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### **Current Research Interests**

Ecology and Evolution of Avian Tropical Diseases

### **Education and Training**

- **PhD in Biology**, Boston University, Department of Biology (Behavior, Ecology and Evolution), USA. Thesis: Phylogeography and Systematics of Montane Forest Birds in Cameroon. May 2006. (Major Adviser: Michael D. Sorenson; Committee Chairman: Thomas Kunz)
- **M.Sc (Plant Ecology)**, Department of Plant Protection and Environmental Biology. University of Ibadan, Nigeria. February 1994. Thesis: The use of mulch in melon cultivation (Major Supervisor: Prof (Mrs.) Ogunyemi).
- **B.Sc (Hons)**, Department of Botany, University of Ife, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. June 1991. Dissertation Topic: Inheritance of Caryopsis Color, Plant Height and Tillering Habits in some selections of Rice (*Oryza*) from local germplasm.
- **General Certificate of Education Advanced Level**, St. Joseph's College, Sasse, Buea, Cameroon. June 1986.
- **Diploma**, Recent advances in Conservation Genetics, The Smithsonian Institution's Conservation & Research Centre, Virginia USA. August 2004.
- **Course in Ornithological Data Encoding and Data Repatriation**. Dept. of Vertebrate Zoology (Ornithology), Royal Museum for central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium. June to August 2000.
- **Field training course in Bird identification and surveys**, Important Bird Areas Project (IBA), BirdLife International/Cameroon Ornithological Club, Yaoundé Cameroon. January to April 1999.

- **Diploma**, Formation en Informatique, Cite Don Bosco, Yaoundé Cameroon. June 1998.

### **Employment**

- **Post Doctoral Scholar**, University of California, Los Angeles. Center for Tropical Research. January 2007 to Date. Main research focus: *Emerging infectious tropical diseases, biodiversity and health*.

Major responsibilities: I work as a part of an interdisciplinary team investigating the effects of deforestation on the prevalence of blood-borne pathogens in African rainforest birds. Using existing samples, as well as collecting new ones, and using PCR-based detection methods and molecular phylogenetics, I work collaboratively to investigate how long-term anthropogenic changes in habitats affect the prevalence of infectious diseases in natural populations. The three main objectives of my study are to: 1) determine how pathogen prevalence changes over time within differing rainforest habitats, 2) determine host, habitat and vector specificities of blood-borne pathogens to explore the degree of host-switching, and 3) determine, using remote sensing and bioclimatic data, the environmental variables that best correlate with pathogen prevalence and develop models that will aid in the prediction of how ecological change will affect disease prevalence and the likelihood of host switching.

Additionally, my research also focuses on putting data together on population trends using birds as indicators of climate change as well as working on evolutionary determinants of bird vulnerability to global change in Africa. As part of my work, I also have the opportunity to explore broader questions related to population diversification and microevolutionary processes. I interact and collaborate with other researchers and graduate students working on a broad range of ecological and evolutionary projects. Examples of other Center for Tropical Research projects include: 1) investigations of the mechanisms of speciation and diversification of rainforest vertebrates, 2) approaches to identifying critical areas for conservation in the tropics, 3) population structure, connectivity and conservation of migrant birds, 4) studies of avian influenza, and 5) seed dispersal and forest regeneration.

