

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Less than 2 weeks left to celebrate African Food in the Wiki Loves Africa photographic contest and win smartphones

Cape Town, 18th November 2014 –

On the 1st October the international Wiki Loves Africa (wikilovesafrica.org) photographic contest launched across Africa (and beyond). Since its launch, there have been 2,400 photographic entries and many food-related events have been held in Uganda, Egypt, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, Ethiopia, Tunisia and South Africa, with more events, presentations, upload marathons, cook-offs and food walkabouts planned towards the end of the contest.

There are still 2 weeks of the competition to run. The competition will close on Sunday, the 30th of November 2014.

Wiki Loves Africa (wikilovesafrica.org) is an international competition where people can celebrate the diversity, richness and complexity of this continent we live on. The competition was started to encourage people from all walks of life to contribute images of Africa to Wikipedia, the least covered of any of the regions on Wikipedia.

Competitors enter by taking photographs, video or audio related to that year's universal theme and entering it into the competition. There is a specific focus on encouraging people from the continent to enter images of their daily lives, but the competition is open to people from around the world. All entries are donated to Wikimedia Commons with the intention of being used to illustrate relevant existing articles or as a basis to begin new articles on Wikipedia and other project websites of the Wikimedia Foundation. The images donated are also available for use on the internet and beyond, under a free Creative Commons license.

For the first Wiki Loves Africa competition in 2014 the chosen theme is Cuisine.

This universal, yet culturally-specific theme encapsulates all that is glorious and challenging about our continent. The competition offers the ability for anyone to contribute to a greater global understanding of Africa and its complexity. Cuisine presents a visually rich, evocative subject matter that establishes identity and enables understanding.

The competition accepts any media that is related to the production and consumption of food from across the continent, including the foods, dishes, crops, husbandry, culinary art, cooking methods, utensils, food markets, festivals, culinary events, famine food and any other issues that are related to cuisine on the African continent. You can view the images that have been uploaded on this page:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Images_from_Wiki_Loves_Africa_2014

The international jury is made up of professionals from different locations (South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, France, United Kingdom and Tunisia) and across disciplines that range from professional photographer to veteran Wikipedians, to the vice-principal of an internationally renowned cooking school. The jury will select the best of the entries based on their relevance, photographic skill and ability to convey the subject matter clearly to a curious audience.

To raise interest in the competition and to create individual 'ownership' of the competition, Wiki Loves Africa has started a crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo to raise money for prizes. You can access this campaign here: <http://www.indiegogo.com/project/preview/92a2b9a3>

The prizes for the contest have been selected and will be the following ones:

- 1st prize: Smartphone Galaxy note 4 + An Africa-published cookbook + Wiki Loves Africa t-shirt + print of the participant winning picture
- 2nd prize: Smartphone + An Africa-published cookbook + Wiki Loves Africa t-shirt + print of the 2nd prize picture
- 3rd prize: US\$200 Amazon gift + An Africa-published cookbook + Wiki Loves Africa t-shirt + print of the 3rd prize picture
- Jury Prize: US\$200 Amazon gift voucher + Wiki Loves Africa t-shirt + print of the Jury Prize

The international Wiki Loves Africa competition is organised by the Wikimedia community that created Wikipedia, the free online encyclopaedia, and built the free media archive Wikimedia Commons. Wiki Loves Africa is supported by [WikiAfrica](#) at the [Africa Centre](#) and is funded by the [Wikimedia Foundation](#) and [Foundation Orange](#).

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Useful links:

Websites:

www.wikilovesafrica.org

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Wiki_Loves_Africa_2014

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WikiLovesAfrica

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wikilovesafrica>

Indiegogo Campaign: <http://www.indiegogo.com/project/preview/92a2b9a3>

Media release by the Africa Centre

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NOTES FOR THE EDITOR:

The Competition Rules

- All photos must be taken by the person submitting them. They can be either self-uploaded or uploaded during a registered mass upload session.
- Upload is done in October and November 2014 only. But you can enter media that was taken at any time, even historical photographs, as long as you own the copyright on these photographs.
- All entries will have the following licence: Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 (CC-BY-SA 3.0). Read more about the Creative Commons licences [here](#).
- All eligible pictures will be categorised under Wiki Loves Africa 2014, this will be automatically assigned during the upload process.
- Participants should enable e-mail on Wikimedia Commons to be eligible for prizes.

