

## **RCC Lomé supports establishment of environment clubs in eight Togolese schools**

On Saturday, 11 March, around 150 students and teachers from eight high schools in Lomé attended a workshop about raising awareness on the causes and effects of climate change and possible solutions.

The workshop, entitled "Youth and Resilience to Climate Change and the Contribution of Schools in Addressing Climate Change", used videos on the topic to facilitate understanding and stimulate discussion among the young people participating in the event.

Students expressed strong interest in the subject matter and identified climate change mitigation and adaptation projects they could implement at their schools, such as installing recycling bins to produce compost from organic waste, creating a nursery for trees in the school garden and promoting energy efficient policies in school. The students also decided to create an environment club at each school which will coordinate and supervise the implementation of the activities and promote further awareness raising among students, teachers and parents.

Mr Philippe Sambigou Nanika, President of Association Togolaise du Cinéma Numérique Ambulant (ATCNA), expressed his satisfaction at the success of the event saying "The effects of climate change touch all humankind, particularly the youth. This workshop has been valuable to our students, helping them understand their role in tackling climate change causes and emphasizing the role of the visual media in communicating this vital message".

Mr. Armel Esdras Zounon, Research Assistant at the Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) Lomé also underlined the importance of the workshop: "This workshop is the starting point of a very ambitious project. The school environment clubs are the ideal framework for students to learn climate advocacy and action. The initiative aims at engaging the commitment of young people for action at a local level in order to tackle climate change effects. RCC Lomé will continue to support this".

Plans are underway to replicate the initiative in other schools in the city, extending it to a larger number of students.

The event was organized by RCC Lomé in collaboration with the ATCNA and the Fédération des Associations de Parents d'Elèves, d'Etudiants et d'apprenants du Togo. It also involved the participation of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Resources of Togo and the Federation National Tourisme et Hôtellerie du Togo.

Photo credit: Cinéma Numérique Ambulant Togo, March 2017