

# **Neo-Bwiti**

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

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### **1. BACKGROUND**

Bwiti can be seen as an African Religion that was inspired by the teachings and philosophy of the **Babongo Pygmies**. It's a religion, which doesn't imply any kind of conversion whatsoever. You can be Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Taoist, Franc-Macon or whatever, **Bwiti** accept people as they are and do not prevent them from practising other religions; simply because all of it is Bwiti. Bwiti is seldom spoken about without mentioning IBOGA (**Tabernanthe Iboga**), the miraculous plant that has been used in Bwiti for more than 1500 years (according to archaeological findings) as a sacrament.

Iboga is a door that gives access to the invisible world. It enables you to learn more about your inner self and so helps to bring about self-awareness and a sense of purpose. Babongo pygmies of the rainforest of Gabon firstly used Iboga, and as such Bwiti is clearly the source of knowledge of this holy plant.

The main philosophy of the Bwiti is to make you aware of the fact that Bwiti (God), is yourself, it's myself and everything and everybody around us. Everything around us is within ourselves; the same as the universe is part of you as much as you are part of it. A Bwiti ceremony is a celebration while cleaning your self spiritually, emotionally and physically. The initiation, which is the first step on the path of Bwiti, is done with the use of Iboga root bark. This stage is a rebirth, you get to know your inner self, gain self-awareness and so learn who you are and the purpose of your life. Bwiti rituals are an expression of joy; we let go and express ourselves in dance; song and music. Aside from benefiting physically from dancing, there are the medical

benefits of Iboga, which is important as well. Iboga or its extracts can be used to reset the brain to a pre-addictive state; or eliminating the effects of heroin or opiate withdrawals; cleansing the body. It also works on nicotine, alcohol, cocaine and amphetamine and can help stop craving and acts as an anti depressant while stored in the liver as noribogaine. Iboga has also been used to release repressed trauma or negative energy and acts as a tool for helping people overcome painful and often damaging experiences, which are often the cause for negative behaviour patterns.

This plant is currently used in South Africa as in other parts of the world to release people from drug addiction, especially in Cape Town; where it is used as an addiction interrupter and to get to the source of the condition. As western scientists are using this plant without discernment and without a complete awareness of what this plant is, the effectiveness of the treatments they propose is limited, and some treatments might even be dangerous. Some of these healers have understood that they will be more efficient and more successful if they accede to the traditional knowledge as well. From here has come the idea of creating an interrelation between the two sciences, the African one and the Western one; while setting a standard of ethics for safety and screening.

Simultaneously, during a traditional ceremony, some Bwitists have clearly perceived the message that the time for a "Neo-Bwiti" had come. The Neo-Bwiti is now perceived as a necessity to renew the understanding of what Bwiti is and to correct some past misunderstandings in its interpretation. From there, this Association has been founded.

## **2. NAME**

The name of the Association is: **NEO-BWITI**  
(Hereafter referred to as "The Association")

## **3. OBJECTS**

Neo-Bwiti is a socio-cultural association aimed at promoting and renewing the understanding of the culture of Pygmies of Gabon in particular; traditional medicine and African traditions in general.

The vision of this Association is to open the Bwiti to the world and to bring awareness about its teachings and scientific knowledge of Pygmies. To implement this vision, Neo-Bwiti organizes and promotes seminars on African religions, traditions, ceremonies, tribal dances and rituals.

This Association is also aimed at regulating the use of Iboga and Ibogaïne in the world and registering the users of this plant and its derivatives.

This Association is open to everyone regardless his or her gender, race, creed, religion, social status as long as the goals ethics of Neo-Bwiti are upheld and preserved.

## **4. CODE OF ETHICS**

Neo-Bwiti Association's members subscribe to a core of values and ethics; principles which are set out in the attached Schedule A of this Constitution. The Code of Ethics is the soul of this association and is evolutionary and progressive. The Code of Ethics is indivisibly part of this Constitution and any modification, alteration or addition made to the Code of Ethics shall be considered as a modification, alteration or addition to the constitution itself. Furthermore, any provision of this Constitution shall be construed in accordance with the Code of Ethics.

## **5. LEGAL STATUS**

The Association is a body corporate with its own legal identity, which is separated from its individual members. The Association shall continue to exist even if the members change. The Association may own property, enter into contracts, and sue or be sued in its own name.

