

SWISS INITIATIVE

culture projects sudan



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Under the joint patronage of
**the Sudanese and
Swiss Commissions**
for UNESCO

The Swiss Initiative is a joint venture between Swiss and International Artists with the aim to support Sudanese culture through capacity building, knowledge exchange and a series of cultural projects.

Between **2015 - 2018** various sustainable projects will be taking place in Sudan:

8 Films: The producing of eight professional Sudanese feature films in cooperation with Swiss and International filmmakers. The necessary Know-How will be transferred to the various film crews through a series of lecture and workshops. The film projects will receive individual substantive support and guidance throughout all stages of the production.

Open Cinema: The restoration of a historical cinema in Khartoum and equipping it with the highest projection and sound technology. The project will be a model for the private sector on how to reopen various cinemas in Sudan, which have been closed for decades.


Karmakol: Establishing an annual International Culture Festival (Music / Theatre / Film / Arts / Literature) in the village of Karmakol which will serve as a cultural exchange platform between existing Sudanese festivals and cultural productions, as well as international festivals. The restoration and transformation of the old village of Karmakol into a permanent public film studio.

Culture Spot: Since April 14 and during the developing phase of the Swiss Initiative, various local culture projects have been supported. Sudanese festivals, cultural centers and artists will continue receiving technical support along with skills training in organization, communication, promotion, and fundraising. In addition a number of culture prizes, scholarships, art residency, and educational trips will be created.

By establishing a solid structure for Sudanese cultural projects, the Swiss Initiative aims to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expression. The overall goal of the Swiss Initiative is to contribute to intercultural understanding and international cultural cooperation, two constant priorities of UNESCO.

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FILMS

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PRODUCTION OF 8 PROFESSIONAL SUDANESE LONG FEATURE FILMS

8 Films

Production of 8 Professional Sudanese long feature films

The project “8 Films” aims to enable eight Sudanese filmmakers and their crews to produce their first professional long feature films.

The project stretches over the entire film process: script development, fund raising, pre-production, shooting, post production and promotion. Through workshops tailored to each of the eight film projects Swiss and international film makers will transfer the required skills. In addition, the film crews receive access to necessary technology as well as mentoring from international experts.

By exposing the participants to real market conditions and by training the participants to transfer later on their gained knowledge to the next generation of filmmakers the Swiss Initiative contributes to a sustainable and self-reliant Sudanese film industry.

Time schedule

- 2015: Selection of the eight projects by Swiss Initiative.
Forming of the film crews by the selected directors.
- 2016: Focus on activities and workshops concerning script development, producing dossiers and fund raising strategies.
- 2017: Focus on activities and workshops concerning technical know-how.
- 2018: Focus on shooting the films, post-production and promotion.

OPEN CINEMA



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MODEL PROJECT FOR REOPENING VARIOUS CLOSED CINEMAS IN SUDAN

OPEN CINEMA

Decades ago cinemas slowly began to disappear in Sudan. Economical, technical and political challenges made operating cinemas an unprofitable venture. With more than 60 percent of Sudan's 30 million citizens under the age of 24, many young people have no memory of their country's love for cinema.

Swiss Initiative was granted a permit to reopen a historical cinema in a joint-effort with the property owners, cultural organizations and related sponsors.



Ultimately, the reopening of the cinema will act as a pilot project, that local entrepreneurs across Sudan can use as a model for reviving some of the various deserted cinemas across the country.

Time schedule

2017: Beginning of the restoration

2018: Cinema Opening



A nighttime photograph of a festival scene. The foreground is a body of water reflecting the lights from the festival. The middle ground shows a line of palm trees silhouetted against a dark sky. In the background, there are bright lights and structures, possibly a stage or festival grounds, with a warm orange glow. The overall atmosphere is serene and festive.

KARMAKOL FESTIVAL

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ANNUAL PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Karmakol - Festival

Karmakol is a village 4 hours' drive north of Khartoum. Decades ago the site was abandoned, because it was regularly flooded by the Nile River and the villagers moved hundreds of meters into the desert. Since then the floods have been engineered out of existence – leaving behind a perfect location for cultural festivals and film shootings.

The Karmakol festival is an annual platform for international cultural exchange. It brings together the highlights of local Sudanese festivals and joins them together with selected performances from around the globe: Music, theatre, film, arts and literature will be presented under the open sky of Karmakol. The rest of the year the old part of the village will serve as a creative centre and as a permanent open film shooting space for Sudanese and International film productions.

The Swiss Initiative seeks to ensure ongoing, year round activities in the village and managed to engage local villagers, property owners, existing agriculture projects, charity associations as well as FC Karmakol.

Sustainability is an important part of the project. All materials used to restore and maintain the old part of the village will be indigenous. The construction work will be executed by local villagers under the guidance of a group of architects and artists from Switzerland, Germany, Egypt and Sudan.

