

WHV – Projet de sauvegarde du site Koutammakou

Koutammakou, the land of the Batammariba, Togo

◆ Cultural property inscribed on the
World Heritage List since 2004

22/07/2016 - 09/08/2016



The Koutammakou landscape in north-eastern Togo, which extends into neighbouring Benin, is home to the Batammariba whose remarkable mud tower-houses (Takienta or Tatas) have come to be seen as a symbol of Togo. In this landscape, nature is strongly associated with the rituals and beliefs of society. The 50,000-ha cultural landscape is remarkable due to the architecture of its tower-houses which are a reflection of social structure; its farmland and forest; and the associations between people and landscape. Many of the buildings are two storeys high and those with granaries feature an almost spherical form above a cylindrical base. Some of the buildings have flat roofs, others have conical thatched roofs. They are grouped in villages, which also include ceremonial spaces, springs, rocks and sites reserved for initiation ceremonies.

Project objectives: The main objective of the action camp, implemented since 2008, is to preserve and promote the traditional *Tatas* which are threatened by deforestation and by the construction of more and more modern houses which do not make use of traditional building materials, replacing ages of tradition.

Project activities: The volunteers will conduct the planting of endemic tree species which are used for the constructions of the *Tatas*. In addition, they will take actions for the preservation of the trees planted during the previous action camps. They will also run awareness raising events, such as comedy sketches and debates, aimed at the local communities and students focusing on the importance of conservation of the site and of sustainable development.

Partners: Ministry responsible for culture, the conservation site and local population.

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