



Zone d'intervention d'ANIGOURANE : massif de l'Air - Nord Niger

Association ANI GOURANE

1101.

Preservation & promotion
of Nigerian Rock Art



B. P. 254 – AGADEZ / NIGER
TEL/FAX : 00(227) 440. 541.
E-mail : sm@eikmail.com



Project founded by TARA, Trust for African Rock Art,
P.O. Box 24122-00502, Nairobi, Kenya



Africa has the greatest variety of rock art of any continent on earth, some images dating back nearly 30,000 years. The richest area of all is the Sahara desert.

Niger has an exceptionally rich rock art heritage, much of which is thought to have been the work of ancestors of today's Tuareg and Berber peoples. Most of this art is located in the north of Niger in the Air Mountains.



Rock art is becoming more and more promising as an economic market in Niger. According to some experts, Rock art is a masterpiece of great value in the development of tourism and with good guidance, it will provide an influx of revenue in the future.

That is why, ANIGOURANE Association commits itself to promote rock art in northern Niger in order that the local inhabitants living around the different sites will benefit also from the economic impact at: Dabous, Iwelene, Tirguimisse, Tezirzek, Tanakom etc.

Our program will cover every prehistoric site in order to protect, to promote and encourage appreciation of their value. Rock Art engravings are very precious works of art, they are our cultural heritage which should enable Niger to open the country to the world.

We wish, through this program, to reorganise and restructure the interest in rock art and at the same time we would like to promote the appreciation of this art in the country itself, by educating local inhabitants, as regards its potential as a source of income and also from a cultural point of view, hence promoting universal interest.

1101. Ani gourane, «Légende expressive» en tamasheq



Objectives of the Association

The aim of the association is primarily to take into account our cultural values through rock art and its conservation. At the same time the Association plans to set up on the one hand the necessary means for a better exploitation (responsible tourism) of the rock art heritage and on the other hand to redirect the profits arising from this tourism to the local communities themselves, involving them in the preservation of their own sites and the improvement of their general livelihood.

To reach this goal, the following objectives have been defined :

- > To survey and record the different rock Art sites
- > To monitor the status of the site
- > To implement the installation of suitable reception facilities
- > To manage revenues arising from tourism
- > To train site custodians, tour operators and guides

We see three differing stages in the implementation of these objectives,

Short term :

- ° Development of the Dabous site (130 km. from Agadez)
- ° Implementation of suitable reception facilities
- ° Creation of buildings (reception shelter, camping shelters, offices, display room, car park etc.)

Mid term :

- ° Recording of all major rock art sites in northern Niger
- ° Protection of these sites once recorded
- ° Recruitment of two guards per site

Long term objectives :

- ° Using the example of the first site at Dabous, set up monitoring structures at all the rock art sites in the area.
- ° Involvement in the development of the area by paying statutory taxes to the local administrative authority
- ° To create a better awareness of Niger through its rock art. At the same time revenue coming from visitors will help to protect sites and to pay employees' salaries.

In order to reach these goals, any donations from any body or any international organisations are welcome.