

UN-REDD Programme – Civil Society Representative Nomination Form

Please limit response length to two pages. Nominations must be submitted to csoselection@un-redd.org by Friday, 11 September 2009. Self-nominations are accepted.

1. Name of the candidate: Saturnin Regis IBATA (Nominated by Cynthia Moses, Executive Director, INCEF)
2. Name of organization: International Conservation and Education Fund - www.incef.org
3. Title (if applicable): Projects Manager
4. Country: Republic of Congo
5. Language(s) spoken: French, English, Lingala, Kitouba
6. Please describe the primary interests and functions of the organization and community/constituency that the candidate represents and what countries the organization is active in.

INCEF was founded on the idea that in order for conditions to change at the intersection of conservation, public health and development, there needed to be a focus on reaching audiences at the front lines, the people whose daily activities had the most direct impact on the health and well-being of all species. INCEF's creation is due to the revolutionary change in communications technology and the fact that the barriers to production and dissemination – technical, physical, financial – have either disappeared or have been greatly reduced. We intend to take our work to scale worldwide but, to date, our efforts have been concentrated in the Congo Basin.

We are currently active in the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo (in both the western and eastern regions of that country), and in South Sudan. Have been active in Central African Republic and hope to be active in 2010 in the Amazon regions of South America.

7. Describe briefly the organization's experience gathering and representing the diverse viewpoints of a range of communities or organizations, and disseminating and coordinating information and communications among a network of communities or organizations.

The best way to answer this question is as follows: *"It is commonly the case that production projects are undertaken with nothing more than mere hope that the finished works will subsequently find an audience. By contrast, INCEF's projects are distribution-driven. Production is begun only when it is clear for whom and for what purposes the productions are intended. No projects are initiated unless they have been subjected to and decided on through a local assessment process, include a plan for dissemination/outreach to targeted audiences and contain an evaluation component that will be used both to determine effectiveness and to make necessary changes in future efforts. In summary, INCEF's work is devoted to local control as demonstrated by:*

- *Local determination of issues*
- *Dissemination and outreach focused on the most highly-impacted and most underserved locales*
- *Culturally-appropriate production in local language(s) featuring recognizable characters and archetypes*
- *Production done entirely by professional and/or emerging media makers from the specific countries*
- *Emphasis on building communications capacity within the community"*

We then convert all material into local language radio pieces to be distributed to community radio stations and also we have created a program called the Roundtable which uses clips from INCEF films to motivate discussion between experts and government officials concerning all issues we deal with.

8. Describe briefly your organization's background and experience with multilateral agency programs, social and environmental issues related to forests, and the role of forests in response to climate change, including REDD.

Because INCEF works at the nexus of conservation, health and development we regularly work on a multilateral basis combining conservation-focused groups with especially organizations like the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. It is nearly impossible for us to carry out our work successfully without working across disciplines. In Republic of Congo, for example, we work with the International conservation groups, WCS, WWF, and ECOFAC as well as with UN agencies like UNICEF and UNESCO. We also work with Africa based health organizations like Medicin D'Afrique as well as the US based Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

In 2010 we will launch a series of films in the Democratic Republic of Congo that will collect testimony from local village elders and other members of civil society as appropriate, about changes in various habitats that could be associated with current climate shifts and how these changes have affected their lives and livelihoods. This material will be put together into a series of short videos and radio pieces that would be used to raise participatory discussion among village audiences regarding the reality of climate change and how it has impacted their lives. This would be considered as a first step toward introducing what benefits the UN REDD initiative might be able to offer these populations in a general effort to preserve their forests.

9. Describe the financial, technical and/or advisory arrangements your organization has with the UN-REDD Programme, as well as the governments of the UN-REDD pilot countries, NGOs, or private sector organizations as they pertain to the UN-REDD process. INCEF is currently working with Woods Hole Research Center to organize outreach efforts focusing on REDD in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We also work with WWF and with CI who are both doing work related to REDD in DRC. INCEF is also in the proposal stage of working with IDESAM in Brazil and hopes to increase its involvement in the Amazon with a new section of staffing in 2010.

Please send completed form to csoselection@un-redd.org