



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

# *Partnerships for Nature and People*



# 2024 Impact Report





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support the conservation and protection of our natural heritage.

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We express our appreciation to Chevron Nigeria Limited who supported the production of this report.



# President's Address

Members of the Board of Trustees, National Executive Council (NEC) and Corporate and Individual Members of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to welcome you all to the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF). Today presents an important opportunity for us to reflect on our collective journey, celebrate our achievements, and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to building a Nigeria where people prosper while living in harmony with nature. At this meeting, we will review the reports of the activities of the Foundation and receive and approve the audited Financial Statements for the year 2024.



In the year under review, we faced a rapidly changing environment – from the impacts of climate change, habitat degradation, and biodiversity loss to the economic and societal pressures that test our resilience. Yet, amidst these challenges, NCF stood firm, driven by a clear vision and a dedicated community of supporters, partners, staff, and volunteers.

I extend my deepest gratitude to every one of you who has been part of this journey – the BOT and NEC members, our dedicated staff, passionate volunteers, generous donors, and committed partners. Your passion and steadfast support have been pivotal to the strides we recorded 2024 across our key pillars of intervention: Green Recovery Nigeria (GRN), Species Conservation, Climate Change, and Partnerships.

The year started out well with the implementation of the Foundation's programmes and projects. Prominent among them is the hosting of the 22nd edition of the Chief S.L. Edu Memorial Lecture, the Foundation's flagship advocacy tool. The discussion on "Carbon Credits: Opportunities and Pitfalls" was timely and helped set the tone for the Foundation's activities in 2024. Two PhD students were awarded research grants to intensify their work and come up with solutions that better protect the environment. For this we are thankful to the S.L. Edu Family and Chevron Nigeria Limited.

Through the Green Recovery Nigeria programme, we continued to drive national reforestation efforts, restoring degraded landscapes and giving life to new hope. In 2024 alone, we planted 184,000 trees across various ecosystems, reaffirming our goal of restoring Nigeria's forest cover to 25% by 2047. Beyond planting trees, we also paid attention to the need of the host communities on a per need basis. As we carried out restoration projects, we provided support to the local communities. In some places, it was provision of water, in others, liveli-



hood support to help improve the living conditions of these communities. The bore-hole installation in Maja-Kura, Yobe State, stands out as a profound symbol of our impact – restoring both landscapes and livelihoods in one of Nigeria's most climate-vulnerable communities.

Under the Species conservation, we expanded our conservation efforts to protect Nigeria's most threatened species. From supporting Cross River gorilla research scholarships at the University of Calabar down south to the protection of wild cats through the Kainji Lake National Park project up north, NCF has been at the forefront of safeguarding our unique biodiversity.

With regards to Climate Change, we amplified our voice globally and nationally. Our participation at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, and our grassroots engagements like the Ibadan Climate Caravan Walk and Osun Climate Awareness Walk, show that NCF is influencing climate action from the community level to the global stage.

More than ever before, the importance of partnerships cannot be overemphasized. Through the support of international and local donors, we were able to achieve the initiatives under our Strategic Action Plan (SAP). We also embarked on strategic capacity-building programmes that empowered over 11,000 beneficiaries, facilitated the creation of 7,500 direct and indirect green jobs, and established 42 new conservation clubs. This year, through diverse livelihood and skill-building initiatives, we helped

communities transition from dependency to resilience, forging stronger pathways to sustainable development.

**Unfortunately, however, we are still far from achieving our main targets:**

- **Making NCF a mass-membership organization with millions of members and not just a few thousands;**
- **Achieving 25% reforestation of Nigeria as pledged by the Federal Government in the 1980s including the Great Green Wall against the Sahara – about 250km<sup>2</sup>;**
- **Replicating LCC in all the states starting with FCT Abuja with whom discussions are far advanced**
- **Restoration or starting regional branches of NCF;**
- **Multiplying several times over Nature Conservation Clubs throughout Nigeria;**
- **Motivating every state to demand the utilization to good account its allocation of the Ecology Funds.**

As we gather today, I urge us to recognize that the challenges ahead are still immense. However, I am confident that together through innovation, collaboration, and relentless dedication we can confront these challenges and secure a healthier planet for generations to come.

Let us continue to be champions for nature, advocates for conservation, and builders of a sustainable Nigeria.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Thank you for believing in our mission.

Together, we shall achieve even greater heights.

**Izoma Philip Asiodu CFR, CON**

**President, Board of Trustees**



# Chairman's Speech

The President,  
Board of Trustees (BOT) of NCF,  
Distinguished Members of the BOT,  
Members of the National Executive Council,  
Corporate and Individual Members of  
the Nigerian Conservation Foundation,  
Distinguished Partners and Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF).

Today is another important day for stocktaking in our continued effort towards driving our shared mission to protect Nigeria's rich biodiversity and promote sustainable development in an increasingly challenging world.



In the face of the uncertainties and global pressures of the past year, NCF remained steadfast, resilient, and forward-looking. The year 2024 was a pivotal one, marked by several accomplishments that reinforced our leadership in the conservation space in Nigeria. Through our flagship Green Recovery Nigeria (GRN) programme, we achieved a remarkable milestone by planting 184,000 trees across different parts of the country.

Our conservation efforts included protecting endangered species under our Saving Species in Peril programme. Through concerted efforts, we supported the development of the National Elephant Action Plan, continued our work safeguarding Cross River gorillas, lions, leopards, sea turtles, and other critical species, and implemented community-led initiatives that are helping stem biodiversity loss in key habitats across Nigeria.

Our actions in tackling climate change gained even greater momentum in 2024. NCF's active participation at the COP29 Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, and the various local advocacy initiatives such as the Ibadan Climate Caravan Walk and Osun Climate Awareness Walk, demonstrated our strong presence at both the national and international stage. We continued to build capacity across communities, reaching thousands of beneficiaries through sustainable livelihood projects that created 7,500 direct and indirect green jobs across Nigeria. In empowering communities, particularly youth and women, we have sown seeds that will yield lasting impact.

In education, our impact has been equally significant. The establishment of 42 new Conservation Clubs and the revival of additional 100 others across Nigeria demonstrates our commitment to inspiring environ-



mental stewardship among young Nigerians. Through various engagements, we also built stronger partnerships with institutions such as Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Tai Solarin University of Education, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU) and the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, among others.

Our financial health remains stable and strong. Thanks to prudent management and increasing support from partners we have diversified our funding base and maintained transparency and accountability in all our operations. All monies entrusted to us have been used judiciously to advance our conservation goals.

Yet, our journey was not without challenges. Illegal logging, climate change, limited funding for conservation activities, and community pressures continued to test our resolve. However, these challenges have only strengthened our determination. We responded by forging new partnerships, adopting technology-driven solutions for restoration monitoring, and expanding our advocacy for nature-based solutions at every opportunity.

Looking to the future, we are filled with renewed hope and purpose. In 2024, the NCF leadership guided by an experienced consultant developed the new Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2025-2030 for the Foundation. The new SAP is designed to provide strategic direction and properly position the Foundation as a leading conservation organisation and pace-setter in Africa.

Our focus will be on scaling up conservation actions, deepening our influence in policy advocacy, strengthening the link between sustainability and

community livelihoods, and building the next generation of conservation champions. We are committed to expanding the impact of the Green Recovery Nigeria (GRN) programme, promoting nature-based solutions to climate change, and safeguarding Nigeria's natural heritage for future generations.

As we celebrate our successes today, I wish to call on all our friends, partners, and supporters to renew their commitment. The path of conservation demands collective action. Let us continue to work together to build a future where development and conservation go hand in hand, ensuring that the natural wealth of our Communities, States, Country and the World are preserved, restored, and celebrated.

On behalf of the National Executive Council, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the President of the Board of Trustees, Izoma Philip Asiodu, fellow Board members, NEC members, the management and staff of NCF, NCF Members, our loyal volunteers, corporate partners particularly Chevron Nigeria Limited and every individual who continues to partner with us to achieve our mission. Your support and dedication are the pillars upon which our achievements rest.

Together, we can and will build a greener, healthier, and more sustainable World.

Thank you and God bless you all.

**Hon. Justice (Mrs.) R.I.B Adebiyi**  
Chairman, National Executive Council



# Director General's Report

Presented at the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) By Dr. Joseph Onoja, Director General

It is with deep gratitude and a strong sense of purpose that I present this report at the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF).

The year 2024 has been a landmark chapter in our journey—a year in which we boldly advanced the goals of our Strategic Action Plan (SAP 2021–2025), delivering high-impact programmes that continue to position NCF as Nigeria's foremost advocate for nature conservation and environmental sustainability.



## Advancing the Green Recovery Nigeria Initiative

A defining highlight of the year was the remarkable progress made under our flagship Green Recovery Nigeria (GRN) initiative. This national movement – aimed at restoring Nigeria's forest cover to 25% by 2047 – continues to gain momentum. In 2024 alone, 184,000 trees were planted across ecologically degraded areas in Yobe–Cross River, Anambra, Abuja, and Lagos States.

In Yobe, the Maja-Kura Community Borehole Project stands out as a beacon of integrated environmental and social impact, delivering life-saving access to water for over 500 households while securing the survival of our tree-planting efforts in a semi-arid landscape. These efforts represent more than reforestation – they signify our commitment to ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, and community empowerment.

Through GRN, we supported community-led nurseries, introduced nature-based value chains, promoted non-timber forest enterprises, and strengthened forest governance through advocacy and stakeholder engagement. This holistic approach is helping us build resilient landscapes and resilient people.

## Defending Nigeria's Wildlife and Natural Heritage

Our Species Conservation Programme remained a critical pillar in 2024. We deepened our interventions for endangered species including the Cross River gorilla, African forest elephant, leopards, lions, sea turtles, and vultures.

A milestone achievement was our collaborative support for the launch of Nigeria's first-ever National Elephant Action Plan, which provides a 10-year strategic framework for elephant protection and management. In parallel, we expanded our investment in research and capacity-building. With funding support from our partners, the Wilder Institute – Calgary Zoo, we awarded 1 PhD and 5 MSc scholarships for studies on Cross River gorilla habitats at the University of Calabar and deploying community-based monitoring tools to enhance biodiversity intelligence.

In Kainji Lake National Park, where climate-induced pressures and human-wildlife conflict are increasingly acute, our intervention helped reduce illegal hunting and livestock encroachment by up to 70%, alongside a 50% boost in park surveillance. We continue to use innovation, advocacy, and collaboration to secure the habitats that are critical to Nigeria's ecological future.

### **Confronting Climate Change with Local and Global Action**

In 2024, NCF stood tall on the frontlines of climate advocacy. At the COP29 Climate Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, I had the honour of championing discussions on nature-based solutions and calling for greater global climate finance for Africa. At home, we mobilized civil society through events like the Ibadan Climate Caravan Walk and the Osun Climate Awareness

Walk, shining a spotlight on the climate emergency facing Nigeria and catalyzing grassroots action.

Our work continues to highlight that climate solutions must be rooted in local ecosystems and driven by the communities who depend on them.

### **Empowering Communities and Unlocking Green Livelihoods**

At the heart of our conservation model is a firm belief in people. In 2024, we empowered over 11,000 beneficiaries and created 7,500 direct and indirect green jobs across

various project sites. Initiatives like the Livelihood and Dialogue Workshops for Community Support Groups provided women, youth, and farmers with sustainable income alternatives while reducing pressure on fragile landscapes.

These interventions are helping communities shift from extractive livelihoods to regenerative practices that support conservation and enhance dignity.

### **Fostering Environmental Education and the Next Generation**

We expanded our reach to young Nigerians by establishing 40 new Conservation Clubs in schools across the country. Through these clubs, and our nationwide school engagement efforts, we educated thousands of students – planting the seeds of environmental consciousness and nurturing tomorrow's stewards of the planet.

### **Building Bridges Through Partnerships**

Our progress in 2024 was made possible through purposeful collaboration. We strengthened alliances with the academia – such as Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU) and Tai Solarin University of Education (TASUED) – and deepened private sector engagement with partners like Chevron, NLNG, Seplat Energy, Lagos Free Zone, ATC Nigeria, and NNPC Ltd/FIRST E&P JV, Continental Re-insurance, First Bank, Pernod Ricard,

Polaris Bank, A.G Leventis, Fidelity Bank, Aluko & Oye-bode, Nigerian Bottling Company, NNPC Retail Ltd, Q-Life Family Clinic, FCMB, Union Bank, etc.

Projects like the ALEC Project in Bayelsa State – focused on afforestation, livelihood enhancement, and carbon sequestration – exemplify the power of cross-sector partnerships to deliver real, scalable impact.

### **Navigating Challenges with Innovation and Resolve**

We recognize the persistent threats of illegal logging, habitat degradation, limited conservation financing, and the intensifying effects of climate change. Yet, these challenges only reinforce our resolve. In 2024, we expanded our use of technology for conservation monitoring, reinforced our Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks, and increased our advocacy for stronger environmental policy reform at state and national levels.

