

## Introduction

The mangrove ecosystems of Benin are rich in biodiversity and play an important role in the life of the local population. Currently the mangrove forests are highly degraded and their size reduced by more than 60% because of anthropogenic actions, such as preparation of salt, overharvesting of fuel wood, land pressure, urbanization, and the adverse effects of climate change.



Deforestation of the mangrove of Togbin for salt extraction



Traditional Salt preparation process



## Achievement

This project is an output of IPSI Collaborative activities. At the first IPSI Conference, ITTO intended to support this activity.

Collaboration with ITTO has led to an approval of the pre project **“Study for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of the Mangrove Forests in the Coastal Area of Benin”**



Degraded mangrove forest of Togbin

## Objective

To restore and promote the sustainable use of mangrove forests by building the capacity of local communities in order to improve their living conditions, through the establishment of an integrated community-based and sustainable mangrove forest management system.

## Strategy

The project strategy consists of an integrated approach to coastal zones management based on a continuous and iterative process using local knowledge and practices that promote the sustainable use of the mangroves ecosystem resources. This approach will be implemented through the following steps:

- Participatory diagnosis of the state of the ecosystems of mangroves,
- Development of sustainable management tools of mangroves forests and adjacent lands,
- Local capacity building for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of management plans.



Fuel wood collected in the mangrove to prepare salt