

NIGERIA MAB NATIONAL COMMITTEE
REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS FOR MAB ICC.

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.

17th-21st June, 2019

Introduction

The Man and Biosphere programme (MAB) in Nigeria is hosted by the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria. The following activities were carried out from 2018 till date.

Activity 1: Proposed National Biosphere Reserve/Nigeria-Cameroon Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

The Community Engagement for Cross River-Korup-Takamanda Transboundary Man & Biosphere Reserve/World Heritage Site nomination was carried out as part of activities for the National and Transboundary Biosphere Reserve. Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria funded the initial scope of the assignment to conduct direct community consultations with 30 communities in Oban and Okwango divisions of the Cross River National Park and adjoining sites. The report forms an important component for the submission of the Nomination forms.

Activity 2. Forest Elephants Awareness (*Loxodonta Cyclotis*) In Omo Biosphere Reserve and its Environs.

The presence of Forest Elephant in Omo Biosphere Reserve has created a major landmark in the history of wildlife conservation in Ogun State and Nigeria at large. Taking it from historical perspective, this largest land mammal had existed even before the forest was officially demarcated and pronounced as elephant sanctuary in late 1970s. The sadden report of an elephant attack that led to the killing of a young man within the reserve came to us when the elephants were said to have left their usual home range. It's quite unusual but such marauding nature of the elephants is being investigated through research work. The animal in their numbers amounting to over sixty individuals were reportedly seen in and around most enclaves spanning J1, J3 and J4 with incredible footage of it activities where several farmlands were destroyed. Areas where the elephants migrated to were identified after which an educational/ awareness campaign was carried out at community level to sensitize the general public on the need not to panic but rather play safe with the animal. In view of this, a team from FRIN, visited Omo Biosphere Reserve from 4th - 7th June 2018 to join other partners (Nigerian Conservation Foundation and Sahara Elephant Group) in the massive door to door awareness campaign on the need to enlighten people not to kill the

elephants. We were reliably informed by the locals that some of these elephants were seen moving back to the corridor of the Biosphere Reserve. It is believed that the elephants will return to their habitat very soon.



Elephant Education and Awareness Team in Omo Biosphere Reserve



Elephant Education and Awareness in Omo Biosphere Reserve

**Activity 3: BIOPALT: Preliminary Meeting To Produce Training Modules/Materials On
The GEBR Methodology.**

In implementing the GEBR component of BIOPALT, FRIN worked with UNESCO to build capacity on GEBR Methodology in the five BIOPALT beneficiary member states of the Lake Chad Basin namely Chad, CAR, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria. A first and important step in the BIOPALT GEBR capacity building is the development of training modules and as such, a consultative meeting with selected resource persons, MAB national committees, relevant stakeholders and UNESCO held from 10th to 15th of September 2018 at FRIN, Ibadan, Nigeria. The main objectives of this meeting were to discuss and Produce training module/materials on the GEBR methodology and Agree on the Agenda of the upcoming training in GEBR Methodology. Participants during the GEBR training Module development activity included researchers from FRIN, Nigerian MAB National Committee members, Nigerian National Park Service, National Biotechnology Development Agency, Member of the BIOPALT S&T Committee and UNESCO.



Participants at the Preliminary Meeting to Produce Training Modules/Materials

Activity 4: Capacity Building Workshop On Green Economy In Biosphere Reserve (GEBR)
As An Activity Of The BIOPALT.

The Workshop was held at Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria Headquarters Ibadan between 5th and 10th November, 2018. Participants included two representatives from five BIOPALT beneficiary member states of the Lake Chad Basin namely Chad, CAR, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria with Resource persons from FRIN, Nigerian MAB National Committee members, Member of the BIOPALT S&T Committee and UNESCO. The main objective was to teach the representatives on the implementation of GEBR project. The following Modules were presented.

Module 1: Preliminary activities prior to the implementation of GEBR alternative livelihood activities in the field. (Dr. Otu Osu)

Module 2: Survey and Studies (Dr. Tayo Oyelowo)

Module 3: Validation of Survey Findings and Report (Prof. Augustine Isichei)

Module 4: Capacity building of project beneficiaries. (Dr. Dapo Akinyemi)

Module 5: Operationalization of the Green Businesses (Dr. Adeogun)

Module 6: Equipment/facilities for Identified Livelihoods (Miss. Obafunsho Tosin)

Module 7: Financial Re-investment and Benefit sharing (Mr. Jimoh Kazeem).

Module 8: Monitoring and Evaluation (Mr. Falemara Babajide and Dr. Alamu)

Module 9: Sustainability and Ownership (Mr. Ajagbe and Mrs. Olatidoye, O.)

On the last day of the Capacity Building GEBR training programme, a trip was made to Omo Biosphere Reserve for the participants to have a practical insights into the four alternative green business livelihoods (Fish Production, Mushroom Cultivation, Snail Production and Grasscutter Production) established for the communities around the reserve.



Participants at the Capacity Building Workshop on Green Economy In Biosphere Reserve (GEBR) As An Activity Of The BIOPALT.

Activity 5: African Biosphere Reserves as Pilot Sites for Monitoring and Conservation of Migratory birds (AfriBiRds).

The project aims to develop and implement a pilot scheme for long-term monitoring of bird populations, including Palaearctic migrants, in African biosphere reserves as a template for application in other biosphere reserves and the wider landscape. AfriBiRds, is a collaboration between BirdLife and Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU, BirdLife Partner in Germany). The monitoring of birds started in 2018, while the second phase exercise was carried out in January 2019. The project is still on-going.

Activity 6: Enrichment Planting in Buffer Zone of OBR

Some gaps identified in the buffer zone of the reserve, due to accidental activities were planted up with tree indigenous species (*Garcinia cola*) in form of enrichment planting.

Activity 7: World Migratory Bird Day

In commemoration of this year's World Migratory Bird Day Celebration, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation in collaboration with Birdlife International, NABU and the German

Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Energy joined other nature enthusiasts across the globe to mark this remarkable event in Omo Biosphere Reserve between 15th – 16th May, 2019. The theme for the year's celebration is **‘Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution’** as tagged by the United Nations. Omo Biosphere being an Important Bird Area (IBA) in Nigeria was selected to showcase the importance of bird migration to human and the environment. The programme had in attendance important dignitaries from Ogun State Ministry of Forestry, Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, Civil Society groups and the Media

Activity 8: National Forest Carbon Inventory Field Work

Omo Biosphere Reserve received the National Forest Stock Inventory Team for Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The exercise was to undertake implementation of national forest (carbon) inventory field data collection in various ecological zones in the country. The sampling procedures were none destructive as the integrity of the reserve was left intact.

Activity 9: Graduate Students Research/Industrial Attachment

Approvals were given to Postgraduate students (PhD and MSc.) to carry out none destructive research work in Omo Biosphere Reserve, while the Biosphere office received University students on Industrial Attachment for a period of one month.