## **6. NON PROFIT DISTRIBUTING CHARACTER**

1. The income and property of the Association shall be used solely for the promotion of its stated objectives. The members and the office-bearers shall have no rights to the property or other assets of the Association solely by virtue of them being members or office-bearers. No portion of the income or property of the Association shall be paid or distributed directly or indirectly to any person (otherwise than in the ordinary course of undertaking any public benefit activity) or to any member of the Association or Management Committee, except as:
  - 1) Reasonable compensation for services actually rendered to the Association;
  - 2) Reimbursement of actual costs or expenses reasonably incurred on behalf of the Association.
2. Upon the dissolution of "The Association", after all debts and commitments have been paid, any remaining assets shall not be paid to or distributed amongst members, but shall be transferred by donation to some other non-profit organisation which the Management Committee (and failing which any division of the High Court) considers appropriate and which has objectives the same or similar to the objectives of "The Association"; and should "The Association" become an approved public benefit organisation:
  - 1) is a similar public benefit organisation which has been approved in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act, or
  - 2) any institution, board or body which is exempt from tax under the provisions of section 10(1)(cA), which has as its sole or principal object the carrying on of any public benefit activity, or
  - 3) any department of state or administration in the national or provincial or local sphere of government of the Republic contemplated in section 10(1) (a) or (b).

3. "The Association" intends to apply to the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service exemption from appropriate taxes and duties. In compliance with the provisions of the Income Tax Act, the provisions set out in the attached Schedule A shall bind the Association and qualify this Constitution.

## **7. POWERS**

The Association, acting through its Management Committee, or at General Meeting, shall have all the powers necessary for it to carry out its stated objectives effectively. Such powers shall include, but not be limited to, the following General Investment and Administrative Powers:

- 1) To employ staff and hire professional and other services.
- 2) To institute or defend any legal or arbitration proceedings and to settle any claims made by or against the Association.
- 3) To open and operate accounts with registered banks and building societies.
- 4) To make and vary investments and re-invest the proceeds of such investments on condition that any investments made by the Association shall be with Financial Institutions as defined in Schedule B Clause 7.
- 5) To accept donations made to "The Association" and retain them in the form in which they are received, or sell them and re-invest the proceeds.
- 6) With regard to movable and immovable property and tangible and intangible assets of whatsoever nature:
  - 7) to purchase or acquire property and assets;
  - 8) to maintain, manage, develop, exchange, lease, sell, or in any way deal with the property and assets of the Association;
- 9) To donate and transfer the property and assets of the Association to organisations with the same or similar objectives and the same exemptions from taxes and duties to those of the Association.
- 10) To borrow and to use the property or assets of the Association as security for borrowing;
- 11) To guarantee the performance of contracts or obligations of any person on condition that any such person is primarily engaged in activities which further the objectives of the Association.
- 12) To execute any act or deed in any deeds registry, mining titles or other public office.

- 13) To work in collaboration with other organisations and to amalgamate with any organisation with the same or similar objectives and the same exemptions from taxes and duties to those of "The Association".
- 14) To exercise all the management and executive powers that, are normally vested in the Board of Directors of a Company.
- 15) To exercise all the powers and authority of "The Association" not only in the Republic of South Africa but in any other part of the world.

## **8. MEMBERSHIP**

1. The founding members shall be those persons whose names and signatures appear on the attached Schedule C.
  
2. The Management Committee may admit further members from time to time:
  - 1) Subject to due compliance with any conditions of membership (including payment of any membership fees) which the Management Committee may stipulate from time to time; and
  - 2) In accordance with the following criteria: Subscribing to and supporting the Code of Ethics, the object and the goals of "The Association".
  
3. The Management Committee may suspend or terminate the membership of any member provided that:
  - 1) At least (14) fourteen days prior written notice is given to all members of the Management Committee of the intention to suspend or terminate a membership; and
  - 2) At least (14) fourteen days prior written notice is given to the concerned member. The notice shall give the reasons for the decision of suspension or termination with respect to membership and invite the member to make written or verbal representations to the meeting, as the member may consider appropriate.
  - 3) The decision of the Management Committee to admit an applicant to membership, or to suspend or terminate a membership shall lapse unless confirmed by a resolution of two thirds of the members of the Association present at the next General Meeting.
  
