

South People's Projects SoPPro



Ba MONIMAMBO (The Witnesses)



CONGO & WALES Roots and Routes

PROJECT HANDBOOK



Supported by
 The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

Cefnogwyd gan
Y Lloeri Genedlaethol
trwy Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Lloeri

Registered Charity No. 1120469

“In Africa, every elder that dies is a library that burns.”
(Ahmadou Hampaté Bâ)

“The young British Congolese are not Congolese and they are not British... They are between. They are not both because most of them are struggling to become British... They are British but they do not have the British culture... They are still looking for their ways. Most of them are lost because we are the elders but we are not the role models to them and they are looking for new role models and they do not have role models... It is very important... we must sit down, the Congolese community, to say what we should do now. It is important for us to try to help our youngsters, because they are British, to become really British. And then, we should take the opportunity to teach them about Congolese culture.”

(Norbert MBU-MPUTU in D. GARBIN & W.G. PAMBU,
Roots and Routes. Congolese diaspora in multicultural Britain, 2009, p. 69)

“It is impossible to integrate to any country without learning the language used in that country. It is impossible to do so without learning the history of that country. It is impossible to integrate to any country without knowing the culture of that country. Those are the preconditions of the integration. (...) The integration has some preconditions. They could give you all their wealth but if u cannot speak the language of that country, if you don't learn the history of that country, if you don't know the culture of that country, you cannot integrate in the country. You got that duty to organise community workshops, meetings and conferences to explain it to our community members. We must help our people to integrate.”

(Claude KIPELEKA in D. GARBIN & W.G. PAMBU,
Roots and Routes. Congolese diaspora in multicultural Britain, 2009, p.48)



PROJECT TITLE

- Ba Monimambo, The Witnesses: Wales and Congo Roots and Routes

SUPPORTED BY

- Heritage Lottery Fund (Wales)

PROJECT REFERENCE

- YR-08-11756

LOCATION

- Newport (Wales)

COORDINATOR

- Norbert X MBU-MPUTU

ASSISTANT

- Deo KATYA Kasereka

BENEFICIARIES

- 15 youth (13-25) with Congolese Origin and living in Wales
- Congolese Community in Wales and UK and

SUPPORTED BY

- Heritage Lottery Fund (Wales)

PROJECT REFERENCE

- YR-08-11756

LOCATION

- NEWPORT (Wales, United Kingdom)

AIMS

The project named "**BA MONIMAMBO: Wales and Congo Roots and Routes** " will help Welsh and Congolese communities living in Wales to explore both their Congolese and Welsh (British) history and cultural heritage; it will help with learning about the common legacy of the historical link between the Congo and Wales. They will

1. *visit and learn about the **historical links between Wales and Congo**, via Henry Morton Stanley, The Congo Boys of Cardiff, The Congo Institute of Wales, the Congo Reform Association; and they will learn also about British (Welsh) history.*
2. *produce and publish a book on **Congo and Wales (Britain) history facts** in French and English, with an introduction in Welsh. These to include interviews with experts, elders and parents; a section dedicated to the Congolese settled in Wales; the stories of their migration to Wales, their issues, their contributions, etc. and interviews with British who lived in Congo.*
3. *produce **1 hour film as a DVD** about the Congo history consisting of interviews with Congolese elders and parents living in Wales (and UK), with special emphasis on the Congolese Independence Years, history and heroes: Patrice Lumumba and others. An introduction to the African history, the slavery years, the colonisation and the independence, the dictatorship, the national Conferences and the changes, the present rebellions and the elections - DVD with an introduction in Welsh*

SKILLS TO BE DEVELOPPED BY BENEFICIARIES:

- Web designing, Interview techniques, video editing, photography, books layout, editing and publishing

BENEFICIARIES:

Direct Beneficiaries:

- 15 Young People with Congolese Origin, living in the following areas of South Wales: Newport, Cardiff and Swansea (8 from Newport, 4 from Cardiff and 3 from Swansea), along with others from various Community/Cultural backgrounds.

