

WHV – Protection and life at Koutammakou site

Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba, Togo

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2004)

PROJECT DATES

22 July - 07 August 2024

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 continue the reforestation and awareness raising programmes essential to the sustainability of the Takienta.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will contribute to the reforestation of 5 hectares of land by planting 3,000 new trees, and will organise 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, Village Development Committee, Chiefery.

Frères Agriculteurs et Artisans pour le Développement (FAGAD)

Mr Kossy Ayeh

fagadtogo@yahoo.fr