4. The Management Committee may pronounce, in accordance with the provisions set forth in article 8 paragraph 3, a three months suspension period applicable to any member, included those of the management committee, for overdue membership fees. All due and overdue aforesaid fees shall be paid within the suspension period failing which the initial suspension will be automatically prolonged for another three months until full payment. If no full payment has occurred within a year after the pronouncement of the initial suspension, the suspension will automatically turn into a termination of the membership. Any suspended member will be automatically reintegrated in the same position he or she used to occupy before being suspended at the end of any of the three months initial or renewed suspension periods provided the payment of all due and overdue membership fees has been made and provided this payment has occurred within a year after the pronouncement of the initial suspension

failing which the expelled member may be reintegrated only as mere member in accordance with the provisions set forth in article 8 paragraph 2.

## **9. STRUCTURE OF "THE ASSOCIATION"**

### **1. The Council of Sages**

#### **1. Function :**

- 1) The affairs of the Association shall be monitored by the Council of Sages which shall advise the Management Committee through advisory opinions. These advisory opinions are vested with moral authority but shall not be binding for the Management Committee.
- 2) The Council of Sages shall guide the Association in accordance with traditional knowledge and assist "The Association" and its members in expanding understanding of traditions.
- 3) The President of the Council shall maintain the communication and the coordination between the Council of Sages and Management Committee. The President shall act as a mediator to resolve any dispute as mentioned in the paragraph 2 and 3 of article 13 and shall convene the Council of Sages either to act as an arbitrator as mentioned in the paragraph 3 of article 13 or for any other matter as he or she may consider appropriate.

#### **2. Members of the Council of Sages and composition:**

- 1) The members of the Council of Sages shall necessarily be recognised fathers or mothers of Bwiti or recognised spiritual masters from other traditions, cultures or movements and shall be nominated by the Management Committee by resolution adopted unanimously.
- 2) The members of the Council of Sages as well as its President shall be nominated for their lifetime and may resign from their position by written notice sent to President of the Council. Should be the resignation of the President, the written notice shall be sent to each member of the Council as well as the Chairperson of the Management Committee.
- 3) The Council of Sages is led by a President who is initially nominated by the Management Committee by resolution adopted unanimously and thereafter by the Council of Sages by resolution adopted by at least two third of its members.

### **2. The Management Committee**

#### **1. Powers :**

- 1) The affairs of "The Association" shall be controlled and managed by the Management Committee. Subject to the terms of this constitution and to the resolutions of members in General Meeting, the Management Committee may exercise all the powers of the Association.
- 2) In General Meeting, the Association may review, approve or amend any decision taken by the Management Committee but no such resolution of the Association shall invalidate any prior action taken by the Management Committee in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

#### **2. Members of the Management Committee :**

- 1) The members of the Management Committee shall be the founding members referred to in the attached Schedule C for their lifetime. Their respective function will be fixed at the General Meeting at which this Constitution is adopted and maintained until the first Annual General Meeting after such adoption, when the different functions might be re-

examined, redefined; reassigned or maintained. Thereafter, the functions of each Management Committee's member shall be re-examined, redefined, maintained or reassigned at each succeeding Annual General Meeting.

- 2) Upon death, resignation, removal or any other cause as mentioned in paragraph 4.1 of this article, the Management Committee members shall be replaced by election or co-option.
- 3) Management Committee members shall be members of the Association.

### **3. Composition:**

- 1) The Management Committee shall comprise at least 7 but not more than 10 members. The membership of the Management Committee shall comprise:
  1. The Chairperson;
  2. The Secretary
  3. The Treasurer;
  4. At least three (5) other persons who will define their function in accordance with the Article 2.1 of the Code of Ethics.
  5. The Management Committee may co-opt up to 2 additional non-voting members, as it may consider appropriate from time to time. The co-opted members shall serve for such period, as the Management Committee considers appropriate.

