



This edition features the award conferred on Chief Emeka Anyaoku "The Order of the Companion of O.R. Tambo in Gold" by the South African Government.

Also, in this edition is the celebration of the World Earth Day in NCF Lekki Centre and the interview with the 2008 S.L Edu research grant winner conducting a research utilizing Fungi species of Sub-Saharan origin isolated from Irvingia gabonensis to clean-up oil pollution.

Inclusive is the launch of climate change club by the Lagos State Governor whom NCF has commended.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

South Africa honours NCF Life Fellow- Chief Emeka Anyaoku.	1
A Dollar day keeps the Poacher away.	1
NCF and Greenlink celebrates World Earth Day.	
Photo News. News brief.	2
NCF support NYSC initiative.	2
NCF staff bags WWF Leadership Programme Certificate.	2
Lekki conservation Centre. Donation.	2
Governor Fashola launch climate change club. Birthdays.	
It is hope that this research work will again put Nigeria on the head-	3
International News.	4
Specie Focus.	4
Upcoming Events. NCF in brief.	4
How you can support NCF.	

South Africa honours NCF Life Fellow- Chief Emeka Anyaoku

The South African Government recently confers on WWF President, former Common Wealth Secretary-General and one of the distinguished Life Fellows of NCF, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, South Africa's highest honour for non-South African "The Order of the Companions of O.R.Tambo in Gold."

President Thambo Mbeki who presented the award described the recipients as symbols representing the nobility of human endeavour.

According to him "The award is in recognition of Emeka Anyaoku's great contribution to the ending of apartheid and enthronement of democracy in South Africa." President Mbeki cites Chief Anyaoku's early involvement with African National Congress leader Oliver Tambo and colleagues including Nelson Mandela, and his key role as Commonwealth Secretary-General in crucial negotiations in 1991-93 that produced the agreement leading to South Africa's first multi-racial elections.

"We give Chief Anyaoku our heartfelt congratulations," said James Leape, Director General of WWF International. "We also find it particularly appropriate that Chief Anyaoku, a great leader for conservation, is to receive this honour on Earth Day, April 22."

"This award recognises Chief Anyaoku as a man who has made a great difference in bringing about a better world, something he continues to do in his advocacy for a better environment. Chief Anyaoku is one of those rare leaders whose reach extends from the local to the global, as Ichie Adazie of Obosi, leader of his own people, to his roles as Commonwealth Secretary-General and WWF President.

It has been and it continues to be a great privilege for us to work with Chief Anyaoku," he added.



South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki (right), WWF President, former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and Life Fellow of NCF, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, while receiving the country's highest national honour conferred on a non-South African in Pretoria recently.

A Dollar a day keeps the Poacher away

This was the message Mrs. Pat Mary Ryan (a staff of Chevron Nigeria Limited) passed across when she donated the sum of \$365 to NCF for conservation work for the year 2008. Receiving the cheque on behalf of NCF at the Chevron Nigeria Limited headquarters in Lagos, Head of NCF Technical Programmes Department, Mrs. Ronke Olubamise, commented on the increasing interests in conservation globally and individually, stating that the more individuals express such commitment, the further the message of conservation would go.

"Mrs. Ryan has thrown a personal challenge to all of us. Though we all have institutions and corporate bodies we work for, we need to go the extra mile of not only representing our work places but also our very selves. It is this extra mile that will produce greater fruits in the bid to secure a green future."

Mrs. Olubamise expressed NCF's gratitude and assured that the money would be used judiciously.

NCF and Greenlink celebrates World Earth Day

As part of the activities to mark World Earth Day, Greenlink in partnership with Nigerian conservation Foundation (NCF) organised a Family Ecofunfair. The theme of this year celebration was "Start today, Save tomorrow; Clean up our climate!"

It was a relaxing and enjoyable time for families as they were treated with Ecotour into NCF Forest Reserve, exhibitions, film presentation and lots of exciting activities. It was also an opportunity to create awareness about climate change.

Earth day is celebrated on the 22nd of April annually. This is a global effort at recognizing the important of the Earth and the natural resources therein.

Photo News



Prof. Emmanuel Obot (behind the cake) in company of NCF/Ondo State project Staff during his birthday celebration at Ikpele, Ondo State.



Chief Operating Officer, British Gas (BG), Dave Simmonds (second left), Director TPD, NCF, Mr. Alade Adeleke, Corrie Kennedy (right) and IKemeh Rachel (first from left) during BG visit to Omo Oluwa Forest.

