

Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

Thirty-First Session
Geneva, September 19 to 23, 2016

ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (“the Committee”), at its first session, held in Geneva, from April 30 to May 3, 2001, approved certain organizational and procedural matters, including according ad hoc observer status to a number of organizations that had expressed their wish to have a role in the work of the Committee (see the Report adopted by the Committee, WIPO/GRKTF/IC/1/13, paragraph 18).
2. Since then, an additional number of organizations have expressed to the Secretariat their wish to obtain the same status for the subsequent sessions of the Committee. The applications containing the names and other biographical details of the organizations which, before July 21, 2016, requested accreditation at the Thirty-First Session of the Committee are annexed to this document.
3. Pursuant to the decision taken by the Committee at its Thirtieth Session under Agenda Item 4, the application form and the biographical details of *Jeunesse Sans Frontières Bénin (JSF Bénin)*, *Proyecto ETNOMAT*, *Departamento de Antropología Social, Universidad de Barcelona (España)*, and *Suivi des Couvents Vodoun et Conservation du Patrimoine Occulte (SUCOVEPO)* are included again in the Annex for the Committee’s consideration.
4. *The Committee is invited to consider and decide upon the accreditation requests as ad hoc observers submitted by the organizations referred to in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE REQUESTED ACCREDITATION AS OBSERVERS
IN SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

Alliance Nationale des Autorités Traditionnelles du Congo (ANATC)

Jeunesse Sans Frontières Bénin (JSF Bénin)

Juristes pour l'Environnement au Congo (JUREC conseil)

Proyecto ETNOMAT, Departamento de Antropología Social, Universidad de Barcelona
(España)

Suivi des Couvents Vodoun et Conservation du Patrimoine Occulte (SUCOVEPO)

Alliance Nationale des Autorités Traditionnelles du Congo (ANATC)

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20
Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate as an ad hoc observer in sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

Please find attached the biographical information of our organization necessary for processing this application for accreditation by the IGC.

We are available to provide any further information you might require.

Yours sincerely,

His Majesty Mfumu Difima Ntinu
Secretary General

(Name and Signature of Representative)

Application Form for Accreditation as Ad Hoc Observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore^{1, 2}

Full name of the Organization:

Alliance Nationale des Autorités Traditionnelles du Congo (ANATC)

Description of ANATC: (maximum 150 words)

Article 207 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, promulgated on February 18, 2016, recognizes traditional authorities.

Law No. 15/015 of August 25, 2015 establishing the status of traditional chiefs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo buttresses the legal arsenal for the country's territorial, administrative and political organization, which charges traditional chiefs with administrative duties, in addition to their traditional duties.

For years, the traditional chiefs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have come together under the organization known as the **Alliance Nationale des Autorités Traditionnelles du Congo**, authorized to operate by Ministerial Orders No. 1011/CAB/MIN/RIJ&GS of November 15, 1996 and No. 163 CAB/MIN/J&DH/2013 of May 20, 2013.

ANATC is composed of a National Executive Committee, headed by the National President, with a Secretary General and Provincial and Territorial Committees for the provinces.

Main aims and objectives of ANATC:

- foster cohesion, solidarity and social justice in local communities and in their grassroots organizations;
- preserve and ensure respect for traditional moral values, cultural heritage and ancestral vestiges, including traditional sacred sites and locations;
- in accordance with the law, ensure the protection of land areas that are part of local community lands;
- promote good neighborliness with neighboring communities;
- strengthen partnerships with public authorities through the administrative duties assigned to traditional chiefs;
- contribute to the smooth implementation of the ongoing decentralization in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to foster its development;
- ensure that the legal provisions contained in the Land Tenure Law and the Land Code are applied in order to respond positively to the deeply-held aspirations of grassroots communities; and
- settle disputes among local communities and family units for good neighborliness, cohesion and peace in order to achieve harmonious development.

Please do not enclose any attachment with your application.

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Main activities of ANATC:

- implementing of laws, edicts, national and provincial regulations and decisions and regulations issued by the chieftaincy, *groupements* and villages;
- promoting peace and security in administrative units;
- consolidating mechanisms for the integrated development of communities, in particular in the areas of agriculture, animal breeding, fishery, crafts, savings and microcredit cooperatives, basic infrastructure such as roads, schools, health centers, housing, water and electricity;
- combat rural desertification, the destruction of ecosystems and global warming by protecting flora, fauna, water, and riverbanks and promoting ecotourism, re-forestation and environmental education;
- combating juvenile delinquency, desertion and ill-treatment of children, especially pedophilia, sexual abuse and rural exodus;
- implementing measures to eradicate endemic, pandemic and others diseases and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; and
- protecting areas that are part of traditional lands.

