

African Education Indaba - March 31<sup>st</sup> -April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

*Bridging the Attainment Gap: Transforming Education in Africa for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

*Storytelling performance for the opening ceremony*



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## Background



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The Education Indaba is a platform that unites educators, policymakers, researchers, and funders to explore innovative approaches, foster collaboration, and promote evidence-based practices in education. Organized by eBASE Africa, this three-day conference is designed to stimulate reflection on indigenous ways of knowing and innovative solutions that can transform education in Africa for the 21st century.

The inaugural Education Indaba will take place from March 31 to April 02, 2025, in Limbe, Cameroon. Themed "Bridging the Attainment Gap: Transforming Education in Africa for the 21st Century," this event aims to address the pressing need to reform Africa's education systems to equip young people with the skills needed for the future. The conference embodies the spirit of the slogan: "Inspiring Hope," reflecting the central goal of the event: to foster collaboration and shared commitment to improving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) across Africa. Education is a cornerstone of progress, and by bringing people together—educators, policymakers, and

community leaders—the Indaba aims to spark hope for a brighter future. This hope is rooted in equipping every child with the skills to succeed, ensuring that education becomes a beacon of opportunity and transformation for the continent.



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## Activities

### Storytelling performance

Traditional storytellers from eBASE engaged on a mind-blowing performance with other storytellers from the Visionary Theatre Troupe-VTT, based in Cameroon. The idea of working with external storytellers is to effectively implement our CO-CREATION: collective fingers theory/Ubuntu; process as one of the core principles of our Tori Dey method. Rehearsal sessions ahead of the performance started months ago and comprised of reading rehearsals, acting rehearsals and technical rehearsals. The content of the story performed highlighted the need for practitioners in education, researchers and policy makers to invest in education in Sub Sahara Africa taking into consideration the different environment, societal and cultural norms. On March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025, in the main hall of MARCSONS hotel, Limbe, Cameroon.







## Workshop



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## Poster sessions

The traditional storytellers of eBASE Africa presented the different sectors of their work made up of stories told in communities in the process of implementing the Tori Dey in respect to the Seven Steps of Tori Dey which is practically centered on the community to disseminate the results carried out by community based projects in a way that resonates culturally to them. Presentations of stories told during conferences to policy makers, practioners, researchers and donors so they see the need to simplify data for the less priviledged to understand their evidence and the different

types of stories written to sooth different clients who wish for their data and evidence made in digestible formats. This information was made by exchanging with visitors and through visible stands showcasing posters, flyers and a backdrop.

## Outcomes



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## Deliverables

- 1) The traditional storytellers successfully performed before an excited audience who followed up to know the origins and evolution of the Tori Dey method. The message disseminated during the performance added more value to the narrative of some keynote speakers during plenary sessions.
- 2) The workshop sessions facilitated comprehension of the work carried out by owners of some NGOs who attended and opened their minds to innovative ways of communicating their project results.
- 3) A network was built between the storytellers from Ebase and other storytellers who use innovative storytelling tools for dissemination and project implementation.
- 4) The use of modern technology with the documentary film projected during the storytelling performance was uploaded in our YouTube page for wide publicity to seek for potential funders

## Challenges

**Preparation meetings and planning:** It was challenging planning and preparing meetings for first contact with external storytellers because we needed approval of the number of external storyteller to be added in the project. Initial plan was to have storytellers from Uganda and South Africa which delayed the process of having a complete cast to start proper rehearsals.

**Budgeting:** There was limited budget allocated for the storytelling performance as initially a performance for the opening ceremony was not thought of nor budgeted. It caused a lot of back and forth discussion, delays to talk about finances for production cost and remuneration of external storytellers.

Further,

**Travels:** Storytellers could not travel on time to Limbe because of the challenges of admin to send money from the local banks of Limbe.

**Accommodation:** We were lodge in an old hotel that was once good and one of the best in Limbe but now very old with old.

**Performance hall:** The hall was not appropriate for a theatre performance to standard for it lack good lighting systems, poor quality of sound with poor microphones, poor appliances for projections that messed up the documentary film completely; no sound and poor images. The almost damaged sounds, projectors did not permit the required standards of the planed performance.

### **Lessons Learnt**

#### **I NEED TO WORK ON THIS AGAIN**

1. Tori Dey is an indigenous approach that can fit in a global setting. It can be used to generate, translate, and disseminate knowledge. It can also be used to assess the impact of evaluation. To effectively develop this, there is a need to invest more time in scholarly reflection on how science and storytelling merge to influence knowledge, intention, and behavior.
2. There is a lot of scholarly curiosity about the process and the need to validate the process. Participants, especially those who attended the storytelling performance for the opening ceremony were impressed on the diverse methods and approaches applied in artistic projects and intrigued



on the works carried out by eBASE and the South African storytellers in using art to communicate science.

3. Constant talk with organising team to be sure every necessary element for a successful performance before hand.

4. eBASE participants discovered new ways of knowledge dissemination from facilitators during discussions in symposiums, where participants could jump in at any moment and comment, suggest or contribute to a talk given by another participants. Making it so engaging and a continuous learning process. The guest storytellers created ways for deep reflection on how studying every stage of work in a scientific way, by storytellers can enable documentation and hence, perpetuate the creativity of practitioners for future generations.

5. Presentations of videos, audios and brochures by participants about their works impacted a great deal. We realized we could have information about different structures through podcasts, interviews.