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Consulting Engineers from Quebec City Help Protect Coasts from Erosion in Bénin, Africa

(OTTAWA) October 25, 2016 – Consulting engineers from Quebec City firm Norda Stelo conducted a major coastal protection project in Cotonou, Bénin for which they won an Award of Excellence Tuesday night at the 2016 Canadian Consulting Engineering (CCE) Awards gala. This well-deserved award was bestowed to Norda Stelo for this international project's technical excellence and its social, economic and environmental contribution to the community in which it was carried out.



“These awards showcase the outstanding talent and expertise of consulting engineers across Canada,” said ACEC President and CEO John Gamble. “By recognizing projects with national awards, we highlight the important contributions of engineering firms to Canadians and the huge impact they have both here at home and around the world.”

Saving disappearing shorelines

In Cotonou, Bénin, approximately 13 metres of shoreline used to disappear each year due to erosion caused by the sea. This had serious consequences for the densely populated surrounding area. Under the auspices of international funding to combat and adapt to climate change, Norda Stelo and its partners carried out work to stop the advancing sea and rehabilitate banks. The project took place over a six-year period and cost nearly \$100 million US to complete.

“This award has special significance for Norda Stelo, because it recognizes our involvement in promoting Canadian engineering expertise through sharing knowledge and know-how, essential tools for building high-quality infrastructure, but especially for forging a better tomorrow for developing countries,” said Alex Brisson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Norda Stelo.

Thanks to the quality of construction work, a major rehabilitation of the banks is already noticeable and local economic and social activities that were once threatened by the dangers of erosion are preserved. This project also generated numerous local jobs in Cotonou and provided workers with valuable training and experience. Twenty Beninese workers, including 8 engineers and several technicians even joined the Norda Stelo project team. In addition to ensuring community safety, environmental integrity was maintained in order to preserve the coastal ecosystem. The Norda Stelo team conducted studies to ensure that terrestrial and maritime habitats and species, especially various threatened sea turtle species, were protected and environmental measures were implemented to reduce anticipated impacts.

In November, follow the [#20DaysOfExcellence](https://twitter.com/20DaysOfExcellence) in engineering campaign on Twitter and at www.acec.ca/20daysofexcellence to watch videos of award-winning projects like this one and to learn more about the impact of consulting engineering on our quality of life



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The award-winning projects are described in full in the October-November 2016 issue of *Canadian Consulting Engineer* at <http://www.canadianconsultingengineer.com/digital-edition/>.

Founded in Quebec in 1963, **Norda Stelo** is one of Canada's largest engineering and construction companies with operations on every continent. It specializes in integrated projects and sustainable partnerships based on trust. Together, we resolve engineering's greatest challenges. www.norda.com

ACEC represents companies in Canada that provide professional engineering services to both public and private sector clients. These services include the planning, design and execution of all types of engineering projects, as well as providing independent advice and expertise in a wide range of engineering and engineering-related fields. For more information about ACEC and the 2016 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards, please visit www.acec.ca.

Canadian Consulting Engineer is a bi-monthly magazine for engineers in the construction industry. It is a division of Annex Publishing & Printing Inc.

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Multimedia (includes project description, video, photo):

[Project photo](#)

[Project page on acec.ca](#)

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