

*Establishing a Continental African Academic
Press:
A Strategy for Educational Development and
Cultural Relevance*

A project of the
The Faculty Policy Working Group
American –African Universities Collaborative
The African Presidential Archives and Research Center
Boston University

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1. INTRODUCTION

“There is a great need to develop an indigenous publishing capacity in Africa, but it must be a capacity that is sensitive to the cultural context of this activity. African authors and publishers must aspire to break free from the cultural sphere of northern countries if their publications are to be authentic and effective tools for the better culturing of the minds of the African of tomorrow. Our value systems and ways of life are endangered, and what is offered in their stead is hardly worth copying and is irrelevant if not appropriate. It is incumbent upon African publishers to protect African value systems and ways of life.”

His Excellency Benjamin William Mkapa, *The Cultural Context of Publishing in Africa, Development Dialogue: Journal of International Development Cooperation*, Uppsala: Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, 1997, p. 13

“Out of 123 publisher members of the Publishers Association of South Africa, only twenty-one were headed by a black person at the managing director or Chief Executive Officer level. This in a country where less than 5% of the population (and that 5% mostly white), buys books for purposes other than to pass a school or university exam.

It is no great intellectual leap to draw the conclusion that these demographics exert a form of pressure on the publishing industry to publish white authors for a largely white market.”

Monica Seeber
The International Conference on Books
September 2005

The state of publishing from the African perspective is pernicious and precarious whether with commercial or academic presses; or, on or outside the continent. There are and have been many well-known African publishers and printers, as in Cairo (Al Ahram), Nairobi (The East African Publishing House, once highly celebrated), Johannesburg (the HSRC) and elsewhere.

Many overseas companies have and do operate on the continent.¹

Privately owned companies like Heinemann have always had a strong presence in Africa, as have some university presses like Oxford. Private overseas presses tend to be more concerned with what is of interest to their publics, not with what intrinsically matters to Africa. They encourage African writers, or writers on Africa, to address subjects that may not really matter to Africa, while overlooking others that do.

The university presses tend to be more concerned with simple accuracy and catholicity. So they should be. But they are not especially prone to communicate in an accessible fashion. Material too often remains obscure, inaccessible, costly, and the significance to Africa easily overlooked.

Local publishers in the different capitals on the continent have always tended to cater overwhelmingly to local needs. Their reach is limited.

¹ In a paper entitled *The Development and Future of Publishing in Africa: 12 Years after Arusha* prepared for **The Journal of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation**, Walter Bgoya notes: “The most active transnationals in publishing in Anglophone Africa were Macmillan, Heinemann, Oxford University Press, Nelson Publishers, Evan Brothers and Longman; while the best known state publishing houses were Tanzania Publishing House, Ghana Publishing Corporation, Northern Nigeria Publishing Corporation (all ex-joint ventures with Macmillan), Uganda Publishing House of the Milton Obote Foundation, and the Nation Education Company of Zambia (NECZAM) of the Kenneth Kaunda Foundation. In Kenya there were two active state publishing companies – the Jomo Kenyatta Foundation and the Kenya Literature Bureau, successor to the East African Literature Bureau which broke up following the demise of the East African Community in 1977.

In the francophone countries the most prominent publishing companies were Editions CLE, established in 1963 in Yaunde, Cameroon, and Nouvelles Editions Africaines (NEA), based in Dakar, which was constituted by the states of Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Togo (60 percent) and five French partners (40 percent). ... Well over 40 publishing companies came into existence from 1984 to 1993.”

The bottom-line is that there is relatively very little publishing capacity relevant or relative to Africa. Thus, the ceiling on what there might be is high to the point of invisibility. There are a number of specific benefits that an enhanced continental African academic publishing capacity (or *Continental African Academic Publishing House – CAP*) brings:

- Where CAP makes publishing more relevant than at present, focusing more effectively upon genuine African need, it will both supply and spark growth across all sectors of the trade.
- CAP would boost, not displace, local publishers. A successful CAP would set a remarkable example for local publishers and bring assistance closer to them. Local publishers could in some cases work with CAP; viz., having some of their authors marketed and distributed Africa-wide and abroad.
- The CAP proposal has no parallel. There is no Continental European Press because there is no need. There is need for a Continental African Press.