### **4. Management Committee Member Vacating Office**

- 1) The office of a Management Committee member shall be vacated if a member:
  1. Resigns, especially in accordance with the article 2.2 of the Code of Ethics; or
  2. Dies or becomes unfit and/or incapable of acting as such; or
  3. Would be disqualified, in terms of the Companies Act or equivalent legislation in force from time to time, from acting as a Director of a Company; or
  4. is removed by the Management Committee, by resolution adopted by at least two-thirds (2/3) of its members in office from time to time, being not less than the required minimum of 7. The Management Committee shall not be obliged to furnish reasons for its decision/s regarding removal except to the member removed and to the members of 'The Association' in General Meeting.
- 2) Should a position on the Management Committee fall vacant, the Management Committee, by resolution adopted at least two-thirds (2/3) of its members, may (and if the vacancy reduces the number of members to less than seven [7], shall) co-opt a member/s to fill the vacancy/ies. The office of any person so co-opted as member of the Management Committee shall lapse unless confirmed by resolution of members at the next General Meeting.

### **5. Procedure at Management Committee Meetings:**

- 1) The Management Committee shall conduct its meetings and regulate its proceedings as it finds convenient, provided that:
  1. The Chairperson, or in his or her absence, the Vice-Chairperson, shall chair all meetings of the Management Committee which he or she attends. In the absence of the Chairperson and the Vice-

Chairperson, the remaining members of the Management Committee shall elect a chairperson from those attending.

2. The Chairperson shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee, quarterly and at the written request of any two (2) members of the Management Committee and may convene such a meeting at any other time.
3. The quorum necessary for the transaction of any business by the Management Committee shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the Management Committee members serving at any given time.
4. At meetings of the Management Committee each member shall have one (1) vote.
5. Questions arising shall be decided by a majority of votes. Should there be an equality of votes the Chairperson shall have a casting or second vote.
6. Proper minutes shall be kept of the proceedings of the Management Committee, and a record of the persons present at each meeting. The minutes shall be signed by the member who chairs the meeting, and shall be available at all times for inspection or copying by any member of the Management Committee, and on two (2) days' notice to the Secretary or his or her deputy, by any member of the Association.
7. A resolution signed by all members of the Management Committee shall be as valid as if passed at a duly convened meeting of the Management Committee.

6. **Management Committee delegation** The  
Management Committee may delegate any of its powers to any of its members, or to a special purpose committee. The member, committee, employee or agent to whom such delegation is made shall conform to any regulations and procedures that may be stipulated by the Management Committee from time to time.

7. **Management Committee appointment** The  
Management Committee may appoint a Chief Executive and other officers and employees as it may consider necessary from time to time upon such terms and conditions as it may consider appropriate.

### **3. General Meetings**

#### **1. Annual General Meeting**

- 1) An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held within a period of fifteen (15) months of the adoption of this Constitution. Subsequent Annual General Meetings shall be held within three (3) months of the end of each financial year.
- 2) The Chairperson shall convene Annual General Meetings not less than twenty-one (21) days prior written notice to all members entitled to attend the meeting. This notice shall state the date, time and place of the meeting and in broad term the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- 3) The business of an Annual General Meeting shall include:
  1. The presentation and adoption of the Annual Report of the Chairperson;
  2. The consideration of the Annual Financial Statements;

3. The reassignment or redefinition of the functions among the Management Committee's members;
4. The removal, co-option or election of members to serve on the Management Committee for the following year;
5. The appointment of Auditors;
6. Other matters as may be considered appropriate.

## **2. Other General Meetings**

- 1) Other General Meetings of the Association shall be convened at any time by the Chairperson or at the written request of:
  1. The Management Committee;
  2. The lesser of one quarter (1/4) or 5 of the members of the Association.
- 2) Any General Meeting other than the Annual General Meeting shall be convened on not less than fourteen (14) days written notice to all members. The notice shall state the date, time and place of the meeting and in broad terms the business to be transacted at the meeting: provided that: should the Chairperson, having been requested to give such notice, fail to give it within seven (7) days of the request, the persons requesting the meeting shall be entitled themselves to give notice of and to convene the meeting.
- 3) Notices of all meetings provided for in this Constitution, shall be delivered personally, sent by prepaid post or emailed to the last address notified by each person concerned to "The Association", or in any other manner as the Management Committee may decide from time to time.
  1. The accidental omission to address notice/s to any person shall not invalidate the proceedings of any meeting.
  2. If posted, notices shall be deemed to have been received seven (7) days after posting.

