

« Environment, it is where all we live, and development, it is what we are doing all to improve our living in this environment. Both are indissociable »

Gro Harlem Brundtland



ROAD MAP

OPERATIONAL PLAN

FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE EARTH CHARTER IN TOGO

January 2006 - December 2007

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Operational Plan
For the launch of the Earth Charter Initiative in Togo

I. Context:**I.1. What is the Earth Charter?**

The Earth Charter is a declaration of the fundamental ethical codes necessary for the construction of a just, long-lasting and peaceful global society for the 21st Century. Through its ethical vision, the Earth Charter recognises that environmental integrity, social equality, justice, the protection of human rights and a continual drive towards sustainable development are all fundamentally linked and crucially important issues to be addressed. As underlined by the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Professor Wangari Maathai, 'The Earth Charter is to the 21st Century, what the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was to 1948'.

I.2. History of the Earth Charter

In 1987, the U.N. Commission for the Environment and Development launched an appeal for the creation of a new charter, which would include the principals fundamental to sustainable development. The drawing up of an Earth Charter formed an important part of the unfinished work carried out at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. In 1994, Maurice Strong, Secretary General of the Earth Summit and Mikhail Gorbachev, President of the International Green Cross, launched a new Earth Charter Initiative with the support of the Dutch government. A commission for the Earth Charter was therefore formed in 1997 in order to review the project. A secretariat for the Earth Charter was also established at the Earth Council in Costa Rica.

At the beginning of 1997, the Earth Charter Commission created an international committee which was to organise all international consultations for the validation of the Earth Charter. At the Paris UNESCO summit of March 2000, the commission approved the final version of the Earth Charter. On June the 29th of the same year at the Palace of the Hague, the Earth Charter was officially launched.

II. Justification: Why an Earth Charter Initiative in Togo?

Since the approval of the Earth Charter in Paris and following its official launch at the Hague, many local and international organisations, including; charitable foundations, research bodies and universities, in collaboration with local government, have worked and continue to work fastidiously towards the initiation of the Earth Charter in Togo.

In the U.S.A, the Earth Charter was approved in 2003 by the General Assembly of Mayors.

In Africa, the Earth Charter has been officially recognised and approved in the following countries: Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Approval of the Earth Charter in these countries has created an environment which has facilitated the creation and eventual success of several national development programs for political stability, conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction and disaster relief.

In Mali, the Earth Charter has:

- Re-animated a national dialogue on the politics of decentralisation.
- Offered tremendous support to farmers of crops used in traditional medicine.

- Stimulated the transfer of improved hygiene technologies.

In Sierra Leone the Earth Charter has:

- Through the Earth Charter Youth Initiative, served as an ethical code in national schools and universities to aid in post conflict reconstruction of the country.

In Ghana, the Earth Charter has:

- Supported a countrywide campaign for youth employment.
- Supported private enterprise establishment in the domain of renewable energies.

For the governments involved, the Earth Charter has had an important role to play in the success of any initiative. It provides a model for sustainable development which includes three principal themes:

- Environmental Integrity.
- Social and Economic Justice.
- Non-violent Democratic and Peace.

The Earth Charter, therefore, should be seen as a comprehensive guide for sustainable development and as set of principals designed to guide us in our development work..

In Togo nothing has yet been put in place to enable the formation and approval of an Earth charter. VGlob, therefore, after several consultative sessions with the Minister for the Environment and Forest Resources, has taken it upon itself to organise the initiation of the Earth Charter for Togo.

This operational workplan aims to prepare and reinforce national capacity to initiate the Earth Charter and to provide all necessary information on the proposed project in Togo, for the period 2006-2007 (24 months in total).

III. Objective and Operational Strategies

III.1- Principal Objective

1.1- Raise Awareness of the Earth Charter and its application for the sustainable development throughout Togo

III.2- Operational Objectives and strategies

-Operational Objective 1

1- Advocate the promotion, approval and initiation of the Earth Charter for Togo.