- **Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biology**, Quincy College, MA. August to December 2006. Courses offered: General Biology (Bio 103), Human Nutrition (Bio 106, 191).
- **Teaching Fellowship**, Boston University, Department of Biology (Behavior, Ecology and Evolution), USA. September to December 2002; September 2003 to May 2006: (Courses taught: Intro Bio I (Bio 107); Intro Bio II (Bio 108); Bio for Honors students (Bio 118); Ecology (Bio 303).
- **Research Scientist**, EarthWatch Institute's Saving the Cameroon Rockfowl Project, Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society, Yaoundé Cameroon. May to August 2003, May 2004.
- **Assistant Program Development Officer/IBA Officer** – Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (BirdLife International in Cameroon). **Central African Co-coordinator** of the Project 'Wings over Africa'. May 1996 to Dec 2001.
- **Research Intern at BirdLife International** Head Office in Cambridge, UK. June to November 2001. Major focus: Project Management and Implementation Techniques.
- Main responsibilities APDO/IBA Officer (1996-2001): My main responsibilities included strategic planning, development and management of a field program throughout Cameroon, including major, long-term conservation and development projects; Oversee the IBA program operational performance and ensure cost and schedule objectives are met; Supervision and recruitment of field-biologists, support staff and volunteers; liaison with the Project Development Officer, the Executive Board and BirdLife International; Plan and direct the integration of technical support and administrative functions to ensure smooth operations of the IBA program; fund-raise for the completion of the Important Birds Areas project and budget control; Develop a coherent field program and establish a sound basis for the future work of the BirdLife Partnership in Cameroon through support to development and training of key local conservationists, government staff and NGOs; Establish wide range of contacts and good working relationships with major aid agencies, donor organizations and other international NGOs working in conservation and development.

[The Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Cameroon is an ongoing program that documents all the most important sites (and threats) to biodiversity conservation within Cameroon, using birds as indicators of overall diversity. Other NGOs and the government use the results as the basis for national biodiversity inventories and national conservation strategies].

### **Conference participation and Presentations:**

- **Focus the Nation: Global Warming Solutions for America. Los Angeles, California, January 31 2008.** Interactive workshop on global warming. University of California, Los Angeles.
- **Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Disease Principal Investigators Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. 2-5 December 2007.** Paper presented: *Effects of deforestation on avian disease prevalence in Africa*
- **Society for Conservation Biology, 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. 1-5 July 2007.** (*One World, One Conservation, One Partnership*). Paper presented: *Mitochondria and nuclear DNA phylogeography suggest at least six phylogenetic species of Hill Babblers in Africa.*
- **SCB Africa Section's YWCB (Young Women Conservation Biologists) career insights evening, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. July 3 2007.** Short talk on *'Becoming a great conservation biologist - making a difference.'*
- **Evolutionary Changes in Human-altered Environments: An International Summit to Translate Science into Policy. Institute of the Environment, UCLA, February 8-10 2007.**
- **10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Lowe Syndrome. June 23-25, 2006. San Diego, California.**
- **UNESCO World Science Forum: Young Scientists' Thoughts, Budapest, 10-12 November 2005.** Paper accepted and Third Prize: *The Developing World: Beneficiary of the Global Knowledge-Society in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*
- **Satellite meeting of the World Science Forum, Budapest, Hungary. November 6-9, 2005.** Expert meeting on *Embedding Ethics in Scientific Practice.*

- **Conference on Conservation Science. Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, Duke University, March 16-18, 2005.** Paper presented: *Climate change and species distribution: A case study of the endangered Bannerman's Turaco and Podocarpus sp of Mt Oku, NW Cameroon.*
- **Annual EarthWatch conference Boston, MA Nov. 2004.**
- **Annual EarthWatch conference, Boston, MA. Nov. 2003**
- **International Seminar on Bird Migration. Latrun, Israel, April 29-May 11, 2001.** Paper presented: *The Cameroon Ornithological Club and the Important Bird Area process in Cameroon.*
- **Pan African Ornithological Congress (PAOC) Djerba, Tunisia. October 2004.** Paper accepted for presentation: *The Phylogeny of the Musophagidae.*
- **Pan African Ornithological Congress (PAOC) Uganda. September 3-8, 2000.** Paper presented: *The Status and Distribution of the Bamenda Apalis, Apalis bamendae in Cameroon.*

