



The

TIMES

ROAN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE NIGERIAN CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

JUNE 2026

This Issue:

World Migratory Bird Day

World Biodiversity Day

Building Climate Resilience in Yobe

Advancing Climate Smart

Agriculture in Bayelsa

Dear Esteemed Readers,

As we mark a month rich with global environmental observances, this edition of The Roan Times highlights a powerful truth: meaningful conservation is built through collective action. From the arrival of migratory birds that connect continents, to the calls for urgent policy reform, and the restoration efforts taking root in communities across Nigeria, each story in this issue reminds us that local actions can generate far-reaching environmental impact.

Across our programmes, we continue to witness how people-centred conservation is strengthening resilience for both nature and communities. Whether supporting farmers to adapt to climate change in Yobe State, advancing climate-smart agriculture and forest restoration in Bayelsa, or empowering communities to take ownership of landscape restoration initiatives, these efforts demonstrate that sustainable solutions emerge when knowledge, partnership, and action come together.

As you explore this edition, we invite you to reflect on the role each of us can play in safeguarding our natural heritage. The challenges facing our environment remain significant, but so too is our collective capacity to address them. Through informed action, collaboration, and a shared commitment to conservation, we can help build a future where both people and nature thrive.

Events

World Migratory Bird Day 2026: Every Bird Counts - Your Observation Matters



In late September and October, just as the harmattan begins to dust Lagos with a fine, dry haze, something extraordinary happens at Lekki Conservation Centre. The mangroves stir. A sharp, rippling trill —Piping piu-piu-piu — cuts the air. The Wood Warblers (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) have arrived. Volunteers with binoculars click their tally counters. 7. 8. 11.

It is a small bird with typical leafy appearance, with green above and white below with a lemon-yellow breast known for its energetic movement among trees and shrubs and undertakes long-distance seasonal migrations of approximately 4,000 to 7,000 km from breeding grounds in Europe and western Asia to wintering habitats in Nigeria and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, each one counts. Because this year, Every Bird Counts..

And they are not alone. “When the small white birds with long legs come in November, we know the fish will be plenty,” says Malam Idris Yakubu, a fisherman at Hadejia-Nguru wetlands. “If they stop coming, our nets stay empty. My father taught me to watch them.

[Read more on our blog](#)



As part of the activities to commemorate World Migratory Bird Day 2026, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation alongside the Lagos State Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, participated in a bird-watching activity in Badagry yesterday, Friday, 8th May 2026.

The activity spotlighted the importance of migratory bird conservation and the role of public participation in protecting bird species, their habitats, and the entire ecosystems that sustain all lives.

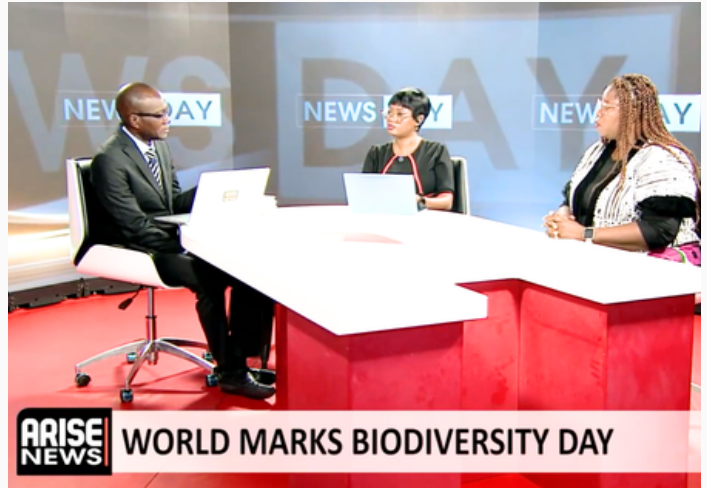
Events

World Biodiversity Day 2026: When Advocacy Meets Conservation

Nigeria is one of Africa's most biodiverse nations, yet its natural heritage faces growing threats from deforestation, habitat loss, climate change, pollution, and wildlife exploitation. As the world marked World Biodiversity Day 2026, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) used the occasion to spotlight the urgent need for stronger action to halt biodiversity loss and safeguard the ecosystems that support livelihoods, food security, and economic resilience.

Through a widely circulated press statement, NCF called for the implementation of Nigeria's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and urged the signing of the Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill into law. To take these critical messages beyond the conservation community, NCF amplified the conversation through a series of national television and radio engagements, reaching millions of Nigerians with calls to combat wildlife trafficking, discourage the glorification of indiscriminate hunting, and promote greater public responsibility for nature conservation.

While these advocacy efforts focused on the challenges facing biodiversity, encouraging signs from the field highlighted what is possible when conservation succeeds. Recent sightings of forest elephants in Omo Forest Reserve served as a powerful reminder that sustained protection of critical habitats can yield real results. These efforts demonstrate how advocacy, public awareness, and on-the-ground conservation are working hand in hand to secure a future for Nigeria's biodiversity.



[READ THE FULL STORY ON OUR BLOG.](#)



[Click here to see the latest elephant camera trap footage from the Omo Forest Reserve](#)

News and Update

Empowering Farmers to Build Climate Resilience in Yobe State

Climate change continues to pose serious challenges to agriculture in Yobe State, where changing rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, rising temperatures, and land degradation threaten food production and livelihoods.

To help communities adapt to these challenges, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), with funding support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP), is implementing the Sustainable Farmers-Led Adaptation Strategy (SFLAS) to Climate Change project in Maja-Kura Ward, Nguru Local Government Area of Yobe State.

