

**"Les Amis de la Terre-Togo"**

**IBIS**

**Danish 92 Group**

**“Danish support for increased participation of  
Southern NGOs in the Rio+10 Earth Summit”**



**RIO+10 PROCESS IN  
WEST AFRICA**

**January 2002**

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## I - INTRODUCTION

The Earth Summit on Sustainable Development will be held soon in Johannesburg (South Africa) from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2002.

This will be an opportunity for the southern countries, particularly for the West African countries, to participate more to the different reflections about the various issues on Sustainable Development.

Indeed, despite environment has no limit generally speaking, we are obliged to recognize that west African are among the one which are more affected by the effects of its degradation. Therefore they are among those countries which are badly equipped to execute the necessary policies and programs in order to face up with the threats related to their ways of exploitation, production and consumption in the sustainable development.

Because of the vastness of the socio-economic and environmental crises in the sub region, it would be so regretful that there is nothing to do in order to find solutions to these crises. We must therefore act very quickly and efficiently at all levels to preserve, restore and use rationally the resources at our disposal.

Initiatives are already in progress at the various levels and we must coordinate and integrate them in order to find the most sustainable solutions to the problems of desertification, deforestation, malnutrition, erosion of the biological diversity, GMOs, degradation of resources in fresh water, energy, illiteracy and bad governance.

To achieve the objectives of sustainable development in the sub region as everywhere else, the Civil and NGO have an important role to play considering the failures known in the past by the governments. Therefore Johannesburg is the best occasion given by the International community to the West African countries to highlight their various approaches for the implementation of Agenda 21 in the sub region.

The “Danish 92 Group” project comes just at the right moment for it allows a little bit the NGO and the Civil Society to well apprehend the Rio spirit and the reason of the sustainable development to make lobbying and advocacy from the governments for the effective implementation of the agreements taken during the Rio Conference.

In the framework of the aforementioned project some activities have been made and others are on the way in order to involve a large number of NGOs and Associations to

adopt the best strategy for action .

The following pages contain a brief survey on the different levels of the Civil Society and NGOs' preparation for the Johannesburg Summit.

## **II - BRIEF ABOUT THE COORDINATION**

In West Africa, “Les Amis de la Terre -Togo”, is coordinating project the “Danish 92 Group” project, with regards to its involvement in the Rio + 10 process.

“Les Amis de la Terre-Togo” takes interest to problems related to biodiversity, desertification, ozone layer and climate changes, food security, sustainable agriculture, energy, trade, debt and environment, community health, community development. It sets the task of encouraging human society to take up activities that protect land's capacity to sustain life.

With regards to this objective, it takes up activity dealing with the conservation of environment and sustainable development at the local, national and international levels.

It operates in the following fields :

- ✓ Population awareness, education and formation about the protection of environment
- ✓ Initiation, support and follow up of the community development in rural and urban environment
- ✓ Support to research activities in the environmental fields
- ✓ Young volunteers international exchange (South-south and North-south partnerships)
- ✓ International campaign for the protection of environment

The main task of “Les Amis de la Terre-Togo” are among others:

- Research and disseminate information on Rio Conference and Rio+10 process
- Elaborate action plan for the implementation of the project while ensuring its effective implementation in every country of the sub-region.
- Organize and convene meetings for the sub-region NGOs for an inventory of the project
- Provide a regular reports on the project progress
- Edit and update West Africa webpages on the website [www.rio+10.dk](http://www.rio+10.dk)

## **III - BRIEF ABOUT THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS**

The National Focal Point is a NGO which coordinates the activities of all the NGOs involved in the Rio+10 process at the national level.

Main tasks of national focal points are:

- Organization of consultations for national NGOs involved in the Rio + 10 process
- Exchange of information with the sub-regional coordination and other NGOs on the national process progress
- Participation to meetings organized by the sub-regional coordination
- Elaboration of national report on Rio+10 process

According to the activities planning, the national focal points must be democratically elected among NGOs involved in the Rio + 10 process. This has not been the case in some countries.

Theoretically, each national focal point should have already organized its national consultation. But until now and to our knowledge, only Ghana and Mali could meet the challenge.

True, we have not received the reports yet.

The chart below contains the contacts of the national focal points

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>FAX</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
Benin	GRAIB	+229 463048	+229 463048	graib@intnet.bj
Burkina Faso	AVD	+226 370894	+226 370895	avd@riod-ao.bf
Cameroon	CED	+237 223857	+237 223859	ced@cedcam.org
Côte d'Ivoire	CI-ECOLOGIE	+225 20211475	+225 20211475	ciéco@africaonline.co.ci
Gambia	Worldview, the Gambia	+220 227136		taalas@gamtel.gm
Ghana	ICA-GHANA	+233 21224167	+233 21221343	icagh@ghana.com
	TWN	+233 21225963	+233 21511188	twnafrica@ghana.com
Guinea	GUINEE-ECOLOGIE	+214-11 216888		dmsaliou@mirinet.com
Liberia	POCAL	+231 227756	+231 227838	pocal54@yahoo.com
Mali	GUAMINA	+223 295910	+223 293194	guamina@datatech.toolnet.org
Niger	ADRI	+227 734249	+227 741355	adri@intnet.ne
Nigeria	CAR	+234-85 201081		udonge@beta.linkserve.com
	ERA	+234-52 600165	+234-52 600165	eraction@infoweb.abs.net
Senegal	Enda-Tm Green Senegal	+221 8225983 +221 9516830	+221 8217595 +221 9516830	energy2@enda.sn greensenegal@sentoo.sn
Togo	AJEGAT	+228 3304200	+228 3304200	ajegat@cafe.tg

#### **IV - NGOS INVOLVED IN RIO+10 PROCESS**

“Les Amis de la Terre-Togo” is intended to coordinate the “Danish 92 Group” project in West Africa. Despite the invitation addressed to all the West African countries, only 13 countries effectively took part to the set up activities.

