

A large, diverse crowd of people, including many children, is gathered for a festival. In the foreground, several children are smiling and waving their hands. A woman in the center wears a yellow knitted hat and sunglasses. The background shows a busy street with buildings and a colorful umbrella.

AMANI FESTIVAL

- Goma, DR Congo, 14-15-16th of February 2014 -



PLAYING FOR CHANGE, SINGING FOR PEACE

Under the High Patronage of Maman Olive Lembe Kabila, First Lady of the DR Congo



”

*Music and Dance Festival
that aims to be a source
of Peace and Reconciliation
to all inhabitants
of the Great Lakes Region*

“





CONTENT

1. Forewords	01
Forewords of Eric de Lamotte, Organizer of the Festival	
2. Context	03
Geopolitical context of the city of Goma	
3. Why «Amani Festival»	04
Grounds for the Festival	
4. Program	05
• International artists • Local and Regional artists • Traditional groups, Kwa Kesho Bora	
5. Technical Questions	09
Crowd, place, price, schedule	
6. In the long run	10
The Festival in the long run	
7. Sponsors	11
• Rawbank, Vodacom, Brasimba • UE, USA, PNUD, Affaires Etrangères belges, Shenimed • OIM, Groupe Orgaman, WBI, Kinshop, Ihusi Hotel, Jambo Safari, SN Brussels, TMK, Bolloré, Africalia	
8. Partners	12
• Monusco, Ville de Goma, Foyer Culturel de Goma, Kivu Travel, C'Comeve, Les Francofolies de Kinshasa, Positive Production, UN Volontaires	
9. Contact	13



> FOREWORDS

The contrast between the Wealth of Kivu and the precarious conditions in which its inhabitants have been living for more than 20 years is alarming! This region, which should be a veritable paradise, has been destroyed for too long by wars, interethnic issues, and by systematic looting of its wealth by national and international interests.

Entire villages and their populations have been massacred, children recruited as soldiers, women raped and sexually tortured, the environment devastated, natural resources looted without any benefit for local population or the State.

*The Congolese population is thirsty for peace
and a new atmosphere that promotes
common interests and universal well-being.*

Victims of this crisis want to become actors of peace for the region. Youth and women want to commit themselves to becoming builders of a new future – one that will fulfill their ambitions and dreams of greatness and peace. The Congolese population is thirsty for peace and a new atmosphere that promotes common interests and universal well-being.

To this end, we seek to promote peace and reconciliation, in cooperation and sponsorship of the Foyer Culturel de Goma, by ways of a unifying, international music festival.

We hope it will also bring international interest on the region. This festival is a means to gather through culture and to wake up national and international conscious in order to change the current dismal situation.

In the end, we hope this festival inspires a visionary politic in favor of sustainable development and well-being for the whole population.