One must put aside any notion of CAP taking over all or most or even very much of actual publishing on, in and about Africa. To do its job well, CAP must focus upon a high quality limited remit, plus wide-spread diffusion of product. Among other interests, CAP will deal in-depth with headline issues and in the process draw attention to itself as a pathfinder. Its policy is one of incisive and astute promotion of Africa's long-term, enlightened self-interest. Its impact will be to provoke an expansion of the volume of publishing across the board. The outcome will be to lift and circulate quality discussion,

from an African perspective, of all key African issues, in Africa itself, and around the world.

From April 19 – 21, 2006 the *Policy Working Group* of the *American-African Universities Collaborative*² met in Johannesburg, South Africa. Sixteen faculty members and scholars, representing the respective university partners in the *Collaborative*, met to consider a range of issues in follow up to its *Colloquy on the Commission for Africa Report* (American-African Universities Collaborative Policy Paper: Number 1-2005). Our conversations started with a discussion of developing a “master” curriculum on the study of contemporary trends and developments in Africa, and culminated in a discussion about the need for greater publishing capacity on the continent. This policy paper on the need for a *Continental African Academic Press* is the culmination of those discussions.

The *Policy Working Group* members that participated in this meeting in Johannesburg were:

1. Ambassador Charles Stith, Boston University
2. Dean Imani Newsome, Boston University
3. Ms. Nadia Chamblin-Foster, Boston University
4. Dr. Margery Coulson-Clark, Elizabeth City State University
5. Dr. Johnny Houston, Elizabeth City State University

² The American African Universities Collaborative is a project of the African Presidential Archives and Research Center at Boston University. The partners in the Collaborative are Boston University, Morehouse College, Elizabeth City State University, the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of Dar es Salaam, and the University of Ghana. The Collaborative is supported by grants from the Carnegie Foundation and **USAID**.

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13. Dr. Preston King, Morehouse College
14. Dr. R. Drew Smith, Morehouse College
15. Dr. Abdul Lamin, University of the Witwatersrand
16. Dr. David Monyae, University of the Witwatersrand

A rich dialogue over several days during the *African Presidential Roundtable 2006* defined the parameters of this policy paper. The synthesis of the ideas that follow reflects an ongoing collaborative effort on the part of those that started this process in Johannesburg.

2. BACKGROUND

The idea of establishing a *Continental African Academic Press* (CAP) is not new.³ In part, the impetus for our discussion sprang from the perception that the image of Africa that is presented to the world is far more negative than the facts underlying that image warrant.⁴ Africa has, of course, objective challenges of significance that Africans, both Continental and Diasporan, are keen to surmount. Not least among these, are problems related to economic development, bureaucratic transparency, and political democracy. Africa has not only had to contend with objective challenges, but also with an autonomous *image* so negative that it crowds out more positive messages, distorts objective facts on the ground, to the point of constituting a problem in itself. For example, there are 15 democracies in Africa, which is a matter for celebration, and which should generate significant inward investment. It remains that persistently negative press

³ The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation Seminar on the *Development of Autonomous Publishing Capacity in Africa* held in Arusha, Tanzania in April 1984; and The Bellagio Conference on *Publishing and Development in the Third World* held in Bellagio, Italy in 1991 are just two forums where this subject was broached.

⁴ The [Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation](#) and the [African Books Collective \(ABC\)](#), held a seminar in July 2002 on scholarly publishing in Africa. Following the seminar, a [Handbook on Scholarly Publishing](#) is planned for publication in 2003. The Handbook will be co-published by the Foundation and ABC, in association with the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), which will also be a resource organization for the seminar.

The Seminar is a continuation of the 'Arusha seminars' concerned with the development of autonomous African publishing (so-called because the three seminars to date have been held in Arusha, Tanzania). The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation organized Arusha I in 1984 on the 'The Development of Autonomous Publishing Capacity in Africa'; and Arusha II in 1996 on 'The Future of Indigenous Publishing in Africa'.

In 1998, the Foundation and ABC organized the 'African Writers-Publishers Seminar' concerned with creative writing and publishing; and subsequently ABC, in association with the Foundation, published [The African Writers' Handbook](#) edited by James Gibbs and Jack Mapanje. Following that valuable process, the two partners are seeking to extend the dialogue to scholarly publishing - and by extension writing - in Africa.

coverage - focusing overwhelmingly upon narratives of rebellion, AIDS, famine and drought - crowds out this important and positive story.

