THE REGULATION OF MEDICINES FROM 
THE TRADITIONAL PHARMACOPOEIA 
TO ASSIST BASIC HEALTH CARE: 
THE EXPERIENCE OF BENIN

ICDRA 2008, BERN, SWITZERLAND
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INTRODUCTION

✓ Over 70% of the population use traditional medicine for their basic health needs.

✓ The interventions are aimed at improving the practice of the said medicine, certifying traditional medicines and integrating them within the national health system.

✓ Benin is implementing the various resolutions adopted by the African Ministers for Health and Heads of States at African Union summit meetings.
2. FOCAL AREAS OF THE REGULATORY ACTIVITY

2.1 Identifying, organising and registering practitioners of traditional medicine;

2.2 Strengthening the technical capacities of practitioners of traditional medicine;
2. FOCAL AREAS OF THE REGULATORY ACTIVITY

2.3 Strengthening collaboration among practitioners of traditional medicine;

2.4 Developing research;

2.5 Developing medicines from the traditional pharmacopoeia.
2.6 Drawing up the traditional Benin pharmacopoeia; and

2.7 Monitoring and co-ordinating the activities.
3. BENIN’S EXPERIENCE: details

3.1 From 1985 – 1995

3.2 From 1996 – 2008
3. BENIN’S EXPERIENCE: details

3.1 From 1985 – 1995 (1)

- Holding national and international meetings
- Creation of a central administrative office
- Decree issued to recognise the national association of traditional medicine practitioners (PMTs)
- Registration of the PMTs (3,000)
3. BENIN’S EXPERIENCE: details

3.1 From 1985 – 1995 (2)

✓ 1st initiative for collaboration between those in the sector of traditional medicine and professions in the sector of conventional medicine

✓ Creation of a directory of traditional recipes used to treat malaria

✓ Creation of a compendium of medicinal plants used by traditional practitioners to treat malaria or fever
3. BENIN’S EXPERIENCE: details

3.2 1996 – 2008 (1)

✓ 1996: Creation of the National Programme for the traditional pharmacopoeia and medicine;
✓ 2007: Creation of the National Council for Traditional Medicine;
✓ Updating the national list of PMTs (over 7,500);
✓ Drawing up the list of rare medicinal plants, in the national language, by administrative region;
✓ Creations of medicinal plant gardens.
3. BENIN’S EXPERIENCE: details

3.2 From 1996 – 2008 (2)

✓ Literacy teaching for PMTs

✓ Creation of training tools by area

✓ Progressive implementation of a legal framework

✓ Research: 1 – ethno-medical research
4. CONCLUSION

✓ Updating the national pharmacopoeia;
✓ Capacity building: organising ongoing training, setting up training programmes for teaching and training in traditional medicine;
✓ Strengthening research activities on the efficacy of traditional medicines against HIV/AIDS, hypertension, diabetes and malaria;
✓ Developments of medicinal plant gardens;
✓ Creation of centres for the practice of traditional medicine.