



MOLIBA MAKAZI

(OR HOW, ALTHOUGH TIMES ARE DIFFICULT, WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR GOAL IF WE ROW TOGETHER)

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is unfortunately known for the armed conflict that has plagued the eastern part of the country for almost two decades, for being the worst country in the world to be a woman and for being at the bottom of the Human Development Index the UNDP publishes annually, for the brutal conflict that has already claimed the lives of over 5,000,000 people, a conflict in which sexual violence against women is used as a war strategy.

But there is a country, and even more importantly a population, beyond these figures, a population capable of local development. It is a country where people, surrounded by what we call dehumanisation borders, can look to the future, dream about building a different Congo and fight tirelessly to make it possible. This broader and more positive view of the country is what we reflect in the file that you have in your hands.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is, according to the constitution adopted in 2006, an independent, single and indivisible, democratic and secular state with its capital in Kinshasa. This immense country, one of the largest in Africa, surpassed only by Algeria, borders the Central African Republic, Sudan (South), Zambia, Angola, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania, Republic of the Congo and Angola. With a total population of 69 million people, it is the fourth most populous country in Africa. The currency is the Congolese franc and the official language is French. There are four other national languages: Lingala, Swahili, Tshiluba and Kikongo.

As mentioned, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the second largest country in Africa and has extremely diverse landscapes: from the savannah in the south to the mountains and Africa's Great Lakes, which many claim are the most beautiful lakes in the world. Not to mention the rainforest, the largest in the world after the Amazon. It is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world, with several national parks, five of which have been named UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Sadly, because of the war, UNESCO has also listed these parks as endangered.

The country is also home to diverse plants and wildlife. Some of the species that live in the DRC are extremely rare or even unique to the country, such as the oapi, the mountain gorilla (made famous in "Gorillas in the Mist"), the bonobo, the common chimpanzee and the Congo peafowl.

*The cultural issues in the DRC are as diverse as its nature. There are close to **250 ethnic groups** and an estimated **242 languages** spoken.*

Several artists in the country have made a name for themselves by focusing on the country's issues and the desire to build a different country and serve as cultural inspiration for bringing to light and condemning the situation in eastern Congo. To cite a few examples, there are painters like Cheri Cherin, who exhibited at the Guggenheim in 2006, performance artist Julie Djikey who uses her performances to condemn and fight against pollution, sculptor Freddy Tsimba, who tries to call attention to the country's situation with his sculptures, and the dance group Kpou Ambitiri, the members of whom fled from the war and make a living by performing their traditional dances. There are also several artists in the eastern part of the country who have join forces to sing and dance for peace.

We would like to conclude with the message from a song by sailors on the Uele River. Sung as a lullaby, it reflects the spirit of the TLC campaign¹:

Legend has it that the fishermen went out in their boat and when they returned with empty boats, they decided to sail somewhere else while singing songs to invoke the god Kasai. But the current was too strong, they couldn't sail against it, and decided to invoke King Benguela, known for mediating with the spirits of the ancestors.

The song expresses that, even when things are difficult, even if there are no fish and the current is overpowering, if we row together, if we row together, we can achieve our goal.

¹ www.tecnologialibredeconflicto.org

ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

MOLIBA MAKAZI

Objective: to raise awareness about the power of art for overcoming difficulties.

Proposal 1: Molimba Makazi song

The topic dealt with throughout the campaign is a tough one that affects everyone. We want to use this activity to raise awareness about the calming power of music in times of difficulty. Music is a source of strength and inspiration to keep on going, to bring about change.

Participants are invited to form a circle and sit on their chairs or on the floor with their eyes closed. They are asked to sit quietly and comfortably and to focus on their breathing. The exercise is done in two parts.

In the first, the group watches the campaign trailer, a moving video that brings the harsh reality in the country to life. Participants write down a feeling the video evoked.

In the second, the song Molimba Makazi is played and participants are asked to focus on their breathing and listen to the sounds, music, voices, etc.

After the song, the participants are asked to write down a word that expresses what they are feeling. To close, participants are encouraged to share the change, if they feel calmer, more positive. The activity ends with the story behind the song.

Materials:

- ⇒ Songs from the Baobab CD
- ⇒ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhSHmx9o4Kg>
- ⇒ CD player, also a computer with speakers and internet connection also works








Proposal 2:

For groups that are not used to working with their feelings, find information about the artists mentioned in the sheet and have the group choose one of the artist's works to display or exhibit. Create an exhibition with all the works, setting up an empty box next to each along with paper and pens so that people who visit the exhibition can write down their interpretation of the work, or the feelings that it generates, and then drop it anonymously in the box.

Materials:

- ⇒ Pens
- ⇒ Empty boxes
- ⇒ Display items

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

-  **Songs from the Baobab: African Lullabies & Nursery Rhymes:** <http://editorialkokinos.com/canciones-infantiles-y-nanas-del-baobab/>
-  **Because i am happy:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fq1uN2jbPIg>
-  **Stop the war:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOhG0BifURE#t=55>
-  **Information on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Documents/FichasPais/CONGOKINSHASA_FICHA%20PAIS.pdf
-  **About Kinshasha's new cultural scene:** http://www.nationalgeographic.com.es/articulo/ng_magazine/reportajes/8765/kinshasa_pulso_urbano_del_congo.html#gallery-15
-  **Moliba Makazi's videos:** https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=moliba+makasi
-  **Moliba Makazi's coreografy:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLBxC4u__4

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