



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions



**ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHECAIRES,
ARCHIVISTES, DOCUMENTALISTES
MUSEOGRAPHES ET INSTITUTIONS DU
CAMEROUN**

BSLA CAMEROUN ABADCAM



COUNTRY PRESENTATION

- **Cameroon** is situated in Central Africa, at juncture of the Gulf of Guinea. It is bounded on the North by Chad, on the East by the Central Africa Republic, on the South by Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea and on the West by Nigeria.
- Cameroon is a country with several major towns, amongst which are YAOUNDE, the political capital of the country with about one million inhabitants. DOUALA, which is the major economic city, has more than two million inhabitants. The other main towns are GAROUA, BAFOUSSAM, MAROUA, BAMENDA etc.
- **POPULATION**
Cameroon has more than 240 tribes which are found in three main ethnic groups; Bantus, Semi-Bantus and Sudanese. The number of national languages spoken in the country is more than 240. The most notable tribes are:
BANTUS: Beti, Bassa, Bakundu, Maka, Douala, Pygmies.....
SEMI-BANTUS: Bamileke, Gbaya, Bamoun, Tikar.....
SUDANESE: Fulbe, Mafa, Toupouri, Shoa-Arabs, Moundang, Massa, Mousgoum....
- **LANGUAGES**
French and English are the official languages, which are spoken by 70% and 30% of the population respectively. Spanish and German are equally spoken by a few city-dwellers.





BSLA Project Goals

) Project goals

To revive the association and provide new opportunities for members; To revise vision and mission of the association; To develop strategic plan including our goals for a more transparent association. To establish linkages with stakeholders To be more visible and to partner with the Ministry of Culture, to have a say on how libraries can be developed.

BSLA will help ABADCAM to become more active after many years of being dormant, and serve as an example to other Francophone countries in Africa and Central Africa. They aim to provide new opportunities for involvement for members, create a vision and strategy for a more transparent association.

The association aims to be more visible and to partner with the Ministry of Culture to have a say in how libraries are developed.

They also aim to begin to change the mindset of librarians in Cameroon to begin to increase the level of professional skill and thinking, by providing professional development activities.





Success Stories

b) Success story

During the Programme, we have succeeded in bringing together all the factions of professionals around the country to one strong and united national association, ABADCAM. A short illustration: In Buea a public library was about to close because of the poor performance of the director. A colleague working in this library and who had attended the first BSLA workshop took inspiration from the strategic plan technique and, with some of his colleagues, presented an action plan which was highly appreciated by the hierarchy. Today, the library is safe.





OUR GREATEST CHALLENGE

- The mission of Abadcam is to develop and to be useful to its members in relation with their professional practices in the field of library and information sciences archivist and museography and to engage in the management of relation between the strategic partners, communities and the association.
- The vision of abadcam is poised to bring together all professional of library and information sciences and techniques who are determined to build strong and sustainable leading association oriented towards a true information society pledge to the development of Cameroon and the sub region
- One of the main challenges of ABADCAM is to provide training to members such as refresher courses in any



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Challenges: and how we are addressing them

- The follow up of the LIS activities all over the country through our focal points.





We offer the library community in our country:

- From the disparity of the offer in the field of libraries archives documentation centres and museums the quality of the staff and our conversations with customers, partners and stakeholders all show that ABADCAM can provide the greatest impact in Cameroon over the next three years through meeting the increasing demand for professional in library and information science. We will use this association to build trust and engagement for librarian and information professional, by changing perceptions of the profession, influencing development agendas in regard to the field, building skills capacity and bringing about institutional.





The future of the association and libraries in our country

- ABADCAM wants to be recognised as the leading authority on library and information sciences providing high quality innovative and value for money services to its members and partners as building capacity.
- As part of this perception we need our target actions and audiences to see that our offer is a more than just a set of library and information sciences provider- it is a vehicle for cultural dialogue and long- term mutually beneficial engagement between the members and all Cameroonian and other countries. In the sub region relevant across the private. Government and civil society sectors.
- We want to increase significantly the number of people reached whilst maintaining the quality of engagement.
- We want to reduce our dependence on the grant by developing as much of our offer as possible around a cost recovery model. And we want to be seen as highly professional in everything we do. Both on and (increasingly) off-site.



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