

## WHV - Ecology and the protection of the sanctuaries “Fawaafa”

### Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba, Togo

Cultural property inscribed on the List of World Heritage since 2004

01/10/2017 – 12/10/2017



The Koutammakou landscape in north-eastern Togo, which extends into neighbouring Benin, is home to the Batammariba whose remarkable mud tower-houses (Takienta) 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 project is to contribute to the restoration of the cult places and the sanctuaries as well as the sacred objects which compose the site of Koutammakou. It also aims at raising local population awareness to enhance the existing balance and harmony between the natural environment and the traditional cultural activities.

#### Project activities:

The volunteers will be involved in preservation activities, such as cleaning the area around the sanctuaries and paths. The hands-on activities will include the treatment of the ravines around the site to prevent erosion and bushfires, and the use of mudbrick, the traditional building material used for the construction and maintenance of Koutammakou's buildings. Furthermore, the project foresees workshops and group discussions to raise the awareness of local youth. The volunteers will acquire a strong knowledge about the site of Koutammakou as well as the sanctuaries Fawaafa of Warengo, their management and conservation techniques thanks to these activities.



**Partners:**

Direction du Patrimoine National, Service de Conservation

**Association des Jeunes Volontaires pour le Développement Communautaire**

Mr. Tanti N'Poh

[ajvdckante@gmail.com](mailto:ajvdckante@gmail.com)