



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ROYAL
AFRICAN
SOCIETY



120 YEARS OF CHANGE







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ABOUT US

The Royal African Society is a membership organisation that provides opportunities for people to connect, celebrate and engage critically with a wide range of topics and ideas about Africa today. Through our events, publications and digital channels we share insight, instigate debate and facilitate mutual understanding between the UK and Africa. We amplify African voices and interests in academia, business, politics, the arts and education, reaching a network of more than three million people globally.

Find out more:

-  royalafricansociety.org
-  facebook.com/royafrisoc
-  twitter.com/royafrisoc
-  instagram.com/royafrisoc

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON



Dear Members, Partners, and Friends,

I am honoured to be writing to you as Chairperson of the Royal African Society and express my utmost gratitude to you for your contribution to a remarkable year.

As you know, our mission is to amplify Africa's voice globally and also ensure that it is adequately understood and appreciated. This laudable mission is just as important today as it was when we were founded in 1901, in memory of Mary Kingsley. This is because Africa, being the most youthful continent, is uniquely positioned to provide the workforce of the future as well as a significant proportion of the natural resources that will power an inclusive and sustainable world. The Royal African Society is able to succeed in this mission because its products and programmes cover academia, advocacy, arts, business, culture, education, politics and research. These products include the African Affairs journal, the number 1 ranked journal on Africa, and our platform, African Arguments which reaches over 1.5 million individuals and presents perspectives of seasoned experts and writers based in Africa to a global audience. Our activities include our cultural biennial festivals, Film Africa and Africa Writes. We also have several business programmes that enable senior public and private sector leaders to present rich perspectives on topical issues concerning Africa.

We are the secretariat to the All Parties Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Africa, comprising 200 members of the U.K. Parliament. In March, the APPG on Africa published a major report on the inclusion of Africa in the British school curriculum. Its recommendations were very well received.

2022 was a challenging year, because the global recession, and fallout from the global pandemic, was deepened by the negative effects of the Ukraine/Russian conflict that commenced in February. We are immensely grateful to all our individual and corporate members for remaining generous and committed to the Society and Africa, in the midst of the difficult economic environment. We continue to innovate in our offerings to our members and are pleased that we

are now able to offer bespoke programmes to our partners and corporate members. We are delighted that our membership continues to grow within Africa, in the U.K. and globally.

We are also proud of our association with the African Studies Association U.K. (ASAUUK). We were pleased to have supported their very successful conference on Diaspora Remittance Flows: Restitution, Culture and Capital. The conference was a hybrid event held in person in Ibadan, Liverpool and Nairobi, in September

We ended 2022 on an exceptional note as our celebration of the Society's 120th anniversary culminated in a Gala that we hosted on 2nd November. The Gala featured the best of African creativity from across the continent. We celebrated African fashion, African food, African music and African art during a unique, and colourful evening that reflected the breadth and depth of the Society's engagement in Africa and the diaspora in the UK. All this was made possible by the generous sponsorship and active participation of many of our individual and corporate partners. Earlier in the day, we had a Film Africa Masterclass for young Black film creatives which was graced by our Royal Patron, the Prince of Wales, who continues to graciously support the Society despite a hectic schedule.

In November, we also held the 10th edition of Film Africa, London's biggest celebration of African cinema. For ten days London enjoyed a wide range of programming from the continent's most brilliant directors and performers. The festival opened at Picturehouse Central with Cameroonian director Ellie Foubi's film *Our Father the Devil* and closed at British Film Institute (BFI) with Tanzanian director Amil

Shivji's *Vuta N'Kuvute* (Tug of War), welcoming thousands of ardent cinema goers.

We have an equally exciting 2023, and will begin with an expert analysis of the economic prospects of the continent. We will host an APPG on Africa Parliamentary inquiry into Africa's energy transition. We will also continue our focus on improving the understanding of Africa's perspectives on climate change and sustainability through our African Arguments platform. We are also planning a variety of programmes in the sectors that our corporate partners are involved in. The 10th edition of Africa Writes, our literary festival, will be held at the end of September.

Let me also commend our Council and staff for going beyond the call of duty to ensure our success in 2022. I have no doubt that with your hard work and the continued support of members, partners and friends, our Society will continue to contribute to a peaceful and prosperous Africa and society.

I wish you and your families great tidings in 2023 and always.

Arunma Oteh
Chairperson,
The Royal African Society

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



2021 was the year that the full scale of climate change's impact on Africa began to enter into political consciousness, as well as public consciousness on the continent.

With COP 27 held for the first time in an African country, Egypt, African negotiators operated effectively as a bloc at the Summit, resulting in a breakthrough agreement to set up a fund to tackle loss and damage. But it has been more the real world impact of climate change on people's lives that has grabbed attention. The five year drought in eastern Africa has been the most severe for a century and has brought drastic food shortages and severe displacement of people in its wake. Though southern Africa benefited from plentiful rains which brought bumper harvests, the rains in West Africa proved too plentiful, resulting in widespread flooding and significant loss of life in several countries.

Controversy surrounds the appropriate response in Africa itself. With a serious shortfall in finance, exacerbated by the knock-on effects of Covid, which increased debt, and the Ukraine war which increased inflation and interest rates, few governments have the resources to invest in climate adaptation for agriculture, housing and infrastructure, or in sufficient new renewable resources to meet the need for energy. So many African countries want to expand their fossil fuel production, especially gas. This will be a key issue in the years ahead, and one the Society will focus on.

This year also highlighted the intractability of conflicts, both in the Horn and the Sahel, two of the regions most affected by climate change. The civil war in Ethiopia has killed hundreds of thousands of civilians as well as combatants. A fragile peace deal existed at the end of the year, but the tensions with Tigrayans and the Oromia have not been resolved, Eritrea is still playing a spoiling role, fighting against Al-Shabab continues in Somalia, and domestic politics in Sudan remains extremely volatile. Jihadi-inspired violence in the Sahel continues to play havoc with local communities in Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria, impeding development and climate response. The Great Lakes region is also facing renewed tensions in the eastern DRC.

