



REPUBLIC OF TOGO

RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE HIGHLY DETERIORATED SOILS OF THE NORTHERN TOGO

Cluster 5: Session on-the-ground activities

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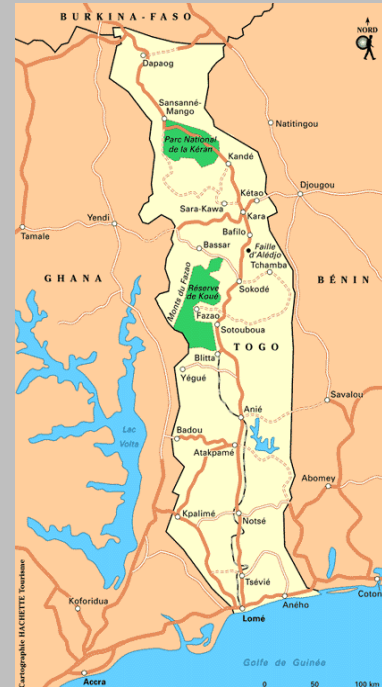
Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources

Summary

- ❖ **Short presentation of Togo**
- ❖ **The main problems to the sustainable management of the soils in these highly deteriorated zones**
- ❖ **Activities to fight against the degradation of the soils**

I. Short presentation of Togo

- Located on the western side of Africa The Republic of Togo covers a surface area of 56,600 square kilometers with a population of **6,500,000** inhabitants
- The deteriorated zone is composed of **Savannas region and the Kara region**. The zone enjoys a tropical climate characterised by one dry season and a rainy season with an average temperature of 28°C. and; The types of soils in this area are:
 - (i) washed tropical ferruginous grounds;
 - (ii) not very advanced grounds in erosion
 - (iii) not very humus-bearing hydromorphic grounds with gley whose physical properties are unfavourable with agriculture.



I. Short presentation of Togo

- The vegetation is composed of clear forests, dry forest, agroforestry parks, -which_ are maintained and looked after the varied species of trees (fruit-tree or not) fertilizing the fields of the farmers and having nutritive and s and shrubby savannas. The majority of the farmed acreages are therapeutic virtues.
- The economy of the area is primarily agricultural (millet, black eyed peas, groundnut, sorghum and cotton), and trade is based on the exchange of agricultural and manufactured goods.

II. THE MAIN PROBLEMS

The identified problems are:

- a decrease in -soil productivity-,
- the cultivable depressions ÷these areas also know a draining phenomenon;
- the loss of -arable lands; and
- the population growth and the search of space in these areas.

III. Activities to fight against soils degradation

- To fight against transition into savanna which constitutes the main reason for soil impoverishment, the Government instituted **June 1** as the Day of the Tree, in 1977. On this day, each citizen has to plant at least one tree.
- Terraced agriculture practiced by the populations on the sides of the Kabyé mountain (Kara) constitutes the only experiment in conservation in farming areas in the erosion zone.
- The majority of the cultivated areas are agroforestry parks, where various tree species, whether fruit-bearing or not, are managed fertilizing the fields of the peasants and having nutritive and therapeutic virtues. In the north, *Parkia biglobosa*, *Prosopis africana*, *Vitellaria paradoxa*, *Adansonia digitata* the species most frequently planted.
- Activities to build the capacity of the rural populations and organisations for an effective management of their soils are undertaken by the NGOs such as INADES Formation, CARE International, Iles of Peace and, RAFIA.

Conclusion

- TOGO is a developing country. We have in common with industrialised countries a certain number of problems linked to the loss of biodiversity, forest degradation, soil deterioration, climate change.....Only a rational combination of traditional knowledge and modern practices can enable a sustainable development.

**THANKS YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**