

The ROAN



TIMES

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE NIGERIAN CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

OCTOBER 2026



This Issue:

NCF and NEC Launches Nigeria's Business Action Plan
NCF at BirdLife Global Partnership Meeting
NCF at the Launch of Securing Nigeria's Forest Future
World Gorilla Day Commemoration

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Dear Esteemed Readers,

The future of conservation is shaped by what we choose to do with the challenges before us. Across Nigeria, threatened species face mounting pressure, forests need sustained protection, and biodiversity loss demands more than good intentions.

This October edition of The Roan Times explores how these realities are driving action, from urgent calls to protect vultures and the Cross River gorilla to broader efforts to strengthen the policies, investment and partnerships that nature needs to thrive.

A common thread runs through these stories: lasting conservation depends on connecting ambition with the people, resources and knowledge that make progress possible. Whether through initiatives designed to mobilise finance for biodiversity, long-term plans for Nigeria's forests, collaboration across the global conservation community, or practical training for emerging conservationists, the work featured here reflects a commitment to building solutions that endure. It is a reminder that the scale of the environmental challenges we face calls for both immediate action and a clear vision for the future.

As you explore this edition, I invite you to consider the role each of us can play in shaping that future. The protection of our natural heritage rests on collective responsibility, informed decisions and a willingness to act before what we value is lost. From the forests that sustain wildlife and communities to the next generation of conservation leaders, there is much worth protecting, and much still to be done.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

Events

IVAD 2026: NCF Calls for Urgent Action to Halt Illegal Killing and Trade of Vultures



In commemoration of International Vulture Awareness Day 2026, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation calls for urgent and coordinated action to save Nigeria's rapidly declining vulture populations, warning that illegal killing and trade in vulture parts are pushing the country's vultures toward extinction.

Of the seven vulture species found in Nigeria, four are classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List: The Hooded Vulture, White-backed Vulture, Rüppell's Vulture, and White-headed Vulture. The situation is most dire for the Hooded Vulture, *Necrosyrtes monachus*, once a common sight in Nigerian cities and abattoirs. The species has declined by an estimated 95% since the early 2000s.

Research indicates that Nigeria has become a major hub for the regional trade. An estimated 73% of vulture carcasses traded across West Africa pass through Nigerian markets.



[Read more](#)

Engagements

BirdLife Global Partnership Meeting: NCF Joins Global Conservation Leaders to Strengthen Action for Nature



Nature does not recognise borders, and neither do the challenges threatening it. That is why partnerships matter.

We recently joined partners from across the world at the BirdLife Global Partnership Meeting and Global Flyway Summit, hosted by Nature Kenya at Safari Park Hotel.

The gathering brought together conservation leaders and partners to share experiences, exchange ideas and explore some of the opportunities and challenges shaping conservation today.

Representing NCF were the Chairman of the National Executive Council (NEC), Hon. Justice (Mrs.) R.I.B. Adebisi; the Director-General, Dr. Joseph Onoja; and the Director, Business Development and Partnerships, Mr. Uchenna Achunine.



The delegation connected with conservation leaders and partners across the BirdLife Partnership, including Mr. Mike Rands, Chairman of the BirdLife Global Council; Mr. Martin Harper, CEO of BirdLife International; and Mr. Ademola Ajagbe, Managing Director of The Nature Conservancy and a former staff member of NCF.

For us, the value of partnership goes beyond coming together. It is about learning from what others are doing, sharing what works in our own context, and taking those lessons back home to strengthen action for nature in Nigeria.

News and Updates

NCF and NEC Launch Nigeria Business Action Plan to Drive Biodiversity Action



Following the Final Validation Workshop, we officially inaugurated the BAP, bringing together stakeholders from government, business, financial institutions and civil society.

The BAP provides a roadmap to help halt biodiversity loss and restore 30% of degraded degraded ecosystems, mainstream biodiversity into corporate and policy decisions, mobilise over ₦500 billion in green finance and biodiversity investment, strengthen biodiversity monitoring and reporting, and build stronger partnerships for action.

