DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FRANCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

to the

NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
TO BE HELD ON
3rd July 2006
AT "NEGRE", TREJOULS, FRANCE



DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FRANCE

Development Workshop France (DWF) is a not for profit Association established under the French law of 1901. The objectives of DWF are to contribute to the capacity of the poor to meet their basic needs, primarily in the field of human settlements in less developed communities. Its programme focus areas include shelter, basic services and infrastructure, small enterprise and income generation development, disaster mitigation and environmental management.

DWF works to strengthen the capacity of families, communities, grass roots and non-governmental organisations, and local and national government authorities, to act on development problems and opportunities in a sustainable and accessible manner.

DWF operates offices in France, Burkina Faso and Viet Nam. DWF is a member organisation of Development Workshop (DW), a group founded in 1973, with partner offices in Angola, Canada and Mali. DWF collaborates actively with all the other branches of DW, including providing technical support to DW Angola, DW Mali and DW Burkina Faso, the latter established as a local NGO by DWF in 2005.

DWF is supported on a project basis by grants from NGOs, foundations and national and international development agencies.

DWF in 2005

Activities

In 2005 DWF has maintained and strengthened its geographical focus on South East Asia and West Africa, both regions where DWF has a long term presence and in depth knowledge of work with local communities and authorities.

In South East Asia, DWF's present work in Viet Nam builds on 18 years' experience, particularly in the central provinces and with a primary focus on reducing the material and economic vulnerability of families and communities that is caused by natural disasters. DWF is now recognised as a leading organisation in the region in the development and demonstration of community based strategies for risk reduction and damage prevention. DWF's work is used by its main donor, DIPECHO¹, as the main example in the brochure of their programmes in SE Asia.

In November 2004 DWF signed a further agreement with ECHO (4th Dipecho action plan for South East Asia) for continued DWF work in Central Viet Nam and activities related to disaster and poverty reduction have run throughout 2005. An extension of the DWF/Dipecho programme was negotiated in December 2005, taking the current phase through to end April 2006. Viet Nam activities in 2005 have included:

- greater emphasis on long term action planning in all participating communes,
- a stronger collaboration with the governments poverty reduction programme to replace the temporary houses of the very poor, which represents an opportunity to mainstream the importance of disaster resistant design and construction in shelter, and
- greater activity in national advocacy initiatives, which will pave the way for future work

The number of communes in which DWF works has expanded from 6 to 20 during the 2005 – 06 period. DWF's activities in Vietnam are managed by a Vietnamese team under the direction of the programme coordinator, Guillaume Chantry.

¹ European Commission Humanitarian Aid 'Prevention' Programme

In March 2005 DWF received a request from the British Red Cross Society to address the long term safe construction issues in the tsunami affected communities of Aceh Province, Indonesia. (Interestingly, this request originated in the British Red Cross being informed through the International Federation of the Red Cross about DWF work in Vietnam on community based damage prevention,) This has led to the development of the BRCS/DWF "Safe House" programme in 2005/2006, which is aiming to establish an Indonesian team capacity for community awareness raising and capacity building related to assuring the long term application of *safe construction principles* in vulnerable Aceh communities. A pillar of this approach is that awareness of the need for safe construction must be backed by solid safe construction skills in each community.

DWF activities in West Africa have again been centred on Burkina Faso, continuing to develop out of the experience gained from more than 20 years' work in the region, in particular in the adaptation and promotion of vault and dome "woodless construction" techniques that develop local construction employment opportunities, save wood and improve living conditions. The woodless construction programme received the World Habitat Award in 1998 amongst other forms of international recognition. July 2005 marked the end of the 2003-2005 DWF programme in Burkina Faso for developing local capacities to meet settlement and shelter needs in two northern provinces of the country, Oudalan and Soum, with outputs largely exceeding expected results. In line with placing greater emphasis on supporting broader poverty reduction and income generation, a new component of these activities has been the development of a women's support project helping groups of female potters to develop and improve the energy efficiency of new products for sale on local markets throughout the areas where DWF already works. In November and December 2005 agreements were signed by DWF with Danida (Ouagadougou) and the British High Commission, Accra/DfID for a 2nd Phase of DWF activities in Burkina Faso, aimed at developing local capacities to meet settlement and shelter needs in Burkina Faso. Additional support is being sought. DW Burkina Faso, a local NGO established by DWF as its own incountry partner, has in 2005 become an active partner in fund raising and implementation, and this initiative continues the process of empowering our local team members.