The negative image of Africa entertained by the world press makes it difficult for Africa to convey its own sense of itself, and to promote the stories and undertakings that matter to its future. This is not only true for the world of journalism; it is equally true of the more reflective world of academic publishing. African issues and African writers are perceived of secondary importance to overseas publishing houses, anchored in New York, London, Paris, or Tokyo. Even if it is not exclusively so, it is preponderantly the case that publishers are concerned about maximizing their sales among those to whom they cater, and expect both themes and authors to be congenial to the bulk of their client base. If this bias is to be remedied, we must look, mostly and directly, to Africans to do so. In its most recent education policy paper, the **African Union** cites the need for “the promotion of knowledge” and “published material in many (African) languages”; but neglects to make the link to publishing capacity and fulfilling this charge.⁵ In the final analysis, the correlation between content and the capacity to publish and distribute is irrefutable. Ultimately, whoever controls publishing capacity and distribution controls content. CAP is the solution to this dilemma.

If African writing and research are to be properly encouraged, if authentic African perspectives are to be developed, if a more reliably African view of the continent is to make its way, then one of the most cost-effective ways of doing these things is by

⁵ The African Union Department of Human Resources, Science, and Technology; *Second Decade of Education for Africa, 2006 – 2015 (Draft Plan of Action)*, June 2006

establishing a publishing house that is rooted in the continent and ultimately managed and funded by Africans. The success of such a project must depend on accepting that

- (i) There is no *one* exclusively authentic African view on any given issue or problem, given that objective debate and argument attend all developments of genuine importance.
- (ii) What is published must emerge from genuine consultation, first and foremost, within Africa.
- (iii) CAP must commit equally to publishing within Africa and abroad.
- (iv) CAP must meet global standards.
- (v) For publications to meet the highest standards they must penetrate all markets and reach out (in the end) to all branches of humanity.

3. MISSION

Africa requires a platform to facilitate *greater control over its own research - tailored to its own needs, reflecting its own views, attentive to its own priorities, and fed back to the world in its own way*. Responsive to this need, there shall be established an academic publishing house (CAP) in Africa. CAP shall be a world-class venture, with continental and global outreach. Its primary focus will be African subject-matter, without artificial restriction as to the scope of such matter. CAP shall promote writing and research on African questions, including those relevant to the ‘African’ Diaspora. CAP shall distribute globally, and shall place no prior or artificial restrictions on the identity of

those invited to write or work for it. CAP shall meet the very highest scholarly and literary standards.

CAP shall voice views and perspectives otherwise unexpressed or suppressed. CAP shall disseminate its publications on the widest and most accessible basis, through both print and digital media. CAP shall be the major vehicle by which books and research of excellent quality are accessed, reliably and inexpensively, throughout Africa. A test of global quality is global exposure. CAP publications shall be readily accessible in all parts of the world, and not only in Africa. Though there shall be no restrictions on areas of publication (e.g. biology as opposed to international relations). Thus the deliberate development of a coherent list - building its holdings in one or a few areas at a time, as financing permits – will be a high priority. In the first stage of development CAP publications shall be in English, a long-term ambition shall be to diversify this linguistic platform. CAP shall be established on a permanent basis, with funding designed to maintain a fully efficient, transparent, financially independent and self-sustaining trust.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Capable managers and staff are critical to the success of CAP. Having competent editors, production staff, as well as marketing, accounting, and financial executives is critical to effectively managing this enterprise. Some of the key structural and administrative issues that need to be addressed are as follows:

- i. CAP is a *publishing house*, and shall be located in one **centre in Africa**.
- ii. CAP, while located in *one* centre, shall use its best efforts to ensure that *printing capacity is* located in all of Africa's regions.
- iii. CAP shall have an **Editor-in-Chief** (or equivalent), directly responsible for day-to-day management of the publication process, with a term of office of five years, renewable for one further term of five.
- iv. The Editor in Chief is to be assisted by such staff as may be required to achieve CAP objectives.
- v. The Editor in Chief shall be assisted and monitored by an **Editorial Board** of 12 members.
- vi. Editorial Board members shall serve for a term of three years only.
- vii. Editorial Board members' initial terms shall be staggered for continuity.
- viii. Editorial Board members shall be elected by and from the **Board of Trustees**.
- ix. Trustees shall serve at most for 12 consecutive years.
- x. The Board of Trustees shall be comprehensive, its members drawn from all regions of the continent, and the Diaspora. Members shall be sourced via academies of arts and sciences (as in Ghana, Kenya and Uganda).
- xi. Where there are no such academies, governments shall be asked to consider establishing them.
- xii. Ad interim, Trustees may be drawn in other states from alternative entities – e.g. in Southern Africa from regional organs such as SIRAS (The Association

