



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	Jan	2019	To	31	Dec	2019

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Niokolo Network

Other names charity is known by None

Registered charity number (if any) 1169126

Charity's principal address 2 Alexandra Road
 Cardiff
 Postcode CF5 1NS

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

- Dr Tabitha Ndiaye (Chair): 09.09.2016 - Present
- Dr Daphne Kerhoas (Secretary): 09.09.2016 - Present
- Dr Matthis Drolet: 21.12.2016 – Present
- Dr Federica Dal Pesco 10.06.2019 - Present
- Roxanna Rawson 10.06.2019 - Present

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed for a term of 2 years by a resolution passed at a convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The object of the CIO is to promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public in economically disadvantaged communities on the periphery of Niokolo-Koba National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Danger located in southeastern Senegal.

The objects of the charity are to be achieved through:

- The relief of poverty and the improvement of the conditions of life;
- The promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration;
- The preservation, conservation and protection of the environment by the prudent use of natural resources.

2019 Achievements

- ❖ A birth registration event was carried out serving villages surrounding Niokolo-Koba National Park, with 200 people, mainly children, obtaining a birth certificate for the first time in their lives.
- ❖ The birth registration event was the first of its kind to have been delivered in this area. The planning of the event laid out new processes and established links between Niokolo Network's partner organisation and officials of the Town Council and the District's Mayoral Office which will make it easier to replicate this programme in more areas surrounding Niokolo-Koba National Park.
- ❖ Kamben Film Group was supported to secure a small office and additional equipment in Dakar. They are now able to offer more professional film production services as well as expanding to other promotional work.
- ❖ Niokolo Network successfully secured grants from two funders, one of which was a new supporter, helping to achieve a broader funding base.

2019 Activities**Birth Registration Programme**

Information from government surveys has identified that less than 50% of children in rural areas of Senegal have had their birth registered, and that this is most common within the most deprived households. In Senegal the government provides a free primary education but children are not permitted to enrol in these schools without a birth certificate. In cases where teachers are lenient and allow students without a birth certificate to attend school, they are nevertheless not permitted to sit exams and have to drop out before completing their primary education. The lack of birth registration also has significant negative impacts on people's access to health care, their ability to secure formal employment and basic civil rights.

In 2019 Niokolo Network and their partner community association "Kamben" collected information from 3 villages and all surrounding hamlets on the number of people without a birth certificate along with their name and contact details. Interviews with people in these areas also identified the key reasons for parents not registering the birth of their child. These were described as:

- A large number of children being born outside of formal health centres and not receiving paperwork at birth.
- Lack of understanding of the implications of not having a birth certificate with existing information not well-suited to illiterate audiences.
- A lack of understanding of the correct process to register a child's birth

Section D

Activities and Achievements

- The time and financial cost of registering a birth under the usual process which requires travelling multiple times to the nearest town :100km away
- A lack of trust due to administrative delays and inefficiencies as well as the addition of ad-hoc fees.

Using this information, Kamben worked with officials from the local Mayor's office and Tribunal Board to develop a new way of supporting communities in rural areas to obtain a birth certificate for themselves and their children. An agreement was made that meant that whole communities would not have to make numerous long journeys to obtain a certificate and would not have to do the process twice in the case that neither the parent nor the child had a certificate. Rather, officials from the Tribunal board and Mayor's office would travel to one of the rural villages and hold a rural registration event where they would be able to process up to 200 registration applications in a single day.



Following this, Kamben Film Group worked to complete a film which included interviews from a local official describing the process of obtaining a birth certificate alongside a theatrical drama describing the problems faced by a father when he does not register the birth of his son. This film was screened in villages prior to the planned registration event.

The registration event took place in mid-December. Bus transport was provided and everyone from the two project villages and surrounding areas who did not have a birth certificate made the journey to the next door town where officials received and verified their application forms. Niokolo Network's Director of Operations travelled to Senegal for the month of December and worked with Kamben Association to support the whole process by together making sure everyone knew when the day was taking place, organising transport, and ensuring the correct documents were available, that the correct fees were paid and that forms were completed correctly.





At the very end of 2019 the first batch of certificates were completed and handed out to students in their school. We heard from many of the young people and from their parents what an enormous relief it was to have their certificate, meaning that they are sure to be able to take their exams in May, and if they work hard, progress on to Secondary education with all of the further opportunities this offers. We are expecting the remaining certificates to be complete and ready for collection in early 2020 and are looking forward to learning from this first delivery to improve the programme and replicate it in more villages.

Kamben Film Group



In previous years Kamben Film Group has been based in one of the villages surrounding Niokolo-Koba National Park. Whilst this worked well initially for early work, as the group has professionalised the lack of electricity and safe storage for equipment became a challenge. It also made it harder for the group to seek work from other organisations in order to establish themselves as a financially viable social enterprise. To overcome this issue, Niokolo Network has worked with Kamben Production to rent a small office in the outskirts of Dakar. Here they have electricity, safe storage for all of their equipment, and they are able to seek networking opportunities with other groups as well as look to expand their services. They remain completely committed to supporting Kamben Association's missions, and travel back to the Niokolo-Koba area as needed to capture film and audio footage and to support the Association in film screening events.

Next steps

In 2020 we look forward to:

- Continuing our support of birth registration in rural villages around Niokolo-Koba National Park, so that no child misses out on an education due to this easily solved barrier.
- Working with local communities and strengthening links with other charities and government groups to develop additional programmes of work to improve lives and to protect the environment in and around Niokolo-Koba National Park.
- Maintaining our support of Kamben Productions and Kamben Association and seeking opportunities to strengthen their ability to carry out the valuable work they do.
- Ensuring that Niokolo Network continues its growth as a competent and responsible registered charity.

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Section E**Financial review****Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

At the current time Niokolo Network is a relatively new charity with a very small annual income. We do not have any governance costs and it is the decision of the charity's trustees that no commitments to support charitable activities should be made until the necessary funds have been secured. As such, at the present time trustees are content that it is not necessary to hold any funding in reserve, but that this should be reviewed on an annual basis.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Section F**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Dr Tabitha Ndiaye	Dr Daphne Kerhoas
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary
Date		



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01.01.2019	To	Period end date 31.12.2019
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds 2019 to the nearest £	Restricted funds 2019 to the nearest £	Total funds 2019 to the nearest £	Total funds 2018 to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Donations	-	-	-	1,300
Grants	-	8,309	8,309	-
Sub total		8,309	8,309	1,300
A2 Asset and investment sales				
None			-	-
Sub total			-	-
Total Receipts			8,309	1,300
A3 Payments				
Charitable activities	-	3,443	3,443	799
Governance costs	-	41	41	-
Sub total		3,484	3,484	799
A4 Asset and investment purchases				
Sub total	-	-	-	495
Total Payments	-	3,484	3,484	1,294
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	-	4,825	4,825	6
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	13	-	13	7
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	13	4,825	4,838	13

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted funds 2019 to nearest £	Restricted funds 2019	Total funds 2019
B1 Cash funds			
Cash in bank	13	4,825	13
Total cash funds	13	4,825	13
B2 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Cost	Current value
	None	-	-
B3 Liabilities	None	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on
behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Date of approval

Tabitha Ndiaye

Daphne Kerhoas