In Burkina Faso DWF has also collaborated with other organisations.

- designing and building the Oursi Beero archaeological Museum in the north of the country, which has become a show case of woodless construction as well as the site of the oldest human settlement remains in West Africa (1000 years old);
- designing and building the Nature & Vie NGO conference centre in Tougan.

These and similar Burkina Faso "sub-projects" have made an important contribution to generating work for people DWF has trained, as well as consolidating the reputation of DWF in the country.

During 2005 DWF also provided support to DW Angola, undertaking an evaluation and strategy development mission for the DWA shelter programme in March 2005.

Revenue

DWF revenue in 2005 increased by 54% over the previous year, making this the third year running in which revenue has increased by over 50% compared with the previous year.

Management

DWF has continued to develop its management capacity:

- DWF management capacity in Burkina Faso has been strengthened with more administration staff (full time staffed office in Ouagadougou as of December 2005; part time coordination in Oudalan Province); Project Manager Arsène Tuina continues to manage activities under the overall guidance of John Norton;
- DWF activities in Viet Nam are run by full time coordinator, Guillaume Chantry, supported by 3 local administrators based in Hué who are directly involved in strategic planning and week on week management.
- Jason Armstead (DW member) has shared in the coordination of Indonesia activities, where DWF has put in place a team of local staff to manage the Indonesian and British Red Cross 'Safe House' programme.

- With assistance from DW Canada, DWF engaged John van Mossel to assist in identifying potential sources of funding in Canada.
- DWF will be changing auditors with effect from the 2006 financial year, and a Toulouse based 'Commissaire aux comptes' (Mme Moissaing) was identified in late 2005. Subject to members' endorsement, she will take over from DWF's departing auditors, Henry & Banwell, after the 2005 audit has been completed. The functions that are fulfilled by the Commissaire aux Comptes meet audit and legal requirements for French NGOs and this change happily coincides with Henry & Banwell's decision to withdraw as DWF auditors, as DWF no longer matches the profile of their preferred client base.

Training

DWF staff made regular monitoring inputs to field activities, and DWF remained committed to developing local management capacity for its projects as an important step in ensuring sustainable results. DWF hosted trainees from the UK, (Anne Gormally, Disaster Management and Sustainable Development, Northumbria University), and from Japan (Phong Tran, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University).

Information sharing

Simon Fraser Design continues to maintain the DWF web site: www.dwf.org. The overall site presentation was completely revised in 2005. In particular the content relating to activities in Viet Nam (http://www.dwf.org/vietnam/preventdamage/index.htm) was brought up to date and restructured. The main site is maintained in French and English, the Viet Nam section in Vietnamese and English.

DWF is a member of CROSI (Regional Collective for International Solidarity Associations in South West France), a small but growing lobbying and information-sharing organisation, and in 2005 took over the role of treasurer of CROSI on a voluntary basis.

Publications/conferences

In 2005 DWF contributions to conferences, workshops and books included:

- Participation in the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, with an exhibition on DWF work in Viet Nam presented on the European Commission DIPECHO stand.
- Kyoto University, Japan / UNESCO, October 2004: case study on "Establishing community capacity to reduce vulnerability to economic loss caused by storm damage to houses in central Viet Nam" for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Jan 2005).
- A paper on the Woodless Construction Programme in Burkina Faso at the Third Annual Adobe Conference 2005, February 2005, New Mexico
- A paper on "GIS and Local Knowledge in Disaster Management: A Case Study of Flood Risk Mapping in Thua Thien Hue Province, Viet Nam" was presented at the Second International Symposium on Geo-information for Disaster Management, Goa, India.
- ISDR Case Studies published "Microfinance and disaster preparedness: an innovative approach for housing preventive reinforcement against cyclone and flood damages" by DWF, 2005.

Perspectives and strategies

DWF's medium term (3 – 5 year) strategy is to continue -

- To focus on consolidating and expanding activities in Viet Nam and Burkina Faso
- To extend activities to neighbouring countries in each region where there is the potential for developing activities that (a) have a synergy with existing DWF skills and capacity, and (b) where possible, can lead to clearly identified DWF programmes.

For example, in 2005, DWF activities in Indonesia are a direct extension of the Viet Nam DWF programme, and drew on human resources from the Viet Nam programme and DWF's broader network of colleagues with whom it has a history.