But other countries across Africa have persevered in the struggle to improve people's lot in difficult global circumstances. Politics

may seem turbulent – in South Africa, Senegal, Mozambique – but this year's elections, especially in Kenya, showed that peaceful change is possible and people want a vote and a choice. Nigeria's elections in February 2023 will be the acid test in Africa's most populous country. Autocrats are no more effective than democrats in tackling the growing problems, even if some people think otherwise.

How much does all this matter to Britain? A great deal... Though the government here has been distracted by domestic politics, the Society has not. It continues to focus its activities both on the powerful good news stories coming out of Africa – on its creative industries and technological innovation, highlighted at our

celebration of Creative Africa in November and our Film Africa festival the same month – and on the challenges Africa faces from climatic, political and economic developments. Many of Film Africa's most engaging films were themed around the experience of migration, both within Africa and to the rest of the world.

Africans in Britain have an important voice which needs increasingly to be heard. The APPG report on Britain's educational curriculum is a key landmark in defining the action that needs to be taken to redress antiquated images of the continent.

Nick Westcott
Director



Credit: Chuko Cribb

GALA

On 2 November 2022, the Royal African Society (RAS) celebrated its 120th Anniversary under the theme 'Creative Africa' at the Aqua Shard in London. The Anniversary brought the extended community together to celebrate our achievements, increase awareness of our activities, build new as well as reinforce existing partnerships, and chart a path forward for the next 120 years.

The success of the Gala is greatly due to the Chairperson of the Gala Committee, our Council Member, Andrew Skipper MBE, and the producers Creative Resilience- Michael Burgess and Anna Marie Benedict, while our Chairperson Arunma Oteh helped build exciting new networks of supporters.

We celebrated Creative Africa with music from Chineke! Orchestra, Shingai Shoniwa and Osibisa, the poet Pélumi, and DJ Sippin T. Models presented the beautiful work of fashion designers Artsi Ifrach, Alphadi and Yemi Kosibah. There was delicious food by Chef Adebola Adeshina, and Sotheby's helped us run an auction of beautiful art and exhilarating travel experiences.



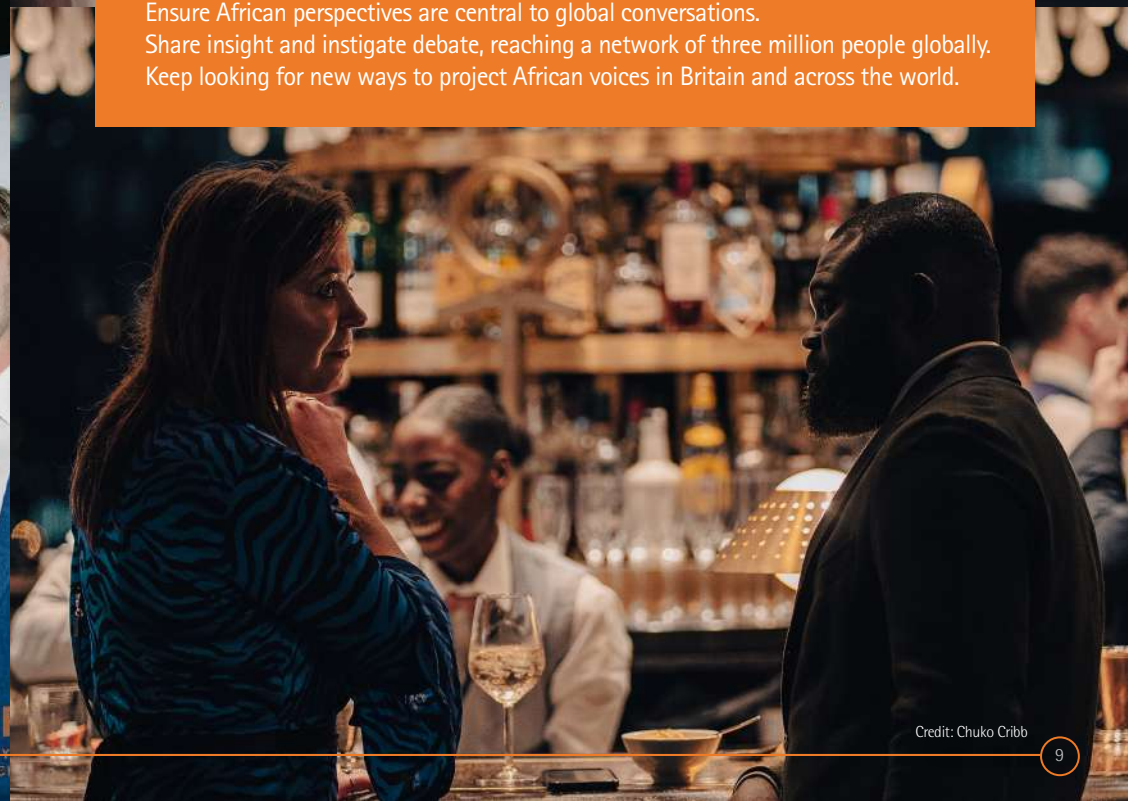
Credit: Chuko Cribb



Credit: Wayne Campbell

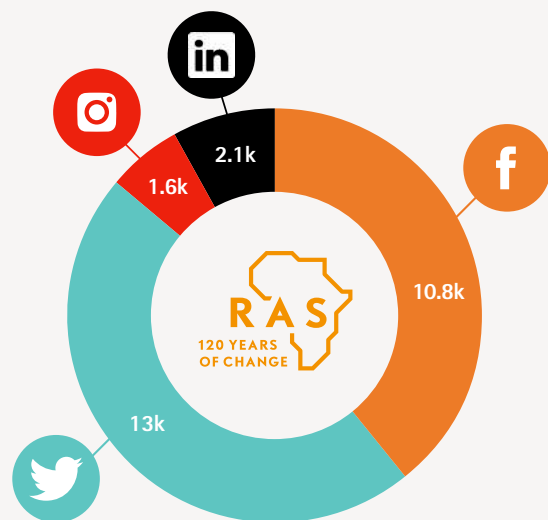
For the next 120 years we will continue doing what we do best:

- Foster mutual understanding and dialogue.
- Ensure African perspectives are central to global conversations.
- Share insight and instigate debate, reaching a network of three million people globally.
- Keep looking for new ways to project African voices in Britain and across the world.

