

# Open Call



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**NOOR**  
foundation



**Submissions open until:**  
July 28, 2023  
11:59 pm - CET

## **NOOR Visual Storytelling Educational Programme: Regenerative Agriculture in Côte d'Ivoire**

### **About the programme**

As the climate crisis accelerates and intensifies beyond the most dramatic projections, science-based research, indigenous knowledge and reciprocal practices tell us that we must restore our land if we are to stand a chance at surviving the future.

Are you a French-speaking visual storyteller, photographer or visual artist interested in investigating and documenting regenerative agricultural practices in West Africa and their potential to make a positive societal and environmental impact on the region? Apply with an ongoing project or a project idea you hope to realise for a chance to earn a place in the tuition-free 6-month mentoring programme of the NOOR Foundation with authors Bénédicte Kurzen and Aïda Mulneh.

In the coming decades, Africa is set to become home to 40% of the world's population and one region in particular, the 600-mile stretch between Abidjan and Lagos in West Africa, is experiencing fast paced development at an astonishing speed. This rapid population growth, combined with extreme changes in the climate and the ecosystems it supports poses a serious question: how is the region going to be able to feed the ever-growing population?



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Experts believe the only solution lies in regenerative agriculture: an outcome-based food production system that aims to have a lower, or even net-positive environmental impact on the Earth. In the African context, regenerative agriculture means using smart farming techniques that work synergistically with the local climate and fertilise the soil while restoring lost wildlife and biodiversity. These high-yield techniques produce enough food to help feed a growing population, and improve livelihoods in food systems. They also make the farms more resilient and adaptive, able to handle the changes in weather caused by climate change.

The adoption of regenerative agriculture practices has the potential to improve the livelihoods and resilience of farmers, processors and consumers. It can also help restore natural systems which, in the case of West Africa, are highly eroded from centuries of farming. And finally it can contribute to self-sufficiency in food production for the countries in this region.

**What are the topics we are looking for**

Stories surrounding agricultural practices, challenges, issues and solutions in West Africa in times of climate change – that is the focus for the research and images produced during the NOOR Educational Programme.

Rapid population growth in this region, combined with extreme changes in climate, and the ecosystems it supports, put enormous stress on the capacity of the land to sustain human beings and poses the question how the region will feed its growing population in a sustainable manner in the future?

Local communities but also youth play a key role when it comes to this question as they are the future and thus crucial in innovating agriculture with climate-smart solutions. The aim is to be aware of the above-mentioned challenges but above all to show the opportunities for innovative and sustainable agricultural solutions (e.g. in cocoa and horticulture) in West Africa that will make it possible for the countries in this region to tackle these challenges and become independent in their food production.

Supported by the Embassy of The Kingdom of The Netherlands in Abidjan, the NOOR Foundation will support eight French-speaking Ivorian visual storytellers in the realisation of visual stories that investigate and highlight regenerative agricultural practices in the region.

**What is included**

- Tuition-free participation to the programme;
- Travel costs, accommodation and food paid for during the 5-day live workshop (2 October - 6 October 2023);
- 5-6 month mentoring programme by the NOOR Foundation in French;
- 3-5 one-on-one online sessions with one of the mentors;
- Participation of your story in the closing event in Abidjan which will take the form of an exhibition, a public presentation event, or a combination of different presentation forms;

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- Publication and promotion of your story on all the NOOR communications channels: newsletters, social media and website;
- Access to the NOOR Network, a dynamic, international community where a variety of opportunities (including exhibitions, assignments, and other educational activities) will be openly accessible.

#### **What we expect from you when you are selected**

- Cooperation, flexibility, professionalism and commitment to the project: please keep in mind that when you are selected we are denying entry to someone else.
- Availability to travel to Abidjan to attend the live workshop between **2-6 October 2023**, which is a **mandatory** part of the programme.
- A visual story to deliver at the end of the programme (January-February 2024) composed of:
  1. Images (at least 20 high res captioned still and/or moving images: we also accept film/video but take note that we prefer photographs or a mix of both mediums);
  2. A title and a project description (max. 500 words) in French;
  3. A source sheet wherein all data points have a note that connect them to a reliable source.

