

# The ROAN



TIMES

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
THE NIGERIAN CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION

AUGUST 2026



## *This Issue:*

*37th Annual General Meeting  
2025 Impact at a Glance  
NCF/MTN PachiPanda Challenge 3.0 Opens  
NCF & Equinix Inc. Partners to  
Plant 1 Million Trees*

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**Dear Esteemed Readers,**

This edition of The Roan Times reflects that spirit of collaboration in action. Across Nigeria, we are seeing governments align around landscape restoration, businesses embrace nature-positive practices, young innovators develop solutions for environmental challenges, and partners invest in initiatives that strengthen the resilience of both ecosystems and communities. Each story in these pages demonstrates that lasting conservation is at its strongest when people, institutions, and communities move with a shared sense of purpose.

This month also reminds us that progress is measured not only by the milestones we celebrate, but by the foundations we lay for the future. From advancing coastal forest restoration in Bayelsa and empowering the next generation of environmental leaders, to expanding strategic partnerships and strengthening environmental education, the work featured in this edition contributes to a broader vision of a Nigeria where biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable development reinforce one another. These efforts are creating momentum, strengthening institutions, and inspiring greater participation in protecting our natural heritage.

As you read this edition, we invite you to reflect on the role collaboration plays in achieving meaningful environmental impact. Every restored landscape, every young person empowered, every partnership forged, and every community engaged brings us closer to a future where people and nature thrive together. Thank you for being part of this journey and for continuing to champion conservation in ways that make a lasting difference.



# News and Updates

## ALEC Project: Restoring Coastal Forest landscapes in Bayelsa State



### ALEC Project: 11 Government Agencies Join Forces for Coastal Restoration in Bayelsa State

A major step was taken towards strengthening coastal forest landscape restoration in Bayelsa State earlier this month.

Under the ALEC Project, representatives from 11 ministries, departments, and agencies came together for an Inter-Ministerial Programme Collaboration Workshop to strengthen collaboration, align priorities, and jointly develop a Restoration Action Plan.

By working across sectors, Bayelsa is laying the foundation for more coordinated, effective, and sustainable landscape restoration that will benefit both people and nature.

### Ongoing restoration action under the ALEC project

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) and FIRST Exploration & Petroleum Development Company (FIRST E&P) Joint Venture (JV) on PML 53 and PML 54, in partnership with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), has commenced the transplantation of 100,000 nursery-raised indigenous tree seedlings to designated restoration sites under its Afforestation, Livelihood Enhancement and Carbon Sequestration (ALEC) Project.

This exercise marks a significant milestone towards the commitment to plant 500,000 indigenous trees across its 11 host communities over five years.

The ALEC coastal restoration project reflects our shared responsibility to restore degraded ecosystems while creating a better future for coastal communities. For the 2026 planting season, a total of 100,000 trees will be planted in the 11 communities



# Events

## Prof. Osinbajo Emerges as the New BOT President at the 37th Annual General Meeting



On the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2026, we held the 37th Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation at our Headquarters, Lekki Conservation Centre.

The AGM offered a valuable opportunity to reflect on the Foundation's activities over the past year, engage with our members and partners, and reaffirm our collective commitment to protecting Nigeria's biodiversity for generations to come.

NCF has entered a defining new chapter in its nearly four decades of conservation leadership with the appointment of Professor Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON, as President of its Board of Trustees, succeeding elder statesman and conservation champion Chief Philip Asiodu, CFR, CON, who stepped down after more than 25 years of distinguished service.

We're grateful to everyone who joined us, both online and onsite. Every milestone we've achieved is a testament to the dedication of our members, partners, staff, and supporters, who continue to champion a healthier environment for Nigeria.



[Read full story on our blog](#)



# 2025 Impact at a Glance

## The Numbers Behind the Story

The year 2025 was an impactful year for us at the Nigerian Conservation Foundation as we worked to sustain and protect the environment. Here's a snapshot of our impact:

300 hectares of degraded land restored and habitats regenerated  
265,561 trees planted  
19,900 beneficiaries empowered  
15,321 students engaged  
Over 7 million people reached

...and so much more.

These figures represent more than milestones. They reflect healthier ecosystems, empowered communities, and meaningful progress towards a more sustainable future.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our partners, volunteers, donors, staff, and everyone who shares our commitment to conservation.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Conservation is a shared responsibility, and every contribution brings us closer to a nation where people and nature thrive.

Explore our full 2025 Impact Report see how our conservation efforts are transforming lives and how you can be part of the movement.

## [2025 Impact Report](#)





# Partnerships

## NCF/MTN Pachi Panda Challenge 3.0 Now Open

We are excited to announce that applications for the 2026 Nigeria PachiPanda Challenge 3.0 are officially OPEN!

The Nigeria PachiPanda Challenge is a flagship youth innovation programme led by MTN Nigeria, in partnership with the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) through its local partner, the Nigeria Conservation Foundation (NCF), with support from UNDP Nigeria and Deloitte Nigeria.

**2026 Theme:** Nature Meets Innovation: Unlocking Africa's Green Economy

This year's challenge recognises that Africa's environmental challenges also present tremendous opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship, job creation, and sustainable economic growth.