### **Looking Ahead: Our Vision for 2025 and Beyond**

As we move toward the conclusion of our current Strategic Action Plan, we remain steadfast in our mission. Our priorities in the year ahead



include:

- Expanding landscape restoration and forest cover across Nigeria
- Deepening species conservation and habitat protection
- Scaling climate resilience and adaptation strategies
- Empowering communities and green enterprises
- Investing in the next generation of conservation leaders

We will also continue to strengthen internal systems, nurture innovation, and forge enduring partnerships to deliver sustainable, inclusive, and nature-positive development outcomes.

### Appreciation

On behalf of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our Board of Trustees, National Executive Council, Management Team, Staff, Volunteers, Members, and Partners. Your commitment, passion, and collaboration continue to power our mission.

As we reflect on the strides we have made, let us reaffirm our collective commitment — to nature, to our communities, and to the future of our nation. Together, we will restore, preserve, and celebrate the natural heritage of Nigeria for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention.

**Dr Joseph Onoja**

Director General.

Nigerian Conservation Foundation

## About Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF)

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) is Nigeria's premier environmental non-governmental organization dedicated to nature conservation and sustainable development. The Foundation was founded in 1980 by the late Chief S.L. Edu and registered as a Charitable Trust in 1982. The Foundation is the Birdlife International Partner in Nigeria, an Associate of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and a Member of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Other notable international partners are the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Wetlands International. NCF also maintains strong collaboration with governments at all levels, corporate organisations, communities, and individuals in the country.



## Vision

“A Nigeria where people prosper while living in harmony with nature.”

## Mission

Conserving the full range of Nigeria's biodiversity, this includes species, ecosystems, and genetic biodiversity.

Promoting the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit and well-being of the present and future generations of Nigerians.

Undertaking field programmes and advocacy to promote best practices in climate change adaptation and mitigation, minimize pollution, as well as reduce wasteful utilization of renewable resources.

## Guided by our Core Values

- Model for other NGOs.
- Reliability and accountability.
- Collaboration and networking.
- Excellence
- Environmental responsiveness
- Commitment to conservation



## NCF Conservation Project Sites



**Lekki Conservation Centre, LCC, Lagos State.**  
(Size – 78 hectares)

LCC was established in 1990 and has become an icon of ecotourism and reforestation, boasting of a unique blend of native biodiversity in the Lekki Peninsula. The project is wholly owned by NCF and supported by Chevron Nigeria Limited. Amongst many exciting features, it showcases Africa's longest canopy walkway. It is an important wetland and forest reserve that plays a crucial role in urban biodiversity conservation and is home to diverse species. Prominent among them are the mona monkey and the tortoise.



**Becheve Nature Reserve, Cross River State.**  
(Size – 120 hectares)

BNR is located on the Obudu Plateau in Cross River State. The Project is supported by the Leventis Foundation.

The forest reserve is owned by local communities and managed with the community by NCF since 1998.

The holy and amazing mountain scenery, the thrilling canopy walkway, enchanting waterfalls, and horseback riding, give an unforgettable and breathtaking experience.



**Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands, Jigawa/Yobe.**  
(Size – 35,000 hectares)

The Hadejia-Nguru wetlands is NCF's flagship project that delivered improved livelihoods for people, and habitats for migratory birds.

It attracted Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh who visited in his capacity as President of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) in 1989.

The Ramsar site highlights the importance of wetland ecosystems for migratory birds and flood control.



**Omo Forest Reserve, Ogun State.**  
(Size – 55,000 hectares)

Omo forest reserve is one of the last remaining forests in South-West Nigeria. As Technical Partners, we helped establish a wildlife sanctuary within the reserve which we have been managing since 1989. Currently, there are over 200 tree species, 125 bird species, elephants, chimpanzees, and white-throated guenon monkeys among others in the reserve.





**Finima Nature Park, FNP, Bonny Island, Rivers State.**  
(Size – 1000 hectares)

Established by the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas Company (NLNG) in 2001, the Finima Nature Park came from a consensus by the communities of Finima and Bonny in Rivers State to protect the forests. We have been managing the project since 2011. The park is home to a variety of wildlife which includes mona monkeys, crocodiles, and over 122 bird species.



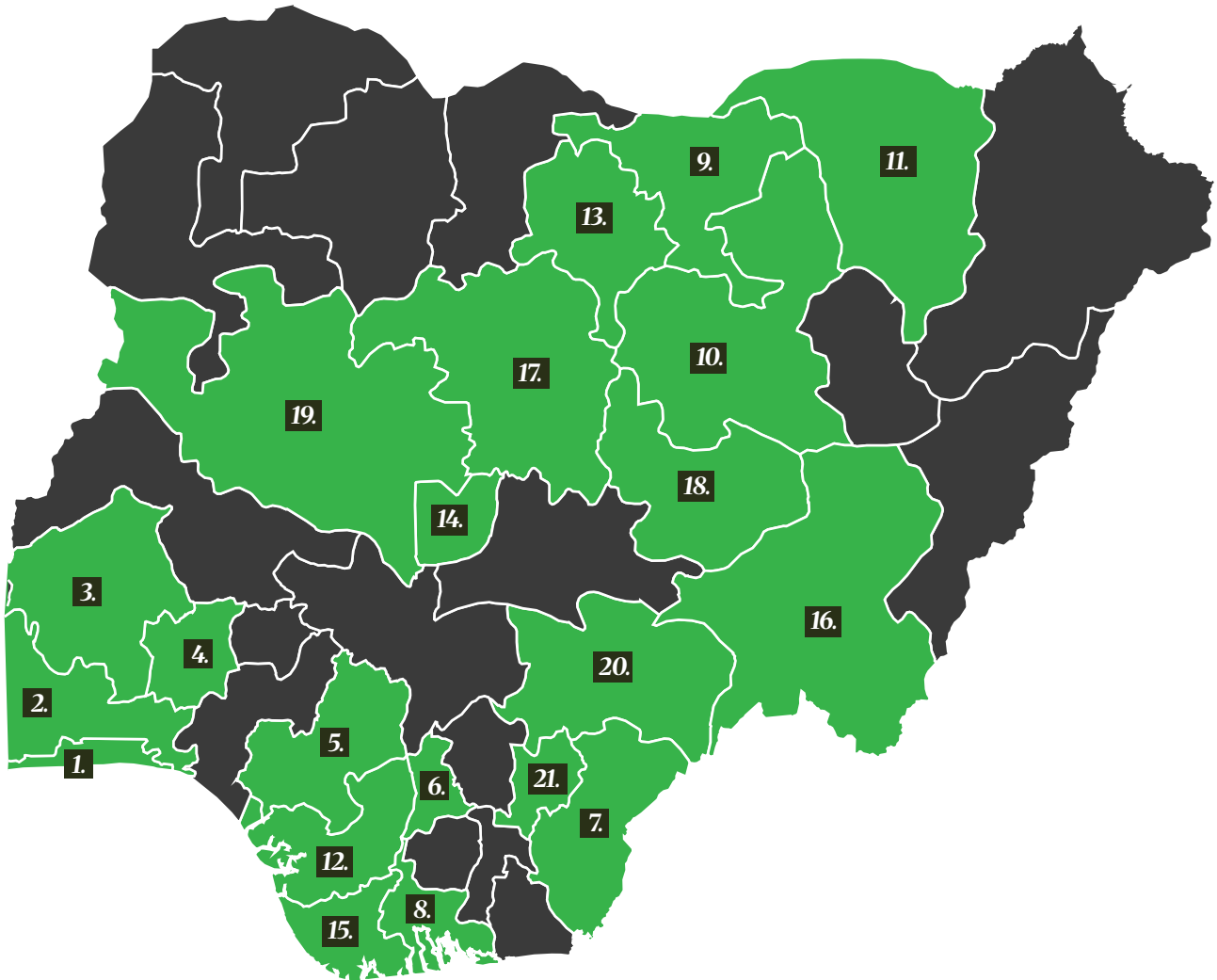
**Abuja Conservation Centre, FCT, Abuja.**  
(Size – 262 hectares)

This space was donated by the former President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, who was the Grand Patron of NCF. It was established to raise awareness among Nigerians on the need to conserve biodiversity. The centre serves as an education, research, and ecotourism site where people can interact, learn, and appreciate nature. It also serves to conserve biological and historical resources particularly species and habitat in the area.





## Geographic Representation of 2024 Project Locations and Impact Areas.



- |                  |               |               |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| ■ 1. Lagos       | ■ 9. Jigawa   | ■ 17. Kaduna  |
| ■ 2. Ogun        | ■ 10. Bauchi  | ■ 18. Plateau |
| ■ 3. Oyo         | ■ 11. Yobe    | ■ 19. Niger   |
| ■ 4. Osun        | ■ 12. Delta   | ■ 20. Benue   |
| ■ 5. Edo         | ■ 13. Kano    | ■ 21. Ebonyi  |
| ■ 6. Anambra     | ■ 14. Abuja   |               |
| ■ 7. Cross River | ■ 15. Bayelsa |               |
| ■ 8. Rivers      | ■ 16. Taraba  |               |

## NCF Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2021-2025

### SPACES



Since NCF was established four decades ago, forests have been at the heart of our work and continue to inspire us. Our vision for Nigerian forests underpinned the conceptualization and launch of the Green Recovery Nigeria (GRN) Initiative that was borne out of the growing concern for the plight of the forests and the potentially devastating consequences of their continued degradation and loss.

Habitat loss, hunting and logging are among the leading factors responsible for the rapid decline in the populations of Nigeria's flora and fauna.

We take pride in our achievements on Species conservation. We are identifying, monitoring and safe guarding Key Bio-diversity Areas (KBAs) all across Nigeria. We are helping in the conservation of priority species such as the Cross River Gorilla, the Nigerian Cameroon Chimpanzee, the White throated monkey, and saving Vultures and a host of others.

### SPECIES



### CLIMATE CHANGE



We are making significant contributions to support Nigeria's fulfilment of its international climate obligations. Our interventions have mainly focused on advocacy, public awareness and education. We have participated in, and at times initiated, national consultations to develop or review climate policies.

We have organised Peoples' Climate March across several States in the country. We have also published booklets on how individuals belonging to different age groups can support climate action. Going forward, we aim to undertake more field projects that promote adaptation and building resilience of communities to climate change in addition to consolidating our past interventions.

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) has taken partnerships and collaboration as key points from the beginning. The Foundation collaborates with over 40 Partners and is a member of ten leading International Conservation Organisations. We continue to nurture new friendships and partnerships at home and abroad. In the new Strategy, we hope to expand the strength of relationships to thousands of communities and groups in Nigeria to deliver conservation initiatives and field action.

### PARTNERSHIPS







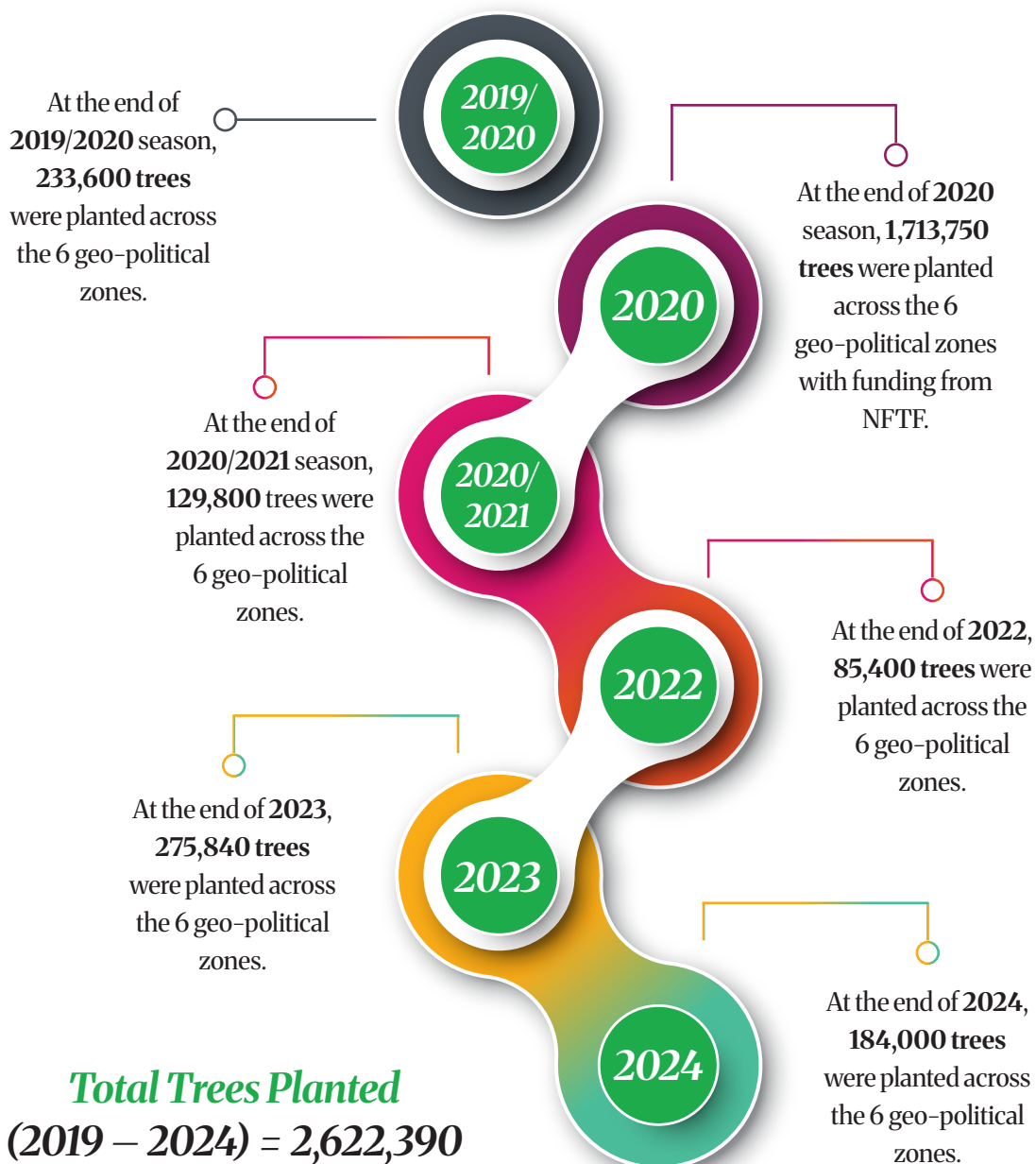
# *Green Recovery Nigeria (GRN)*

The Green Recovery Nigeria (GRN) programme continues to serve as NCF's flagship reforestation and ecosystem restoration initiative, driving national efforts to restore forest cover to at least 25% by 2047. In 2024, NCF planted 184,000 trees across 20 states in collaboration with 19 partners, established nurseries, supported tree maintenance, and installed boreholes to support plantations and communities. GRN is not just about trees—it is about people, landscapes, and resilience. Through this programme, we are restoring hope, combating climate change, and empowering communities across Nigeria.