### **PEER REVIEWS**

Society for Conservation Biology, Students Awards Abstracts

### **Grants and Awards**

- April 2008. Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation towards – Approaches to correlating vectors and diseases in the rainforests of Cameroon using molecular genetics and remote sensing.
- December 2007. Burroughs Welcome Travel Scholarship to attend the Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Disease Principal Investigators Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- November 2005. **Third Prize:** UNESCO Young Scientists' Thoughts. World Science Forum, Budapest: *Embedding ethics in scientific practice*
- 2003: National Geographic Society Committee for Research and Exploration (CRE). Award for research on endangered birds of the Cameroon Highlands.
- February 2002, April 2003: Lincoln Park Zoo Field Conservation funds for research on genetic analyses of Bannerman's Turaco and Banded Wattle-eye of the Cameroon Highlands
- 2002-2005 National Science Foundation Grant No. 0089760 to Michael D Sorenson for Ph.D. training at Boston University

- September 1999: University of Ife, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Award for outstanding students. Best student in my undergraduate program

### **Membership of Professional/ Public Bodies and offices held**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, Knights of Columbus, Van Nuys Council 3148, California, USA
- Member, National Post Doctoral Association, USA
- Member of the Society for Conservation Biology
- Member of the American Genetic Association
- Member of the Society of Systematic Biologists
- Member of the African Bird Club
- President (February 2004 – December 2006): Sasse Old Boys Alumni Association, New England Chapter, Boston MA.
- Member of the Editorial Board, BirdLife Africa Newsletter, Cameroon BirdLine magazine
- Membre d'Honneur, Mimboman 2000X
- Member Lowe Syndrome Association, USA
- Member, Boston University Alumni Association

### **Consultancies**

- WWF Cameroon Program Office (WWF/CPO) – Ornithological Surveys of the Mengine Gorilla Sanctuary
- SNV/Campo Man Project – Biodiversity survey and ecological monitoring of recently logged primary forest, development of joint management plan, land-use and biodiversity zonation.
- Carpe/USAID Cameroon - Biodiversity survey and ecological monitoring of the Santchou Wildlife Sanctuary, development of management plan, land-use and biodiversity zonation.
- Wildlife Conservation Society/Smithsonian Institute (WCS/SI) – Takamanda Forest Project; ornithological surveys of the Mbulu forests
- Wetlands International – Water bird counts (River Sanaga, Magba, Logone Plain) and training in wetlands management (Biodiversity surveys, production of training materials and habitat mapping)
- Bamenda Highlands Forest Project – Biological Surveys of selected montane forests of the Bamenda Highlands including Fossimondi and Mts Bamboutos

- Wildlife School Garoua/MINEF Cameroon – Biodiversity, Resource use and disturbance surveys of the Gashiga-Demsa wildlife Reserve; assessments of biological value of forest
- Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society – Water bird counts, surveys and training of the Mounako wetlands, Cameroon.
- Cameroon Wildlife Aid Fund – Ornithological Surveys of the Mfou National Park

### **Additional Skills and Knowledge**

- Fluency in English (Speak, Write, Read), French (Speak, Write, Read), Pidgin English (Speak, Write, Read) and some local languages in Africa;
- Advanced computer and internet skills: word processing, spread sheets (Microsoft Excel, Access), Power Point;
- Statistics package: SPSS, SYSTAT, STATA and PAST;
- Extraction of genomic DNA from feathers, blood and tissue samples; PCR Amplification and sequencing of mitochondrial DNA, nuclear molecular markers and microsatellites
- Phylogenetics Software: CLUSTALX, PAUP\*, MacClade, DnaSP version 4.10.3, MEGA 2, Arlequin, MIGRATE version 1.6.8, PHASE v2.0, Network version 4.109, TCS, DIVA 1.1, IM
- Full Driver's license (USA and Cameroon).

