

Project Update: January 2021

Activities Completed

Date: 08/01/2021 Activity: A project poster was created, and The Rufford Foundation's logo included.

Rationale: The poster was shared on my personal WhatsApp and Facebook page to create awareness about the project.

Result: There were some feedback from viewers including some students of higher institutions in Nigeria who demonstrated interest in learning from the project.

Date: 13/01/2021 Activity: Meeting with the DG of Nigerian Conservation Foundation by Ekpah Ojonugwa.

Rationale: To discuss the release of project funds and solicit support for the project.

Result: The DG stated that:

1. The equivalent of the grant funding will be paid in Naira and will be paid in phases.
2. That Ekpah Ojonugwa will provide receipt and make retirement for every money spent in the project to the foundation.
3. That the Nigerian Conservation Foundation is proud of the achievements of Ekpah Ojonugwa and will therefore support the project.

Date: 14/01/2021 Activity: Project buy-in: Sunmoge village was visited by Ekpah Ojonugwa and a member of the project team. Community leaders were requested to select a convenient date for the community entry activities.

Rationale: Although the community entry is scheduled for February 2021, it was necessary to meet with the *Baale* (Community Chief) and elders of Sunmoge to brief them on project plan.

Result: The leaders of Sunmoge embraced the project and selected the 17th February 2021 for the community entry.

Date: 15/01/2021 Activity: Dragonfly collection (survey) activity was carried out in Omo Forest Reserve. Pictures were taken.

Rationale: A knowledge of the species available would help to determine the dominant ones as well as those associated with the target species.

Result: A total of 15 species of odonates were recorded from Omo Forest including the scarce female *Hadrothemis coacta*.

Date: 16/01/2021 Activity: Pictures were uploaded on Facebook page of the dragonflies and damsel flies of southern Africa.

Rationale: To drive ecotourism by attracting nature enthusiasts to Nigeria. Funder was tagged in acknowledgement so that they can receive publicity.

Result: 10 persons (more are expected) 'like' the photos on the Facebook page.

Date: 17/01/2021 Activity: Development of educational and capacity building curriculum.

Rationale: This is a plan of lectures that the project facilitators will follow to offer training on conservation education to the villagers.

Results: The project facilitators know exactly the topics and the breakdown of topics to teach the residents and students of Sunmoge village.

Date: 17/01/2021 Activity: Questionnaire was made. This will be administered to the community inhabitants at the beginning and end of project implementation.

Rationale: Assessment of ecological knowledge of community inhabitants. This is part of the monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Results: The questionnaire is designed to test the ecological knowledge of the residents in the protection of *C. citrinum*.

Species List

Family	Species	No. Collected
Calopterygidae	<i>Sapho ciliata</i> (Fabricius, 1781)	4
	<i>Phaon iridipennis</i> (Burmeister, 1839)	4
Chlorocyphidae	<i>Chlorocypha radix</i> Longfield, 1959	1
	<i>Chlorocypha rubida</i> (Hagen in Selys, 1853)	1
	<i>Chlorocypha selysi</i> (Karsch, 1899)	2
Coenagrionidae	<i>Ceriagrion rubellucerinum</i> Fraser, 1947	1
	<i>Ceriagrion glabrum</i> (Burmeister, 1839)	3
Libellulidae	<i>Chalcostephia flavifrons</i> Kirby, 1889	17
	<i>Hadrothemis coacta</i> (Karsch, 1891)	1
	<i>Orthetrum julia</i> Kirby, 1900	5
	<i>Orthetrum stemmale</i> (Burmeister, 1839)	4
	<i>Palpopleura lucia</i> (Drury, 1773)	21
	<i>Palpopleura portia</i> (Drury, 1773)	5
	<i>Pantala flavescens</i> Hagen, 1861	8
	<i>Tholymis tillarga</i> Hagen, 1861	6

Challenges

1. It was difficult to quickly get a canoe or boat to Sumoge village.
2. The road within the forest areas are bad.
3. No network within the forest.

Discussion

All species were collected between N06.91844, E004.33118 and N06.91841, E004.31950. The identity of all the species listed in table 2 was confirmed by K. D. Djisktra. *Chalcostephia flavifrons* was the most abundant species in the survey. All species collected were 'Least Concern' according to the IUCN Redlist but are of significant importance.

When the word, 'dragonfly' was mentioned in the elders' meeting, they were all ignorant of the meaning until the Yoruba word, '*Lami-lami*' was mentioned. *Lami-lami* is the name for dragonflies in Yoruba language. One of the elders questioned the significance of dragonflies. He was satisfied with the response from Ekpah Ojonugwa

that the dragonflies feed on mosquitoes and hence reduce the risk of malaria fever in Sunmoge. Also, that the presence or absence of Odonata varieties gives an idea of the level of environmental degradation of any particular area. The meeting lasted for about one hour. Two bottles of wine were offered to the elders to show homage.

Proposed activities for February 2021

1. Community entry.
2. Exclusive Interview with the *Bale* of Sunmoge.
3. Distribution of questionnaire.
4. First visit to School and distribution of project materials to students.
5. Comprehensive Dragonfly Survey.
6. Water quality test.



Image 1: *Baale* (Community Leader/Chief) of Sunmoge and his wife listening to the conversation @Ekpah O.



Image 2: Clifford Omonu interpreting comments in Yoruba language to the elders of Sunmoge village. Image 3: One of the elders of Sunmoge community asking questions about the use of dragonflies @Ekpah, O.



Image 4. *Hadrothemis coacta* (female) @Ekpah, O.



Image 5. *Sapho ciliata* female @Ekpah, O.

