

WHV – Sauvons la Takienta

Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba, Togo

Cultural property inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2004

01/10/2019 – 15/10/2019



The Koutammakou landscape 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.

Project objectives:

The project aims to contribute to revitalize the *Takienta* (or *Tata*, traditional mud tower-houses) and raise awareness among the local communities, particularly the younger generations who have abandoned this ancient method of house construction. As a result, a group of international and local volunteers will be trained and equipped with the knowledge and techniques to preserve the *Takienta*. In total, five ruined *Takientas* will be identified and restored.

Project activities:

After participating in training on *Takienta* conservation and preservation techniques, the volunteers will assist in the identification and restoration of five destroyed *Takienta* houses with the cooperation and support of the local communities. The volunteers will have the chance to immerse themselves in the social and cultural context of the site and exchange their ideas and opinions regarding the protection and promotion of World Heritage. Likewise, two sensibilization sessions aimed at a group of *Takienta* owners are foreseen so that volunteers will be more aware of the importance and techniques to maintain and preserve the buildings. The project will also work on the development of pathways in Koutammakou in order to make the site more accessible for the public.

Partners:

Service de Conservation et de Promotion du Koutammakou (SCPK), NGO Perfect Union

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