## **3. Quorum:**

- 1) A quorum constituting a General Meeting of the Association shall be the lesser of:
  1. 8 members; or
  2. One quarter (1/4) of the members.
- 2) Should any General Meeting have been properly convened but no quorum is present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to another date, which shall be within seven (7) days thereafter. The notice reflecting such adjournment shall be given to the persons and in the manner provided for in this Constitution. At such reconvened General Meeting, the members then present or represented shall be deemed to constitute a quorum.

## **4. Resolutions and Voting:**

- 1) At all General Meetings, a resolution put to the vote shall be decided by means of a show of hands or by ballot. A vote by ballot shall be held only if demanded by the Chairperson or not less than one third (1/3) of the persons voting in person or by proxy. The result of the vote shall be the resolution of the meeting.
- 2) Each member present or represented at such meeting shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

- 3) Questions arising shall be decided by a majority of votes. Should there be an equality of votes the Chairperson shall have a casting or second vote.

#### **5. Minutes**

Proper minutes shall be kept of the proceedings of all General Meetings, and a record of the persons present at each meeting. The minutes shall be signed by the chairperson of the meeting, and shall be available for inspection or copying by any member on two (2) days notice to the Secretary or his or her deputy.

#### **6. Powers**

Subject to the provisions of Clause 8.1.1.2 above, a duly convened General Meeting of "The Association", at which a quorum is present, is competent to carry out all the objectives and to exercise all the powers of "The Association" as set out in this Constitution

### **10. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **1. Bank Account**

The Management Committee shall open a bank account in the name of "The Association" with a registered Bank or Building Society. The Management Committee shall ensure that all monies received by "The Association" are deposited in the abovementioned bank account as soon as possible after receipt.

#### **2. Signatures**

All cheques, promissory notes and other documents requiring signature on behalf of "The Association" shall be signed by two (2) of the Management Committee members.

#### **3. Financial Year End**

The Association's financial year-end shall be: 31 March

#### **4. Financial Records**

The Management Committee shall ensure that "The Association" keeps proper records and books of account, which fairly reflect the affairs of "The Association".

#### **5. Annual Narrative Report and Financial Statements**

1. The Management Committee shall ensure that "The Association" prepares an annual narrative report describing the Association's activities and an Annual Financial Statement for each financial year. The Annual Financial Statements shall conform to, generally accepted accounting principles and shall include a statement of income and expenditure and a balance sheet of assets and liabilities.

2. Within two (2) months after drawing up the Annual Financial Statements, the Management Committee shall ensure that:

“The Association” arranges for an accounting officer to certify that the annual financial statements are consistent with the financial records of the Association and that its accounting policies are appropriate and have been appropriately applied in the preparation of its financial statements.

OR

The books of account and financial statements are audited and certified in the customary manner by an independent practising chartered accountant.

3. A copy of the Annual Financial Statements and annual narrative report shall be made available to all members as soon as possible after the close of the financial year.

## **11. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND DISSOLUTION**

The terms of this Constitution may be amended, the name of the Association or its Code of Ethics may be changed and the Association may be dissolved by resolution of sixty six per cent (66%) of the members present at a General Meeting: provided that proper notice of the meeting is given not less than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date of the Meeting and such notice states the nature of the resolution to be proposed.

## **12. INDEMNITY**

1. Subject to the provisions of any relevant statute, members of the Management Committee and other office bearers shall be indemnified by the Association for all acts done by them in good faith on its behalf. It shall be the duty of the Association to pay all costs and expenses that any such person incurs or becomes liable for as a result of any contract entered into, or act done by him or her, in his or her said capacity, in the discharge, in good faith, of his or her duties on behalf of “The Association”.
2. Subject to the provisions of any relevant statute, no member of the Management Committee and or other office bearer of the Association shall be liable for the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of any other member or office bearer, or for any loss, damage or expense suffered by “The Association”, which occurs in the execution of the duties of his or her office, unless it arises as a result of his or her dishonesty, or failure to exercise the degree of care, diligence and skill required by law.

