Culture-Development Association (Cul-Dev)

NGO accredited to provide advisory services to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Vision
Make the cultural sector, in particular cultural heritage, the lever for dynamic, buoyant and sustained endogenous development.

Mission
Culture-Development Association (established 2012) is a voluntary civic association grouping together ICH stakeholders, to support and network a community of people interested in the safeguarding of ICH, coming from various academic and non-academic institutions, museums, non-formal education institutions etc. to undertake research, promotion and education. The purpose of the association is to conduct research, promote and educate in the field of ICH.

Main areas of work related to the Convention

Traditional craftsmanship know-how.
Oral traditions and expressions.
Social practices, rituals, and festive events.

Geographic Coverage of NGO’s expertise: Togo, West Africa.

Relevant projects or initiatives
The Culture-Development Association coordinates jointly with the Togolese Ministry of Culture awareness-raising initiatives and projects, and regularly participates in capacity-building activities. Likewise, the Association of Culture-Development conducts research on intangible cultural practices and traditional wisdom and handicraftsmanship. The main thrust of its work are in the areas of ethnomusicology and in the traditional construction of granaries in and across Togo, hence empowering and improving granary construction techniques.

Recently completed projects
January 2022 - March 2023: Organization of three regional workshops bringing together 53 rural girls/women from the new municipalities of Togo to strengthen their capacity on their land rights for equitable access to land and full enjoyment. Funding from the Francophonie Consortium French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs - Government of Quebec - Principality of Andorra.

March 2021: Mapping of the cultural and creative industries in Togo, in order to develop policies in the sector. A 43 page guide for cultural professionals. Funding: CUL.DEV.

Ongoing projects
June 2023 - July 2025: Identification, capacity building, safeguarding, and valorization of traditional dances in Togo as a means of sustainable cultural development. Project TGO 02072.

May 2023 - April 2024: Organization of five regional workshops bringing together 117 artists from the new municipalities of Togo to strengthen their capacity on Law No. 2016-012 concerning the status of artists for responsible appropriation, in order to better guide policies for the full enjoyment of the rights and have a greater national impact. Funding: UNESCO-ASCHBERG Program.

June 2022: Inventory and valorization of food storage practices, food security and preservation: the case of traditional granaries in Togo. Funding: CUL.DEV.

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