of Southern African Universities). Beyond that, Trustees may be drawn from various universities, such as Wits, the Cape etc.

- xiii. **Regional balance** shall be maintained in the appointment of Trustees.
- xiv. While primary membership of the Board of Trustees shall be academic, every effort shall be made to secure inclusion of public figures (thinkers, writers, researchers) of demonstrable merit, who may otherwise have no direct university or other institutional ties.
- xv. The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once yearly, though this may be facilitated by electronic communication.
- xvi. In view of the fact that the largest markets for academic texts are located in North America and Western Europe, at least one CAP office, concerned with commissioning, advertisement and distribution, should be set up in each of these regions. The alternative to ‘offices’ shall be ‘arrangements’ to secure the same effect in partnership with overseas publishers.

5. HOUSE PUBLISHING RULES

- i. Any manuscript submitted to the Editor in Chief can only be published if passed by two readers appointed to assess it, supported by written reports.
- ii. Readers may be drawn from the Editorial Board, from the Board of Trustees, or they may come from outside either.
- iii. Readers shall be appointed solely on the basis of their expertise relevant to a given ms. under review.

- iv. A reader shall only be appointed to assess the specific ms. under consideration, and only for the standard fee.
- v. The Editor in Chief shall have authority to make final decisions regarding items for publication subject to advice from the Editorial Board.
- vi. The Editorial Board is to be routinely copied with all readers' reports as these bear upon recommendations either to publish or not.

6. FINANCING CAP

While the aim of developing Africa's publishing capacity relative to academic work is driven by intellectual, political, and cultural considerations, the bottom-line of developing such capacity hinges on having a viable business model. There are editorial, production, marketing, and distribution costs to maintain a fully operational press. Adequate capitalization is critical to the short-term and long-term viability of such an enterprise. Needless to say, given that the notion of developing such capacity is not new, it is fair to suggest that financing has probably been a critical impediment to developing this capacity in the past.⁶ Some of the important considerations in this regard are as follows:

- i. CAP shall be set up on a permanent basis as an independent corporate entity.

⁶ In addition to undercapitalization, Walter Bgoya (Mkuki na Nyota Publishers) notes that the collapse of most state publishing corporations can be attributed to politically appointed and ineffective management and unfavorable macro-economic policies. Specific to the French initiative (CREPLA), Henry Chakava (East African Educational Publishers) identified four factors that led to the demise of publishing efforts in francophone Africa: (i) bad management at the Secretariat, lack of support from African governments, loss of follow-up interests by UNESCO and other donor and development agencies, and the fact that Africa did not have a Noma who could have propped and supported it financially when UNESCO finally developed cold feet.

- ii. Funding for it shall be sought from (and/or coordinated through) the AU.
- iii. Funding should be a type of trust, along the lines set by General De Gaulle in establishing France's Le Monde, in the aftermath of World War II.
- iv. Each AU government should be assessed an amount proportionate to its GDP.
- v. Initial capitalization will be in the amount of \$20m.
- vi. CAP shall be required carefully to husband this sum, to live within the means thus supplied, and to forswear further calls upon the AU purse.
- vii. CAP is free to seek occasional support for special projects from other agencies (Foundations, UNESCO, etc). But its *central* remit is to provide an outlet for African-oriented projects already being carried forward, especially in the case of African authors and institutions, and not to *initiate* independent research of its own.

There are a host of reasons Africa's capacity in this regard has been stunted, ranging from structural adjustment programs imposed on African countries by multilateral agencies that devastated its educational infrastructure, to political instability that affect adverse climates that precluded this sort of capacity from developing. If the riddle of undercapitalization can be solved, given the technological revolution that has taken place in publishing, Africa can develop its capacity such that it can provide an outlet for African academics and intellectuals and repository for the world to see Africa and the world through African eyes.