Relationship of the Alliance Nationale des Autorités Traditionnelles du Congo with intellectual property matters under discussion by the Committee: (Maximum 150 words)

These issues concerning genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore are exclusive to traditional authorities, including those of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The above-mentioned objectives and main activities of our organization are a clear illustration.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has undertaken broad-based reforms in various sectors of national life, through the Government's program of action. These reforms include regulation of the use and management of land and forestry resources and their contribution to social and economic development. Traditional authorities are the interlocutor of choice in these matters in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The discussions and resolutions emerging from these meetings would be beneficial for all through effective partnership.

Issues relating to traditional knowledge and folklore fall under the remit of the traditional authorities that are custodians of Congolese culture, which seeks to become stronger through effective cooperation.

Countries in which the Alliance Nationale des Autorités Traditionnelles du Congo is primarily active:

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.

Partnership: CAMEROON, GABON, COTE D'IVOIRE, SOUTH AFRICA, BENIN, CONGO BRAZZAVILLE, ZAMBIA, NIGERIA, ANGOLA, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, BELGIUM, CERDOTOLA, CENTRE WALLONIE, TERVUREN MUSEUM, FESNAG, FORUM OF AFRICAN KINGS

Additional Information:

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

The traditional authorities of Congo are determined to continue advocacy so that the rights of local communities, women and indigenous peoples are taken into account through ongoing land

reforms and related processes in our country, in particular extractive industries, territorial development, zoning for exploitation, community forestry, etc.

Partnership with the IGC would establish a permanent framework for discussion to support the process of land reform, with a view to clarifying the usage rights of indigenous peoples and ensuring the participation of all in this reform and its programs.

Full contact details of The Alliance Nationale des Autorités Traditionnelles du Congo:

Postal address:

Head office: Avenue de la Démocratie no. 7476
KINSHASA/Commune de la Gombe

Telephone number: (+243) 0812400008/(+243) 0999943607
E-mail: mfumudifima@gmail.com, difimabolls@yahoo.fr

His Majesty Mfumu Difima Ntinu
Secretary General of ANATC

Jeunesse Sans Frontières Bénin (JSF Bénin)

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20
Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as an observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate as an ad hoc observer in sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

Please find attached the biographical information of our organization necessary for processing this application for accreditation by the IGC.

We are available to provide any further information you might require.

Yours sincerely,



AIGBE A. MARCELLIN

(Name and Signature of Representative)

Application Form for Accreditation as Ad Hoc Observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore^{1 2}

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION OF THE APPLICANT ORGANISATION

Full name of the Organization:

JEUNESSE SANS FRONTIERS (YOUTH WITHOUT BORDERS) BENIN
(JSF – BENIN)

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

Jeunesse Sans Frontières Bénin (JSF Bénin) is a charity of young people for mutual assistance and development which conducts multi-sector and multicultural production and processing of medicinal plants for primary health care, to promote and add value to good practices in traditional knowledge in terms of human and animal health. It is active in education, health, environmental protection, promotion of African cultural heritage, crafts, pharmacopoeia, applied research on the potential of endogenous natural resources, the development of renewable energy, capacity-building for traditional medicine practitioners, advocacy and lobbying.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization:

- contribute to the promotion of good practices and traditional knowledge in natural healthcare using medicinal plants for the health, socio-economic and cultural wellbeing of poor and low-income indigenous peoples;
- promote the large-scale use of renewable energy and environmental protection;
- develop value chains for the production and processing of medicinal and aromatic plants for human and animal health to ensure growth of the local economy, self-employment of young people not attending school, unemployed school leavers and rural women;
- work for gender equity, development, the promotion of human rights and combat discrimination against women, girls, children and disabled people;
- provide organizational and institutional capacity-building for JSF-Benin;
- build the capacity of target groups;
- raise funds for JSF-Benin;
- increase the provision of basic social services;
- develop environmentally friendly organic agriculture;
- communication and information;
- contribute to the promotion and preservation of the good practices, traditional knowledge and know-how of contemporary Africa;
- monitor and evaluate projects and programs;
- provide civic education to grassroots populations and civil oversight of the management of local councils and the central government;
- develop North-South-South cooperation to share experience and transfer knowledge;