News Brief

Birdlife Africa

Mr. Hazel Thompson, Head of Birdlife Africa Partnership visited NCF on April 4, 2008. During his visit he had a short session with the staff in which he did a presentation on work/programmes, achievement and challenges of Birdlife globally.

S.L Edu Research grant winners

Chevron Nigeria recently had an interview with the two awardees of the 2008 S.L Edu research grant. The interview was to know and how far the awardees have gone on their research, took place at the Lekki Conservation Centre (LCC).

Chevron was represented by Miss Akinmeji Folukemi, Internal Communications Representative, Policy, Government and Public Affairs.

NCF Peacock

One of the male peacocks at LCC died recently. According to the Head of Protection Staff, the peacock may have been attacked by a wildcat.

NCF supports NYSC initiative

Corp member and trained Development Knowledge Facilitator (DKF), Bisola Sarumi with students from Girls Grammar School visited the Lekki Conservation Centre (LCC). Bisola is currently training the students as Developmental Knowledge Volunteers (DKVS). Part of their training is to learn about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) and their visit to LCC was anchored on Goal 7. NCF Education Officer, Mrs. Akinola addressed the student, laying emphasis on the importance of conservation in achieving environmental sustainability.

NCF staff bags WWF College Leadership Programme Certificate

My Ademola Ajagbe, the Project Coordinator NCF, Lekki has been presented a certificate on his completion of the WWF College Leadership Programme. The areas of study include the following key competencies: Vision and Planning, Managing Implementation, Working Together, Communication and Areas of Expertise.

Prior to the completion of the Leadership Programme, he attended a workshop in Barcelona, Spain and Vienna, Australia respectively.

Leaders in WFF have the ability to work together to make things happen, they develop themselves and others, seek and bring new insights and knowledge.

Birthdays: Prof Obot a year older

The Executive Director NCF, Professor Emmanuel Obot was a year older on Friday April 11, 2008. The Birthday was celebrated on the field in the new NCF/Ondo State field Project Development office at Ikpele. The celebration was organised by Project Staff and Ondo State government officials.

Sharing the same birthday month with him are the Manager, Media and Public Affairs, Tunde Decker and Assistant Conservation Officer, Media and Public Affairs, Airhekhola Evans.

New arrival

We welcome the arrival of baby Babayomi son of Mr. and Mrs. Onasanya. Mrs Rotimi Onasanya is the Admin Assistant, Administrative Department, NCF.

Also, we welcome the latest arrival of a baby boy, Ikechukwu Ikwunne to Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Ikwunne. Mr Augustine is a Protection Staff of the Lekki Conservation Centre (LCC).

NCF management and staff wish the families all the best.

Lekki Conservation Centre

Lekki Conservation Centre (LCC) have continue to receive visitors since the completion of the first phase of the nature trail.

The list of visitors include school children, college undergraduates from various Universities and Polytechnics, individuals which include local and International tourists and staff from organisations like Sheraton Hotel, Nigerian Breweries, Chevron among others.

LCC has been one of the major tourism destinations in Lagos and remains a haven for conservationists, students and foreign visitors.

NCF Commends Lagos on Climate Change Clubs

The Lagos State Governor, Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN, under the auspices of the Lagos State Ministry of the Environment, recently launched Climate Change Clubs in Lagos schools. The event which took place at Police College, Oba Akinjobi Road, GRA, Ikeja had in attendance official of the Lagos State Government, school children among others.

Commending the initiative, NCF Executive Director, Professor Emmanuel Obot stated "This is an added motivation to conservation efforts. No doubt, it would increase the level of awareness already on ground."

Speaking at the event, the Governor said "The formation of the Club is a major step we are taking to stimulate greater public interest in and awareness of climate issues. Our position in Lagos State is that climate change is real and has to be confronted headlong. If we must deliver on our promise of environmental sustainability, we must take the indices of climate change and global warming seriously."

The Governors dream is that young boys and girls in Lagos will jealously care about their appearances; not only fashion-conscious but also always striving to appear neat and clean; jealously keeping and protecting their environment - at home and in schools.

Speaking also the Commissioner for the Environment, Dr. Muiz Banire said "Lagos State Ministry of the Environment hopes that by sowing the seeds of change early in the lives of our children, they would bring forth fruits that will challenge our sense of complacency, even lethargy, about little things that matter; like turning off the light bulbs when we don't need them, disposing off our waste efficiently and properly, walking to our neighbour's house around the corner instead of driving, or just letting in fresh air instead of using the air-conditioner...."