### **Major Publications – Book Chapter**

Important bird areas in Africa and associated islands: priority sites for conservation. *BirdLife Conservation Series no. 11*. Pisces Publications and BirdLife International, Newbury and Cambridge, UK. (2001) Fishpool, L.D.C. & Evans, M.E. (Eds)

### **Research Papers**

**Kevin Y Njabo**, Rauri C.K. Bowie, Michael D. Sorenson. 2008. Phylogeny, biogeography and taxonomy of the African wattle-eyes (Aves: Passeriformes: Platysteiridae). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 48(1), 136-149

- Kevin Y Njabo** and Michael D. Sorenson. 2008. Origin of the endangered Bannerman's turaco (*Tauraco bannermanni*) in relation to historical climate change and the distribution of montane forests. *Ostrich, Journal of African Ornithology*. **In Press**
- Njabo, K.Y.** and Nana, C.N. 2005. The Developing World: Beneficiary of the Global Knowledge-Society in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Award Winner: World Science Forum, Budapest. 2005. Online Publication World Science Forum: [http://www.tudastars.hu/upload/ftp/honlap/Njabo\\_The%20Developing%20World.pdf](http://www.tudastars.hu/upload/ftp/honlap/Njabo_The%20Developing%20World.pdf)
- M. Languy, K.S. Bobo, F.M. Njie, **K.Y. Njabo**, J.M. Lapios & R. Demey. 2005. New bird records from Cameroon. *Malimbus* 27, 1-12
- Njabo, K.Y.** 2001. The Cameroon Ornithological Club and the Important Bird Area process in Cameroon. *Proceedings of the International Seminar for the Study of Bird Migration in Latrun Israel*. 29 April -11 May 2001.
- Bobo, K.S., **Njabo, K.Y.**, Anye, D.N., Languy M. 2001. The Status and Distribution of the Bamenda Apalis, *Apalis bamendae* in Cameroon. *Ostrich* 15:110-113.
- Demey, R., **Njabo, K.Y.** 2001. Another sight record of the Green-throated Sunbird *Nectarinia rubescens* of the distinctive race *crossensis* for Cameroon. *Malimbus* 23 (1) April 2001.
- Bobo K.S., Anye D.N., **K.Y. Njabo** and L. Nayuoh. 2000. First records of Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* in Cameroon. *Malimbus* 22:91-92
- Njabo, K.Y.** 2001. Training in Waterbird counts and wetlands management in Cameroon. Report to Wetlands International, Dakar, Senegal. February 2001.
- Bobo, K.S., **Njabo, K.Y.**, Anye, D.N., Languy M. 2000. First record of Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* in Cameroon. *Malimbus* 22(2) September 2000
- Njabo, K.Y.** 2000. The Netherlands, Waterbirds and Important Bird Areas. Report submitted to the Royal Museum of Central Africa in Tervuren, Belgium. 11-15 August 2000. Unpublished.
- Njabo, K.Y.**, Languy, M. 2000. Surveys of selected montane and submontane areas of the Bamenda Highlands, Cameroon. Report for COC/BirdLife International. Unpublished.
- Njabo, K.Y.** 1999. Quelea and Grain crops in Cameroon. IAPSC Bulletin No 24, August 1999.

**Njabo, K.Y.** 1995. The fate of Herbicides in the Environment. IAPSC bulletin No 008, September 1995.

***Research papers in Prep:***

**Kevin Y Njabo**, Rauri C.K. Bowie, Michael D. Sorenson. Phylogeography of the Hill Babblers based on mtDNA and Nuclear sequence data. *Results presented at the Society for Conservation Biology 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 1-5 July 2007.*

**Kevin Y Njabo**, Rauri C.K. Bowie, Michael D. Sorenson. Molecular phylogeny of the Mountain Robin Chat *Cossypha isabellae* populations across the Cameroon Mountains Endemic Bird Area: biogeography, vicariance and gene flow.

**Kevin Y Njabo**, A. Cornel, R.N.M. Seghal, W. Buermann, R. Harrigan, J. Pollinger, and T.B. Smith. Host feeding pattern, avian malaria dynamics and diversity of *Coquillettidia aurites*, and birds in Cameroon

**Kevin Y Njabo**, A. Cornel, and T.B. Smith. Relative abundance and feeding behavior of culicine mosquitoes in the lowland forests of Cameroon.

**References**

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