### Challenge Areas

Applicants can submit innovative solutions addressing any of the following challenge statements:

- Climate Change
- Climate Smart Cities and Urban Resilience
- Community Conservation
- Pollution

### Who Can Apply?

The challenge is open to:

- Young Nigerians aged 18–35 years
- Students
- Young entrepreneurs
- Youth-led SMEs
- Individuals or teams of up to three (3) members



### What Participants Stand to Gain

Beyond the opportunity to make a real environmental impact, finalists will receive:

- A four-day Boot Camp and Innovation Sprint
- Expert mentorship and business development support
- Pitch coaching from industry professionals
- Exposure to investors and innovation partners
- Opportunity to represent Nigeria at the Africa PachiPanda Grand Finale

### Prize Money

1st Prize: ₦5,000,000  
2nd Prize: ₦3,000,000  
3rd Prize: ₦2,000,000

### Application Timeline

Applications Open: 29 July 2026  
Application Deadline: 28 August 2026

### Apply Here

<https://www.mtn.com/pachipanda-challenge/>



# Events

## NCF/Union Bank Beach Cleanup: A Shared Commitment to Healthier Oceans



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Protecting our coastlines requires collective action.

Recently, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation partnered with Union Bank Plc for a beach cleanup initiative to remove waste from our shoreline while raising awareness about responsible waste management and marine conservation.

Every piece of litter removed represents a step towards healthier oceans, cleaner beaches, and a safer environment for both people and wildlife.

More importantly, the initiative demonstrated the impact that can be achieved when organizations, institutions, volunteers, and local communities come together with a shared commitment to environmental stewardship.



We extend our sincere appreciation to Union Bank Plc, the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), students, volunteers, and everyone who contributed to the success of this initiative.

Together, we are creating cleaner coastlines, healthier ecosystems, and a more sustainable future for generations to come.



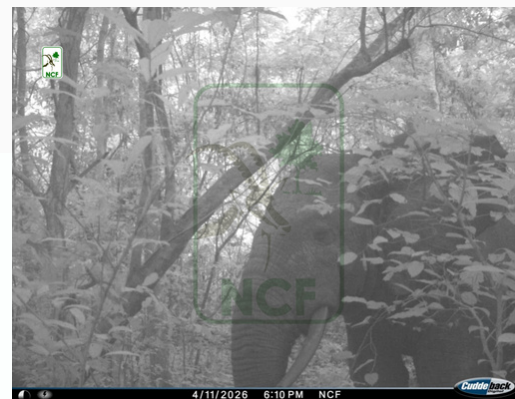
# Species Spotlight: African Forest Elephants (*Loxodonta cyclotis*)

The African forest elephant is a smaller, forest-adapted African elephant with straighter, downward-pointing tusks and more rounded ears, primarily inhabiting the rainforests of Central and West Africa.

It is ecologically important as a major seed disperser and forest engineer.

This species is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild due to heavy poaching for ivory and habitat loss. Farming, logging, and roads increase conflict and illegal trade.

This August, as we commemorate World Elephant Day, stand with us to protect Nigeria's remaining elephants and secure their future in the wild. .



## FUN FACT

They are important long-distance seed disperser shaping forest composition

## 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 LION DAY

WORLD ELEPHANT DAY

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

AUGUST 10TH

AUGUST 12TH

AUGUST 12TH



# Partnerships

## Advancing Collaboration for Conservation



The Nigerian Conservation Foundation's Director-General, Dr. Joseph Onoja, accompanied by two Directors and the Head of our Abuja Office, held high-level meetings with key development partners to explore strategic partnerships.

The team met with Save the Children, where discussions with the Deputy Country Director for Nigeria centered on identifying areas of collaboration.

A similar meeting was held with Christian Blind Mission (CBM), hosted by the Country Director. In addition, the team engaged with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to explore opportunities for partnership in advancing shared development goals.

At NCF, we recognize that lasting conservation outcomes are achieved through strong partnerships.

We look forward to the outcomes these conversations will bring, as we continue working with organizations that share our vision for a sustainable future.





# Events

## NCF/TotalEnergies Initiative: Donation of 4 Recycling Bins to Strengthens Environmental Education in Schools



As part of our commitment to environmental education, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation donated four recycling bins and organized Clean-Up Challenges at Aje Comprehensive School Complex, Yaba, and Herbert Macaulay School Complex, Apapa.

The initiative is helping to equip students with the knowledge and practical skills needed to embrace proper waste management and environmental responsibility.

By teaching young people that every piece of waste has its place, we are nurturing a generation that values cleaner communities and is committed to protecting the environment.

This initiative is proudly supported by TotalEnergies Nigeria,





# Partnerships

## NCF, Wild Africa Partner to Amplify Elephant Conservation Ahead of World Elephant Day

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) is partnering with Wild Africa to commemorate World Elephant Day 2026 through an integrated public awareness and behaviour change campaign themed “Giants of Our Heritage.” The partnership brings together NCF’s conservation expertise and Wild Africa’s strategic communications strength to tell the story of Nigeria’s remaining elephants, the landscapes where they survive, and the people working to protect them.