## Green Recovery Nigeria (GRN)

The overall goal of GRN project is to establish a reforestation scheme in 25% (230,942 sq. km) of Nigeria's total landmass (923,768 sq. km) from 2017 to 2047, while simultaneously promoting actions to curb deforestation and forest degradation. The goal will be achieved through 75% natural regeneration (173,206.30 sq. Km) and 25% afforestation (57,735.50 sq. Km).

### Summary of Achievements 2019 - Date





## *NCF partners with 19 Organizations to Plant 184,000 Trees across Nigeria*

In 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) made remarkable progress under its Green Recovery Nigeria (GRN) initiative by strengthening collaborative partnerships with the private sector, civil society, foundations, and community-led groups. Through 19 strategic partnerships, a total of 184,000 trees were planted across Nigeria, reinforcing NCF's commitment to restoring the country's forest cover and addressing the ecological impacts of climate change.

These efforts spanned across more than 20 states, integrating diverse landscapes—from tropical forests in Cross River and Edo to mangroves in Rivers and Bayelsa, to the arid plains of Yobe and the coastal stretches of Lagos—these trees now stand as living legacies of environmental responsibility.

The partnerships collectively contributed to both afforestation and reforestation initiatives, including the planting of indigenous species, economic trees, and climate-resilient species.

The tree planting efforts were not only critical to restoring degraded landscapes but also served broader ecosystem functions. They provided shade, improved soil quality, enhanced biodiversity, and contributed to carbon sequestration. In many of the project locations, community participation was at the forefront—creating green jobs, strengthening local stewardship, and helping communities become more resilient to climate shocks.

This unified approach under the GRN banner is a testament to the power of collaboration. It also reflects the growing awareness among public and private stakeholders of the urgency to invest in nature-based solutions.



## GRN 2024 Partners



**ATC Nig.  
Wireless Ltd.  
(ATCN)**

6,000 trees planted  
across 7 States.



**British American  
Tobacco Nigeria  
(BATN) Foundation**

5,000 trees planted  
in Yobe State.



**SEPLAT  
Energy  
Plc**

12,320 trees planted  
in Edo State.



**Development  
Bank of  
Nigeria**

1,000 trees planted in  
Lagos State and FCT.



**First Bank  
Nigeria**

30,000 trees planted  
across 16 States.



**Polaris  
Bank**

2,000 trees planted  
in 2 States and FCT.



**Continental  
Reinsurance Plc**

2,000 trees planted  
in Ogun State.



**Pernord  
Ricard Nigeria**

1,000 trees planted  
in Ogun State.



**Union Bank  
of Nigeria Plc**

260 trees planted  
across 5 States



**Climate Action  
Africa**

120 trees planted  
in 2 States.



**Society of Petroleum  
Engineers Nigeria  
Council (SPENC)**

100 trees planted  
across 5 States.



**First City  
Monument  
Bank**

20 trees planted at  
LCC, Lagos State.



**(In memory of Prof.  
Unionmwan Joseph  
Edebiri, OFR.)**

60 trees planted  
across 3 States.



**Vcare for  
Development  
Foundation**

20 trees planted at  
LCC, Lagos State.



**OneTreePlanted –  
AFR100 project**

41,605 trees planted  
in Anambra State.



**Iko Esai  
NABU Project**

27,713 trees planted  
in Cross River State.



**NLNG (Finima  
Nature Park)**

23,755 trees  
(mangrove) planted  
in Rivers State.



**National Park  
Service**

Provided land for  
planting of trees



**ACT Foundation  
(Mangrove)**

15,000 trees planted in  
Rivers State.



**Nigerian Bottling  
Company (NBC)**

50 trees planted at  
LCC, Lagos State.

## ***NNPC Ltd, FIRST E&P, and NCF Partner to Plant 500,000 Trees Through the ALEC Project.***

On 19th September 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), in partnership with the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd) and FIRST Exploration and Petroleum Development Company Limited (FIRST E&P), officially launched the Afforestation, Livelihood Enhancement, and Carbon Sequestration (ALEC Project) through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).



This landmark initiative aims to plant 500,000 trees as part of a broader strategy to combat deforestation, restore degraded ecosystems, and strengthen local livelihoods. Focused on 11 communities in Bayelsa State, ALEC is set to tackle some of Nigeria's most urgent environmental challenges, including biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, and the impacts of climate change.

**The ALEC Project is built on a holistic framework that integrates:**

- Rehabilitation and restoration of mangrove and tropical forest ecosystems.
- Promotion of sustainable and alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on natural

resources.

- Participatory Forest Management (PFM) to ensure inclusive conservation practices.
- Strengthened governance structures through collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, and local communities.
- Grassroots environmental education and advocacy to drive policy reform and long-term sustainability.

The project stands as a transformative model for large-scale conservation in Nigeria.

It not only contributes to the nation's climate mitigation goals but also enhances the socio-economic well-being of its people. Further proving that biodiversity conservation and human development can go hand in hand.

## ***Greening The North: 6,000 Trees Planted, 2,000 Jobs Created, and 500 Households Reached with Clean Water.***

To advance its mandate of promoting biodiversity conservation across all regions of Nigeria, the NCF Abuja Zonal Office led impactful interventions during the 2024 rainy season across seven northern states. These efforts combined tree planting, community empowerment, and stakeholder partnerships with a focus on building a nature-positive future through grassroots engagement.

At the heart of these interventions was a commitment to conservation that benefits both people and the planet.





### Key Achievements

- Planted over 6,000 indigenous tree seedlings across seven states in Northern Nigeria.
- Installed a solar-powered borehole in Ajingi Community Reserve, Kano State.
- Established five new conservation clubs in secondary schools within the FCT.
- Built partnerships with two faith-based groups, three environmental NGOs, and local communities around the proposed Abuja Conservation Centre (ACC).
- Engaged 2,000 individuals through green jobs such as raising seedlings, planting, land clearing, and fire tracing.
- Provided clean drinking water access to over 500 households through the Ajingi borehole initiative.

## Community Spotlight: Ajingi Community Reserve, Kano State



In Kawarin Jiyyayya, Ajingi LGA (Kano State), where residents have long struggled with inadequate tree cover and unreliable access to clean water, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) delivered a transformative intervention combining reforestation efforts with the installation of a solar-powered borehole.



*“We are happy to have this borehole sunk here. The water is very clean compared to the brown water we fetch from the well to cook before. I am grateful to NCF for coming to install this borehole for us. Now we don't have to worry about water-borne diseases from bad water.”*

—  
*Female Community Member,  
Ajingi LGA*

The borehole, now the primary water source for over 500 households across five surrounding communities, has dramatically improved access to clean, potable water for drinking, cooking, sanitation, and livestock use. Previously dependent on shallow wells that routinely dried up during the long dry season (December to May), the communities now enjoy year-round water access, contributing to a significant reduction in waterborne diseases.

Alongside the installation of the borehole, the planting of trees around the Ajingi Community Reserve has revitalized the environment, improved air quality, and provided shade and greenery in an otherwise arid landscape. The project has also spurred community ownership and participation, with locals increasingly engaged in maintaining the reserve and adopting other conservation practices.



*“We are grateful to the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) for the interventions carried out in our community, especially the trees planted and the solar borehole that was sunk to provide clean drinking water for us.”*

—  
Malam Barau,  
Community Member, Ajingi LGA

This integrated approach to environmental and social development has not only restored a fragile ecosystem but also empowered communities with the tools and resources needed to improve their health, livelihoods, and resilience in the face of climate change.

## **Restoring Taylor Creek Forest Through Policy & Community Driven Action**

The Gbaran Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Project, sponsored by Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) and implemented in partnership with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) and Self Help and Rural Development Association (SHERDA), is driving a powerful transformation across 23 communities within the Taylor Creek Forest region of Bayelsa State.



The project, which spans three years, focuses on ecosystem restoration, forest protection, and the creation of green jobs in the Zarama Okordia and Biseni clans. NCF leads the environmental component of the initiative, working to conserve biodiversity, restore degraded habitats, and promote sustainable livelihoods through community empowerment and forest ranger development.

### **Key Impact Highlights (Infographics)**

- 10,000 indigenous tree seedlings planted to restore Taylor Creek's Forest ecosystem



- Over 5 hectares of degraded land restored through community-led reforestation
- 46 community members employed in green jobs as trained forest rangers (36 males, 10 females)
- 23 communities engaged in forest management and conservation action
- Illegal logging banned following state-level policy influence
- Forest ranger offices established and equipped, boosting local conservation infrastructure

*"The project helped broaden my understanding of the impact of illegal logging on the environment."*

**Aroweifei Bright,**  
Community Member

*"It has created jobs among the youth and made us realize we can raise tree seedlings ourselves."*

**Onya Ndubade,**  
Community Member

## Catalyzing Long-Term Change

The project has gone beyond tree planting. It has built local capacity, strengthened environmental governance, and created space for multi-stakeholder collaboration. However, one of the most profound successes of the BAP project is the Bayelsa State government's ban on logging in Taylor Creek Forest. A clear testament to the

project's influence on policy and public perception.



## Omo Forest Reserve Marks 2024 Rangers Day with Tribute to 30-Year Veteran Ranger

The NCF Rangers Team in Omo Forest Reserve joined the global community in commemorating 2024 Rangers Day, celebrated under the theme "30 by 30"—a call to protect 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030.



The event honored the dedication and sacrifice of rangers who work tirelessly to safeguard wildlife and preserve the Omo Forest landscape. A special highlight was the recognition award presented to Chief Ranger, Mr. Titus Onyewen, the longest-serving ranger in the reserve. With over three decades of service, Mr. Onyewen has been on the frontline of conservation since the inception of the Nigeria Forest Elephant Group project.

This year's Rangers Day celebration was made possible with the support of the Elephant Crisis Fund and Wild Planet Trust, reinforcing the collective commitment to protecting Africa's rich biodiversity.



## ***NCF and NABU: 23,000 Trees, 4,000 Lives, 8 Communities Transformed in Cross River***

In the heart of one of Nigeria's most biodiverse landscapes, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) is leading a powerful movement to improve livelihoods, protect and restore forests in 8 Cross River Communities. In 2023, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) in partnership with the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) – the BirdLife Partner in Germany launched a 3-year Community Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement Project in 8 communities in the buffer region of the Cross River National Park (CRNP). Through this project, NCF and NABU are restoring forests, strengthening indigenous forest governance, and transforming lives across eight forest-dependent communities.

This project which is co-implemented with key stakeholders including Cross River Forestry Commission, Cross River National Park, and local civil society organizations, is designed to empower over 12,000 people to take ownership of their forests and future.

### ***Project Scope and Location***

#### **Location:**

Buffer zones around Cross River National Park in Akamkpa and Yakurr LGAs, Cross River State.

#### **Communities Engaged:**

Iko Esai, Iko Ekperem, New Ekuri, Old Ekuri, Ifumkpa, Owai, Agoi Ibami, and Agoi Ekpo.

#### **Timeline:**

2022 – 2025

#### **Partners:**

Cross River State Forestry Commission, Cross River National Park, Civil Society Organizations

#### **Funder:**

Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)

### ***Key Achievements***



23,000+ trees planted across 25 hectares of restored forest land



2,140 farmers trained in sustainable agriculture



1,000 women trained in processing and marketing Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) – snail farming, mushroom farming, cassava and plantain processing.