CONCLUSION

While developing the capacity to publish academic work by, of, and for the continent is clearly not the cure-all for the myriad of problems plaguing Africa; developing such capacity is critical to Africa's continued intellectual, cultural, economic, and political growth and development. There is a well spring of wisdom, insight, creativity, and expertise in Africa, which needs a credible and viable outlet. A Gallup poll taken several years ago gauging U.S. public opinion on Africa indicated that about 46 percent of all Americans are interested in learning more about Africa.⁷ There is a need for a vehicle to meet this interest. The impediments and opportunities for developing indigenous capacity for publishing scholarly and academic works by and for Africans (and Africanists) need to be identified. Given the technological advances in printing and publishing, Africa has a unique opportunity to leapfrog into the 21st Century in this regard. In addition, the Bush Administration's *Africa Education Initiative* has committed to providing 15 million textbooks and related learning materials for the continent.⁸ This could potentially provide a baseline of sales that could insure the viability of CAP during the start-up phase. The *AEI* initiative also points to the urgency of the need for Africa to develop greater publishing capacity to address the educational needs of the continent. In light of the enormous potential and possibilities, it is incumbent upon political leaders, business leaders, as well as the

⁷ *American's Perceptions of Africa: A Nationwide Survey*, commissioned by the National Summit on Africa. In addition to this finding the survey also indicated that 73 percent of African Americans, 51 percent of college graduates, and 50 percent of women were interested in learning more about Africa. *Nearly half (49%) of those surveyed believe that the U.S. should establish closer ties with Africa and 62 percent believe that closer relationship should come in the form increased trade and investment.*

⁸ The *Africa Education Initiative (AEI)* is a \$600 million multi-year initiative of the Bush Administration that focuses on increasing access to quality basic education in Africa through textbooks, teacher training, and scholarship programs.

philanthropic community to harness the necessary resources to help meet this urgent need.

APPENDIX

I. Africavenir

Website: <http://www.africavenir.org/research/publishers/africa.php>

AFRICA VENIR



Foundation for Development, International Cooperation and Peace



Africa at large

African Books Collective

African Books Collective, founded, owned and governed by African publishers, seeks to strengthen indigenous African publishing through collective action and to increase the visibility and accessibility of the wealth of African scholarship and culture. African Books Collective [ABC] is an organisation of 74 independent and autonomous African publishers. It is non-profit making, and supported by government agencies and development organisations. ABC markets and distributes African published books globally outside Africa, and publishes resource material for African book and publishing communities. An average 55% of net sales proceeds are remitted to African publishers.

Africa World Press & Red Sea Press

African Publishers Network

APNET - the African Publishers Network - was formed in 1992 to promote indigenous publishing in Africa. APNET brings together national publishers associations from 45 countries in Africa. APNET is a pan-African, non-profit making network with a Secretariat in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Botswana

Foundation for Education with Production (Gaborone)

Lightbooks Publishers (Gaborone)

Pyramid Publishing (Gaborone)

.....
Cameroon

Editions CLE (Yaoundé)

Première maison d'édition en Afrique Francophone au Sud du Sahara , CLE ouvre ses portes pour aider tous les auteurs Africains à publier des ouvrages de littérature générale dans divers domaines : romans, essais, théâtres, poésie, philosophie, religion, littérature pour jeunes et enfants, manuels pédagogiques.

.....
Egypt

American University in Cairo Press (Cairo)

scholarly press.

Boustany's Publishing House (Cairo)

Specialist publisher and bookseller in Oriental studies.

.....
Ethiopia

OSSREA - Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (Addis Ababa)

.....
Ghana

Afram Publications (Ghana) Ltd. (Accra)

African Capital Markets Forum (Accra)

Africa Christian Press (Accra)

Freedom Publications (Accra)

Ghana Universities Press (Accra)

Sankofa Educational Publishers (Accra)

Sedco Publishing (Accra)

Sub-Saharan Publishers (Accra)

Woeli Publishing Services (Accra)

.....
Ivory Coast

EDILIS (Abidjan)

General and trade publish.

Nouvelles Editions Ivoiriennes (Abidjan)

General, educational, scholarly, children's books, and African literature.
.....

