



THE EARTH CENTER PRESENTS:

SEEDS OF INDIGENOUS LIFE IN WEST AFRICA

A traditional thatched-roof hut, likely made of natural materials, is nestled in a dense, lush green forest. The hut has a steep, conical roof and is surrounded by tall trees and thick foliage. The scene is captured in bright daylight, with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

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THE CHALLENGE

Indigenous farmers have been lured into adoption of hybrid and genetically modified seeds and chemical based farming practices whose costs are ever increasing. Outcomes of this transformation often include the disappearance of natural seeds, loss of seed sovereignty, which lead farmers into a debt trap. To compound the problem, youth are lured to cities, thus extracting their energy from their communities and leaving their natural sustainable way of life behind.



**“IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST GO ALONE,
IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER.” -
AFRICAN PROVERB**

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of the seed sovereignty restoration approach in the Seeds Of Indigenous Life (SOIL) program is to help farmers return to their original farming ways that preserve seeds and topsoils along with their way of life. The expected outcome is a more biodiverse self sustaining environment for the communities that participate in the SOIL program. Each SOIL program center will be stewarded by indigenous people who have preserved biodiversity since time immemorial.



THE CURRENT PROJECT: BONANGANA SEEDS OF INDIGENOUS LIFE (SOIL) CENTER

In Bonangana, near Sokode in Togo we have 10 hectares of land on which we are building a natural biodiverse farm, a live seed bank, and training center for indigenous farming practices and way of life.



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES: PHASE 1 ACHIEVEMENTS

**FOLLOWING THE PURCHASE OF THE
LAND WE HAVE BUILT:**

**Initial structures that include a farm residence building,
side building for people to care for the farm, equipment
storage facility**

**A deep well with elevated water tower water
tank and a solar panel pump**

A working one hectare vegetable farm

**In addition, we have assisted another farmer in the
community to produce crops and vegetables 12
months of the year.**



PHASE 2: OUR NEEDS AND PLAN OF ACTION

We will expand the natural farm from one to four hectares.

We will take care of the water cycle to minimize flooding, erosion and support natural irrigation.

We will use local indigenous led knowledge to integrate forestry and agriculture that focuses on diverse natural species of trees, plants, and crops integrated together. The diversity creates faster growth, more biomass for fertility of the soil, greater natural resistance to pests and diseases, to create an ecosystem future without chemical interventions.

By enlarging the farming space, we are able to secure community sovereignty over natural seeds for future generations. We will assist the restoration of indigenous farming through the results and our training facilities of indigenous practices combined with the seed nursery and seed storage facility that support communities in the region

PHASE 2 OF THE PROJECT WILL LAST FOR THE NEXT 3 YEAR SEASONAL CYCLE TO BECOME SUSTAINABLE OVER THE 4 HECTARES. THE FUNDS THAT WE RAISE WILL BE INVESTED AS FOLLOWS:



PROJECTIONS FOR SOIL PROGRAM PHASE 3

We will expand the Bonangana SOIL Center from 4 to 10 hectares. This will include:

- **Bringing back and integrating biodiverse natural livestock**
- **Adding a wetlands area**
- **Beekeeping**
- **Expanding the center of best indigenous practices to serve the community and the region**
- **Expanding the seed nursery and seed storage facilities.**



PROJECTIONS FOR SOIL PROGRAM: PHASE 4

This phase is part of a multisite mission across West Africa to ensure the preservation of different tree, plant and animal species that live in the equatorial forest, savannah, and sahel ecosystems and which are now under threat from global industrialization.

Funds will enable subsequent sites and include land purchase to create SOIL centers and build on the wealth of indigenous knowledge accumulated at the Bonangana SOIL Center and its sustaining community

The knowledge from SOIL Centers can be transferred to people living in the West during The Earth Center annual pilgrimages that are open to the public or during periods of work experience travel.