It also recognises the value of indigenous knowledge in shaping how we conserve and sustainably manage our natural resources.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Joseph Onoja, DG of NCF, noted that biodiversity had become a global priority, highlighting Nigeria's efforts to translate this global agenda into action through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2025-2030.



The project was delivered in partnership with Natural Eco Capital, with funding support from Business for Nature.

[Watch video to learn more](#)

Announcements

Walk For Nature 2026: Get Ready!



**NIGERIAN
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**
for nature... for people... for Nigeria

20TH Anniversary Walk for Nature 2026

THEME:
INSPIRED for CLIMATE ACTION

OVER 2000 PARTICIPANTS

SATURDAY 7 AM
17TH OCTOBER, 2026

**MAKANJUOLA HALL,
LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY
(LASU), OJO, LAGOS**

CAMPUS STORM | NETWORKING | CELEBRITY APPEARANCES

PARTICIPATION IS FREE: USE LINK bit.ly/20thWFN2026 TO REGISTER

#NowForClimate



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Register: <https://bit.ly/20thWFN2026>

News and Updates

NCF Empowers the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

Building a strong future for conservation requires more than passion for nature. Young conservationists also need the skills, knowledge and opportunities to turn their commitment into meaningful impact.

To support this, NCF organised a 2 Peer-Exchange Training on Fundraising, Proposal Development and Career Advancement for Conservationists on 15 and 16 September 2026 at the NCF Boardroom, Lekki Conservation Centre.

Facilitated by Adelakun Kabir Adekunle, a DAAD Scholar, PhD candidate, experienced grant recipient and Co-coordinator of the Nigerian Youth Biodiversity Network, the training featured practical sessions on identifying funding opportunities, developing strong proposals and navigating career pathways in the conservation sector. The hybrid training format enabled participants to join both physically and virtually, expanding access to the learning opportunity.

The training equipped participants with practical skills in proposal writing, grant applications, scholarship applications, CV development, interview preparation, logical frameworks and budget writing.

Interactive sessions, practical assessments and insights from experienced Project Managers in NCF's Technical Programmes helped connect learning with real-world conservation work during the training.



Engagements

NCF at the Launch of the Securing Nigeria's Forest Future (SNFF) Country Package

Nigeria has taken another step towards protecting its forests and restoring degraded landscapes with the launch of the Securing Nigeria's Forest Future (SNFF) Country Package, a 10-year plan designed to strengthen forest conservation and build climate resilience.

Earlier in September, The Nigerian Conservation Foundation joined the Federal Ministry of Environment and other partners at the launch, led by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Alhaji Balarabe Abbas Lawal.

Running from 2026 to 2036, the SNFF Country Package aims to mobilise \$1 billion in investment and restore two million hectares of degraded land. Beyond restoring forests, the plan seeks to curb deforestation, strengthen forest governance and create green job opportunities for women and young people.

Backed by Nigeria's National Forest Policy, REDD+ Strategy and Climate Change Act, as well as the country's international climate and biodiversity commitments, the initiative provides a framework for coordinated action towards a more sustainable forest future.

We are proud to have contributed to the development of this roadmap. We recognise that securing Nigeria's forests requires strong partnerships, sustained investment and a shared commitment to turning plans into action.

As implementation begins, we look forward to working with the government and fellow partners to advance forest restoration, protect biodiversity and support a greener, more resilient Nigeria.



Project Spotlight

Community Rangers in Action Under the ALEC Project

Conservation efforts are most effective when the people who live closest to nature are equipped to help protect it. Under the ALEC Project, community rangers are putting this principle into practice.

During a routine patrol, community rangers working under the project encountered a fisherman with a sea turtle. Following an engagement with the fisherman, the turtle was handed over to the team and safely released back into the water.

While the encounter may appear to be a small moment, it offers a practical example of community-based conservation in action. The rangers were able to respond to a wildlife encounter, engage a community member and help ensure the turtle returned safely to its natural habitat.

It also highlights the importance of working with local communities to protect wildlife. Through engagement, knowledge-sharing and support for community-led conservation, initiatives such as the ALEC Project can help strengthen the role of local people in safeguarding biodiversity.

Every successful intervention is an opportunity to protect wildlife and reinforce the shared responsibility communities have in conserving the natural environment.



