Independent African Systems as a Basis for Rational Housing: A Proposal

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Description/Abstract
In this report I undertake a study of the criteria involved in designing a suitable housing system for tropical Africa with particular emphasis on my native country Sierra Leone. I focus attention particularly upon the indigenous built system, the country’s environment, resources and way of life enjoyed by its people. I feel a study of this nature would give me invaluable insight into the problems facing developing African countries in providing adequate housing.

The scope of this research is to define and propose a housing system, based on a good understanding of the indigenous system, which offers a multiplicity of adaptations to community and human needs.

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making in food security, human and animal health, education, NRM, and other vital economic and social activities. Agricultural and social scientists have been aware of the existence of IK since colonial times, but from the early 1980s understanding of farmers’ practices as rational and valid has rapidly gained ground. Two contrasting interpretations of IK are: 1. Indigenous Knowledge Systems and LOPI. Battiste (2002) defines indigenous knowledge as “... an adaptable, dynamic system, based on skills, abilities, and problem-solving techniques that change over time depending on environmental conditions ... (p. 11).” Representatives of indigenous populations and communities have re-quested that the ACHPR ensures the protection and promotion of their fundamental human rights, and the ACHPR has responded to this call. The ACHPR recognizes that the protection and promotion of the human rights of the most disadvantaged, marginalized and excluded groups on the continent is a major concern and that the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights must form the framework for this. The report can help facilitate constructive dialogue between the ACHPR/AU and member states and it will serve as a platform for the ACHPR’s forthcoming activities on pro-moting and protecting the human rights of indigenous populations.