Kenya

Academy Science Publishers (Nairobi)

scholarly publisher and research body

African Council for Communication Education (Nairobi)

College Publishers (Nairobi)

Professional journals in the field of agriculture, building and construction, cargo handling, golfing, medicine, and hotel management.

East African Educational Publishers (Nairobi)

Jacaranda Designs (Nairobi)

general, trade and children's.

Kenya Publishers Association

Lake Publishers and Enterprises (Kisumu)

general and educational books; African literature; children's books; books in indigenous languages.

Nairobi University Press

Nairobi Noni's Publicity

.....

Lesotho

Institute of Southern African Studies, National University of Lesotho (Roma)

.....

Malawi

Kachere Series, Zomba

.....

Nigeria

African Heritage Press (Lagos)

Bookcraft Ltd. (Ibadan)

Cogito Publishers (Enugu)

CSS Bookshops (Lagos)

Epik Books (Lagos)

Fourth Dimension Publishing Co. Ltd. (Enugu)

Heinemann Educational Books (Nigeria) plc (Ibadan)

Ibadan University Press (Ibadan)

Malthouse Press Ltd. (Lagos)

Mary Kolawole Publications (Lagos)

New Horn Press (Ibadan)

Onyoma Research Publications (Port Harcourt)

Saros International Publishers (Port Harcourt)

Spectrum Books Ltd. (Ibadan)

University of Lagos Press (Lagos)

University Press Ltd. (Ibadan)

.....
Senegal

**CODESRIA - Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa,
(Dakar)**

.....
South Africa

Frank Horley, Johannesburg Mail and Guardian Books (Johannesburg)

Jonathan Ball Publishers Jeppestown (South Africa)

Boekenet Booknet (South Africa)

Briza Publications Arcadia (South Africa)

CLS Publishers (Cape Town)

Commercial Law Publishers (Durban)

Covos Day Books (Johannesburg)

Gariep Publishing Company (Hout Bay, South Africa)

Holiday Africa Publications (Cape Town)

Human & Rousseau (Cape Town)

Humanities Press 2000 (Cape Town)

Indicator Press (Durban)

Infomedia (Claremont)

InfoSource (Observatory)

Juta & Company (Kenwyn)

Kairon Press (Kalk Bay)

Kairon Publishers (Cape Town)

Kima Global Publishers (Cape Town)

Kwela Books (Roggebaai)

Lionheart Publishing/Toltec Foundation (Constantia)

Nasionale Pers Beperk Group

Nasou-via Afrika (Cape Town)

New Generation Publishers (Durban)

NHBS BookNet-Southern Africa

Tafelberg Publishers (Cape Town)

UCT Press [University of Cape Town Press]

UNISA Press [University of South Africa Press] (Pretoria)

.....
Tanzania

CEEST - Centre for Energy, Environment, Science & Technology (Dar es Salaam)

Dar es Salaam University Press (Dar es Salaam)

Mkuki na Nyota Publishers(Dar es Salaam)

Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Dar es Salaam)

Tanzania Publishing House (Dar es Salaam)

Tema Publishing (Dar es Salaam)

.....

Uganda

Fountain Publishers Ltd.

Kampala FEMRITE (Uganda Women Writers' Association) (Kampala)

Zambia Multimedia Zambia (Lusaka)

.....

Zimbabwe

Africa Community Publishing & Development Trust (Harare)

African Publisher Group (Harare)

African Publishers Network

Baobab Books (Harare)

Mambo Press (Gweru)

Southern Africa Printing and Publishing House/SAPES Trust (Harare)

Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) (Harare)

Weaver Press Ltd (Harare)

Women and Law in Southern Africa Research Trust (Harare)

Zimbabwe Book Publishers Association Zimbabwe International Book Fair Trust
(Harare)

Zimbabwe International Book Fair is the largest and most important book fair in Africa, held annually during the first week of August in the beautiful Harare sculpture gardens.

