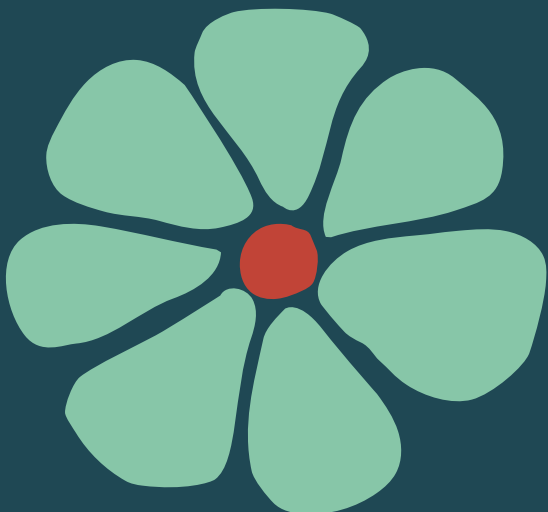


Ready to Revitalize Showcase 2025

*Celebrating the Work of Language
Champions Around the World*

Learn from inspiring language champions around the world, sharing their experiences of creating community projects that are contributing to the revitalization of their languages and cultures from the ground up.

This event highlights the work of participants in the 2025 cohort of ELP's Ready to Revitalize program, an online project-based learning course which supports language champions in developing skills, networks, and plans for community-led language revitalization projects.



Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025
10:00 am Pacific (UTC-7)



Endangered
Languages
Project

Meet the Language Champions!



Tamara Aisake



Tamara is an artist and community organizer focused on language arts & youth education. She serves on the committee of a diasporic community Club Hugag'esea for over 15 years, secretary (4 yrs) & president (8 yrs). From Vancouver, Canada with ancestral roots to Rotuma, Fiji. She promotes language revitalization through organizing community events & also as an artist/entrepreneur where she creates and sells art inspired by her language learning journey.

Email: hanisaka.hanihapa@gmail.com

Website: www.hanihani-arts.com

Project: Revitalizing Language Transference in a Diaspora – Creating Mentorships for Rotuman Language Learning in Western Canada

This project aims to create mentorships between Elders and youth to create and facilitate cultural knowledge workshops to our community. The goal is to build relationships and systems within our community that allow for more language, leadership and cultural knowledge transference. This model can be applied in any diasporic context as the majority of Rotumans live off island in a diaspora.



Endangered
Languages
Project

Meet the Language Champions!



Olomunyak Ole Marine is a Kenyan writer, poet and community organizer from the Kenya-Maasai tribe of East Africa. His work promotes community engagement, cultural identity and assertiveness, while seeking to deepen intergenerational connections. Through research and creative expression, he champions for spaces that honor indigenous knowledge and support language sustainability. Olomunyak is the author of *The Princess Crown Land*, a 2025-published and recently launched work of literature that blends storytelling and poetry to advocate for his people, and promote local dialect.

Olomunyak Ole Marine



Email: olemarine.crownland@gmail.com

***Project:** Revitalizing Maa in the Ruai Maasai Urban Community: A Mentor Apprentice Program*

A small community of Indigenous Maa speakers find themselves living in the Nation's capital, and kids born therein find themselves assimilated into the urban culture. The result is language loss through declining daily use, hence the need of a project that brings together young children and elders/adults for intergenerational exchanges through oral literature.



Endangered
Languages
Project

Meet the Language Champions!



Kyamanywa John



Kyamanywa John is from Bundibugyo district, western Uganda, and holds a Bachelor of Arts with Education from Kyambogo University. He holds experience in teaching and community based initiatives. His work centers on cultural heritage and revitalization of the Vanoma language, a minority language spoken in western Uganda. He has also participated in the digital storytelling workshop with StoryCenter and the Endangered Languages Project (ELP) in Nov/Dec of 2024, supporting efforts to safeguard endangered languages.