Indirect Beneficiaries:

- Congolese & African; Welsh & British

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

1. Visits

The project will help with learning about the common legacy of the historical link between the Congo and Wales. 15 young people with Congolese origin living in Wales (8 from Newport, 4 from Cardiff, 3 from Swansea) will learn the historical links between Congo and Wales, by focusing on the life of Sir Henry Morton STANLEY. Stanley is the famous Welsh born explorer who explored and mapped the Congo at the end of the 19th century, after his famous meeting with David Livingstone. Young people involved and Congolese families will visit and carry out researches on places of Stanley's birth, life and death (Denbigh, N. Wales; London & Surrey); on the graves of the Congo Boys (Colwyn Bay/N. Wales) and on the so called Congo Institute of Wales (Nant y Glyn & Bangor/N. Wales).

The Congo Boys were the first Congolese to live in Wales a century ago. They arrived in Wales from Congo in 1885 by a returned missionary, Reverend William Hughes, a friend of Stanley, whom he had met while a missionary in the Congo. He believed that students from Congo and Africa should be given a Christian education and trained in a craft apprenticeship (carpentry, printing, tailoring, blacksmithing etc), so that when they return to Africa can pass skills and act as missionaries in their own country. Reverend Hughes created the Congo Institute of Wales established in 1890 at Nant y Glyn, Colwyn Bay in North Wales. The two Congo boys campaigned and raised money through Wales by singing gospels and songs in Welsh, English and in their mother tongue for the institute. They died in Wales and buried at Llanelian cemetery above Colwyn Bay (North Wales). The institute closed in 1911.

Another visit will be made at Bristol or Liverpool, for them to explore and learn on transatlantic ashamed slavery trade.

Other visits on some places in Wales or walking places around Newport will be organised with other partners to increase the young people inclusion and integration feeling.

2. Publishing a book and producing a short film of interviews

Young people involved will learn historical facts on Wales (Britain) and Congo and they will carry out interviews on Congo, Welsh and British history as part of their integration/inclusion to the multicultural British community. They will participate in workshops, trips and conference to be organised by the project.

Young people involved in the project will be trained in interview and recording techniques, book editing and publishing activities.

The project will publish a book and will produced a short film of one hour about the Welsh, British and Congo history, consisting of interviews with experts in British, Welsh and Congolese history and elders about their oral history, especially on the Independence year's heroes and interviews with Congolese parents living in Wales (and UK) around inclusion/integration issues and contribution of Congolese in multicultural Wales. This will be a contribution to the Congo 2010 celebration of the 50th anniversary of the independence.

3. Congo Now 2010

Young people will learn the Congo History dark periods: the transatlantic slave's trade, the Belgium Congo colonisation, the independence years, the Mobutu's dictatorships, the Congo last wars and especially the King Leopold II Congo Free State.

Becoming the Congo Free State owner and landlord, the King became the most important provider of rubber to the burgeoning tyre industry based in Liverpool. As he tried to meet the increasing demand for rubber and maximise his profits, the rubber industry exploited and killed billions of Congolese people. Villages were burned and disappeared while many Congolese lost their lives and had limbs amputated. Profits from the Congo made the King one of the richest monarchs in the world and the money allowed him to build important buildings including the Laeken Royal Palace in Belgium. Now, for almost the last ten years, that now Democratic of Congo has become one of the bloodiest battle fields on earth. Since 1996, about 12 national armies and rebels groups are fighting in Congo.

The project will then explore and learn about the British role and contribution in the end of the first Congo genocide with Edmund Morel and the Congo Reform Association. Their campaigns raise awareness on the King Leopold II red rubber business in Congo.

This will be a contribution to the London Congo Now 2010 to raise awareness about the current Congo War 5,000,000 who lost lives in this war.

4. Networking and self confidence

The project will also bridge the gap between the young people and the elders through the interviews and workshops. It will promote and raise awareness amongst the young Congolese living in Wales, about the importance of their historic heritage and to highlight this as a necessary part of improving community integration. It will then promote a greater

appreciation of the value of heritage and its importance to the Congolese future sense of identity.

