Drone Pilot Certification Training in Benin by Senegal Flying Labs

Figure 1: The trainer, Tiamiyou RADJI from Senegal Flying Labs briefing participants during the practical training.

Figure 2: Participants inspecting the drones they will be flying before their practical sessions.

OVERVIEW	
Flying Labs	Senegal Flying Lab
Location	Cotonou, Benin
Date	7th to 11th December 2021
Length (number of days)	5 days
Sector program	DevRobotics
Format	In-Person
Co-organizer if applicable	Atlas GIS ABePA-Drone Benin
SDGs	GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

SCOPE & OUTCOMES	
Type of training	Technical training of professionals - Drone pilot certification training
Goal of the training	1. Create drone awareness 2. Certify and train drone pilots

Expected outcome for participants	The participants were expected to: ● Gain knowledge in regards to drone operations, both pre-flight and post-flight. ● Gain knowledge on how to pilot a drone safely and responsibly ● Become a certified drone pilot according to CAA standards
Confirmed outcome after training	5 out of the 11 participants were able to complete the flight training and certification exam successfully.
Eventual next steps	Local FLs to prepare candidates for field flight tests and theory tests prior to actual training. This needs to be communicated accordingly. Qualified examiners to be identified and briefed on their role in evaluating the next round of candidates on behalf of Senegal FL, especially those who were unsuccessful in completing the prior certification. This will be the Practical Flight Assessment and will be done for maintaining sustainability.

PARTICIPANTS	
Profiles and number of participants	1. Senegal Flying Labs: 1 2. Participants: 11
Name of participants' organizations	GIZ Participants from Benin Drone Association - ABePA-Drone Benin
Gender ratio	Female : Male 0 : 11
Who paid for the training?	Paid by the participant's
Participant fee rate (if applicable)	650,000 Fcfa
Scholarships offered?	No

CONTENT	
Training components	**Theoretical Competence Course Agenda:** ● Module 1: UAS General Knowledge and Flight Performance

	• Module 2: Meteorology • Module 3: Human Performance Limitations and Airmanship • Module 4: Open Category UAS Operating Principles • Module 5: UAS Airspace Operating Principles • Module 6: Air Law and Responsibilities • Module 7: Navigation and Charts • Module 8: Specific Category UAS Operating Principles This Theoretical Competence Course covers all unmanned aircraft from 0-20Kg, regardless of aircraft type, so it covers both fixed-wing and helicopter/multirotor aircraft. As regulations in the drone industry are still evolving, it is important that you keep yourself up-to-date with any changes. There are examinations at the end of the theory session (5 modules). The exams consist of a random set of questions from a bank of 45 questions. Consultation of textbooks or notes is strictly forbidden during the examination. The pass mark is 75%. For the re-take examinations, there is new random selection.
Training resources used	Global Drone (UK to Africa based) Adapted Training Curriculum - Manual and Exam Platform • Covers West African airspace and air laws Hardware • DJI Phantom 4 Drones • Mavics • Projector and white screen
Approaches and methods used	The training was delivered in French for ease of understanding and the training material had been already adapted to reflect West African airspaces and regulations.