

The ROAN



TIMES

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE NIGERIAN CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

MAY 2026

From L-R: Professor Wahab Olasupo Egbewole (SAN), Vice Chancellor of UNILORIN and Dr. Joseph Onoja at the MOU signing at University of Ilorin on the 14th of April 2026.

This Issue:

*NCE/UNILORIN MoU Signing.
Naija Eco Vibes Podcast.
Amb. Aduke Alakija Art
and Essay Competiton.
NCE/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 ecosystem.

Dear Esteemed Readers,

Welcome to the May edition of The Roan Times, where we spotlight the power of partnerships, community action, and innovation in advancing conservation across Nigeria.

This issue brings into focus a defining theme: that sustainable environmental progress is strongest when institutions, communities, and individuals work together.

From our strategic collaboration with the University of Ilorin to strengthen environmental education, to the impactful outcomes of the NCF/NABU community forest project, these stories reflect how collective effort continues to shape a more resilient future for people and nature.

As you read on, we invite you to see conservation not as a distant ideal, but as an everyday commitment that thrives through awareness, participation, and informed action.

News and Updates

NCF Partners with University of Ilorin to Advance Environmental Education and Conservation



The Nigerian Conservation Foundation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Ilorin to strengthen environmental education and drive collaborative conservation initiatives.

The partnership will focus on:

- Establishing a 5-hectare conservation park within the university campus
- Promoting youth engagement in environmental conservation activities
- Registering students as NCF members to deepen participation in conservation initiatives
- Driving joint research and project development, including carbon assessment of university forest resources.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Joseph Onoja and Professor Wahab Olasupo Egbewole on Monday, April 13th, 2026, at the University of Ilorin, Kwara State, marking the beginning of a strategic collaboration between both institutions.

This partnership is expected to create a practical model for integrating conservation into academic environments while empowering students as active environmental stewards. Over the years, NCF has worked with tertiary institutions to strengthen environmental education and promote practical conservation learning. This collaboration continues that effort through the establishment of on-campus conservation parks as a model for sustainable development in Nigeria.



News and Updates

Amb. Aduke Alakija Art And Essay Competition: Celebrating NCF's Young Environmental Champions



From the iconic Olumo Rock to the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library and Wildlife Park, the experience blended learning, heritage, and nature into something truly memorable.

This initiative continues to reflect the enduring legacy of Ambassador Aduke Alakija, whose vision of using environmental education continues to shape generations of changemakers.

We successfully rounded off the final phase of the 2025 Ambassador Aduke Alakija Memorial Art and Essay competition; the presentation and hosting of our outstanding young environmental champions.

From 912 entries across multiple states, 15 exceptional winners emerged across Art and Essay categories, each showcasing creativity, critical thinking, and a deep commitment to healing our planet.

To celebrate their excellence, second and third-place winners received certificates and special recognition gifts, while our first place winners embarked on a 2-night educational and eco-tourism retreat in Abeokuta.



Engagements

NCF Joins Global Leaders at CMS COP15 to Strengthen Biodiversity Commitments

NCF represented Nigeria at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CMS COP15), contributing to global biodiversity strategies.

NCF also participated at a side event focused on the Action Plan for Bustards.

The meeting had a positive outcomes for Nigeria and our BirdLife International partners.

Some of the adopted documents and initiatives relevant to Nigeria include:

- Expanded protection for over 40 migratory species, including birds along key flyways, bustards, sea turtles, vultures, striped hyena and Sahelian megafauna among others.



- Strengthened protection for seabirds and marine flyways.
- New commitments to prevent illegal killing, taking, and trade of migratory birds.
- Preventing poisoning of migratory species.
- Multiple-species Action Plans to conserve African, Eurasian and Australian Bustards and Migratory land birds in the African-Eurasian Region.

These highlight the importance of international collaboration in safeguarding species ecosystems.

NCF remains committed to driving conservation action in Nigeria and contributing to global biodiversity goals.

Species Spotlight: Egyptian Vulture

The Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) is the only European vulture that flies all the way to West Africa, including Nigeria.

What makes this vulture species so special?

- It is known for its striking appearance and intelligence. It uses tools, such as rocks to break open eggs.
- It plays an important role in the ecosystem by cleaning up wastes and carcasses, thereby reducing the spread of diseases and pests.

Sadly, its population is declining due to threats like poisoning and habitat loss, which is why awareness matters.

Join us to protect these species and the habitats they rely on.



FUN FACT

The adult Egyptian Vulture is easily identified by its striking white plumage, bright yellow face, and distinctive wedge-shaped tail.

