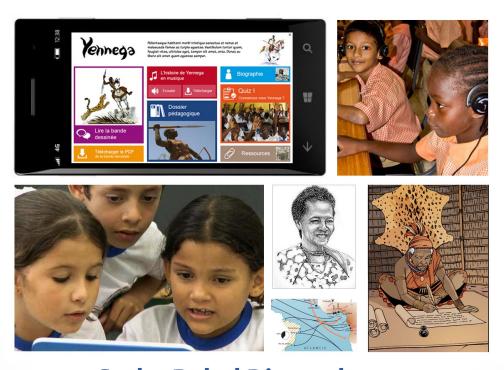


Promoting OERs and Local Content in Africa to highlight Women's Role in Peace Building

A case study: Women in African History: An E-Learning Tool



Sasha Rubel Diamanka
Advisor for Communication and Information
UNESCO DAKAR

1. Project Overview

- An initiative carried out as part of UNESCO's General History of Africa project;
- A project that contributes to UNESCO's two global priorities: Gender Equality and Africa;
- A project at the crossroads of ICTs, Education, and Culture.

Main Objective: Develop and diffuse a multilingual interoperable e-learning platform focusing on women figures central to the history of Africa and of the African Diaspora.

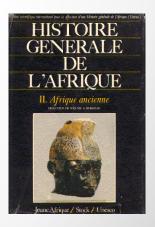
The platform will include dedicated e-learning modules comprised of digital comic strips, interactive pedagogical content, quizzes, downloadable MP3 and PDF files, and teaching resources.

Identified Needs

- Adapting the 8 published Volumes of *The General History of Africa* to attractive elearning modules easily accessible in African and Diasporic African countries, both in formal, nonformal, and informal education;
- **Promoting gender equality** in education by highlighting the central role of women figures in the History of Africa and of the African Diaspora;
- **Developing innovative teaching and learning approaches** in Africa and elsewhere (ICT, mobile learning, digital universities);
- **Supporting emerging talents** in Africa (comic strips, local content, and diversity of cultural expressions).







Beneficiaries







- Students, teachers, and researchers from Africa and the African Diaspora (from secondary schools to Universities)
- Girls and women in particular
- Numerous indirect beneficiaries including universities, artists, youth, and internauts, among others

Main Objectives of the Project

- Highlight the role of women in the History of Africa and of the African Diaspora;
- **Promote** Open Educational Resources and ICTs, including mobile learning, as effective solutions to current educational challenges in Africa;
- Promote girls and women's education by highlighting the academic and educational backgrounds of key women figures of African history and Afro-Atlantic histories;
- Emphasize the shared historical and cultural heritage between African and Diasporic African countries;
- Contribute to the development of local content, to multilingualism in cyberspace in Africa, and to the diversity of cultural expressions.

2. The E-learning Platform at a Glance



homepage of the multimedia platform

The E-learning Platform at a Glance



Short biography

The E-learning Platform at a Glance



Homepage of the e-learning module on Solitude

Selection of Women Figures Central to African History

- Women figures who have made a significant contribution to African and Diasporic African History in one of the following areas: politics, art, environmental protection, social and economic development, sciences, and women's and human rights;
- Geographic area: Africa (including Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, Comores, etc.) and Diasporic African countries;
- Period covered: from Ancient African History to today.











List of the First Nine Characters Chosen

Nzinga Mbandi Angola/17th/Resistant

Yennega Burkina Faso/13-14th/Founding Figure

Gisèle Rabesahala Madagascar/20th/Democratic Militant

Wangari Maathai Kenya/20th/Environmentalist

The Women warriors of Dahomey

Benin/18-19th/ Military Contingent

Sojourner Truth Diaspora/19th/Resistant-slavery

Mulâtresse Solitude Diaspora/18th/Resistant-slavery

Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti Nigeria/20th/Women's Rights

Taïtou Betul Ethiopia/19th/Politics

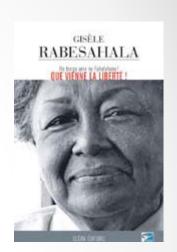












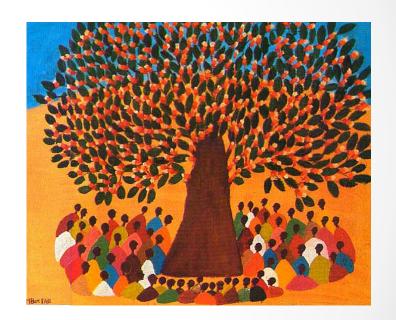
International Contribution: Experts and Artists

Experts

- International historians and experts: Africa,
 France, Brazil, United States;
- African and Diasporic African Institutions: Universities, Museums, Harriet Tubman Institute, among others;

Artists

- Comic strip illustrators from various countries:
 France, Kenya, RDC, EU, South Africa, Brazil;
- African and Afro-descendant Musicians and actresses.