It is hoped that this research work will again put Nigeria in the headlines– *Sanyaolu*

Sanyaolu Akeem is one of the 2008 S.L Edu research grant winners. In an interview, he spoke about his research usefulness and challenges.

Introduction of self and current position

My name is SANYAOLU, Adeniyi Akeem Adetola. I currently work as Lecturer at the Department of Biological Science, Yaba College of Technology, Lagos Nigeria. I am also a student in the Environmental Biotechnology/Mycology programme, Department of Botany and Microbiology, University of Lagos under the supervision of Dr. A.A. Adekunle, an Associate Professor.

Research topic and the usefulness to the environment

The tentative topic of my research work is Bioremediation Potentials of some Petroleum Hydrocarbon utilizing Fungi species of Sub-Saharan origin isolated from *Irvingia gabonensis*. *Irvingia* in common language is called Bush mango and in some indigenous languages such as Yoruba, Igbo, Edo and Ijaw, it is called Oro, Ugili, Ogwe and Ogboin respectively. We are interested in the Fungi species associated with disease in the seed of this plant, and how they can be exploited for the useful purpose of cleaning-up oil pollution.

The usefulness of this work to the Environment is in the fact that unlike other methods of cleaning up oil pollution, which are known to introduce some xenobiotic to the Environment in the form of chemicals, while others tend to cause a whole array of trauma to the environment, such as to soil physical, chemical and biological properties, in addition to causing serious nutrient loss in the soil, this method is envisaged to be in perfect harmony with the Environment. In addition, it is hoped that this research work will again put Nigeria in the headlines by making the global scientific community aware of the benefits inherent in this plant that widely occur in Nigeria. Also,



Sanyaolu Adeniyi Akeem.

this work is novel in the sense that to the best of our knowledge, this represents a pioneering attempt at exploiting Fungi species from an oil seed for this kind of purpose.

What should be the attitude of policy makers

Generally for all researches, policy makers should encourage researchers to go further, because research is an endless thing. Research work need money and equipment. For instance, I hope to go abroad to identify these fungi because there is no such facility here in Nigeria.

Tertiary institutions should be well funded and equipped particularly for research work that has been identified to be viable for national needs.

How he felt when he was first informed about winning the research grant

I felt very grateful to God for making it possible (this is because I am personally aware of some people with more intimidating credentials who applied for the grant at the same time as I did). Also, I felt grateful to my Supervisor who before any other person did saw the winning streak in this work, and so believed in it.

If he had worked with NCF before and how he heard about the grant

No, I have never worked with NCF before (whether directly nor indirectly).

I got to hear of this through a newspaper advertisement.

His impression on the work that Chevron is doing in environment conservation and biodiversity

In all sincerity, I do not know so much about other efforts of Chevron Nigeria Limited in this regard, other than what it is doing to support the NCF and if I am to comment on this, I will say that Chevron Nigeria Limited is doing a great job (because to me as far back as 1995, during my NYSC days, on my first visit to NCF premises in Lagos, I formed the opinion that NCF is Chevron).

Most important challenges facing the environment and the likely solutions

To me, the most important challenge especially in this part of the world is poverty and illiteracy. Next to this is the problem of lack of adaptive and sustainable technology (this is an issue because we just import foreign technologies without considering our peculiar socio-cultural and biophysical terrain).

The solution I will propose to this problem is two fold namely: *heavy investment in research and human capital development and genuine efforts of all and sundry at reducing the twin scourge of poverty and illiteracy.*

On a final note, I wish to say a big thank you to Chevron Nigeria Limited and the NCF for the research grant, and the opportunity of being heard via their newsletters.

International News

WWF warns Arctic ice melting faster than predicted

MONTREAL (AFP) - Arctic sea ice is melting "significantly faster" than predicted and is approaching a point of no return, conservation group the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) warned in a new study.

The volumes of the Greenland Ice Sheet and ice in the Arctic Ocean were estimated at 2.9 million and 4.4 million cubic metres respectively in September 2007 -- the lowest ever levels recorded, the organization said Wednesday.

The sea ice shrank to 39 percent below its 1979-2000 mean volume, it said.

"Recently observed changes are happening at rates significantly faster than predicted" by the 2005 Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and last year's report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), WWF said.

