

# *Togo under the stars*

## A science outreach tour for the Togolese



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# SpaceBus France – Presentation



SpaceBus France is a **French association** created in **2017** by 3 astrophysicists

Inspired by their experience with the SpaceBus Morocco event (2016), and SpaceBus Sénégal (2015)

## Our **objectives**:

- To present **science and astronomy** to students and the general public through interactive and playful activities led by **astronomy professionals**
- To train people to use the **scientific method** and develop **critical thinking skills**
- To testify of the **cultural richness** and international aspect of **space careers**
- To **inspire** students and **promote the place of women** in science to fight against their under-representation

# SpaceBus France – Actors



Scientific team: All volunteers are scientists, **astronomy specialists** (Researcher, Engineers, PhD students)

Local partners: We work with **amateur astronomers**, local astronomy clubs, and local administrative authorities



# SpaceBus France – Activities



**One-off events:** from 1 to 3 days, during the year, for primary through high school students and general public

**Summer Editions:** from 3 to 4 weeks in a region in France, for the general public (mainly families)

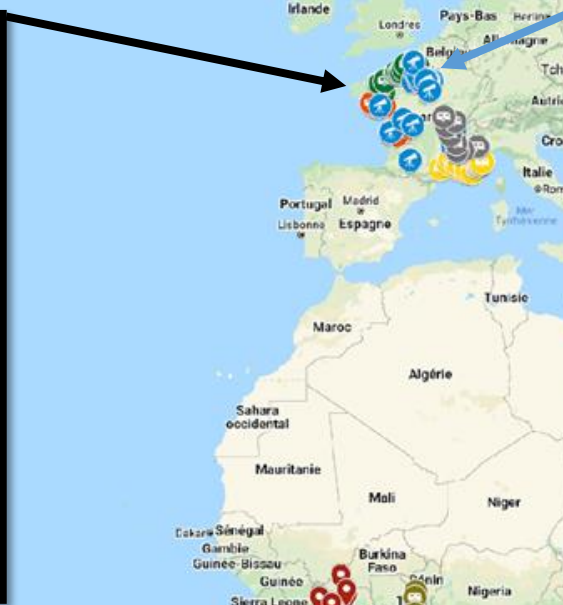


**World editions:** from 2 to 3 weeks outside metropolitan France, for primary through high school students and the general public



### Summer Editions

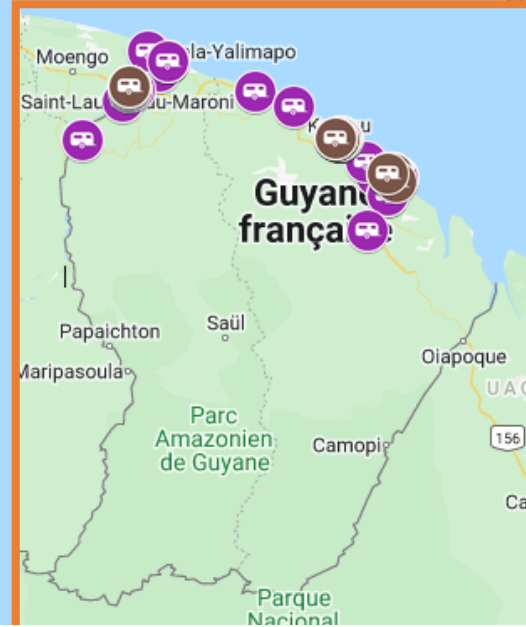
4 French regions covered  
(25,000 visitors, 58 towns)



### One-off Events

39 scientific festivals  
(12,000 visitors)

### World Editions

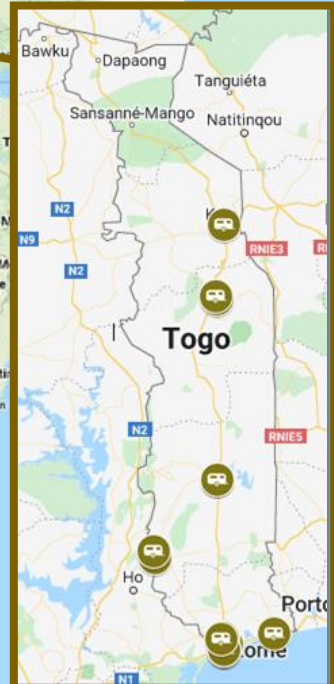


### French Guiana

2018: for Bepi Colombo launch (3000 students, 200 teachers, 700 public)  
2021: for JWST launch (3600 students, 54 teachers, 1300 public)