In Viet Nam, as has been the case in 2005, advocacy at national and regional level to encourage the adoption of DWF strategies will play a more important part, as will general

work on poverty reduction, support to women, and the development of alternative local financing mechanisms (credit and insurance).

In the Sahel, DWF has renewed contacts with donors and partners who have worked with DW in Niger and Mali in the past, with a view to redeveloping activities in these two countries as well as opening up activities in new provinces in Burkina Faso. One theme that DWF is developing in Burkina Faso as a complement to present actions is that of energy, and DWF has already established the human resources base capable of assisting the promotion of biomass production for diesel substitutes to meet local energy needs in the regions where DWF already works.

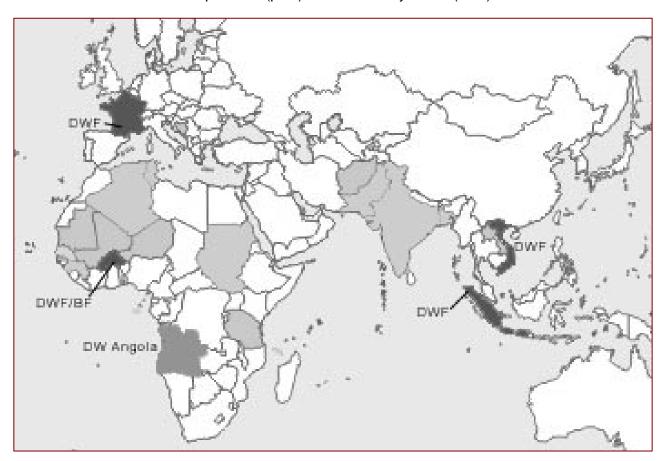
DWF will continue its commitment to equal partnership in its field programmes, enhancing the decision making roles and responsibilities of local staff and local partners. This has already clearly been the case in both Viet Nam and Burkina Faso in 2005 in both programme decision making and operational management.

DWF activities in Burkina Faso, Indonesia and Vietnam will continue in 2006.

This concludes the President's overall review of 2005 activities. Individual project reports follow and form an integral part of this Annual Report.

April 2006 John Norton President, DWF

Countries where DWF has experience (pale) and is currently active (dark)



Viet Nam

Establishing community capacity to reduce vulnerability to economic loss caused by storm damage in central Vietnam

Phase 4 of DWF activities in VN (supported by Dipecho, the Disaster Preparedness department of ECHO (European Commission Humanitarian Aid office) started in December 2004, continued right through 2005 and will now run through to April 2006.

Key data:

Location : Thua Thien Hué Province, Vietnam

Beneficiaries: Local population in central provinces of Vietnam

Principle Partners: Provincial, District and Commune People's Committees in Thua

Thien Hué;

The Provincial Committee for Flood and Storm Control, Hué Thua Thien-Hué consulting and designing construction company.

Duration & Support:

Phase 1 (1999 – 2001) & Phase 2 (2002) : Canadian International Development Aid (CIDA, IHA); Alternatives; Foundation Aid Viet Nam

Canada;

Phase 3 (2003-June 2004): ECHO Dipecho programme in SE Asia;

local partner communes.

Phase 4 (December 2004- April 2006): ECHO Dipecho 4th Action plan

in SE Asia; local partner communes.

Budget: Initial budget: 2004 – 2005: € 298 468, of which ECHO

€250 000

065

Sectors: Disaster prevention, vulnerability and poverty reduction, shelter and

infrastructure, training, credit, promotion of small production activities,

institutional development, policy change.

Context

Vulnerability of housing and small public buildings in central Viet Nam is a critical problem. Families and communities in central Viet Nam are extremely poor, but many strive to invest their scarce resources in building better housing with more durable materials. Unfortunately, this investment is insecure because storm resistant techniques are not applied. The result is that *unnecessary* damage and loss of investment is caused by annual storms that hit the Vietnamese coast. This loss can be largely avoided by applying the DW "ten key points of storm resistant construction" to homes and infrastructure.

The project

Since 1999 DWF has worked in Thua Thien Hué (TTH) province, central Viet Nam, to promote and demonstrate such preventive strengthening. DWF works with individual families, women's groups, local communities and schools, and has a strong relationship with local government. Developing a durable programme of preventive action requires the engagement of both families in the community and of commune representatives.