Naija Eco Vibes Podcast

Discover Our Latest Podcast Episodes



Beyond the Headlines: Who is Telling Nigeria's Climate Story?

In this Episode of the Naija Eco Vibes, we go Beyond the Headlines to examine who is telling Nigeria's climate story, how that story is being told, and what it will take to make climate change more relatable, relevant and actionable for Nigerians.

Guests: Mrs. Ayoola Kassim and Mr. Iposu Oluwakayode.

[WATCH](#)

Circular Economy: Turning Waste into Wealth

Every day, Lagos generates over 13,000 tonnes of waste and about 15% of that is plastic. When unmanaged, it blocks drainages, fuels flooding, and pollutes communities. But what if we told you waste can be a resource? In this episode, we explore how the circular economy can turn trash into treasure, create jobs, and drive sustainable growth.

[WATCH](#)



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Species Spotlight: Cross River gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*)

This month, we are spotlighting the the Cross River gorilla.

The Cross River gorilla is a critically endangered subspecies of the western gorilla, restricted to a small region along the Nigeria–Cameroon border near the Cross River headwaters. It is one of the rarest and most geographically isolated gorilla populations.

They provide ecosystem services such as seed dispersal and forest regeneration. Yet, their survival is under serious threat.

This species is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild and now listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



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

WALK FOR NATURE 2026

OCTOBER 17TH

WORLD NATIONAL REPTILE
AWARENESS DAY

OCTOBER 21ST

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
CLIMATE ACTION

OCTOBER 24TH

WORLD SUSTAINABILITY DAY

OCTOBER 28TH

Events

World Gorilla Day: Protecting the Cross River Gorilla and the Future of Its Habitats

Imagine a world where one of our closest living relatives disappears from the wild. For the Cross River gorilla, that possibility is real. With fewer than 300 estimated to remain in the wild, this rare great ape is one of the most threatened gorilla populations in the world.

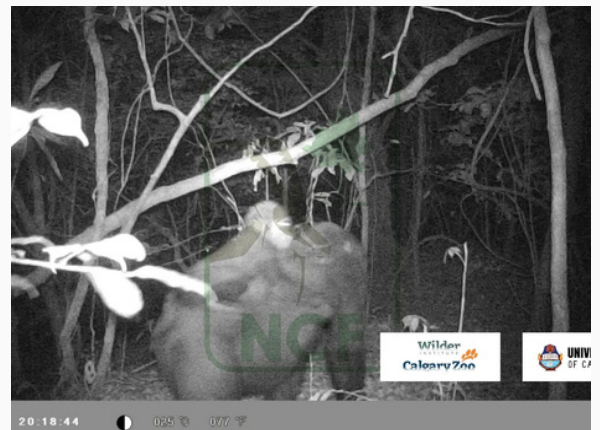
Found only in the rugged, fragmented forests along the Nigeria-Cameroon border, Cross River gorillas are difficult to study and protect. Habitat loss from farming and logging, poaching, disease outbreaks and other human activities continue to threaten their survival.

But protecting gorillas is about more than saving a species. The forests they depend on are also home to other wildlife and provide important resources for the communities living around them. Preserving these forests helps protect biodiversity and maintain the natural systems that people depend on.

Protecting a species this rare requires more than addressing immediate threats. It also means investing in the people, knowledge and partnerships needed to secure its future.

Through the Cross River Gorilla Initiative, NCF, the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research (CBCR) and the University of Calabar are working with partners to strengthen conservation leadership in Nigeria and across West Africa.

With support from Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo, the initiative supports graduate researchers studying Cross River gorillas, their forest habitat and the communities that share the landscape.



By providing research opportunities and encouraging knowledge exchange, the programme helps develop the skills and experience needed to advance gorilla conservation over the long term.

The work also recognises the importance of local communities. People who live closest to these forests have a valuable role to play in protecting them. Sharing knowledge, supporting local conservation leadership and building stronger relationships between researchers and communities can help create solutions that work for both people and wildlife.

At NCF, we remain committed to working with our partners to support the next generation of conservation leaders and strengthen efforts to protect this remarkable species.

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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