Ivory Coast  
Forthcoming! (2023)

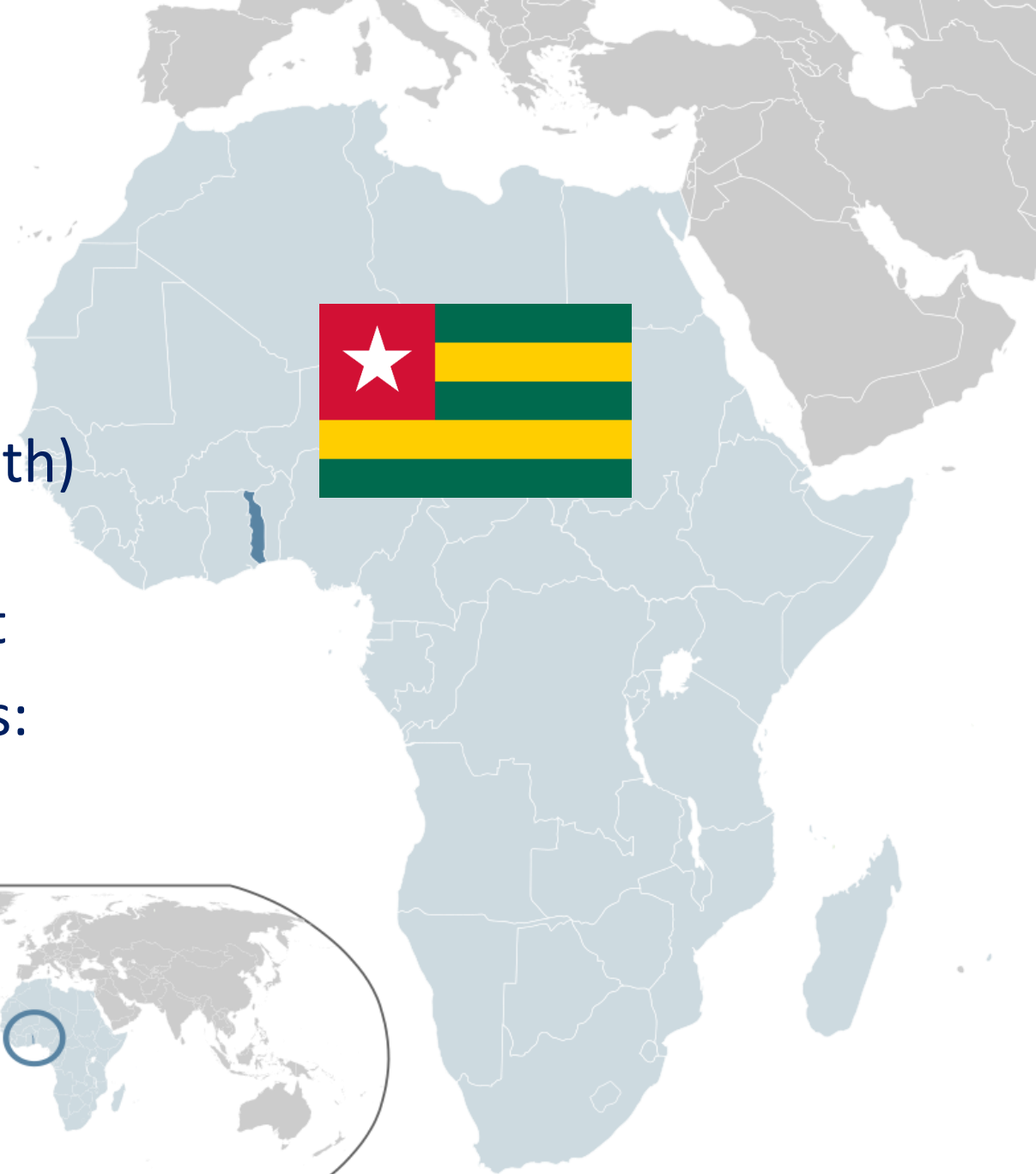


### Togo

2022 (8300 students, 50 teachers, 1300 public reached)

