

# Region Va Africa

Benin



## Relevant projects or initiatives:

- Conference through the CIOFF festivals in France on the theme: traditional knowledge about Abikou ritual practices: the fight against infant mortality in Benin;
- Creation of a 52-minute show entitled "AMADOGBE" on ICH;
- Organisation of the 14th Festival of Rituals and Masked Dance (FeRiDaMa 2023), on 15, 16 and 17 December 2023.



## Artistic and Cultural Ensemble TOWARA

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

**Geographic Coverage of NGO's expertise:** Benin and Africa.

### Vision

The vision of the TOWARA EAC Artistic and Cultural Ensemble is to make intangible cultural heritage a source of awakening, enrichment and development for communities and peoples.

### Mission

The mission of the TOWARA EAC Artistic and Cultural Ensemble is to:

- Promote endogenous knowledge as a springboard for cultural development;
- Promote and strengthen the participation of civil society in the enhancement of cultural life;
- Strengthen Benin's contribution to regional and international cultural partnerships;
- Carry out research in the various fields of ICH and promote its transmission and recreation with women and children;
- Work to make the festival of rituals and masked dances a real melting pot of exchanges and sharing of experiences in order to safeguard and promote living cultural heritage.

NGO-90346

### Main areas of work related to the Convention



**The performing arts**  
(recreation of several Benin heritage dances);



**Social practices, rituals and festive events** (preparation of the 14th edition of the Festival of Rituals and Masked Dances in December 2023);



**Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe** (work on the cults revealing Abikou practices linked to the traditional response to infant mortality);



**Know-how related to traditional crafts** (design and transmission traditional knowledge related to the manufacture of zangbéto and guèlèdè masks and especially to clothing for ritual dances and vodoun);



**Oral traditions and expressions** (the songs performed to present each dance set that come from the communities from which these dances originate: fon, mina, dendi, adja, bariba, goun, etc., as well as clan and royal panegyrics).

### Contact Information

Quartier Agla Zone A  
Carré 3462AA' 75 mètre du Complexe Scolaire Notre Dame de Laurette. House: ZOUNON. Cotonou, Bénin.  
Zip (Postal) Code : 00229

☎ 00229 95 06 73 12

📞 00229 95 06 73 12

✉ yanzo63@hotmail.com  
mzyanzo@gmail.com