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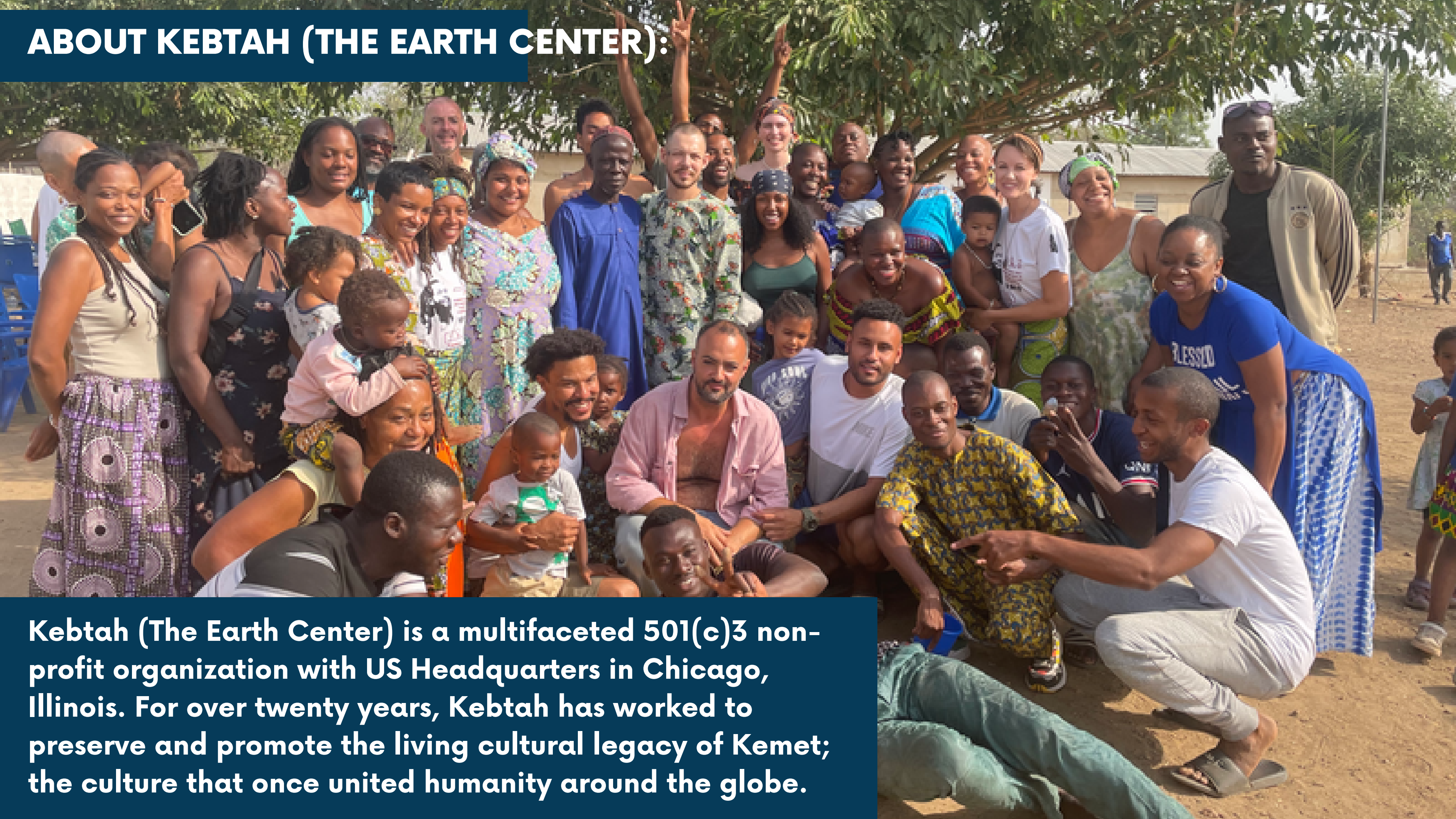
FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, SEEDS ARE MORE THAN FOOD- THEY ARE 'MEMBERS OF AN EXTENDED FAMILY.... WHICH HAVE TO BE TENDED WITH CARE....'

BECAUSE THERE WILL BE A RECIPROCITY.... THEY WILL BE PROVIDING YOU... [WITH] FOOD, AND WILL BE CARING ABOUT YOU.

”

ABOUT KEBTAH (THE EARTH CENTER):

Kebtah (The Earth Center) is a multifaceted 501(c)3 non-profit organization with US Headquarters in Chicago, Illinois. For over twenty years, Kebtah has worked to preserve and promote the living cultural legacy of Kemet; the culture that once united humanity around the globe.



OUR SCOPE:

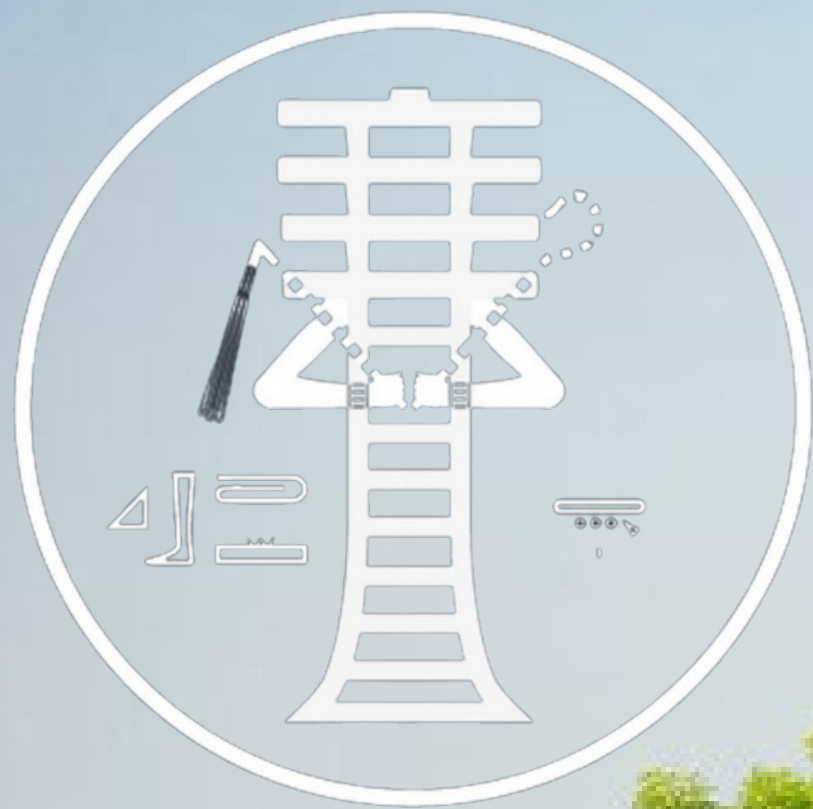


Our heritage is firmly rooted in the communities of West Africa, particularly in Burkina Faso and Togo, where we have registered institutions. Our organization takes care of land, property and people in West Africa with our Kem Cultural Center in Sokode and Bonangana Natural Farm both in close proximity in Togo along with a Temple and school in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

MISSION:

Keptah through our Indigenous Renaissance Initiative (IRI) aims to provide people who are committed to the well-being and sustainability of our fellowship with a means to address social and economic problems. The programs and projects we undertake help to sustain the indigenous way of life of the people by protecting the priceless indigenous knowledge preserved in these communities. We also help to reinforce a sense of pride within these communities by inspiring the indigenous youth to carry on this legacy as well as creating opportunities for people to come and learn about this way of life.





THANK YOU!

**REVOLUTION IS FUELED BY
COMMUNITY!**

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD
TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR
COLLABORATION**

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