Zimbabwe Publishing House (Harare)

Zimbabwe Women Writers (Harare)

III. African Books Collective

Website: www.africanbookscollective.com/publishers.htm



Current Publishers

Benin

[Centre Panfricain de Prospective Sociale/Panafrican Social Prospects Centre, Porto-Novo](#)

Botswana

Foundation for Education with Production, Gaborone
[Lightbooks Publishers, Gaborone](#)
Pyramid Publishing, Baborone

Cameroon

Department of Women & Gender Studies, University of Buea

Côte d'Ivoire

[African Publishing Network \(APNET\), Abidjan](#)

Ethiopia

[Development Policy Management Forum \(DPMF\), Addis Ababa](#)
[Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa \(OSSREA\), Addis Ababa](#)

Ghana

[Afram Publications \(Ghana\) Ltd., Accra](#)
[African Capital Markets Forum, Accra](#)
Africa Christian Press, Accra
[Association of African Universities Press, Accra](#)
Blackmask Ltd., Accra

Freedom Publications, Accra
Ghana Universities Press, Accra
Sankofa Educational Publishers, Accra
Sedco Publishing, Accra
[SEM Financial Training Centre Ltd., Accra](#)
Sub-Saharan Publishers, Accra
Woeli Publishing Services, Accra

Kenya

Academy Science Publishers, Nairobi
Chrisley Ltd, Nairobi
[East African Educational Publishers, Nairobi](#)
Focus Publications, Nairobi
Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, Nairobi
[University of Nairobi Press](#)
[LawAfrica, Nairobi](#)
Noni's Publicity, Nairobi
P-J Kenya, Nairobi

Lesotho

[Institute of Southern African Studies, National University of Lesotho, Roma](#)
Law Society of Lesotho, Masuru

Malawi

[Central Africana, Blantyre](#)
Chancellor College Publications, Zomba
E & V Publications, Blantyre
[Kachere Series, Zomba](#)
WASI (Writers Advisory Services International), Zomba

Namibia

Reader in Namibian Sociology, Windhoek
University of Namibia Press, Windhoek

Nigeria

[African Heritage Press, Lagos](#)
Apex Books, Lagos
Bolabay Publications, Lagos
[Bookcraft Ltd., Ibadan](#)
The Book Company Ltd., Lagos

[Cogito Publishers, Enugu](#)
College Press Publishers, Ibadan
[Compumetrics Solutions, Lagos](#)
CSS Bookshops, Lagos
Dokun Publishing House, Ibadan
Enicrownfit Publishers, Ibadan
[Fourth Dimension Publishing Co. Ltd., Enugu](#)
[Heinemann Educational Books \(Nigeria\) plc, Ibadan](#)
[Humanities Publishers, Ibadan](#)
[Ibadan University Press, Ibadan](#)
Kraft Books, Lagos
Maiyati Chambers, Lagos
Malthouse Press Ltd., Lagos
Mary Kolawole Publications, Lagos
New Horn Press, Ibadan
NIDD Publishing & Printing Ltd, Oyo
Obafemi Awolowo University Press, Ile Ife
[Onyoma Research Publications, Port Harcourt](#)
Saros International Publishers, Port Harcourt
[Spectrum Books Ltd., Ibadan](#)
University of Lagos Press, Lagos
[University Press Ltd., Ibadan](#)
[Urhobo Historical Society, New York & Lagos](#)
Women's Health & Action Research Centre, Benin City

Senegal

[African Renaissance, Dakar](#)
[Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa \(CODESRIA\), Dakar](#)
[Union for African Population Studies, Dakar](#)

Sierra Leone

PenPoint Publishers, Freetown

South Africa

[Africa Institute of South Africa, Pretoria](#)
Brenthurst Collection/Frank Horley Books, Johannesburg
[Idasa Publishing, Cape Town](#)
Mail and Guardian Books, Johannesburg
[University of South Africa Press \(UNISA Press\), Pretoria](#)

Swaziland

Academic Publishers, Matsapha
JAN Publishing Centre, Mbabane
TTI Publishing Ltd, Manzini

Tanzania

Centre for Energy, Environment, Science & Technology (CEEST), Dar es Salaam
Dar es Salaam University Press, Dar es Salaam
E & D Ltd., Dar es Salaam
Mkuki na Nyota Publishers, Dar es Salaam
Tanzania Publishing House, Dar es Salaam
Tema Publishing, Dar es Salaam

Uganda

Fountain Publishers Ltd., Kampala
FEMRITE (Uganda Women Writers' Association), Kampala

Zambia

Bookworld Publishers, Lusaka
Image Publishers Ltd, Lusaka
Multimedia Zambia, Lusaka
University of Zambia Press (UNZA Press), Lusaka
Zambia Women Writers Association (ZAWWA), Lusaka

