

Project Update: April 2018

Details of the Progress Report

The second phase of our project involved community-based education and awareness for the conservation of amphibians and reptiles in Gashaka Gumti National Park (GGNP) Serti Taraba State, Nigeria.

In this phase, we aimed at:

- Enlightening the public, with particular emphasis on schools and host community, on the socio-economic and ecological importance of amphibians and reptiles; and
- Improving awareness for conservation of amphibians and reptiles, and their associated habitat.

Our conservation outreach and education comprised of 18 conservationists including staff and field assistants at GGNP, and two postgraduate students each from University of Ibadan and Modibbo Adamu University of Technology, Nigeria.



Some of the conservationists involved in the conservation education and outreach

Below are the summaries of the conservation education and awareness in schools and host community.

Conservation education and awareness in schools

Three secondary schools located within the environs of GGNP, Serti were selected - Army Day Secondary School, Early Demonstration Secondary School and Mohammed Samba Secondary School.

Army Day Secondary School

In Army Day Secondary School, about 250 students and 10 teachers participated in the conservation outreach.



Arrival and meeting with the management of Army Day Secondary School



Students of Army Day Secondary School listening attentively to the conservation education



Teaching and interactive session led by RSG Lead Applicant – Lotanna Micah Nneji



Teaching and interactive session led by RSG Lead Applicant – Dr Adeola Adeniyi Charles



Question and answer session led by Dr Adeola Adeniyi Charles



Question and answer session led by Oluwakemi Adeola Ayoola



Presentation of exercise books to students that participated in the Question & Answer session.



Left: Management of Army Day Secondary School. Right: Students of Army Day Secondary School.

Early Demonstration Secondary School

In Early Demonstration Secondary School, we witnessed a great turnout of more than 300 students and 20 teachers.



Conservation awareness and interactive sessions at Early Demonstration Secondary School.



Students that participated in the Question & Answer session and presentation of exercise books at Early Demonstration Secondary School.



Left: Leaders of Conservation Club of Early Demonstration Secondary School. Right: Students from Early Demonstration Secondary School.

Mohammed Samba Secondary School

Our conservation outreach in Mohammed Samba Secondary School involved mostly about 70 students from the Conservation Club of the school.



Conservation outreach and awareness at Mohammed Samba Secondary School.



Left: Management of Mohammed Samba secondary School. Right: Management and students that participated in the Question & Answer session.



Left: Members of Conservation Club of Mohammed Samba Secondary School. Right: Presentation of exercise books to the leader of Conservation Club of Mohammed Samba Secondary School.

Our conservation outreach in these secondary schools involved interactive sessions, demonstration classes and also question and answer sessions. Students participated en masse and many questions were raised on the beneficial roles of amphibians and reptiles and need for its conservation. Students that participated in the question and answer sessions were rewarded with little gifts such as exercise books (specially designed with Rufford Foundation logo for the conservation of the conservation of amphibians and reptiles in GGNP Serti Taraba State).

Furthermore, we encouraged the various school proprietors on the need for establishment and sustenance of Conservation Clubs which could aid in increasing the level of awareness of youngsters on the conservation of amphibians and reptiles, and its associated habitat.

Conservation education and awareness in Community

Our conservation education in the host community focused mainly on Goje community located within GGNP.



Conservation outreach in Goje, one of the host communities.



Conservation outreach at Goje community.



Residents in Goje community including the community leader and hunters.

The community outreach witnessed great participation including traditional leaders, elderly men and women, hunters, market women and men, youths and children. In summary, about 180 residents participated in this community outreach programme.

We integrated scientific and local knowledge in the conservation education and awareness in this local community.