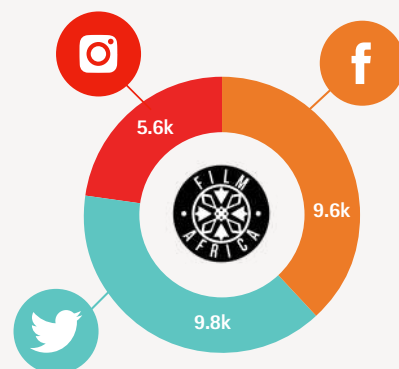
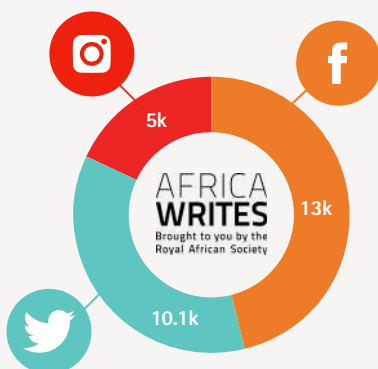


Credit: Chuko Cribb

OUR AUDIENCE AND IMPACT



African Affairs



/ AFRICAN / ARGUMENTS



Forbes

'It's A Diamond Mine!'

"The Royal African Society, which celebrated its 120th birthday recently, continues to be a catalyst for positive change promoting African voices in the United Kingdom and globally.

You feel a deeply inspiring and immersive connection with Africa every time you speak with Arunma Oteh. And when the reason for this conversation is the 120th birthday of the Royal African Society, which this Nigerian powerhouse now chairs, it's a delightful confluence and celebration of all things African."

FINANCIAL TIMES

Film Africa festival celebrates a continent's stories in all their variety ”

INDEPENDENT

"The Prince of Wales learnt more about Film Africa which showcases the best cinema from across the continent and diaspora in the UK."

ART PLUGGED™

'Film Africa Presented By The Royal African Society, Returns For Its 10th Edition'

"The films – feature-length and shorts, fiction and documentary – lay bare discourse around diversity, inclusiveness, power structures, seeking healing, and building communities. Themes covered include a mother's love, belonging, sisterly bonds, migration, sexuality, gender, religion, abortion rights, repressed trauma, and freedom struggles."



STRATEGIC REVIEW



2022 was an incredible learning curve of a year.

We ran the 10th edition of the biggest African film festival in London and put on a 120th Anniversary Gala Celebration in the middle of it. For the first time in two years, it felt like COVID was no longer an immediate threat to our health or events, so the calendar reflected that in full. We continued to shape the RAS into a kinder workplace through increasing our personal and professional development budgets and improving our maternity and compassionate leave policies. With all that we do as a small but mighty team, we feel it is important to take care of staff as best as we can and do that by taking action like scaling salaries to match soaring inflation and ensuring London Living Wage for all interns.

Desta Haile
Deputy Director

Connect

Our Prospects and Forecasts event kicked off the year by discussing how Africa's economic and cultural sectors would respond to the pandemic. Our concern for Climate Change inspired events like Blueprint for Change and Africa's Blue Economy: Regional Cooperation for a Sustainable Future, which brought together experts from Tanzania, the Seychelles, Congo, Rwanda and Mozambique to share their knowledge.

Learn

We supported the African Kingdoms collaboration with the Professor Toby Green, British Museum, inviting The Black Curriculum, Justice 2 History, teachers and students from schools who have successfully run the programmes. As part of our Film Africa festival, we ran workshops in British Sign Language courtesy of Deaffest, Creating Your Own 1-minute film with Mobile Film Festival, and Animation Et Storytelling skills with Cinewax.

Debate

We hosted the Tutu Fellows, for Debating the Future of Africa, and discussed How Africa should Respond to the Ukraine Crisis. We invited exchanges on Sudan's Unfinished Democracy, Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan's first year in office, and hosted a book launch on Mugabe's legacy.

Celebrate

We celebrated plenty this year, especially with the 10th edition of Film Africa stretching to 7 cinemas, showcasing 48 films from 16 African countries. Our colossal belated anniversary party highlighted Creative Africa with fashion, poetry, live music from Chineke! Orchestra, Shingai Shoniwa and Osibisa, an auction of beautiful art and exhilarating travel experiences, food, dance and more. The (sold out) Gala really brought home the eclectic, multicultural and vibrant nature of our incredible extended community, creative and corporate, without whom we could not do the work that we do. It is inspiring to know that after over a century of work amplifying African voices in the UK, Royal African Society is still going and dreaming bigger.



Credit: Wayne Campbell

OUR MEMBERS

The Royal African Society membership programme is open to all and continues to include a diverse and influential network made up of individuals, organisation and companies who want to know more about the African continent.

Our membership community continues to contribute to the work we do as an organisation, continuing to debate and discuss ideas and thoughts in conversations, as well as promoting our arts, culture and literature programmes via our festivals and events via membership.

Our Arts and Culture membership continues to grow as we look into the forthcoming year and we encourage those who wish to join our Arts & Culture membership to take more advantage of our events leading into the year and beyond.

We offer Individual, Student and Corporate Membership packages and we continue to encourage our current members to upgrade their membership and for long term members to upgrade to Lifetime Membership.

In 2022 we had a total of 524 members, including 362 Individual, 25 Friend, 27 Student, 4 Associate, 7 Lifetime, 55 Arts and Culture and 44 Honorary Life Members.

“

I wish to meet and network with like-minded individuals.

”

“

Need to understand more about what is happening on the continent and RAS seems to have its finger on the pulse.

”

“

I'd like to be a part of a new network of Africans who have an international perspective on Africa.

”



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Our membership is open to all. It only takes a few minutes to sign up via our website, so join today!

Connect

- Joint membership with the African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUk), the primary organisation that facilitates links between UK and African institutions and scholars.
- Opportunities to network with like-minded people interested in Africa and establish professional connections and partnerships.
- Share and receive news in our exclusive members' newsletters.

Learn

- Subscription to African Affairs, the world's top-rated African Studies journal (worth £82).
- Access to SOAS Library, the world's largest reference library on Africa (worth £200).
- Discounted tickets to the ASAUk Biennial Conference (worth £85).

Debate

- Free or discounted entry to our programme of public events, where we tackle some of the most pressing issues affecting the continent today.
- Opportunity to feed into the advocacy and policy work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Africa, which we administer.