The one-year intervention targets 2,000 beneficiaries across 10 communities, including crop farmers, women, and youths. The project promotes climate-smart agriculture and sustainable agroforestry practices that strengthen resilience, improve food security, and support sustainable livelihoods.

Key activities include training farmers and herders on climate-resilient farming techniques, distributing improved crop varieties, establishing indigenous tree nurseries, deploying weather advisory tools, and supporting women with equipment and training for livestock feed production as an alternative source of income.



Since its launch, the project has recorded encouraging results. The intervention has also empowered women and young people through skills development, enterprise support, and livelihood opportunities. In addition, the introduction of weather advisory technology is helping farmers make more informed decisions about planting and farm management.

Some key accomplishments so far;

- 2,573kg of climate-resilient seeds distributed (rice, wheat, millet, sorghum, cowpea, soybean)
- 35-member Site Support Groups established for community-led implementation
- 200 farmers trained in agroforestry and indigenous tree nursery establishment
- 125 women empowered through animal feed production and agribusiness skills
- 50 youths trained in GPS-based farm monitoring and nursery management
- 10 community indigenous tree nurseries established for large-scale restoration

Species Spotlight: Forest Elephant

The African Forest Elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) ensure the survival of their ecosystems. They maintain biodiversity by dispersing plants. They also clear paths that other animals depend upon.

Sadly, it is listed as Critically Endangered. Illegal hunting, habitat loss, as well as human-elephant conflict are some of the enormous threat facing this species.

They are herbivores, eating a diet filled with leaves, high amounts of fruit, and tree bark.

There is the need for urgent action towards its conservation. Join us to protect these species and the habitats they rely on.



FUN FACT

African forest elephants are nature's forest gardeners

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 ENVIRONMENT DAY

JUNE 5TH

WORLD OCEANS DAY

JUNE 8TH

SEA TURTLE DAY

JUNE 16TH

WORLD DAY TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

JUNE 17TH

WORLD CROCODILE DAY

JUNE 17TH

WORLD RAINFOREST DAY

JUNE 22ND

News and Updates

ALEC Project: Strengthening Community-Led Restoration Efforts



Strong monitoring and verification are the backbone of credible restoration work ensuring that every intervention is not only implemented, but accurately tracked, validated, and aligned with real outcomes on the ground. In landscape restoration projects like ALEC, this level of field verification is essential for strengthening accountability, improving data integrity, and reinforcing trust with participating communities.

Our team recently completed a field verification exercise across 11 communities as part of the ALEC Project.

The visit focused on confirming nursery tree species and counts, a key step in ensuring transparency, accountability, and strong community participation throughout project implementation. This process helps us maintain accuracy in reporting while also strengthening trust and shared ownership with participating communities.



We are encouraged by the steady progress being made. Nursery volunteers will begin receiving support funds in recognition of their dedication and hard work.

We remain grateful to our partners whose efforts and support made this possible.

Discover Our Latest Podcast Episodes



The Curse of Urbanization

In this episode of Naija Eco Vibes Podcast, we explore a growing reality many Nigerians experience every day but rarely stop to question: the hidden cost of urbanization.

[WATCH](#)

Youth and Ecosystem Restoration

This episode explores how Nigerian youth are stepping up to restore the environment, drive biodiversity conservation, and influence climate resilience across the country.

We unpack the challenges and the power of youth-driven ecosystem restoration in a world facing biodiversity loss, plastic pollution, and the climate crisis.

[WATCH](#)

News and Updates

NCF/Ford Foundation Partnership: Advancing Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forest Restoration in Bayelsa State



Communities in Bayelsa State are increasingly experiencing the realities of climate change, from shifting rainfall patterns to declining soil productivity and pressure on forest ecosystems.

In response, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), with support from the Ford Foundation, is implementing a targeted intervention to strengthen resilience, improve livelihoods, and promote biodiversity conservation in the support zone of the proposed Edumanon National Park.

The initiative will target Idema, Obeduma, and Eboh communities.

The initiative integrates Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), women-led economic empowerment, youth engagement in forest restoration, and strengthened community governance systems, creating a holistic model for climate action at the grassroots level.

[Read more on our blog](#)



News and Update

Global Wader: a community-led initiative to promote shorebird tracking (meta) data

We're thrilled to introduce Global Wader, an initiative by the International Wader Study Group in partnership with Movebank. Owing to recent advancements in tracking technology, our understanding of shorebird migration and behaviour is expanding rapidly, but while much tracking data is shared within the scientific community after each study concludes, its potential impact goes far beyond individual research projects.

A core mission of Global Wader is to maintain an up-to-date, accessible registry of shorebird tracking data, as well as to promote best practices in data management and long-term storage. By cataloguing project metadata, we aim to help scientists, trackers, and conservationists to connect and collaborate on studies with shared goals.

Currently, Global Wader includes over 200 studies, with more than 125 million data points, and has facilitated multiple collaborations, which go from partnering with, promoting and supporting specific projects, to establishing links by providing the contacts of owners of potentially relevant data to the data requesters.

Please note that Global Wader does not store tracking data itself, but has partnered with Movebank that fulfills that role. Global Wader catalogues the associated metadata, providing a gateway for researchers to discover existing datasets and explore potential partnerships. Data ownership and control remains in all cases with data owners, as explicitly defined in Global Wader's data agreement form. If you have tracking data on shorebirds, you are most welcomed to join this initiative. For more information, visit www.globalwader.org, or write to globalwader@waderstudygroup.org.



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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