

SOCIETY REPORTS

IBADAN BRANCH, March 2008-May 2010

The Ibadan Branch of the Society held series of activities in the year 2008 (after the 2008 AGM) up to the month of May of 2010, among which are summarised below:

The Branch had its last Annual General Meeting on the 29th March, 2008 at the Drapers Hall, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

The 2008 Annual Business Meeting of the Society was hosted by Ibadan Branch and held at the Botanical Garden, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria on the 10th of May, 2008.

A lecture delivered by Mr. Zephaniah Ndaja titled "Gemstones in Oyo State, Nigeria" was organised by Ibadan Branch of the Society in collaboration with the Institute of African Studies and the Department of Geology, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria on the 15th of May 2008 at Lady Bank Anthony Hall, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

A lecture organised by the Ibadan Branch of the Society titled "Birds of Bodija and Senegal" was also delivered by Dr. Tony Marinho on the 20th of May 2008 at Room F-11, MacArthur Building, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

In the same vein, a lecture organised by the Ibadan Branch of the Society titled "Partnership, Promotion & Consolidation of Beauty of Nature - A study of animal rights in Nigeria" was also delivered by Barrister Sikiru O. Adewoye on the 08th of July 2008 at the Lady Bank Anthony Hall, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

A film show was also organised at the residence of Dr. (Mrs.) E.N. Ekpo on the 26th of August 2008. The film was titled "The Gentle Giants: Mysteries of the Whale Shark".

A lecture titled "Incantations: the Basis for Afrocentric Epistemology" was also held at the Lady Bank Anthony Hall, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria, on the 15th of December, 2008 and delivered by Dr. C.O. Jegede. Thirty seven people recorded their names on the attendance list. The lecture fixed for 5:30 PM started 5:45PM and ended 6:20PM.

A lecture titled "The Wonderful World of Beetles" was delivered to the Society by Dr. O.N. Oigiangbe on the 7th of May, 2009 at the Nigerian Society for Information Arts & Culture (NSIAC) between 5:38PM and 6:10PM with 23 people in attendance.

The Branch also participated in 2009 Society's Annual Business Meeting and Conference

hosted by Lagos Branch at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Ibadan on the 6th of June 2009.

A visit was also made, by some members of the Society (Ibadan Branch), to Peju Layiwola's Studio, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria on the 29th of August, 2009.

A lecture titled "Springs of Ibadan" was also delivered to the Society by Prof. M.K.C. Sridhar on the 16th of September, 2009 at the Nigerian Society for Information Arts & Culture (NSIAC), Jericho, Ibadan, Nigeria.

A film show was also organised at the residence of Dr. (Mrs) E. N. Ekpo on the 25th of May, 2010.

—Andrew A. Erakhrumen
Branch Secretary

ILE-IFE BRANCH, 2010/2011

Membership of the Ile-Ife Branch is largely drawn from the university community. Financial membership of the Branch at the last count was forty-two. During the past year there was a change in the executive committee, the new executives are:

Prof. A.O. Isichei	-	Chairman
Stephen Folárànmí	-	Secretary
Arc. (Mrs.) C.O. Òsásonà	-	Vice Chairperson
Dr. S.O. Òké	-	Programme Officer
Mr. A.I. Aduwo	-	Membership Secretary
Dr. (Mrs.) C.C. Adéyemí	-	Treasurer
Dr. A.M. Mákindé	-	Financial Secretary
Olúségún Ajíbóyè	-	Ass. Secretary

The Ile-Ife Branch organized a number of activities between May 2010 and May 2011. Executive and general meetings/events were held on a monthly basis. While the executives met on the first Thursday of every month, the general meetings/events took place on the second Wednesday of the month. Lectures and presentation were given by members and other invited speakers. A summary of the events are listed below.

A lecture organized by the Branch of the Society titled "The indomitable Cockroach" was delivered by a member Prof. B.A. Matanmi on 1st September, 2010 at Room G17, Department of Botany

General meeting / event on Thursday 13th October, 2010 and hosted in the beautiful garden home of Prof. and Mrs. J.R.O. Ojo on Mukoro road, Ile-Ife. The Lecture on was delivered by Arch. (Mrs.) C.O. Osasona, the Vice Chairperson of the Branch.