The melting of arctic sea ice and the Greenland Ice Sheet was happening so fast that experts were now questioning whether the situation is close to "tipping point," where sudden and possibly irreversible change takes place.

"When you look in detail at the science behind the recent Arctic changes it becomes painfully clear how our understanding of climate impacts lags behind the changes that we are already seeing in the Arctic," said Martin Sommerkorn, one of the authors of the report.

The WWF will present its report, comprised of the latest research in the region, to the meeting Thursday of the Arctic Council, which groups Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States.

The conservation group's researchers also warned of the devastating effect the rapid melting of the arctic ice could have on polar bears in Canada, where two thirds of the world's population of the animals live.

"Previous models had predicted that melting sea ice would mean some polar bear populations could become extinct by 2050. The new

evidence points to even earlier regional extinctions," said Peter Ewins, director of species conservation at WWF-Canada.

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada will present the government with its estimates of the status of polar bears there on Friday.

How you can support NCF

You can make a significant contribution towards the sustainable development by supporting the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) through the following ways:

- By supporting a staff management position.
- By providing field and other equipment.
- Vehicles for normal and difficult terrain e.g. four-wheel drives.
- Cameras including video cameras for our documentaries.
- Kits for rangers.
- Communication equipment e.g. walkie talkie, cell phones, video recorder, television sets, recorder etc.
- Computer, copiers and other office equipment.

Up coming events:

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD), 10th-11th May, 2008.

World Environment Day (WED), 5th June, 2008.



Editor:

Tunde Decker

Associate Editor:

Ekong Ita (Ms.).

Production Editor:

Evans Airhekholo.

For enquires, contact:

Media and Public Affairs Unit

Nigerian Conservation Foundation

Km. 19 Lekki—Epe Expressway, Lekki

P.O. Box 74638,

Victoria Island,

Lagos, Nigeria.

Tel. 234-1-2642498, 4718693

Fax: 234-1-2642497

E-mail: info@ncfnigeria.org

Website : www.ncfnigeria.org

Specie Focus

Mona monkeys are species found in a wide variety of forest types and can live near human habitation. This species are diurnal (i.e. active in the day) and arboreal (i.e. they live on trees). They usually carryout their activities in groups having a male as their group leader.

Mona monkeys, *Cercopithecus Mona* are found in Southwest Africa. These countries include Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Senegal, Congo, Kasai and Gambia. Some places where they are found in Nigeria include: Yankari Game Reserve, Gashaka Gumti National Park, Kanji National Park and Okomu National Park.



Mona monkeys are Omnivorous. Feed on fruits (e.g. Palm fruit, Raphia fruit, Crab, fresh leaves (Vitex), Coconut etc), sprouts, young leaves, and invertebrates. Of all species in the genus *Cercopithecus*, *Cercopithecus Mona* eats the greatest proportion of insects and least of leaves.

An interesting aspect of the feeding habits of these animals is how they store their food in cheek pouches. The capacity of these pouches is almost as large as that of the stomach. The pouches extend from the lower teeth to both sides of the neck. The cusps on the teeth are good for grinding food, which suits the diverse diet of the species.

The average body mass for an adult male Mona monkey is around 4.4kg, and for the females it is around 2.5kg. Males are typically larger than females, so there is sexual dimorphism in size. Other than size however, males and females are similar....

NCF In Brief

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) is a non governmental organization established in 1980 and formally registered as a charitable trust in 1982.

For twenty five years, NCF has remained the flagship of environmental NGOs in Nigeria, and has through its conservation projects maintained a nature conservation standard with unrivalled competence. Its ability to localize global conservation efforts with adequate attention to local peculiarities is evident in the needs of local inhabitants that are being met on a daily basis in its multiple project sites across Nigeria.

NCF works with international partners including the World Wide Fund for Nature (International) in Gland, Switzerland, Birdlife International, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) , Fauna and Flora International and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Locally, it forges strong partnerships with other environmental NGOs, Government Institutions, the Business Community, the Academia, Students and Local and Urban Communities with the aim of building and sustaining a more lasting union for the course of the environment.

Founded by Late Chief S. L. Edu, NCF has as its Patron, the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Other governing structures are the Trustees, the National Executive Council and Council Committees.

The secretariat is managed by a team of selected professionals including Soil experts, Ornithologists, Botanists, Financial Administrators, Educationists, Advocacy Professionals, Media and Communication experts and other Technical/ Support Staff.



NCF