Over 4,000 direct beneficiaries reached with improved livelihoods



500+ green jobs created, including 50 forest rangers and 400+ women agribusiness owners



Community statutes and land-use plans developed and adopted for forest protection



Cooperatives formed, supporting economic resilience and community leadership

## Innovative Interventions

### Tree Nurseries & Reforestation:

Community-led nursery development, replanting degraded lands.

### Eco-Friendly Agriculture:

Introduction of nature-based value chains for cassava, cocoa, plantain, and spices.

### NTFP Enterprise Development:

Local processing and packaging of mushrooms, snail farming, and vegetable cultivation.

### Forest Governance:

Capacity building for forest rangers, community forest monitoring committees, and school conservation clubs.

### Awareness & Advocacy:

Education campaigns on zero bush burning, sustainable harvesting, and anti-poaching efforts.



*“It has created job opportunities for our youths and reduced dependence on forest exploitation.”*

—  
Chief Owai, Former Clan Head,  
Iko Esai Community

*“This project has broadened my understanding of the environmental impact of illegal logging.”*

—  
Bassey Akpama, Eco Guard,  
Agoi Ibami Community



*“The project helped our people understand the value of tree planting. We now know we can grow tree seedlings ourselves instead of relying solely on the forest.”*

Hon. Etim Arong Ayito,  
Agoi Ibami Community.

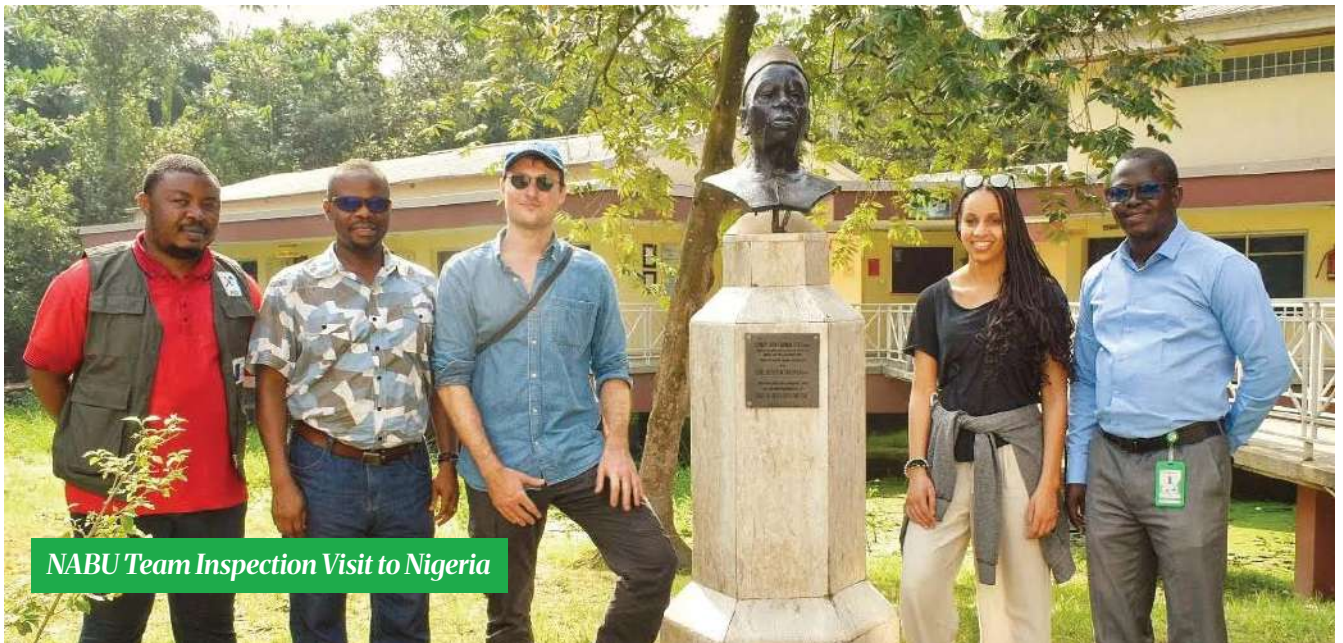
*“We’ve learned practical ways to earn a living through mushroom farming and other eco-friendly skills that have improved our livelihood. Now we can diversify our income sources.”*

Rita Cornelius, Old Ekuri Community

## Lasting Impact

This project is delivering more than trees—it's building resilience, knowledge, and opportunity at the grassroots.

It is:



NABU Team Inspection Visit to Nigeria





# *Saving Species in Peril*

Under our "Saving Species in Peril" pillar, NCF continued its targeted conservation efforts to protect Nigeria's most endangered wildlife. From securing the habitats of West African wildcats in Kainji Lake National Park to preserving the last strongholds of the Cross River gorilla and forest elephants, we implemented community-led interventions, trained rangers, and empowered local groups to reduce threats to biodiversity. Our species protection work combines science, community engagement, and advocacy to ensure that Nigeria's unique wildlife thrives for generations to come.

## 5-Year Strategic Partnership Protects the Endangered Cross River Gorilla

Through the Community Conservation Graduate Students Scholarship Programme, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), in a strategic partnership with the Wilder Institute – Calgary Zoo, University of Calabar, the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research, Ghana, and other partners is building a new generation of conservation leaders to protect one of Africa's most endangered species: the Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*).

This unique 5-year initiative has provided graduate research scholarships for Masters and Ph.D. students working in the field of wildlife conservation, with a specific focus on understanding and protecting the Cross River Gorilla and its fragile habitat.

These scholars are not only contributing to critical conservation science but bridging the gap between academia and local forest communities to promote inclusive grass-root actions.

The programme integrates scientific research, traditional ecological knowledge, and community outreach. Students are trained to:

Conduct surveys on gorilla population and distribution.

Explore the socioeconomic pressures that contribute to habitat degradation.

Collaborate with local institutions to develop sustainable forest management models.

## Key Achievements

Used camera traps and field research to confirm gorilla distribution and ecological behaviour in the southern flank of Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary.

Provided equipment support to students and institutional partners, including camera traps, laptops, still cameras, drones, projectors, and conferencing tools.

Organized a study exchange tour to Ghana to learn from the successful CREMA (Community Resource Management Area) model.

Funded 1 Ph.D. and 4 master's students.

476 individuals empowered through environmental education and awareness programmes.

238 households reached across 8 participating communities.

Protected 25 individual Cross River Gorillas through community-based monitoring and reduced illegal forest activities.





Apply field-based knowledge to solve real-world conservation challenges.

A notable success is the reduction in illegal logging and hunting, due to the growing conservation awareness fostered by the project. The project's camera traps have also recorded sightings of a rare silverback gorilla, offering hope and confirmation of ongoing survival in the wild.

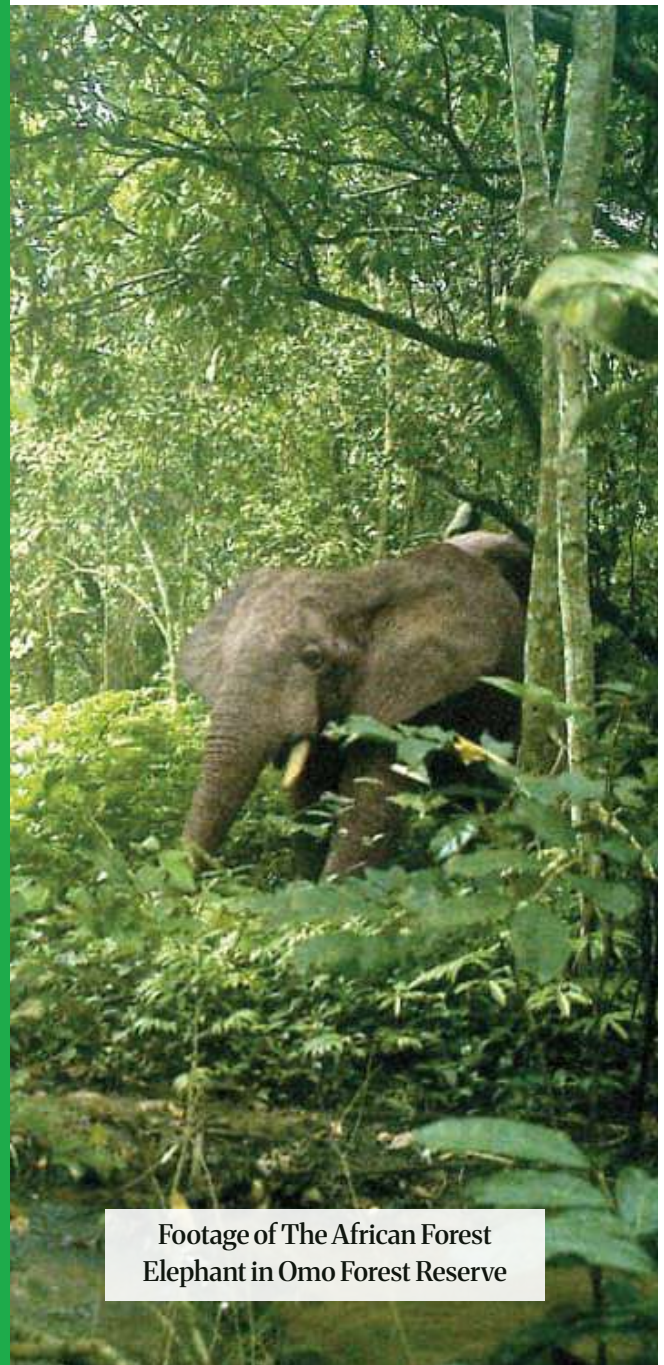


## Strengthening Conservation Efforts: Omo Forest Elephant Initiative

The Omo Forest Elephant Initiative, managed by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), is dedicated to protecting forest elephants (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) and preserving their natural habitat in Omo Forest Reserve. To achieve this mission, the project implements a range of strategic conservation activities.

In 2024, the Elephant Crisis Fund continued its invaluable support, funding key initiatives to enhance elephant protection efforts. This support covered operational costs, infrastructure improvements, and capital projects, including:

- Construction of a new rangers' lodge
- Renovation of project office in J4 and rangers' accommodation at Erin Camp
- Development of a motorbike storage facility
- Procurement of rangers' kits and new motorbikes



Footage of The African Forest Elephant in Omo Forest Reserve



These advancements reinforce the commitment to safeguarding Omo Forest's elephants, ensuring rangers have the resources they need to protect this vital ecosystem.



## *Monitoring Nigeria's Waterbirds Across 18 Key Sites: Insight From the 2024 Annual Count*

Waterbirds serve as critical indicators of ecosystem health, providing valuable insights into biodiversity trends, habitat conditions, and the effects of climate change. Their presence, population fluctuations, and migratory patterns help scientists and conservationists understand how environmental factors—including water quality, pollution, and habitat loss—impact wetland ecosystems. Monitoring these birds is essential for informing conservation strategies, guiding policy decisions, and ensuring the sustainability of Nigeria's wetlands for both wildlife and local communities.



As BirdLife International's official partner in Nigeria, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) conducts annual waterbird counts across selected sites to track population trends, assess threats, and enhance conservation efforts. The 2024 survey was carried out across 18 key wetland sites, spanning savannah and coastal ecosystems in states such as Lagos, Rivers, Cross River, Jigawa, and Bauchi.

The exercise helped to monitor the population status of waterbirds and identify threats to their habitats, assess long-term population trends across surveyed sites, raise awareness and educate local communities on the importance of species and habitat conservation as well as to enhance the capacity of local stakeholders in species and habitat monitoring.

### *Key Findings from the 2024 Waterbird Count*

The survey recorded a diverse range of species, with some wetland sites showing remarkable concentrations of birds.

Notable observations include:



#### **Most abundant species recorded:**

White-faced whistling duck  
(108,199 individuals)

Ruff (85,187)

Garganey (39,471)

Fulvous duck (24,168)

**Coastal Wetlands  
(Highest species abundance  
and richness):**

Long-tailed cormorant  
(623 individuals)

White-faced whistling duck (479)

Common sandpiper (347)

Western cattle egret (137)

**Highest species richness:**  
Andoni Islands, with Oyorokoto  
recording 731 individuals

**Inland Wetlands  
(Key sites with high  
bird populations):**

Baturia (127,715 individuals)

Dagona (79,505)

Gwayo (35,645)



## ***Protecting Nigeria's Last Wildcats: The IUCN SOS Project in Kainji Lake National Park***

Kainji Lake National Park (KLNP) is home to the last known population of West African lions and leopards in Nigeria. However, mounting pressures from climate change, internal migration, and human-wildlife conflict are threatening the survival of these iconic species. As displaced communities and nomadic herders settle around and within the park, the resulting habitat degradation, livestock intrusion, and retaliatory killings have intensified the challenges facing wildcats and park managers alike.

To address these threats, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), with support from the IUCN Save Our Species (SOS) initiative, launched a conservation project to strengthen protection for lions and leopards in KLNP. The project set out to reduce livestock invasion into the park by 70% and increase surveillance by 50%, while empowering surrounding communities to adopt more sustainable practices.



