

# **KAY WILLIAMSON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (KWEF)**

Report to Trustees, June 2015 covering financial year 2014-2015

**Roger Blench**  
**Chief Research Officer**

**Summary**

**1. Situation in Nigeria**

The situation in Rivers State remains very bad, and no direct work is possible. However, I am considering a visit next time I am in Nigeria, staying on campus, to see if I can complete the Ijò work. Security in Northern Nigeria has seen continuing acceleration of Boko Haram attacks, making fieldwork in many areas of the North impossible. Recent developments suggest regional governments are acting together and things may get better.

**2. Activities in Cameroun and Nigeria**

In early April Roger Blench was in Cameroun, working with ongoing and new KWEF projects. A visit to Nigeria was made in December 2014

**3. Website**

The KWEF Facebook site has been regularly updated

**4. Jos Linguistic Circle (JLC)**

Support to Jos Linguistic Circle has continued

**5. Publications**

Support to publications is continuing. A dictionary of Ngiemboon has now been published and a dictionary of Lamnso is currently in press.

**6. Conferences attended 2014-2015**

Roger Blench has attended a series of conferences to present the work of the Foundation

**8. KWEF collaborators**

One long-term KWEF collaborator, Barau Kato, died unexpectedly in the month of January. Roger Blench has worked with Barau for more than two decades and he is much regretted.

**9. Future commitments**

Roger Blench has been invited to Australia, the United States to talk about KWEF work

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**1. Situation in Nigeria**

The security situation in Nigeria continues to deteriorate, with random attacks and suicide bombings all over the north, mostly as a result of ramped up activity by Boko Haram. The recent kidnappings have at least made this situation internally high-profile, but the outcome is highly unpredictable. This has made fieldwork riskier in remote areas.

**2. Activities in Cameroun and Nigeria**

In April Roger Blench was in Cameroun, working with ongoing and new KWEF projects. In December a visit was made to Nigeria to work with existing projects.

**3. Website**

The KWEF website has been updated

<http://www.rogerblench.info/KWEF/KWEF/KWEFOP.htm>

The Facebook Page continues to be visited regularly

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kay-Williamson-Educational-Foundation/147159102128443>

**4. Jos Linguistic Circle (JLC)**

This has been one of our most successful initiatives. Since its inception in 2006, KWEF has supported meetings of JLC with hire of rooms and refreshments, and has been able to bring together a growing number of enthusiasts for Nigerian languages. The Appendix gives papers presented during this past year.

The Facebook Page continues to be visited regularly

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jos-Linguistic-Circle/157255621102227?fref=ts>

**5. Publications**

KWEF supports a series of local publications in Nigeria (or in Cameroun if the language is also spoken in Nigeria). Published and projected volumes are given in the Appendix.

Work continues on the two following volumes

## **KWEF Annual report 2014-2015**

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1. An Atlas of the Mammals of the Niger Delta
2. Ethnobotany of the Niger Delta

The preliminary version of the Lamnso dictionary, worked on in Cameroun in April 2014 is now ready for copyediting.

### **6. Conferences attended 2014-2015**

Conferences make it possible to both present work done with KWEF funding and to distribute the flyer, and purchase books to improve Nigerian library resources.

The following conferences were attended to present the results of KWEF fieldwork between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

#### **2014**

March/April. Fieldwork in the Cameroun Grassfields.  
July/August. Canberra, Lectures at Australian National University.  
August. Visiting Fellow. University of New England at Armidale.  
November. Presentation, African Archaeology Research Days, Bristol.

#### **2015**

January-February. Kyoto University, Japan. Invited talks on West Africa.

### **8. KWEF collaborators**

Dr. Robert Hedinger continues to assist with the preparation and publication of KWEF dictionaries from his new base in the United Kingdom. Again, many thanks.

Mark van de Velde, CNRS, is establishing a research base for Nigerian Languages at Research Centre for Nigerian Languages at Kwasu, Kwara State University. The idea is to provide an institutional home for researchers, both Nigerian and external with strong financial management. Kwara state is remote from the problems of both North and South and I have discussed supporting this as opposed to UPH, which despite considerable rhetoric has done exactly nothing to further the publication of Kay's work.

### **9. Future commitments as of March 31**

1. April. Roger Blench has been invited to Museu Emilio Goeldi, Belem and INPA, Manaus in April 2015, to present some of the work of KWEF.
2. May. Roger Blench invited to MPI, Nijmegen, to talk about results from KWEF work
3. May. Roger Blench invited to Lyon, for Reflex workshop
4. May. Roger Blench invited to CIRAD, Lyon to discuss photographs for Niger Delta useful plants book.
5. August. Roger Blench will be visiting Australia in, 2015, on a visiting fellowship at UNE Armidale, to give talks in Canberra, Sydney and Armidale partly on KWEF research
6. January 2016. Roger Blench invited to present to the Linguistic Society of America in Washington, DC on KWEF work.