Eric de Lamotte, organizer of the Festival AMANI



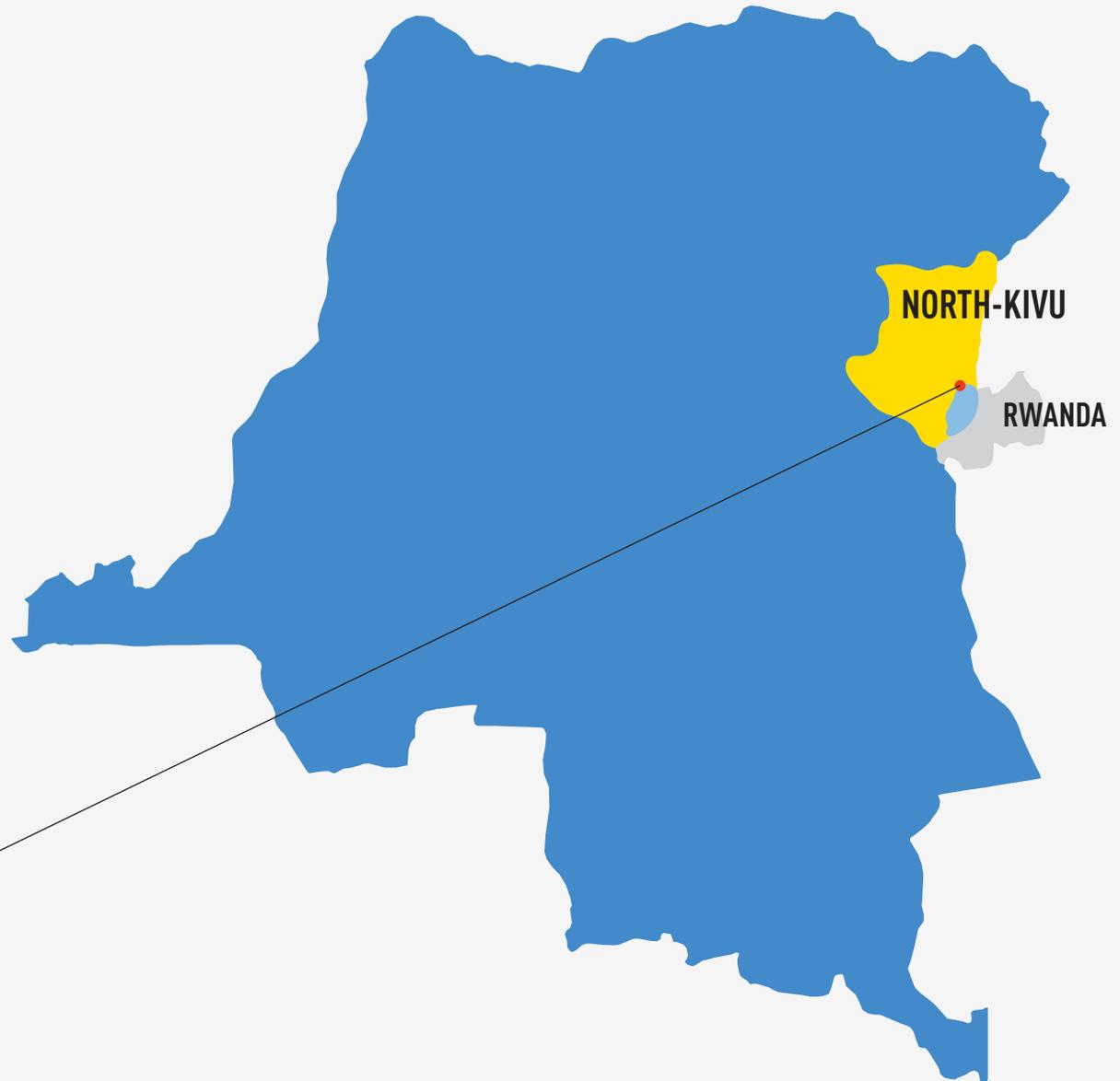


DR CONGO



GOMA

- Capital of the North-Kivu
- + 1 000 000 inhabitants





> GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT OF THE CITY OF GOMA

Legend: The term “GOMA” is the deformation of the Swahilli traditional term “NGOMA” which means “drum”. This “drum” refers to the drumming sound of an eruption from volcano.

Thus, the proximity to this volcano, and thus the sound that it made, is the reason the current day city of Goma has its name.

Goma is the capital of the North Kivu province of Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The city is located near the border of Rwanda and has more than 1 million inhabitants. Located at approximately 1.500 meters in altitude in the Rift valley, Goma is the capital of the North Kivu province. The city is built on the north shore of Kivu Lake. The city is built on the ancient lava flows of Nyiragongo volcano and the Virungas volcano chain, found about 2.000 meters above and at 20 km north of it. In 2002, during the last eruption of the volcano, the lava devastated 1/3 of Goma.

Since 1994 and the Rwandese genocide, this region continues to be at the intersection of multiple humanitarian catastrophes: massif population displacement, slaughter and rape, the Kivu wars, ethnical confrontations, and volcano eruptions.

All of this supported and aggravated by the greed of international and national actors, in order to control the mining resources of this wealthy region. In spite of all its resources, Goma has not yet recovered and the majority of its population keeps on living in precarious conditions.

In addition, with the recent events that have perturbed this region in the DR of Congo, and among others, the invasion of the M23 rebels, repetitive looting and rapes, it has been another hard hit for the population of Goma.

This region is full of breathtaking places with fertile and well watered ground, numerous and dynamic populations, resourceful subsoil, and dreamlike landscape. Far from the paradise that it should be, Eastern DRC is today a place where the population is the only loser of those conflicts. Indeed, those wars forbid a good management of the region resources in favor of the population.





> WHY AMANI?

In Swahili, the term “Amani” means “Peace”. To this end, we wish that the festival becomes a means of uniting people. The realization of this Festival, open to all the peoples of the Great Lake region and gathering international artists as well as artists representative of the different ethnic groups of the region, will be a federal element of peace, reconciliation and a way to bring international attention on this beautiful region where the population, in majority youth, has been sacrificed for too long.



« *Playing for Change, Singing for Peace* »

“Playing for Change, Singing for Peace” is the slogan of the festival, as we believe that culture, through its gathering effect, can be a driver of change toward a new society. This change will only come with peace, union and sharing.

> MAIN ASPECTS

Amani Festival clearly wants to clearly be apolitical:

- ▶ The music for its power of reconciliation and engaged through topics treated by the artists
- ▶ The awareness of Peace and of the “learning to live together”.
- ▶ The gift of one’s art in favor of a great and right cause as it is a non-profit event.





