



Collective and Family Woodlands in Tiogo Forest Reserve Improve Incomes and Land

For more than 20 years, UNEP has been actively involved in worldwide efforts to combat dryland degradation. The following success story addresses not only the biophysical but also the socio-cultural-economic issues in all its developmental stages, thus ensuring long-term sustainability. It was implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and local communities with funds from SIDA.

Mossi plateau is located in the central part of Sanguié province, an agricultural area producing food and cash crops. The region has poorly developed soils often underlain by a laterite crust, a soil type formed in hot and wet tropical areas that is rich in iron and aluminium. For more than 20 years, the plateau had suffered from uncertain rainfall and recurrent droughts. The combination of drought and desertification speeded up the degradation of the region's forest resources. And high population densities led to wood resource shortages and a shortage of land for crops.

Then local communities, with help from United Nations Development Programme, began a campaign to rehabilitate the land by protecting and regenerating the local natural resources, and to improve productivity and rural living conditions.

They set up forest management groupings (GCF) to control the exploitation of wood resources. The government introduced regulations for urban wood-supply channels. Energy conservation was promoted through energy efficient stoves. To increase productivity, soil fertility was improved and a favorable environment fostered for agro-pastoralism.

The projects successes showed up through improvement in the livelihoods of the communities and the conditions of the ecosystem. Awareness grew on the need to preserve forest resources, and the forestry techniques previously in use were improved for rehabilitating tree cover and disadvantaged forester groups were empowered.

They increased fuel wood supply, construction poles and forest products through better management and development of wood resources. Villagers voluntary began to build anti-erosion measures around fields and got involved in preserving and developing forest resources as planned. They also accepted the regulatory and supervisory roles for fire control and access to grazing and cropping in forests. Capacity



for seedling production, reforestation and erosion control was enhanced through training.

To support livelihoods, the village GCFs set up revolving funds for community investment, for example, in infrastructure. Incomes increased from GCF wood sales supplementing low agricultural incomes. The GCFs are also used to promote membership and voluntary adherence to the scheme by neighboring villages. Intra-communal relationships and conflict resolution among stakeholders and with the government improved as a result. A new Forest Code and Land Reform programme was developed, which delimits the legal framework of resource exploitation in state reserves.

Reference

Re-written from, United Nations Environment Programme, Collective and Family Woodlands in Tiogo Forest Reserve, Mossi Plateau in Burkina Faso

Available at: <http://www.unep.org/desertification/successstories/3.htm> Access date: 21.07.2010