As part of the campaign, NCF and Wild Africa will convene a virtual media brief ahead of World Elephant Day on August 12. The session will feature conservation experts Dr. Stella Egbe of NCF and Dr. Mark Ofua of Wild Africa, who will provide journalists with insights into the status of Nigeria’s remaining elephants, the threats they face, their ecological importance, and the conservation actions needed to secure their future.

The partnership will also leverage strategic digital conversations, including an X Space, to take elephant conservation beyond traditional media and into wider public discourse. By bringing conservation experts, media voices, youth and other stakeholders into accessible conversations, these engagements will help deepen public understanding of why elephants matter and encourage Nigerians to become advocates for their protection.



Through these coordinated efforts, NCF and Wild Africa seek to increase national awareness of the plight of Nigeria’s remaining elephants, strengthen public appreciation for their ecological and cultural value, and inspire positive actions that support wildlife and habitat protection.





# Events

## Equinix Inc. One Million Fruit Tree Planting Project in partnership with NCF

The Equinix Inc. One Million Tree Planting Project is a proposed long-term environmental restoration and climate action initiative to be implemented in partnership with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF). The initiative aims to support the planting of one million fruit trees across Nigeria over a four-year period, contributing to climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and improved environmental resilience.

Under the proposed partnership, NCF is expected to provide its technical expertise in conservation, tree planting, site selection, species selection, project implementation, community engagement, and monitoring. The project will prioritize the planting of indigenous/ fruit tree species while promoting long-term survival and maintenance of planted trees.

The initiative is expected to deliver multiple environmental and social benefits, including carbon sequestration, restoration of degraded landscapes, enhancement of biodiversity, improvement of ecosystem services, and increased community participation in environmental conservation. It will also provide an opportunity for Equinix Inc. to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and climate action through a measurable, high-impact nature-based solution in Nigeria.



As part of the initial implementation, a 1,000-fruit-tree planting project has been discussed, with payment processed and project documentation/MoU development in process. A ceremonial tree-planting event which held at the Lekki Conservation Centre (LCC) was also executed as the inaugural ceremony for the one million fruit tree project to be implemented over a four year period.

In summary, the partnership seeks to leverage Equinix's sustainability commitment and NCF's conservation expertise to establish a scalable, measurable, and nationally significant tree-planting programme that contributes to climate resilience, biodiversity protection, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable development in Nigeria.



## Discover Our Latest Podcast Episodes



### Stories From the Field II: Lessons From Nigeria

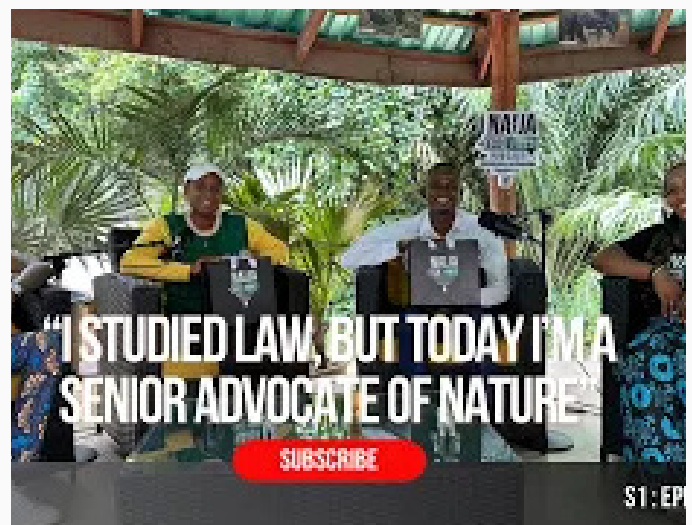
Our hosts sit down with Shittu Usman, Climate Lead, and Joshua Dazi, Programmes Development Manager at the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, to share firsthand stories from the field, explore how local knowledge strengthens conservation, discuss the realities of implementing environmental projects, and reflect on the lessons learned along the way.

[WATCH](#)

### Climate Careers: Green Jobs and Youth Opportunities in a Changing World

Climate change is not just an environmental crisis. It's opening new frontiers for jobs, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

In this episode, we sit with two incredible changemakers to explore how young Nigerians can tap into green jobs, climate-smart businesses, and sustainable opportunities in a changing world.

[WATCH](#)



# Event

## Business Advisory Group: Nigeria Takes a Major Step Towards Nature-Positive Business



The Nigerian Conservation Foundation in partnership with Natural Eco Capital and support from Business for Nature held the Final Validation Workshop to review and adopt the Business Action Plan which serves as a standardized approach for private sector integration and engagement on biodiversity issues.

This marks a pivotal step ahead toward positioning Nigeria as a regional leader in nature positive business practices, aligning corporate action with national development priorities and global biodiversity commitments

The core purpose of the validation exercise was to subject the fully developed BAP framework to rigorous stakeholder scrutiny before final technical sign-off

The workshop successfully validated key actions under Nigeria's Biodiversity Action Plan, identified regulatory and operational gaps, and strengthened commitments from government, the private sector, and financial institutions to advance biodiversity action in Nigeria.





## 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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