

The ROAN TIMES

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE NIGERIAN CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

JULY 2026

Sea Turtle Project volunteers record measurements of a rescued, critically endangered leatherback seaturtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) before its safe release back into the ocean.

This Issue:

World Environment Day 2026

World Sea Turtle Day 2026

NCF & FUTO Partnership

NCF's Omo Forest Advocacy Initiative

Dear Esteemed Readers,

Conservation is often measured by the forests restored, the species protected, or the policies influenced. Yet behind every milestone lies something even more powerful, people choosing to act.

This edition of The Roan Times celebrates those actions. Across Nigeria and beyond, we see communities, institutions, partners, researchers, and young conservationists responding to the urgent call to protect our natural heritage.

These stories remind us that meaningful environmental change is fuelled by countless deliberate actions that shape our future. In these pages, we reflect on a month defined by collaboration and progress.

From significant commemorations, advocacy initiatives, to championing sustainable forest management, every feature reinforces the fact that conservation succeeds when knowledge is translated into action.

As you read this edition, we invite you to look beyond the headlines and discover the people, partnerships, and purpose driving each story. Whether you are a long-standing supporter or engaging with our work for the first time, we hope these pages reaffirm that everyone has a role to play in safeguarding nature.

Thank you for being part of this journey where we build a future where people and nature thrive.

Events

World Environment Day 2026: Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future.



World Environment Day 2026 is a global call for climate action.

For decades, the world has heard the climate story - warnings, targets, distant deadlines. Too often, the response has been clouded by noise: delay, distraction, denial.

But listen closer now. Beneath the noise, another signal is rising. Solar panels stretch across rooftops. Wind turbines line the horizon. Cities are being redesigned for people. Forests are being replanted. Climate solutions are taking root in every corner of the planet.

World Environment Day 2026 focused on climate change on the urgent signals the Earth is sending and the signals we choose to send back. This global campaign called on all of us to step in #NowForClimate, and steer a world already in motion.

As part of the activities to commemorate World Environment Day 2026, We held an event at the Lekki Conservation Centre in collaboration with some of our corporate partners. It was a moment to reflect, reconnect, and recommit to protecting our environment.

This year's theme, "Inspired by Nature. For Climate" reminds us that the climate crisis is not a distant threat. It is already here, visible in changing weather patterns, shrinking water sources, and the growing impact on vulnerable communities.

More importantly, it is a call for urgent and sustained action, because our lives and our future depend on it.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our sponsors for their unwavering support and commitment to our shared vision of a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable Nigeria.

Together, we are driving meaningful change, and we look forward to strengthening this partnership in the journey ahead.



Events

NCF Strengthens Community Action for Sea Turtle Conservation

World Sea Turtle Day, observed annually on June 16th, aims to raise awareness about sea turtles and the challenges they face.

Sea turtles play an important role in ocean ecosystems by maintaining healthy seagrass beds, providing key habitats for other marine life, helping to balance marine food webs, and more.

Yet, they are threatened by pollution, habitat loss, climate change, and poaching.

We must all do our part to protect them.



As part of our activities to mark World Sea Turtle Day 2026, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation in partnership with Lagos Free Zone (Tolaram) engaged communities across Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos, reinforcing a shared commitment to sea turtle conservation and healthier marine ecosystems.

This is another important step in strengthening community-led conservation efforts and securing a safer future for sea turtles.

Also we recently conducted an education outreach under the Sea Turtle Conservation Project, implemented by NCF in partnership with Lagos Free Zone (LFZ).

Students from schools across Ibeju-Lekki communities participated in practical recycling sessions, repurposing plastic bottles into ottomans. The initiative provided an opportunity to strengthen environmental awareness and deepen understanding of the importance of conserving coastal ecosystems.



Engagements

NCF Champions Stronger Action on Plastic Pollution at National Summit

Plastic pollution is increasingly recognized as a major threat to biodiversity. Yet relatively little attention has been paid to understanding how plastic pollution affects ecosystems and the contributions they provide to people and economies.

As an organisation that has been advocating for a mandatory and regulated law or regulations on plastic pollution, our team participated in the National Plastic Summit held in Abuja earlier on June.

The summit was convened by the Nigeria National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP Nigeria), hosted by the Policy Innovation Centre, with the Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Environment, and with strategic support from the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP), hosted by the World Economic Forum.

The Summit anchored around three priorities: advancing circularity as an economic and industrial opportunity; strengthening policy implementation and financing mechanisms; and ensuring an inclusive and just transition that integrates informal sector actors into formal circular systems.