5. Stanley's monuments campaigns

The project "Ba Monimambo" could also campaign for Stanley's monuments in Congo and in Wales, where there are no monuments of him. The one built in Kinshasa has been removed since 1971.

CHRONOGRAM

What (Activity)	When	Where	Who Will Carry out The Activity	Who is The Activity for	What will you achieve (result)
1. To write the project handbook, the press release and filing all the required documents of the projects	Week 1	Newport	Coordinator	All the persons involved in the project	Handbook set up, press release written, contact with Medias and Television programme)
2. To select the 3 volunteers to be involved in the project, to buy materials and equipments for the projects and to inform different partners	Week 1	Newport	Coordinator	Management committee	Inform volunteers involved about the project; to set up all the equipments and materials for the project
3. To select and to meet parents and young people to be involved in the project	Week 2	Newport/ Cardiff/S wansea	Projects Coordinator, parents and volunteers involved	Selected young people	To select 15 (8 from Newport, 4 from Cardiff, 3 from Swansea) young people to be involved in the project
4. To identify the experts in Welsh/Congo and Guide Historians along with the interviewees involved.	Month 1	Meet them Speak + conduct interviews via the telephone /internet	Projects Coordinator and 1 volunteer	To inform persons to be involved about aims and chronogram of the project	Learn from their experiences and to take account of their remarks and their timetables also learning about interviewing techniques

5. Arrange with the young people the contact and lists of the main areas and places to visit. A timetable to be drawn up.	Month 1	Telephone and Email them	Projects Coordinator	Keep a permanent contact with the young people.	List of the places ready
6. First visits to the historical places (museum, cemeteries, universities, centres, etc.) to be visited by the young people	Month 1	Wales (Cardiff, Bangor) and England (London, Liverpool, other)	Project Coordinator and 1 Volunteer	To have real ideas of the place, to check about availability, to negotiate about the schedule	List of Historical places to be visited by the young people, i.e. Museums etc.
7. The launch of the project	Month 1	Newport	SoPPro Management Committee, the Project Coordinator and 1 Volunteer	To inform about the project, its aims and outcomes	Local authority, other organisations to be informed about the project (Stanley monument in Wales and in Congo)
8. Wales & Congo history day workshop	Month 2	Cardiff	SoPPro Management Committee, the Project Coordinator and 1 Volunteer	Parents, young people, managt committee, volunteers, experts, other interested in the project	They will all learn about this history heritage
9. Interviews, photography and filming workshops	Month 2	Newport	Project Coordinator, Volunteers, Experts	Young people involved in the project	15 young people learn and gain skills of how to interview, photography and how to record interviews
10. Visits to museums and historical places with youth and persons involved	Month 3 – 7	Newport Museum, Carleon, Cardiff Museum, Bangor, Liverpool, London	Management committee and Project coordinator	15 young people & Parents	15 young people and parents will visit, photograph and film those places and learn more about them

11. Interviews with 1st and other generations of Congolese in Wales and of British who lived in the Congo	Month 6 - 7	Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, London	Project Coordinator, Volunteers	12 young people	15 young people gain knowledge about the Congolese life in Wales and UK, the reason of the migration and some issues about the Congolese heritage
12. To finish audio, filming, book and photography, proof reading, editing and publishing	Month 8 - 9	Newport	Project Coordinator, Volunteers	12 young people	15 young people will edit photography, video and audio to be used for the end of the project
13. Website to support project and host films	Month 2 and 10	Newport	Project Coordinator, Volunteers	6 young people	Website designed with films interviews and photography uploaded
14. Launch of film, website and photography exhibitions	Month 11	Newport/ Cardiff/Swansea/London	Management committee, Project coordinator and Volunteers	All young people, friends, family and wider community	200 people attend public screening; 200 copies of DVD edited and audio interviews given to the community radios (Idea of Stanley monument in Wales and in Congo)
14. EVALUATION	Month 12	Newport	Management committee, Project coordinator and Volunteers	Young people, project manager, partners, community representatives	Evaluation report produced, including evaluations from project participants, audience at launch, partners

