



NIGERIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

For nature...for people...for Nigeria



EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year!

As we start the new year, we reflect on our unwavering commitment to nature conservation and sustainable development. This past quarter, we made significant strides in protecting Nigeria's natural heritage, empowering communities, and championing innovative solutions to environmental challenges. One of such solutions is the strategy retreat that birth a new and robust strategic action plan that will provide a new direction from 2025 to 2030.

At NCF, we believe conservation begins with people, and you are an essential part of this journey. We invite you to take a deeper dive into the stories of resilience, collaboration, and innovation shared in this edition. More than ever, your involvement matters. Join us in making a difference—whether by supporting our programmes, becoming a member, or spreading awareness about the urgent need for conservation.

For nature, for people, for Nigeria.

Newsletter Highlights

Walk For Nature 2024

NCF/LFZ Sea Turtle Conservation

Annual General Meeting

Kainji Lake National Park Project

NCF/MTN Nigeria Pachi Panda

NCF/NABU Project

NCF Green Ball 2024

2024 NEC Strategy Retreat

NCF 35th Annual General Meeting



The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) on Wednesday 2nd October 2024, reiterated its commitment to environmental conservation and sustainability during the 35th Annual General Meeting held in Lagos.

The Director-General of NCF, Dr Joseph Onoja, said that 2023 marked the foundation's third year of the implementation of its Strategic Action Plan (SAP 2021- 2025). He also mentioned that the Foundation became more focused and innovative and implemented impactful programmes and projects on environmental sustainability and nature conservation.

NCF/MTN Pachi Panda Challenge



Osarode Stephen Odemwingie emerged as the winner of the NCF/MTN Pachi Panda Challenge taking home a ₦3 million cash prize. He will proudly represent Nigeria at the Africa PachiPanda Challenge Grand Finale in South Africa. The second and third positions were claimed by Olabisi Rafatu Emmanuel and the Sparkwise Initiative Team, with cash prizes of ₦2 million and ₦1.5 million, respectively.

The Nigeria PachiPanda Challenge is part of the Africa PachiPanda Challenge, a joint initiative of MTN Global and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The PachiPanda Challenge was launched to inspire and support innovative solutions addressing pressing environmental challenges across the African continent.

NCF Hosts Annual Green Ball 2024: Embracing Wellness and Nature

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) hosted its Annual Green Ball 2024 at the Muson Centre, Lagos, under the theme 'Embracing Wellness and Nature.' The event brought together conservationists, health experts, and key stakeholders to highlight the critical link between human wellness and environmental sustainability.

The event was an avenue to draw the attention of stakeholders to pressing environmental and climate issues such as biodiversity loss, land degradation and loss of wetland.

The event featured insightful discussions, captivating performances, and a call for greater environmental stewardship. It also provided a platform for stakeholders to support the organization's conservation efforts.

The Green Ball once again underscored NCF's commitment to a sustainable future for Nigeria.



A heartfelt message from our Director-General to you. Your support has driven us closer to a Nigeria where people prosper while living in harmony with nature.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Cheers to even greater collaboration and achievements in 2025.

[Watch here](#)

NCF holds 2024 NEC Strategy Retreat For 2025-2030 SAP

From October 31st to November 2nd, 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) hosted a 3-day strategic retreat session that brought together the Board of Trustees, the National Executive Council, and Senior Management staff of the Foundation to develop new and robust Strategic Action Plans (SAP) that will provide new strategic direction for the Foundation from 2025-2030. The new SAP that came out of the retreat session will be launched in 2025 and is expected to serve as a guide and compass for the Foundation to deliver impactful environmental projects and foster public and private sector conservations towards a better environment.



Five UNICAL students bag scholarships to study Cross River gorilla habits



Nigeria Conservation Foundation in partnership with Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo has offered a scholarship award to four Masters' and one PhD students of the University of Calabar to research on the Cross River Afi Mountain gorillas.

The students were awarded the scholarship to study the habits of the Cross River gorillas living in the Afi Mountain and their relationship with the locals from the communities scouring the mountain. The program is funded by the Wilder Institute Calgary Zoo in partnership with six other partners, the NCF being the principal implementing partners for this program in Nigeria.