Actually over 30 NGOs are effectively committed in the Rio+10 process in the sub region.

We are on the way to develop a strategy for NGOs and civil society to be very well implicated in the process.

## **V - VARIOUS IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES DURING THE INCEPTION PHASE**

### **1 - Dissemination of information with regards to Rio Summit and Rio+10 process**

It consists of searching and collecting information on Internet and disseminating them through our mailing list where every NGO involved in the Rio process has its e-mail. In so doing, the majority of NGOs are regularly kept informed about the development of the process at the sub regional and international levels.

### **2 - Accra Workshop**

On the 21 and 22 September 2001, the representatives of the national focal points met in Accra (GHANA) for a workshop on the Rio+10 process. The objective of this workshop is to become acquainted with the “Danish 92 Group” project, to share national experiences as far as the Civil Society organization for the Johannesburg Summit is concerned and to settle a sub regional program not only for the preparation of the aforementioned Summit but also for the implementation of Agenda 21.

Eleven (11) countries have been represented in the workshop and this allowed participants to define the priorities and the conditions for sustainable development in the sub region. This also permitted to set up a group of reflection and preparation of the West African Civil Society and NGOs position for the various preparatory meetings organized by The United Nations.

The following points were targeted as key issues:

- Weak governance (waste resources, corruption, misallocated rights and institutional piracy)
- Poor education
- Degradation of natural resources
- International relations of power (Globalization)
- National debts
- Wars
- AIDS
- Regulatory capture

The participants agreed that for further implementation of Agenda 21 in the sub region, NGOs and Civil Society must involve themselves in order to “encourage and support at every level, the decentralization and the good governance process as well as the promotion of the civil society coalitions in the sub-region for a great responsibility of the population of the sustainable management and the resources exploitation”.

Moreover, the participants in Accra workshop recognized the weakness of communication between the National Focal Points and the coordination. To overcome these deficiencies, it has been proposed that every NGO struggle to be equipped with adequate computer-related

tools (Telephone, Fax, Internet). These will facilitate the research and the dissemination of NGO's experience and information both at national and regional levels.

At the end of the workshop, participants,

.....,

recalling the necessity for the NGOs / civil society to actively take part to the assessment and the implementation of Agenda 21,

underlining the necessity for NGOs / civil society to carry out a concerted preparation to the communication of their respective country,

underlining that the preparatory Accra workshop is an important step for NGOs to their involvement and their participation to all national and international discussions in the Rio+10 process,

recommends to the NGOs / civil society to commit a dynamic group of dialogue both at the national and regional levels and to have a representative mandate in order to prepare communications reflecting the reality of their country and in accordance with the contribution given to the Rio+10 Summit.

### **3 - Participation to the preparatory meetings at Abidjan and Nairobi**

West African Civil Society and NGO have been strongly represented at the Johannesburg Summit preparatory meetings organized in ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire, by ECOWAS and also to the Prepcom Africa which is held in Nairobi (Kenya). The objective is to get to know the Civil Society and NGO viewpoint upon the stakes of Johannesburg Summit and the strategy to adopt in order to make the said Summit more profitable for the sub region.

During these meetings, some lobbying and advocacies have been made for the governmental delegations on the key issues identified in Accra workshop and the "Global Deal" concept.

## **VI - FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES**

The most important activities are among others :

- ✓ The settlement of some sub regional thematic groups networks and the designation of each thematic groups' coordinator. eg. TWN is coordinating mining network in West Africa
- ✓ The participation of the Civil Society organization to the Pan African Conference from 8 to 12 January 2002
- ✓ Participation in Prepcoms
- ✓ The organization of West African NGO's workshop in Aburi (GHANA) from 19 to 23 February 2002.

Actually, West African NGOs are planning to conduct some reflection activities on some items and conditions for the success of the strategies to be implemented. Below are the listed items and conditions.

Priorities Conditions	Forest and biodiversity	Climate and energy	Fresh water	Food security	Sustainable agriculture	Desertification
Democracy / good governance	XX	XX	XX	XXX	XX	XX
Participation of the population / Access to information	XX	XX	XXX	XX	XX	XX
Financial resources availability	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Institutional capacity strengthen	X	X	X	XX	X	X
Poverty reduction	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

PS : In this chart the sign “X” expresses the degree of linkage between the priority development issues and some conditions for success. As a matter of fact :  
X= minor influence; XX= important influence; XXX= very important influence

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