PERSONS TO BE INVOLVED

Volunteers

- Fernando Da Silva
- Natalija UFERT
- Emmanuel MUTOMBO

PLACES TO VISIT

- Stanley's birth, living and death places (Denbigh/Saint Asap, N. Wales & Surrey, England)
- The graves of the Congo Boys (Colwyn Bay/N. Wales) and the Congo Institute of Wales (Nant y Glyn & Bangor/N. Wales)
- London: Royal Albert Hall, Westminster Abbey, Daily Telegraph, Royal Geographical Institute
- Bangor (Congo Boys of Cardiff, Kongo Institute of Wales archives)
- Liverpool & Bristol (Congo Reform Association, Slave Ship and Slaves Museum)
- Dover and Southampton
- Oxford (Late Thomas Kanza family)
- Portsmouth (Livingstone arrival body)
- Pit Bit (Wales Coal mining place)

PRESS RELEASE

Newport (Wales, UK), Monday 10th August 2009.

BA MONIMAMBO (The Witnesses): Wales & Congo Roots and Routes Project

The Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly known as Zaire, is the third largest country in Africa. Its area dominates Central Africa. At first glance it may appear to have nothing in common with Wales and the UK, particularly as it was not a British colony. However, history shows that a century ago, a famous Welsh-born world explorer, Henry Morton STANLEY (1841-1904), was the first to explore and to map the now Congo. With the project "*Ba Monimambo, the Witnesses: Wales and Congo Roots and Routes*", the *South People's Projects-SoPPro*, a registered charity based in Newport, would like to share and to make known this common heritage both to the Welsh and to the Congolese living in Wales and abroad. The project is fully funded by **Heritage Lottery Fund Wales** and will run for ten months.

Obviously, the story and the picture of Stanley meeting Dr David Livingstone at Ujiji, a city East of Tanganyika Lake, in the last middle of the 19th century and his quotation "*Dr Livingstone, I presume!*" are very famous. It is said that the meeting is one of the scoops in the history of journalism. Unfortunately, a private research survey revealed that very few Welsh and Congolese, even living in Wales, are aware of the fact

that Stanley was Welsh. And even he, during the most famous period of his life, tried to hide his Welsh origin and changed his Welsh-born name John Rowlands to *Henry Morton Stanley*, an American adopted one.

The project “Ba Monimambo” will involve about 15 young people of Congolese origin and other communities living in Wales, especially from Cardiff, Newport and Swansea. It will explore the major facts of the common history and heritage between the two nations, Welsh and Congolese; the two countries, Congo and Wales through the famous person of Henry Morton Stanley and others stories such as the *Congo Boys of Cardiff, the Congo Institute of Wales and the Congo Reform Association*.

The Congo Boys of Cardiff were the first Congolese to settle in Wales. They have been brought to Wales by a protestant Pastor, a friend of Stanley, Reverend William Hughes, from Congo in 1885. They were singing gospels in Welsh, English and Congolese dialects to raise money for the *Congo Institute of Wales*. The institute, known also as the African Training Institute, was established in 1890 at Nant y Glyn, Colwyn Bay, in North Wales. The pastor believed that African students should be given a Christian education and trained in a craft apprenticeship, such as carpentry, printing, tailoring, blacksmithing etc, so they could make a difference in their native lands, one completed their training and learning in Wales. The Institute trained many boys from Congo and others African countries and it finally closed in 1911.

As Charlotte Williams wrote in her book (*Sugar and Slate*, Planet Books) about the Congo Boys of Cardiff, died and buried in Colwyn Bay, “*their graves tell the story of an ambitious project that brought Africa to Wales; a story that lay dormant in those graves for many years*”.