> PROGRAM

For its inauguration, the festival will take place in Goma for 3 days, from February 14 to February 16 2014.

We will welcome great international artists, nine local artists selected by the Foyer Culturel de Goma among dozens of groups from Rwanda, Burundi and DRC, as well as traditional dance groups representative of the different ethnic groups of the region.

We will take advantage of this event to showcase the work done by different associations and NGO that regularly intervene on the field.

Therefore, we will offer a space entirely dedicated to them and that we will call "Kwa Kesho Bora" meaning "For a Better Tomorrow" in Swahili.

> INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS





> LEXXUS LEGAL

Born Alex Dende, Lexus Legal is a Congolese rapper and member of the "PNB" (Pensée Nègre Brut), a group from Kinshasa created in 1999.

While other musician artists of this period would sing love and Sape (love for cloths) songs, Lexus starts early with socio-political themes that will give him the mark of an engaged and artist activist for people's rights.

He became the icon of the Congolese hip hop. This will also enable him to impose his rap with very direct texts on international scenes.

He was twice nominated as best Congolese hip hop artist in DRC (2010-2011) and will receive the prize of the African Renaissance (Hip hop Award, Senegal 2010).

Lexus is today the icon of the Congolese hip hop and the respected voice in the African hip hop landscape.



> INNOCENT BALUME AKA INNOSS'B

BALUME Innocent Didace aka Inno's'B was born on the May 5 1997 in Goma, in DRC where he has been evolving up to now.

His first steps do not come from yesterday as since age 6, he joined his brothers in the Maisha Soul group.

At the age of 7, his group got its first opportunity to record a song "Another way" where Inno's' B showed for the first time his talent of singer.

At 10, he won the special price of "Revelation 2007" in an annual demonstration in the province called "Fotogo".

Through his talent of great singer and dancer inspired by the legendary king of pop Michael Jackson, Innocent Balume won in 2010 the "Vodacom Superstar Congo" competition and realized later a featuring with Akon, the American superstar originated from Senegal.



> LOKUA KANZA

Lokua Kanza was born in 1958 in Bukavu, DRC. He studied music in the Conservatoire of Kinshasa, and in 1980, aged 22, became guitarist of the queen Abeti, superstar in his country.

After three years in Côte d'Ivoire, he arrived in Paris in 1984 and became the guitarist of Ray Léma and works with Sixun and Papa Wemba.

In 1991, he sang with Manu Dibango and in 1992, he gave his first concert in the opening act of Angélique Kidjo at the Olympia.

In 1993 its first album was released, "Eponyme", was a great success and brought him in a tour around the entire world. "Plus vivant" is his fifth album, is entirely sung in French and has 15 titles of diverse influences, mixing the artist's African background and the Rimbaud language.

> LOCAL AND REGIONAL ARTISTS

Local and regional artists were selected during the weekend events called "SANAA WEEK-END"! The selection was open to all, which enabled the promotion of culture as well as interethnic encounters. We had participants from the DR of Congo but also from Burundi and Rwanda.

PINOCHET (Goma)

Out of his Church choir, Pinochet took music for his passion and trimmed his career in the RNB both in French and Swahili.

FAL-J (Goma)

Masimango Fabrice, originally from Bukavu, work now in Goma, performing in solo and becoming very famous in the Swahili hip hop.

MARABEN (Goma)

Passionate by rap and discovered by the Centre Culturel, Maraben pursues today his journey in rap and hip hop.

TONTON LUSAMBO (Goma)

"Tonton" is originated from the oriental province of Isiro. Although inspired by his father, he stands out also in rap and French RnB.

MAGURU



PINOCHET



ALBERT KULU



FAL-J



BIG FARIOUS



MARABEN



MANI MARTIN



TONTON LUSSAMBO



JESSICA KIIL



MAGURU (Rwanda)

Artist and musician, Maguru was born in Rwanda in 1982. . Above its singing talent, Maguru also plays guitar and piano.

ALBERT KULU (Burundi)

Originally from Bwiza in Burundi, Albert sings and plays with his guitar all the beautiful songs of the moment with a preference for "la musique française".

BIG FARIOUS (Burundi)

Originally from Bwiza in Bujumbura. He is called the king of Burundi music for the new image he has given it.

MANI MARTIN (Rwanda)

Mani Martin was born in 1988. Originally from Rwanda, his musical style is a mix of Afro soul and traditional African music.

JESSICA KIIL (DR Congo)

Jessica Mushosi Kiil is a Congolese singer who lives in Oslo, Norway since 1993. She has so far made four albums and several singles.



> TRADITIONAL GROUPS

It is impossible to dissociate the history of traditional dance and that of its people, of its ethnic identity and of its rhythms.