## **13. DISPUTES**

1. In the event of a serious disagreement between the members of the Management Committee and/or “The Association” regarding the interpretation of this constitution then any two (2) Management Committee members or any five (5) members of the

- Association shall be entitled to declare a dispute. Such declaration shall be in writing, state the issue in dispute, and be addressed to the Management Committee.
2. The Management Committee shall consider such declaration within two (2) weeks of receiving it. Should the Management Committee not be able to resolve the dispute to the satisfaction of the person(s) declaring it, the dispute shall be referred either to a mediator who shall necessarily be **a person initiated in Bwiti** or to the President of the Council of Sages.
  3. Should the dispute be referred to a mediator or to the President of the Council of Sages acting as mediator, the person(s) declaring the dispute and the Management Committee must agree on a suitable mediator and on the costs of such mediation. The mediator may recommend an appropriate resolution of the dispute.
  4. In the absence of agreement regarding a mediator or should mediation not resolve the dispute, the dispute shall be referred either to the arbitration of the Council of Sages duly convened by its President or of a **such suitably initiated person/s** as the person(s) declaring the dispute and the Management Committee may mutually agree. Alternatively, each of the parties shall be entitled to nominate one arbitrator, who shall act jointly with a third person to be nominated jointly by the respective nominees of the parties; on the basis that a majority decision of the appointed arbitrators shall be final and binding.
  5. The arbitration shall be held on an informal basis, and the arbitrator shall have the power to determine the procedure to be adopted subject to principles of natural justice.
  6. The arbitrator may base her/his award not only upon the **applicable customary and traditional rules of Bwiti** but also upon **the Code of Ethics of "The Association"** and principles of equity and fairness.
  7. The person(s) declaring the dispute and the Management Committee, beforehand, may agree to share the costs of the arbitration. In the absence of such agreement the arbitrator shall decide which parties shall be liable for the costs.
  8. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon all parties and capable of being made an Order of Court on application by any of them.

## ***SCHEDULE A: NEO-BWITI Code of Ethics and values***

***The following values and ethics shall be shared among all the members of "The Association":***

### ***1. FREEDOM***

Every member of "The Association" recognizes human freedom not only as a right but also as the fundamental essence of human nature, which shall be respected and manifested.

In respect of the above-mentioned vision, there is no obligation and no prohibition in Neo-Bwiti. All the prescriptions, which were previously interpreted as obligations or prohibitions, should now be understood as "spiritual guidance" coming from the spiritual world. This guidance has been revealed to us in the past or is now revealed to help us and to indicate the right direction for us to grow spiritually. There is no obligation to comply with them as every one grows at

his/her own pace. However, the benefit of complying with spiritual guidance should be clearly explained to any inquiring person.

The fact that there is no obligation or prohibition but only spiritual guidance should not distort, spoil or alter in any way the traditional and the cultural core of rituals that African people in general, and Bwitists and Babongo pygmies in particular, have been following for centuries and which the members of the Association support and subscribe to.

## **2. *TO KNOW ONESELF***

It is of the responsibility of everyone to choose a vacant existing position or to create any role or function within The Association, which suits any of his or her physical, intellectual, artistic, emotional, spiritual, or any other kind of skills they might have. The Bwiti is a religion promoting the knowledge of the Self, and as such, everyone is supposed to know his or her purpose or qualification.

Once the choice is made, every member is supposed to fulfil his/her function responsibly and efficiently. If the function or position is obviously and objectively not performed responsibly and efficiently, the member is invited to recognise it humbly, to resign from it, and to make another choice.

## **3. *HONESTY***

The members of the Association recognize that honesty is the only workable way to achieve understanding, peace, love and harmony in a group or community.

In respect of the above-mentioned vision, the members of the Association commit to an open, direct and frank way of communication among one another. If they think or feel something about somebody needs to be addressed, they are encouraged to firstly address the person who is concerned.

They should refrain from getting involved in lies, insults or any derogatory words, which could hurt somebody or tarnish their reputation.

## **4. *COURAGE***

Courage is the outcome of overcoming fear. Many traditional Bwitist rituals are aimed to overcome fear and to reinforce courage.

More generally, the members of the Association subscribe to the vision that fear can't be a workable way to progress in Neo Bwiti. Fear seizes individual's freedom and power and hinders love and compassion from emerging. All the members shall endeavour to prevent fear from being their own motivation or from being used as manipulative means to others.

#### **5. FRATERNITY**

Fraternity is an integral and traditional part of Bwiti. All the members of the Association are in a fraternity of spirit and are part of the same family. Any human being is potentially part of this family. Bwiti is compatible with any other religion. There is no need of conversion.

Solidarity, mutual aid, support and affection should prevail among the members of the association as among blood siblings. A Bwitist is not supposed to sleep well or to eat with appetite if he knows that one of his brothers sleeps on the pavement or is starving.

