



NIGERIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

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



EDITOR'S NOTE

Newsletter Highlights

NCF Summer 2024

NCF/LFZ Sea Turtle Conservation

NCF/Natural Eco Capital MoU Signing

Mangrove Restoration Project in Andoni Rivers State

International Vulture Awareness Day 2024

NCF and Partners boost GRN programme

NCF partners First Bank on Afforestation Project



NCF and First Bank of Nigeria Limited recently embarked on afforestation project, which will see 30,000 trees planted across 17 states of Nigeria.

This is in support of our Green Recovery Nigeria (GRN) programme, which seeks to increase Nigeria's forest cover, protect biodiversity, minimize impact of climate change and support livelihood of rural communities, one tree at a time.

The project was kicked off with the ceremonial tree planting held on 22nd August 2024 at the Lekki Conservation Centre, Lagos State. The event also served as part of the bank's annual corporate responsibility and sustainability week 2024.

NCF and Natural Eco Capital Partner For Sustainability and Nature Conservation



Dr. Joseph Onoja, DG, Nigerian Conservation Foundation, and Dr. Eugene Itua, CEO, Natural Eco Capital at the signing ceremony of the MoU for joint programme implementation, sharing of knowledge and skills, and mutual support towards advancing and catalyzing actions for nature-based solutions, sustainability strategies, climate change, and emerging environmental issues at the Lekki Conservation Centre on Wednesday 21st August 2024.

Mangrove Restoration in Andoni, Rivers State

Andoni Local Government in Rivers State is a critical biodiversity hotspot, that supports huge areas of mangroves, resident and migratory birds, and a stopover site of the East Atlantic Flyway, home to forest elephants and various aquatic species, including endangered sea turtles, fish, dolphins, and sharks.

However, the introduction of the invasive Nipa Palm has adversely affected Andoni's coastal ecosystems, displacing native species and harming both terrestrial and aquatic environments.

To combat this issue, NCF with the support of the ACT Foundation launched a project to convert Nipa palm into environmentally friendly shopping bags and household accessories.

In July, the project continued with a 3-day training program focused on utilizing and marketing Nipa palm for producing various marketable items such as bags, baskets, trinkets, and more.

We trained 120 participants across three districts of Andoni, Ngo, Unyeada, and Ataba. The workshop was designed to build the capacity of beneficiaries to produce and market biodegradable crafts, supporting their livelihoods.

Following the Nipa palm craft training workshop, we kickstarted the planting of 10,000 mangrove trees in the Andoni Local Government Area to restore habitats, improve water quality and biodiversity, mitigate climate change impacts, and further support livelihoods.



The Continental Reinsurance plants 2000 economic trees to advance Green Recovery Nigeria Programme

The overall objective of our Green Recovery Nigeria programme is to increase Nigeria's forest cover to at least 25% of the country's total land mass over a period of 30 years through partnership and collaboration with a network of stakeholders.

One of our platinum corporate partners, Continental Reinsurance - the private sector champion of the pan-African reinsurance industry, demonstrated commitment to the GRN programme and environmental sustainability by planting and nurturing 2,000 indigenous economic trees.

The commemorative tree planting event took place at the Lekki Conservation Centre in June.



NCF Holds Key Biodiversity Area Workshop in Abuja

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are biologically rich ecosystems that are essential to humanity, yet highly threatened.

As part of its efforts in protecting Key Biodiversity Areas globally, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and BirdLife International supported the Nigerian Conservation Foundation in implementing a two-day workshop to update the ecosystem profiles of priority KBAs in Nigeria.

The workshop, held on August 12th and 13th, brought together stakeholders in biodiversity conservation, including conservation managers, academics, and government agencies.



Climate Action Summit 2024



On Wednesday 17th July 2024, the Director General of NCF, Dr. Joseph Onoja attended the Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University 1st Climate Action Summit organized with Climate Action Africa in collaboration with NCF.

In his keynote speech, "Role of Trees in Sustainable Nigeria's Growth," Dr. Onoja emphasised the critical role of biodiversity in Nigeria's ecological balance, economic development, and cultural heritage.

The event featured a tree planting exercise and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to:

1. Jointly establish conservation education programmes and climate action initiatives.
2. Promote tree planting
3. Collaborate on research and project development initiatives
4. Set up conservation clubs
5. Stimulate and drive NCF membership among lecturers and staff

UPCOMING EVENT

World Habitat Day - 7th October
World Migratory Bird Day - 12th October
International E-Waste Day - 14th October
Sustainability Day - 16th October
Walk For Nature - 19th October
National Reptile Awareness Day - October 21
International Day of Climate Action - October 24

**FOR SPONSORSHIP AND
 PARTICIPATION,
 PLEASE CALL 09034895750**

Lagos Free Zone and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation partner on Sea Turtle Conservation

In our relentless pursuit to protect and conserve sea turtles in Nigeria, we recently signed a three-year agreement with the Lagos Free Zone (LFZ), a prominent free trade zone developer and management company, to protect endangered sea turtles that utilize the extensive coastlines around the free zone.

This agreement follows a one-year assessment that showed that the area is important for nesting sea turtles.