Through animation, training, demonstration of preventive strengthening, the development of commune level damage prevention institutions, and the introduction of small credit funds in 2002 for strengthening, the project has been successful in changing both grass roots <u>and</u> official attitudes. In 2005, at local request DWF started contributing to the government's temporary house replacement programme, specifically to ensure that new houses for the very poor provided under this scheme are safe and resistant. TTH province also requested that DWF provide assistance to

the temporary house programme in mountainous communes inland from main DWF partner communes.

1/ Commune Damage Prevention Action Plans

In the 2004–2005 period DWF has worked with the inhabitants and authorities of each partner commune to develop five year Commune Damage Prevention Action Plans, covering a wide range of issues and concerns expressed by the inhabitants. DWF has supported the implementation of these Damage Prevention Action Plans in 2005. Associated with this, a commune risk-mapping programme linking GIS data to

physical surveys and social economic information started in 2005 in two communes, and will extend to two more in early 2006 as it develops into a planning and response tool for communes. DWF partners with Hué and Kyoto Universities in this initiative.

2/ Animation - getting the message across

Families need to be aware that prevention is essentially easy and affordable, and *much* cheaper than rebuilding after a disaster. In each commune DWF has organised a wide variety of animation and awareness raising events.



1. School play on Typhoon resistance

3/ Developing the institutional environment for preventive strengthening - partnership between family groups and Commune Damage Prevention Committees

In each commune DWF has worked with the People's Committees to establish a Commune Damage Prevention Committee (CDPC) which takes on responsibility for managing most of the project activities in its commune and deciding on priorities. The CDPC brings together members of the People's Committee, village representatives and local unions. DWF develops the capacity of the CDPC with training and work sessions, including skills for managing the credit programme. In 2005, DWF outlined and supported the development of the first Provincial Disaster management website with the Provincial Committee for Flood and Storm Control with data and real time information about weather and storms.

At hamlet (sub-commune) level, DWF encourages the democratic development of family groups, who are involved in decisions about priorities for support and credit for house strengthening, and in assessing what work is needed. The project then works with families to strengthen existing buildings simply and efficiently using locally available techniques and materials. Families contribute in kind and financially.

4/ Practical action and support

Five complementary actions take place in each commune:

Training: DWF trains community representatives and construction workers on both the need to strengthen houses and public facilities, and how to do this.

Strengthening houses to resist floods and storms: The programme collaborates with families to strengthen their existing houses with simple techniques that can make them resist the effects of typhoons and floods. In 2005, DWF also supported the replacement of shelters lived in by the very poor, where the houses could not be strengthened but had to be rebuilt, as part of the government's Poverty Reduction programme.

Credit for strengthening: Families can borrow modest amounts at favourable rates to strengthen their house. Repayment is over 18 months. People take pride in repaying, and the credit has enhanced the position of women who tend to manage this.

Demonstration through safer public building: DWF strengthened and built small public buildings, including primary schools, kindergartens and markets with commune contributions.

Working with schools: DW works with primary schools and kindergartens, listening to children's concerns and making children – and their parents - aware of prevention and how it can be done. Training is provided to teaching staff.

Who benefits?

The project targets poor and vulnerable families. It has been encouraging to see women in particular participate in the project's activities - 40% of the beneficiary families involved in house strengthening have been headed by women.

In 2005 there were 3,000+ direct beneficiaries in different categories, as follows:

Communes	Direct beneficiaries	Direct families benefiting	Builders & village cadres	School children	Teachers	Capacity building (Communes, District, Province)	Families support during flooding	Indirect beneficiaries using facilities,
6 + I district	3 200	195 families 1 040 people	250	1 500	300	75 in CDPC 10 at higher province levels 70 architects	330 families (in Dec 2004)	85 000

Partnerships

Partnership has continued to be useful in helping broaden scope and geographical areas.

In 2005, DWF collaborated with Dipecho partners Save the Children Alliance, ActionAid, Care, the Spanish/Viet Nam Red Cross in holding joint workshops and organising activities in the communes where these organisations work. DWF hosted visits by other NGOs in Viet Nam, and has worked with Hué University (VN), and Kyoto University (Japan),

Click for web link: http://www.dwf.org/vietnam/preventdamage/index.htm for further details.

Angola

Development of joint DW France and DW Angola submissions to the European Commission

In January 2005 DWF and DWA collaborated for the first time on developing joint proposals for the European Commission. Although not initially fruitful, this collaboration will continued on 2006, and offers the opportunity to strengthen links between DW member organisations.