Celebrate

- Priority booking and discounted tickets to our cultural festivals Africa Writes and Film Africa.
- Exclusive invitations to high-profile celebratory events, such as the reception with our Royal Patron, HRH The Prince of Wales, and other members-only events.

Extra benefits

- Discounts on subscriptions to other journals and publications, including The Africa Report (30% off 1st year) and selected books with publishers James Currey and Boydell & Brewer.
- Third party discounts brokered through our partnerships.

Support our work

Your membership is vital and helps sustain our charitable mission of amplifying African voices and interests to facilitate mutual understanding between people in the UK, Africa and the wider world.

Individual £85

Student £40

Friend £120

Arts & Culture £35

Lifetime £1,500

AFRICAN AFFAIRS

2022 was a busy one for African Affairs. We have published high quality research and have continued to be ranked as the top journal in African Studies, with the latest Impact Factor at 3.017. However, illness, family responsibilities and the impact of the lockdowns resulted in significant delays to the reviewing process. In common with other journals, we have also noticed a slowing down in authors returning revised papers to us. Despite this, the journal has continued to thrive.

There have been changes to the editorial leadership. Peace Medie stepped down as editor after five years in June 2022 after much remarkable work with the journal, engaging in extensive outreach and providing invaluable support to our authors. Her commitment to cutting edge scholarship in African studies during her tenure made a major contribution to securing the journal's reputation as a home for outstanding scholarship. That she managed to do so while becoming a critically acclaimed fiction author is but one example of her talent. We would like to warmly thank Peace for her distinguished service and wish her the best in her future endeavours. We are delighted that she has agreed to join the editorial board and that we will continue to work with her.

“

We have published high quality research and have continued to be ranked as the top journal in African Studies, with the latest Impact Factor at 3.017.

”

We are also very happy to announce that we have two new editors in the journal. Both have served as editorial board members and have made widely recognised contributions to the field of African Studies. After careful consideration and further discussions with the Royal African Society, it was agreed that the amount of editorial work resulting from the volume of submissions of recent years necessitated an addition to the editorial team. Moreover, these appointments further strengthen our geographical and thematic coverage. Please help us extend a very warm welcome to George M. Bob-Milliar and Scott Straus.

**Ricardo Soares de Oliveira, Ambreena Manji,
George Bob-Milliar, and Scott Straus**
Editors, African Affairs

AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UK

ASAUK SUMMARY REPORT FOR 2022

In 2022 the main focus of ASAUK was its biennial conference. This took place online from the 28th August to 1st September with Nairobi and Ibadan and in person from the 1st to the 3rd September in Liverpool. The online conference was funded by the British Academy, and the on-campus conference was generously supported by Flutterwave. The University of Liverpool also contributed free use of facilities and helped cover the cost of Nathan Edwards who took on the role of Conference Curator.

Titled *Diaspora Remittance Flows; Restitution, Culture and Capital*, the conference involved contributions online from collaborating partners at IFRA at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and the BIEA Nairobi. We were able to spend a one-day session each with contributions shared by Zoom to audiences in Nigeria (Wednesday 31st), Kenya (Thursday 1st) and finally, from the UK (Friday 2nd), at the University of Liverpool. Prof. Akosua Adomako Ampofo from the University of Ghana gave the keynote speech, streamed live, titled *Afrobeats At Home And Away; Building Together to the on-campus conference* which took place at the University of Liverpool from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon, 2 – 4 September).

We were very pleased that the Audrey Richards, Fage and Oliver and Distinguished Africanist awards were all presented in person during the



Credit: Nick Westcott

conference dinner at the University of Liverpool to Dr Simeon Koroma (Edinburgh) for his thesis on Sierra Leone, Dr Sam Fury Childs Daly (Duke) for his book on Biafra, and Professor Ray Bush (Leeds) for his lifetime of service to African Studies. We also initiated a new award – the Lasting Legacy award, given posthumously to deceased ASAUK members who made significant contributions to African studies in their lifetimes. This was presented to the late Thandika Mkandawire and the late Raufu Mustapha on the final day of the conference and had online attendance from the deceased's families.

The conference expressed its warm thanks to Prof Ola Uduku who was stepping down as the ASAUK President 2020 –2022, and welcomed Carli Coetzee as incoming President for 2022–24. All information about the conference and awards can be found at the ASAUK conference tab at the ASAUK website.

AFRICAN ARGUMENTS

African Arguments is a pan-African online magazine for news analysis, comment and opinion. We seek to analyse the key issues facing the continent, investigate the stories that matter, and amplify a diversity of voices.

Coverage

African Arguments maintained the depth and breadth of its coverage in 2022, investigating and analysing a wide range of under-reported issues facing the continent. It published hard-hitting and original analysis of the big news stories, such as war and peace in Ethiopia and the Sahel, the geopolitical impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and close elections in Kenya and Angola. It examined threats from and solutions to climate change, looking at agroecology, Fortress Conservation, and the goings on at COP27. It shone a light on events in countries rarely seen in the international news, from riots in Mauritius and economic favouritism in Burundi, to dock worker uprisings in Djibouti and loss of freedoms in Tunisia. And it explored the immense creativity coming out of Africa, from shifts in Zimdancehall, to the rise of TikTok, to the success of Eritrean cyclists.

Fellowships

The inaugural African Arguments Pilot Fellowships for Young Freelance Journalists came to a close. The fellows enjoyed close mentorship from the editors in pitching, investigating, and writing original in-depth stories and developing their careers with great success. Other young journalists who applied for the fellowship were similarly supported in writing engaging articles, with one – Nalova Akua – winning a national journalism award in Cameroon for his article on complex climate change dynamics in the country's north. African Arguments is keen to continue the fellowships, but

is looking for a new funder after Africa No Filter dropped out following a change of strategy.

Readers and Writers

In 2022, African Arguments received 900,000 page views. Our readership in Africa accounted for 40% of our global audience. We published around 230 articles. Approximately 81% were by writers of African descent. About 46% were by female authors. We said a fond farewell to Ayodeji Rotinwa who embarked on a masters at Columbia Journalism School after serving as Deputy Editor for three years.