On Wednesday, 10th November, 2010 at Room G17, Department Botany a lecture organized by the Branch titled "Acid Rain" was given by Prof. I.F. Adeniyi the National President of the Society.

In December, the branch organized a end of year get-together and also a lecture titled 'The Impact of Limestone Quarrying on the Vegetation of Ewekoro Cement Factory Site, Nigeria' delivered by Dr. S.O. Òké, of the Department of Botany, O.A.U, and the Programme Officer of the Branch. The event rounded up the series of programmes for 2010.

Encomium and Funeral Service for Prof Agbo Folárin

In October 2010, the sad news of the sudden death of one of the founding member of the Branch was received with shock. The burial ceremony for late Prof Agbo Folárin took place on the Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd January, 2011. On Friday 21st the Department of Fine and Applied Arts of the O.A.U., organized a well attended Encomium day for the Late Erudite Professor at the Oduduwa Hall. In attendance were many members of the University community, the family of the late Professor and members of the Society. A tribute was read on behalf of the NFS by the Chairman of the Branch, Prof Isichei. The funeral service held at Ibadan rounded off the event with interment at his residence. Members from Ile-Ife and Ibadan branch were also in attendance. During the Ife programme, the Family announced that the entire Library of the late Prof had been donated to the Department of Fine & Applied Arts.

The year 2011 started with the monthly event / programme of the Society held on Wednesday 9th February, 2011 with a Lecture titled "O.A.U. Campus Vegetation: Current Uses, Future Prospects" delivered by the Chairman of the Branch, Prof. A. O. Isichei.

On Wednesday, 13th of April 2011, the Second event for the year was an organized lecture titled "Impact Assessment of Patronage of Tourism Sites on The Built Environment Of Obáfémi Awólówò University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria" delivered by Dr. Femi Omisore's a member of the Branch from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

More programmes and trips are also slated for the rest of 2011. The Society will celebrate the 2011 World Environment Day with a planned lecture and tree planting ceremony.

—Stephen Foláránmí
Branch Secretary

Lagos Branch

Editor's note: Because of the need to go to press, we could not wait for a report. The following are excerpts from what the Lagos Branch posted on the Society website: www.nigerianfield.org.

Canoe trip at Ibeju

On Sunday the 28th of November Melissa Morse and the Nigerian Field Society presented a canoe trip in the village of Ibeju near Epe.

A group of approximately 18 adventurous souls (including four young children) were warmly welcomed in Ibeju by our guide a local school teacher named Mufu, a set of highly skilled boatmen and a band of excited village children.

After a quick demonstration in how leaves are transformed into raffia for weaving, everyone set off, each in his or her own canoe with accompanying boatman.

The waterways through the thick forests harbour the surreal feeling of calm and beauty. The sounds of birds and monkeys surround you while the clean water slowly flows on its way to the ocean.

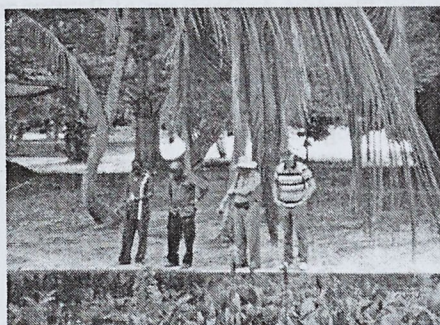
The trained eyes of the avid bird watchers amongst us spotted the most exquisitely coloured King Fishers. It was easy to imagine that we were miles away from anywhere but the soft, distant sound of drums served to remind us that we were in actual fact surrounded by several small villages.

This was the perfect relaxing outing for a Sunday morning. Who knew that just an hour's drive from bustling Victoria Island one could find this pristine get-away?

This outing was thoroughly enjoyable and comes highly recommended to all - even the less-adventurous at heart!

Visit to Murtala Muhammad Botanical Garden

Fourteen of us joined field-trip organiser Charles Wheeler at the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), Lekki at 8:00am. After a brief introductory talk by Professor Emmanuel Obot, we drove in convoy to Murtala Muhammed Memorial Botanical Garden, Epe, arriving just after 9:00am. Only 64 kilometres and a 35-minute drive from the toll booths on Lekki Expressway on a traffic-free Sunday, and we were in the bush.





