

Project Update: April 2021

Activities Completed

15/04/2021

Activity: Dragonfly survey

Dragonflies were sampled by opportunistic visual encounter along Sunmoge river, from N06.59593: E004.27862 to N06.59571: E004.27877. Following paths within the forest, species were also sampled from N06.59545: E004.27833 to N06.59763: E004.28514. Species collected were photographed and released. Photos were compiled and the species were identified from the photos using field guide provided by Dijkstra¹.

Rationale: The survey was done to know the species of Odonata present and also to monitor the population of the endangered *Ceriagrion citrinum* (See table 1).

Result: One male of the endangered *Ceriagrion citrinum* was found after an intensive search. A total of 15 species of dragonflies were observed. As at the time of writing this report, one genus (*Pseudagrion* sp.) has not been identified to the species level.

17/04/2021

Activity: Conservation Club Class

After project materials were distributed, children of the conservation club were offered lectures on the role of forest to sustaining species of dragonflies in their locality. They were then led into the forest by the project facilitator who interpreted nature to them and explain how to sample dragonflies.

Rationale: Nature club experiences may help students form new attitudes toward species which may lead to good conservation behavior (Hassan *et al.*, 2017).

Result: The children were gainfully engaged in conservation activities. Pupils acquired skills in tree planting and could explain in basic terms why they had to plant trees in their locality.

17/04/2021

Activity: Tree Planting

Tree seedlings including species of *Funtumia elastica*, *Sterculia rhinopetala* and *Bosqueia angolenses* were planted in Sunmoge.

Rationale: Trees had to be planted because they are being felled each day without replacement (Figure 1) therefore reducing the forest area for the endangered *Ceriagrion citrinum* and other insects of ecotourism importance in Sunmoge.

Result: The already degraded Sunmoge forest was enriched. The planted seedlings were handed over to the community head (Baale) who assigned a resident to take care of the plants.

29/04/2021

Activity: Information sharing

Photos of dragonflies from the survey were shared via the personal social media platforms of Ekpah Ojonugwa.

Rationale: This is to create publicity about the project as well as to attract potential tourists to Sunmoge.

Result: The social media audience were intrigued by the photos with 20 likes so far as well as some interactive comments.

Table 1. Species List

Family	Species	No. of individuals recorded
Coenagrionidae	<i>Ceriagrion citrinum</i> Campion, 1914	1
	<i>Ceriagrion glabrum</i> (Burmeister, 1839)	3
	<i>Pseudagrion</i> sp.	1
Libellulidae	<i>Acisoma inflatum</i> Selys, 1882	1
	<i>Chalcostephia flavifrons</i> Kirby, 1889	4
	<i>Orthetrum julia</i> Kirby, 1900	3
	<i>Oxythemis phoenicosceles</i> Ris, 1910	1
	<i>Pantala flavescens</i> (Fabricius, 1798)	3
	<i>Rhyothemis fenestrina</i> (Rambur, 1842)	4
	<i>Thermochoria equivocate</i> Kirby, 1889	19
	<i>Tholymis tillarga</i> Hagen, 1861	2
	<i>Trithemis dichroa</i> Karsch, 1893	1
	<i>Urothemis assignata</i> Selys, 1872	2
	<i>Urothemis edwardsii</i> Selys, 1849	7
Calopterygidae	<i>Phaon iridipennis</i> Selys, 1853	2

Table 2. No. of *C. citrinum* sighted in 2021 in Sunmoge

Month	GPS	Number
January		
February	N06.60074: E004.286502	2
March		
April	N06.59571: E004.27877	1
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
Total		

Reference

¹Dijkstra, K.-D. B (editor). African Dragonflies and Damselflies Online. <http://addo.adu.org.za/> [2021-04-29].

Hassan, R., Yahya, N. K., Ong, L. M., Kheng, L. K., Abidin, Z. Z., Ayob, A., and Jainal, A. M. (2017). Public awareness program and development of education toolkit for green sea turtle conservation in Sarawak, Malaysia. *International Journal of Environmental and Science Education*, 12(3), 463–474.



Figure 1. Ekpah Ojonugwa planting trees a few distance to where some trees were felled ©Ibukun Lawal A.



Figure 2. One of the tree species planted in Sunmoge ©Clifford Omonu



Figure 3. Ekpah Ojonugwa walking into the forest for a survey ©Ibukun Lawal A.



Figure 4. Ekpah Ojonugwa with Children of Sunmoge after the conservation club class
©Ibukun Lawal A.



Figure 5. Pupils were made to water the planted trees during the Conservation club class
©Ibukun Lawal A.



Figure 6. Project materials were distributed to the children @Ekpah Ojonugwa



Figure 7. One of the pupils of the Conservation Club @Ekpah Ojonugwa



Figure 8. *Pseudagrion* sp. @Ekpah Ojonugwa



Figure 9. *Urothemis edwardsii* @Ekpah Ojonugwa

Credits:

Project update was solely written by Ekpah Ojonugwa.

Many thanks to the Nigerian Conservation Foundation for technical assistance. Also the project team appreciate the *Baale* of Sunmoge for offering lunch for the team during the work.