Akosombo Dam/Lake Volta

• 5 years plus of negotiation in late 1950s. In parallel, Ghana independence in 1957
• Built early 1960s to provide power to new aluminium smelter at Tema (Kaiser Eng.)
• Percentage of power has to go to Togo
• Reduced power due to flow changes and many upstream dams
• Case history of one of the World’s worst dam projects
Krobo Tribe and Archaeology, South East Ghana

Background to Talk

• short work visits to SE Ghana (Dawhenya) in 1996 and South inc. Kumasi (inspection of main water supply dams) in 2005- impressions (people/farming)

• Learnt about Krobo people (never heard of them before- although very close to Dawhenya) from William Gblerkpor, a Ghana archaeologist who stayed with us during Prof Thurstan Shaw Celebrations in May

• Gave me his Presentation at the Celebrations and also 30 min video (very good) of Krobo beads and Dipo rites – to be shown

• Short additional internet research on Krobo, added to Presentation, including Thurstan Shaw
Dawhenya Irrigation Project
Small Scale Farming Cooperative

- Dam (15 m high) and irrigation project for 220 ha to expand to 450 ha. Rice crop including pumping
- In 1996 not functioning (abandoned), due to failure of cooperative (despite very keen farmers) and better cheaper imported rice from SE Asia
- In 2014 re-surrected by Govt with US$ 3.5 million aid from South Korea
- Question- have farming cooperatives worked elsewhere in Africa?
Krobo Tribe

• Internet search (Louis E Wilson 1991 - Fulbright Scholar, USA)
• Institution of paramount chiefs is firmly established in Ghana - not unlike Igbo Ukwe (Ibu) chiefs at Shaw celebrations
• 150 000 (in 1991) Krobo most numerous of the Adangwe speaking people - fourth largest ethnic group in Ghana (larger are Ashanti, Fantehene, ?)
• In nineteenth century, a smaller state of the Gold Coast
• After middle of nineteenth century, became economically and politically one of the most important groups in the country due to dominant role in production of export crops
• In 1960s, lost 20% of their land due to flooding by Volta Lake
Beads in Ghana

Ghana has one of the liveliest traditions of bead making and wearing in Africa. Everyone in Ghana wears beads- highly personal, monetary and symbolic value.

**Stone beads**  
from Late Stone Age 3000-2000 BC  
locally made stone and shell beads, 2000 BC to 1800 AD

**Bauxite Beads**  
Most common stone beads, identified and investigated by Thurstan Shaw. Curator of Achimota College Museum of Anthropology in 1937.

**Glass Beads**  
present manufacture, either wound, drawn or mould-pressed (as shown in film). Krobo are among the oldest and most famous makers of ground-glass beads in Africa.
Thurstan Shaw- Beads

• In the 1940s carried out field studies into production of bauxite beads, particularly in Akyem-Abompe area, noted for traditional bauxite mining. Shaw recorded oral traditions, indicating bauxite bead manufacture “was already flourishing a century ago”

• In 1942 Shaw at Adukrom uncovered large corpus of beads made of stone, shell and glass. Excavation also produced over 500 000 indigenous pottery sherds, terracotta figurines, brass/coper artifacts- all dated back to 16-17th century

• Abompe and Adukrom villages quite close to Krobo
Krobo Puberty Rites- Dipo
(shown in video)

• Very prominent event carried out for years despite influences of education and modernisation
• Practice held very strongly by Krobos and every female in the tribe undergoes the rites
• Held every year in months of April and May
• In past, when no formal education, served as a form of vocational training
• Originally held for girls of marriageable age, but now also girls as young as 4 years
• There have been calls for the abolishment of the rites, but Krobos still hold strongly to this culture indigenous to them and emblem of tribe (no other tribe in Ghana has such rites)
• DIPO RITES AND INTERVIEWS WITH GIRLS SHOWN IN VIDEO
Mapping Krobo Heritage: An Overview of Krobo Mountain Archaeological Research Project (KMAP), Ghana

William Narteh Gblerkpor

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Archaeology and Heritage Matters: An Assessment of the Krobo Mountain Archaeological Research Project, Ghana

William N. Gblerkpor, Ph.D Student/Ford Ford Fellow
gblerkpor@utexas.edu

November 26, 2011
The Krobo Mountain Archaeological Research Project, Ghana

- The Krobo Mountain Site, Ghana
- Inhabited c.a. AD 1200-1892
- Sacked by the British Authorities in 1892
- Ancestral home and Symbol of Krobo Identity
- 1st Archaeological Survey in 1979
- 2007: The K-MAP was launched
- Krobo only allowed back in 1992
Examples of Archaeological, Ethnographic, & Cultural Heritage-related Research Projects in Ghana

Kintampo Project
Techiman Project
Seseme Project
Koma Project
Forts & Castles
Krobo Heritage: What is it or What it isn’t?

A Dipo girl

Elderly women reenacting past lifeways on during a *Kloyo Sikplemi* Festival at the base of Krobo Hill
The Krobo Mountain Archaeological Research Project, Ghana

- 2007, The K-MAP was launched
- Engaging the Descendant Populations
- Establishing Legitimacy: Competence and Usefulness
- Partnerships (financial and professional)
- Visibility
- Meeting Scientific and Social Interests/Obligations

Chiefs and Queen, Yilo Krobo
(Mis)-Representation:

Then & Now
Developing Global Connections through Partnerships, Research, and Media ...

> Mountain Archaeology Network
> Social Media (e.g., Facebook)
> Documentary Films
> Community Engagement & Participation
Site Conservation Issues
Site Conservation and Management Approaches
Information Dissemination: Prompt & Easily Accessible

William N. Gblerkpor

November 26, 2011
Information Sharing; Knowledge Creation; Awareness Creation
Connecting with Local Community Sky FM, Techiman, Ghana 2008
Summary

• Krobo Archaeological Research Project (K-MAP)
• Long-term Research and Community Engagement
• Rapid Sharing of Research Information
• Producing Tangible & Believable Research Results
• Identification and documentation of Archaeological and Historical sites bearing significant Krobo Heritage.
• Adoption of a multi-disciplinary research approach