Or to be exact we were in the 60 hectares (one hectare = 2.5 acres) of savannah known as the Murtala Muhammed Botanical Garden.

Founded by Mrs Ajoke Muhammed to honour her husband (Nigeria's former Head of State, General Murtala Muhammed who was assassinated in 1976), the garden was established to conserve rare and ornamental plants and to provide an education centre, library, picnic garden and flora museum. Now without funds and rather forgotten about, the buildings are ramshackle, signage is dilapidated and the grounds are slowly returning to bush, although there were signs of upkeep as we strolled along swept and mostly weed-free paths.

We spent a couple of hours walking at leisure in the company of Professor Obot and Mkobong

Ekaete, who identified flora and fauna and answered all our questions. At the pond we saw the bog plant *sagittarius*, an aquatic species of *utricularia* which is insectivorous, a nitrogen-giving species of *azolla* and two species of water lily. Professor Obot pointed out the *alanblackia* flowering plant, which is an indigenous source of natural vegetable fat, the *vanilla africana* vine and source of vanilla pods, *xylopia aethiopica* an evergreen, aromatic tree and source of the hot peppers traditionally used in Nigerian pepper soup, *pentaclethra machrophylla* or African oil bean, a traditional source of protein when cooked and mashed, the aerial yam vine which produces edible fruits and *bixa orellana* a small tree with bright red spiny fruits that are the source of the red pigment annatto; *bixa orellana* is used traditionally by new mothers to decorate their bodies and to help the body recover from childbirth.

We walked through the African Palm Garden; saw a calabash tree weighed down by kilos of fruit, and spotted lizards, butterflies, dragonflies, sunbirds, babblers, bee-eaters and African pied hornbills. Our visit ended with a picnic lunch in the still-useable picnic rondavels, under the shade of a huge cassia tree. It was a privilege to spend time in this quiet wilderness with just birdsong, the sunshine and a cool breeze.



Thanks to NCF Professor Emmanuel Obot and Mkobong Ekaete for sharing their expertise, to Charles Wheeler for organising the trip and thanks to our French, German, British and South African NFS colleagues for sharing the day.

UK Branch

The U.K. Report for 2010 appeared in volume 75 (2010), which was published late.

Corrections for volume 75 (2010):

On page 1, "volume 74" should be "volume 75".

The UK account for 2009 (p. 116) had some errors. See the correct version below.

Correction for volume 74 (2009):

On pages 28 and 29, the aluminium panels in Seat of Wisdom church, U.I., are not by Lamidi Fakeye, but by Ashiru.

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NIGERIAN FIELD SOCIETY NIGERIA ACCOUNT FOR 2010

Opening Balance as at January 2010 N1,031,818.00

INCOME

Branch subscriptions

Ife	75 members	45,000.00
Lagos	no records	00.00
Ibadan	28 members	16,800.00
Abuja	100 members	60,000.00
Benin	19 members	11,400.00
Abeokuta	—	—

Corporate subscription 2009 — 478,000.00

Transfer from UK account (£2,000) —

Individual subscriptions 2010 600.00

Journal sales 7,000.00

Back numbers 6,500.00

Contributions to 80th Anniversary:

Benin	15,000.00
Lagos	50,000.00

Total Income N695,300.00

Contributions: NEST T-shirts, conference bags, stickers. Mr Silva's sculpting of Ibadan Melimbe Bird. IITA N500 lunch subsidy x 60. FRIN bus hire. Music Circle PA system.

Total Income N1,727,118.00

EXPENDITURE

President 2010 Imprest	10,000.00
Editing and formatting	35,000.00
Secretary 2010 Imprest	10,000.00
Business manager 2010 Imprest	10,000.00
Journal (Combined issue, Vol. 75)	185,400.00
Postage	102,660.00
80 th Anniversary expenditure	510,740.00

Total Expenditure N863,800.00

Balance: December 2010 N863,318.0

NIGERIAN FIELD SOCIETY - UK ACCOUNTS FOR 2009
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2009