Plans for 2023

African Arguments enters an exciting new chapter in 2023. James Wan will shift from Editor to Managing & Climate Editor. He will maintain overall oversight of the magazine and take charge of its much-expanded coverage of climate change issues. Parselelo Kantai, a highly experienced editor based in Kenya, is our new Politics & Society Editor, responsible for driving the online magazine's coverage of politics, social issues, culture and more.

Debating Ideas

The Debating Ideas sub-section, run independently by the International African Institute (IAI) and sponsored by the World Peace Foundation (WPF), published an original series of articles on African feminisms, debates around the AA book series, and book reviews (in collaboration with the main site).

BUSINESS PROGRAMME

Our business programme has grown steadily throughout 2022 and continues to provide an unparalleled network and a prestigious platform for our corporate members. Our 'Economies to Watch' business breakfast series offers corporate partners valuable insight, networking opportunities, brand visibility and privileged access to African and British decision-makers, giving them a competitive advantage when doing business.

In March, we held a high-level briefing on the Tanzanian economy, jointly with the Britain-Tanzania Society, featuring Foreign Minister Liberata Mulamula alongside Hon Zakia Meghji MP, the first female Minister of Finance, Dr. Frannie Léautier of SouthBridge Investments, development expert Ruth Meena, author Aikande Kwayu and blogger Elsie Eyakuze.

In July, Trudi Makhaya, Special Economic Adviser to President Cyril Ramaphosa joined Oxford Professor Stefan Dercon for a special online briefing titled 'Achieving a Structural Break in South Africa's Economic Outcomes', exploring the complex situation of South Africa's economy, its response to Covid challenges and the country's economic reform programme.

In October, we held a breakfast investment forum for Togo headlined by Hon. Adedze Kodjo Sevon-Tepe, Minister of Trade, Industry and Local Consumption,



Credit: Alex Mayeye

and Hon. Rose Kayi Mivedor-Sambian, Minister of Investment Promotion. Over the past decade, Togo has experienced steady economic growth and the Ministers provided invaluable insights into current market opportunities and support available for businesses from the UK. Our thanks to Hogan Lovells for hosting the event.

Sustainability has been a running theme throughout the year, with the inaugural RAS CEO Lecture by Bill Winters, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank on 'How to Finance a Sustainable Future for Africa'. The event was held in partnership with the London Business School in early October, in time to feed into the preparations for COP 27. Moderated by the Society's Chairperson, Arunma Oteh, a packed audience took part in a lively discussion on this critical issue with someone who understood the private sector dynamics of dealing with climate change.

PUBLIC EVENTS

In 2022, we hosted over 60 events and welcomed over 6,000 participants in person and online.

With several Africa Writes regional events, the 10th edition of Film Africa, and our Anniversary Gala it was an especially eventful year with much to offer in terms of opportunities for people to connect, debate, learn, and celebrate.

Africa in 2022: Prospects and Forecasts

We started the year with this collaboration between the British Council and Edinburgh University, looking at what the year ahead might have in store. Covid and accelerating climate change presented new challenges for Africa and the world. Travel, tourism and trade all faced hurdles, and climate-related difficulties for agriculture, energy and water supply risked exacerbating conflict hotspots. We considered Africa's response to these challenges and to the continued political strains in a number of regions.

Chaired by Professor Phil Clark, our panellists provided fascinating insights into how Africans would respond to these challenges in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres, and in their international engagement. Many thanks to Professor Francisca Mutapi, Professor in Global Health Infection and Immunity, co-Director of the Global Health Academy at the University of Edinburgh; Moctar Kane, Country Manager, Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund; Vanessa Tsehaye, Horn of Africa Campaigner, Amnesty International; Yandile Nukul, Content Strategist/CEO – GIQ Media; Jonathan Rosenthal, Africa Editor at The Economist; Rozan Ahmed, Communications Expert, Strategic Advisor, Cultural Diplomat & Activist; Dr. Jean-Benoit Falisse,

Lecturer in African Studies and International Development, University of Edinburgh; and Sophia El Bahja, Entrepreneur and Consultant in Social Innovation.

Climate & Sustainability

Africa's Blue Economy: Regional Cooperation for a Sustainable Future looked at the changing marine economy of coastal states. In collaboration with SOAS and moderated by Professor Donald Sparks, Visiting Fulbright Professor of Economics, SOAS, panellists included: Hon. Jean-François Ferrari, Minister of Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Seychelles, Dr Nicholas Hardman-Mountford, Director, Oceans & Natural Resources, Commonwealth Secretariat, London, Dr. Louis Rene Peter Larose, Former Minister of Finance, Trade and Economic Planning, Seychelles, and Professor Francis Mkwaijande, Senior Lecturer, Mzumbe University, Tanzania.

Blueprint for Change discussed the importance of natural capital, increasingly recognised as critical to human health and prosperity, and how large forest 'carbon sinks' are vital for global efforts to limit carbon emissions and associated temperature rises as a result of climate change. We asked why the communities protecting some of the world's most important biodiversity remain so poor, while those who exploit the environment get so rich, and how to could reverse that trend. Panellists shared experience from multiple conservation projects in Africa to demonstrate how conservation can support development, and what more is needed, including insights from John Kahekwa and the Pole Pole Foundation, finalists in the inaugural 2021 Earthshot Prize, as well as experiences from Rwanda, Kenya and Mozambique.



Business Breakfast Briefing on Togo: Investment and Trade. Council Member Andrew Skipper, Director Nick Westcott, Chairperson Arunma Oteh, H.E Ms. Rose Kayi Mivedor Epse Sambiani, Minister for Investment Promotion of Togo, H.E Mr. Kodjo Sevon-Tépe Adedze, Minister of Trade, Industry and Local Consumption. Photo by Alex Mayeye.

Dr Richard Milburn, Lecturer, King's College London, chaired a panel including John Kahekwa, Founder and Director of the Pole Pole Foundation, Belise Kariza, Rwanda Country Director, Africa Wildlife Foundation, Josephine Nzilani, Terrestrial Programme Manager, Fauna & Flora International, and Dr Bartolomeu Soto, Director-General of Mozambique's National Administration of Conservation Areas.