Dance is a continuation of life and everyday gestures. It is a means to express thoughts and feelings. It is what traditional dance was already thousands of years ago and continues to be in Sub-Saharan African countries.

Every dance must be explained and repositioned in its geographical, historical, ethnic and social context. Within the framework of the Festival we welcome local traditional groups such as Sango Africa, Intore National, Folk Intercommunautaire pour la paix and also Matakio group.

> KWA KESHO BORA

Called Kwa Kesho Bora, a special space will be reserved in the festival enclosure and dedicated to the showcase of the work done by associative organizations (associations, NGO, etc.) present on the territory for a long time to help the population. 40 organizations will be represented.

This space will enable to raise awareness among participants of the festival. Awareness will be raised on questions linked to peace, living together and also linked to essential issues such as AIDS, respect for women and children, good governance, etc.





> CROWD

- More than 12.000 people are expected to come every day – which means close to 40.000 people in total for the three days of the Festival.
-

> PRICE

- The price of an entrance will be \$1.
-

> LOCATION

- The Festival will take place in the Stadium MWANGA, next to the Foyer Culturel of Goma.
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> SCHEDULE

- Concerts will take place from 12pm to 18pm



> THE FESTIVAL IN THE LONG RUN?

The event of 2014 is the first edition of the festival but will certainly not be the only one. The first objective is to make it a big success and gain both national and international attention, as explained above.

The difficulties to find necessary sponsors to finance it are not few but all steps have been taken in the right direction. Partners will be highlighted all along the festival and its preparation.

The objective of the festival in the long term is to last over time, to grow and to become an event that no one would miss in the Congolese and African cultural landscape.

A second edition will be programmed if this “attempt” is transformed in terms of crowd success, of the quality of artists, and of financial results. It is important to note that if the festival gets a profit, the benefit will be given to the growth of the infrastructures of the Foyer Culturel of Goma that will be the hub of the festival.





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> UN VOLUNTEERS

The United Nations Volunteer (UNV) program is the organization of the UN that promotes volunteering to sustain peace and development around the world. Many in the DRC, the volunteers organize all sorts of activities in favor of peace. They are in Goma but also in Kinshasa and actively support the festival.



> POSITIVE PRODUCTION

Positive Production (Events Management/Events Engineering) is a company that organizes events. It is based in Kigali and was founded by Kanobana R. Judo. Positive Production has numerous references: Gaby Kamanzi, Vieux Farka Touré, Ismael Lo, Ikobe, Sean Paul, Shaggy, Kassav, Lokua Kanza, Tumi, and many others.



> KIVU TRAVEL

Kivu Travel is an agency of responsible tourism, specialized in trips to Kivu, in Eastern DRC and in the Great Lakes region. Its objective is to promote this beautiful region and its most welcoming people and to make travelers discover its unique fauna and flora (www.kivutrans.com)



> FOYER CULTUREL DE GOMA

Its objective is to bring artistic responses to social problems that youth of the city have. Trainers of the Foyer teach music dance, vocal arts and percussion to more than 300 youth. The Foyer Culturel de Goma wants to be a place where youth gather around their love for Culture and Peace.



LES FRANCOFOLIES DE KINSHASA

From the Francophonies of Spa (BE), the biggest Belgian festival that takes place in July, the Francophonies of Kinshasa will be organized for the first time in DRC in April 2014! A partnership has been established between the Francophonies and the AMANI Festival to enhance culture in DRC and make a tool for Peace.



> C'COMEVE

C'comeve is a communication and event company based in Kinshasa and managed by Nzi Rwakabuba. C'comeve collaborate on a voluntary basis for the organization of the AMANI Festival and more specifically looks for partners and help with the communication of the Festival in Kinshasa.



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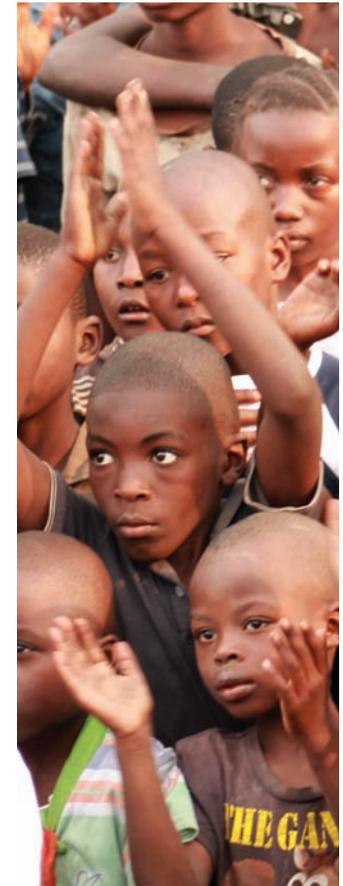
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FOR CHANGE
★ SINGING
FOR PEACE ★

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