

Guinea-Bissau Carnival 2018

GuineaTek



Concept:

To spearhead a transcendental cultural experience that unites, supports and inspires youth across the continents.

Background:

Guinea-Bissau is a small country in West Africa, bordering Senegal and Guinea-Conakry. It is an ex-Portuguese colony with a revolutionary history, gaining its independence in 1973 from the fascist Portuguese regime of Salazar, through the armed struggle led by Amilcar Cabral and the PAIGC party. Guinea-Bissau is consistently rated near the bottom of the UN human development index, reflecting high rates of infant mortality, illiteracy, and unemployment. It is commonly viewed as one of the “poorest” countries in the world. However, it is also a very rich cradle of culture and tradition, and among the many public celebrations that mark the year, carnival stands as focal point for the entire nation.

Plan:

To lead a trans-Saharan caravan from London to the Guinea-Bissau carnival 2018, passing through France, Spain, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, and Gambia. This caravan will be composed of several UK soundsystems (IRD, Dead Dog Disko, Hyper Party, NFA, DesertStorm?, Underconstruction, ACME?). The aim will be to arrive in Bissau one week before carnival, giving time to prepare collaborations with local artists. The journey should take about one month from London to Bissau, although our trips have been know to vary between 3 and six weeks.

Guinea-Bissau carnival lasts 4 days & nights, February 9th -13th 2018. We will aim to put on several stages, including live bands, local singers, and the array of djs and producers from Europe in our squad. Our best producers will be sought after to collaborate with Guinean singers and artists to create new sounds for the people.



We have attended the carnival in Bissau before, and the format is largely reminiscent of a London free party. Pitches along the main drag in the center of Bissau are divided casually, depending on the size of the generator and understanding between locals. In 2012, IRD rig rocked up and set up our sound, genie, and nets for kids to play in. We visited the carnival head office to tell them we were there and to express solidarity with the people of Bissau. We were welcomed with open arms and no fees were asked for or paid. The night went off, and at least 1000 people passed by and enjoyed our sounds (mix of reggae, DnB, dubstep, jungle, tekno, bassline, hardcore).



The scale of this endeavor is as big as we make it. There is potential for charitable sponsorship, a website with live updates, webstreams, the making of a documentary, etc. At the very least some crowdfunding and benefit parties need to be organized to reduce some of the costs. It would be nice to donate some of the vehicles to Guinean charities, and potential collaborations/workshops with charities and youth groups would undoubtedly go down well. With proper

preparations, the scope of this journey will go beyond the carnival and become a proper Peace convoy.

In terms of personal preparations, it is recommended for each individual to have £1000 savings for expenses. With regards to vehicles, Mercedes are by far the vehicle of choice for this part of the world; mechanical preparations will be necessary and the rough estimate for costs for one 5 ton vehicle to travel from London – Bissau (diesel, ferries, fines, border taxes, etc) is £1000. It is important to stress that a journey of this kind requires individuals of many skills and competencies, and that superfluous bodies are not advisable as they cause problems and delays. In no particular order, we will require: drivers, mechanics, electricians, sound engineers, djs, producers, facilitators (take that one as you will), performers (singers/circus/etc), fixers, and problem solvers. We have experience with the road to Bissau and are confident in our abilities to lead the convoy through West Africa. We also have friends along the way who will facilitate and rendez-vous with us as we go. Musicians and performers based in Senegal and Gambia will be joining us in Bissau for this event, and undoubtedly many people from Europe will fly out to meet us as well.



We thus propose a meeting of interested parties to start discussing details for this project.

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