Politics

We hosted a debate on 'How Africa should respond to the Ukraine crisis' chaired by Shuvai Nyoni, Director of the African Leadership Centre, with Murithi Mutiga, Program Director for Africa of International Crisis Group (Kenya); Cheta Nwanze, Lead Partner from SBM Intelligence (Nigeria); and Greg Mills, Director of The Brenthurst Foundation (South Africa).

2022 saw elections in many African countries, and we highlighted that of Kenya's in July. Moderated by Juliana Oliyinka, our Speakers included Dr Keni Kariuki, Political Economist, Director & Agricultural Contributor of Scio Network Kenya; Dr Njoki Wame, Assistant Professor of Politics and International Studies at United States International University Africa; Reginald Kadzutu, Financial & Economic Analyst with Amana Capital; Ngethe Wa Mbiyu,

Chairman of Kenya Movement for Democracy & Justice; and Robin Gwynn, International Consultant.

Author Paula Cristina Roque presented her book *Governing in the Shadows*, Angola's Securitised State, published by Hurst in the African Arguments series, in conversation with Tom Burgis, Miles Tendi (Oxford), and Patrick Smith (Africa Confidential). We launched a second African Arguments book, *Mugabe's Legacy & Politics of the Dead in Zimbabwe 2000-2020* by David Moore. Joining the author were Joost Fontein, Professor of Anthropology; Hamadziripi Munyika, Researcher; Tinashe Mushakavanhu, Junior Research Fellow in African & Comparative Literature; Mandipa Ndlovu, Governance Researcher and Development Policy Analyst; and Roger Southall, Emeritus Professor. Both launches were in partnership with the International African Institute.

Working with the Centre for African Studies, we hosted two more book launches: *African Peacekeeping*, by Jonathan Fisher and Nina Wilén and *Why Demographics Matter*, by Edward Paice. Both events were chaired by Professor Phil Clark of SOAS, also joined by Dr Zainab Usman, Director of the Africa Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

APPG FOR AFRICA

Education inquiry report

March 2022 saw the publication of the APPG's Education policy report that took a deep dive into how Africa is represented across UK Schools. This was a collective effort with the education consultancy Justice to History who were central in bringing the final report together. The report calls for the UK Government to support an overhaul of how Africa is studied in Britain and recommended that the Department for Education abolish the requirement in the English Literature GCSE syllabus that prevents students from studying non-British English authors and poets. The report also made other practical suggestions for improving the way Africa is taught about in schools, suggesting that Africa should be included in the "modern world" section of GCSE and A-Level History and Geography courses with coverage that goes beyond development, disaster, slavery and colonialism to give students a broader and, crucially, more accurate knowledge of the continent.

The Rt. Hon. James Cleverly MP, then Secretary of State for Education, welcomed the report. Sadly, thus far the Department has fallen short of implementing changes at this stage, citing the need for stability in schools following Covid. However, the report's recommendations enjoy unanimous support from across the education sector and we remain committed to advocating for reform through our work with schools, educators and policymakers.

Delegation to Kigali for CHOGM 2022

With support of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association-UK Challenge Fund the APPG arranged a UK parliamentary delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in June. They participated in the Commonwealth



Credit: Jack Patterson

Women's Forum and engaged on issues including Women's Economic Empowerment, LGBT rights and migration. An illuminating visit to Hope House Hostel, where the UK Government intends to house deported migrants allowed members insight into the controversial policy. The delegation also met with opposition leader Victoire Ingabire.

UK as a partner for Just Energy Transition

Moving forward, in addition to continued dialogue on Education and Visit Visas, a core focus will be on the effectiveness of the UK as a partner for African countries seeking to develop renewable energy and increase domestic energy access. An October meeting with the then Minister for Development, Vicky Ford MP, heard research to show that despite international commitments and the enormous potential for African countries to sit at the centre of a green global economy, a huge financing gap is hampering Africa's ability to develop green energy infrastructure. There is appetite across all sectors to change this and the APPG hopes to help catalyse further understanding and interest amongst parliamentarians on this and interrelated issues.

AFRICA WRITES

Africa Writes festival is a biennial celebration of contemporary literature from Africa and the diaspora, brought to you by the Royal African Society and presented in partnership with the British Library. In 2022, Africa Writes went on tour! The tenth edition of the festival introduced brand new regional partnerships, resulting in co-curated satellite events in Leeds, Swindon and Birmingham.

Africa Writes Leeds 5th March 2022

We kicked off our national collaborations with Leeds Literary Festival in partnership with British Library Bath Spa, Geraldine Connor Foundation and Leeds University Centre for African Studies, on Saturday 5th March 2022. The programme was curated by Khadijah Ibrahiim with additional sponsorship from Flutterwave.

Africa Writes Swindon 7 May 2022

Africa Writes Swindon 7 May 2022 took place on Saturday 7th May 2022, as part of Swindon Festival of Literature, and featured artists including The Rhythm & Roots Collective, Catherine Okoronkwo, and Elder Eulinda Antonette Clarke-Akalanne.

Africa Writes Exeter 17-19 June 2022

As part of Exeter's UNESCO City of Literature programme, Africa Writes Exeter celebrated contemporary literature and thought from Africa and the African diaspora with a series of book launches, conversations, performances and workshops both live and online. The festival was a collaboration between the Royal African Society and Saseeni! working in partnership with the University of Exeter, local independent bookshop Bookbag and Roots Resistance.

Africa Writes Birmingham 19th November 2022

This Africa Writes pop-up was part of The Birmingham Literature Festival, which in turn is a project of Writing West Midlands, the literature development agency for the region. 'Home is Not a Place' is a theme that was explored through the work of poets including Yomi Sode, Casey Bailey, Johnny Pitts and others.

We supported the Caine Literature Prize by interviewing the shortlisted authors on our social media: Idza Luhumyo (who won the prize), Nana-Ama Danquah, Hannah Giorgis, Joshua Chizoma, and Billie McTernan.

We are planning our 2023 Festival at The British Library for September 29th-October 1st, and are grateful for our Advisory Group for their experience, creativity and support: Jonah Albert (British Library), Mireille Harper (Bluebird Books), Bibi Bakare-Yusuf (Cassava Republic Books), Caitlin Pearson (formerly of the Royal African Society).

