

**FORM ICH-09**

**REQUEST BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION TO BE ACCREDITED TO PROVIDE  
ADVISORY SERVICES TO THE COMMITTEE**

**1. Name of the organization**

Please provide the full official name of the organization, in its original language as well as in French and/or English.

West Africa Coalition for Indigenous Peoples' Rights (WACIPR)

**2. Address of the organization**

Please provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone or fax numbers, e-mail address, website, etc.. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled (see item 8).

4, Otokiti Street, Off Uwelu Road – P.O. Box 4228 Benin City - Nigeria

**3. Country or countries in which the organization is active**

Please identify the country(ies) in which the organization actively operates. If it operates entirely within one country, please indicate which country. If its activities are international, please indicate whether it operates globally or in one or more regions, and please list the primary countries in which it carries out activities

national

international (please specify: )

worldwide

Africa

Arab States

Asia & the Pacific

Europe & North America

Latin America & the Caribbean

Please list the primary country(ies) where it is active:

Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia

**4. Date of its founding or approximate duration of its existence**

Please state when the organization came into existence.

2004

## 5. Objectives of the organization

Please describe the objectives for which the organization was established, which should be “in conformity with the spirit of the Convention” (Criterion C). If the organization’s primary objectives are other than safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, please explain how its safeguarding objectives relate to those larger objectives.

*Not to exceed 350 words; do not attach additional information*

### OBJECTIVES OF THE NGO AS IT RELATES TO SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

The objectives of the West Africa Coalition for indigenous peoples Rights WACIPR include

#### 1. Authentication:

The NGO continually seeks and advocates that the traditional knowledge and folklore of the over one hundred and forty – seven indigenous communities in which it executes its mandate, are authenticated to belong to the communities.

#### 2. Cultural Protocols:

Establishing procedures including legal protection to prevent the abuse of the rich cultural heritage of the indigenous people.

#### 3. Communal Ownership:

The cultural Heritage of indigenous communities are jointly owned and does not belong to individuals and as such there must be collective agreement and consent to access traditional knowledge and folklore.

#### 4. Non Expropriation:

The indigenous communities desire to guard against the removal of items of folklore and traditional knowledge from the places of origin. The communities see their folklore as testimony of the origin, past and spiritual tie to their progenitors. They fear that they might be destroyed and diluted.

#### 5. Poverty alleviation:

Some aspects of folklore and traditional knowledge are transformed into arts and performances which are marketed to alleviate poverty in the indigenous communities. Hence there is need to guard against infringement on copyright.

**6. The organization's activities in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage**

Items 6.a. to 6.c. are the primary place to establish that the NGO satisfies the criterion of having "proven competence, expertise and experience in safeguarding (as defined in Article 2.3 of the Convention) intangible cultural heritage belonging, inter alia, to one or more specific domains" (Criterion A).

**6.a. Domain(s) in which the organization is active**

Please check one or more boxes to indicate the primary domains in which the organization is most active. If its activities involve domains other than those listed, please check "other domains" and indicate which domains are concerned.

- oral traditions and expressions
- performing arts
- social practices, rituals and festive events
- knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- traditional craftsmanship
- other domains - please specify:

**6.b. Primary safeguarding activities in which the organization is involved**

Please check one or more boxes to indicate the organization's primary safeguarding activities. If its activities involve safeguarding measures not listed here, please check "other safeguarding measures" and specify which ones are concerned

- identification, documentation, research (including inventory-making)
- preservation, protection
- promotion, enhancement
- transmission, formal or non-formal education
- revitalization
- other safeguarding measures - please specify:

**6.c. Description of the organization's activities**

Organizations requesting accreditation should briefly describe their recent activities and their relevant experience in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Please provide information on the personnel and membership of the organization, describe their competence and expertise in the domain of intangible cultural heritage and explain how they acquired such competence. Documentation of such activities and competences may be submitted, if necessary, under item 8.c. below.