Our engagement reflects our commitment to advancing sustainable solutions and shaping conversations that drive action on plastic waste management and environmental protection.

A new report from the World Economic Forum's Global Plastic Action Partnership, supported by Global Affairs Canada, explores the links between plastic pollution and biodiversity across nine geographies on three continents.

The findings show that tackling these interconnected challenges together can deliver stronger outcomes for nature, people and economies.

[Read the full report here: wef.ch/plasticpollution](https://wef.ch/plasticpollution)

News and Update

NCF and Federal University of Technology Owerri Partner to Establish Conservation Park and Build Future Environmental Leaders

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal University of Technology Owerri (FUTO) to establish the Prof. Nnenna Otti Conservation Park, a new hub for biodiversity conservation, environmental education, and climate action within the university community.

Beyond creating a greener campus, the partnership will provide students with access to practical conservation experience through Industrial Training placements, capacity-building opportunities, research support, and engagement in conservation projects across Nigeria.

A commemorative tree planting exercise was held on 3rd June 2026, kickstarting the goal of planting over 2,000 indigenous trees in support of Green Recovery Nigeria's target of restoring and increasing Nigeria's forest cover to 25% by 2047.



**A STANDING FOREST IS
WORTH MORE THAN A
CLEARED ONE**



**NIGERIAN
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

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

NOTICE OF 37TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) will hold on **Wednesday, 8th July 2026 at 12:00PM** at the **Rotunda, Lekki Conservation Centre** to transact the following businesses:

To receive and consider the report of the National Executive Council,
the Audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report
for the year ended 31st December 2025.

To re-appoint the Auditors.

To conduct any other business that may be
properly transacted at an AGM.

Dated this Monday
15th June 2026

Signed on behalf of Board of Trustees
Dr. Joseph Onoja
Director General

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

*All members are enjoined to update their contact details with
the Foundation via **membership@ncfnigeria.org** or call **0909 147 6149***

JOIN US TODAY

*Make significant contributions towards biodiversity conservation and
sustainable development of Nigeria's natural resources by becoming a
Member of NCF (MNCF). Please call **Azeez 09091476149**
or register at **www.ncfnigeria.org/membership***

RSVP: SOMI - 0805 561 1253

Species Spotlight: Nile Monitor Lizard

Did you know Nigeria is home to one of Africa’s largest reptiles?

We’re spotlighting the Nile Monitor Lizard (*Varanus niloticus*)

The Nile monitor lizard is a semi-aquatic reptile commonly found in rivers, wetlands, and surrounding land habitats.

It is a strong swimmer and an agile climber, often seen moving between water, land, and even trees as it searches for food.

As both a predator and scavenger, it plays an important role in maintaining ecological balance by helping control populations of small animals and cleaning up carrion.



FUN FACT

This formidable reptile can grow up to 2 metres in length.

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

WORLD POPULATION DAY	JULY 11TH
WORLD CHIMPANZEE DAY	JULY 14TH
WORLD SNAKE DAY	JULY 16TH
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE MANGROVE	JULY 26TH
WORLD NATURE CONSERVATION DAY	JULY 28TH
WORLD RANGER DAY	JULY 31ST

News and Updates

NCF/Wilder Institute Cross River gorilla Project: Advancing Conservation Through Education



We are proud to celebrate the success of four postgraduate scholars; 1 PhD graduate and 3 Master's graduates, with three earning distinctions. Two additional scholars are expected to complete their programmes before the end of the year.

By strengthening research, education, and conservation capacity, we are creating lasting impact for both people and nature.

We recently held a symposium on Career Trajectory in Conservation: Navigating Pathways, Opportunities and Impact in a Changing World, bringing together participants to explore career opportunities, pathways, and the evolving impact of conservation in today's world.



Through this partnership, we are helping to build the next generation of conservation professionals dedicated to protecting the critically endangered Cross River Gorilla and Nigeria's biodiversity.

The Cross River gorilla project is funded by the Calgary Zoo/Wilder Institute, Canada. It also has Centre for Biodiversity, Conservation, and Research (CBCR) Ghana; Cross River National Park; and Forestry Commission as other partners.



News and Updates

NCF/Unilever Watershed Project Advances with Key Implementation Milestones



Progress continues under the NCF/Unilever Watershed Project with the successful allocation of 30 hectares of land for implementation.

Following this milestone, a comprehensive forest assessment was conducted across the site to identify existing tree species and determine suitable indigenous species for restoration in degraded areas.

To further strengthen project planning and execution, a hydrological survey of the project area has also been completed, providing critical insights for effective watershed management.