Email: kyamanywa23@gmail.com

Project: Vanuma language mini-bilingual story book and revitalization initiative

This project continues the Vanuma Language Revitalization initiative, aimed at preserving and promoting Vanuma language, a minority language spoken in Bundibugyo, western Uganda. It focuses on creating a 100-word bilingual Vanuma storybook for children and young adults, covering daily expressions, greetings, and household items, and correct pronunciations of the item names in an audio recording format. Through distributing the printed books and audio recordings within the community, the initiative seeks to encourage daily use of Vanuma, and strengthen intergenerational learning and promote Vanuma cultures.



Endangered
Languages
Project

Meet the Language Champions!



Noel Morales is the Director of Language Preservation with Concejo de los Pueblos Originarios, based in NYC. They are of Nahua and Taino heritage. They work with other members of the Concejo community to create interactive trilingual programs for families in Indigenous languages, Spanish and English.

Noel Morales



Email:

concejodelospueblosoriginarios@gmail.com

Project: Revitalizing Tu'un Savi through Play!

This project created free and accessible resources for Tu'un Savi descended or heritage speakers to practice vocabulary. An online word library provides audio of each vocab word by a native speaker of Tu'un Savi, allowing for ease of practice. Games can be used by families for fun bonding over the language, classrooms and/or in cultural events!



Endangered
Languages
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Meet the Language Champions!



Matyas Le Brun



After years of living and working with Sámi people in Norway (working with poets, filmmakers, artists from reindeer herding communities), Matyas decided to learn Brezhoneg language in order to connect with his grandparents' native language & culture, to pass it on later to his own children. This had traced a new professional pattern after years of architecture, film-making settings & staging, followed by opening a healing center around emotional release. Today he is leaning fully into Brezhoneg language transmission.

Email: matyas.le.brun@gmail.com

Project: Language Healing Circles within a 1,000 Family Challenge in Breizh (Brittany), France

This project involves creation of a Group Healing System Method in order to help regain strength into: 1) learning the language; 2) to start speaking at home; and 3) speaking again after a couple of years or decades of silence in order to create intergenerational communication again into families.



Endangered
Languages
Project

Meet the Language Champions!



John is a Doctoral Student in Linguistics. His main research interests are in phonology, language documentation and description, and the preservation of Polynesian and Austronesian languages in Indonesia.

**John Abraham
Pattipeluhu**



Email: Johnpattipeiluhu@gmail.com

Project: Revitalization of the Tonsea Language Through Sunday Weekly Community Meeting

There are three main purposes of this project: First, to preserve the use of the Tonsea language, the native language of the Tonsea tribe in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Second, to get and encourage the younger generation to learn and to use the Tonsea language in their daily communication. Third, to do a video recording of people who speak the Tonsea language through their Sunday Weekly Meeting.



**Endangered
Languages
Project**

Meet the Language Champions!



Shesly Python



I am a multimedia journalist, professional content creator, and activist advocating for language rights and the development of inclusive, high-quality education grounded in students' native languages. I hold a dual degree in Digital Humanities (Technology Start-Up) from the University of the Mascareignes in collaboration with the University of Limoges, and a Bac +4 in Linguistics from the State University of Haiti. My interests include education, language equity and digital presence for under-represented languages. I am multilingual and have skills in translation, digital communication, Python programming, and Natural Language Processing.

Email: slypython79@gmail.com

Project: Healing in our Language: An Intergenerational Dialogue on Linguistic Experiences in Haiti

This is a project that unites young and older adults to share experiences with Haitian Creole and address linguistic trauma. Through dialogue and documentation, it aims to promote healing, strengthen connections to Creole, and support its revitalization and advocacy.



Endangered
Languages
Project

Meet the Language Champions!



Alexis Van Kervel



Aboxan Tawedes (Ancestral Greeting). I am a young teacher that has always been passionate about my community and more specifically children. I started out as a teenager assisting with food kitchens in my community, which turned into more empowering initiatives as I got older. Since I've been on this journey of learning more about my Indigenous identity, I am now working on programs that can assist in empowering children to also learn more about their Indigenous identity and culture. I am currently doing my honors in Inclusive Education.

