

Project Update: July 2014

First activity: Importance of Rock Hills Vegetation for Local Population

Meetings were held with local populations in the study area. During these meetings, we explained to the population the importance of this project and its outcomes for the regions. Then, a group of natural resources were setup in the four provinces (Houet, Léraba, Kéné Dougou and Comoé). Structured interviews were conducted according to the dominant ethnic groups found in each province (Bobos in Houet, Senoufo in Kéné Dougou and Léraba and Goins in Comoé). In each province, four villages close to inselbergs were chosen. Ten women and ten men were surveyed per village.

The results of this activity showed that many relationship (cultural relation and socio-economical relation) exists between local population and rocky hills vegetation.

- Concerning the beneficial cultural relation, local population use rocky hills for marriages, communications with ancestors, mask-making and house building.
- Concerning the socio-economical relations, plants of rocky hills are used for food, against several diseases and artisanal.

The interviews showed that many plants are used by local population such as: *Acacia macrostachya*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Adansonia digitata*, *Annona senegalensis*, *Anogeissus leiocarpa*, *Bombax contatum*, *Grewia bicolor*, *Borassus akeassi*, *Burkea africana*, *Ceiba pentandra*, *Detarium microcarpum*, *Dicrostachys cinerea*, *Diospyros mespiliformis*, *Entada africana*, *Faidherbia albida*, *Ficus sycomorus*, *Flacourtia indica*, *Gardenia erubescens*, *Guiera senegalensis*, *Lannea microcarpa*, *Lannea velutina*, *Maranthes polyandra*, *Moringa oleifera*, *Parkia biglobosa*, *Piliostigma reticulatum*, *Pteleopsis suberosa*, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Saba senegalensis*, *Sclerocarya birrea*, *Sterculia setigera*, *Strychnos spinosa*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Vitellaria paradoxa*, *Vitex doniana* and *Ximenia Americana*.



Left: House building in rocky hills. Right: Traditional ceremony with mask in rocky hills



Left: Mask making in rocky hills. Right: Mask make with *Ceiba pentandra* fiber