NCF, Omo Forest Reserve Team Participated in the Wildlife Ranger Challenge

The NCF team, Omo Forest Elephant Initiative, in the Omo Forest Reserve, Ogun State, joined thousands of other participants from across Africa in the 2024 [#WildlifeRangerChallenge](#), organized by TUSK and the Game Rangers' Association of Africa.

This year marked our team's first attempt at the event. They took on a series of mental and physical challenges, culminating in the final event on September 21st, where each competing ranger ran a 21km race while carrying a 22kg backpack.

The aim of WRC is to communicate rangers' varied roles and multiple challenges, raise vital funds for rangers' frontline conservation work, and foster connection and friendship among the participants.



Nigeria Army Heritage and Future Centre Visits NCF



On Thursday, 5th December 2024, the Nigerian Army Heritage and Future Centre paid a courtesy visit to the NCF to strengthen partnerships on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Dr. Joseph Onoja, shared insights on:

- LCC's impact on biodiversity and ecotourism
- Resilience building and forest regeneration
- Efforts to combat the environmental challenges of urbanization and coastal threats

The visit ended with a tour of Lekki Conservation Centre, including the Canopy Walkway and the family park.

Staff Retreat 2024



In the month of October, we took a well-deserved pause from our daily routine to come together for an insightful and energizing staff retreat at the Conference Hotel, Abeokuta.

Key highlights of the retreat:

- In-depth sessions focused on NCF's Strategic Action Plan, including reviews of our progress on species conservation, climate change, partnerships, and Green Recovery Nigeria programmes.
- Brainstorming sessions focused on key operational themes, enabling staff to share fresh ideas and perspectives to advance NCF's mission.
- Knowledge-sharing sessions on each action pillar to drive forward our strategic objectives in the coming years.
- Fun moments with karaoke and other games
- A visit to the iconic Olumo Rock, which was a perfect balance to our strategic discussions, allowing us to connect with nature and refresh our minds.

The retreat was an incredible opportunity to reflect on our progress, build stronger bonds, refresh our commitment to conservation, and set the stage for an impactful year ahead.

UPCOMING EVENT

23rd Chief S. L. Edu Memorial Lecture - January 14

**FOR SPONSORSHIP AND
PARTICIPATION,
PLEASE CALL 0805 561 1253**

NCF Honours Mr. Anastasios Paul Leventis (CBE, OFR) Member, NCF Board of Trustees



The Nigerian Conservation Foundation Honours Mr. Anastasios Paul Leventis (CBE, OFR), Member, NCF Board of Trustees in recognition of his selfless contribution to NCF and biodiversity conservation in Nigeria and beyond.

The event which took place on the 30th of November 2024 was hosted and Chaired by Izoma Philip C. Asiodu, President, NCF Board of Trustees, and had NCF BOT and NEC Members present to celebrate the environment and sustainability icon.

Tasso Leventis is a naturalist, conservationist, ecologist, environmentalist, ornithologist, scientist, philanthropist, and visionary leader. Tasso Leventis, a Founding Member and Trustee of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) for 44 years, has been instrumental in advancing conservation and biodiversity protection in Nigeria. His strategic vision and unwavering support have shaped the Foundation's growth and impact.

Chief Shafi Lawal Edu (S. L. Edu) played the lead role in the founding of NCF, but his efforts would have yielded little without the keen interest and support of Mr. A. P. Leventis, Miss Aduke Alakija and Mr. Anofi Guobadia, the founding trustees.



[**READ MORE**](#)

DECEMBER 2024



**NIGERIAN
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**
for nature... for people... for Nigeria

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation and the family
of Late Chief S.L. Edu invite you to the



23rd CHIEF S.L. EDU MEMORIAL LECTURE

Tuesday, 14th January 2025 | 11:00AM
**Venue: CIBN, Plot 19, Adeola Hopewell Street,
Victoria Island, Lagos**

THEME: _____

**GREENING AFRICA'S ECONOMIES:
CAN CLIMATE POSITIVE GROWTH
DELIVER PROSPERITY?**

SPEAKER: _____

PROF. YEMI OSINBAJO, SAN, GCON
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



NB: Admission is free, but registration is compulsory.



