

BIOGRAPHY

Priscilla M. ACHAKPA

Priscilla Mbarunun Achakpa was born on the 23rd of January 1964 into the family of Late Chief Daniel Door and Mrs. Mary Suleiyol Achakpa, Benue State, Nigeria.

Educational Pursuits

I began my educational pursuits at St Mary's Secondary School, Adikpo 1976-1978, Government Teachers College, Mkar – Gboko from 1978 -1981 where I obtained a Grade Two Teachers' Certificate. Between 1986 and 1996, I attended the Kaduna Polytechnic and obtained the National Diploma and Higher National Diploma (HND) in Business Administration respectively. I hold Post Graduate Diploma in Management from the Abubakar Tafawa University, Bauchi State, in 1997-1998, diploma in Project Management and Programme Administration, from Management for Development (MDF), from Ede Wagening, in The Netherlands (2002), and another post graduate diploma in Land Management and Informal Settlement Regularization; from the Institute for Housing & Urban Development Studies (IHS) in Rotterdam, The Netherlands; a Professional Certificate, on Strategic Management for Leaders of NGOs, from Harvard University Business School, 2009 and Master of Science in Development Studies from Benue State University Makurdi, Nigeria, 2013 and currently PhD in view.

Professional Career

I started my career as a Primary school Teacher in Gboko, Benue state in 1982; then proceeded to work in Savannah Bank Plc. from 1989 -2001 where I resigned as an Assistant Manager. While working in the bank I, developed interest in gender and development work at the grassroots level and this led to the establishment of the NGO, Women Environmental Programme in 1997 in Kaduna State with a group of grassroots women. I, later resigned to work fulltime for WEP but faith caught up with me and I, was employed to work for the Catholic Ecclesiastical Province of Abuja/ Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria and was in charge of Justice, Development, Peace, Health and caritas from 2001 – 2006.

In 2006, I, decided to return back to my heart desires, the Women Environmental Programme (WEP), which I am founder and Chief Executive. My return to WEP, the Organisation has grown from strength to strength in environmental and developmental work. WEP currently has offices in Burkina Faso, Togo and New York, USA with membership of over 3000 and has United Nations ECOSOC Consultative Special Status, Observer status to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Organizing Partner (OP) Women's Major Groups representing Africa at the Post2015 SDGs UN processes.

Positions Held

I, have held many positions at national and international levels and a member of different development bodies work among such positions and memberships are:

- Selection Committee Member, **Stakeholder Steering Committee for the March 2015 session of the intergovernmental negotiations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, March 23-27th 2015**
- Selection Committee Member, for the 6 March high-level thematic debate on "Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda" United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)
- Member of the Women and Gender Constituency, UNFCCC
- National Coordinator, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) 2013-2016
- Member, African Working Group on Gender and Climate Change
- Chair, UNWOMEN Civil Society Advisory Group, Nigeria-2014-2016
- **Advisory Board Member**, International Conference on Drylands, Desert and Desertification, 2012 & 2014
- **Advisory Board Member**, Sustainability Awards Africa
- **Member**, Presidential Technical Committee on Land Reform (PTCLR) 2012
- **Member**, National Technical Committee on REDD+ 2010-date
- **Member**, National Technical Committee on Chemicals Management (NCCM) and Technical Coordinating Committee, 2011 -date
- **Expert Member**, Land Governance Assessment Framework, World Bank Nigeria Country Report 2010-2011
- **National Convener** Gender and Climate Change Network, Nigeria
- **Advisory Board Member**, Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Natural Resources-FAO
- **Secretary**, Women In Nigeria, Kaduna State 1999-2001
- **Member Facilitating Women's Major Groups**; UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) 16th & 17th Session 2007/2009
- **Member of the expert Group on Framework and guidelines on land policy in Africa**-ECA, AfDB and AU, 2007-date
- **Coordinating Committee Member and Board Member**, Transition Monitoring Group, 2008-date
- **Council Member**; African Social Forum (ASF) 2007
- **Board Member**, Society for Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN); a network of CSOs on water in Nigeria 2005-date
- **Treasurer**, Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) 2005 – 2008
- **Advocacy Committee Member**: Caritas Africa, 2004-2006
- **Country Coordinator**: Christian Organisations Against Trafficking Network (COATNET) Africa, 2004-2006
- **Chairperson**: 1st Nigeria Social Forum (NSF) 2004

