



Annex 1: Factsheet on Scoutisme Congolais



Country information

Located in Central Africa, the Republic of Congo borders Cameroon and the Central African Republic to the north, Gabon to the west, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the east (separated by the Congo river and the Oubangui) and Cabinda (Angola) to the south. The country has an area of 342,000 km² with a population of approximately 4,500,000.

History

Scouting was introduced in Congo in the 1930s through French Scouting, firstly in public and private schools. In 1965, due to decisions of the then Marxist government, Scouting was banned and young people were required to join the youth movement of the Marxist party.

In 1991, following a period of political reform in the country, the ban on Scouting was lifted. From then onwards, total of nine Scout Associations were able to resume Scouting and later some of them expressed interest to join the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) for support and, ultimately, membership. The Girl Guides, as "Association des Scouts et Guides du Congo", became full members of WAGGGS in July 2011.

The nine Scout Associations registered in the country came together in 2012 to form "Mouvement du Scoutisme Congolais", an umbrella organisation that acted as the link with WOSM. Since then, efforts have continued to successfully unify the different associations into one National Scout Organisation, while also ensuring that all WOSM membership requirements are met. The participating associations agreed to set up a committee to steer the process of addressing pending matters, including the unification of desiring associations, census of participating associations, alignment of draft constitution, internal regulations, and policies with WOSM membership requirements, and alignment of the youth programme with WOSM standards. In February 2020, a training workshop on the harmonisation of the Youth program was organised as part of the support towards Scoutisme Congolais (SC) to join WOSM. This process was concluded in 2021 when a new draft constitution was developed and submitted for approval by the WOSM Constitutions Committee.

Legal registration

Scoutisme Congolais satisfactorily submitted proof of its legal registration in country to the World Scout Bureau, which deemed it compliant with WOSM membership requirements in this regard. Since 2021, the WSC's Constitutions Committee has supported SC in reviewing its constitution and, on 17 September 2022, determined that SC's constitution was compliant with the WOSM Constitution. "Scoutisme Congolais" is a legal name as of 27 March 2023, when it was officially changed from "Mouvement du Scoutisme Congolais".

Objectives

Scoutisme Congolais aims to contribute to the development of young people by helping them to fully realise their physical, intellectual, emotional, moral, social, and spiritual potential as human beings, responsible citizens, and members of local, national, and international communities.

Membership

The current membership of the NSO totals 17,466 members (8,323 boys and 9,143 girls) spread across 435 groups throughout the country. In addition to the capital Brazzaville, Scout Groups are active in Pointe-Noire, Niari, Sangha, Bouenza, Plateaux, Pool, Cuvette, Cuvette-ouest, Likouala, Kouilou, and Lékoumou.

With activities across the whole country and proactive approach towards new communities, SC has demonstrated a solid commitment to build its capacity and bring Scouting to new communities by tapping into the potential of more than 1.6 million young people aged 10-24 years who live in the country.

Finances

Scoutisme Congolais has a financial framework regulated in its constitution and internal regulations based on principles of financial management. It has diverse income streams and has submitted an annual financial report.

Future support from WOSM through WOSM Services

WOSM provided support since the 1990s through a series of missions and support efforts. The World Scout Bureau has been in contact with Scoutisme Congolais's national leadership to identify their needs in the following strategic areas: Youth Programme, Adults in Scouting, Good Governance, Communications, Youth Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion, and Safe from Harm.

An in-depth field visit was carried out in November 2019 to take stock of the compliance of Scoutisme Congolais with WOSM's membership requirements, provide an orientation seminar on the WOSM membership process, and provide tailored support on the way forward.

Future support initiatives are planned through WOSM Services and dedicated Consultants to build SC's capacity as a new National Scout Organization. Focus will be given to membership expansion through growth plans and development of a comprehensive growth strategy, aimed at offering Scouting to more young people and becoming present in new areas and communities.

Educational methods

The educational approach of Scoutisme Congolais is based on the Scout Method. SC draws inspiration from the techniques and methods of WOSM, promotes the education of young people through self-learning, learning by doing, and educating responsible and autonomous individuals. It has an established progressive scheme with developed timeline, recognition, and a badge system.

It is a system of progressive self-education based on:

- The Scout Promise and Law
- Learning by doing
- Life in small groups (patrol system)
- Personal progression
- The symbolic framework
- Adult support
- Community involvement and life in nature

The programme is implemented across four age groups: 8-11 years old (Cub Scouts), 12-14 years old (Scouts), 15-17 years old (Explorers), and 18-22 years old (Rovers).

Organisation