Scan to Register or
use the link: bit.ly/SLedu2025

RSVP: SOMI (+234 806 193 0458)

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media@ncfnigeria.org

Update: Lagos Free Zone and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation Sea Turtle Conservation Project

Recent activities from the NCF/LFZ Sea Turtle Conservation Project highlight the impactful work of the community-based volunteers in Ibeju Lekki, particularly in communities around the operational areas of the Lagos Free Zone.

Trained to monitor nesting sea turtles, protect their eggs, and rescue bycatch, these volunteers have been actively involved in advocacy, beach monitoring, and educational outreach within their communities.

A total of 108 local participants, including fisherfolks, were educated on the ecological importance of sea turtles and the need for their protection to promote biodiversity and sustainable ecotourism.

The continued efforts of these volunteers underscore the crucial role of local involvement in sea turtle conservation.

To further advance the sea turtle conservation awareness in Ibeju Lekki, we expanded our community based school engagement in October by engaging seven government schools and reaching about 3,250 students across the community.



WALK FOR NATURE 2024



On Saturday, 19th October, we held the 18th edition of Walk for Nature, themed "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience," at Onikan Stadium Lagos, in partnership with Lagos State Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources.

Since 2008, we have collaborated with Lagos State Government to raise public awareness about the importance of environmental protection and conservation through the [#WalkForNature](#) event.

This year's theme underscores the urgent need to restore degraded lands, combat desertification, and build resilience to drought—key steps in protecting ecosystems and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for future generations.

NCF/NABU Project Recent Activities



As part of our implementation plan for the NCF/NABU project; a forest management and livelihood improvement project in Cross River State, we held capacity building workshop to train beneficiaries on Value Addition for Non-Timber Forest Products.

This project is supported by NABU and BMZ BUND.

[LEARN MORE](#)

NABU Team Paid Visit to NCF

We had the honour of welcoming the team from Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) to NCF Headquarters on 19th November.

In 2023, we embarked on a transformative 3-year project in Cross River State, Nigeria, aimed at enhancing forest management and improving livelihoods.

This initiative, carried out in partnership with NABU and supported by funding from BMZ BUND, focuses on conserving 12,000 hectares in the buffer zone of Cross River National Park while improving people's livelihood in 8 local communities of Cross River State.

We have seen remarkable progress, with lives and communities thriving through the collaboration efforts.



The NABU team visited to evaluate our achievements so far and engage with key stakeholders and beneficiaries as we approach the final phase of the project

NCF Membership Subscription Review

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

NOTICE OF REVIEW

This is to announce some changes to our corporate and individual membership programmes with effect from **1st January 2025**

This is to notify our esteemed members and public that we have made some changes to our corporate and individual membership programmes with effect from January 1st 2025.

[Read more](#)

Kainji Lake Project Update



We launched an innovative initiative to provide alternative livelihoods and empowerment for hunters and women groups surrounding Kainji Lake National Park.

This project aims to harmonize human activities with conservation efforts, ensuring the long-term preservation of critically endangered species like lions and leopards.

Kainji Lake National Park is faced with significant security challenges, limiting access to over 30 surrounding communities. To address this, we recently conducted a 5-day workshop, gathering 150 participants for hands-on training to equip hunters and women with skills to improve their financial stability.

Participants were trained on beekeeping, grass cutter rearing, and shea butter production.



Also, a transformative shift took place. The Nigerian Conservation Foundation has bridged the divide through its innovative Site Support Groups (SSGs). Hunters, once at odds with rangers, now embrace them as allies under the banner, "Reformed Hunters." These groups work hand-in-hand with rangers to safeguard the park's precious wildlife.

Through our Site Support Groups, we have successfully transformed a once-contentious relationship into a powerful partnership, ensuring the long-term protection of Kainji Lake National Park's ecosystem.

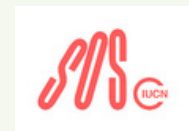
BECOME A MEMBER OF NCF TODAY!

In addition to playing a critical role in protecting our environment, you'll receive our member benefits.



Enquiries: call 09091476149 or send a mail to membership@ncfnigeria.org

PROGRAMMES PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



ABOUT US

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation is the premier Non-Governmental Organisation established in 1980, with a focus to promote nature conservation and sustainable development in Nigeria.

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