Evaluation of the DW Angola shelter programme

In March 2005 DWF reviewed the Development Workshop Angola Shelter Programme and made recommendations about future strategies that DWA and the Shelter Programme could adopt. The evaluation also provided the opportunity to make inputs in the finalisation of the technical training manual for the Shelter programme, on which DWF and DWA have collaborated over several years.

Indonesia

Developing the 'safe house' programme in tsunami affected communities in Aceh Province, Indonesia

In the aftermath of the 26th December 2004 tsunami that hit Aceh Province, in March 2005 DWF was invited to provide assistance the British Red Cross Society for the development of a community 'safe house' programme. After a voluntary fact-finding mission in July, work on developing the safe house programme started in September 2005 and is ongoing in 2006. Over and above the interest in assisting the long term needs of families who suffered as a result of the tsunami in 2004, this programme is of interest to DWF in that provides a complementary test of skills and strategies developed by DWF in Vietnam.

Key Data

Location: Aceh Province, Indonesia

Duration: 2005 – 2006

Funding: British Red Cross Society

Beneficiaries: Population in tsunami affected communities in Aceh Province

Partners: British Red Cross Society

Budget: Total 2005 - ongoing : Phase 1: €69 413 (2005/early 06)
Sectors: Disaster reduction, capacity development; awareness raising

Context

The assessment of damage caused by the tsunami has shown that lack of application of basic principles of safe earthquake resistant design and construction, combined with poor quality workmanship were major contributory factors in increasing the vulnerability of houses and their occupants. The purpose of the DWF programme is to address not only the short term need to ensure good quality reconstruction but more importantly, to develop the conditions in which future building by communities will continue to be done in a safe manner after the NGO supported reconstruction period is over.

Principle objectives

- To ensure that communities are aware of the need to adopt safe building principles, and
- To ensure that appropriate and safe construction knowledge and skills are available in or close to communities, now and in the future, using materials and products which can be obtained and used easily.

Actions

Safety Awareness: Public and special interest group awareness-raising about the importance of safe house design and construction, and how this can be achieved using a variety of communication materials, developed initially in English and then in Indonesian.

Technical materials for capacity building and quality control: Designing the technical information and the structure of training sessions aimed at different beneficiary groups, in particular, local builders who will provide the future capacity in the community to build safely.

Team building: Recruiting and training a local team to manage the 'safe house' programme by 2006 and beyond.



Burkina Faso

Phase 1: Developing local capacities to meet settlement and shelter needs in Burkina Faso

The first phase of the DWF programme ended in June 2005. Following a very positive evaluation in December 2004, DWF successfully negotiated with Danida (Danish bi-lateral aid) and DfID (British bi-lateral aid) for continued support for a second phase of activities in 2005 – 2008.

Key Data

Location: Soum and Oudalan Provinces, Burkina Faso

Duration: 2003 – 2005

Funding: Danida (Danish Embassy, Ouagadougou) & DfID (British Embassy,

Abidjan)

Beneficiaries: Local population in two provinces of Burkina Faso

Partners: Local authorities.

Budget: Total 2003 - 2005 : €310 768

Sectors: Shelter & infrastructure, poverty reduction, income generation, capacity

development, environmental management

Context

Since the mid 1970's the Sahel countries of West Africa have suffered the effects of a *slow disaster* that attracts far less attention than the "natural" disasters of earthquake, flood and storm. Yet the wars and instability of sub-Saharan Africa have their origin in competition for a declining resource base, changed demographic and living patterns and environmental degradation.

In northern Burkina Faso demand for housing, services and infrastructure have changed and increased. Population growth and bad practices are putting unsustainable pressure on the land and its resources. Forests have disappeared; grasses used for thatching have become scarce. Forest protection services levy fines for tree cutting.

Jobs are scarce. Young men are forced to migrate to the southern coastal countries in search of work. The continued instability of Côte d'Ivoire exacerbates this situation.

People need decent and durable homes, they need access to building materials and skills they can afford, and they need local job opportunities.

The project

Phase 1 of the DWF project, started in 2003 for an initial 30 month period, develops skills in the rural communities of Soum and Oudalan Provinces, and is founded on:

- · Local assessment of needs and available resources;
- Using genuinely local materials;
- The development of skills in the community;
- Support for developing small income generation activities or enterprise;
- Collaboration with the local authorities.