*Not to exceed 750 words; do not attach additional information*

The West Africa Coalition for Indigenous peoples' Rights WACIPR has recently been involved in the following activities-

1. Preservation of languages facing danger of possible extinction in many indigenous communities in Nigeria and Sierra Leone
2. Compilation of Traditional Pharmacopoeia based on traditional knowledge
3. Establishment of local orchestra and conservatoire to preserve the cherished ancient music and dances steps of the indigenous communities.
4. Documentation and staging the age-long festivals of the indigenous peoples which are their renowned cultural heritage
5. Lobbying for legislative protection of the cultural heritage of indigenous communities based

WACIPR is a coalition of indigenous groups and people with many affiliating communities with the aim of promoting their cultural and social well-being . Its membership spreads across Nigeria, Sierra-Leone and Liberia. The NGO has been well represented in many local, national and international foras including the Working Group on Indigenous Populations the United Nations permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues UNPFII.

Membership is open to all indigenous communities and people who often bring in their vast experiences in the preservation propagation and transmission of intangible cultural heritage.

Members and personnel of the disorganization has attended several trainings and workshops/seminars in-situ and ex-situ. The members include Historians, Anthropologists, Musicologists Archaeologists, Linguists, Theatre Artists Volunteer Researchers and Documentation experts Some members are also knowledgeable in oral tradition.

### **Recent Activities and Relevant Experience**

Our indigenous peoples are truly traditional who strongly and jealously maintain their oral folklore which they see as expression of their cultural heritage and survival amidst the ubiquitous challenges of acculturation and assimilation from the ethnic majorities. The local dialects are constantly under the siege of mass culture that are imported and of dominant language groups. To check the threat of obliteration, the West Africa Coalition for Indigenous People's Rights WACIPR has recently taken the following steps.

1. Agitation for the inclusive and use of mother tongue as language in primary school curriculum in schools located in indigenous communities. This was part of the interventions made by WACIPR at the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues UNPFII in 2006 and at the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations WGIP in 2005.
2. WACIPR has also prepared a memo to the Edo state Government of Nigeria to establish community radio station(s) in indigenous people's communities to sustain preserve and propagate their culture through its programmes.
3. WACIPR recently volunteered to provide translators, and artistes to local television and radio stations as a way of preserving the endangered dialects of the indigenous

people.

4. The organization is also compiling almost forgotten words in some indigenous dialects for future generations.

5. WACIPR has a vast archive of old indigenous folk songs, visuals of festival dance steps, recitals etc. It stages cultural festival competitions among indigenous communities every three years. The last festival competition was held in 2008. The event is an occasion the participating communities look forward to with enthusiasm.

#### **Safeguarding Traditional Pharmacopoeia**

The organisation has been able to bring traditional medical health providers to agree to release information on ancient traditional knowledge on the use of curative plants. The knowledge was passed to them informally by their forebears and hitherto kept secret in the respective families, is now being documented to preserve it from the threat of going into oblivion. The vast knowledge of the curative vascular plants which have been identified is systematically classified.

WACIPR is in the process of botanical propagation of the vascular plants to safeguard sustainable use for the future generations.

#### **7. Its experiences cooperating with communities, groups and intangible cultural heritage practitioners**

The Committee will evaluate whether NGOs requesting accreditation “cooperate in a spirit of mutual respect with communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage” (Criterion D). Please briefly describe such experiences here.

*Not to exceed 350 words; do not attach additional information*

WACIPR as a community – based organisation represents the interest of the over one hundred and forty-seven communities who expect it to advocate their cultural rights, lobby for legislative protection of their cultural heritage.

The NGO in collaboration with the indigenous communities have set up customs repositories in various settlements and villages. All transactions with people and organisations on behalf of the indigenous communities are carried out on Mutually Agreed Terms approved by the authorities of the communities. For example, the NGO made a statement on behalf of the communities at the fifth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2005, in New York.

Several exhibitions of Traditional Cultural Expressions have been organised to display the cultural heritage of the indigenous communities and peoples through the active participation of artists and practitioners.

## **8. Documentation of the operational capacities of the organization**

The Operational Directives (paragraph 94) require that an organization requesting accreditation shall submit documentation proving that it possesses the operational capacities listed under Criterion E. Such supporting documents may take various forms, in light of the diverse legal regimes in effect in different States. Submitted documents should be translated into French or English whenever possible if the originals are in another language. Please identify supporting documents clearly with the item (8.a, 8.b or 8.c) to which they refer.

### **8.a. Membership and personnel**

Proof of the participation of the membership of the organization, as requested under Criterion E (i), may take diverse forms such as a list of directors, list of personnel and statistical information on the quantity and categories of members; a complete membership roster usually need not be submitted.