# Togo – The country

- Area: 56 785 km<sup>2</sup>
- Distances: 700 km long (north to south) and 150 km wide
- Population: 8,6 millions of inhabitant
- Climate: tropical, mainly two seasons: one dry and one rainy
- Capital: Lomé
- Main spoken language: French





# Togo under the stars – Birth

- Born from the will of SG2D to organize a **scientific outreach event across the country**
- They contacted SpaceBus France for their **experience** in terms of scientific outreach, organization of itinerant events, and educational resources

**SG2D** (Science Géologique pour un Développement Durable): first togolese organisation to **promote geology and astronomy** in Togo



DU 16 AU 26 MARS 2022

# LE TOGO

SOUS LES

# ETOILES

VENEZ DÉCOUVRIR L'ASTRONOMIE

-  ATELIERS SUR LES PLACES PUBLIQUES
-  RENCONTRE AVEC DES ASTRONOMES
-  OBSERVATIONS DU CIEL LE SOIR

KARA  
SOKODÉ  
ATAKPAMÉ  
KP'ALIMÉ  
LOMÉ  
ANÉHO



[www.spacebusfrance.fr/le-togo-sous-les-etoiles](http://www.spacebusfrance.fr/le-togo-sous-les-etoiles)

eur PLANET SOCIETY  
LESIA Observatoire de Paris | PSL

SG2D FRANCE

rfi

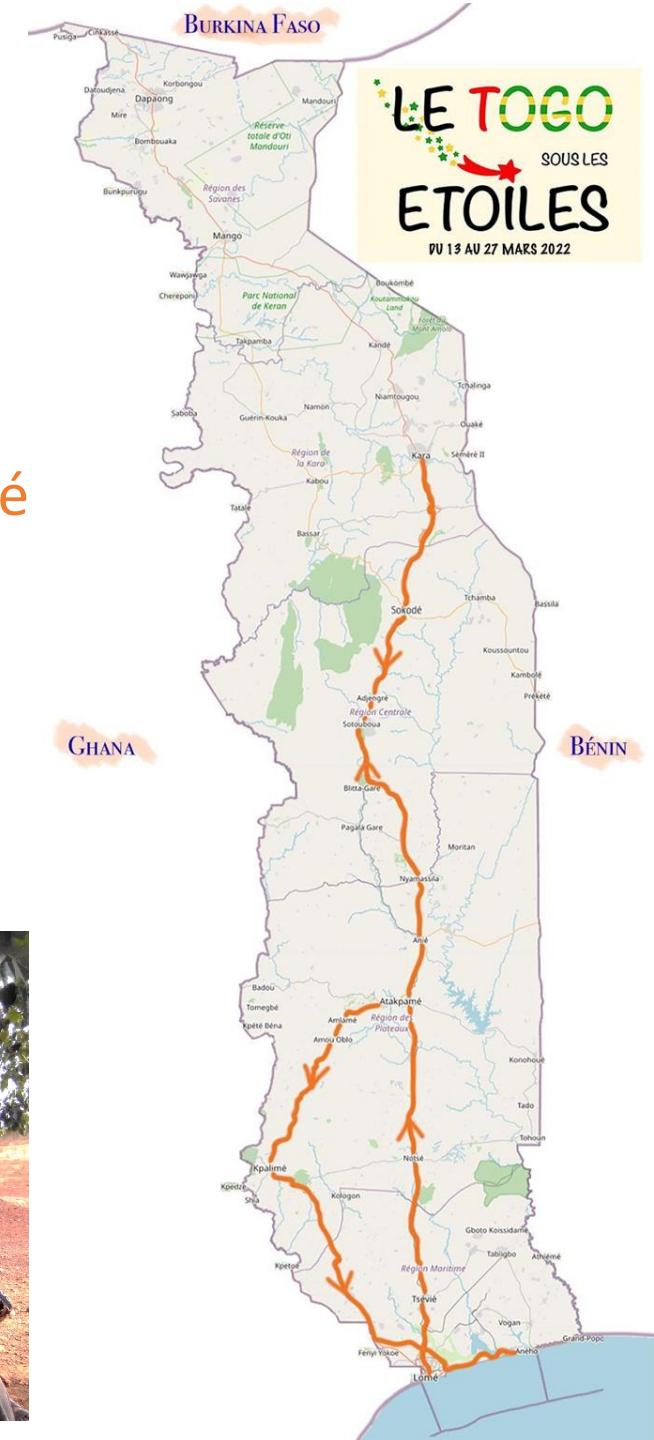
OAE

SSVI

FAU

# Togo under the stars – Itinerary

- A travelling scientific event across Togo from **13 to 27 March 2022**
- 6 towns visited: **Kara, Sokodé, Aného, Atakpamé, Kpalimé and Lomé** (the capital)
- The team:
  - **9 Togolese**: 4 geologists, 1 touristic guide, 1 logistics person, 1 cameraman, 1 cook, 1 driver
  - **4 French**: all astrophysicists





# Togo under the stars – A three-part event

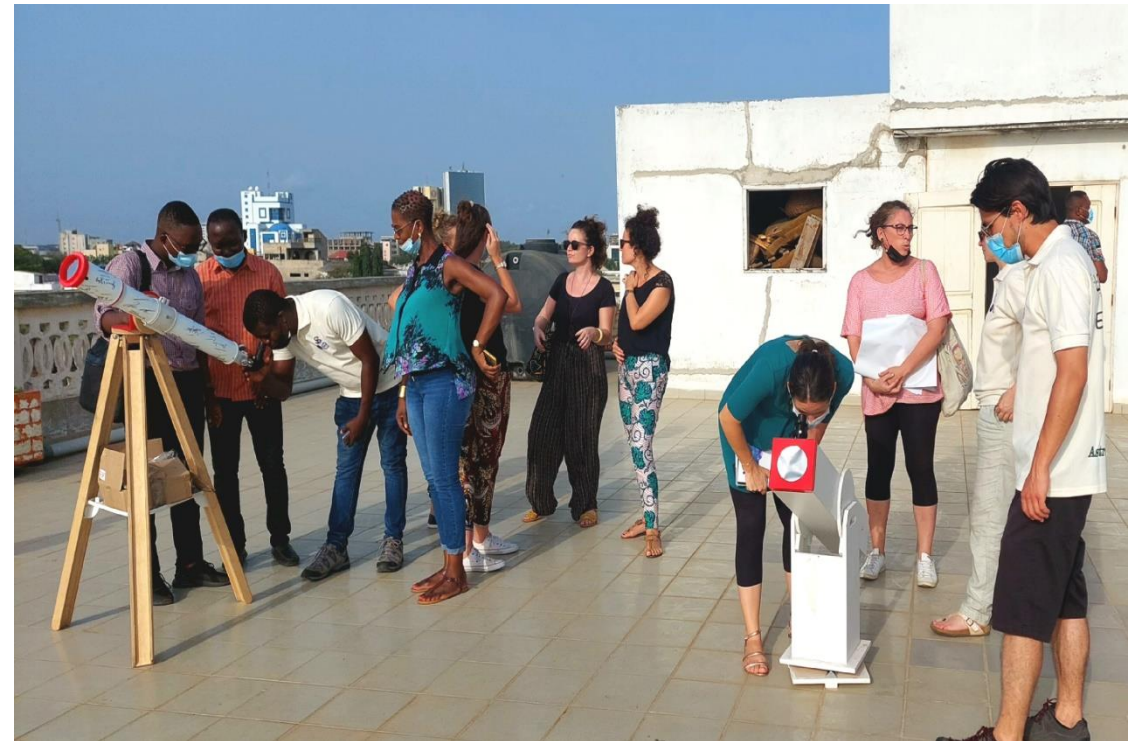
1. **Schools:** We proposed **astronomy** and **geology** workshops. This was an opportunity for the students to exchange with professional about scientific **professions**.