### **10. Kay Williamson Lecture, Port Harcourt**

**Accounts.** Presented separately.

**APPENDIX I**

**Publications in progress**

**International series**

1. Kuteb grammar [published]
2. Mofu Dictionary [published]
3. Copy pronouns [published]
4. Mambay grammar [published]
5. Proceedings of the Jos Linguistic Circle, Volume I. [published]
6. Languages of the Nuba mountains [published]

**Ethnoscience series**

1. An Atlas of the Mammals of the Niger Delta [in preparation]
2. Ethnobotany of the Niger Delta [in preparation]

**In the future**

1. Berom dictionary
2. Mada dictionary
3. Tarok Dictionary
4. Muyang dictionary
5. Kuteb dictionary
6. New map of Nigerian languages
7. Wawa grammar

**Nigerian series**

1. The Tarok language [printed]
2. Babanki dictionary [printed]
3. Ngwo dictionary [printed]
4. Akoose dictionary [printed]
5. Moghamo dictionary [printed]
6. Mambay dictionary [printed]
7. Ngiemboon dictionary [printed]
8. Lamnso dictionary [in press]

**APPENDIX II: Jos Linguistic Circle**

Report of Meetings to Kay Williamson Educational Foundation

Speakers and Titles back to April 2014 onwards

## KWEF Annual report 2014-2015

Speaker	Date	Title
Tim Kempton	16/4/14	Machine-Assisted Phonemic Analysis
Steven Dettweiler	24/9/14	Orthography Development in C'Lela – History & Issues
Russell Norton	22/10/14	Discovering Related Languages Together: Creating Grammar Booklets in 12 Days 4 Talodi Languages
Matthew Harley	26/11/14r	Visual Factors in Reading : Implications for Orthography Design in Nigeria
Selbut Longtau	28/1/15	Explorations of Sound Symbolism in Central Nigeria and Current Orthography/Translation Practices. Part 1: A case study of Tarok
Zachariah Yoder	25/3/15	The Reliability of Recorded Text Test (RTT) Scores
Stephen Dettweiler	22/4/15	Encoding Direction in Motion Verbs of Some Kainji Languages

The organisers of the Jos Linguistic Circle wish to express their thanks to the Kay Williamson Educational Foundation for their interest and support for local linguistic meetings in the Jos area. The meetings serve students, researchers and development workers engaged in the study of linguistics and Nigerian languages. They provide a forum for presentation of work or research in progress and enable linguists and language development workers to engage in useful debate. Attendees include staff and students from the Theological College of Northern Nigeria Bible Translation Department; University of Jos (linguistics and mass communications departments); Nigeria Bible Translation Trust; Bible Society of Nigeria and others.

Margaret Mado, TCNN

### APPENDIX III: Papers published in the last year or in press

- (2014a) [Linguistic evidence for the chronological stratification of populations South of Lake Chad](#). In: Les échanges e la communication dans le bassin du Lac Tchad. S. Baldi and G. Magrin eds. 395-420. Naples: Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale. Also [Powerpoint](#)
- (2014b) Language and archaeology: state of the art. In: *Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Anthropology*. N.J. Enfield, P. Kockelman, J. Sidnell eds. 638-661. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- (2014c) *The Bantoid languages*. Oxford University Press, Linguistics Online.
- (2015a) [The origins of nominal affixes in MSEA languages: convergence, contact and some African parallels](#). In: *Mainland Southeast Asian Languages: The State of the Art*. N.J. Enfield and Bernard Comrie eds. 558-585. Pacific Linguistics. Berlin/Boston: Mouton de Gruyter.
- (in press a) [Linguistic and cultural background to the North Bauchi region and the Wiihə people](#). Chapter for: *The excavations at Kariya Wuro* Philip Allsworth-Jones ed. ? Journal of African Archaeology Monograph
- (in press b) [Reconstructing African agrarian prehistory by combining different sources of evidence: methodological considerations and examples for west African economic plants](#). In: proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on African Archaeobotany, Vienna, 2-5<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.
- (in press c) Nominal affixes and number marking in the Plateau languages of Central Nigeria. In: *Comparative-historical studies in East Benue-Congo*. John Watters ed. Monographs on Comparative Niger-Congo. Language Science Press (LangSci) at (<http://langsci-press.org/>).
- (in press d) Nominal affixes and number marking in the Kainji languages. In: *Comparative-historical studies in East Benue-Congo*. John Watters ed. Monographs on Comparative Niger-Congo. Language Science Press (LangSci) at (<http://langsci-press.org/>).
- (in press e) with Selbut Longtau. Tarok young people's speech. To appear in a Special Issue of *Sociolinguistic Studies*, Volume 9 Number 3: *The Dynamics Of Youth Language In Africa*, ed. Eyo Mensah.