



“ No future without culture ”

Culture for all

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ACP Street Libraries

PROJECT

The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) hold precious and distinctive cultural traditions and heritage. However, in countries such as Ghana, Liberia and Cameroon, artists and cultural entrepreneurs face limited means when it comes to distribute cultural products and services.



The ACP Street Libraries project hopes to address the needs for wider access to books and libraries, as well as to more effective means to secure those valuable traditions, improving the scarce mobile distribution tools for cultural goods and facing the demands for income/entrepreneurial opportunities for artists and cultural agents.

The project aims to support the development of culture in ACP countries by promoting and creating new Street Libraries in Liberia and Cameroon and updating the existing ones in Ghana.

PURPOSE

The ACP Street Libraries project focuses on reinforcing, creating and producing cultural services and goods through an integrated approach, using distribution networks based on Street Libraries and existing online cultural databases mainly to preserve local culture, specifically literature, visual arts and music.

APPROACH

The significant mobile phone penetration rate in the selected countries highlights the potential of a decentralized and entrepreneurial approach to cultural distribution, through use of mobile phones in Street Libraries.

By developing an online forum and enabling individual blogs - both accessible through a mobile application - improvements can also be achieved on ACP countries discussion and cooperation platforms. This will, as well, not only allow local producers to promote their activities and share experiences among different ACP countries, but also promote cooperation between artists, professionals and entrepreneurs of the cultural sector in the ACP States.

SPECIFIC GOALS

- Creation of new digital objects, securing oral-transmitted tales and stories, artwork, songs, performing arts, etc.;
- Development of a mobile application: to access existing databases with cultural artefacts from ACP local artists and communities; to interact with online forums, blogs and a cultural events to discuss and promote ACP culture; and to help entrepreneurs manage their physical Street Libraries;
- Development of a Web platform to support centralized content management.



STRATEGIC IMPACT AND EXPECTED RESULTS

- Creation of new Street Libraries in selected ACP countries;
- Increment of the number of books available for oral reading as well as their digital counterparts and other digital objects - such as music - in ACP Street Libraries;
- Improvement of existing databases of ACP countries and their local culture, allowing the integration of the project's final result with well-known existing databases (such as SudPlanète's) enhancing and complementing them both;
- Promotion of cultural diversity and exchange between artists and cultural institutions among ACP countries, boosting dialogue and cooperation between stakeholders.

In global terms, the project's main ambition lies on the prospect of substantial benefits for children, as well as on other gains for younger people, cultural and professional entrepreneurs, cultural institutions, artists, schools, libraries or local and national policy makers, as finals results.

FOR THERE IS NO FUTURE WITHOUT CULTURE.