### **Key Highlights and Impact**

- Empowered 150 community members through sustainable livelihood training in cane rat farming, shea butter production, and honey



harvesting to reduce reliance on poaching and deforestation.

- Trained and equipped 50 park rangers in the use of GIS, drones, and wildlife monitoring tools to enhance surveillance and protection. Rangers received motorbikes, GPS devices, rain gear, and other field equipment.
- Distributed 50 veterinary first-aid kits to livestock farmers who adopted ranching practices, helping to reduce dependence on park resources.
- Established Site Support Groups from community hunters and women trained on alternative livelihoods and wildlife protection practices.



This project reinforces the importance of integrated conservation strategies that balance ecological preservation with community well-being, securing the future of Nigeria's wildcats and the park they call home.



## *Restoring Andoni's Wetlands: Combating Nipa Palm Invasion and Supporting Community Livelihoods*

Andoni Local Government Area in Rivers State, Nigeria, is a vital biodiversity hotspot located along the East Atlantic Flyway. Its rich coastal ecosystem supports expansive mangrove forests, resident and migratory birds, forest elephants, and endangered aquatic species including sea turtles, dolphins, sharks, and fish. The region's wetlands are crucial not only for wildlife but also for the livelihoods and climate resilience of the surrounding communities.



However, this critical ecosystem faces a growing threat—the invasion of the Nipa palm, an aggressive non-native species that has rapidly spread across the wetlands. Its dominance has led to the displacement of native mangroves, biodiversity loss, degradation of water quality, and increased climate vulnerability for the communities that rely on the wetlands.

To reverse this trend, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), with funding support from the ACT Foundation, launched a comprehensive project aimed at restoring degraded habitats and supporting community livelihoods in Andoni.

## Andoni's Wetlands Restoration Key Interventions



Through environmental restoration and livelihood empowerment, NCF is not only reclaiming Andoni's wetlands but also promoting sustainable climate adaptation and resilience among vulnerable coastal communities.

## Protecting Nigeria's Sea Turtles: Community-Led Conservation in Lagos Free Zone

Waterbirds serve as critical indicators of ecosystem health, providing valuable insights into biodiversity trends, habitat conditions, and the effects of climate change. Their presence, population fluctuations, and migratory patterns help scientists and conservationists understand how environmental factors—including water quality, pollution, and habitat loss—impact wetland ecosystems. Monitoring these birds is essential for informing conservation strategies, guiding policy decisions, and ensuring the sustainability of Nigeria's wetlands for both wildlife and local communities.

Nigeria's extensive coastline plays a vital role in the life cycle of several threatened sea turtle species, including the Olive Ridley, Leatherback, and Green turtles. These species depend on various nesting

sites along the shore, but their survival is increasingly under threat due to coastal pollution, illegal hunting, nest raiding, accidental bycatch by local fishermen, and industrial trawling.



Recognizing the urgent need for intervention, the Lagos Free Zone Company (LFZC)—Nigeria's first privately-owned free trade zone developer operating over 800 hectares of land—commissioned an Envi-



ronmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that identified sea turtles as key species of conservation concern within its operational area.



In response, LFZC partnered with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) to launch a one-year Sea Turtle Conservation Project. The initiative is designed to protect sea turtles and their habitats within and around the Lagos Free Zone and neighbouring communities through a mix of science, advocacy, and grassroots action.

#### Project Interventions and Achievements:

- Training of community-based volunteers to monitor nesting beaches, protect turtle eggs, and rescue bycatch. These volunteers now serve as advocates for sea turtle protection within their communities.
- Conservation awareness campaigns and community engagements were conducted to sensitize residents on the importance of sea turtles to the ecosystem and their role in sustainable livelihoods, including ecotourism.
- 3,250 students engaged across 7 schools.
- Capacity-building sessions trained 108 local participants, including fisherfolk, on the ecological value of sea turtles and practical ways to prevent harm.

Stakeholder engagements and policy dialogues were initiated to drive sustainable policies for sea turtle conservation in Lagos State.





# Tackling Climate Crisis

Climate change is a defining global challenge of our time—disrupting weather patterns, fueling extreme heat, and threatening biodiversity. In Nigeria, its impact is increasingly evident in worsening desertification in the north, coastal erosion in the south, and increased flooding in many parts of the country. These challenges not only threaten ecosystems but also jeopardize livelihoods and national development.

In 2024, NCF played a strategic role in advancing climate resilience and advocacy. We actively participated in COP29 in Baku, pushing for nature-based solutions and equitable climate financing. We also commemorated key climate days such as World Ocean Day and World Migratory Bird Day, and led impactful dialogues on the role of nature in mitigating climate impacts. Through our work, we continue to raise awareness, influence policy, and implement on-the-ground projects that align climate action with biodiversity protection.

## *NCF at COP29: Dr. Joseph Onoja Advocates for Climate and Biodiversity Finance on the Global Climate Stage*

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) played a prominent role at the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11th to 22nd November 2024. The event convened global leaders and climate stakeholders to advance action on climate finance, adaptation, and nature-based solutions.

NCF's participation was led by the Director General, Dr. Joseph Onoja, who joined the official Nigerian government delegation and engaged in high-level negotiations, bilateral meetings, and thematic side events. His presence emphasized the growing influence of Nigerian conservation voices in global climate discourse.



### *Key Highlights of NCF's Participation at COP29*

#### **Championing Nature-Based Solutions:**

Dr. Onoja delivered a presentation on "Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience in Africa", highlighting NCF's work in forest restoration, wetland protection, and community-led conservation. He emphasized that preserving ecosystems is essential for enhancing climate resilience and sustaining livelihoods.

#### **Advocacy for Equitable Climate Finance:**

He strongly advocated for fair access to climate financing for vulnerable countries, urging developed nations to fulfill commitments to fund adaptation and mitigation in developing regions like Nigeria.

#### **Strategic Engagements**

Dr. Onoja participated in sessions such as "Building Resilience, Ecosystems and Communities through Nature-based Interventions" and held strategic meetings with stakeholders including UNEP, GEF, and BirdLife International, setting the stage for future collaborations.

#### **Policy Influence**

NCF endorsed the progress made at COP29, especially the agreement on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) to triple climate finance to \$300 billion annually by 2035, and the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund to support climate-vulnerable nations.





*“The conference reaffirmed the urgent need for collective action to combat climate change. Nature is at the heart of our solutions, and it is imperative that we work together to protect our planet for future generations. Nigeria has a pivotal role to play, and the NCF remains committed to leveraging the outcomes of COP29 to drive sustainable conservation and climate action in Nigeria and beyond.”*

**Dr. Joseph Onoja,**  
**Director General, NCF**

While NCF acknowledges progress made at COP29, it also noted the persistent funding gap between investments that harm nature and those that preserve it—highlighting the need for continued global advocacy and sustained support for conservation-based climate action.



## **NCF Hosts 22nd Chief S.L. Edu Memorial Lecture on Carbon Credit; Awards Two PhD Research Grants**



Climate change is intensifying environmental disruptions across the globe, including Nigeria. Rising temperatures, erratic weather patterns, and increasing carbon emissions are placing immense pressure on biodiversity, ecosystems, and human livelihoods. Forest degradation, habitat loss, and the erosion of nature’s protective buffers are just some of the consequences faced by vulnerable communities. Understanding these growing challenges, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) convened thought leaders, environmental experts, policy-makers, and academics at the 22nd Chief S.L. Edu Memorial Lecture, to explore solutions through the lens of carbon sequestration and financing.

Held on Tuesday, 28th May 2024 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help – The Hall, Victoria Island, Lagos, the lecture focused on the theme: “Carbon Credits: Opportunities and Pitfalls.” This timely discussion delved into the complex but promising terrain of carbon markets as a tool for addressing climate change and funding conservation initiatives.

The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Kevin Juma, Africa Climate Director at The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Nairobi, Kenya. Mr. Juma underscored the dual nature of carbon credits—highlighting

both the opportunities they offer in terms of climate finance and nature-based solutions, and the potential risks and challenges, especially in African contexts. He stressed the need for ethical implementation, strong community involvement, and the integration of forest and landscape restoration in climate adaptation strategies.



A highlight of the event was the awarding of two PhD research grants to Alexander Egbe and Wahab Salau, who will further academic inquiry into climate and environmental solutions. This aligns with NCF's commitment to empowering the next generation of conservation leaders through research and capacity building.



The S.L. Edu Memorial Lecture continues to serve as a vital platform for dialogue, learning, and collaboration in Nigeria's environmental space. The 2024 edition stood out as a clarion call for companies and governments to adopt sustainable practices and actively reduce carbon emissions—an imperative step toward securing a greener, more resilient future.

## ***NCF/MTN PachiPanda Challenge Awards ₦6.5 Million to Top Environmental Solutions***

The Nigeria PachiPanda Challenge 2024, a collaborative initiative between MTN Nigeria, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), aimed to empower young Nigerians to develop innovative solutions addressing pressing environmental challenges. This program is part of the broader Africa PachiPanda Challenge, which seeks to inspire youth-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across the continent to promote sustainability through technological innovations.

In Nigeria, the challenge attracted 1,643 entries focusing on critical areas such as plastic pollution, climate change, circular economy, and community development. After a rigorous selection process, the top ten finalists participated in a three-day sprint event, engaging in human-centered design processes to refine their solutions. The event culminated in a pitch session where teams presented their groundbreaking ideas to a panel of industry experts.



Osarode Stephen Odemwingie emerged as the winner with his innovative project that repurposes fruit waste and chicken feathers into nutrient-rich products named “Organo-brine” and “Orga-



no-sludge” for use in mushroom farming. He received a ₦3 million cash prize and will 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, receiving ₦2 million and ₦1.5 million, respectively.

The Nigeria PachiPanda Challenge not only showcased the ingenuity of Nigerian youth but also reinforced the importance of collaborative efforts in driving sustainable development. By providing a platform for young innovators to address environmental issues, the initiative contributes significantly to the broader goals of environmental conservation and sustainable entrepreneurship in Nigeria.



## ***NCF Champions Tree-Based Solutions at COOU Climate Action Summit 2024***

On 17th July 2024, the Director General of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), Dr. Joseph Onoja, delivered a keynote address at the Climate Action Summit hosted by Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU), in collaboration with Climate Action Africa (CAA) and NCF.

In his address titled “The Role of Trees in Nigeria’s Sustainable Growth,” Dr. Onoja underscored the importance of biodiversity in maintaining ecological balance, supporting livelihoods, driving economic development, and preserving cultural heritage. He emphasized that tree planting remains

one of the most effective and accessible nature-based solutions to combat the climate crisis.



The summit also featured a symbolic tree planting ceremony and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NCF and the university. The MoU outlines a joint commitment to:

- Develop conservation education and climate action programmes
- Promote tree planting across the university and surrounding communities
- Collaborate on research and project development
- Establish conservation clubs within the institution
- Encourage NCF membership among university staff and faculty



## *NCF and Lekan Bakare Foundation Mark World Ocean Day*

Oceans cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface and are central to the planet's climate regulation, biodiversity, and food security. They act as the world's largest carbon sink, absorbing roughly a quarter of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and over 90% of excess heat generated by greenhouse gases. As such, protecting our oceans is critical to mitigating climate change and ensuring sustainable development.

In recognition of this, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) partnered with the Lekan Bakare Foundation to commemorate World Ocean Day 2024 under the global theme: "Catalyzing Action for Our Ocean & Climate."

The celebration kicked off with a beach clean-up at Elegushi Beach, Lekki on Saturday, 8th June 2024, mobilizing volunteers and raising awareness about marine pollution and its threat to ocean health. Participants actively removed plastic waste and debris, highlighting the importance of individual and collective action in protecting coastal ecosystems.

This was followed by a climate and ocean symposium on Monday, 10th June, which brought together stakeholders, students, and conservationists. The symposium provided a platform for sharing insights on innovative, nature-based, and people-centered solutions to address marine degradation, enhance biodiversity conservation, and promote climate resilience.







## *Raising Climate Awareness Through Grassroots Mobilization Across the South-West*

Climate change is no longer a distant threat. It is a present and escalating crisis that directly impacts the lives and livelihoods of Nigerians. From increasingly devastating floods to rivers and wetlands drying up, the

evidence is all around us. These disruptions not only threaten biodiversity but also jeopardize food security, public health, and economic stability.

In response to the growing need for public awareness and civic engagement, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) provided technical and financial support to reputable civil society organizations to organize two major climate advocacy campaigns: the Ibadan Climate Caravan Walk and the Osun Climate Awareness Walk. These events aimed to inspire community-driven climate action and sensitize citizens on the urgency of addressing environmental degradation.

The Ibadan Climate Caravan Walk, held on 9th November 2024, brought together activists, students, and local leaders to amplify the call for bold climate action. Similarly, on 20th December 2024, the Osun Climate Awareness Walk took place in Osogbo, engaging the public in meaningful dialogue on how local actions can drive global change.



NCF not only supported these initiatives but also participated actively, reinforcing our belief that awareness is the first step toward lasting environmental solutions. By partnering with organizations that share our vision, we are helping to expand the reach and impact of climate advocacy across Nigeria.

