



# Spla

sud planète  
south planet

Portal to Cultural Diversity

[www.spla.pro](http://www.spla.pro)

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SHARING  
THE DATABASE

## Southplanet, a database for sharing

Southplanet, the site devoted to ACP country (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) arts and culture, has been entirely redesigned in 2014 under the new URL, **www.spla.pro**.

The new design aims to fully exploit the wealth of this multidisciplinary (cinema, music, literature, visual arts, theatre, dance, architecture, fashion, design and crafts), multilingual (English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and soon Arabic) database, which is the most exhaustive in its field today.

### **Southplanet is:**

- 30.000 artists and cultural professionals (managers, producers, publishers, programmers, curators...)
- 12.000 books, 15.000 films and 2.500 music albums
- 10.000 cultural organizations
- 2.000 groups (theatre troupes, dance companies, bands...)
- 30.000 events (concerts, festivals, exhibitions, screenings...)

Southplanet's data is exploited under the Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike licence (CC BY-SA 1.0): it can be freely copied and modified, so long as the source is cited and they are in turn redistributed under this same licence.

Africultures thus runs the technical side of the site and its database, but it doesn't own its content. Content is at the disposition of all operators who wish to join the project. Database users are thus also the ones who add new data to it, which contributes to developing this communal tool.

To facilitate sharing, different search and navigation tools have been created on the site, which can be used by partner wishing to benefit from its rich and varied content on their platforms.

To avoid different databases being set up at the same time with no cohesion, it is not possible to export the database. All systems using the database are necessarily redirected to Southplanet's pages, the result of the joint efforts of Africultures (who gave the site its database compiling 15 years' work), its partners, and artists/professionals themselves.

Depending on partners' technical choices, partner sites' graphic design may be conserved, but information is always displayed on request via the corresponding spla.pro page. Information thus never leaves the database.

Several websites already use our database (and thus these sharing tools), either for their cultural directories (artists, producers, directors, publishers, etc.), or their cultural What's On listings (events in the African, Caribbean or Pacific countries, or events in other countries that feature artists from these countries):

- Africiné, the Federation of African Film Critics site ([www.africine.org](http://www.africine.org))
- Afrilivres, an association of sub-Saharan Francophone publishers ([www.afrilivres.net](http://www.afrilivres.net))
- Africultures, the African cultures site and journal of reference ([www.africultures.com](http://www.africultures.com))
- Afriphoto, Africultures' photo project ([www.afriphoto.com](http://www.afriphoto.com))
- Afrithéâtre, contemporary theatre from the French-speaking black world ([www.afritheatre.com](http://www.afritheatre.com))
- Africinfo.org (currently in construction)
- ACPcultures+, the European Union programme's site (<http://acpculturesplus.eu>)
- Mokolo, (forthcoming) an African film platform.

This document compiles the list of Southplanet's mutualization tools and explains how they work.

**All these tools are free** (apart from the personalized I-frame. Cf. p.5).

## Widgets on the database

They may take various forms:

- export of the search motor by keyword or the multi-criteria search available on [spla.pro](http://spla.pro)
- complete What's On listings by artistic category
- What's On listings by country or region
- other advance searches

This type of mutualization requires no programming skills on the part of the partner, only the insertion of widgets on their site.

Ex:

The screenshot shows the ACP CULTURES+ EU website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo, search bar, and language options (EN, FR). Below the navigation bar, there are several widgets and content blocks:

- Home** section with a sidebar menu containing: ACP Cultures+, Calls for proposals, Beneficiaries' projects, Resource center, Legal assistance, Interviews, News & newsletters, Photos and Videos, and Press release.
- AGENDA ACP** widget showing event listings for 11/03/2014 > 24/08/2014 (France | exhibition) and 09/04/2014 > 31/12/2014 (Mozambique | tour).
- PHOTO** section featuring a photo of an opera performance with the text: "BENEFICIARY PROJECT 'NETWORK FOR AFRICAN TALENTS': PHOTOS OF 'OPERA LAMB' WORLD PREMIERE".
- INTERVIEW** section featuring a photo of Philippe Lacôte with the text: "ACPCultures + interviewed director Philippe Lacôte whose film 'Run', supported by the ACPCultures+ Programme, is in the official selection at the 67th Festival de Cannes."
- VIDEO** section.
- NEWS** section with articles about beneficiary projects like "Dakar Trottoirs" and "Art Against Poverty".
- OPPORTUNITIES** section with information about "Dominicana Moda 2014" and "The International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity and the U40 Network".