-Operational strategies 1

1.1 Create a dialogue with the Minister for the Environment and Forest Resources

1.2 Obtain the support of the Minister of Education for the initiation of the Earth Charter in schools.

1.3 Request the participation of the State Department for Youth and the Minister for Human Rights and Democracy for the initiation of the Earth Charter.

1.4 Request the participation of international organisations working in the domain of sustainable development.

Timeframe: Jan-July 2006.

-Operational Objective 2

2. Organise the First National Seminar on the Earth Charter.

Suggested sub-topic: What is the Earth Charter?

-Operational Strategies 2

2.1- the official launch ceremony of the Earth Charter the first day.

The audience will comprise 50 members of the government, educational institutions, members of the U.N. in Togo, NGO workers in Togo and religious and spiritual leaders.

2.2- Organise an Earth Charter workshop to take place during the final two days. 30 youth leaders between the ages of 18 and 28 will participate in this workshop.

Suggested Sub-Topic: Socio-Environmental and Sustainable development challenge: action, role and responsibility of youth

- Discussion of the Earth Charter and the purpose it serves
- Problematic of resources management.
- Violence and the proliferation of small arms/weapons.
- Discussion on the question of leadership and power. How to become an excellent leader.

Timeframe: July 2006

-Operational Objective 3

3. Introduce the ethics of the Earth Charter in the rest regions of Togo.

-Operational Strategies 3

3.1 Organise 5 extra workshops on the Earth Charter in each of the five regions of Togo, (Maritime, Plateau, Central, Kara and Savannah regions).

The audience will consist of local government leaders and regional prefects, NGO's working in the locality and local educators.

Suggested topic: What is the Earth Charter?

- How to use the Earth Charter.
- Problematic of resources management
- What Leadership to *Make the Poverty History?*

Timeframe: September 2006 - April 2007

-Operational Objective 4

4. Initiation of a pilot the Earth Charter Peer education project over ten training seminars for 180 youth leaders.

-Operational Strategies 4

4.1 Organisation of ten educational and outreach youth peer seminar.

There will be 180 young participants (from 18 to 24 years old) involved from schools and youth associations around the country.

Suggested topics:

- What is sustainable development?
- Introduction to the Earth Charter and peer education.
- How to initiate and bring about positive change for a sustainable life in my community?

Timeframe: January – December 2007

-Operational Objective 5

5. Produce educational toolkits on the Earth Charter.

-Operational Strategies 5

5.1 Find produced-documentation on Earth Charter and for Sustainable Development.

5.2 Adapt current Earth Charter literature to the Togolese cause.

5.3 Produce educational/promotional manuals on the Earth Charter if needed.

5.4 Produce educational/promotional literature on leadership, motivation, advocacy, ecological ethics, and conflict resolution.

5.4 create a website for the Earth Charter initiative in Togo

Timeframe: January 2006 – December 2007

-Operational Objective 6

6. Mobilise action across the Togolese NGO sector to aid in the initiation of the Earth Charter.

-Operational Strategies 6

6.1 Organise inter NGO cooperation for the initiation of the Earth Charter.

6.2 Organise in kind donations to aid in the initiation of the Earth Charter.

6.3 Develop relations and partnerships for the future.

Timeframe: January – December 2007

7. Ad Hoc Operations:

7.1 Begin other projects which agree with the basic ethics of the Earth Charter.

7.2 Promote research into questions raised by the Earth Charter/ Sustainability.

7.3 Take into account any suggestions for the improvement of our programme.

7.4 Revise eventually the present programme every four months.

Timeframe: January – December 2007

IV. Institutional Framework

The Earth Charter is an initiative of the United Nations department for the Environment and Development. It is supported by UNESCO through its resolution 32C/COM.III/DR.1 of the 1st of October 2003.

The ethical codes, such as respect for the community, ecological integrity, social and economic justice, free democratic process and non violence which drive the Earth Charter, are not just the recommendations of various international organisations, but form also the ethical backbone of the Togolese government and of Togolese society.

