

**REQUEST BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION TO BE ACCREDITED TO ACT
IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE**

Deadline: 30 April 2023
**for examination by the Committee in 2023 and accreditation by the
General Assembly in 2024**

File may be downloaded at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

*Please provide only the information and supporting documentation requested below.
Annexes cannot be accepted.*

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this request

A.1.a. Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears in the supporting documentation establishing its legal personality (section D.2. below).

Society of Native Nations

A.1.b. Name of the organization in English and/or French.

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: Society of Native Nations

Address: 10730 Potranco Road Suite 122-282, San Antonio, TX 78251-3327

Telephone number: 1 (323) 377 – 0245

Email address: frankie@societyofnativenations.org

Website: <https://societyofnativenations.org/>

Other relevant information:

A.3. Contact person for the correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this request.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr.

Family name: Orona

Given name: Frankie

Institution/position: Executive Director

Address: 10730 Potranco Road Suite 122-282, San Antonio, TX 78251-3327

Telephone number: 1 (323) 377 – 0245

Email address: frankie@societyofnativenations.org

Other relevant information: <https://www.facebook.com/SocietyOfNativeNations/>

A.4. Country or countries in which the organization is active (Paragraph 91(b) of the Operational Directives)

Identify the country or countries in which your organization actively operates. If it operates entirely within one country, indicate which country. If its activities are international, indicate whether it operates globally or in one or more regions, and list the primary countries in which it carries out its activities.

local

national

international (please specify)

worldwide

Africa

Arab States

Asia and the Pacific

Europe and North America

Latin America and the Caribbean

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

United States of America and El Salvador

B. Organization's competence, expertise, and experience in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (Article 9 of the Convention and paragraphs 91(a) and (c) of the Operational Directives)

B.1. Objectives of the organization

Describe the objectives for which your organization was established, which should be in conformity with the spirit of the Convention. If the organization's primary objectives are other than safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, explain how its safeguarding objectives relate to those larger objectives.

Not to exceed 300 words

Society of Native Nations (SNN) is an organization founded by a small group of Native people in Texas with members in many states that are dedicated to advocating for our people and the earth by helping to protect and preserve our native culture, spirituality, teachings, medicine, and way of life. We believe we are environmentally conscious through our DNA and because our lifeways and culture parallel the health of Mother Earth. Through ancestral memories, prayer, and determination, we strive to help bring a positive change to our people and Mother Earth. SNN was founded to fulfill the express mission of helping to protect and preserve the way of life, culture, spirituality, teachings, and medicines of the Native indigenous people of North and South America.

B.2. Domain(s) in which the organization is active

Tick 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, tick '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:

Consent and Consultation for Environmental Justice from Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Knowledge on caretaking and protecting Mother Earth.

Briefly describe below your organization's work in relation to the domains chosen (if your organization cuts all domains, explain how).

Not to exceed 250 words

Society is active within several domains ranging from a local level to a global level. Our work is dedicated to our community and to indigenous culture preservation. In this capacity, SNN served as an expert member of a frontline delegation at the first and second round of negotiations on the new agreement in Uruguay (INC-1) and Paris (INC-2) serving in such a capacity through the treaty negotiation process. Representing and staffed by Indigenous Peoples in the US, SNN brings expertise both with respect to the experiences of people affected in their daily lives by pollution from plastics production (an portion of the plastics life cycle under-discussed so far in treaty negotiations), and with respect to the traditional environmental knowledge and systems that can and should serve as alternatives and solutions to the plastics crisis.

In 2018 SNN established a cultural-environmental center working with youth and community members to address the negative impacts culturally and environmentally of the violent extractive fossil fuel and petrochemical industry, with SNN member Marlon Enamorado leading and teaching at the center. SNN has also worked with National Indigenous Coordinating Council Salvadoran (CCNIS) and the Salvadoran Ecological Unit (UNES) in Tacuscalco since 2016.

In collaboration with CoastKeeper, AZUL, Surfrider and other environmental organizations, SNN defeated proposed plans for Desalination at El Segundo California by West Basin District Water Commission 1/22/2022 then again defeated the 1.4 billion desalination plant Poseidon Project 5/12/2022 in California Coastal Commission.