All the sea turtle species found along the Ibeju-Lekki coastline are threatened due to human activities like habitat modification, poaching for meat, harvesting of eggs, bycatch, and pollution.

To address these challenges, the project will adopt a community participatory approach that puts local communities at the forefront of the conservation efforts. This project aims to mitigate threats to sea turtles and maximize their ecological value. Some of the planned activities for the project include:

- Site mapping
- Community engagements and awareness
- School-based conservation education
- Capacity building for community-based volunteers to monitor and protect nesting sea turtles and their eggs and rescue bycatch of the prominent fishing activities

Following this, a symposium took place on Monday, June 10th. The symposium provided valuable insights to participants on innovative nature-based and people-centered solutions to safeguard our marine ecosystems and advance climate actions for a sustainable future.



NCF Hosts 3-Week Eco-adventure Challenge for Children in 2024 Summer Camp



The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) hosted the 2024 Summer Camp, from August 12th to August 30th, 2024, at the Lekki Conservation Centre (LCC), themed “Eco-Adventure Challenge”.

The camp, designed for children aged 5 to 17 years, brought together a diverse group of young nature enthusiasts for three weeks of fun, learning, and adventure in the heart of one of Nigeria’s most treasured natural environments.

With over 100 children in attendance, this year’s event was a resounding success, offering participants an immersive experience in nature while promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. The camp was packed with exciting activities, challenges, and educational sessions aimed at instilling a lifelong appreciation for the environment in young minds.

The Plight of Vultures: Curator of Our Ecosystem Under Threat



When you think of vultures, what comes to mind? For many, these majestic birds are unfairly associated with death and decay. However, on International Vulture Awareness Day, it’s time to change this narrative and recognize the vital role vultures play in our environment. These birds are crucial to maintaining the health of our ecosystems, but they face severe threats, particularly in West Africa.

[**READ MORE**](#)



**NIGERIAN
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**
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LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES

18th Walk for Nature 2024

**LAND RESTORATION, DESERTIFICATION,
AND DROUGHT RESILIENCE**

SATURDAY
19TH OCTOBER, 2024
7:00AM

ONIKAN STADIUM
Onikan, Lagos

LIVESTREAM
@NCFNIGERIA



CO HOST:

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SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR:

**MR. BABAJIDE
OLUSOLA SANWO-OLU**
GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE

SPONSORS



NCF partners Polaris Bank on GRN Programme



A critical part of NCF's vision is centered around increasing Nigeria's forest cover from its current state of about 4-7% to 25% of the country's total landmass by the year 2047; and sustainably manage the restored forest landscapes. That's why we are passionate about tree planting. We recently embarked on an afforestation project in Ogun State in partnership with Polaris Bank PLC. The flag-off event was held in July at Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijebu Ode, with the planting of 500 economic tree seedlings.

We are incredibly grateful to our partner and host, for their collective efforts. It is time to choose a prosperous and sustainable future. Join us to be a part of the solution.

Partnership For Conservation

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation is proud to be a part of the launch of the first National Elephant Action Plan (2024-2034). This plan was launched in Abuja on 13th August 2024 as part of World Elephant Day celebrations.

The 10-year plan is a critical guide for the conservation of Nigeria's threatened forest and savannah elephants and their habitats. It will provide a strategic framework for the coordination of all stakeholders involved in elephant conservation and management in Nigeria.

This is a joint effort with partners, including Elephant Protection Initiative, Wildlife Conservation Society Nigeria, Africa Nature Investors Foundation, National Park Service, Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Environment and the European Union in Nigeria, amongst others.



NCF remains committed to protecting the forest elephant population across the country.

Download and read the National Elephant Action Plan [here](#).

BirdLife International Council for African Partnership (CAP) 2024



We joined key stakeholders and partners at the BirdLife International Council for African Partnership (CAP) 2024 meeting in Saly, Senegal, from 4th to 6th September 2024, where partners met to discuss and endorse strategies for the conservation of birds and their habitats and the promotion of sustainable development.

The theme for this year is "Flyways: Interconnectivity and Sustainability."

NNPC Ltd, FIRST E&P and NCF Launch ALEC: A Landmark Initiative to Plant 500,000 Trees and Restore Nigeria's Biodiversity



On 19th September 2024, Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd) and FIRST Exploration and Petroleum Development Company Limited (FIRST E&P) Joint Venture, signed an MoU to launch the ALEC Project (Afforestation, Livelihood Enhancement, and Carbon Sequestration).

The project aims to promote community-based conservation and use systems to improve livelihoods and conserve highly biodiverse forests by:

- i) Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded mangrove and tropical forest habitat and ecosystems,
- ii) Promotion of sustainable and alternative livelihood,
- iii) Participatory Forest Management (PFM),
- iv) Enhancing governance through collaborative framework involving government MDAs, communities, NGOs and
- v) Enhanced grassroots environmental awareness and effective communications for policy reform.



This strategic initiative is focused on restoring Nigeria's rapidly depleting tropical and mangrove forests in 11 communities of Bayelsa State. The project will combat the critical issues of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change, while simultaneously enhancing the socio-economic well-being of the local population in these communities.

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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