“

In 2022, Africa Writes went on tour! The tenth edition of the festival introduced brand new regional partnerships, resulting in co-curated satellite events in Leeds, Swindon and Birmingham.

”

FILM AFRICA



Credit: Chuko Cribb

The tenth edition and second biennial edition of Film Africa took place from 28 October to 6 November 2022, showcasing 47 titles from 16 different African countries, including 22 UK, European and World premieres. Film Africa hosted screenings across 7 London venues as well featuring a selection of seven narrative and documentary films on BFI Player. 2558 people attended. Our Advisory Group was extremely helpful as we planned for this very special edition – we thank them,

David Somerset, BFI / Estrella Sendra Fernandez, SOAS & King's/ Femi Kolade, London Film School/ Negede Assefa, Rich Mix/Lindiwe Dovey, SOAS/ Nike Jonah/ Victoria Thomas, London Film School Sandra Hebron, National Film and Television School

And the TANO consortium (Cambridge African Film Festival, Africa in Motion, Afrika Eye, Watch Africa, Film Africa), for all their assistance and insight.

Programme

The main programme was thoughtfully pulled together by three brilliant curators: Aseye Tamakloe, Nyambura M. Waruingi and Wilfred Okiche hailing from Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria

respectively. We had nearly 200 submissions, which our Submissions Advisors helped us narrow down – many thanks to them and the National Film and Television School.

Special Strands & Partnerships

Our special strands included BEYOND NOLLYWOOD, the eclectic & well-researched offering of curator Nadia Denton, who platforms the freshest and most original films out of Nigeria and its diaspora. We were delighted to partner again with Deaffest, who curated some of our best-selling events at Rich Mix. Our delicious Dine & View events were collaborations with award-winning chef Akwasi Mensa of Tatale, and Carine Ottou who brought her delectable Cameroonian cuisine to our film screenings with Cameroon connections. Film Africa Live! brought the music, courtesy of South African DJ GoldenLady, South London legends The Soothsayers, kora giant Kadiyaly Kouyate and Afro-Brazilian percussionist Adriano Adewale at Mwalimu Express. Leeds International Film Festival kindly connected us to the beautiful and unique Garden Cinema, who generously hosted our Masterclass.

Film Africa Masterclass

Sponsored by Mo Abudu of EbonyLife, the goal of the Masterclass was to interview three Black women movers and shakers from the world of film: Mo Abudu herself, actor-director-writer Nana Mensah, and costume designer Colleen Morris-Glennon. 25 young film creatives were invited to attend, ask questions, network, and experience breakout groups with one of the guests after the panel discussion ended (expertly hosted by Film Africa intern Naomi Rhodes). Our Royal Patron, The Prince of Wales, joined the event to listen and discuss the issues with all the participants.

Festival Awards

Members of the Baobab Award jury were 'Film Poet' Be Manzini, filmmaker Ibrahim 'Snoopy' Ahmed and founder of Filmmika Kara Gueye, representing Zimbabwe, Sudan and Senegal. They truly agonised over the choice due to the quality of each short, but finally chose Mbithi Masya's Baba as overall winner. The popular and entertaining South African film The Umbrella Men by John Barker claimed the Audience Award.

Workshops

We partnered with Cinewax, Mobile Film Festival Africa, and Deaffest on three excellent workshops, all hosted at Rich Mix. These were:

'WHAT'S YOUR STORY?' ANIMATION WORKSHOP

With Cinewax and award-winning animator, illustrator and visual artist Comfort Arthur for a workshop in which participants developed an idea, created a storyboard and script for their film, making characters and producing their own animations.

'1 MOBILE. 1 MINUTE. 1 FILM.' WORKSHOP

With Mobile Film Festival, where over a two day period, workshop participants had the opportunity to make a film – from ideation through to editing – all with just a smartphone. They explored Brainstorming, Script Writing, Producing, Acting, Shooting, and Editing with filmmakers as mentors.

'A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE' WORKSHOP

Participants joined Deaf filmmaker David Ellington on a journey through the process of working together as a team of Deaf and hearing creatives from castings to the actual work on set, learning the BSL films glossary.



Credit: Chuko Cribb

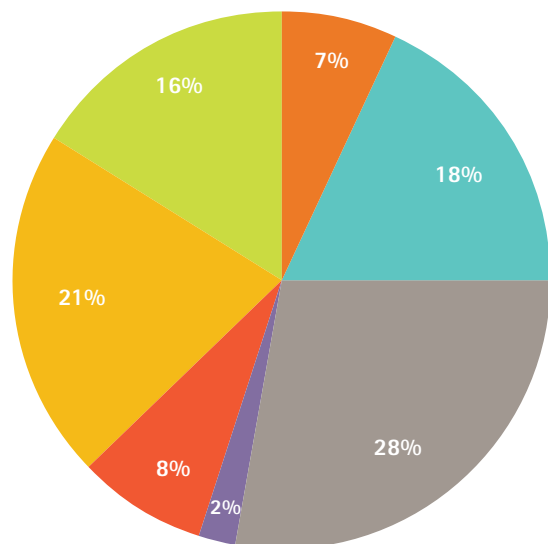
HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT 2022

The Society achieved a record year by generating revenue of £1.04m. The principal driver was our Anniversary Gala in November, which attracted several new corporate sponsors and which accounted for two-thirds of the revenue increase of almost £400,000 on the previous year. We should also highlight the 10th edition of Film Africa and our inaugural CEO lecture in October, given by Bill Withers of Standard Chartered Bank. The Society enjoyed healthy growth in income from corporate memberships and partnerships, core funding grants and donations, and the charitable programmes and events in aggregate. Our journal, African Affairs, again generated the largest single contribution to net income. Increased activity resulted in the accounts also showing a strong rise in expenditure, an element of which was the result of salary adjustments to compensate staff for cost-of-living increases.

In sum, the Society posted a net operating income of £176,000, compared with net expenditure of £25,000 in 2021 and it is worth noting that even without the boost from the Gala, we would have reported a small net operating income. For the first time in four years, the revaluation of our investments went against us and reduced the final net income to £139,000 (vs £10,000 in the previous year).