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Main activities of the Organization:

- training traditional medicine practitioners on techniques for collecting and processing medicinal plants into phytomedicines for human and animal therapy;
- promoting and adding value to associated traditional knowledge and endogenous practices in natural health care for the well-being of the people of Africa and the world;
- training women's groups and rural organizations in organic farming techniques and the potential of moringa oleifera;
- raising awareness among health workers, rural dwellers and rural women on the potential of the microfood moringa for human and animal therapy;
- researching the potential of endogenous natural resources;
- conducting advocacy targeting political and administrative authorities on the development and large-scale use of renewable energy in Benin;
- production and processing of jatropha curcas into biofuel to replace ordinary diesel used to run grain mills in rural areas in Benin;
- defending human rights and combating all forms of discrimination against children, girls and disabled persons;
- promoting organic agricultural that protects the environment;
- promoting and restoring endangered plant genetic resources; and
- social mobilization of grassroots communities to change undesirable behavior, such as unhygienic practices and environmental deterioration, and encourage good nutritional practices, etc.

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee
(maximum 150 words):

Traditional knowledge and endogenous good practices in plant-based natural health care, in particular endogenous knowledge in our possession which we have learned and inherited from our grandparents in Africa and in Benin in particular, are still unknown to the world of science in terms of intellectual property.

We have learned that this issue is of concern to WIPO, which seeks to break this cycle of exclusion of traditional knowledge and endogenous practices in the use of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge to administer therapy to human beings and animals and protect biodiversity, improve WIPO's traditional knowledge databases.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Republic of Benin

Additional Information:

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words).

The Jeunesse Sans frontières Bénin NGO was established on July 18, 1993.

Since 2003, the NGO has conducted research on the energy potential of jatropha curcas. This has enabled it to produce, process and experiment with the oil of this plant as a substitute fuel for diesel, in order to contribute to reducing global warming and CO2 emissions, improve the plant cover of depleted soils and provide organic fertilizer to rural dwellers and gardeners.

In 2005, it demonstrated the use of jatropha curcas oil to power mills in the Atlantique, Littoral, Mono-Couffo, Zou-Collines, Ouémé-Plateau and Borgou administrative departments.

In 2007, it won the first prize for excellence, awarded by the President of the Republic of Benin, Dr. Thomas Boni Yayi, for producing organic diesel fuel using jatropha curcas as an endogenous substitute for ordinary fuel in rural and periurban communities.

From 2007 to 2009 it received a grant from the Global Environment Fund Small Grants Programme (SGP/GEF) through the representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Benin (UNDP – Benin). This was Project No. BEN/SGP0P4/Core/07/07/01/07 for capacity-building, targeting women's and mixed groups in Tori-Bossito and Hèvié-Allassako and for the production of jatropha curcas through mixed cropping and the production of diesel biofuel.

In 2011, JSF Benin received financial support from the Solidarity Fund for Development of the Embassy of the French Republic in Cotonou, to build the capacity of women's groups, health workers and rural dwellers of Tori-Bossito community in agricultural techniques and the use of moringa oleifera to address malnutrition and anemia among children aged 9 months to 6 years, as well as among pregnant women and nursing mothers.

In April 2013, the President of JSF Benin, Mr. A. Marcelin Aigbe, was made a Knight of the Order of Merit of Benin for numerous services to Benin and the countries of the sub-region as a result of his applied research on the potential of medicinal plants for natural health. By Presidential Decree No. 2012-323 of August 28, 2012 citing his distinguished service to the nation; he received the Order of Merit on April 10, 2013 in the Grand Chancellery of National Orders of Benin.

In 2014, Mr. A. Marcelin Aigbe won the ALOPHEIR 2014 prize as innovator emeritus in Africa for his product Africa Micronutrients used to treat malnutrition.

In 2015, Mr. A. Marcelin Aigbe won the Palme d'Or prize for 2015.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address:

JEUNESSE SANS FRONTIERES BENIN (JSF BENIN)
08 BP 725 Tri Postal Cotonou

Telephone number: (00229) 97 98 48 74

Fax number: (00229) 21 31 82 00

E-mail address: aigbejsf@yahoo.fr or jsf_benin1993@yahoo.fr

Website: www.jsf-benin.org

Name of Organization Representative and Title:

MARCELLIN A. AIGBE
PRESIDENT JSF BENIN, NGO
NATUROPATH
RESEARCHER, ENDOGENOUS NATURAL RESOURCES
KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF BENIN

Juristes pour l'Environnement au Congo (JUREC conseil)

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
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1211 Geneva 20
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Please find attached the biographical information of our organization necessary for processing this application for accreditation by the IGC.