RECEIPTS			
2008			2009
£			£
1,433	Ordinary subscriptions, and donations		1,369
309	2008 Corporate subscriptions	2009	249
400	2009 " "	2010	310
55	Sale of back numbers		147
<u>481</u>	Interest		<u>187</u>
<u>2,678</u>			<u>2,262</u>
PAYMENTS			
227	Postage		360
71	Stationery, photocopies & computer media		70
1,250	Printing		--
21	U.K. Branch subscriptions		16
<u>--</u>	Refunds		<u>20</u>
1,569			466
<u>1,109</u>	Excess of Receipts over Payments		<u>1,796</u>

BALANCES as at 31st DECEMBER 2009
STATEMENT OF FUNDS

24,348	Opening balances at beginning of year	25,457
<u>1,109</u>	Excess of Receipts over Payments	<u>1,796</u>
<u>25,457</u>		<u>27,253</u>

CASH AT BANKS

National Westminster Bank:			
5,039	Current Account	6,669	
	Less unrepresented cheque	<u>21</u>	
		6,648	6,648
Halifax plc:			
17,480	Main Fund		17,658
<u>2,938</u>	Prize Fund		<u>2,947</u>
<u>25,457</u>			<u>27,253</u>

Notes: Income was slightly less than last year, due mainly to much lower interest received. Falling membership was somewhat offset by higher sales of back numbers. Payments were much less because we were not asked to pay for any printing of the journal.

Dr Joyce Lowe, Council Member Resident in U.K.

NIGERIAN FIELD SOCIETY - UK ACCOUNTS FOR 2010
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2010

RECEIPTS

2009 £			2010 £
1,369	Ordinary subscriptions, and donations		1,368
249	2009 Corporate subscriptions	2010	305
310	2010 " "	2011	255
147	Sale of back numbers		70
187	Interest		69
<u>2,262</u>			<u>2,067</u>

PAYMENTS

360	Postage		296
70	Stationery, photocopies & computer media		6
--	Printing		2,000
16	U.K. Branch subscriptions		16
<u>20</u>	Refunds		<u>--</u>
466			2,318
<u>1,796</u>	Difference between Receipts and Payments		<u>(251)</u>

BALANCES as at 31st DECEMBER 2010

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

25,457	Opening balances at beginning of year	27,253
<u>1,796</u>	Difference between Receipts and Payments	<u>(251)</u>
<u>27,253</u>		<u>27,002</u>

CASH AT BANKS

National Westminster Bank:		
6,648	Current Account	6,328
Halifax plc:		
17,658	Main Fund	17,725
<u>2,947</u>	Prize Fund	<u>2,949</u>
<u>27,253</u>		<u>27,002</u>

Notes: Income was slightly less than last year, due to lower interest received, and lower sales of back numbers. Payments were higher as funds were transferred for printing an issue of the journal and its transport to the UK.

Dr Joyce Lowe, Council Member Resident in U.K.

NIJERIA FIELD SOCIETY - ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2010

RECEIPTS		
2010	2009	
£ 1,369	£ 1,369	Ordinary subscriptions and donations
310	310	Corporate subscriptions
310	310	2010
147	147	Sale of book numbers
147	147	Interest
2,383	2,383	

PAYMENTS		
2010	2009	
300	300	Postage
10	10	Stationery, photocopies & computer media
1,000	1,000	Printing
10	10	Local & Branch subscriptions
2,318	2,318	Refunds
1,369	1,369	Difference between Receipts and Payments

BALANCE as at 31st DECEMBER 2010

STATEMENT OF FUNDS		
2010	2009	
27,333	27,333	Opening balance at beginning of year
1,369	1,369	Difference between Receipts and Payments
27,000	27,000	CARRY TO HEAD

CASH AT BANKS		
2010	2009	
17,628	17,628	National Westminster Bank
1,369	1,369	Current Account
1,369	1,369	Post Office
17,333	17,333	Main Fund
1,369	1,369	Trust Fund
27,000	27,000	

These figures show a slight increase in the year ending 31st December 2010 compared with the year ending 31st December 2009. The increase is due to the fact that the year ending 31st December 2010 was a successful year for the Society, with a number of new members joining and a number of old members returning. The increase is also due to the fact that the year ending 31st December 2010 was a year of growth for the Society, with a number of new projects being started and a number of old projects being completed.

Dr Joyce Lowe, Council Member Resident in U.K.