Email: avankervel2@gmail.com

Project: IndigiKids: Revitalizing Khoe Language and Culture for Indigenous Children through Technology

The aim of this project is to create a website (IndigiKids), to make Khoe languages accessible to the future generations by creating a platform where language learning is creative, fun and easy to digest for kids. This will also be a platform for children to learn more about their Indigenous identity and culture and will include the unique value systems of Indigenous Peoples.



Endangered
Languages
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Meet the Language Champions!



Dr. Netra Mani Rai, a linguist from Nepal's Dumi ethnic group, has over 15 years' experience in documenting and revitalizing endangered languages. Holding a Ph.D. in Linguistics, he has developed orthographies, dictionaries, grammars, and textbooks, and documented oral traditions and ethnobotanical knowledge. He has trained and mentored communities, reviewed and published widely, and presented internationally. Dr. Rai, committed to preserving Indigenous heritage and fostering linguistic pride, is aligned with UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Languages.

**Netra
Mani Rai**



Email: netramrai@gmail.com

Project: Bridging the Gap: How Speaking and Writing Can Save the Endangered Dumi Language

The Dumi Language Revitalization Project, “*Bridging the Gap: How Speaking and Writing Can Save the Endangered Dumi Language*,” aims to preserve Dumi, a critically endangered Kirati language of Nepal, with only approximately 2,000 active speakers. Through story-writing programs, resource development, and community engagement, the initiative promotes intergenerational transmission and linguistic pride. and serve as a model for future expansion in other areas and neighboring languages as well.



Endangered
Languages
Project

Meet the Language Champions!



Olya, a Ukrainian of North Azovian Roumean descent, represents an autochthonous ethnic group rooted in Donetsk Oblast and Crimea, Ukraine. With over 15 years of civic experience at the nexus of conflict recovery and community engagement, she co-founded North Azovian Greeks: Urums and Roumeans. Emerging from a grassroots initiative, this NGO unites displaced community members and works to preserve the cultural identity and two endangered languages of the North Azovian Urums and Roumeans.

**Olya
Tsuprykova**



Email: north.azovian.greeks@gmail.com

Website: <https://linktr.ee/north.azovian.greeks>

Project: Revitalizing the Endangered Languages of the North Azovian Greeks: Phonetic Analysis of the Urum language

This project aims to revitalize and document one of the two native languages of the North Azovian Greeks, Urum language, by conducting phonetic analysis using the palatography method and creating a draft of a unified alphabet for the language.



Endangered
Languages
Project

Meet the Language Champions!



Dorothy Cheruto



Dorothy Cheruto is an Ogiek advocate committed to revitalizing her community's endangered language through culture, conservation, and empowerment. She has trained over 150 Ogiek women and youth to integrate language learning into traditional beadwork, where Ogiek endangered words are beaded into bracelets and necklaces as living archives. She also leads environmental education sessions where youth learn names of indigenous herbal trees—many without English equivalents—linking language with ecological preservation. With the support of elders, she also coordinates weekly online Ogiek language classes every Friday, where youth engage in structured lessons to learn, practice, and preserve their mother tongue. By merging cultural knowledge, environmental stewardship, and modern technology, Dorothy ensures that the Ogiek language remains alive, relevant, and impactful for future generations.

Email: dorothycheruto@ogiekpeoples.org

Project: Bead to Speak Ogiek: Revitalizing Language through Culture, Ogiek Language and Medicinal Knowledge Revitalization

This project aims to revitalize the Ogiek language through beadwork. Traditionally Ogiek beading work was not only ornamental but it was a session for mothers to pass cultural knowledge to their young children. It is through this initiative that children would learn to speak. This project blends learning Ogiek language, economic empowerment and preservation of medicinal knowledge. In the month of April 2025, seventy Ogiek girls converged at Ogiek cultural center to do beading as well as learn Ogiek language. With the mentorship of Ogiek medicine woman managing the herbarium farm, she took the girls to the farm explaining the names of the trees and the uses. The importance of this is to ensure we don't lose the names of trees that cannot be translated into any other language. Each girl captured the name of the trees randomly and beaded the names on the bracelet. At least 65 names were beaded on the bracelets which translated that at least 65 girls captured and retained Ogiek names of medicinal trees. The beading session involved mentorship on the importance of language from elders.



