



## REDERC – ONG

### Réseau de Développement des Réserves naturelles Communautaires

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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

herewith I would like to propose the non-governmental organization REDERC, based in Papatia, Atacora region, Benin. It has been created in 2008 in order to conserve threatened species of plants important for the traditional medicine and the nutrition of the local population. Its focus lies on the agricultural sector. Two international prizes have already valorised its commitment for the protection of the environment: the Equator Price (2010) and the Global Energy Award (2015).

The NGO sensibilizes children and adults about the causes and the consequences of climate change. Every year, the team of REDERC organises a summer school of environmental education classes in three primary schools. The students participate voluntarily and they attend the classes numerous and regularly. Interactive methods, images, games and songs strengthen the students' comprehension and the joy of learning. As the participants write an exam at the end of the course, the degree of comprehension can be estimated. Results of all kinds can be found but the majority of the evaluations is usually good or very good. In the end, all participants are rewarded for their participation, in dependence of their result.

For the adults, REDERC uses methods like theatre plays and sketches.

Another important project of REDERC is the protection of the Botanical Garden of Papatia from fires, hunting and agriculture. This is difficult since there are no means to install fences and since REDERC is not the legal owner of the land. Additionally, REDERC has initiated the creation of protected school gardens in 34 schools of the region. These are used for pedagogical purposes. The protected areas have the following positive effects: protection of threatened species, valorisation of traditional medicine and beekeeping.

Additionally, the NGO has created "RNA fields" (RNA=Régénération naturelle assistée) for trees which serve with rich fruits and leaves the nutrition of the local population. For this, the population was sensibilized about the importance of the trees. As many had already noticed the rarity of those, they agreed on the installation of the RNA fields on their land. Thus, the protection of the fields is also difficult. For the future it is planned to reinforce the teaching of transformation and preparation methods for the trees' products.

Furthermore, REDERC promotes reforestation and agroforestry and assists at their conductions.

The project for which REDERC would use the NWP funds, if granted, is a solar pump for the existing vegetable garden of a local community. A vegetable garden with access to water will ensure a balanced food supply during the whole year as it is less effected by droughts, which have already become longer and more frequent in the region during the last several years.

Thank you for your attention. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

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