Promotion of an ecological conscience, the reinforcement of the national capacity for environmental administration and the introduction of environmental education all appeared in the National Action Plan for the Environment of July 2001.

The promotion of social and economic justice, non violence, sound government and good citizenship continue to appear as major topics of discussion for the head of state himself.

V. Organisational structures

The programme will be executed primarily by the Togo-based non-profit registered association Volontaire-Globalisation (VGlob), in close collaboration with the Togolese Department for the Environment and Forest Resources. This partnership is already well established through the letter N°134/MERF/SG/DE/DPLPN of the 17th of March 2006 (visit <http://www.projet-togo.africa-web.org/togoministrysupportletter.jpg> to download that letter. An great effort will be made to involve other organisations linked to education and sustainable development.

The Earth Charter secretariat has been working with VGlob since the beginning of 2005.

V.1 Association Volontaire-Globalisation (VGlob)

Volontaire-Globalisation, (VGlob) is a small non profit organisation which was founded in 2002 and registered in Togo under N°1109/MISD/12.03.2002. Its mission is to promote and encourage sustainable development in communities throughout the country, and to equip its fellow citizens with all the necessary tools and knowledge to help improve their lives. VGlob continues to work at a grassroots level in some of the poorest and most under-developed communities in West Africa in an attempt to help end the poverty and suffering of Africa's poor. VGlob is currently working alongside the State Department for the Environment and Forest Resources in the implementation of the Earth Charter Initiative in Togo.

Since 2002 VGlob has worked on:

- A participative community diagnostic for the village of Glékopé, Agou.
- An inquest into the causes and effects of faecal pollution on the beaches of Aného.
- Community work with the youth of Nyitoé-Zukpé, Agou.
- Creation of HIV/AIDS prevention workshops in eight schools and artists associations in Lomé and Bagbé.

- The support given by the Minister for Youth and Employment for the Youth Employment campaign, (YES TOGO) launched in 2002 in Boston USA has allowed several members of

VGlob to travel to various informative seminars on disaster relief, conflict resolution and leadership in such countries as Iran, Malaysia, Ghana, Togo and Cameroon.

- VGlob has received training from the UN-Chartered World Peace Educators association in order to develop its entrepreneurial skills.

- In addition to this, VGlob has signed onto a partnership with GTZ, a German NGO which is currently working to decentralise Togo's health service.

V.2 Human resources for the initiation of the Earth Charter

The international secretariat for the Earth Charter, based in Costa Rica, has appointed a facilitator / co-ordinator, to drive the initiative. The role of this co-ordinator is to introduce the Charter to all relevant the authorities, to obtain their co-operation and to mobilise everyone involved in the initiation of the Earth Charter.

The above position will be a voluntary position and will have responsibility for the following:

- One official facilitator and two co-ordinators, all of whom will be required to hold a university degree in social sciences, economic sciences, education, management or project funding.
- National and international volunteers qualified in international laws, agronomy, environmental sciences and social sciences.
- All people, organisations and resources and,
- A consultative group composed of the international Earth Charter secretariat, the Togolese minister for the environment and any other potential partners.

VI. Monitoring, Evaluation and Success Indicators

The entire programme will be thoroughly monitored to provide useful data for the eventual analysis of any problems which may have impeded the programmes progress. Ordinarily meetings will take place to discuss the progress of the programme.

The following indicators will allow us to verify the success of the operational strategies proposed above:

- Government complicity in communication and in the giving of technical and financial support.
- The support given by other development organisations.
- The degree of satisfaction experienced by all participants.
- The acceptance by the participants in the initiation of the Earth Charter.
- The support given by pedagogic institutions.
- Any student publications on the subject of/in support of the Earth Charter initiative.

These periodic reports will be published and sent to our stakeholders. For the purposes of complete transparency these reports will contain all information on funds received and where these funds have been used.