The ambitious project “Ba Monimambo” aims to assist young people and families of African origin living in Wales with their full integration within Welsh and British society and communities. It will then help them to learn about British/Welsh and Congo history and culture; to connect them with both their native African and British roots. Some activities during the project like visits to historical Congo/Wales common historical places such as North Wales, Liverpool and London, and interviews with elders and workshops with experts, will enable people to make these links and appreciate their dual heritage.

Stanley’s history is also connected, unfortunately, to the bloody and ashamed business of King Leopold II in the Congo, a century ago. Becoming the Congo Free State owner and landlord, the King became the most important provider of rubber to the burgeoning tyre industry

based in Liverpool. As he tried to meet the increasing demand for rubber and maximise his profits, the rubber industry exploited and killed billions of Congolese people. Villages were burned and disappeared while many Congolese lost their lives and had limbs amputated. Profits from the Congo made the King one of the richest monarchs in the world and the money allowed him to build important buildings including the Laeken Royal Palace in Belgium. Yet it was only the British people that undertook to stop the King's bloodiest business: Edmund Morel formed the *Congo Reform Association*, Joseph Conrad wrote the classic "*Heart of Darkness*" with the famous Leopold II agent Mr Kurtz as the prototype of the evil colon, and Arthur Coyne Doyle wrote his pamphlet "*The soliloquy of King Leopold II*". It was then that the Congolese question was raised in the British Parliament and a special enquiry launched that stopped King Leopold's excesses.

Now, for almost the last ten years, that same Congo has once again become one of the bloodiest battle fields on earth. Since 1996, about 12 national armies and rebels groups are fighting in Congo. This time the special mineral Coltan - used to make parts for Mobile phones and laptops - has replaced rubber as Congo's most lucrative cash crop and the country has split into rebel groups that control the mines. In spite of the election supported by the international community and a very expensive United Nations Blue Helmets Peace Keepers with near than 20,000 soldiers based in Congo, the last reports show that the post election government is far from expectations and hope raised. It lacks good management, has high degree of corruption, lacks freedom of information, speech and opinions; women are rapped on massive scale. All efforts of the international community have not stopped wars.

It is hoped that this "Ba Monimambo" project could participate in the activities and projects named "Congo now 2010" to be organised next year by the British *All Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes Region of Africa* (APPG). It aims to bring back the Congo question in the heart of the British opinion debate. It is said that *the same causes produce the same effects...*

Like 21 other African countries, the Congo is celebrating the 50th anniversary and Golden Jubilee of its independence in 2010. Ghana was the first Black African country to celebrate its Independence Golden Jubilee in 2007, followed by Guinea Conakry in 2008. The project will take this opportunity to give young people involved the chance to carry out interviews with Congolese elders and others from other communities living in the UK about their Independence year's, especially about the heroes unknown by young people.

A booklet book and a short film of Wales and those Congolese and Wales history legacy with interviews of contributors will be published at the end of the project. The book will include contributions from Congolese living in multicultural and tolerant Wales and it will raise issues of social inclusion.

South People's Projects vision is also to become an effective and sustainable Non-Governmental Organisation with best practise in governance and delivery of programmes, activities and projects working for people living in the UK and in Africa. Through the historical figure of Sir H.M. Stanley, the dream is to link the Democratic Republic of Congo and Wales, through partnership projects. Twinning cities is just one of the future visions.

For the long term outcomes, the project "Ba Monimambo" could become a very good opportunity for South People's Projects to network and to participate in new challenges, such as the climate change campaign by becoming partners of the "The Prince's Rainforest Project Awareness"; the connection to the Congo Basin Forest Fund initiated by the Prime Minister Gordon Brown for the good management of the Congo Basin Forest resources; to take advantage of new concepts and initiatives such as the "Fair trade", "Wales for Africa" and finally to learn from the DFID new international development and cooperation approach explained in the last report *"Building our common future. White Paper 2009: Global action by the UK government to help make a fair, safe and sustainable world"*

The project "Ba Monimambo" could inspire also the "Congo-Wales Friendship", to be part of the "Congo-British Friendship", a partnership between communities, leaders, civil societies, NGOs, Charities, from Congo and Wales, to learn from each other in a mutual respect.