These walks serve as powerful reminders that the climate crisis is at our doorstep and that collective action, from policy halls to city streets, is critical to safeguarding our planet for future generations.



# *Capacity Building and Livelihood Support*

In 2024, NCF empowered over 11,000 individuals and created over 2,500 green jobs through training, resource support, and community engagement. We trained rangers, equipped volunteers, supported hunters and herders with sustainable alternatives, and provided rural women with livelihood tools such as honey, shea butter, and cane rat farming. These interventions not only protected biodiversity but also uplifted communities, proving that conservation and development can go hand-in-hand.



## *NCF Holds 2024 NEC Strategy Retreat to Shape 2025–2030 Strategic Action Plan*

From October 31st to November 2nd, 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) convened a three-day strategic retreat that brought together members of the Board of Trustees, the National Executive Council, and Senior Management to chart a new course for the organization's future.

The retreat focused on developing a robust Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for 2025–2030, aimed at deepening NCF's impact across its core areas of conservation, climate action, and environmental education. The new SAP, which will be formally launched in 2025, is expected to serve as a guiding framework for delivering high-impact environmental projects and fostering stronger public-private collaboration for a more sustainable Nigeria.





## *Staff Retreat 2024: Reflecting, Recharging, and Reconnecting*



In October 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) took a pause from routine operations to convene for a staff retreat at the Conference Hotel in Abeokuta, Ogun State. This much-needed gathering offered staff members across departments the opportunity to reflect on collective progress, exchange ideas, and realign with the foundation's mission in a relaxed, nature-inspired setting.

The retreat featured in-depth sessions on NCF's Strategic Action Plan, with particular focus on progress made in critical areas such as species conservation, climate action, strategic partnerships, and the Green Recovery Nigeria programme. Staff participated in lively brainstorming sessions and open discussions that encouraged fresh thinking around operational efficiency and innovation.

Beyond strategic engagement, the retreat created



space for bonding and rejuvenation. The team unwind karaoke, team games, and social interactions that allowed staff to relax and strengthen interpersonal connections.

A group excursion to the historic Olumo Rock added an adventurous highlight to the experience, offering an inspiring reminder of Nigeria's natural and cultural heritage.





## *NCF Hosts National Workshop to Advance Protection of Key Biodiversity Areas*



On August 12–13, 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) hosted a two-day workshop in Abuja focused on strengthening the protection and management of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Nigeria. The workshop was supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and BirdLife International as part of a global effort to safeguard ecologically critical habitats.

KBAs are sites of exceptional biological value, supporting species and ecosystems essential to biodiversity, yet often face significant threats from habitat loss, exploitation, and climate change. The workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders including conservation managers, academics, and representatives from government agencies to collaboratively review and update Nigeria's ecosystem profiles for priority KBAs.

The event served as a platform for advancing science-based conservation planning and building momentum toward more effective protection of Nigeria's most vulnerable ecological sites. Through this initiative, NCF continues to play a leading role in national and global efforts to conserve biodiversity and sustain vital ecosystems.

## *Greening Livelihood: 11,000 People Empowered; 2,500 Jobs Created*

In 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) significantly advanced its commitment to empowering people while protecting the planet. Through various conservation and climate-focused interventions across Nigeria, over 11,000 beneficiaries were equipped with sustainable livelihood skills designed to reduce pressure on natural resources and promote environmental stewardship.

From snail farming and shea butter production in the buffer communities around Cross River National Park, to Nypa palm upcycling and mangrove restoration in Andoni, Rivers State, and the training of local forest rangers in Bayelsa and Ogun States, NCF's capacity-building initiatives reached diverse groups, including women, youth, and forest-dependent communities.



In addition to skill development, these projects generated over 2,500 green jobs, ranging from eco-guards and community conservation volunteers to small-scale producers of non-timber forest products (NTFPs). These efforts not only supported household incomes but also deepened local participation in conservation activities—laying the groundwork for a resilient and inclusive green

economy.

Through these targeted livelihood interventions, NCF continues to demonstrate that conservation and community development go hand in hand.







# *Environmental Education*

Through dynamic school programs, conservation clubs, and nature-based learning experiences, NCF reached thousands of students across Nigeria in 2024. Over 300 new conservation clubs were established, while initiatives like the Summer School Programme, World Migratory Bird Day, and World Wildlife Day commemoration inspired young Nigerians to become stewards of the environment. By embedding conservation education into the academic and public sphere, we are cultivating a generation that understands and champions the value of nature.



## Empowering Future Eco-Champions: NCF's 2024 Summer Programme Eco Adventure Challenge

In August 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) hosted the much-anticipated Summer Programme, themed “Eco Adventure Challenge.” This three-week outdoor experiential learning event, held from August 12 to 30, was designed for children aged 5 to 17 years and recorded an enthusiastic turnout of over 100 participants. The programme served as a vibrant platform to nurture environmental consciousness, build practical skills, and inspire a generation of young conservation advocates.

### A Transformative Learning Experience

Set against the backdrop of the Lekki Conservation Centre (LCC) and its serene surroundings, participants engaged in a wide range of hands-on activities that seamlessly blended learning with fun. From eco-friendly crafts and organic farming workshops to upcycling challenges and birdwatching excursions, the programme sparked creativity and encouraged a deeper connection with nature.



#### Waste-to-Wealth Projects:

Through engaging **upcycling and recycling activities**, participants transformed waste materials into functional home décor and fashion accessories, underscoring the value of resource conservation.

#### Sustainable Agriculture Lessons:

Children got their hands dirty in workshops on compost gardening, organic pesticide production, and soil health, **fostering knowledge on climate-smart agricultural practices.**

### Highlights of the Programme

#### Skill-Based Eco Workshops:

Children explored sustainable skills such as crocheting, tie-dye using natural dyes, and practical stitching to produce reusable items including aprons, eco-bags, and water bottle holders.

#### Green Cooking Sessions:

Guided by experts, participants learned to prepare meals to prepare meals using biofuel, promoting cleaner energy use and reducing dependence on gas and firewood.

#### Conservation in Action:

A **guided birdwatching excursion and a tour of the LCC** allowed children to observe biodiversity up close and **understand the importance of protecting natural ecosystems.**

#### Cultural Connection through Storytelling:

Sessions on **African environmental folklore** helped instil moral lessons around conservation and encouraged **reflection on nature's role** in African heritage.



### Voices from the Field

*"I loved the tie-dye session!  
I never knew you could make  
colours from plants."*

—  
**Sarah, 12**



*"Birdwatching was amazing!  
I now want to become a  
conservationist."*

—  
**Tunde, 14**



*"Learning how to recycle and  
upcycle was the best part of  
the program."*

—  
**Amaka, 10**



These testimonials reflect the genuine transformation participants experienced—many of whom had never interacted deeply with environmental issues prior to the programme.

By the close of the programme, the children had not only created tangible eco-products but also demon-

strated increased environmental awareness and a strong desire to continue their journey in conservation. The programme proved once again that when young minds are engaged early, they can become powerful agents of environmental change.

## Conservation Education Initiative Reaches Over 3,000 Students in Ibeju-Lekki

As part of its mission to safeguard Nigeria's marine biodiversity, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) launched a Community-Based Schools Engagement Program for Sea Turtle Conservation in Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos State. Held from October 21 to 25, 2024, the program reached an impressive 3,250 students across seven government schools, fostering awareness and action for sea turtle protection.

Sea turtles play a vital role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems, yet they face growing threats from bycatch, pollution, and habitat degradation. The NCF-led initiative was designed to equip young people with the knowledge, tools, and motivation to become conservation ambassadors within their schools and communities.

### Key Highlights and Achievements

- Engaged 3,250 students in interactive environmental education sessions.
- Distributed 3,250 copies of Coastal Threat to Sea Turtles magazine to reinforce conservation messaging.
- Facilitated assembly talks and classroom discussions tailored to local realities and environmental challenges.
- Over 3,000 students signed conservation pledges, demonstrating their commitment to protecting marine life.
- Sparked community conversations on pressing local issues like bycatch and coastal sanitation.



*"I have learned why sea turtles are important, and I want to help protect them."*

—  
Student, Community  
Junior High School, Orimedu.

*"This program has made us understand that our activities affect marine animals, and we need to change our habits."*

—  
Mr. Andrew, Magbon-Alade  
Junior High School.

The program significantly increased student understanding of the ecological role of sea turtles, instilled a sense of environmental responsibility, and created a ripple effect of awareness across Ibeju-Lekki communities.

By transforming students into marine conservation ambassadors, NCF is nurturing the next generation of ocean guardians and reinforcing its commitment to community-led, youth-driven conservation efforts.

## NCF and TotalEnergies Partner to Drive Climate Action in Lagos

On December 13, 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) and TotalEnergies partnered to deliver the 2024 Green Initiative on Climate and Environmental Preservation, impacting six schools and two service stations (Apapa and Surulere) in Lagos State.



The project promoted SDG 12—Responsible Consumption and Production—by engaging students, teachers, and TotalEnergies employees in hands-on conservation activities. Participants learned about circular economy principles, planted trees, and joined recycling sessions.



By combining education with employee volunteering and grassroots engagement, the initiative empowered communities and youth to embrace sustainable practices, demonstrating the power of corporate-conservation partnerships in tackling climate change.



## World Wildlife Day 2024: Empowering the Next Generation Through Digital Conservation

In celebration of World Wildlife Day 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) hosted a landmark event themed “Connecting People & Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.” Held on March 8, 2024, at the Lekki Conservation Centre, the event spotlighted the growing importance of digital technology in wildlife conservation and offered hands-on training to young conservation enthusiasts.



The celebration brought together students from ten secondary and tertiary institutions, teachers, youth corps members, and conservation experts.

The one-day program featured interactive sessions and practical demonstrations on how everyday digital tools—such as mobile phones, drones, GPS devices, and camera traps—can be deployed for wildlife protection, species tracking, and environmental monitoring.

During this session, students were taken through the fascinating world of wildlife, learning how to identify different species through captivating wildlife presentations. We also equipped them with practical skills, teaching them how to utilize tools such as binoculars, camera traps and mobile phones to support wildlife protection efforts.

Through this initiative, participants gained practical skills and were introduced to emerging career paths in conservation technology. The training also served as a platform for intergenerational knowledge exchange, promoting youth empowerment and digital inclusion in conservation.



*“I never knew my phone could be used for something as important as wildlife conservation!”*

—  
**Adelakun Elizabeth,  
Bulky Depth School.**

*“This training has opened my eyes to career opportunities in digital conservation.”*

—  
**Overcomer Mark,  
Corps Member.**

The event was anchored by an expert from the Lekki Bird Club (LBC), further strengthening NCF’s collaboration with conservation networks and supporting one of NCF’s core strategic pillars—Environmental Education and Public Awareness.

### Key Highlights

- 10 students from 10 schools trained in digital conservation tools.
- Hands-on sessions on using drones, mobile phones, GPS, and camera traps.
- 1 expert-led training session by a resource person from Lekki Bird Club.
- New digital learning network initiated for future conservation engagement.

## World Migratory Bird Day 2024: Inspiring Action Through Education and Community Engagement



To mark World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) organized impactful events at the Lekki Conservation Centre and Hadejia–Nguru Wetlands, bringing together over 250 participants, including students, teachers, conservationists, and local stakeholders.

This year's global theme, "Protect Insects, Protect Birds," emphasized the vital connection between birds and insect populations, underscoring the urgent need to conserve both.

In Lagos, NCF hosted over 125 students and edu-

*"I never knew insects played such an important role in the survival of birds. This event has opened my eyes to conservation,"*

—  
**Yisa Sultan, Student  
Rodan College.**

cators at Lekki Conservation Centre, where activities included expert-led sessions on bird migration, interactive student presentations, and conservation-themed discussions. Students left the event inspired, with many expressing new interest in environmental issues.

Simultaneously, in Yobe State, the Hadejia–Nguru Wetlands—an internationally important site for migratory birds—hosted an awareness walk with over 120 students from 12 schools, along with indoor learning sessions and a hands-on birdwatching exercise. The program highlighted the importance of wetlands, biodiversity, and youth-led conservation action.



Both events helped raise public awareness about migratory bird conservation, strengthened environmental education, and fostered the next generation of bird champions through the launch of new school bird clubs.



## *NCF Establishes 35 Conservation Clubs Across Oyo State Schools*

In our continuous effort to foster a generation of environmentally responsible citizens, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) established 35 new Conservation Clubs across secondary schools in Ibadan metropolis, Oyo State. This initiative, carried out with the endorsement of the Oyo State Ministry of Education, represents a major stride in integrating climate and environmental education into the everyday learning experience of young Nigerians.



The Conservation Clubs, which meet twice weekly, serve as platforms for students to explore environmental issues, learn sustainable practices, and actively participate in conservation activities within their schools and communities. By engaging students early, the programme aims to "catch them young" empowering them to understand the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, while inspiring them to become future environmental stewards.

Through interactive sessions, awareness campaigns, and hands-on projects, the clubs help young learners appreciate their role in protecting nature and promote a sense of ownership over their environment.

