

WHV – Protection and enhancement of World Heritage

Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba, Togo

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2004)

22 July - 07 August 2023

THE SITE - 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.

OBJECTIVES - A partner since the first edition of the initiative in 2008, the association will return to work on the site after a short break due to the pandemic, continuing the reforestation programme essential to the sustainability of the Takienta.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will continue the reforestation of several plots and the maintenance of ancient plants essential for the construction of Takienta, and will participate in the cleaning of the water reservoirs. The project will also involve students from the African School of Architecture and Urban Planning in discussions with the local community on adapting traditional building methods to the current needs of the site's inhabitants.

PARTNERS - Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Site Conservatory, Site Management Committee

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