bank between 1992 and 2000. Thereafter other interventions have been recorded by this unusual forest formation in the middle of a space greatly anthrop see.

The CIPGEF NGO undertook its interventions more precisely in this forest the February 2008, while PSC project promoters have visit Benin during the 3rd MB of PSC.



The late leader of sacred forest management committee      view of villagers during negotiations meeting

### 2. Origin of the conflict

In June 2008, the first intervention of enrichment of the forest should take place but because of contradictory situation existing between the inhabitants of the villages and riparian hamlets of this no action have did not be led. Ab out what is it?



The spiritual guard inn white      View of community during a meeting      The President of CIPGEF ONG giving explanation

Wear during conflict resolution

On the occasion of the visit of the PSC project promoters from Benin, Bhutan and Costa Rica, the CIPGEF NGO sent funds to allow the delegate of the village and the members of the former committee of management of the forest put in place by the structures of previous support, to get ready to welcome the hosts. Funds received would not have been managed in participative and

transparent manner. What caused frustrations of the discontents having entailed quick tensions between the communities.



The actual President of committee    The young boys in their involvement    Practice of beekeeping after

Talking to the members

peaceful coming to the riparian villages

### **3. The historic foundations of the contradictory situation**

But makes of it, to see closely, one understands that it is hardly more of an about appropriation of the forest, leadership and all advantage that would ensue of action in favor of this forest. The reality being yet what follows:

### **4. Context Justification**

The strategy for the resolution of the conflicts consisted in meetings with the different parts of way separated, of the sittings of different autochthonous, migrating and guardian actor sensitizations on the individual and collective responsibility towards the forest. the themes as we inherited this forest that to have us the duty to transmit to the generating future at the end of our mission on earth all come our ancestors bequeathed to us it.

To the continuation of the resolution, a new committee has been installed taking account the representativeness of all riparian hamlets of the forest. So a committee of 13 members has been put on implied to drive the destinies of this forest. The list of this committee is joined to the present report.

### **5. Scheduling of the activities to the level of the forest**

Once installed, the new comity proceeded to a scheduling of the activities of planning of the forest. This is how it has, between settled other to proceed to the maintenance of the forest as well as full file of the opening in the forest from the forest plantations that will be provided him by the CIPGEF NGO BENIN. June 1st, 25<sup>th</sup> National Tree Day of Benin, tree has been programmed for the work of opening of trails and clearing of the zones destined to receive young plantations.

June 04 2009: Preparation of the land and the receipt of the plantations

June 05 2009: Environmental World Day has been chosen for the maintenance works and plantation of forest enrichment.

#### **i) Definition of the stains and organization of work**

The project has been assigned to bring the plantations and the necessary aid to the good progress of works.

Communities have the essential of the role to play that wants to tell to open the trails, to plant the trees and to take immediate care.

#### ii) Recognition of the zones to enrich the forest

Thursday June 04 2009, committee proceeded to recognition of the forest in order to mark the openings;

#### Sacrifice for access to the forest

According to the spiritual guard, the God of the forest require some sacrifices before all human penetration in the forest. The elements of sacrifices are about three (3) sheep, three SODABIS liters (local alcohol) and of what to prepare the sheep (oil of palm, flours of corn, and condiments).

#### iii) Training of the villagers on the technique of enrichment plantation

The team of the project composed the coordinator, the Assistant Trainer and the People responsible of the site proceeded to a training convenient of the committee widened to other villagers for the circumstance on the techniques of enrichment.



Partial view of the Aveganme forest



Young caillcedrat planted in forest



Samba growing in the Aveganme forest

#### iv) Choice of species used

The species used were the Iroko *Milicia exelsa*, the Samba *Triplochiton scleroxylon* and the Caillcédrat *Khaya senegalensis*. The choice of these species has been guided by the fact that the two first are those whose project tries to make the promotion and the third for the interest that the populations carry him.



Iroko seedlings



Caillcedrat seedling



Samba seedlings



Preparing seed bed

## **6. The actual plantation**

Total 300 trees of Iroko , Samba and Caïlcedrat have been planted and maintained (cleaning of the circles).

The operations have been covered by the radio Couffo FM.

## **7. Conclusion**

The regulation of the crisis that shook since close to one year the riparian communities of the forest of Avéganmè permitted to bring back the social peace within these communities thanks to which the works of enrichment have can be done. It is the proof that no carrying is possible with divided communities either torn by internal tensions.

Lokossa June 9th 2009.

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Coordinator of project 23 P 07