In support of field operations and project implementation, two brand-new motorcycles were officially presented to the Ogun State Ministry of Forestry. .



The handover ceremony was attended by the Honourable Commissioner for Forestry, the Permanent Secretary, and Directors of the Ministry, while the Director General of NCF was represented by Mr. Memudu and Miss Folake

Discover Our Latest Podcast Episodes



Stories From the Field: Where Conservation Meets Community

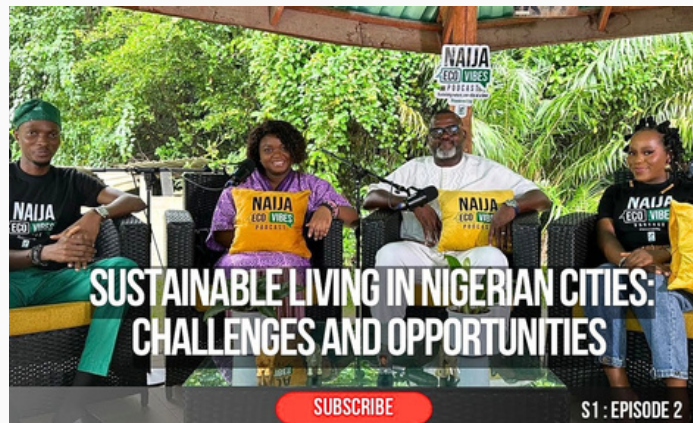
The Naija Eco Vibes podcast has gone global! This time, the conversation travels across East and West Africa, featuring guests from Kenya and Cameroon.

Together, we spotlight the impact of climate change on rural communities and explore the power of indigenous knowledge from across the continent.

[WATCH](#)

Sustainable Living in Nigerian Cities: Challenges and Opportunities

In this second episode of Naija Eco Vibes Podcast, Nigeria's boldest voice for nature, we explore the real issues and creative solutions around sustainable living in Nigerian cities.

[WATCH](#)

Partnership

NCF Pushes for Stronger Legal Protection of Omo Forest Sanctuary



The Nigerian Conservation Foundation, led by Dr. Joseph Onoja, Director General NCF, paid an advocacy visit to the Ogun State House of Assembly Committee on Forestry.

The meeting focused on securing legislative backing to save and protect Omo Forest Reserve, urging the Committee to revisit and strengthen the state's Forest Bill to halt degradation, exploitation, and abuse.

Speaking during the visit, Dr. Onoja said: "A standing forest is worth more than a cleared one. By protecting Omo Forest as a sanctuary, Ogun State can secure climate benefits, biodiversity, and long-term economic value for its people."

NCF is also pushing for Omo Forest to be designated as a sanctuary, a move that will allow the state and host communities to benefit from carbon footprint assessments and the carbon market while the forest remains intact.

For months, NCF has engaged stakeholders on protecting the last forest landscapes of the South West. These forests are home to threatened species like forest elephants and are critical for climate resilience.

NCF remains committed to securing Omo Forest for people and planet.



Insights

Nigeria Cannot Build Flood Resilience While Destroying Its Wetlands - By Dr. Joseph Onoja

Every rainy season in Nigeria now arrives with a familiar sense of anxiety. Roads disappear beneath floodwaters, homes are submerged, businesses are disrupted, and lives are displaced. What was once considered a seasonal inconvenience has become a recurring national emergency. But Nigeria's flooding crisis is no longer simply about rain.

It is the result of a dangerous collision between climate change, environmental degradation, and weak urban planning. Climate change is intensifying rainfall patterns across Africa, but human activities like deforestation, wetland destruction, poor drainage systems, and uncontrolled development on floodplains are multiplying the scale of destruction. The uncomfortable truth is this: flooding in Nigeria is becoming structural.

Climate Change Is Intensifying the Risk
Scientific evidence continues to show that extreme rainfall events are becoming more intense across Africa. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), both the frequency and intensity of heavy precipitation events are projected to increase as global warming accelerates. In cities like Lagos, the impacts are already visible. Urban flooding has become more widespread, with both short-duration high-intensity rainfall and prolonged rainfall events increasing flood risks. However, climate change alone does not explain the scale of devastation we are witnessing.



Ordinarily, heavy rainfall should not automatically become a disaster. Healthy wetlands, functional drainage systems, protected floodplains, and well-planned urban infrastructure are designed to absorb and manage excess water. But when these natural and engineered systems fail or are deliberately compromised, communities become increasingly vulnerable. Nigeria's flood challenge is therefore not only a climate issue. It is also a planning and governance issue.

[Read more on our blog](#)

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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