Endangered
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Meet the Language Champions!



My name is Wira Kafryawan, a lecturer at Institut Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN) Fattahul Muluk Papua, focusing on linguistics with current research activity and interest in field linguistics, endangered languages, language documentation and revitalization, particularly Austronesian and Papuan languages.

**Wira
Kafryawan**



Project: Revitalization of Tobati

Tobati is an endangered Austronesian language with fewer than 100 active speakers nowadays in Tobati and Enggros villages. This revitalization aims to have Indigenous children in Tobati community become familiar with and interested in learning their Native language by providing attractive learning materials and resources. The revitalization of Tobati was implemented by the language immersion method. An illustrated vocabulary book was used to introduce children to basic vocabulary of Tobati at school and home, supporting teachers and parents in passing down linguistic knowledge in an accessible format.



Endangered
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Meet the Language Champions!



Constantine Kouankem



Holder of a Ph.D in African Languages and Linguistics, Constantine KOUANKEM is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Bertoua. Secretary General of the Cameroon Academy of Young Scientists (CAYS), she is also an active member of the Cameroon Professional Research Oriented Women Network (CaPROWN). Her research interest covers the description and documentation of Grassfields Bantu languages, the didactics of French and English, and technopedagogy. She is a versatile researcher who also serves as a facilitator, trainer, and mentor of scientific leadership workshops. She values the revitalisation and preservation of languages.

***Project:** Leveraging WhatsApp for the transmission of z̄ language and cultural heritage*

The project initially aimed to teach the z̄ language and culture (from Bazou) through WhatsApp, but to increase its impact, it was eventually extended to include a week of face-to-face training for speakers. The online courses are still ongoing.



Endangered
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Meet the Language Champions!



Delfina Reyes has more than forty years of teaching experience, mostly as a Junior High school teacher. Since 2021, she has been working on a teaching methodology for Mixe as a second language, since there are no previous proven experiences on the matter. She has a Bachelor's degree in Teaching Natural Sciences and a Master's degree on Comunalinguística Ayuujk (Applied Communal-linguistics in Mixe language and culture).

**Delfina
Reyes**



Email: colectivonemuk@gmail.com

Project: Ayöök Acquisition as a Second Language for Mixe's Heritage People

In this project, we designed and printed materials to assist our endeavor of teaching our endangered language, such as: a Patakario; a Spinning Wheel; and Bingo. We improved our two handmade Students' Books, levels Pre-Basic and Basic I.



Endangered
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Meet the Language Champions!



Tarryn Ryan



Nō Motupōhue ahau. Ko Kāi Tahu, ko Ngāpuhi ōku iwi. Ko Tarryn Ryan tōku ingoa. My name is Tarryn. I'm a māmā, part-time historian/writer/kaiako and I'm the kaiwhakahaere of Kōrero ki Ōtautahi. I wear many hats in my day to day life, but my current passion is ensuring our reo rangatira not only survives, but thrives here in Aotearoa.

Email: tarryn.ryan24@gmail.com

Project: Kōrero ki Ōtautahi: Me whakanui te reo rangatira

We are here to support speakers and learners of te reo Māori by creating more spaces around our city to speak and use our indigenous language.



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Stay Connected!



**Connect with ELP online for news,
learning resources, gatherings, and
inspiration in language revitalization and
documentation around the world.**



The Endangered Languages Project (ELP) is a U.S.-based nonprofit organization supporting the revitalization of Indigenous and endangered languages around the world. ELP brings people together across borders and boundaries to address the urgent issue of language endangerment.

Support ELP's work:
endangeredlanguages.com/donate



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