# Togo under the stars – A three-part event

2. **Teachers:** we provided **astronomy training** for teachers giving them educational and teaching **resources** developed by research institutions and an initiation to sky observations.





# Togo under the stars – A three-part event

3. **General public:** We led educational **activities** and night-time **observations** free of charge in public squares





# Togo under the stars – A great success!

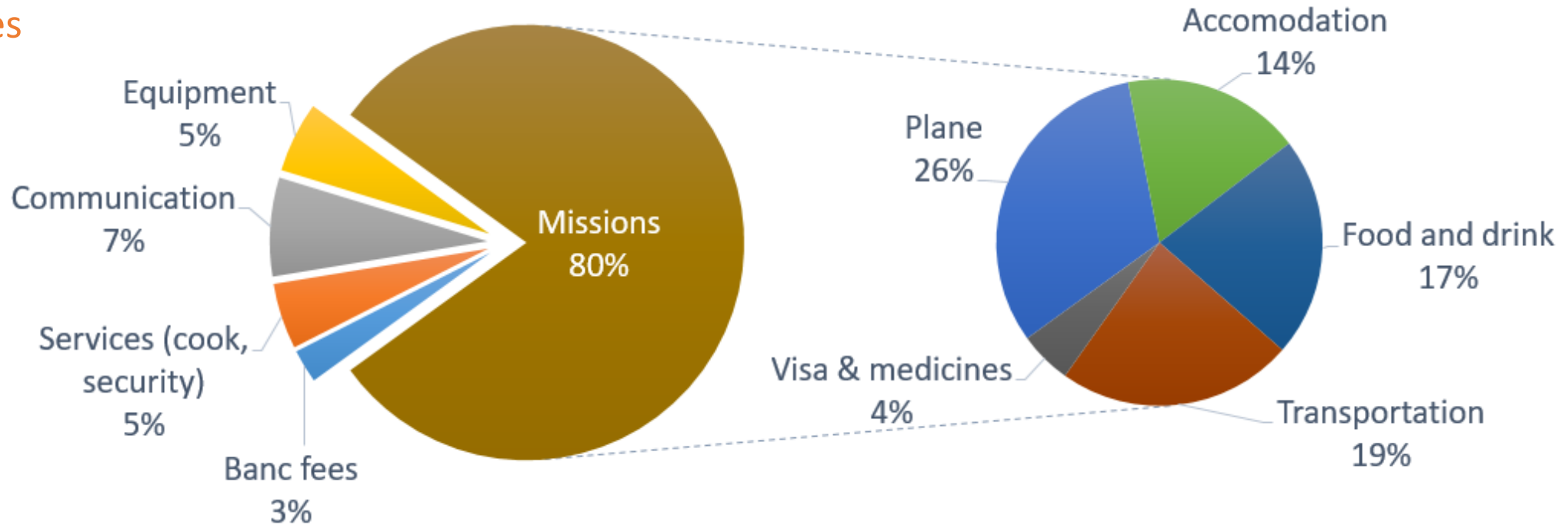
- *Togo under the stars* reached over **10.000 Togolese** in total
- We visited **9 schools**, whose **8260 students** we met, we showed the sky to **1300 visitors** in **6 public squares**, we trained **50 teachers** in astronomy
- **Extremely positive feedback** from the general public, students, the teaching staff and public authorities
- Waiting for a second edition!





# Togo under the stars – Total cost: 16 210€

## Expenses



## Financial supports (Thank you!):



51% (self-financing)



31% (French Hub proposal)



Laboratoire d'Études Spatiales et d'Instrumentation en Astrophysique

18% (grant)

# On the road again...

- we are preparing a 2-week scientific outreach itinerary in Ivory Coast for February 2023
- In addition to activities with schools, teachers and the general public, we want to make an ethnographic study, about the Ivorian cosmogonies





