

# LIVING CULTURAL STORYBASES

## A Pilot Project for the Tamacheq in Timbuktu, a Model for Other Ethnic Groups

LCS: Nurturing the Oral Heritage of Minority Cultures in A Digital World

LCS

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Salt comes from the North, gold from the South, money from the white man's country, but the word of God, holy things and fine legends are only found in Timbuktu (ancient Sudanese proverb)

### A Project to Connect Tamacheq People around their Stories

Stories are the essence of every culture. By telling stories in the local language, traditional knowledge, values and cultural identity are transmitted across the generations. LCS is a non-profit organisation, aiming to reconnect the generations and those people now living in cities, using new digital media for sharing spoken stories across the world. Our pilot project around Timbuktu with the changing nomadic Kel Tamacheq culture was proudly launched in December 2007.

**Une Soirée des conteurs avec la musique traditionnelle**  
20:00 dimanche le 2ème décembre 2007  
A l'Hotel Bouctout, Tombouctou  
**A Storytelling Evening with traditional music**  
8pm Sunday December 2nd, 2007  
At the Hotel Bouctout, Timbuktu



### The Team for our Pilot Project

This first LCS project in Mali is staffed by local people, young students and a women's group. Our small pilot budget is strengthened by the voluntary work, encouragement and expertise of people from different ethnic groups, including cultural advisors. We connect with technical assistants in USA, world experts e.g. UNESCO and similar

LCS Organisation, Tombouctou

LCS work in Peru.



### Broad Support for the Mission and our Local Partners

Understanding the opportunities for other minority cultures and of increased cultural tourism, those responsible for decentralized communities of Goundam and Timbuktu along with Tamacheq leaders have given their favorable support for our unique cultural project. Local radio stations collaborate to communicate the mission and its possibilities for the Tamacheq and for the region.



Radio Jamana



Radio Alfarouk



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### How do we work ?

We have started different activities for recording the stories and photos of Tamacheq storytellers in a respectful way using new technology. We try to learn what works and what does not, so that this pilot can become a good model for other places and cultures.

### Future lives

The young are the Tamacheq future. We have trained students to use LCS equipment and proper methods, collecting stories in the town. A special women's group records stories for children.



### Present Lives

A TinTelout team has been making journeys by camel to find celebrated storytellers in the desert who still live the nomadic life. We were honored by being invited to the Takoumbao festival.



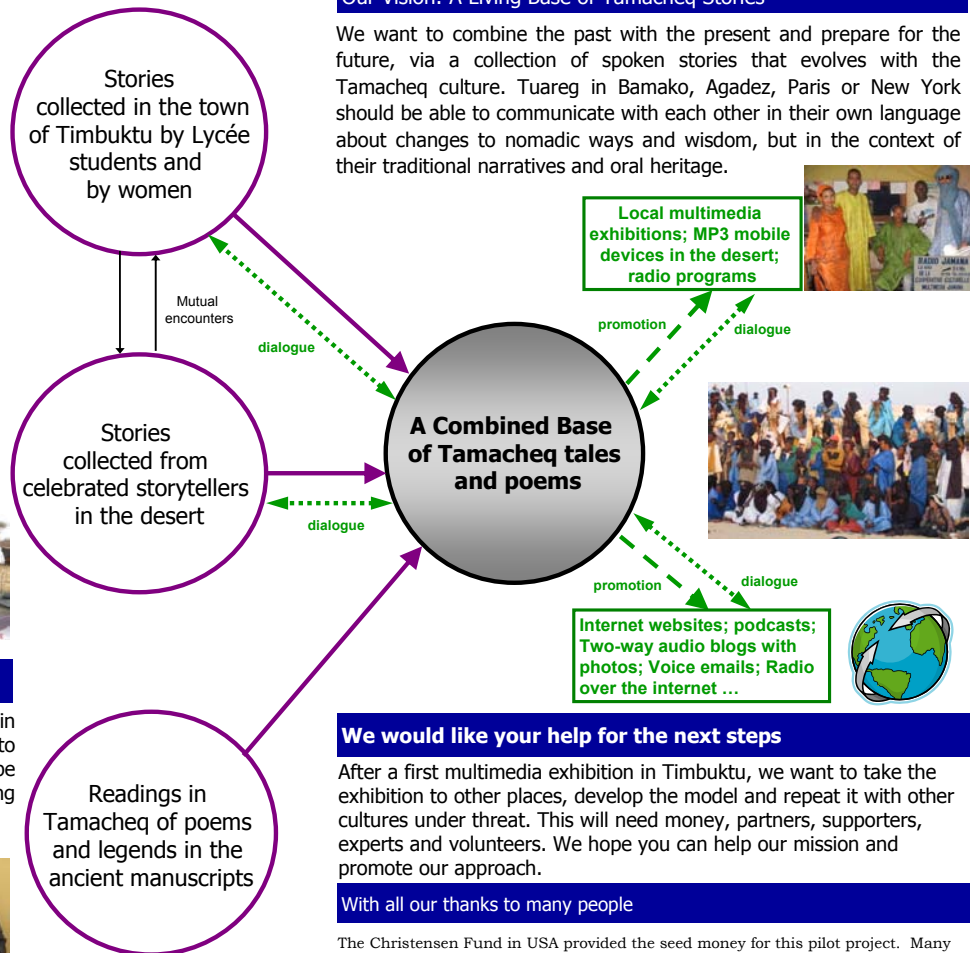
### Past lives

The thousands of ancient manuscripts in the libraries of Timbuktu are important to preserve for scholars, but can also be brought alive to speak again to the young about the heritage of the Tamacheq past.



### Our Vision: A Living Base of Tamacheq Stories

We want to combine the past with the present and prepare for the future, via a collection of spoken stories that evolves with the Tamacheq culture. Tuareg in Bamako, Agadez, Paris or New York should be able to communicate with each other in their own language about changes to nomadic ways and wisdom, but in the context of their traditional narratives and oral heritage.



### We would like your help for the next steps

After a first multimedia exhibition in Timbuktu, we want to take the exhibition to other places, develop the model and repeat it with other cultures under threat. This will need money, partners, supporters, experts and volunteers. We hope you can help our mission and promote our approach.

With all our thanks to many people

The Christensen Fund in USA provided the seed money for this pilot project. Many people around the world have given us their expert guidance, encouragement and worked for free to help, for example on translations, design, computer programming. Much of this work follows the path of LCS work with mountain communities in Peru.