

The ROAN



TIMES

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE NIGERIAN CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

APRIL 2026

*Most Rev. Dr. Matthew Hassan
Kukah speaking at the 24th Chief
S.L. Edu Memorial Lecture at the
Hall - Our Lady of Perpetual Light
on the 30th of January 2026.*

This Issue:

*Chief S.L. Edu
Memorial Lecture
World Pangolin Day 2026
Nigeria Climate Justice Alliance
Business Advisory Group
NCF/NABU Project*

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense forest with a thick canopy of green trees. The perspective is from directly above, looking down on the forest floor. The colors range from deep forest green to bright, sunlit yellow-green in some areas, suggesting a healthy, mature woodland.

Dear Esteemed Readers,

Welcome to this edition of The Roan Times, our newly refreshed newsletter identity, reflecting a renewed commitment to telling impactful conservation stories.

As environmental challenges grow more complex, so too must our resolve. Like the symbolic Roan Antelope, known for its strength and fierce territorial defence, we are embracing that resilience, working alongside our partners and communities to build sustainable solutions that secure a healthier planet for present and future generations. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Events

Chief S. L. Edu Memorial Lecture 2026: To Have and To Hold: Faith and Care of the Environment



At a time when the world is grappling with climate instability, biodiversity loss, and deepening social inequality, the question of how humanity relates with nature has never been more urgent. Are we owners of the Earth, free to exploit it at will or stewards, entrusted with its care for generations yet unborn?

This moral tension formed the heart of the 24th Chief S.L. Edu Memorial Lecture, convened by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) on Friday, 30 January 2026, under the theme “To Have and To Hold: Faith and Care of the Environment.”

Featuring a thought-provoking keynote by Most Rev. Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah, the lecture challenged conventional narratives by framing environmental sustainability not just as a policy issue, but as a moral and societal responsibility.

[Read the full article here](#)



Events

World Pangolin Day: NCF Drives Pangolin Protection Through Awareness and Action

The world's most trafficked mammal is one many people have never seen alive. Pangolins are shy, harmless creatures that play a vital role in maintaining ecosystem balance by controlling insect populations. However, they are under severe threat due to illegal hunting and trade driven by myths and unproven beliefs. Today, all eight species of pangolins are at risk of extinction.



In commemoration of World Pangolin Day, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) amplified its commitment to protecting this vulnerable species through targeted awareness, education, and site-based conservation efforts.

Guided by this year's theme, "Guardians in Action," NCF continues to work with forest rangers, local communities, and partners to combat illegal wildlife trade, protect critical habitats, and safeguard pangolins across Nigeria.



As part of the awareness drive, NCF launched a digital campaign calling on the public to become Pangolin Protectors. Supporters were encouraged to create and share personalized display pictures spreading the message across social media and inspiring collective action. The campaign recorded an impressive turnout, with individuals lending their voices and platforms to advocate for pangolin conservation.

Beyond awareness, NCF's ongoing conservation work reinforces the importance of community engagement and education in protecting biodiversity. By equipping communities with knowledge and promoting responsible choices, the Foundation is helping to reduce threats to pangolins and other endangered species.

News and Updates

International Waterbird Census at 60: Through the Eyes of the Bird



The International Waterbird Census (IWC) marks its 60th year, with decades of remarkable milestones in waterbird monitoring and conservation.

For several years, NCF has actively participated, contributing to the sustainable management of key sites such as the Hadeija Nguru Wetlands, a Ramsar site and Key Biodiversity Area that hosts hundreds of thousands of birds while supporting local livelihoods.

Read more about the International Waterbird Census at 60 on our [blog](#).



News and Updates

NCF/NABU Project: Empowering Eco Guards for Safer Coexistence in Iko Esai



We recently carried out capacity building activities for Eco Guards at Iko Esai.

Through a user friendly guide, Eco guards were trained on human-wildlife conflict management to enhance community safety, safeguard livelihoods, and promote peaceful coexistence with wildlife, with focus on mitigating human–elephant conflict.

Additionally, environmental education manuals were distributed to school conservation club coordinators to strengthen environmental learning among students and community members.