Zimbabwe

Africa Community Publishing & Development Trust, Harare
Baobab Books, Harare
Kimaathi Publishing House, Harare
Mambo Press, Gweru
Southern Africa Printing and Publishing House/SAPES Trust, Harare
Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), Harare
Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI), Harare
University of Zimbabwe Publications, Harare
Weaver Press Ltd., Harare
Women and Law in Southern Africa Research Trust, Harare
Zimbabwe International Book Fair Trust, Harare
Zimbabwe Publishing House, Harare
Zimbabwe Women Writers, Harare

III. APNET – African Publishers Network Organization

Website: <http://www.apnet.org/organization.html>

What is APNET ?

APNET is the African Publishers Network - a pan-african organization established in 1992, which brings together national publishers associations and publishing communities to strengthen indigenous publishing throughout Africa. The organisation functions according to a simple and effective structure which is composed of the General Council, a Board, a Secretariat and Programme Committees. The activities of APNET comprise training, capacity building, trade promotion, information, research and documentation, international relations. APNET's secretariat is based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

General Council

The General Council meets every two years. It is the supreme authority and the organization's decision-maker. All the members are represented. Its members are the representatives of the national publishers associations, founder members, affiliates and associates. The General Council elects the Board members and approves all questions of policy relating to APNET.

Board

The Board is the executive arm of the General Council and is composed of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairperson, the Treasurer, and a representative each for anglophone, arabophone, francophone and lusophone Africa. The task of the Board is to interpret and guide the implementation of the policies of APNET. To achieve that successfully, the Board depends on the Secretariat.

The steering committee

At the just ended General Council Meeting held in Nairobi on 26-27 July 2005, a steering Committee was put in place and mandated to restructure the organization. The Steering Committee is acting in place of the Board ([see the list](#)).

Chair: Brian Wafawarowa (South Africa)

Members: Akoss Ofori (Ghana)

Freddy Ngandu (Cameroon)

Ghazi Mejbri (Tunisia)

Monica Seeber (South Africa)

Secretariat

The Secretariat, located in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, is composed of the Executive Secretary,

Membership/Trade Promotion Officer, Training Coordinator and information officer. The Secretariat is the administrative arm of APNET and the executor of the policies.

Programme Committees

Lastly, there are the Programme Committees, which are in place to supervise activities in the different programmes. Each Committee is headed by a Board member. To date there is a project KAWI in progress apart from the others committees.

Membership

There are four levels of membership : Full, Founding, Affiliate, and Associate.

Full membership embraces national publishers associations.

Founding members constitute a group of publishers from the 9 countries, which initially founded APNET. This is to ensure that the original vision for setting up APNET remains always sharply focused.

Affiliate membership includes interested persons or organisations, which share APNET's aims and objectives and belong to the bigger family of publishing : editors, booksellers, designers, printers, etc.

For the Affiliate members registration form [\(click here\)](#).

Associate membership is reserved for individuals or organisations with an outstanding record of service to African publishing. Unlike the other categories, which can be applied for, Associate Membership can be conferred only by invitation from the General Council.

Who qualifies to be a member?

All national publishers associations in Africa qualify to be members. They can each elect a representative to the General Council. Where there is no publishers' association, the General Council may appoint or elect a representative for a limited period of two years. Full members are referred to as Country Representatives.

➡ Full members

➡ Prospective members

Algeria	Egypt	Madagascar	Senegal
Angola	Eritrea	Malawi	Sierra Leone
Benin	Ethiopia	Mali	South Africa
Botswana	Gabon	Mauritania	Sudan
Burkina Faso	Gambia	Mauritius	Swaziland
Burundi	Ghana	Morocco	Tchad
Cape Verde	Guinea	Mozambique	Tanzania
Cameroon	Guinea-Bissau	Namibia	Togo
Central African Republic	Kenya	Niger	Tunisia

Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of
Congo

Lesotho
Lybia
Liberia

Nigeria
Rwanda

Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

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APNET - African Publishers Network
7e etage, Immeuble Roume,
Boulevard Roume,
Abidjan, Plateau, Côte d'Ivoire
Téléphone: (+225) 20211802
Télécopie: (+225) 20211803
[Top page](#) [Top page](#)