

Project Update: January 2007

In the framework of the implementation of the project untitled “Promotion of a participatory approach for a sustainable management of mangrove resources in Togo” funded by the Rufford Small Grants, the National Consumers and Environmental Alliance of Togo (ANCE-Togo) has organised several activities.

1. First activity: meeting with stakeholders: from August 15 to September 15, 2006, a delegation of ANCE has met with the Directorate of State in charge of mangrove conservation and the chief of the 10 villages in the project zone (Zebe, Agokpame, Agouegan, Seko, Djeta, Zanve, Agbananken Togodo, Azime and Adame). The aim of these visits was to share views and strategies for the activities of sensitizing, education and information of the local communities on the importance of mangroves and the methods of access and exploitation of natural resources. After these visits, the project staff was set up. It comprise 38 members among which 16 members of ANCE (1 per affiliated organisation), 10 representative of the Village Committees for Development (1 per village), 10 Community Basic Organisations (1 per village), 1 representative of the Togolese Directorate for Water and Forest Management (in charge of mangroves in Togo) and 1 representative of the Togolese Forestry National Action Plan.

2. The second activity: sensitising and training of local communities. Those activities were carried from October 09 to October 21, 2006. The main goal of these activities is to sensitize, educate and train local communities on the importance of mangroves and the methods of access and exploitation of natural resources. In each of the 10 villages, a local public meeting was organised as well as 1 closed workshop for 50 participants for local community radios, CBOs, farmers associations and selected individuals living with mangrove resources and campaign to local schools. A committee of 10 members was set up in each village for follow up of the recommendations of the workshop.

3. The third activity: strengthening the technical capacities of NGOs and technical Department of State on mangrove resources management. Several preliminary meeting were organised from November 06 to November 16, 2006 and a two days workshop was organised in the conference room of the Togolese Chamber of Trade from November 28 to November 29, 2006. 50 participants attended this meeting. The participants came from departments of State (15 participants), NGOs (20 participants) and 15 journalists among which 5 for public medias and 10 for private medias. Several interviews were granted and the workshop was reported in the national television (TVT) and in 2 private televisions such as TV7 and TV2.