Time schedule

2016: Start of the first phase of the restoration: the village square, facades and the Mayor's house

Winter 2017: First Karmakol Festival



CULTURE SPOT



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SUPPORTING SUDANESE CULTURAL PROJECTS

CULTURAL SPOT

The Swiss initiative supports existing Sudanese Cultural Organizations as well as individual artists with technical, logistical and monetary support:

Skills Training

Technical support along with skills training in organization, communication, promotion and fundraising.

Development opportunities

Various development opportunities will be offered to the cultural scene of Sudan, such as cultural prizes, scholarships, art residencies, and educational trips. In addition Swiss initiative is establishing a culture fund in cooperation with the local private sector aiming to support cultural projects. An independent committee will yearly select projects, which will be granted monetary support by this cultural fund.

Information platform

Creating and maintaining a comprehensive online database of Sudanese artists, culture projects, artistic groups, local and international funds, information for permit and regulations as well as other helpful contacts. The goal of the Swiss initiative with the information platform is to create an active community to enable exchange and networking across countries, institutions and individuals.



The Swiss Initiative cooperates with public and private institutions as well as concerned persons to accomplish the projects.

donkeyshot filmproduction (Zurich, Switzerland) is developing, co-ordinating and managing the Swiss Initiative in cooperation with Abdelkarim Mirghani Cultural Center Sudan.

A number of public and private institutions have been contributing to the success of the first phase of the Project.

Swiss officials
Swiss commission of UNESCO
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC
Embassy of Switzerland in the Sudan
Swiss Films

Sudan Officials
Sudanese National Commission of Education, Science & Culture UNESCO
Ministry of Culture Sudan
Ministry of foreign affairs
State of Khartoum
Sudan National Theatre
Sudan Folkloric Theatre
Khartoum University

Cultural Organizations Sudan
Abdel Karim Mirghani Cultural Center
Sudanese Film Group SFG
Sudan Film Factory SFF
Sudan Independent Film Festival SIFF
Sudan Experimental Theater Festival - Madgy Elnour
Garden City College Khartoum
Sudia Sudanese Development Initiative

Swiss Prod. Companies
RECK Filmproduction
Go Between Films
Spotlight
Media Productions
m-appeal world sales
Schaub Filmproduktion
Meier production

Private Sector Sudan
MTN Group Sudan
DAL Cultural Forum

International Cultural Organisations in Sudan
Goethe-Institut Khartoum
British Council
Italian Culture Center

Karmakol Village
Karmakol Project Consulting
Dr. Merghany Abdelall Hamor

Mohammed Said Merghany
Major of Karmakol

Osama Said Khaled
Karmakol media production

Karmakol Project Committee
Owners of houses in Karamkol

Mohammed Saeed Mirghani
Representative of the property owners

Saeed Osman al-Mirghani
Property owners representative

Saber Fadlallah
President of the Karmakol Union Club

Hussein Ali Fadlallah
Chairman of the Administrative Committee Karmakol

Bakri Ismail al-Bakri
Representative of the Elhatab agricultural project

Mudesir Abdalchukyr Bashir
Chairman of the Zakat Committee Karmakol

Mohammed Hussein Abdmola
Karmakol Association, khartoum

Ismail Makki Caliph
Education representative Karmakol

Bakri Mohammed Rashid Ahmad
Regional Agriculture representative



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Switzerland
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To whom it may concern

Berne, 16 of July 2015

It is with great pleasure that we confirm hereby that the Sudanese and the Swiss Commissions for UNESCO grant a joint patronage to the **Production Initiative 2015-2018 of donkeyshot filmproduction Zurich, Switzerland**, aiming to support the Sudanese film industry through a series of workshops and cultural projects in Sudan.

This initiative is of great value in the framework of international cooperation between national Commissions and is in line with UNESCO's objectives in the framework of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

The overall goal of this project is to support the Sudanese film industry with capacity building and knowledge exchange between Sudanese and Swiss Filmmakers through a series of workshops and discussions, cultural projects and events to be held mainly in Khartoum and Karmakol, Sudan.

The intercultural understanding and the international cultural cooperation are at the roots of this project, two constant priorities of UNESCO.

The Sudanese and the Swiss Commissions for UNESCO are confident that public and private institutions as well as all concerned persons will support this project by giving you any assistance you need to accomplish your work. We already thank them for their commitment.

Yours sincerely,



Nicolas Mathieu
Secretary-General
of the Swiss Commission for UNESCO

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Zurich, December 17th, 2015

Patronage

It is with great pleasure that we confirm hereby that the SWISS FILMS Foundation grants a patronage to the Production Initiative 2015-2018 of donkeyshot filmproduction (Zurich, Switzerland), aiming to support the Sudanese film industry through a series of workshops and cultural projects in Sudan in cooperation with the Abdelkarim Mirghani Cultural Center Sudan.

The Swiss Initiative is a joint venture between Swiss and International Artists with the aim to support Sudanese culture through capacity building, knowledge exchange and a series of cultural projects. SWISS FILMS is pleased to be a patron of the multiple sustainable projects taking place in Sudan in the framework of the Production Initiative 2015-2018.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Ann Berger

Director

SWISS FILMS