

APRIL 2019

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# IMPROVED STOVES FOR THE NIMBA MOUNTAIN REGION, GUINEA



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Naturefriends International

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## PROJECT CONCEPT

The rural Communes of N'Zoo, Bossou and Tounkarata are in the Monts Nimba Biosphere Reserve, in the prefecture of Lola, in Guinée Forestière. Nimba Mountains Biosphere Reserve is situated in the border region of Guinea, Liberia, and Ivory Coast. The region is covered by mountain rainforest, grasslands and savannah and is one of the richest and most endangered ecosystems of the world. In 1981, the area was declared a World Heritage Site. Since 1992, it is listed as endangered world heritage.



Extraction of wood and forest clearings due to the increasing need for wood of the local population are a big threat for the area and intensify the effects of climate change. Wood is the most important source of energy for private households. A major part of the wood is used for cooking. A wood economy therefore has a direct impact on the living conditions of the populations and on the fight against deforestation and climate change

Improved stoves, that save wood and emit less smoke, are an important contribution to climate protection.

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## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project's specific objectives were:

- To train local elected officials and village leaders on environmental protection;
- To raise awareness among the populations of the three rural communes for a change of behaviour in the face of climate change;
- To train women housewives in the construction of improved fireplaces using local materials;
- To reduce the consumption of firewood by 60% through the use of improved fireplaces;
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- To reduce the risk of diseases linked to domestic smoke; to preserve the vegetation cover.

In addition to these environmental benefits, these stoves will also have a strong social impact by freeing up time that women would otherwise spend collecting firewood.

Therefore, the beneficiaries of the project are primarily women housewives. Then, the local authorities, local elected officials, and village leaders.

Finally, the project will encourage the local administration and the finally the government to take measures against the consequences of climate change and to improve the existing ones.

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## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project team of Naturefriends Guinea (Alusfade-Guinée) supervised and supported the people in the villages, informed about the necessity of climate protection and helped with the construction of improved stoves.

The initiative included the following activities:

### OCTOBER 2018

Contact with local authorities and elected officials

This activity saw a strong mobilisation of local authorities and elected officials in the rural Communes of Tounkarata, N'zoo and Bossou.

The local authorities and elected representatives at all levels, were delighted with the choice of their respective localities to host the project. Hence their total support, especially as the effects of climate change are increasingly felt in Guinea.

### NOVEMBER 2018

Training of local elected officials and village leaders on environmental protection

In the period from 22 to 27 November 2018, on-site training of local elected officials and village leaders took place.

The aim was to provide these actors with the knowledge and skills necessary for a better understanding of the concept of environmental protection.

During this training provided by the facilitators of the NGO ALUSFADE-GUINEE, 14 village facilitators and 7 local elected officials, i.e. a total of 21 people were trained per site. For the three rural communes as a whole, 63 people were trained in environmental protection.

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## DECEMBER 2018

### Organisation of an awareness raising conference on climate change

This conference was held in the city of Lola on the occasion of the Global Day of Action on Climate Change. It was organised on site (Toungkarata, N'Zoo and Bossou) in the form of an educational talk on the theme "Climate change: causes, consequences and mitigation measures" and led by the project team with the participation of Mr. Mamadou MBODJI, Vice President of NFI.



In the opinion of the participants, this conference was the first of its kind, because usually conferences are held in a traditional manner in rooms in large cities. This does not give the local populations, who work daily with nature to satisfy their needs, the chance to participate, especially since they are always held in a foreign language (French).

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## DECEMBER 2018

Thus, having familiarised themselves with the concepts developed throughout this educational talk, the participants did not hide their feelings of satisfaction when they said that this conference had enabled them to understand the challenges of climate change.



Hence their commitment, as local elected representatives and all sensibilities, to contribute from now on to the protection of their own environment and to the conservation of nature.

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## FEBRUARY 2019

Awareness raising of the populations of the three rural Communes on the benefits of the use of improved stoves

Mamadou Mbodji, NFI Vice-president was welcome by the leaders of ALUSFADE-GUINEE. The planned activities involved intensive talks with local people to make them aware of climate change, its impact on their lives and the possibilities to contribute to the protection of climate and environment by using improved stoves instead of the traditional cooking places which need huge amounts of wood.

Initiated with the aim of getting households to use improved stoves instead of traditional ones and thus contribute to the mitigation of climate change, this sensitisation was mainly focused on the following questions: What is a stove? What is an improved stove? Why build and use improved cookstoves? What precautions should be taken before, during and after the use of an improved cookstove?

After these sessions, Ms. Saoulouhara Fatou, gave a practical demonstration on the construction of improved traditional stoves, which are built with local materials (three pieces of mud brick, stone blocks, clay and water). This activity took place respectively on 16 and 17 February 2019 in the rural Communes of Tounkarata and N'Zoo and on 04 March 2019 in Bossou.





## FEBRUARY 2019

Local people showed a lot of interest and were eager to follow Ms. Fatou's demonstration. They were impressed how easy it is to build improved stoves without any extra costs and how these stoves can improve their lives – e.g. by needing less time for collecting fire wood and by emitting less smoke which harms their health. And they also understood that the improved stoves contribute to the protection of their environment and the surrounding forests, which are essential for their future.











Enthused by this type of sensitisation, the households affirmed that they had assimilated the importance and the technique of building an improved fireplace and promised to build one under their own roof. After the demonstration, each household will be able to build their own improved stoves.

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*I was glad to see that the project team had prepared the ground for the activities in close collaboration with the population of the villages. And I noted a strong mobilization of local officials and traditional authorities and a massive presence of women, the first beneficiaries of these stoves.*

*Ms. Fatou did a wonderful job in sharing all her technical expertise in the craft manufacture of improved traditional stoves with local women. She was supported by some women she had trained as local animators and multipliers during the preparatory phase of the project.*

*I returned home very impressed by this innovative project of ALUSFADE-GUINEE and very proud of the achievements we could support with the Naturefriends Climate Fund.*

*MAMADOU MBODJI, Vice-President NFI*

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## MONITORING & EVALUATION

Throughout the project, this activity was carried out internally by the project team through a coherent mechanism that allowed the project's objectives and results to be achieved, as follows.

- Training of 63 local animators and elected officials in environmental protection;
- Sensitisation of nearly 80% of households in the three sites to the use of improved stoves;
- The participation of more than 80% of women and children in an educational talk on climate change;
- 268 stoves built and functioning in Tounkarata, 305 stoves in N'zoo and 152 stoves in Bossou, for a total of 725 functional improved stoves.



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## SUSTAINABILITY

These improved stoves will have a real impact on environmental protection and nature conservation in the long term.

The project thus contributes to reducing the impact of climate change, improving health and well-being, and reducing poverty.

The continuity of the project is related to the transfer of skills acquired during the training to build the stoves.

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*In comparison to the traditional stoves, less wood is needed, they heat up quicker and retain heat better, save time because the cooking time is reduced, they are more economic, support environmental protection (less deforestation), protect people's health as they emit less smoke.*

*Sekou Kader Nanamou*

*President ALUSFADE-GUINEE*

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A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS  
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