Multilingual and Interoperable

A platform easily accessible from:

- Telephones (downloadable content, such as MP3 and digital comic strips);
- Tablets, computers;
- Digital African Universities and Libraries;
- Non-connected computer rooms.

Multilingualism:

- French, English, Portuguese;
- African Languages (Dioula, Swahili, among others).









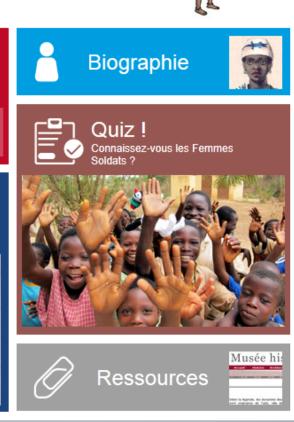
LES FEMMES SOLDATS DU DANXOMÈ

Troupes d'élite féminines, les femmes soldats du Danxomè, appelées aussi Agon'djié, qui signifie « Ote-toi de là ; fais-moi place » en langue fon, ont contribué à la puissance militaire du Royaume du Danxomè aux 18e et 19e siècles.











Homepage of the module related to the women soldiers of Danxome

•



Les Femmes Soldats du Danxomè













Les Femmes Soldats du Danxomè (18e - 19e siècle)

Probablement créées au début du 18e siècle, les troupes d'élite des femmes soldats du Danxomè ont contribué à la puissance militaire du Royaume du Danxomè aux 18e et 19e siècles.

Enrôlées souvent dès l'adolescence, elles vivaient isolées dans les palais royaux. Leur vie était consacrée au maniement des armes, aux entraînements rythmés par des chants et des chorégraphies militaires, aux guerres de conquête et à la protection du Roi.



A la fin du 19e siècle, quatre mille guerrières pouvaient être mobilisées en cas de conflit. Elles étaient réparties en différentes unités, chacune possédant ses uniformes, ses drapeaux, ses chants et ses danses de combat.



1851 Army Leader Seh Dong Hong Beh in Abomev



Yennega





















Dossier pédagogique

Wangari Maathai







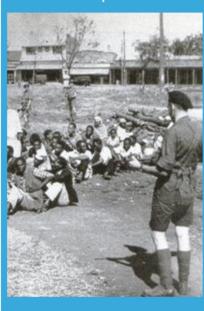






La question des terres

La colonisation et ses conséquences



Le Mouvement de la ceinture verte

Mouvements des femmes. organisations et front commun



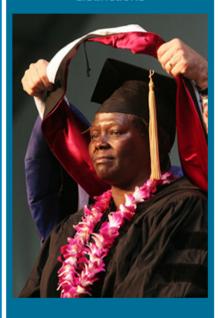
L'héritage de Wangari Maathai

L'importance de l'environnement et de l'éducation



Parcours universitaire

Parcours universitaire et distinctions



Homepage of the pedagogical part related to Wangari Maathai



Yennega













Ecrire l'histoire de Yennega : l'importance de la tradition orale

Chaque peuple, chaque société possède ses propres modes de transmission de la mémoire collective.

Au Burkina Faso tout comme dans les pays voisins, la tradition orale (récits fondateurs, chronologies dynastiques, etc.) tient une place centrale dans la transmission de la mémoire. Au même titre que l'archéologie, la sociologie ou la linguistique, elle est donc une source incontournable de connaissance sur l'histoire des peuples. La tradition orale doit néanmoins être interprétée avec précaution. Seul un travail minutieux de comparaison entre les différentes sources, en lien avec d'autres disciplines, permet de mieux retracer l'histoire des peuples et d'identifier leurs origines communes.



Ce que l'on sait aujourd'hui de Yennega provient de la tradition orale moose (récits fondateurs, chronologies dynastiques, mais aussi de documents écrits anciens, émanant de conteurs traditionnels.



Maimouna Dembele 1975







Yennega















Quelles sont les sources historiques relatant l'histoire de Yennega?

Les traditions orales

Des fresques

L'archéologie

C'est une bonne réponse!

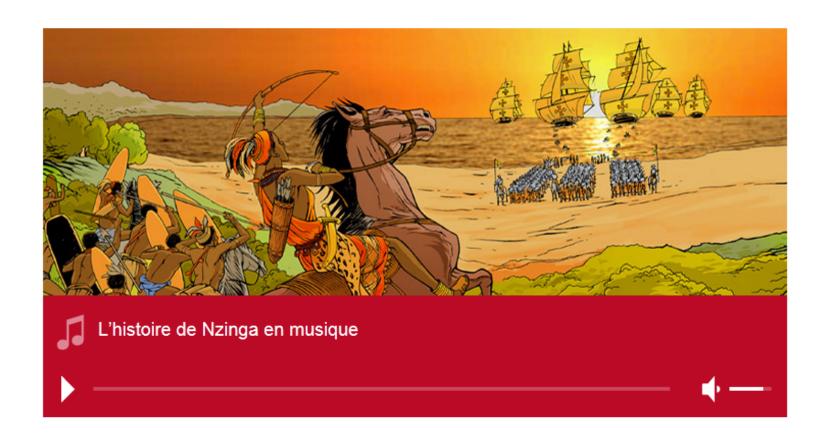
Le Moogo est l'espace étatique intérieur au territoire du Burkina Faso d'aujourd'hui, qui, à la fin du 19e siècle, au moment de la conquête coloniale française, regroupait une vingtaine de formations politiques indépendantes dominées par l'ordre aristocratique des Moose, dont les deux importants royaumes de Ouagadougou (Waogdogo) et du Yatenga. (Izard, 2003)

Continuer

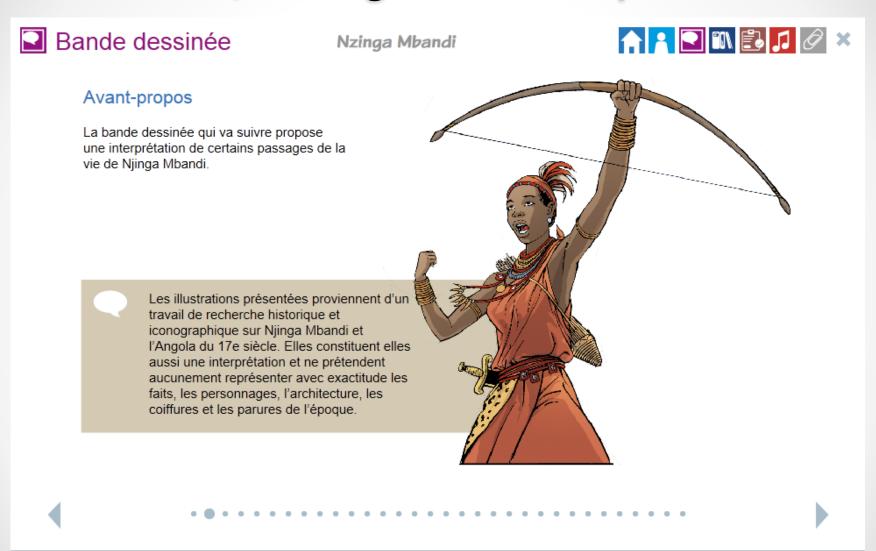
Histoire en musique

Nzinga Mbandi









Foreword (comic strip on Nzinga Mbandi, Angola, 17th century.)



Nzinga Mbandi













Elle impose son autorité aux chefs locaux et conquiert le royaume voisin du Matamba, prenant dès lors à bras le corps la défense de ses deux royaumes.

Pendant quatre décennies de règne, la reine du Ndongo et du Matamba s'opposera avec vigueur aux projets coloniaux portugais, tissant des alliances stratégiques, entretenant une habile correspondance diplomatique et dirigeant souvent elle-même les opérations militaires.

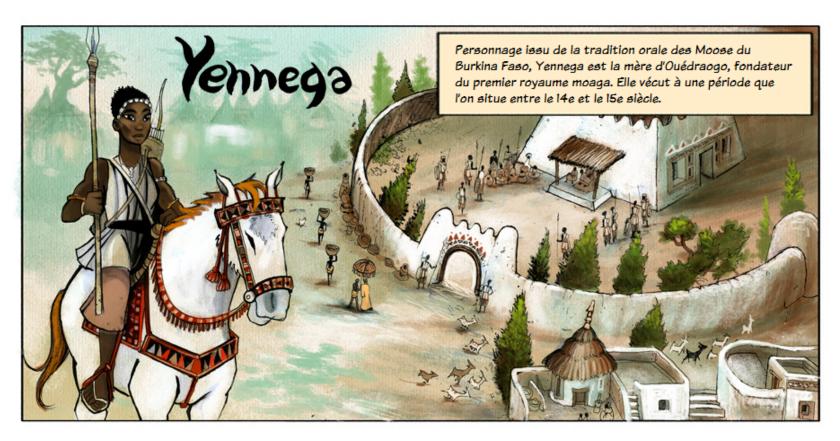






Yennega







Wangari Maathai











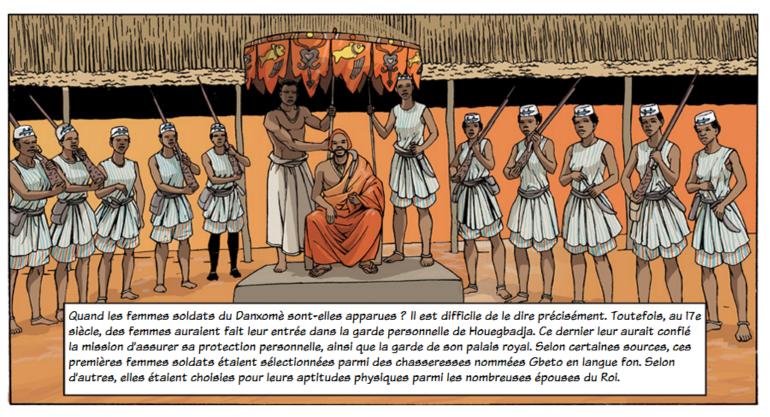




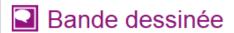


Les Femmes Soldats du Danxomè





The Women Soldiers of the Danxome (18th, 19th centuries)



La Mulâtresse Solitude





Solitude fut affectée comme compagne de jeu des filles du maître. Cependant, traumatisée d'avoir été si brutalement séparée de sa mère, elle parlait peu et restait souvent dans le silence.







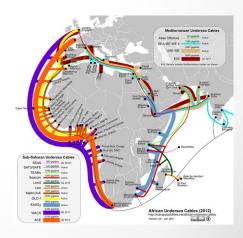
The Mulatto Solitude, Guadeloupe (17th/18th centuries)

5. Phase 1 (2012/2013)

- International launch at UNESCO during the 37th General Conference in November 2013;
- Regional launches in Africa and diasporic African countries;
- Visibility through international artists;
- Partnership with Ministries of Education and digital campuses (e.g. UEMOA);
- Social Media.







6. Phase II 2014-2017

- The production of content related to additional historical female figures from the history of Africa and the Diaspora;
- The translation of the platform into African languages;
- The diffusion of the platform and the organization of national launches (schools, universities, ministries, virtual campuses, etc.) across Africa and the African Diaspora



7. Recognition/Awards

- For this project, UNESCO won first prize in the 2014 ITU/UN WOMEN GEM-TECH Awards for the section "ICT Applications, Content, Production Capacities and Skills for Women's Social, Political Empowerment and Women's Empowerment Linkages with Sustainable Development."
- For the film "My Little Thing is To Plant a Tree," highlighting the uptake of the tool in Tanzania, UNESCO won 3rd place in the 'Women's Rights" Section of the My Hero International Film Festival





8. Publications

- UNESCO has produced 9 publications (EN/FR) corresponding to the content produced (biography, comic strip, pedagogical unit and bibliography) related to the 9 first female figures of the project. These publications are downloadable for free on UNESDOC;
- UNESCO and Harper Collins agreed to publish and diffuse worldwide in English 4 - as a first step - of the 9 above-mentioned publications (Wangari Maathai, Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, The Women Soldiers of Dahomey, Njinga Mbandi); first edition: 5,000 copies each;
- The UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison office produced in 2015 three short films focusing on three African female students highlighting the use of the platform in three East African countries (Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya). These films have been selected by the MY HERO International Film Festival, whose objective is to use media, art and technology to celebrate the best of humanity and a culture of peace.



How to Get Involved and Learn more

Check out the platform at:

http://en.unesco.org/womeninafrica/

 Contact UNESCO for further inquiries regarding the uptake of the tool and creation of additional modules in your country:

Sasha Rubel, s.rubel@unesco.org