This project was implemented by NCF, NABU with support from The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development,



News and Updates

ALEC Project: Strengthening Wetland Protection Across 11 Communities in Bayelsa



Implemented by NCF in partnership with First Exploration and Petroleum Company Limited, the Afforestation/Restoration, Livelihood Enhancement and Carbon Sequestration (ALEC) Project continues to support a more sustainable future for families in rural and coastal communities.

This is just the beginning. Stay with us as we share more highlights from our work in Akassa, Bayelsa State.

To mark World Wetlands Day, we took action where it matters most; within communities.

Through the ALEC Project, we engaged riverine communities in the Akassa axis of Bayelsa State, raising awareness on the importance of wetlands and mangrove ecosystems, critical natural assets that support fisheries, reduce flood risks, and sustain livelihoods.

This community-based biodiversity and environmental education initiative reached 11 communities and 17 schools, directly engaging over 550 participants. As part of this effort, community conservation clubs were established, helping to drive ongoing environmental stewardship at the grassroots level.



News and Updates

Business Advisory Group: Business Leaders Unite to Advance Biodiversity Conservation



We recently convened another Business Advisory Group meeting in Lagos, bringing together key voices to advance private sector action for biodiversity in Nigeria.

BAG is a national collaboration that brings together businesses, government and civil society, to strengthen private sector engagement in the execution of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

A key highlight was the open dialogue from businesses on the challenges they face. These insights will inform the development of a practical Business Action Plan to strengthen private sector participation in Nigeria's biodiversity agenda.

With growing collaboration and shared commitment, we are building a stronger bridge between business and nature.

News and Updates

Nigeria Climate Justice Alliance: Strengthening National Coordination for Climate Justice in Nigeria



Key outcomes of the workshop included the adoption of a joint action roadmap, the creation of working committees, and a renewed focus on people-centred, gender-inclusive, and community-led climate solutions.

Through coordinated advocacy and stronger collaboration, NCJA is working to amplify community voices, influence climate policy, and demand accountable and just climate action for all Nigerians.

As climate impacts continue to hit vulnerable communities the hardest, the need for stronger collective action has become urgent.

To respond to this, Members of the Nigeria Climate Justice Alliance (NCJA) convened a two-day Strategic Action Plan Review and Coordination Workshop in Abuja earlier this week to strengthen climate justice efforts across Nigeria.



Specie Spotlight: Pangolin

DID YOU KNOW?

Pangolins are shy, harmless mammals that keep ecosystems balanced by controlling insect populations. Despite its scaly appearance, this species is a mammal, not a reptile.

Four species of pangolin can be found in Africa, and four in Asia.

Africa: White-bellied (*Phataginus tricuspis*), Black-bellied (*Phataginus tetradactyla*), Giant Ground (*Smutsia gigantea*), and Temminck's Ground (*Smutsia temminckii*)

Asia: Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*), Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis*), Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*), and Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*)



FUN FACT

A single pangolin can consume up to 70 million insects in a year, helping to control pest populations that would otherwise damage farm produce.

BECOME A MEMBER OF NCF TODAY!

Join our growing community of conservation champions making a real difference across Nigeria.

In addition to playing a critical role in protecting our environment, you'll receive our member benefits—including exclusive updates, invites to special events, and more.

[GET STARTED](#)



UPCOMING
EVENTS

EARTH DAY 2026: OUR POWER, OUR PLANET

APRIL 22ND, 2026

Join us to lift your voice, take action, and show your love for Planet Earth. When we stand together, our planet has a future.

NAIJA ECO VIBES PODCAST

APRIL 25TH 2026

New Podcast Episode

News and Updates

NCF/Ford Foundation Partnership: Empowering Communities for Environmental Justice in Lagos and Ogun States

When communities are informed and empowered, lasting environmental change becomes possible. In line with this, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation recently hosted a two-day Environmental Justice Programme in Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos, bringing together community leaders and young people from ten coastal communities to raise awareness and strengthen advocacy around climate justice and environmental rights. The same initiative was also carried out in Ogun State, extending its impact to more communities.