This initiative is a key part of NCF's broader strategy to strengthen environmental education across Nigeria, ensuring that climate literacy and conservation awareness become an integral part of the nation's development journey. As the effects of climate change continue to intensify, these clubs will nurture informed, proactive leaders who will champion sustainability in their communities for years to come.



## *A Steward of Sustainability and Conservation Goes Home*

The Board of Trustees, National Executive Council, and Management of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) mourn the loss of our esteemed National Executive Council member, Prince Adegoke Ademiluyi, CPA, who passed on 2nd of August 2024.

Prince Ademiluyi brought thoughtful leadership, dedication, and integrity to his role in NCF as the Chairman of NEC Conservation and Environmental Services Committee (CESCOM), formerly Scientific Committee for over one decade until recently. His contributions remain a testament to a life committed to preserving nature for future generations.

We mourn the loss of a remarkable individual whose contributions have left an indelible mark on both our organization and the conservation community at large. His unwavering commitment to advancing our mission and his tireless efforts to protect Nigeria's natural heritage were exemplary. His leadership, vision, and wisdom were instrumental in guiding our conservation initiatives and inspiring others to join our cause.

His legacy will continue to inspire future generations as they serve as conservation and environmental stewards.

We honour his memory with deep gratitude and respect.

***Late Prince  
Adegoke Ademiluyi,  
Member, NCF National  
Executive Council (1997-2024)***







# Partnership

Partnerships remain central to our mission at NCF. In 2024, we collaborated with corporate organizations, academic institutions, development agencies, and civil society to scale impact. These partnerships enabled the planting of 184,000 trees, supported conservation research, funded critical species protection efforts, and expanded environmental education. Our partners have proven that when we work together, we can move closer to a sustainable and nature-positive Nigeria.

## *NCF, Lagos State Government Advocate for Land Restoration with the 2024 Walk for Nature*

Set against the backdrop of the Lekki Conservation Centre (LCC) and its serene surroundings, participants engaged in a wide range of hands-on activities that seamlessly blended learning with fun. From eco-friendly crafts

and organic farming workshops to upcycling challenges and bird-watching excursions, the programme sparked creativity and encouraged a deeper connection with nature.

The 18th edition of the Walk for Nature (WFN), a flagship environ-



mental advocacy event jointly organized by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) and the Lagos State Government (LASG), was held on Saturday, 19th October 2024, at Onikan Stadium, Lagos. This year's theme, "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience," aligned with global climate priorities and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

The event brought together a broad spectrum of participants from government officials and corporate partners to schoolchildren and environmental enthusiasts on a 5km awareness walk through Marina, Lagos. The aim was to promote sustainable environmental practices

and inspire collective responsibility for nature conservation.

In the days leading up to the event, a joint press conference was held at the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, Alausa, with addresses by Hon. Commissioner Mr. Tokunbo Wahab and NCF Director General, Dr. Joseph Onoja, reinforcing the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing Lagos State's environmental challenges.

### Event Highlights

Tree planting at the entrance of Onikan Stadium

Unveiling of a giant recycle bin, donated by NCF to the Lagos State Government with support from the Cosmopolitan Women's Club

Participation by school groups, corporate sponsors, and community stakeholders



## *Green Ball 2024: Celebrating Nature, Wellness, and Environmental Stewardship*



On Saturday, 7th December 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) hosted its prestigious Annual Green Ball at La Scala Hall & Terrace, Muson Centre, Lagos, under the compelling theme: "Embracing Wellness and Nature."

A signature black-tie event, the Green Ball brought together an esteemed audience including government dignitaries, corporate leaders, heads of foreign missions, health and conservation experts, and long-standing supporters of NCF's mission. It served as a unique opportunity to celebrate environmental milestones, engage in meaningful dialogue, and galvanize support for urgent conservation priorities in

Nigeria.

This year's theme highlighted the interconnectedness between human well-being and environmental sustainability, drawing attention to pressing challenges such as biodiversity loss, land degradation, and the loss of wetlands. Through a thoughtfully curated program



that combined insightful discussions, artistic performances, and networking, the event inspired renewed commitment to nature-positive solutions.

In addition to its awareness and advocacy focus, the Green Ball 2024 also provided a platform for carbon footprint offsetting and fundraising for critical environmental conservation projects.



## Corporate Partnerships for a Greener Future: Celebrating World Environment Day 2024

In alignment with the global theme for World Environment Day 2024, “Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience”, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) partnered with several forward-thinking organizations to mark the occasion through impactful, action-driven environmental activities across Nigeria.



World Environment Day, held annually on June 5 and led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is the largest global platform for environmental awareness and outreach. This year’s focus emphasized restoring degraded land and building resilience to drought—key pillars in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and the broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In commemoration of the day, NCF partnered with the following organizations, inviting them to take action for nature and demonstrate their commitment to sustainability:



Together, these organizations collaborated with NCF to execute a series of community-focused and awareness-driven activities across key locations:



- Land Restoration through Tree Planting**  
 Trees were planted to restore degraded ecosystems and support biodiversity and climate resilience.
- Community Recycling Initiative**  
 Partners supported recycling campaigns to promote environmental responsibility and circular economy practices.
- Public Awareness and Advocacy Conference**  
 An advocacy event was held to raise public consciousness about the impacts of land degradation and the urgent need for restoration.



## ***NCF and Natural Eco Capital Forge Partnership for Nature-Based Solutions***

On Wednesday, 21st August 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Natural Eco Capital at the Lekki Conservation Centre, Lagos. The agreement marks a significant step forward in fostering collaborative efforts for nature conservation, sustainability, and climate resilience in Nigeria.



The MoU, signed by Dr. Joseph Onoja, Director General of NCF, and Dr. Eugene Itua, CEO of Natural Eco Capital, establishes a framework for joint programme implementation, capacity building, knowledge sharing, and mutual support. The partnership will focus on advancing nature-based solutions, sustainable development strategies, and addressing emerging environmental challenges, including climate change.

## ***NCF Honoured for Foundational Role in APLORI's Growth***

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) was honoured for its pivotal role in the establishment and sustained support

of the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI), West Africa's premier centre for ornithological research and training.

The award was presented to Dr. Joseph Onoja, Director General of NCF, during the institute's 20th anniversary celebration, held at the Aliyu Akwe Doma Indoor Theatre, University of Jos.



Located in Laminga, Jos-East, Plateau State, APLORI is dedicated to advancing ornithological research and building scientific capacity in West Africa. NCF's long-standing partnership with APLORI reflects its commitment to bird conservation, research excellence, and nurturing the next generation of conservation scientists across the region.

## ***Strengthening Conservation Through Academic Partnerships***

In a bid to deepen environmental education and promote sustainable development through academia, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) strengthened its collaboration with key tertiary institutions across Nigeria in 2024. These strategic partnerships are designed to foster academic and research exchange, conservation action, and environmental stewardship among students, faculty, and researchers.

A notable highlight was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NCF and Tai Solarin University of Education (TASUED). The agreement, signed by Dr. Joseph Onoja, Director General of NCF,

and Professor Wole Banjo, Vice Chancellor of TASUED, lays the groundwork for collaboration in academic research, conservation club development, and the promotion of NCF membership among students and university staff.



In addition to TASUED, NCF also advanced technical partnership development with other federal and state institutions, including the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), the University of Ibadan, and the Oyo State Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. These collaborations are pivotal in building local expertise, fostering community-based conservation solutions, and mainstreaming sustainability into institutional frameworks.

Through these alliances, NCF is expanding its reach and impact, cultivating the next generation of environmental champions, and reinforcing the role of academia in advancing Nigeria's conservation goals.

### *Strategic Engagements with Federal and State Agencies*

In 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) deepened its collaboration with key government ministries and agencies to advance environmental sustainability across Nigeria.

As part of efforts to strengthen ties with the Federal Ministry of Environment, NCF's Director General, Dr. Joseph Onoja, paid a courtesy visit to the Honour-

able Minister, Malam Balarabe Abbas Lawal, in Abuja. Discussions centered on Nigeria's commitments to international environmental agreements and urgent issues such as coastal erosion in Lagos.



Furthering cross-sectoral collaboration, Dr. Onoja also met with Dr. Jamila Bio Ibrahim, Honourable Minister of Youth Development, to align NCF's afforestation initiatives with national youth engagement platforms, particularly the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). This partnership supports Nigeria's pledge to restore 4 million hectares of degraded land under the Bonn Challenge and other global commitments.



At the state level, NCF initiated discussions with the Enugu State Tourism Board, led by Dame Rita Mbah, to develop ecotourism and conservation-based projects in Enugu State. Focus areas include habitat restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and land management.



## 2024 NCF Annual Corporate Membership Subscription:

### **Platinum Category: N750, 000**

Climate Action Africa  
Keystone Bank Limited  
Polaris Bank Limited  
Fidelity Bank Plc  
Access Corporation  
Stanbic IBTC Holdings

### **Gold Category: N350, 000**

FrieslandCampina Wamco Nigeria Plc  
Vcare for Development Foundation  
Good Life Fitness  
Emzor Pharmaceutical Ind. Limited  
Union Bank of Nigeria Plc  
Ecobank Nigeria Limited  
United Bank for Africa Plc  
Gravitas Investments Limited  
Aluko & Oyeboode Partners  
BH Healthy Fusion & Realities  
First City Monument Bank Limited

### **Silver Category: N200, 000**

Hakarat Hatov Shortlet Apartments  
El-Recycling Conservation Foundation  
Unicorn Holidays Limited  
Ampak Nigeria Limited  
Lekki Free Zone Dev. Company

### **Bronze Category: N50, 000**

Initiative for Biodiversity Conservaion in  
Sub-Saharan Africa  
  
Rotaract Club of Lekki Phase 1  
  
Gorgeous Pictures  
  
Ugo Eco Foundation  
  
International Bible Prophetic Ministry  
  
FRODOBOTS LAB PTE. LTD  
  
EBI's Grill  
  
Titilope Grace Kolawole – Khafe Professionals  
  
Kogu Nigeria Limited  
  
Aliyu Umaru  
  
Atlantic Palms Suites  
  
RCCG Shalom Parish  
  
Saint Shalom Canteen  
  
Zero6 Enterprise  
  
Opthirst Food & Grills  
  
Grab A Meal International  
  
Forest Treats and Scoops  
  
Mama's Pride Grills  
  
Sketching Consulting Limited

## 2024 Partners and Sponsors





## The President's 90th Birthday Celebration

### Celebrating 90 Remarkable Years of Leadership, Vision, and Service

#### Chief Philip C. Asiodu, CFR, CON President, Board of Trustees Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF)

In 2024, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation had the immense honour of celebrating the 90th birthday of our esteemed Board of Trustees President, Chief Izoma Philip C. Asiodu, CFR, CON—a statesman, visionary, and lifelong advocate for sustainable development and environmental stewardship in Nigeria.

A towering figure in Nigeria's public and environmental sector, Chief Asiodu has been a cornerstone of NCF's leadership for decades. His wisdom, integrity, and unwavering commitment to conservation continue to guide the Foundation's mission in preserving Nigeria's rich biodiversity for future generations.

The celebration of his 90th birthday was a moment of joy, reflection, and gratitude attended by family, friends, dignitaries, and members of the conservation community. It was a fitting tribute to a life dedicated to national service and the preservation of nature.

We celebrate not just his years, but the legacy of excellence, resilience, and foresight that he has brought to the Nigerian Conservation Foundation and to Nigeria as a whole.

Happy 90th Birthday,  
Chief Asiodu.

Your impact is enduring, and your leadership continues to inspire.



## ***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.





# A Well of Hope:

## The Story of Maja-Kura's Journey from Scarcity to Sustainability

In the heart of Nigeria's semi-arid north, a borehole brings new life to a once-struggling community.

Interview facilitated by Harry Hanson.

*In 2017, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) launched its flagship Green Recovery Nigeria (GRN) initiative — an ambitious 30-year project aimed at restoring 25% of Nigeria's forest cover through reforestation, afforestation, and natural regeneration. Backed by visionary partners like First Bank of Nigeria (FBN), the GRN programme is not just about trees; it's about healing land, restoring ecosystems, and breathing life back into communities. As part of this broader vision, the NCF and FBN co-funded the drilling of a borehole in Maja-Kura community, Nguru Local Government Area of Yobe State — a gift of life for a people long besieged by water scarcity. Three community members were interviewed to share their experiences and struggles.*

Situated deep in Nigeria's semi-arid northeast, Maja-Kura — a community made up of 10 villages and 16 settlements — are a tapestry of resilience. The community located in Nguru Local Government Area of Yobe State with international border with Niger Republic is a hotsemi-arid area that makes getting water a real struggle especially during the dry season. With a population of over 3,000 people, their survival hinges on rain-fed farming and livestock rearing — livelihoods made perilous by harsh climates and dwindling water sources. For most of the year, rain falls for barely three months, leaving long stretches of parched land, dry wells, and desperate treks in search of water.

The inhabitants of the various settlements had to travel far in search of drinking water, for domestic use and for the livestock. The only available water source was at the village centre, which based off their proximity to it could mean a one, two-, or five-hours trip to and from it.