NB: When you click on an event, the link redirects you to the corresponding page on [www.spla.pro](http://www.spla.pro)

The screenshot shows the Spla website interface for the "Great Black Music" event. The header includes the Spla logo and navigation links: ART CATEGORIES, LATEST NEWS, FESTIVALS, and ABOUT US. The main content area features:

- Great Black Music** event title.
- Image** of the event poster.
- Type:** Exhibition | PARIS 19
- From:** tuesday 11 march to sunday 24 august 2014
- Contact details:** CITE DE LA MUSIQUE, Tel: +01 44 84 44 84
- Location:** France, Column: Music
- Adresse:** Cité de la musique, 221, avenue Jean Jaurès, Paris (75019), France
- URL:** <http://www.greatblackmusic.fr/>
- Further information** section with a **Venues** widget showing 11 venues, with "Cité de la musique" selected.

Below the event details, there is a paragraph of text:

Michael Jackson, Cesaria Evora, Marvin Gaye, Billie Holiday, Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Aretha Franklin, Bob Marley, Myriam Makeba, Oum Koussoul... Ces artistes américains et africains ont marqué l'histoire des musiques populaires au 20<sup>ème</sup> siècle. Ils font aujourd'hui partie d'un patrimoine commun, bien au-delà des pays ou des communautés locales qui les ont vu naître. Du fleuve Congo à Congo Square, de la jungle de Harlem au bitume de Lagos, de l'île de Gorée aux rivages des Caraïbes en passant par certains quartiers de Londres et de Paris, groove sons, et mélodies ont peu à peu pris corps et âmes pour donner un sens à l'expression de « musique + noire ». Pourtant, des musiques traditionnelles africaines jusqu'au concept de great black music théorisé par l'Art Ensemble of Chicago dans les années 1960, l'unité des musiques noires tient sans doute davantage de la construction sociale que du déploiement d'une même et unique tradition.

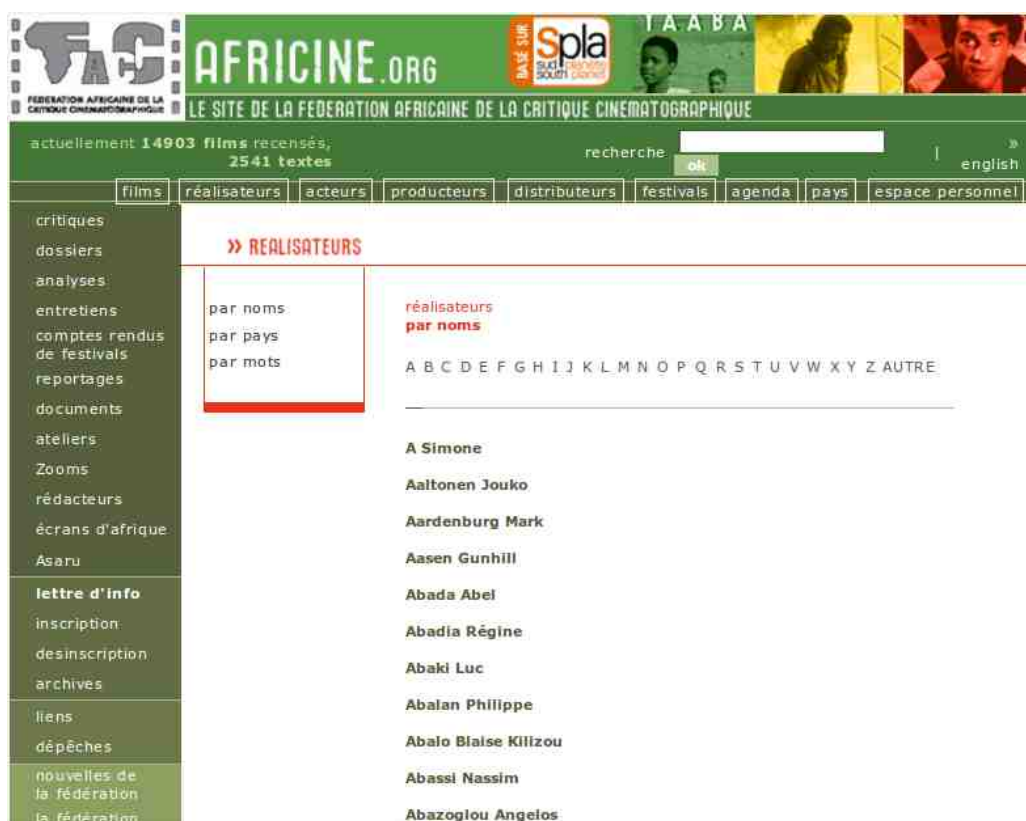
## Customizable directories

Lists may be created on partner sites classified by organization, person, art work, etc. and filtered by country, for example.