- **Secretary**, Northern Women's Wing, Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) 1994-1996
- **Vice Chairperson, NUBIFIE, Kaduna State**
- **Coordinator**, International Association of Volunteer Efforts (IAVE) Northern Nigeria, 1996-2001
- **Board Member of 15 NGOs/Association in Nigeria**

Awards

I, have received various awards such as:

- Benue State Students University of Ibadan Chapter (UBESS UI) Recognition of Humanitarian Services Award in Benue State, and across Nigeria to Ms. Priscilla M Achakpa, 5th December 2014
- Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR) "Appreciation Award" of partnership in the development of Water Resources in Nigeria, September 16th 2014
- Ashoka Fellows: In recognition of Ms. Achakpa's hardwork, in 2013, was conferred with the Ashoka Fellows in the sector of agriculture, capacity building, citizen/community participation, gender equity and rural development
- Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution & UNDP award for Community Peacebuilding in Nigeria, September 2012
- Bank of Industry/United Nations Development Programme (BOI/UNDP) award winner for renewable Energy in Nigeria, 2011
- **Mother of Peace Award:** to Priscilla M Achakpa for Mediating and Bringing Peace to Agila Community in Benue State Nigeria, 2011
- **Environmental Awareness Creation Award:** to Women Environmental Programme for Her Meritorious Support to Environmental Causes in Nigeria by the Environmental Outreach Magazine, 2010
- **Rewards, Recognition and Award Scheme** for Non State Actors Selfless Award to Priscilla M Achakpa by NGO NETWORK, 2010
- **Certificate of Recognition:** In recognition of Outstanding Contributions towards a Cleaner and Healthier Environment in Nigeria, by Nigeria National Volunteer Service (NNVS) Federal Republic of Nigeria, 5th December 2009
- **2007 Independent Sector Promoters Award:** In recognition of Outstanding Service and Excellent Performance in Women and Environmental Rights by NGO Network, March 22, 2007
- **National Environment Award:** Outstanding Advocacy Works in Gender and Environment by National Environment Newspapers and Federal Ministry of Environment, 22nd November 2006
- **Friends of Children and Youth Award:** In recognition of Outstanding Contribution towards the Plight of Children and Youth by Wulia Foundation, June, 2005

Professional Association & Networks

- Women Major Groups-UN System
- Women and Gender Constituency-UNFCCC
- Network of Women Environmental NGOs, Nigeria
- Association of Women in Development, AWID
- Gender and Energy Network
- Gender and Disaster Network
- Global Land Tool Network
- Gender and Climate Change Network
- Global Environment Facility NGO Network
- Prentice Nigeria Limited: Management consulting and Education Support Services
- Member, International Association for Volunteer Efforts, (IAVE) Nigeria
- African Centre for Strategic Studies (ACSS) Nigeria Community Chapter

I, have over eighteen years of experience in development work, gender issues, research and documentation, resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation, conflict intervention and peace building, negotiations, labour activism and poverty reduction intervention programmes. I, have undertaken consultancies and worked in several of the areas listed above including information management and dissemination, participatory methodologies among others and have held position of authority both in a work place, in networks and within religious development organizations in Nigeria and internationally and have accomplished these responsibilities successfully.

My specific objective steams from a development practitioner that focuses on pro poor development programmes aimed at improving the livelihood of poor people and giving them a voice.

I, have a strong drive for results, innovative, like new challenges, possess excellent interpersonal relationship and highly motivated, strong capacity to work and break new grounds for greater achievement for the environment.