In Congo, Stanley remains a central person in history course since very late primary school. Oral histories are full of his references as the word "Bula-Matari", the Rocks Breakers, is still used in Congolese languages to name public offices, Government, State matters, nation. Unfortunately, the only city in Congo with Stanley's name, *Stanleyville*, has been changed a while ago to Kisangani; even the *Stanley Pool*, the big lake-like widening of the lower Congo River between Kinshasa and Brazzaville, named by Stanley, has been already de-baptised to *Pool Malebo*. And, nowadays, there is no monument of Stanley in Wales or in Congo. The only one erected at Kinshasa has been removed since 1971. It has been abandoned somewhere behind a very dusty garden at one of Kinshasa's public office residencies. The campaign for the erection of Henry Morton Stanley monument both in Wales and in the

Congo could become a real challenge for the project and the sustainability of Sir Henry Morton Stanley's memory and legacy.

Stanley explored also the Mai-Ndombe, known as the Lake with black water, one of the most beautiful internal lakes in the Congo Basin forest. The project encourages Welsh people to visit that part of the Congo and to find themselves in the footsteps of their explorer fellowship. It may then become a small step to twin cities and communities of Wales and Congo. In this way, Wales could show its pride in one of its most famous sons, Henry Morton Stanley, and Congolese living in Wales could also pay tribute to their *Bula-Matari*, (the Rocks Breaker), as Stanley was nicknamed and liked to be called by Congolese, when building the first railways of the country, between Matadi and Kinshasa, at the end of the 19th century.

Partners are invited to join the projects "*Ba Monimambo*" so that it can become, as the late poet and former president of Senegal, Leopold Sedar Senghor, said, "*le rendez-vous du donner et du recevoir*" (the roundabout of to give and to receive), consequence of what Barack Obama said in his book "Dream of my Father", *the collusion of cultures*.

ENDS

PARTNERS

SOUTH PEOPLE'S PROJECTS-SoPPro

Alternative and Innovative Ideas for Change!

Who we are

A REGISTERED CHARITY set up in the United Kingdom and based in Newport (Wales). Our vision is to become an effective and sustainable Black voluntary and Non-Governmental organisation with best practise in governance and delivery of programmes, activities and projects and working for people in the UK and in AFRICA. Our long term dream is to bring volunteers from Wales to a rural area/village/city in AFRICA.

Our Aims

- THE RELIEF OF POVERTY amongst African people in the UK and Africa, including but not limited to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.
- TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION and training of those granted refugee status and their dependents in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist to adapt within a new community.
- TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

Our Achievements

- A community Sign-posting office to link people and new arrivals (asylum seekers, refugees, migrants) with other organisations, mainstream, governmental and local authorities' services and to accompany them when needed;
- Interpreting and translating services (French / Lingala / Swahili), ICT facilities (Designing and Layout Services, producing booklets and leaflets for communities) and courses (ICT/ESOL/French);
- A free Community Newsletter, to inform about jobs vacancies, business, training and learning opportunities;
- Door-to-door visits and by organising and participating in community events;
- Encouraging young people to tackle anti-social behaviour, to be involve in community activities and we are running various training and projects for them;
- Encouraging asylum seekers, refugees and migrants to share and use their skills by volunteering.

Our vision

- *Wales'Africa Charity Shop*
- *Wales'Africa Resource Centre (W.R.C.):* To set up in the City of Newport an African resource centre of arts, media, information, exhibitions, workshops, training, music, film, books and oral archives library.
- *Wales'Africando:* The celebration of African Culture in British multicultural society during community events (Refugee Week, Black History Month, One World Week, etc...)

South People's Projects

“When you arrive in a new village, it is a big mistake to start dancing with the left leg, when the inhabitants themselves are dancing with the right one”

(Congolese Proverb)



CONTACTS

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