*Please attach supporting documents.*

### **8.b. Recognized legal personality**

If the organization has a charter, articles of incorporation, by-laws or similar establishing document, a copy should be attached. If, under the applicable domestic law, the organization has a legal personality recognized through some means other than an establishing document (for instance, through a published notice in an official gazette or journal), please provide documentation showing how that legal personality was established.

*Please attach supporting documents.*

### **8.c. Duration of existence and activities**

If it is not already clearly indicated from the documentation provided for item 8.b, please submit documentation proving that the organization has existed for at least four years at the time it requests accreditation. Please provide documentation showing that it has carried out appropriate safeguarding activities during that time, including those described above in item 6.c. Supplementary materials such as books, CDs or DVDs, or similar publications cannot be taken into consideration and should not be submitted.

*Please attach supporting documents.*

## **9. Contact person for correspondence**

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this request. If an e-mail address cannot be provided, the information should include a fax number.

Philemon Ogieriakhi – C/O 4, Otokiti Street, Off Uwelu Road – P.O. Box 4228 Benin City – Nigeria

Email: wacipr@yahoo.com

**10. Signature**

The application must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization requesting accreditation. Requests without a signature cannot be considered.

Name: Joseph Ogieriakhi

Title: Programmes Director

Date: 25 June 2010

Signature:<Signed>

## ITEM 8 (a)

## MEMBERSHIP AND PERSONNEL

## List of Directors

1. Joseph Ogieriakhi	-	Programmes Director
2. Dora Ogboi	-	Asst. Director, Gender Culture
3. Emmanuel Aitokhuehi	-	Deputy Director, Culture
4. Louis Edifinene	-	
5. Kehinde Adewumi	-	Asst. Director Music Culture
6. Philemon Ogieriakhi	-	Curator\$
7. Tunde Saiki	-	Acting Secretarz/Co-ordinator
8. Seun Olusola	-	Programme officer Dance/Theatre
9. Frank Ehondor	-	Youth Culture
10. Paul Ogieriakhi	-	Programme Officer, Folklore
11. Moses Amodu	-	Performing Arts
12. Joseph Aire	-	Documentation Officer

## Other Personnel (Volunteers)

(i)	Male	-	36
(ii)	Female	-	42

## The volunteers include

Anthropologists	-	11
Archaeologists	-	5
Linguists	-	6
Lawyers	-	8
Research Officers	-	3
Research Assistants	-	8
Folklore Experts	-	16
Culture Experts	-	21



ED/MWASD/NGOR/20025



# MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## WOMEN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

5H, Omo Osagie Avenue, G.R.A., Benin City,  
Edo State, Nigeria.

# Certificate Of Registration

*This is to certify that*

WEST AFRICA COALITION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS (WACIPR)

*Of*


No. 4 OTOKITI STREET, OFF. UWELU ROAD, BENIN CITY.

*Has been duly registered to function as an NGO/Club /Union/Association  
under the Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development*

WOMEN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

  
Director, Women Affairs



  
Permanent Secretary

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2004

## Safeguarding Traditional Pharmacopoeia

The organisation has been able to bring trado-medical health providers to agree to release information on ancient traditional knowledge on the use of curative plants. The knowledge was passed to them informally by their forebears and hither to kept secret in the respective families, is now being documented to preserve it from the threat of going into oblivion. The vast knowledge of the curative vascular plants which have been identified is systematically classified.

WACIPR is in the process of botanical propagation of the vascular plants to safeguard sustainable use for the future generations.

### Registration Status of WACIPR (Non-Profit NGO)

The Edo State Government is concurrently empowered by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to register, and regulate the activities of Non-profit-Non Governmental Organizations. Edo State Government performs this concurrent function through its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development .The registration confers legal personality on the organization entailing that it can sue and be sued; and entitled to all rights and privileges due to this status.

Registration with the competent authority confers the legal status and recognition to operate at the community level where the intangible cultural heritage resides.

Registration with the competent state authority also elicits trust and confidence from the grassroots populace as they see the organization as their own and not alien.

WACIPR is a non-profitable community based organization with membership committed to the protection and safe guarding of their communal cultural heritage and interests.