B.3. Primary safeguarding activities in which the organization is involved

Tick one or more boxes to indicate the organization's primary safeguarding activities. If its activities involve safeguarding measures not listed here, tick '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:

B.4. Description of the organization's activities

Briefly describe the organization's recent activities and relevant experience in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, including those demonstrating the capacities of the organization to provide advisory services to the Committee. Relevant documentation may be submitted, if necessary, under section D.3. below.

Not to exceed 550 words

We have been working with the National Indigenous Coordinating Council Salvadoran (CCNIS) and the Salvadoran Ecological Unit (UNES) in Tacuscalco since 2016. In 2018 we established an SNN cultural-environmental center working with youth and community members to address the negative impacts culturally and environmentally of the violent extractive fossil fuel and petrochemical industry, with SNN member Marlon Enamorado leading and teaching at the center. We attended the INC-1 (Punta del Este, Uruguay) and

INC-2 (Paris, France) under the EJ Delegation, with a coalition we are also a member of with partners globally that also participated at the INC-1 and INC-2. We added comments on the floor and had multiple meetings with other delegates and reporters to contribute to the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

SNN has additional relevant experience in the global climate treaty negotiations, and thus serves as a bridge between policy processes, connecting frontline and Indigenous Peoples perspectives and expertise across both the global climate and plastics governance spaces. Along with the INC-1 and INC-2, we have contributed our cultural and environmental expertises with additional global meetings such as our Global Conference in Hoi An, Vietnam in preparation for the INC-2 meeting with global partners. In hopes to continue to provide our consultation and consent towards the international legally binding instruments on plastic pollutions we have attended Global Consultation on Chemicals and Waste Issues of Concern based in Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

In addition to our international work, SNN operates and facilitates Environmental and Mutual Aid Projects. We are held accountable by our board and elders of our community to ensure that more than 50% of our funding is directly put back into our community through these projects like SNN's Elder and Veteran housing assistance program.

- **SNN “Return to the Earth and Mold it”** Workshops weekly, 2 to 3 groups at a time, Break Free From Plastic and Zero Waste teachings. Families and community members learn to make bowls, plates, and cups out of adobe/ceramics and learn about life choices and a world without plastic.
- **SNN “Food For The Unhoused Project”** is part of our SNN COVID-19 Response Program (CRP) which began July 2nd 2020. We are helping to provide hot meals weekly to those in need and living on the streets. As well as families that are having difficult times paying living expenses and need a little help. 50 to 80 people each serving.
- **SNN “Food and Supplies Support Project”** Every other week we deliver fresh produce '40 to 50 lbs" and medical supplies to our wisdom keepers, elders, elderly, houseless, and those with underlying health conditions. 30 to 50 households each delivery day.
- **SNN “Women's Health And Fitness Project”** created to help give women of all titles (Mothers, abuelas- grandmas, sisters, Tias- Aunties) support with physical health that will benefit mental health, spiritual health and emotion health. We provide live workouts, virtual check ins, health coaching and nutritional guidance, online support, daily texts-Daily motivational/inspirational quotes and messages to start off the day positively.
- In attempt to ensure resources to be accessible to all our community members SNN has established a radio station in early 2023 known as KPEFK that provides current events and radio reports to our community members that are in under-resourced regions.

B.5. Description of the organization's competence and expertise

Provide information on the personnel and members of the organization, describe their competence and expertise in the domain of intangible cultural heritage, in particular those that demonstrate the capacities of the organization to provide advisory services to the Committee, and explain how they acquired such competence. Documentation of such competences may be submitted, if necessary, under section D.3. below.

Not to exceed 200 words

Each of our founding members has experience working with our people and other organizations that bring unique values and perceptions to Society of Native Nations (SNN).

Frankie Orona is a board member of American Indian Movement as well as the executive director of SNN, has grown up in the traditional ways of the Tongva and Chumash of California and Borrado of Texas. He is a tribal environmental liaison for his tribal chief of the Gabrielino Tongva, band of Mission Indians of San Gabriel.