#### **The programme is divided in four phases:**

1. An online kick-off session where you will be informed on the programme and mutual expectations.
2. A 5-day live workshop in Abidjan between 02-06 October 2023 with mentors Bénédicte Kurzen and Aïda Muluneh;
3. A 3-4 month online mentoring programme composed of 3-5 one-on-one sessions aimed at supporting the development and production of your chosen story;
4. A closing event in Abidjan where your work will be presented publicly in the form of an exhibition or a digital presentation.





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**Application Guidelines**

In submitting the application dossier, the candidate declares and accepts the following:

A. The candidate is the only owner of all intellectual property rights of the material he/she submits.

B. The candidate guarantees that the material transmitted does not infringe any Intellectual property of any third party and does not violate any applicable law.

C. The candidate acknowledges that, if his/her application is selected, he/she will have to sign an agreement which defines the terms and conditions of the transfer of Intellectual Property of approximately 30 captioned photographs taken during the reportage selected by NOOR.

Such agreement must be acceptable for the NOOR Foundation and shall at least include the non-exclusive worldwide right of use and reproduce those photographs in any media and any support, known or unknown, for at least one year and for any communication purpose related to the NOOR Foundation.

D. The NOOR Foundation is subject to Dutch law. Any related disputes, including those pertaining to candidacy, shall be settled out of court between the parties. Failing an out-of-court agreement, any disputes shall be submitted to the competent Dutch court.

**Who can apply**

The call is open to French-speaking visual storytellers (visual artists, photojournalists, photographers, videographers). However, participation can be individual or collaborative. When collaborating we are welcoming teams of maximum two people with different backgrounds, skill sets and capacities (i.e. a writer and a photographer, a scientist and a videographer, a photographer and a curator...). It is not necessary to have a press card to participate.

In case of a collaborative application, the visual storyteller will be the lead applicant on behalf of the team.

We also welcome applications from authors whose main working practice is not straightforward journalism.

**The Jury**

The Jury will be formed by the two mentors of the programme and a representative of the NOOR Foundation. For any inquiries on the programme and the application process please reach out to [stefano@noorimages.com](mailto:stefano@noorimages.com)

**How to apply**

All applications can only be submitted in one single dossier (PDF max 10 MB) via email to [office@noorimages.com](mailto:office@noorimages.com) **before 28/07/23 at 23:59 CET**

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**More information:**

[noorimages.com/  
foundation](https://noorimages.com/foundation)

**CONTACT**

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**NOOR Foundation**

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**The dossier must include**

**1. Personal contact of lead applicant (and team members if applicable)**

- Name and first name
- Nationality
- Date of birth
- Address & country of residence
- E-mail and phone number

**2. Profile of applicant (and team members if applicable)**

- Website and/or social networks
- Biography
- Publications/exhibitions/awards
- Portfolio with a sample of previous work (at least 20 images and / or video pieces, installation, exhibition views...)

**3. Project idea**

- Project title
- Project description (500 characters minimum)
- Connection with the topic of the open call, relevance, urgency
- What do you expect to achieve visually?
- What format will you use?
- Production plan and timeline (locations and travels with expected dates, what you expect to achieve in each location)

**The NOOR Foundation**

The NOOR Foundation is an international non-profit fuelled by a passion to inspire action on the critical issues of our time through the power of visual storytelling.

We produce innovative high-impact visual storytelling projects in partnership with leading museums, festivals, universities and governmental organisations on critical issues such as the climate crisis, environmental degradation, overconsumption, forced migration, the rise of authoritarianism and the injustices of patriarchy.

Through our immersive workshops and advanced mentoring programmes, we commit to the discovery and support of emerging visual storytelling talent from a plurality of backgrounds all across the world.

We facilitate the development and production of the stories that matter, learning and co-creating every step of the way. We present opportunities for distribution via our global platforms and media partners for increased visibility and audience building, and encourage our storytellers to find innovative ways to share their stories with the world, reaching out as far and wide as possible.