We are available to provide any further information you might require.

Yours sincerely,

Felix Credo LILAKAKO MALIKUKA



(Name and Signature of Representative)

Application Form for Accreditation as Ad Hoc Observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore^{1, 2}

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION OF THE APPLICANT ORGANISATION

Full name of the Organization:

JURISTES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT AU CONGO, JUREC conseil

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

JUREC is a non-governmental organization under Congolese law specialized in environmental law and natural resources. It is affiliated with the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was established in Kinshasa on March 8, 2013 and registered with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights under number F.92/22.412. It also received the authorization of the Ministry of the Environment under number 1329/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/05/12/BNME/2014 of June 5, 2014.

JUREC conseil seeks to support local communities and settle disputes relating to natural resource management and exploitation. The organization is closely involved in natural resource conservation, particularly Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization:

- contribute to the development of environmental law through the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of legislation governing the environment and natural resources;
- disseminate legislation on all aspects of environmental law and natural resources;
- contribute to the sustainable natural resource management, in particular forestry, biodiversity, mines and hydrocarbons;
- help promote decentralization and local governance in natural resource management;
- conduct socio-economic studies for the development of local communities and indigenous peoples;
- establish a framework for discussions on matters affecting the environment and the development of local communities and indigenous peoples; and
- defend the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples in connection with the exploitation of natural resources and their right of access to land.

Please do not enclose any attachment with your application.

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Main activities of the Organization:

- legal and environmental studies and publications;
- outreach and training of local and indigenous communities and political and administrative authorities on environmental law;
- organizing local grassroots associations;
- organizing conferences, workshops and seminars on natural resources;
- scientific support for young researchers on natural resource law;
- legal advice on the environment;
- contributing to the drafting of laws and implementing regulations on natural resources and the environment.

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (maximum 150 words).

The organization works with the Ministry of the Environment, with the support of the FAO, on intellectual property matters connected to natural resource data with the framework of REDD+. Moreover, it works closely with the Department of Sustainable Development of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources. The organization also works on ABS in publications of the Environmental Law Center in Congo. JUREC is the only organization of Congolese legal practitioners which supports the Congolese Ministry of the Environment on legal matters in connection with ABS, in particular in the African Environmental Law Review, published by the IFDD (Francophonie Institute for Sustainable Development) and the Francophonie. Currently, the organization is working to publish a work on the legal aspects of traditional knowledge in the DRC.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Additional Information:

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

JUREC conseil has an environmental law research center that works specifically on ABS issues and the legal aspects of traditional knowledge in the DRC. The work involves introducing young legal researchers (students) to issues affecting biodiversity and traditional knowledge, especially intellectual property.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address:

124, Boulevard du 30 Juin, Immeuble Soki, Kinshasa/Gombe, RD Congo

Telephone number: +243819940015

E-mail address: jurec.conseil@gmail.com

Name of Organization Representative and Title:

Felix Credo Lilakako Malikuka, Chairman of the Board of Directors

ETNOMAT Project, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Barcelona (Spain)

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax: +41 (0) 22 338 81 20
Email: grtkf@wipo.int

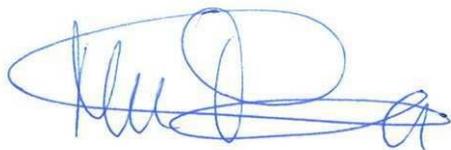
Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

(Name and Signature of Representative)

Application Form for Accreditation as Ad Hoc Observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore^{1, 2}

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION OF THE APPLICANT ORGANISATION

Full name of the Organization:

Proyecto ETNOMAT, Departamento de Antropología Social, Universidad de Barcelona (España)

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

The ETNOMAT project is funded by the Government of Spain and is based in the University of Barcelona. It is led by Dr. Mónica Martínez Mauri and has five researchers. It focuses on analyzing, from an ethnographic standpoint, the development of intellectual property regimes in six distinct cultural contexts: Catalonia (Spain), Scotland (UK), Cabo Verde, Senegal, Gunayala (Panama) and Altiplano Kiche' (Guatemala).

Main aims and objectives of the Organization:

- university training and research;
- ethnographic study of the development of intellectual property regimes in distinct cultural contexts; and
- promotion of training for future anthropologists in the area of intellectual property and traditional cultural expressions.