All multi-criteria search combinations are possible.

The lists are integrated into partner sites without needing to access them via a multi-criteria search.

**Example: a list of filmmakers from all the African countries has been imported (9388 people in July 2014)**



*NB: the link redirects to the corresponding page on [www.spla.pro](http://www.spla.pro) (see above)*

## I-frame

The database is in this case the core of partner sites (repertory and links): partner sites will need to insert a tab on their sites that opens a repertory of artists, organizations, works, etc. The tab redirects to [spla.pro](http://spla.pro) via an I-frame system that includes country or category filters, or to [spla.pro](http://spla.pro) without any filters.

The site's original graphics may be kept (a top-of-the-page banner in place of the [spla](http://spla.pro) banner), but as the pages are [spla](http://spla.pro)'s, they keep their own graphics when they present data (the [spla](http://spla.pro) file's CSS is maintained). However, it is possible to adapt the colours to fit the partner sites' predominant colours.

If partner sites wish to create links to artist, organization or works files in texts published on their sites, or in lists accompanying articles, these links need to be created manually, link by link.

Example (please note, this is a montage; no site has been realized on this model yet)



We also offer the possibility of developing customized I-frames, so that each page from the partner's site based on Spla can keep the partner site's graphic design. The blocks of information (images, texts, videos, contacts, files linked the the page open) can, to a certain extent, adapt to meet partners' demands.

Example:



WARNING!

The customized I-frames require specific development time, as they can only be created by Africultures' IT team. They can study the possibility of integrating them into your site with you, and will give you an estimate for the work that this will require.



**NB:**

For the I-frames, the "based on spla" logo must be displayed on partner sites' homepages (this suffices as the citing of the source stipulated by the Creative Commons CC-BY-SA-1.0 licence. It is not necessary to cite the source again, page by page).



**RSS Flow**

It is possible to subscribe to the spla RSS flow, which provides a service similar to widgets: the real-time display, on partner sites, of entries to What's On listing or Latest News updates, depending on the xml format criteria chosen.

These lists can be adapted to suit partner sites' graphics and display choices.

*NB: the link redirects to the corresponding www.spla.pro page (cf. page 1)*

Tools also exist enabling users to exploit the Southplanet database directly via the [www.spla.pro](http://www.spla.pro) site:

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### Catalogue tool for festivals

The work involved promoting cultural events, and especially festivals, is enormous, as it includes presenting each artist and work. Too often, information (for example a film synopsis or director's bio) are not sent to festivals on time, who thus publish their catalogues late, and whose sites even are not up-to-date.

The mass of information available on Southplanet and its non-proprietary nature can greatly facilitate festival's lives: all they have to do is copy the descriptions of works or artist bios from the site and their catalogues are ready.

An IT tool has even been developed to help them: they can publish their catalogues directly online, and even create a festival website, freely hosted on Spla, put together themselves thanks to a user-friendly site creation kit that does not require the services of a web developer.

### Customizable website kits

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On the same model, personalized website kits are currently being developed. They will allow users to create their own websites (or that of their company, group, troupe, organization, etc.), in a few clicks via [www.spla.pro](http://www.spla.pro).

The data concerning them and their works – whether texts, photos, sounds, or videos – will be automatically embedded on a standard, ready-made site, freely hosted by [spla.pro](http://spla.pro), with a domain name of the following model: [www.spla.pro/artist-name](http://www.spla.pro/artist-name).

Users will then be able to modify their content (add pages, menus, etc.) and graphic design to make this a truly personal site.

## Conclusion

Southplanet is a unique, unifying database of reference. It needs to remain unique so that everyone contributes to the same tool and works to mutually improve it.

If a partner site doesn't yet have a database, it is worth them using Southplanet, which saves them the huge task of constituting a database. Instead, they can add any missing information to Southplanet, either via the forms, or by requesting that the Africultures IT technicians import it.

If a partner site does already have a thorough database, a study must be carried out to import this data into Southplanet so that the site can use it without losing its data.

In this case, please contact us for further information.

Partner sites enjoy Africultures' database maintenance services and the constant improvement of the database, both technically and in terms of content.