#### **6. PRESERVATION OF LIFE**

Preserving life is serving life prior any other consideration. Should a Bwitist kills an animal, its flesh should feed people.

Neo Bwiti Association and Neo Bwitists take the preservation of the last Babongo Pygmies as well as their environment and their lifestyle to heart. The Babongos and the rainforest are the source and the soul of their movement. Whatever the association will be able to do to save the rainforest and the Babongo pygmies from destruction will be done.

#### **7. DISCERNMENT AND SECRET KNOWLEDGE**

Secret knowledge or privileged information is traditionally aimed to prevent spiritually immature people from using the knowledge of Bwiti for harmful purposes due to jealousy, fear, hate, rage or any other uncontrolled negative emotion. A same plant can save a life or kill somebody, and if the knowledge is shared without discernment, a spiritually immature person might cause a lot of damages before this person comes to the awareness of what he/she is really doing. Therefore any privileged knowledge shall be shared with discernment; even among initiated people of the association.

Some information in Bwiti is confidential and should **only** be shared among **initiated people**. Nevertheless, any spiritual teaching found in Bwiti which is also part of universal human wisdom and which can be found in all the spiritual traditions and/or religions, and which are consequently not specific to Bwiti, can be shared with everybody (whether he/she is initiated or not and whether he/she is member of the Association or not.) The content of the secret or privileged information shall be specified by the member's Bwiti godfather and scrupulously kept.

### ***SCHEDULE B: Requirements of the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service***

As provided for in Clause 5.3 of this Constitution, the Association intends to apply to the Receiver of Revenue for the exemption from appropriate taxes and duties. In compliance with the anticipated requirements of the Commissioner in respect of such exemptions, the following provisions shall bind the Association:

1. In the case of a PBO seeking an exemption from income and other related taxes only, in terms of section 10(1)(cN) of the Income Tax Act, as amended:

Carry out all its public benefit activities in accordance with section 30 of the Income Tax Act.

Or

In the case of a PBO seeking a section 10(1)(cN) exemption from income and other related taxes and donor deductible status in terms of sections 10(1)(cN) and 18A, respectively, of the Income Tax Act, as amended:

Carry on its public benefit activities in the Republic.

2. Only in the case of a PBO which provides funds solely to any income tax exempt PBO seeking a section 10(1)(cN) exemption from income and other related taxes only and section 18A donor deductible status, as described in section 18A(1)(b) of the Income Tax Act, as amended.

During the year of assessment preceding the year of assessment during which the donation is received, distribute or incur the obligation to so distribute at least 75% of the funds received. Provided that the **Minister** may on good cause shown and subject to such conditions as he or she may determine, either generally or in a particular instance, waive, defer or reduce the obligation to distribute at least 75% of its funds having regard to the public interest and the purpose for which the relevant organisation wishes to accumulate those funds.

3. Carry on its public benefit activities in a non-profit manner.
4. Comply with such conditions, if any, as the Minister may prescribe by way of regulation to ensure that the activities and resources of the organisation are directed in the furtherance of its objects.

5. Submit to the Commissioner a copy of and a copy of any amendment to the Constitution, Will or other written instrument under which it has been established.
6. Be required to have at least three persons, who are not connected persons in relation to each other, to accept the fiduciary responsibility of the organisation and no other single person directly or indirectly controls the decision making powers relating to that organisation: Provided that the provisions of this sub-paragraph shall not apply in respect of any trust established in terms of a will of any person who died on or before 31 December 2003.
7. In the event of the Association investing funds, invest such funds :
  1. With a financial institution as defined in section 1 of the Financial Services Board Act, 1990 (Act No. 97 of 1990); and/or
  2. in securities listed on a stock exchange as defined in section 1 of the Stock Exchanges Control Act, 1985 (Act No. 1 of 1985) ; and/or
  3. in such other prudent investments in financial instruments and assets as the Commissioner may determine after consultation with the Executive Officer of the Financial Services Board and the Director of Non-Profit Organisations;

Provided that the provisions of this sub-paragraph do not prohibit any such organisation from retaining any investment (other than any investment in the form of a business undertaking or trading activity or asset which is used in such business undertaking or trading activity) in the form that it was acquired by way of donation, bequest or inheritance.

