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CORRECTION: We had a typo in our previous email. The students traveled to Lomé for their day trip. We also neglected to mention our partner organization - ANCE-Togo - that made the Zoom meeting for our students possible.

Community Update

We have been keeping busy in 2021. Before we dive in, we want to make sure you do not miss this [wonderful article](#) about Françoise, our Notsé Office Coordinator and advisor for the ICPSD Youth Community Development Program. Her time is divided up between ICPSD and our partner organization [Style Her Empowered](#). We are so grateful to have Françoise leading our Notsé team and following her passion to guide and support the youth of Togo.

Ecosystem Restoration Program Updates

The seedlings for this season have been started by the local women's



Along with an expansion of seedling capacity, we are also starting preparations for a permanent storage and research structure at the nursery. We are very excited about this development, so stay tuned for more information as we begin construction this summer. We have also been able to purchase a front gate, allowing us to better secure the nursery.



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ICPSD Youth Community Development Program Updates

COVID called for programmatic pivots and thinking outside the box. The ICPSD Youth Community Development Program is usually an integral part of the Experiential Learning trips we host for American university and high school groups. We were saddened to not be able to provide immersive experiences in Togolese culture in country this year, but are excited to share the alternative approach we collaborated on with our partners at the University of Idaho. Introducing: Global Connections. Taking a fully digital approach, a portion of the ICPSD youth were able to share Togolese culture with University of Idaho students and vice versa. Over a 5 week period, videos were exchanged about various topics - including making and eating food from the respective countries. The final exchange was via a live Zoom interaction between the two groups.



A staple of Togolese cuisine and culture is fufu. This dish is made from boiled yams that are pounded into a dough and served with a variety of stews, sauces and side dishes. The students of the ICPSD Youth Community Development Program put together this video to share the process of making fufu. We hope you can enjoy fufu with us one day. Bon appetit!

In order to do a live meeting with the University of Idaho students, we sent a group of our older students on a day trip to Lomé. For the first part of the day they enjoyed a driving tour of the city and visit to see the beach. Due to COVID restrictions, they were unable to visit the market and [Palais de Lomé](#) - Togo's first (opened in 2019) major contemporary art and culture centre housed in colonial-era palace - as originally planned.



A special thank you to our partner in Togo, Fabrice Ebeh. Fabrice allowed our students to use his telecommunications setup in order to meet with the U of I students. Fabrice runs the NGO Alliance Nationale des Consommateurs et de l'Environnement (ANCE-Togo). It was created in 1999 by a group of law students and lawyers (including our president, Romuald Afatchao) to promote sustainable development in Togo. Its focus areas are: Transparency in public finance, environmental governance, governance in public health, decentralization and local governance.

And finally, thanks to your support, we have been able to rent additional office space for our growing youth group to meet, study and learn in. We are especially grateful for this in lieu of COVID.

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