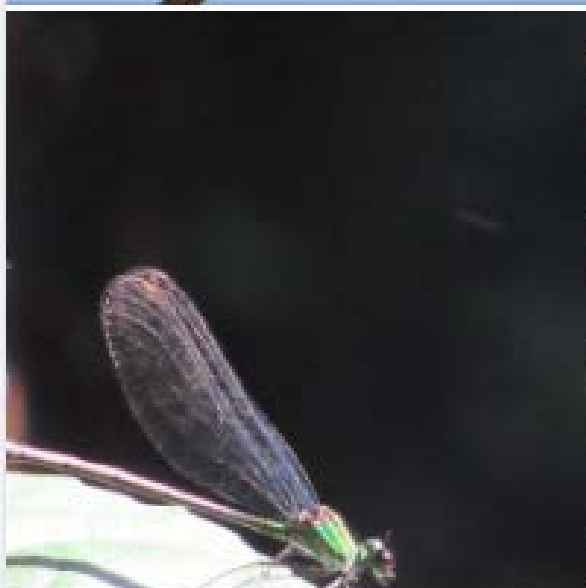
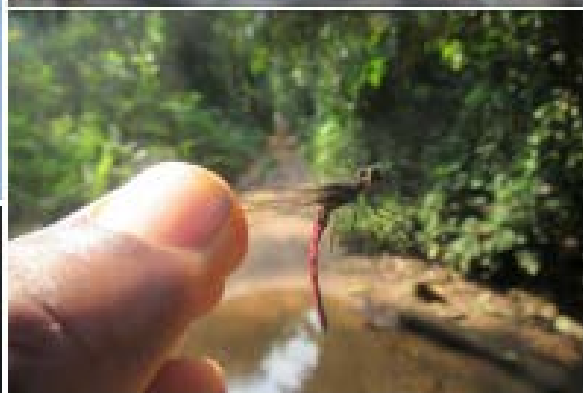


Ekpah Ojonugwa ▸ Dragonflies and Damselflies of Southern Africa

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Yesterday at 7:49 AM · 🌐

Omo Forest Reserve [Omo Forest Reserve The Rufford Foundation Idea Wild](#) 15/01/2021



Judicaël Fomekong Lontchi, Evert PJ Kleynhans and 8 others

Image 6. Facebook post

Capacity Building for fishers and Conservation Club students in Sunmoge Village

Introduction

Sunmoge is a village about 5 km off Lagos-Ore expressway, opposite the Area J4 of Omo Forest Reserve. This locality has about 200 household living along the creek in thatched houses made of bamboo and other materials. They make their living from fishing and it is believed that this necessitated their settlement on and around the creek. This community lies along Latitude 06.598N and Longitude E 04.2858. The people speak Yoruba language. A fish market is usually found along the Oso-Apata-Araromi Obu road that passes across the community. A forest whose fate is uncertain due to the ongoing fragmentation and inappropriate monitoring of resource use surrounds the river that leads to Sunmoge village. There is also a high level of anthropogenic activities including improper waste disposal and open defecation in the river whose water is also for consumption.

The activity plan is to engage the locals and students on the proper use of the resources available to them on which also the endangered yellow waxytail damselfly (*Ceragrion citrinum*) depends.

A. STRENGTHENING OF FISHERS IN SUNMOGE COMMUNITY ON SUSTAINABLE FISHING METHODS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

S/N	Activity	Topic	Key Questions
1.	Lecture 1	Sustainable Fishing Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different fishing methods (e.g., fishing gears, chemical fishing, etc.).• Sustainable ways of fishing.
2.	Lecture 2	Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different types of waste (biodegradable and non-biodegradable)• Waste disposal methods• Health implication of improper wastes disposal (e.g., Cholera, typhoid, etc.)• Personal hygiene (COVID-19)

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSERVATION CLUB IN SUNMOGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

S/N	Activity	Topic	Key Questions
1.	Distribution of project materials to students		
2.	Establishment of Conservation Club	Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is conservation• Why it is necessary to conserve• What are we conserving (<i>Ceragrion citrinum</i>)?• How species are threatened (IUCN Redlist)

3.	Practical session	Field work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection, Identification and release of dragonflies Macrophotography
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Conclusion

The facilitator will explain in detail each of the topics to trainee and ask question to make the training interactive and also to test their level of understanding using simple communication skills. Considering the low level of education of the people, much explanation is required and possible interpretation in their local language.

Questionnaire

Dear respondent,

These questions are to test your ecological knowledge surrounding the endangered Yellow wax tailed damselfly, *Ceriatrigon citrinum*. All information given will be analysed confidentially and used only for research purpose.

Ekpah Ojonugwa: +2347066997644

Gender	Male ()		Female ()	
Age				
Educational background	No formal Education	Primary school	Secondary school	Higher institution
Marital status				
Occupation				
<u>Questions</u>	TRUE	UNDECIDED	FALSE	
Do you know what dragonflies are				
Have you been observing dragonflies				
Do you know the Yellow waxtail damselfly				
Do you know that Dragonflies feed on mosquitoes				
Do you know that animals can go into extinction if there are not protected				
Do you worry about the rate of pollution of the Sunmoge section of the river				
Do tourist visit				

Sunmoge to watch nature			
Do you think planting new trees will help to enrich our forest			
Do the planted seedlings be well protected			
Do you cut down trees in the forest for firewood			
Do you know that the trees provide refuge for dragonflies			
Do you know that the regular movement on the Sunmoge river affect the species of dragonflies			
Do you eat dragonflies			
Other questions			
Does dragonfly have any value to us?			
What is the traditional believe attributed to dragonflies here?			
Are dragonflies used for magic or charms?			
When you see a swarm of dragonflies what it means to you?			
When do you see more of dragonflies...? raining season or dry season?			
Are dragonflies used in traditional medicine?			