8. Be prohibited from carrying on any business undertaking or trading activity, otherwise than to the extent that:
  1. the gross income derived from such business undertaking or trading activity does not exceed the greater of :
    1. Fifteen percent (15%) of the gross receipts of such public benefit organisation; or
    2. Twenty five thousand Rand (R25 000,00);
  2. The undertaking or activity is:
    1. Integral and directly related to the sole object of such public benefit organisation; and
    2. Carried out or conducted on a basis substantially the whole of which is directed towards the recovery of cost, and which would not result in unfair competition in relation to taxable entities;
  3. The undertaking or activity, if not integral and directly related to the sole object of such public benefit organisation as contemplated in clause 8.2.1, is of an occasional nature and undertaken substantially with assistance on a voluntary basis without compensation; or
  4. The undertaking or activity is approved by the Minister by notice in the Gazette, having regard to:
    1. The scope and benevolent nature of the undertaking or activity;
    2. The direct connection and interrelationship of the undertaking or activity with the sole purpose of the public benefit organisation;
    3. The profitability of the undertaking or activity; and

4. The level of economic distortion that may be caused by the tax-exempt status of the public benefit organisation carrying out the undertaking or activity.
9. Be prohibited from accepting any donation which is revocable at the instance of the donor for reasons other than a material failure to conform to the designated purposes and conditions of such donation, including any misrepresentation with regard to the tax deductibility thereof in terms of section 18A; provided that a donor (other than a donor which is an approved public benefit organisation or an institution, board or body which is exempt from tax in terms of section 10(1)(cA)(i), which has as its sole or principal object the carrying on or any public benefit activity) may not impose conditions which could enable such donor or any connected person in relation to such donor to derive some direct or indirect benefit from the application of such donation.
10. Ensure that it is not knowingly a party to, and does not knowingly permit itself to be used as part of any transaction, operation or scheme of which the sole or main purpose is or was the reduction, postponement or avoidance of liability for any tax, duty or levy, which, but for such transaction, operation or scheme, would have been or would have become payable by any person under the Act or any other Act administered by the Commissioner.
11. Has not and will not pay any remuneration as defined in the Fourth Schedule, to any employee, office bearer, member or other person, which is excessive, having regard to what is generally considered reasonable in the sector and in relation to the service rendered and has not and will not economically benefit any person in a manner which is not consistent with its objects.
12. Comply with such reporting requirements as may be determined by the Commissioner.
13. Take reasonable steps to ensure that the funds, which it may provide to any association of persons, as contemplated in section 30(b)(iii) of the Act are utilised for the purpose for which they are provided.
14. Become registered in terms of section 13(5) of the Non-Profit Organisations Act, 1997 (Act No. 71 of 1997), within such period as the Commissioner may determine, and comply with any other requirements imposed in terms of that Act, unless the Commissioner in consultation with the Director or Non-profit Organisations designated in terms of section 8 of the Non-profit Organisations Act, 1997, on good cause shown, otherwise directs.
15. Has not and will not use its resources directly or indirectly to support, advance or oppose any political party.
16. Ensure that any books of account, records or other documents relating to its affairs are:
  1. Where kept in book form, retained and carefully preserved by any person in control of the organisation, for a period of at least four years after the date of the last entry in any such book; or
  2. Where not kept in book form, are retained and carefully preserved by any person in control of the organisation, for a period of four years after the completion of the transaction, act or operation to which they relate.

### ***SCHEDULE C: Schedule of Initial and founding members***

Name, address, phone number, function and signature of each founding member.

1. **The Chair Person:**  
**Mombey Indaki Paul A.**
2. **The General Secretary:**  
**Soami Mabilia Stephane-Jacques**
3. **The Treasurer:**  
**Ilambi Iverneau**
4. **Cultural and Ethics Coordinator:**  
**Mickombo Roland**
5. **Environment Conservation Coordinator:**  
**Mombey-Indaki Caura Virginie**
6. **Science Interconnection and Public Relation Coordinator: Loxton**  
**Simon**
7. **Logistic Coordinator:**  
**Mandza Mabioko Serge Blanchard**
8. **Communication Coordinator:**  
**Mbourou Dejean Cedric**
9. **Sustainable Development Coordinator:**  
**Moubamangoye Pavlick**