*"From our settlements to the village centre takes about two hours of trekking, at times, you will have to wait for long for your turn to fetch. Because of this, we often went to our farms without drinking water."*

says

**Mohammed Abubakar,**  
a youth in the community.

Before the borehole was installed, fetching water was an exhausting ritual woven into daily life. Hajia Amina Sulaiman, speaking for the women of Maja-Kura, recalled the burden they carried:

*"We used to lose valuable time in search of water for our domestic chores in the past. Some of our women are old so our young girls do the travels in search of water every morning before they go to school. In most cases, these girls return from fetching water late to go to school, and this use to be a daily routine."*



*“You know, going to the village centre to get water for a day use in a family of six people or more, we will have to waste more than five of our productive hours, and by the time we are done doing it, we become so tired to do other domestic activities for the day. Our daughters missed school because they spent mornings searching for water instead of learning.”*

Waiting hours in long queues under the scorching sun became a painful routine. The scarcity of water strained households, endangered livestock, fuelled conflict between farmers and herders, and pushed many girls permanently out of school.

Farming for these communities is tied to the rainy season. Anything short, results in a poor harvest. Same cannot

be said of livestock farming. Livestock farming requires water all year round. Cattle rearers travel with their livestock for hours in search of water points for their livestock to drink especially during dry seasons. These movements in search of water have always resulted in conflicts between crop farmers and livestock rearers in the communities.

Research by UNICEF shows that over 18 million children are out of school in Nigeria and a huge contributing factor to this are poverty, insecurity, and poor infrastructure. This infrastructural deficit is clearly seen in the struggles of the Maja-Kura community.

Because of how hot it gets in the afternoon and the dangers of insecurity that lurks in the evenings, girls and women must go look for water in the morning. The village head further emphasizes how close to home the situation hits, *“We struggle a lot as a community because of water scarcity. It results in increased number of out-of-school girl children, waste of productive hours for women, and poor person and family hygiene.”*



*“Schools in our community resumes at 8am daily. Children leave home in search of water at about 6am, before they could fetch water that will last the whole day need at home, it is already closed to noon day. With this, by so doing, children missed class thereby affecting learning process,”* Mohammed shares.

In many communities that struggle with water scarcity, they



are often forced to manage with what they have. In cases where they can't get clean water, they are forced to use brown water or recycle water that has already been used for one purpose to another. Water used to bathe can be harvested and re-used to wash clothes. All these further exacerbate the risks of common illnesses like diarrhoea, dysentery, and typhoid.

The situation was no different for the men and youth. Mohammed Abubakar explains the toll it took on farming and health:

*"We need a lot of water to maintain hydration especially during hot period like now. Lack of enough drinking water in the home to meet the body requirements do result to ill health among our children. Sometimes children would fall sick from dehydration and poor hygiene."*

*"Water is life," said the Village Head of Maja-Kura. "Before NCF and First Bank intervened, life was extremely difficult. Water scarcity made our women weaker, our children sicker, and our livestock more fragile."*

*"When I first saw the water flowing," Hajia Amina said, smiling, "I was so excited — it felt like help had finally come for our women and children."*

Mohammed Abubakar recalled, *"We were very excited. It was like a heavy burden lifted from our shoulders."*

The location of the NCF Tree plantation site and the borehole is very strategic. The trees will grow and help reduce the impact of drought in the community. While the water will tend to the surrounding human settlements, drastically improving their access to water.

*"Now we have unhindered access to the borehole for domestic needs, drinking water on the farms, and also watering point for our livestock. The issue of traveling long distances for domestic water use is now over."*

*"Children can now go to school, burden of women spending*

*their productive hours in search for household water needs is also over, all day movements by cattle rearers in search of water points for their livestock is over too,"* the village head shared.

Hajia Amina with palpable excitement reflected on the change, *"We are so happy now because we no longer travel for hours to fetch water for our home use. Our home hygiene has also improved, reducing water-borne related diseases and sicknesses in our communities/settlements."*



*"We the women now have enough time to attend to our domestic chores. We as mothers are now happy to see our children attend school and thriving."*

The impact has been transformative. Today, approximately 3,000 people now have easy access to clean water for drinking, cooking, hygiene, and livestock. Children are attending school again, girls especially. Women now invest their time in productive activities instead of endless treks. Hygiene and health have improved markedly, reducing the prevalence of water-borne diseases. Farmers tend their fields with strength, and cattle drink without conflict.





The borehole also plays a crucial role in the survival of the tree plantation established under the Green Recovery Nigeria initiative. In a region with such harsh, dry conditions, the young trees now receive the life-giving water they need to thrive. Thanks to community-led Site Support Groups, the plantation's survival rate has soared — a double victory for nature and people.

Reflecting on the gift, the Village Head of Maja-Kura said with gratitude:



*"On behalf of the good people of Maja-Kura, I say a big THANK YOU to NCF and First Bank. You have improved our living standards, restored the dignity of our women, and brought hope to our children's future."*

From parched fields to flowing hope, the story of Maja-Kura is a testament to the profound power of restoration. When we heal the land, we heal lives and with every drop of water, a future is nurtured.







# *Financial Statements*

NCF's financial performance in 2024 reflects transparency, prudence, and growth. We strengthened our financial systems, diversified funding sources, and maximized donor contributions to achieve impact across programmes. With detailed audited financial statements, we remain accountable to our partners, donors, and the public—ensuring every naira received drives conservation forward.

## Independent Auditors' Report

To the Shareholders of Nigerian Conservation Foundation

## Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **Nigerian Conservation Foundation** set out on pages 4 to 42, which comprise the statements of financial position as at 31 December 2024, and the statement of income and expenditure and other comprehensive income, the statements of changes in members' fund and the statements of cash flows for the year then ended, the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of **Nigerian Conservation Foundation** as at 31 December 2024, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, the requirements of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020 and Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (Amendment) Act, 2024.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of Company in accordance with the requirements of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' (IESBA) International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA code) and other independence requirements applicable to performing audits of financial statements in Nigeria. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code and other ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of Financial Statements in Nigeria.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Other Information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the document titled "Nigerian Conservation Foundation Annual Financial Statements for the period ended 31 December 2024, which includes the Trustees' Report, Statement of trustees' responsibilities for the preparation and approval of the financial statements, certification of financial statements and Other National Disclosures as required by the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria which we obtained prior to the date of this report. The other information does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.







In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### **Responsibilities of the Trustees for the Financial Statements**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, the requirements of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020, the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (Amendment) Act 2024 and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Group and / or the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's and the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's and the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group and / or the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

#### **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

In accordance with the Fifth Schedule of Companies and Allied Matters Act, we expressly state that:

- i) We have obtained all the information and explanation which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- ii) The Company has kept proper books of account, so far as appears from our examination of those books.
- iii) The Company's financial position and its statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income are in agreement with the books of account and returns.

Chizoba Onyebuchi, FCA - FRC/2013/PRO/ICAN/004/00000000869

For: Deloitte & Touche- (FRC/2024/Coy/091021)

Chartered Accountants

Lagos, Nigeria

03 July 2025





## NIGERIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

## Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income

		31-Dec 2024 N'000	31-Dec 2023 N'000
	Notes		
<b>Income</b>			
Fees and subscriptions	6	400,962	330,630
Contributions from donors	7	582,380	282,932
Investments income	8	21,168	11,102
Other income	9a	364,712	147,522
<b>Total income from operation</b>		<b>1,369,222</b>	<b>772,186</b>
Non-monetary Government grant	10	268,611	268,611
Exchange Gain	9b	900,421	780,775
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,538,254</b>	<b>1,821,572</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
General & administrative expenses	11	356,963	258,890
Personnel cost	12	324,997	288,346
Depreciation - Property, plant and equipment	13	58,039	42,378
Amortization - Intangible Assets	13a	2,126	2,073
Other expenses	14	289,921	122,532
<b>Total Expenses from operation</b>		<b>1,032,046</b>	<b>714,219</b>
Depreciation - Forest and Family Park leasehold	13	270,573	263,335
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,302,619</b>	<b>977,554</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>1,235,635</b>	<b>844,018</b>

## NIGERIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

## Financial Statements

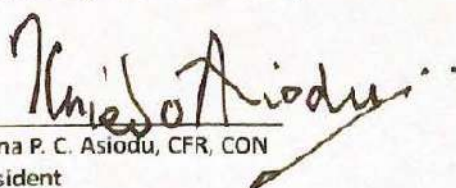
For the year ended 31 December 2024

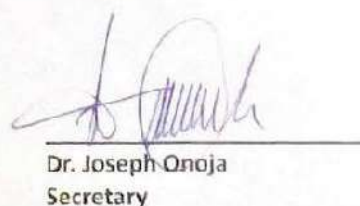
## Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2024

	Notes	31-Dec 2024 N'000	31-Dec 2023 N'000
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	15a	743,414	578,417
Forest and Eco Park	15b	16,846,340	17,038,828
Intangible Assets	15c	14,633	16,345
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>17,604,387</b>	<b>17,633,590</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Trade and other receivables	16	327,284	258,456
Prepayment	17	9,274	5,145
Cash and cash equivalents	18	2,871,249	1,558,651
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>3,207,807</b>	<b>1,822,252</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>20,812,194</b>	<b>19,455,842</b>
<b>Reserves and liabilities</b>			
<b>Funds and reserves</b>			
Accumulated funds	20.1	2,483,379	1,247,744
Capital reserve	20	137,322	137,322
Capital funds	20.2	1,994	1,994
<b>Total funds and reserves</b>		<b>2,622,695</b>	<b>1,387,060</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Deferred non-monetary Government grant	19.1	16,922,510	17,191,121
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>16,922,510</b>	<b>17,191,121</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	22	48,124	46,197
Deferred non-monetary government grant	19.1	268,611	268,611
Deferred income	19	950,254	562,853
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>1,266,989</b>	<b>877,661</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>18,189,499</b>	<b>18,068,782</b>
<b>Total reserves and liabilities</b>		<b>20,812,194</b>	<b>19,455,842</b>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 18 June 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

  
 Izoma P. C. Asiodu, CFR, CON  
 President

  
 Dr. Joseph Onoja  
 Secretary





# *Governing Bodies*

The leadership of NCF, through its Board of Trustees and National Executive Council, provided strong strategic direction in 2024. Their oversight enabled the development of a new Strategic Action Plan (2025–2030), supported the growth of flagship programmes, and strengthened governance structures. With a renewed commitment to excellence, our governing bodies continue to guide NCF toward delivering on its mission to promote nature conservation and sustainable development across Nigeria.

## Board of Trustees



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Member*



*Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON  
Member*



*Hon. Justice (Mrs)  
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Member*



*Alhaji Muniru  
Ja'afaru OFR, mni  
Member*



*H.E. Mrs Onari Duke  
Member*



## National Executive Council (NEC)



**Hon. Justice (Mrs)  
R.I.B Adebisi**  
Chairman, National  
Executive Council



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Member



**Mr. Desmond  
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Fatayi-Williams**  
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**H.E Mrs Onari Duke**  
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**Architectv Kitoyi  
Ibare-Akinsan**  
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**Architect Ayoola Onajide**  
Member



**Senator Chief  
Akin Odunsi**  
Member



**Admiral A.O.S  
Okoja (RTD)**  
Member



**Mr. Dimeji Salaudeen**  
Member



**Mrs. Ajoke  
Murtala-Muhammed**  
Member



**Mrs. Toke  
Benson-Awoyinka**  
Commissioner of  
Tourism, Arts & Culture,  
Lagos State



**Mr. Adekoyejo Edu**  
Member



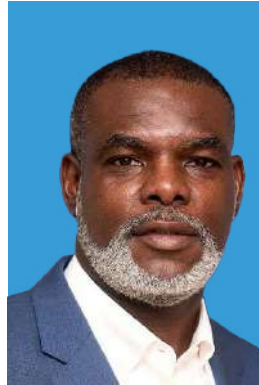
**Mr. Edo Ukpong**  
Member



*Mr. Femi Agbaje*  
Member



*Dr. Mrs. Olufunso Amosun*  
Member



*Mr. Olusoga Oduselu*  
Member



*Dr. Mutari  
Aninu-Kano*  
Member



*Mrs. Hansatu Adegbite*  
Member



*Ms. Rabi Isma*  
Member



*Mr. Sanli Genco*  
Member



*Dr. Joseph Onoja*  
Director General  
Member

### *National Executive Council (NEC) Committees and Chairpersons*

*Conservation &  
Environmental Services  
Dr Muhtari Aminu-Kano*

*Human Resources  
Mr. Ukpong  
Edo-Abasi Bassey*

*Project & Infrastructure  
Arc. Kitoyi  
Ibare Akinsan*

*Business Development &  
Communications  
Dame Marie Fatayi-Williams*

*Finance  
H.E Mrs. Onari Duke*

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on Constitution Review  
Mr. Adekoyejo Edu*



# Ecosystem Restoration



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because its in our  
**nature**

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# **CANOPY WALKWAY**

*in Africa*

**KM 19, LEKKI-EPE EXPRESSWAY, LAGOS, NIGERIA**

## **Get in touch**

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