

Project Update: March 2021

Activities Completed

17/03/2021

Activity:

Visit was made to International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Ibadan to purchase tree seedlings on the 15/03/2021. The tree seedlings were planted in Sunmoge forest with the cooperation of the residents. Tree seedlings were planted according to silvicultural prescription. The planted trees were handed over to Mr. Lekan who is Baale's son and given stipends to water the plants regularly. The people of Sunmoge were motivated to take care of the plants.

Capacity building on sustainable fishing practice and hygiene was provided for the residents of Sunmoge.

Project materials (project t-shirts and bags) were distributed to primary school pupils (children of Sunmoge community) who were later led into the forest and were taught how to observe dragonflies.

Water quality record was taken using Horiba water meter at N06.59615, E004.27904 and N06.91841, E004.31950.

Exclusive interview with the *Baale* (Chief) of Sunmoge was conducted by NTA correspondence.

Rationale: from the analysis of questionnaire distributed in February 2021, 40 % of the residents of Sunmoge described their occupation as timber contractor meaning that they specialised in felling trees. The forests around Sunmoge in which the endangered *Ceragrion citrinum* is found is under continued threat due to deforestation hence the need to plant more trees.

Water quality parameters of the Sunmoge River were taken in order to know the present physiochemical characteristics in which the dragonflies are coping with. This is because many of the dragonflies including the endangered *Ceragrion citrinum* are stenostopic-meaning that they are highly sensitive to pollution.

Result: A total of 58 native tree seedlings were planted in this first phase including *Baphia nitida* (19 seedlings), *Blighia sapida* (11 seedlings), *Funtumia elastica* (22 seedlings) and *Elaeis guineensis* (six seedlings). They are selected based on their ecological and future economic benefits to the residents.

The Baale of Sunmoge who spoke in Yoruba dialect explained that his people accept to protect dragonflies in their community and stop anthropogenic activities that put them under threat.

20/03/2021

Activity: Information sharing

Media Coverage of the project was broadcast on the national television (Nigerian Television Authority-NTA). The coverage will also be featured on the national TV in a programme titled 'Environment Matters' this week.

A 3-minute media coverage of the event was uploaded on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGJOR9m2QA0>).

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 video with 307 views and 38likes on YouTube as of 30th March 2021.

Table 1. Water Quality record at N06.91841, E004.31950 (Sunmoge River)

Parameter	Value
Temperature	28.26°C
pH	7.73
pH/mV	-51
Oxidation and Reduction Potential	213ORPmV
Electrical Conductivity	0.098mS/cm
Turbidity	24.6NTU
Dissolved Oxygen	4.16mg/LDO
% Dissolved Oxygen	52.1%DO
Total Dissolved Solid	0.063g/LTDS
Salinity	0.0ppt
Depth	0.15m

Table 2. Water Quality record at N06.59615, E004.27904 (Sunmoge River)

Parameter	Value
Temperature	27.86°C
pH	8.1
pH/mV	-76
Oxidation and Reduction Potential	175ORPmV
Electrical Conductivity	0.089mS/cm
Turbidity	12.0NTU
Dissolved Oxygen	5.22mg/LDO
% Dissolved Oxygen	65.6%DO
Total Dissolved Solid	0.058g/LTDS
Salinity	0.0ppt
Depth	0.15m

Proposed activities for April

1. Dragonfly survey
2. Tree planting
3. Capacity building

Challenges

Some men of the Nigerian Police Force mounted roadblocks on our way to IITA Ibadan and caused great delay. They made the taxi travel park checking documents and unfortunately claiming that his documents were not complete.

Photo gallery



Figure 1. Ekpah Ojonugwa taking water quality reading in Sunmoge ©Augustine Ikwunne.
Figure 2. Project team taking tree seedlings into canoe to be transported to Sunmoge ©Ekpah Ojonugwa



Figure 3. Project team on the way to Sunmoge © Clifford Omonu. Figure 4. A cross section of Sunmoge primary school children © Ekpah Ojonugwa



Figure 5. Distribution of project materials to children of Sunmoge © Clifford Omonu. Figure 5. Ekpah Ojonugwa giving wine to the Baale of Sunmoge © Clifford Omonu



Figure 6. Ekpah Ojonugwa having an interview with the media © Clifford Omonu. Figure 7. Exclusive interview with the Baale of Sunmoge © Clifford Omonu



Figure 8. Screen shot from the media broadcast acknowledging the funder

Credits:

All reports were written by Ekpah Ojonugwa

Field assistants were:

Ibukun Lawal A.

Clifford Omonu

Augustine Ikwunne

Horiba water quality recorder was obtained from the zoological department, University of Lagos, Nigeria.