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 MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2026

MAY 9TH

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

MAY 15TH

WORLD BIODIVERSITY DAY

MAY 22ND

WORLD TURTLE DAY

MAY 23RD

WORLD PARROT DAY

MAY 31ST

Events

From Conservation to Community Impact: The NCF/NABU Project Story



Over the past three years, the NCF/NABU Project, a Community Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement in the buffer region of the Cross River National Park has been more than an intervention. It has been a journey of partnership, learning, and transformation for the communities. Working across 8 communities, we supported the revival of community-based systems for forest conservation and sustainable use, while promoting alternative livelihoods and strengthening the capacity of Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) traders.

We recently convened stakeholders in Calabar to reflect on the project journey and its outcomes, one thing stood out clearly, this is not an end, but a foundation for more.

Over the course of the project, 50 youths were engaged, 2400 farmers trained, 400 women trained in value chain and enterprise, 18 million naira invested in micro-credit, 120,000 native trees grown, and 120 hectares degraded forest restored



Today, these communities stand as a model of how conservation can protect nature, support livelihoods, and secure a better future for both people and the environment. We remain grateful to our partners NABU and BMZ, alongside government institutions and local stakeholders whose collaboration made this possible.

[Watch video to see the impact unfold](#)

Discover Our Latest Podcast Episodes



Villains or Vital? The Hidden Role of Nature's Most Feared Creatures

In this eye-opening episode of Naija Eco Vibes Podcast, we explore the truth behind some of the world's most feared creatures and why removing them might do more harm than good.

[WATCH](#)

Vibing with Nature Through NCF Membership

This episode unpacks how individuals, volunteers, and corporate partners walk the talk for nature through the Nigerian Conservation Foundation. From personal stories to corporate responsibility and youth engagement, our guests reveal how NCF membership creates a powerful network for environmental stewardship.

[WATCH](#)

News and Updates

NCF/Ford Foundation Partnership: Faith Leaders Convene in Andoni to Champion Mangrove Conservation



In Nigeria's coastal communities, mangroves are more than just trees, they are lifelines. They protect shorelines from erosion, support fisheries, store significant amounts of carbon, and sustain local livelihoods.

Yet, these vital ecosystems are increasingly under threat from unsustainable harvesting, pollution, and climate-related pressures.

Addressing this challenge requires not only policy and technical solutions, but also trusted voices within communities who can inspire lasting change.

It was against this backdrop that religious leaders from churches across Andoni, Rivers State, gathered for a focused dialogue on mangrove governance and conservation.

The session explored the ecological importance of mangrove ecosystems, the growing threats they face, and the unique influence faith leaders hold in shaping community attitudes and behaviors.

Participants reflected on how messages delivered through pulpits and congregations can drive awareness, inspire stewardship, and encourage collective action to protect these critical coastal habitats.



Insights

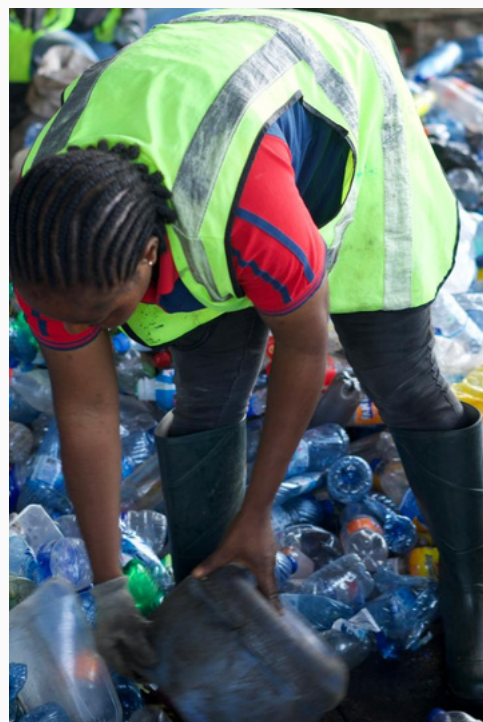
From Plastic Levies to Climate Action: Why Nigeria Must Get This Right



Nigeria stands at a defining moment in its fight against plastic pollution. With the adoption of the National Policy on Plastic Waste Management (NPPWM), the country has taken an important first step toward addressing the growing environmental and climate risks posed by single-use plastics. But policy direction alone is not enough. The real question now is implementation and whether Nigeria will transform plastic regulation into a credible climate financing opportunity.

At the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, we believe that plastic levies must not become symbolic gestures. They must become instruments of measurable environmental change.

[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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