The programme kicked off with a stakeholders' dialogue, where traditional rulers, women leaders, and youth representatives came together to share the environmental challenges affecting their communities, from changing landscapes to increasing pressure on natural resources.



More importantly, the dialogue explored how communities can actively participate in safeguarding the environment while protecting their rights.

As part of the programme, selected youths from ten communities participated in a hands-on training in advocacy for environmental justice, following the stakeholders' dialogue.



Through this training, young leaders are now better equipped to protect their communities and take action for a greener, more sustainable future.

Engagements

NCF at Business of Conservation Conference 2026: Safeguarding Africa's Biodiversity for Sustainable Growth

Conservation leaders, policymakers and investors gathered last week in Nairobi, Kenya for the Business of Conservation Conference 2026, a platform focused on protecting Africa's biodiversity while advancing sustainable economic development.

The conference highlighted the growing role of nature-based solutions, biodiversity finance and private sector investment in conservation.

Our team participated in the conference alongside partners from the BirdLife International regional offices in Kenya and Senegal, as well as Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU).



The event created an opportunity to connect with conservation and finance leaders, share experiences, and explore how investment and partnerships can better support biodiversity protection and community-led conservation efforts across Africa.

Through engagements like this, NCF continues to strengthen collaboration and support efforts to scale biodiversity conservation in Nigeria and across the continent.



Engagements

NANS-NCF Partnership: Mobilising Students for Environmental Action

As part of ongoing efforts to inspire youth-driven conservation, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation hosted members of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) at its headquarters, the Lekki Conservation Centre on March 27th, 2026.

The visit brought together nearly 100 students from tertiary institutions across Nigeria, offering them a firsthand experience of conservation in action and bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world environmental stewardship.

Speaking during the engagement, Dr. Joseph Onoja highlighted the critical role of young people in shaping a sustainable future, encouraging students to channel their energy and influence towards protecting nature. He also emphasised the urgent need to address deforestation through initiatives like Green Recovery Nigeria, which focuses not just on planting trees, but nurturing them to maturity.



In recognition of his leadership and commitment to conservation, Dr. Onoja was presented with an Award of Excellence for Outstanding Contribution to Nature Conservation by NANS.

The engagement marks another step in strengthening youth participation in environmental sustainability across Nigeria.



Discover Our Latest Podcast Episodes



How I Fell In Love With Nature

In this Valentine-inspired episode of Naija Eco Vibes Podcast, we dive deep into the personal journeys of two Nigerian eco-entrepreneurs who turned their love for the environment into purpose, impact, and sustainable businesses.

[WATCH](#)

Special Episode With Obi Asika

In this episode, we sit with Mr. Obi Asika, Director-General of the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC), to unpack how Nigeria's cultural heritage, creative industries, and indigenous knowledge systems can shape a greener, more resilient future.

[WATCH](#)

New Partnership

Time2Graze Project: Advancing Sustainable Livestock Systems Through Climate-Smart Grazing



Globally, livestock grazing covers nearly two-thirds of agricultural land yet only around 50% of its forage harvest potential is being realised.

This critical gap, driven by seasonal variability and the accelerating impacts of climate change, is what the Time2Graze project is set to address.

At the project unveiling workshop held in Abuja earlier this week, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, alongside partners like the World Wildlife Fund and the Global Methane Hub, introduced a data-driven approach to improving grazing systems.

Using satellite-based tools, farmers will be better equipped to make informed decisions on when and where to graze livestock, improving productivity while reducing environmental impact.

The Time2Graze project is a three-year initiative (2025-2028), funded by the Global Methane Hub, aimed at optimising livestock grazing practices to improve farm productivity and reduce methane emissions across Africa and Latin America.

As part of its specific contribution, NCF will design and deploy a remote sensing data system and decision support tool tailored for use by Nigerian farmers.

Watch this space. There's more to come!



About Us

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.

Our Vision

A leader in creating sustainable societies where people and nature thrive.

Our Mission

To protect and restore natural resources, tackle emerging environmental threats in partnership with communities and other stakeholders, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Core Value

- ➔ Integrity
- ➔ Partnership
- ➔ Accountability
- ➔ Innovation
- ➔ Resilience
- ➔ Excellence

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