

Questionnaire to Indigenous Peoples' Organizations

A. General information and background on your organization/ institution

1. Please provide the name of your organization/ entity and where it is based. Please also provide details on the objectives and goals of your Organization.

Organization name : Amis de l'Afrique Francophone- Bénin (AMAF-BENIN)

Organization type : Organisation Non Gouvernementale de gouvernance autochtone

Country: Benin

E-mail address: amafbenin@yahoo.fr

Objectives and goals of your Organization

Our Organization Amis de l'Afrique Francophone-Benin (AMAF-BENIN) is dedicated to helping to remedy the socio-economic and environmental problems whose are victims of the Beninese population in general and the most vulnerable in particular. Its primary purpose is to seek ways and means for the self-reinforcement of indigenous peoples and local communities for the governance and sustainable management of their areas or territories, the promotion of their ancestral and / or customary rights and the improvement of their living conditions.

The objectives pursued by our Organization are:

- Promote peace, solidarity, crafts, tourism and culture ;
- Promote economic, social, and ancestral and customary rights of indigenous peoples and local communities ;
- Conserve biodiversity and ecosystem functions, support for sustainable livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities ;
- Intensify the exchange of good practices to contribute to a metamorphosis of society by changing individual and collective behaviors for environmental justice, the promotion of renewable energy, the creation of institutions and participatory development ;
- Support and monitor the implementation of regional and international policies and agreements on forests and wetlands to help protect and conserve biodiversity, ecosystem function and alleviate poverty for indigenous peoples and other lake communities and forest tributaries.

2. Which indigenous peoples/ communities does your Organization represent and/or work with?

Our Organization represents and / or works with indigenous peoples and local communities: Toffin, Anii, Kotokoli, Bariba, Lokpa, Sahouè, Nagot, Wémè, Aïzo, Adja, Fon of Benin.

B. Recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At the 2018 session, the Permanent Forum will focus on “Indigenous peoples’ collective rights to lands, territories and resources”.

3. Are there laws and policies and/or administrative measures in your country to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples to own, use, control, and manage lands, territories, and resources? If so, please provide details.

Yes, there is a policy and / or administrative measure in our country Benin to recognize the right of indigenous peoples to own, use, control and manage lands, territories and resources.

This is the interministerial decree N ° 0121 / MEHU / MDGLAAT / DC / SGM / DGFRN/ SA, of November 16, 2012 fixing the conditions of sustainable management of the sacred forest in the Republic of Benin.

4. Are there any efforts or initiatives to (i) demarcate and/or map communal lands; (ii) registration of land titles (individual and collective); and (iii) adjudication of claims for collective rights to lands, territories and resources? If so, please provide details.

Yes, in Benin there are efforts and / or an initiative to (i) demarcate and/or map communal lands; (ii) registration of land titles (individual and collective); and (iii) adjudication of claims for collective rights to lands, territories and resources.

This is the initiative "Project of Integration of Sacred Forests in the protected area system of Benin" supported by UNDP. The purpose of this Project is to conserve the biodiversity of world-wide importance present in Benin by protecting and sustainably managing biologically and culturally important forest resources. The project seeks to strengthen the role of traditional leaders in implementing forest conservation mechanisms.

It is also the law 97-029 of January 15, 1999 on the organization of the Communes in the Republic of Benin which is the keystone regarding the competences and the modalities of their exercise as regards forests.

5. Please provide information on any projects or programmes to ensure the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in relation to development projects and/or extractive activities?

No development projects and/ or extractive activities have yet specifically guaranteed the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in Benin. However, an initiative to identify sites and lands meeting the criteria of the Indigenous and Conserved Communities Areas (ICCA) was conducted by the NGO GRABE-BENIN with contribution of NGO AMAF-BENIN and the financial support of the Microfinance Program of the Environment Fund Global (MFP/ GEF) administered by UNDP. Also, another initiative is about to start up for the sustainable management of Indigenous and Community Heritage Areas and Territories (ICCA) which takes into account the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in some localities of Benin. This program is led by the NGOs AMAF-BENIN, BEES, ESI, PJUD and ERAD and is also supported by the Microfinance Program of the Global Environment Facility (PMF/ GEF).

6. Do you have any examples of good practices that may be useful for resolving issues of ownership and control over natural resources? If so, please provide details. Please also include information on any specific programmes targeting indigenous women.

Yes, the only examples of good practice available in Benin that can be useful as approaches to solutions to problems of ownership and control of natural resources are:

- the interministerial decree N° 0121/ MEHU/ MDGLAAT/ DC/ SGM/ DGFRN/ SA, of November 16, 2012 fixing the conditions of sustainable management of the sacred forest in the Republic of Benin,
- the project of integration of forests and sacred sites in the system of Protected Areas (PIFSAP) initiated in Benin.

No specific program has yet targeted indigenous women in Benin.

C. UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

7. Has your Organization been involved in any legislative, policy and/or administrative measures taken by the Government to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ? Please provide details.

No, our Organization has not participated in any legislative, policy and / or administrative action taken by the Government to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Also, no legislative, political and / or administrative measures have been taken by the Benin government to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

D. World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

In 2014, at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2), Member States committed to taking, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, a number of measures to achieve the ends of the Declaration.

8. Have any steps been taken to develop a national action plan or strategy on indigenous peoples? Please also include information on any capacity building to strengthen awareness and action to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

No, no action has been taken by the State of Benin to develop a national action plan or strategy on indigenous peoples. There are only plans for management and use of resources. Also, no action is being taken for capacity building to enhance awareness and action for the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Benin.

The UN developed a System wide action plan to support Member States to achieve the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SWAP-Indigenous Peoples [E/C.19/2016/5](#)).

9. Please provide information on the involvement of your Organization/peoples with UN offices at the country level including on:

a. Any projects, activities, dialogues and/or public awareness campaigns;

Our Organization and our peoples have not participated in any activity, dialogue and / or public awareness campaign.

b. Preparation of country programmes and UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF).

Our Organization and our peoples have not participated in any preparation of country programs and UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF).

E. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Global Goals

There are 17 Global Goals that cover a number of important issues including ending extreme poverty, ensuring all children receive a good education, achieving equal opportunities for all, and promoting a clean and healthy planet. The Permanent Forum has emphasized that the recognition, protection and promotion of indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources will make a significant contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. Has your Organization been involved in the implementation, review and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda ? If so, please provide details.

No, our Organization was not involved in the implementation, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda.