

Project Proposal

The Kujilana Project will be a feature-length, broadcast-quality documentary filmed by American and African hands which investigates the socio-spiritual aspects of African development in rural Mozambique.

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Prepared for:

Potential Supporter

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Executive Summary

Story

The Yao people of Nomba Village will be the primary focus of the documentary, but other subjects will include foreign development efforts in the cities of Pemba, Mozambique; Nampula, Mozambique, Maputo, Mozambique; and Johannesburg, South Africa. The story will follow four filmmakers who trek through these cities en route to Nomba Village where a pair of American families runs a resource center called Malo Ga Kujilana, which means “Place of Reconciliation” in the local tongue. Once there, the filmmaking team will work with MGK in hosting a Day of Health featuring Massukos, an internationally renowned musical group addressing African poverty. This event will be followed by accompanying interested locals into the bush to gather stories from elders who remember a time predating the Portuguese Colonial War and Mozambique’s Civil War. The interview footage will be played for the entire village, as a means of restoring the community with pre-war memories. The Kujilana Team will teach the locals basic camera techniques and gradually grow their skills towards self-sufficiency. This transfer of the camera from foreign to local hands will result in a joint-documentary unlike any before. The Kujilana Project aims to empower the Yao to tell African stories to African audiences through a new medium which spans the literacy gap, the digital divide and the Yao’s disconnect with their pre-war past. In asking “what is true development?”, the Kujilana Project hopes to have a spiritual conversation emphasizing people over programs. Long-term, this means leaving behind the resources, equipment and skills necessary to supply a local video library, managed by MGK.

Context

Mozambique ousted Portuguese colonizers in 1975 after 10 years of guerilla warfare. Threatened by an independent black nation, the white-ruled nations of South Africa and Rhodesia destabilized the country by arming rebel groups in Central Mozambique. The country disintegrated into civil war in 1977. 15 years and one million casualties later, a peace treaty ended the conflict. Since then, Mozambique has made considerable economic strides, but floods, droughts, malaria, poverty and landmines leftover from the war still belea-ger the country. In many ways, war has monopolized Mozambiquan memory.

The Yao radiate from a central peak (Mt. Yao) into three countries: Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. Most of the Yao in Mozambique are concentrated in a northern province called Niassa, where road access, communication technology and industry are limited. Consequently, the Yao are primarily subsistence farmers of beans, corn, cassava, bananas and peanuts. The Yao live in economic poverty, due largely to illiteracy, malaria and a culture of helplessness. Religiously, the Yao practice Islam, which they adopted over 200 years ago to escape the slave trade through religious loopholes. Today, the Yao practice folk Islam, which is a peaceful blend of Islam and African animism.

Project Impact

Audience

The Kujilana Team will submit the final festivals and select production companies in an effort to establish official distribution. Target audiences include those interested in supporting, learning about, or participating in:

1. Creative Sub-Saharan development
2. Social empowerment through media
3. Harding University's Global Missions Outreach internships
4. An examination of the broadening definition of the Biblical "neighbor" in a globalized context

Motives

Kujilana means reconciliation in Yao. The Kujilana Project believes that film specifically offers Africans a unique medium with which to reconcile themselves to the developed world. The global diffusion of 21st-century technology will empower Africans in a new way: by giving them ownership of their own image. Post-colonial African has been defined by disease, poverty and civil war, but now the coupling of African initiative with foreign aid is cultivating holistic renewal through empowerment. Responsibility rests not only with despotic rulers and ex-imperialist powers but also with Western journalism. Subscribing to the worn principle if it bleeds, it leads, Western media has presented a two-dimensional Africa, defined by smoke, flies, blood and swollen bellies. Harsh realities exist in Africa, but in environments riddled with conflict, hunger, powerlessness and despair, there are stories of survival and hope. The joint-documentary will reconcile the chronically negative images emanating from Africa with positive images of ingenuity, resilience and courage. The rudiments of the film library will foster community by giving the Yao access to a global voice, reconciliation and even entrepreneurship. Through film, the Kujilana Project will celebrate the common denominators among us all: stories, struggle and hope.

Goals

By putting cameras in local hands, the Kujilana Project will

1. equip the Yao to be local storytellers on a global stage
2. capture positive images of a Muslim culture for the West which associates it with violence
3. emphasize the necessity of spiritual development in conjunction with other forms
4. publicize MGK as an example of creative, holistic and sustainable development
5. shoot a feature-length, broadcast-quality documentary to be distributed stateside
6. leave behind the rudiments for a video library, which MGK will expand

Project Calendar

Date	Task
June 9	Atlanta > Johannesburg, South Africa
June 11 - June 12	Acclimation in Johannesburg; interviews TBA
June 13	Johannesburg > Pemba, Mozambique
June 14 - June 15	Acclimation in Pemba; interviews TBA
June 16	Pemba > Nampula, Mozambique
June 17 - June 23	Working and filming in Nampula; Shawn Gardner host
June 24	Nampula > Mandimba, Mozambique
June 25 - July 2	Working and filming in Mandimba; the Cowleys host
July 3	Mandimba > Nomba Village, Mozambique
July 3 - July 10	Cameras indoors; meet the village
July 11	Massukos benefit concert; Day of Health
July 12 - July 18	Collecting stories in the bush; working with locals
July 18 - July 19	Editing footage
July 20	Premier footage in Nomba Village
July 21- July 30	Lay groundwork for video library
July 31	Lichinga > Johannesburg > Atlanta

*Dates and locations are subject to change.

Project Budget

Funds for airfare, immunizations, food and lodging have been allocated by the Kujilana Team via individual fundraising through Harding University's Global Missions Outreach Program. Upon project completion, all equipment will be used for future film and development projects by the Kujilana Team. Funds accumulated beyond the estimated budget total will be, upon donor's review, either regained by the donor or furthered to the Kujilana Project fund. Figures listed below represent technology and PR materials.

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
Sony HVRA1U C-MOS 1080i HDV Camcorder	1	\$2,999.00	\$2,999.00
Canon Vixia HV30 HDV Camcorder	1	\$899.00	\$899.00
LaCie 2TB External USB 2.0 Hard Drive	1	\$199.95	\$199.95
Provista 7518 Tripod w/ Head	1	\$299.95	\$299.95
Videomate 607 Tripod w/ Quick Release Plate	1	\$71.90	\$71.90
Shure MX184 Lavalier Condenser Microphone	1	\$179.95	\$179.95
Shure 2-pack Single Mic Tie Clips	1	\$32.95	\$32.95
Shure 4-pack Windscreens	1	\$14.95	\$14.95
Sony ECM-673 Short Condenser Shotgun Mic	1	\$310.00	\$310.00
Audio Technica 20' XLR cable	1	\$21.95	\$21.95
Rycote 12cm Small Hole Softie	1	\$110.00	\$110.00
Sony DVM-63HD MiniDV 63min Video Tape (5-pack)	3	\$34.35	\$103.05
Sony DVM-60PRR MiniDV 60min Video Tape	200	\$2.05	\$410.00
Flexfill Collapsible Reflector 38" Circular	1	\$71.95	\$71.95
Final Cut Express 4.0	1	\$199.99	\$199.99
Apple LED Cinema Display (24" flat panel)	1	\$799.99	\$799.99
Promotional materials	NA	\$300.00	\$300.00
Media kit materials	15	\$10.00	\$150.00
1 year Web Domain at HostMonster.com	1	\$71.40	\$71.40

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
Film Festival Fees	10	\$50.00	\$500.00
Hosa Angled 1/8 in. Stereo to Female XLR Cable	1	\$8.95	\$8.95
Audio Technica 10' XLR cable	2	\$14.95	\$29.90
Lowepro Edit 120 Camera Shoulder Bag	1	\$24.95	\$24.95
Petrol PMCCB1 Compact Camcorder Bag	1	\$159.99	\$159.99
Sony NP-QM71D Info-Lithium Battery Pack	3	\$64.95	\$194.85
Canon BP-2L14 Battery Pack	3	\$54.95	\$164.85
Olympus VN-5200PC Digital Voice Recorder	1	\$59.95	\$59.95
Engerizer AAA Lithium 4-pack	1	\$9.58	\$9.58
Pentax DA 55-300 F/4-5.8 ED Zoom Lens	1	\$399.99	\$399.99
Sakar Digital P-TTL Flash for Pentax	1	\$229.99	\$229.99
		Contingency	\$971.02
			\$10,000.00

*Products and prices are subject to change.

Project Recommendations

Jim Miller, Ph. D. Instructor of Journalism, Harding University

Storytelling is at the heart of every culture. Societies need storytellers to preserve their history, to inform their present and to enhance their future. Journalists are some of the world's greatest storytellers. And good journalists understand that the best stories usually are told from the perspective of the people involved. That's the exciting purpose of the Kujilana Project. By handing cameras to African natives, the Kujilana Project will empower the Yao of Mozambique to tell their own story — and that story will be more accurate, more insightful and more compelling than any documentary recorded from a non-native perspective. It's an innovative idea. It's an idea that can change the way the world sees the Yao. And it's an idea that can change the way the Yao see themselves. As a journalist, the Kujilana Project is an effort I can support because it represents storytelling at its finest.

Monte Cox, Ph. D. Dean of the College of Bible and Religion, Harding University

"Sustainability," "empowerment," "capacity building" - these are all buzz words in development these days, in both secular and Christian circles. They describe the kind of partnership in which people from one culture work alongside those in another culture as equals. In the exchange, everyone benefits. When the foreign partners return to their homeland, they leave behind a project or ministry that is indigenous; that is, locally owner and operated. The Kujilana Project was conceived to contribute to that sense of ownership among the Yao people of Mozambique who are partners with Kyle and Ginger Holton, founders of the non-profit Malo Ga Kujilana (MGK) project. Four creative students with servant hearts and technical video/photojournalism skills have imagined a way to put story-telling tools in the hands of local Yao people themselves, people who need no training in how to tell a story, but who could use the help to deliver the message of reconciliation in their own words to wider audience through film. I commend them to you for whatever assistance you can provide.

Contact Information

Covenant Fellowship Church will provide oversight for tax-deductible funds for the Kujilana Project. The best way to reach the Kujilana Team is through email.

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