Main activities of the Organization:

- ethnographic research;
- disclosure of results through participation in conferences and in publications;
- teaching

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (maximum 150 words)

The ETNOMAT project conducts comparative research on traditional cultural expressions, focusing on social, economic and political issues raised by its production, use and marketing, as well as its conceptualization as intellectual property (IP). The research dwells on the processes through which certain objects, rather than others, are converted into ethnic markers and also on

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the processes that cause some of these objects to become controversial in regard to IP rights. These topics are of great importance to the cultural economy of the 21st century which is dominated by increasing globalization and ethnicization. The mercantilization of products associated with specific cultures and struggles to control the rights deriving from such products, is already ongoing, fueling discussions as to who should benefit from the exploitation of traditional images, designs and knowledge.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Spain, Guatemala, Panama, Cabo Verde, the United Kingdom and Senegal.

Additional Information:

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

The ETNOMAT Project considers it essential to be present at the ongoing IGC discussions in 2016 and 2017. It is only by following these sessions that we can have an overview of the phenomenon that we are interested in studying and discover the latest legal developments that affect the local contexts in which we are conducting ethnographic studies.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address: Universitat de Barcelona, Dpt. Antropologia Social
c/ Montalegre, 6-8
08001 Barcelona

Telephone number: +34 609076626
E-mail address: martinezmauri@ub.edu
Website: www.ub.edu

Name of Organization Representative and Title:

Dr. Mónica Martínez Mauri

Suivi des Couvents Vodoun et Conservation du Patrimoine Occulte (SUCOVEPO)

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
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Yours sincerely,



ANTOINE C. A. PADONOU

(Name and Signature of Representative)

Application Form for Accreditation as Ad Hoc Observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore^{1, 2}

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

Full name of the Organization:

Suivi des Couvents Vodoun et Conservation du Patrimoine Occulte

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

SUCOVEPO is a natural NGO which contributes to the establishment, preservation and the promotion of good practices and ancestral knowledge of the Vodoun religion. It also brings together traditional medicine practitioners in order to disseminate their knowledge, with the contribution of national, regional and international researchers on clearly defined bases.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization:

- spread knowledge about the Vodoun religion in Africa and the world by providing people with real knowledge thanks to practical means of communication;
- group traditional practitioners in order to disseminate their knowledge with the contribution of national, regional and international researchers on clearly defined bases;
- continue research on the nature of and therapy for diseases which are difficult and expensive to treat through modern medicine;
- participate in national, regional and international meetings and conferences on the Vodoun Religion and pharmacopoeia;
- suggest to government and local councils appropriate measures for the promotion of good practices and the rites of the Vodoun religion that can provide information on the practice of Vodoun in our schools, colleges, universities at home and abroad, to improve the living and working conditions of humanity;
- develop North-South-South cooperation to share experience and transfer knowledge.

Main activities of the Organization:

- training followers of the Vodoun religion on the prevention of STDs and HIV/AIDS;
- promoting and adding value to traditional knowledge held by Vodoun monasteries and endogenous good practices in health care;
- producing and processing medicinal plants into phytomedicines for disease prevention and cure in grassroots communities; and
- environmental protection.

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Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (maximum 150 words)

Traditional knowledge and endogenous good practices in plant-based natural health care, in particular endogenous knowledge in our possession which we have learned and inherited from our grandparents in Africa and in Benin in particular, are still unknown to the world of science in terms of intellectual property.

We have learned that this issue is of concern to WIPO, which seeks to break this cycle of exclusion of traditional knowledge and endogenous practices in the use of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge to administer therapy to human beings and animals and protect biodiversity, improve WIPO's traditional knowledge databases.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Republic of Benin

Additional Information:

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words)

SUCOVEPO is a natural NGO that contributes to the establishment, preservation and promotion of good practices and ancestral knowledge of the Vodoun religion. It also brings together traditional medicine practitioners in order to disseminate the knowledge with the contribution of national, regional and international researchers on clearly defined bases.

In 2014, the president of SUCOVEPO, Mr. Antoine Coovi Aboua Padonou, won the ALOPHEIR prize as innovator emeritus in Africa.

In 2015, the president of SUCOVEPO, Mr. Antoine Coovi Aboua Padonou, won the Palme d'Or prize.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address: BP 84, DASSA-ZOUME, Republic of Benin

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[End of Annex and of document]