Cheyenne Rendon, SNN's Policy Officer, has deep roots as a indigenous woman from Texas growing up in her family's traditional ceremonial ways. She has obtained her Masters Degree from the College of Law with a specific focus in Indigenous Studies.

Lydia Ponce, SNN's Earth Justice Coordinator, is an Indigenous Woman of the Mayo and Quechua peoples. She is a front line worker along with a voice for our global collective relatives and for Environment Justice and Protection of Indigenous Peoples.

Collectively, SNN members all contribute unique values and expertise to indigenous communities dedicated to help protect tribal sovereignty, culture, way of life and inherent rights.

C. Organization's experiences in cooperating with communities, groups and intangible cultural heritage practitioners (Paragraph 91(d) of the Operational Directives)

Briefly describe below how your organization collaborates with communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, practise and transmit intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 350 words

We have offices in the United States in Texas and California and a cultural-environmental center in Central America in El Salvador, where we help assist in the many needs and issues impacting our communities related to the negative impacts of the fossil fuel and petrochemical infrastructure buildout. We have held a Texas / California elders ceremony / gathering for cultural prayer and exchange for the healing of the Gulf of Texas on Goose Island in Rockport Texas on April 23, 2022 in light of all the continued pollution from the fossil fuel and petrochemical industry along with speaking on a panel about frontlines of the petrochemical and fossil fuel pollution in the People Over Pipelines event in DC on October 13, 2022. SNN has hosted from 2021 to Current, a Peoples Indigenous Day event at the San Antonio College where we got to talk and share our work with the community. Over 200 people showed up and we had media coverage on two TV stations.

SNN has also been able to bring 3 more tribal groups of Texas to support our work and get involved in the related environmental issues in Texas.

- Tehuan band of mission indians of San Antonio
- Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas
- As well as continuing to work with the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas

as well as serving as the environmental liaison for Antony Morales, the Tribal Chief of the Gabrielino Tongva Tribe of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians. Continuing on a national level we have participated in the Many Winters Elders Gathering on October 6-9, 2022 where we met with elders and leader from all over the United States to not only culturally share but to

discuss the issues they are facing in their own communities and to gain support from them for the work we are doing against the petrochemical and fossil fuel infrastructure build out in California and Texas.

D. Documentation of the operational capacities of the organization (Paragraph 91(e) of the Operational Directives)

D.1. Members and personnel

Provide proof of the participation of the members of your organization. It may take diverse forms such as a list of directors, a list of personnel and statistical information on the quantity and categories of the members; a comprehensive membership roster usually need not be submitted.

Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.1.'

D.2. Recognized legal personality

If your organization has a charter, articles of incorporation, by-laws or similar establishing documents, a copy should be attached. If, under the applicable domestic law, your 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, labelled 'Section D.2.'

D.3. Duration of existence and activities

State your organization's date of founding as it appears in the supporting documentation establishing its legal personality (section D.2. above).

Society of Native Nations was established on October 21, 2016. SNN attendances monthly Texas Commission on Environmental Quality "TCEQ" Meetings, Army Corps of Engineers Meetings, City of Corpus Christi Meetings, The Railroad Commission of Texas Meetings, EPA Texas Meetings in addition to our Weekly meetings with AZUL partner with addressing desalination in California and Texas • Working with Texas and California groups addressing the Desalination plants in California Huntington Beach along the coast and the Desalination plants along the Texas Gulf, meeting with locals consulting and bringing experts in related environmental issues together to help and share resources, expertise and work with one another. • Working with PACAN in Port Arthur Texas addressing petrochemical infrastructure and the Blue Marlin Pipeline Export terminal that is a Energy Transfer Partners project.

If it is not already clearly indicated in the documentation provided under section D.2., submit documentation proving that the organization has existed for at least four years at the time it requests accreditation. Provide documentation showing that it has carried out appropriate safeguarding activities during that time, including those described above in section B.4. Supplementary materials such as books, CDs, DVDs or similar publications cannot be taken into consideration and should not be submitted.

Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.3.'

E. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to join the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the accreditation of your organization by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

Yes

No

F. Signature

The request 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: Frankie Orona

Title: Executive Director

Date: July 11, 2023

Signature:

