

The First Forum of Indigenous and Local Community Women from Central Africa and the Congo Basin

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

Cameroon



ALI AII SHATU

Role: Gender and Women Coordinator, Mbororo Social, Cultural and Development Association (MBOSCUDA)

Fields of expertise: Gender, pastoralism, rural development and administration, agroecology.

Ali Aii Shatu is an Indigenous pastoralist from Cameroon's Mbororo community. She has been a board member of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) for six years and a co-coordinator for the Agroecology Working Group at the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM). There, she and her team succeed in negotiating policy recommendations on agroecology and other innovative approaches for environmental management during the 2021 UN Committee on Food Security and Nutrition. Shatu is a veterinarian and currently pursuing a master's degree in Rural Development and Administration.

MAIMUNA UMARO

Role: Biodiversity Focal point, REPALAC / Women's Coordinator, SURAMA (Mbororo community development organization)

Fields of expertise: Gender, biodiversity, project management, environment protection.

Maimuna is an Indigenous pastoralist from the Mbororo community in Cameroon. She has nine years of experience working as a women's rights and environmental activist. She has held leadership roles with several women's grassroots organizations and programs in Cameroon and is a member of the Civil Society Advisory Group of UN Women and the Commission on Youth and Vulnerable People at the Women Leaders for the Transformation of Africa Network (AWLN).

Maimuna holds an Advanced Diploma in Project Management from the Institute of Commercial Management (ICM) and is pursuing a master's degree in Gender and Project Management at the Pan African Institute for Development.





JEANNE BILOA

Role: President, Bagyelli's Cultural and Development Association (BACUDA)

Fields of expertise: Organizational development, local governance, gender, fundraising.

Jeanne has worked with numerous organizations focused on sustainable development in Cameroon and on improving the quality of life for communities in Campo Ma'an and surrounding areas. She has helped develop projects that introduce sustainable agricultural practices for the protection of forests of the Pygmy Peoples. She also supported the development of participatory development plans for the Pygmy Peoples and the mediation process to resolve the WWF-Kudu/Zombo conflicts. Until 2021, Jeanne worked with the Tropical Biology Association (TBA) and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund in the areas of development and fundraising.

Democratic Republic of Congo



BAHATI SUMAILI

Role: President, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee for activities in the Kisimbosa Local Community Forestry Concession.

Fields of expertise: Local governance, youth, sustainable agriculture, conservation.

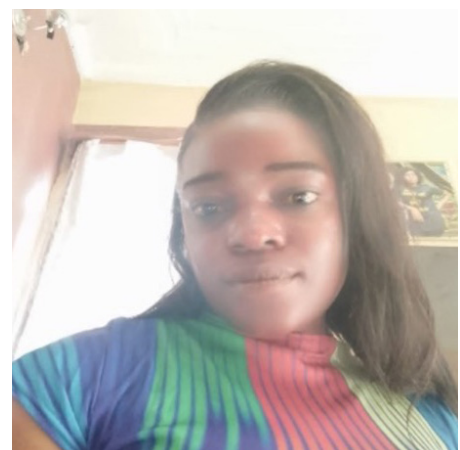
Bahati is an Indigenous Pygmy woman from the Mubuluko Mumbuti community in North Kivu province. She has worked hand in hand with young people from the community of Kisimbosa in the construction of roads to facilitate the commercialization of their agricultural products. Bahati also provides support to the community's group of patrollers who monitor and protect the territory from poaching and deforestation activities. She recently helped create an innovative model of territorial management for communities that harmonizes agricultural and community livelihood practices with biodiversity conservation.

BRUNELLE IBULA BOLONDO

Role: Project Manager and National Coordinator, AFAP-RDC

Fields of expertise: Sustainable agriculture, conservation, gender.

Brunelle promotes an agricultural resilience initiative that aims to ensure food security and fight malnutrition for women in the DRC. Her organization supports Indigenous women in recovering their traditional agricultural and livelihood practices such as gathering, fishing, and hunting, which were abandoned due to their forests' destruction. She believes that the destruction of the forest is "a kind of war that has caused the gradual disappearance of Indigenous Peoples, the death of women, and the abandonment of their way of life."





KABILE MUHOMBO

Role: Customary Chief of the locality of Bananangi

Fields of expertise: Community livelihoods, environmental protection.

Kabile is the chief guardian of the traditional knowledge and practices of the Indigenous Peoples in the Bananangi locality in the Walikale Territory, North Kivu province. The protection of the forest's fauna is among her community's most valued traditions. She shares: "In our customs...it is forbidden for women to eat and even touch certain forest animals such as the giant pangolin and the leopard."

MARIE DOROTHÉE LISENGA BAFALIKIKE

Role: Griot (singer) and Indigenous Knowledge Expert

Fields of expertise: Livelihoods, Indigenous and traditional arts and customs

Marie Dorothée is an Indigenous Baaka woman from Yahuma territory, Buma sector in Tshopo province. She has more than 20 years of experience in the valorization and promotion of Indigenous and traditional knowledge held by women, including culinary, musical, and Indigenous weaving arts. Marie Dorothée maintains an inventory of biological resources found in the region's territories and has supported the commercialization of various Indigenous products using caterpillars, honey, and mushrooms. She holds a degree in Applied Pedagogy.



MUKAWA NAMURUNGA

Role: Traditional Healer, the Kalehe territory.

Fields of expertise: Medicinal plants, traditional agriculture, community management.

Mukawa is an Indigenous Mubuluko Mumbuti Pygmy woman from South Kivu province. She, like many Kalehe women, is a traditional healer with deep knowledge of medicinal plants and fauna. Mukawa is an expert in traditional agricultural products such as yam, bihuku and masunga, and participates in community management of her territory. She also accompanies her community's group of patrollers in the control and protection of the territory against poaching and deforestation. She shares: "For the Indigenous pygmy women of Kalehe, biodiversity conservation is of great importance because without conservation, we run the risk of losing our culture and traditions."

PRESCILLIA MONIREH KAPUPU

Role: Community Facilitator and Program Officer, ANAPAC – DRC and Facilitator, COSPAB Secretariat

Fields of experience: Nature conservation and biodiversity

Prescillia is an Indigenous woman from Kibumba village, Mwenga territory in South Kivu Province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In her role, she works for the promotion and enhancement of customary territories conserved by the country's Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Prescillia has a degree in biology and has been passionate about nature and biodiversity since early childhood.



Central African Republic



PRISCA MBOTA

Role: Facilitator, the Community Rights Development Component of the APDS training.

Fields of expertise: Sustainable development, Indigenous rights in protected areas.

Prisca Mbota supports training on community rights and sustainable development in the Dzanga-Sangha Dense Forest Reserve (APDS), a protected area in CAR. She is currently Secretary General of the Ndima Kali association, a Group composed of Indigenous BaAka and Sangha-Sangha youth from the Dzanga-Sangha area.

Republic of Congo



MARLEINE SAÏRA FLORA NGUIÉ

Role: Coordinator, Community Action of the Indigenous Women of Congo (ACFAC)

Fields of expertise: Land governance, gender justice, and climate change

Marleine leads ACFAC, an association that advocates for the rights of Indigenous Peoples—particularly the women and girls among them. Her organization promotes inclusive land governance to fight climate change and encourage harmonious living between Indigenous Peoples and the Bantus in the Plateau area. Marleine is a graduate of the Michel Mono Institute of Training and Information where she obtained a degree in Human Resources Management. She has received training in project development, management, and evaluation by CODAP in Geneva, Switzerland and was an official spokesperson for REPALEAC at COP27 in Egypt.



ALEXIA BANKUNDIYE

Role: Indigenous Women's Rights Leader and Member, REPALEAC-Rwanda

Fields of expertise: Biodiversity conservation, agro-ecology, and gender

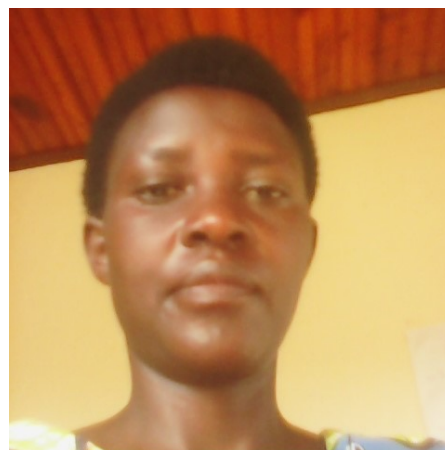
Alexia is a member of REPALEAC-Rwanda and has been working with the Indigenous Batwa community in economic empowerment and biodiversity conservation for the last five years. She leads the implementation and coordination of conservation initiatives by promoting agro-value chains for mushroom and vegetable cultivation in the Western Province of Rwanda.

FLORENCE YANKURIJE

Role: Batwa Community Leader

Fields of experience: Climate change, genetic natural resources, and livelihoods

Florence oversees production of improved stoves as a means of empowering Indigenous Batwa women to access alternative income sources and fight against climate change in North Province, Rwanda. She has also provided community women training on the fundamental aspects of access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use (known as ABS - Access and Benefit Sharing ABS) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Florence has a university degree in sociology and is a member of REPALEAC-Rwanda.



MARIE CHANTAL UWABABYEYI

Role: Batwa Community Leader

Fields of experience: Gender-based violence, climate change, and biodiversity conservation

Marie Chantal holds a diploma in Humanity Education and has worked for more than 10 years supporting women's economic empowerment, protecting Indigenous Peoples' rights, fighting against gender-based violence, and protecting biodiversity. She is responsible for raising small livestock and beekeeping as alternative sources of income generation and biodiversity conservation in her community in South Province, Rwanda.

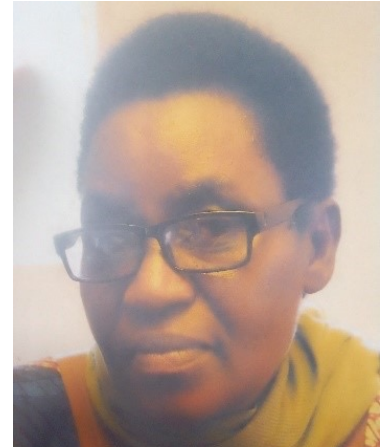


MARTHE MUHAWENIMANA

Role: Batwa Community Leader

Fields of experience: Climate change, biodiversity conservation, and women's economic empowerment

Marthe is a representative of the Batwa Indigenous women with more than 20 years of experience empowering women in her community. She has a diploma in Humanist Primary Education and has received dozens of trainings, including on GBV and HIV/AIDS prevention, conflict resolution, ABS and intellectual property, and many others. She leads a local initiative in the Northern Province district of Musanze and the City of Kigali's Nyarugenge district designed to economically empower Batwa women through modern basketry technology and to reduce conflict in protected areas.



Gabon



SAVANA NNANGA OBIANG

Role: Gender Program Lead, the Nsombuo Abalogue-Dzal Association (NADA)

Fields of expertise: gender, climate resilience, protected areas, APAC-territories de vie.

Savana Nnanga Obiang began working with NADA in 2020 as a fellow. She is now a community facilitator and gender lead with the organization. In June 2022, Savana created the "Gabon Women's Platform" within NADA, for which she won the Luc Hoffmann Institute (now Unearthodox) Award for Excellence in Ecosystem Management. Nnanga is currently helping to promote gender-sensitive approaches in development of North Gabon in partnership with the Unearthodox team. She also supports programs for building climate resilience among women in the Massaha villages.

Savana is part of a project funded by the Paul K. Fayerobend Foundation (PKF) that seeks to promote community management and defense of the APAC-Territoires de vie of northeastern Gabon. She has trained organizations such as FG sarl around the concept of APAC-Territoires de vie and has presented papers on the importance of these areas in achieving biodiversity conservation in Gabon.

Many other Indigenous and local community women participants are speaking at this Forum as trusted Guardians of the Forest. They include: Aissatou Oumarou (Chad); Balkissou Buba (Cameroon); Cecile Assio (Central African Republic); Cécile Ndjebet (Cameroon); Constance Mengue (Gabon); Djibrila Didja Tchari (Chad); Helen Aye Monde (Cameroon); Hortense Ngono (Cameroon); Jenifer Lasimbang (Malaysia); Justine Riziki Katindi (Democratic Republic of the Congo); Ketty Marcelo Lopez (Peru); Libérate Nicayenzi (Burundi); Michelle Sonkoue (Cameroon); Ndima Kali (Central African Republic); Omaisra Bolaños (US); Omayra Casama Samana (Panama); Peggy Smith (Canada); Sibazuri (DRC); Sobha Madhan (India); Solange Bandiaky-Badji (US); Stephanie Thorassie (Canada); and Yvone Salemba (Democratic Republic of the Congo).



GLOBAL
ALLIANCE OF
TERRITORIAL
COMMUNITIES