Local assessment of needs and available resources. The programme is based on a debate with the population about the difficulties they face and the resources they can access. Discussion sessions take place in each main village and with local authorities and leaders. The community identifies who can benefit from training provided through the project.

Using genuinely local materials To meet local building and ceramic needs, the project uses genuinely local materials that can be transported over short distances by animal traction.

Developing skills in the community DWF provides training opportunities to local men and women. For men, the main training relates to learning masonry and woodless construction skills. Starter training lasts eight weeks. Trainees go on to learn how to draw, prepare estimates, negotiate with clients. All trainees build their own house as part of the training, and the project helps with doors and windows. Women are supported in producing components for use in buildings and cooking methods to economise fuel.

Support for small income generation activities and enterprise The programme encourages builders to negotiate with local clients, and develops their skills to do this. Since the start in 2003, a good number of non-project buildings have been completed by local builders. Local contracts encourage trained builders to remain in the Soum and Oudalan provinces. Women are being supported to produce components for buildings using ceramic skills, replacing costly non local alternatives.



2. New trained builder donates his house as a mosque

Collaboration with the local authorities The project works closely with local authorities, who are largely supportive. This is critical in the lead up to national decentralisation that will result in rural communes becoming responsible for local infrastructure as a result of which choices will be made locally, and trained builders can gain employment using their skills.

Summary of Phase 1 outputs

Total number of Woodless Construction buildings Total m² built	Planned	Achieved 226 3808,05	Unit unit m²	% achievement
Wood saved :				
Volume of wood @ 0,4 m ³ per m ² branches	800	1580	m³	198%
Volume of wood @ 1,8 lm of beams per m²	3500	6854	linear m	196%
Community assessment workshops	200	248	person	124%
CSB Builders trained	192	241	person	126%
Expert builders & trainers	96	101	person	105%
Partners	48	66	person	138%
Local GIE* groups being formed * GIE = Economic Interest Groups	3	3	unit	100%

Phase 2: Developing local capacities to meet settlement and shelter needs in Burkina Faso

Following a very positive evaluation in December 2004, DWF has negotiated with Danida and DfID for continued support for a second phase of activities in late 2005 – 2008.

Key Data

Location : Northern Provinces, Burkina Faso

Duration: 2005 – 2008

Funding: Danida (Danish Embassy Ouagadougou) & DfID (British High

Commission, Accra).

Beneficiaries: Local population in northern provinces of Burkina Faso **Partners**: Local authorities; new economic interest groups, NGO

Budget: Total 2005 - 2008 : € 499 211, of which Danida contribution € 272 816

(55%)

Sectors: Poverty reduction, income generation, capacity development; shelter &

infrastructure, environmental management

Description

The project builds on the experience of Phase 1. All the components of the Phase 1 project continue. In addition there is an increased focus on developing income generation opportunities, establishing Economic Interest Groups (GIE) amongst the people DWF trains (men and women) to help them capitalise the skills and experience they have acquired. This phase will also focus on developing community collaboration in the rural municipal decentralisation process which represents an important opportunity for rural builders to capture part of a market habitually taken by city based contractors.

Additional activities in Burkina Faso

Various activities took place with other partners in 2005, all providing work experience and opportunities to people DWF has trained, which added prestige to many builders who could bring home an income from their skills in a year of extreme food difficulties.

The most significant were as follows.

1. Musée Oursi Beero, Oudalan Province, Burkina Faso

In early 2005 DWF designed and built the museum for the Oursi Beero Archaeological project in Oudalan province. This is a prestigious project, related to the discovery of the oldest shelter and settlement remains in this region of Africa, dated back 1000 years. The museum uses the skills of builders trained by DWF in its Woodless Construction programme.



3. Oursi Beero Musée/Museum

2. Nature & Vie / Tougan Conference centre

DWF collaborated with the Burkina Faso NGO "Nature & Vie" that promotes ecological solutions to resolve environmental problems. The Conference centre in the west of Burkina Faso provides exposure to woodless construction techniques and in 2005 generated a large amount of employment for builders trained by DWF.

3. Kologo Naaba, Saaba

DWF trained 8 village builders from Saaba village, and, in the context of this programme, built three woodless buildings for the local non-profit association, Kologo Naaba, based on the outskirts to Ouagadougou. The training programme took place on the site of existing woodless buildings owned by Mme Else Traerup, and this small centre has made an important contribution since Mme Traerup has enabled many of the donor community representatives in Ouagadougou to visit woodless construction sites and see a wide range of building types.