

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AMAPISE — Réseau EnfanceAfrique.org

Research-Action Network on Child Protection & Endogenous Knowledge in West Africa

1. WHO WE ARE

AMAPISE (Association Malienne pour l'Appui à la Promotion et aux Initiatives des Savoirs-Faire Endogènes) is a Malian association founded in 2014 in Tombouctou, in the direct aftermath of the 2012 crisis, when armed groups occupied two-thirds of Mali's territory for nine months. When Tombouctou was liberated in January 2013, returning communities found their economic and social fabric devastated — artisans without tools or markets, families divided, trust between communities eroded.

AMAPISE was born from a conviction shaped by that crisis: no material reconstruction is durable without also rebuilding the social bonds that hold a community together. That founding principle still shapes every pillar of the association's work today.

The Réseau EnfanceAfrique.org is AMAPISE's scientific and advocacy programme, through which the association deploys its child protection and traditional mediation work across West Africa. The two are not separate entities: the network is the research arm of an association whose legal and institutional foundation is AMAPISE.

2. LEADERSHIP AND SCIENTIFIC ANCHORING

The network is founded and directed by Dr Drahmane Fondo, PhD in Ethnology (Université Côte d'Azur, 2025) and Associate Researcher at LIRCES (Laboratoire interdisciplinaire Récits, Cultures et Sociétés, UPR 3159). His doctoral research, based on eight years of continuous ethnographic fieldwork in Bamako and the Ségou region (2017–2025), examined child fostering practices, street children's trajectories, and institutional child protection mechanisms in Mali.

This fieldwork has since been documented in five peer-reviewed scientific articles (2025–2026) and, in August 2026, reached a broader public audience through two articles published in *The Conversation Africa* and *The Conversation France*, both assigned formal DOIs for academic citation. Combined, the underlying research corpus has recorded 846 views and 927 downloads on the HAL open archive alone.

3. FOUR PILLARS OF ACTION

- ▶ Endogenous Knowledge and Craftsmanship — the founding pillar, a direct continuation of the post-2012 identity-reconstruction effort in Tombouctou, supporting local artisans and traditional know-how.
- ▶ Child Protection, Traditional Mediation and Social Cohesion — carried by the Réseau EnfanceAfrique.org, this pillar combines ethnographic research with community-based mediation, working directly with Traditional Authorities and Legitimacies (ALT) across the region.
- ▶ Nutritional and Food Security — advisory support on nutrition-related issues affecting children and families in West Africa.
- ▶ Research and Scientific Partnerships — the network's academic backbone, anchored in its LIRCES/Université Côte d'Azur affiliation and supported by an International Scientific Council currently being constituted.

4. GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL STATUS

AMAPISE is administered by an Executive Bureau and a Supervisory Committee, elected by the General Assembly of its members, with support from the International Scientific Council on research orientations. The association's registered legal seat is in Tombouctou, Mali (2014 registration).

A statutory modification process, formally adopted by an Extraordinary General Assembly on 15 August 2026, is currently being finalized with the Prefecture of Tombouctou. This process formally broadens the association's legal purpose to its four current pillars and regularizes an earlier administrative naming discrepancy on the original registration certificate.

5. TRACK RECORD

- ▶ Eight years (2017–2025) of continuous ethnographic fieldwork across Bamako, Ségou, Mopti and Tombouctou
- ▶ Five peer-reviewed scientific articles published in indexed journals (2025–2026)
- ▶ Two articles published in *The Conversation Africa* and *The Conversation France* (August 2026), both DOI-referenced and disseminated under open Creative Commons licensing
- ▶ 846 views and 927 downloads recorded on the HAL open science archive
- ▶ A dedicated Politique PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse), a Child Image Usage Policy, and a formal informed-consent protocol for field photography — published and publicly accessible
- ▶ An emerging International Scientific Council, with confirmed positive engagement from senior academic figures

6. FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY AND PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

AMAPISE, founded in 2014, resumed structured activity recently under its Founder's direction following his return from doctoral training. The Réseau EnfanceAfrique.org, its scientific programme, is currently in an active fundraising phase and has not yet received institutional funding. Once funded, every activity will be reported in full transparency to partners and donors.

This is precisely the moment at which a partnership carries the greatest leverage: the network combines a rigorously documented research foundation, a proven capacity for public-facing dissemination, and a governance structure currently being formalized — with no prior institutional dependencies to navigate.

CONTACT

contact@enfanceafrique.org • +223 93 88 55 69 • enfanceafrique.org

Dr Drahmane Fondo, Founder and President