Local Organising Teams in the Focus Countries

To contact the focus country local teams, [please click here](#).

The Competition Jury

Pierre Beaudoin

Pierre Yves Beaudouin has been a wikipedian for over 5 years and is the former president of Wikimedia France. Based in Paris, his work is mainly about sports photography and the funerary art of the Pere Lachaise Cemetary. Contact: pierre.beaudouin@wikimedia.fr

Habib M'henni

Long time Wikipedian and Wikimedian, amateur photographer, and contributor to Wikimedia Commons. Habib is very actively involved in Wikimedia Tunisia User Group. Contact: <http://about.me/habibmhenni>

Mike Peel

Mike is a postdoctoral Researcher at Jodrell Bank as well as an astronomer and a wikipediaian. He co-funded Wikimedia UK. Contact: www.mikepeel.net

Pierre-Selim Huard

Long time Wikipedian and Wikimedian, an engineer in green aviation development but also a dedicated amateur photographer. Pierre-Selim contributes high quality pictures to Wikimedia Commons in topics such as sports, museum items and cultural heritage monuments. He was also a jury member on the Wiki Loves Monument contest.

Contact: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:PierreSelim>

Paul Sika

Paul Sika is an autodidact artist and a trained software engineer born in Ivory Coast. Exposed to animation and video games while a child, Paul Sika discovers in high school a passion for computer programming through scientific calculators. The most beautiful projects will be the adaptations on calculator of flagship games of the time such as Pokémon and Zelda. After a Bachelor degree in Software Engineering at the University of Westminster, London, UK as well as the study of techniques of Cinema, he develops a photographic technique called Photomaking, a fusion of photography and filmmaking, described in 2007 as “a new form of art” by Olympus User Magazine UK. Paul Sika’s work is available at www.PaulSika.com

Carianne Wilkinson

Carianne Wilkinson is the Vice-President of Silwood School of Cookery in Cape Town, South Africa. Founded by Lesley Faull in 1964, Silwood is South Africa’s oldest cookery school. It has, over the past 50 years, earned itself a world-class reputation and graduates can be found in top kitchens around the world. Carianne is an accredited South African Chefs Association judge, and has also been a San Pellegrino World’s 50 Best Restaurants judge. Find more at <http://www.silwood.co.za/>

About WikiAfrica

The WikiAfrica project is an international collaboration that redresses the imbalance of factual heritage and cultural knowledge about Africa on Wikipedia by promoting a new approach to knowledge that is fully-inclusive, mainstream and intercultural. Its mission is to assist and support the growth of Wikipedia as a free and open encyclopaedia that provides greater access to Africa’s wealth of contemporary and historical realities.

www.wikiafrica.net

About the Wikimedia Foundation

The [Wikimedia Foundation](http://www.wikimediafoundation.org), Inc. is the [nonprofit](#) charitable organisation that is [dedicated](#) to encouraging the growth, development and distribution of [free](#), multilingual, educational content, and to providing the full content of these [wiki](#)-based projects to the public free of charge. The Wikimedia Foundation operates some of the [largest collaboratively edited reference projects](#) in the world, including [Wikipedia](#), a top-ten internet property.

<https://wikimediafoundation.org>

About the Orange Foundation

The Orange Foundation's mission is to create links between individuals, and in particular to make communication easier for those who are excluded for several reasons; health, handicap or because of their economical situation. By fighting against sensory isolation, by promoting a better autonomy in the everyday life and in the professional life and by encouraging social and cultural development, the Orange Foundation is mobilised to make the world more accessible. <http://www.fondationorange.com>

About the Africa Centre

The Africa Centre is both a physical entity and ongoing philosophical journey that explores how Pan-African cultural practice can be a catalyst for social change.

The Africa Centre operates in the belief that creativity and innovation are powerful tools that: manifest what otherwise would only sit in our imaginations; release new ideas and make them freely accessible; and ensure that people living on this soil can define for themselves what is possible and what their reality looks like.

These beliefs are brought to life through a range of programmes in various countries as well as online. Current programmes include the [Artists in Residency](#), [Badilisha Poetry X-Change](#), [Everyday African Urbanism](#), [Infecting The City](#), [Talking Heads](#), and [WikiAfrica](#). All of the projects celebrate and explore what it means to be in Africa today and what is conceivable for 21st-century Africans.

<http://www.africacentre.net>