The Society closed the year with unused funds of £578,000 of which £551,000 is freely available for use on activities which serve us best. This cushion against external shocks is substantially above what we regard as the minimum level. While Covid-19 no longer rules our corporate and personal lives, we are not complacent. Our budget for 2023 is cautious in terms of revenue assumptions. For reasons already shared, the cost base is likely to be more than 60 per cent higher than in 2019. It will be a challenging year and the financial result will bear no comparison with 2022. That said, we are confident that our strong team will rise to the occasion.

Gregory Kronsten
Honorary Treasurer



SOURCES OF INCOME IN 2022

- Public Bodies: 7% (£71,000)
- Trusts & Foundations: 18% (£183,000)
- Corporate membership & sponsorship: 28% (£289,000)
- Individual Membership: 2% (£25,000)
- Corporate & Individual Donations: 8% (£84,000)
- Journal: 21% (£219,000)
- Revenue: 16% (£166,000)

Total Income: £1,037,000

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the year ended 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
	£,000	£,000
Income and Expenditure Account		
Income from:		
Donations	146	104
Charitable activities		
Connect	97	78
Learn	292	264
Debate	49	106
Celebrate	433	80
Other trading activities	12	12
Investment income	8	8
Total income	1037	652
Expenditure on:		
Raising Funds	46	38
Charitable activities		
Connect	130	161
Learn	84	118
Debate	162	230
Celebrate	439	130
Total expenditure	861	677
Net operating income/(expenditure)	176	(25)
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of investments	(37)	35
Total net income/(expenditure)	139	10
Total Funds brought forward	439	429
Total Funds carried forward	578	439
Balance Sheet		
Investments	277	313
Current assets	530	213
Current liabilities	(167)	(87)
Long term liabilities	(62)	-
Total net assets	578	439

TEAM AND COUNCIL

COUNCIL

Chairperson

Arunma Oteh (from July 2021)

Vice-Chairs

Jide Olanrewaju

Dr Titilola Banjoko

Honorary Treasurer

Gregory Kronsten

Elected Members

Susana Edjang (until June 2022)

Boko Inyundo (until June 2022)

Joel Kibazo (until June 2022)

Obi James

Nike Jonah

Razia Khan

Anne McCormick

Andrew Skipper

Geetha Tharmaratnam

Professor Adam Habib

Professor Phil Clark

Hannah O'Leary (joined December 2022)

Gina Din (joined December 2022)

Co-opted Members

Baroness Northover

Miles Wickstead
(until June 2022)

Ola Uduku (ex officio) until
(December 2022)

Sotonye Oye-Somefun

Appointed Members

African Affairs Co-Editors

Ricardo Soares de Oliveira,
Ambreena Manji,
George Bob-Milliar,
Scott Straus

Book Reviews Editor

Akin Iwilade

Editorial Assistant

Busani Mpofu

TEAM

Director

Dr Nicholas Westcott, CMG

Deputy Director

Desta Haile

Fundraising Manager

Sonia Foday

Corporate Relations Manager

Hoda Dahir

Events Manager

Natacha Mendes

Administrative Manager

Lizzie Orekoya,
Nicodemus Leo
(maternity cover)

Membership Administrator

Melmarie Laccay

Policy & Advocacy Manager (Africa APPG)

Hetty Bailey-Morgan, Jack
Patterson (maternity cover)

African Arguments Editor

James Wan

African Arguments Deputy Editor

Ayodeji Rotinwa
(until June 2022)

Africa Writes Producer & Project Co-ordinator

Nat Fiawoo

Education & Outreach Programme Manager

Olivia Danso

Film Africa Producer

Sarah Wechselberger

Production Intern

Naomi Rhodes

Marketing & PR Consultants

Emily Agodzo

Consultant Accountant

Brian Johnson

RAS Interns

Aixa Amarante-Naranjo,
Jessica Genet Robson

Digital Communications Manager

Nwora Emenike

Web Services

Kemoso

Auditors

Chariot House Ltd 44 Grand
Parade Brighton BN2 9QA

Branding & Design

D237.com

OUR PARTNERS

We partner with companies and organisations that share our values to enhance our events and programmes, reach new audiences and networks, and share resources and expertise. Through our partnerships, we also aim to develop research and insight, amplify ideas or campaigns, and achieve sustainability. We are proud to present a selection of the main partners we have worked with in 2022 below.

Corporate Donors & Partners

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Creative Resilience

Funding Partners

Arts Council England
British Film Institute Audience Fund
Garfield Weston Foundation
Miles Morland Foundation
Open Society Foundations

Strategic and Impact Partners

British Council
Oxford Brookes University
SOAS, University of London
University of Edinburgh

Event and Media Partners

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Africa Confidential
Africa No Filter
African Kingdoms
AKO Caine Prize for African Writing
BBC World Service
British Council
British Library
British Museum
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Centre of African Studies, University of London
CSIS
Dark Matter
Deafest
Garden Cinema
Global Press Journal
Justice 2 History
International African Institute IAI
International Crisis Group
Lemlem Eritrean Kitchen
LGBT Rights Ghana
London Business School
Nataal
New Comma
Nourishment
Rich Mix
South London Gallery
The Black Curriculum
Unbias The News

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

2022 was a really special year for the Royal African Society. We extend huge thanks to everyone who made it possible, especially for the 10th edition of Film Africa and our 120th Anniversary Gala which required months of intensive preparation. Thank you to our previous Deputy Director, Sheila Ruiz, for all of her helpful input and introductions.

Chairperson Arunma Oteh greatly expanded our reach with her network and guidance. Our Advisory Groups for both Africa Writes and Film Africa contributed so much to the present and future success of our festivals. Thanks to Creative Resilience who guided us to a wonderful Gala celebration.

Thank you to our Council, SOAS University of London, the ASAUk, editors of African Affairs and its publisher Oxford University Press, and to members of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Africa, as well as to all our corporate and individual members. The ongoing support of the Miles Morland Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation and the Open Society Foundations.

Many thanks to our volunteers, interns and friends for their contributions. Everything we do is delivered in collaboration with many partners, guest speakers and incredible audience members without whom we would not be able to deliver the rich and varied programme of which we are so proud, amplifying African voices in the UK and beyond.





Credit: Chuko Cribb

JOIN US IN 2023

CONNECT | LEARN | DEBATE | CELEBRATE

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