

# CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL FOREST IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF THE LEKKI CONSERVATION CENTRE

Group B: The Natural Landscape of Nigeria

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# Our study objective

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- Investigate and evaluate the growing condition of the forest area
- Evaluate the conservation strategy of the forest in the case study

# Lekki conservation centre

- Founded in 1990
- Funded by Chevron as a social responsibility of their pollution
- Decision makers: NGOs
- Mission statements
  - ▣ Preserve all the Nigeria's biodiversity
  - ▣ Promote sustainable use of natural resources
  - ▣ Advocate actions that minimize pollution

# Methodology

- Observation of the forest
  - ▣ Canopy structure
  - ▣ Crown height/width
  - ▣ Succession status
  - ▣ Signs of dynamism (forest gap, microhabitat, climber species, litter degradation, reproduction, fauna)
  - ▣ Soil
  - ▣ Human intervention
- Additional information obtained from employees in the centre

# Environmental benefits

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- ▣ Highly-protected area prohibiting any human disturbance
- ▣ Continued funding to support conservation and maintenance
- ▣ Planting of rare trees, re-introduction of species

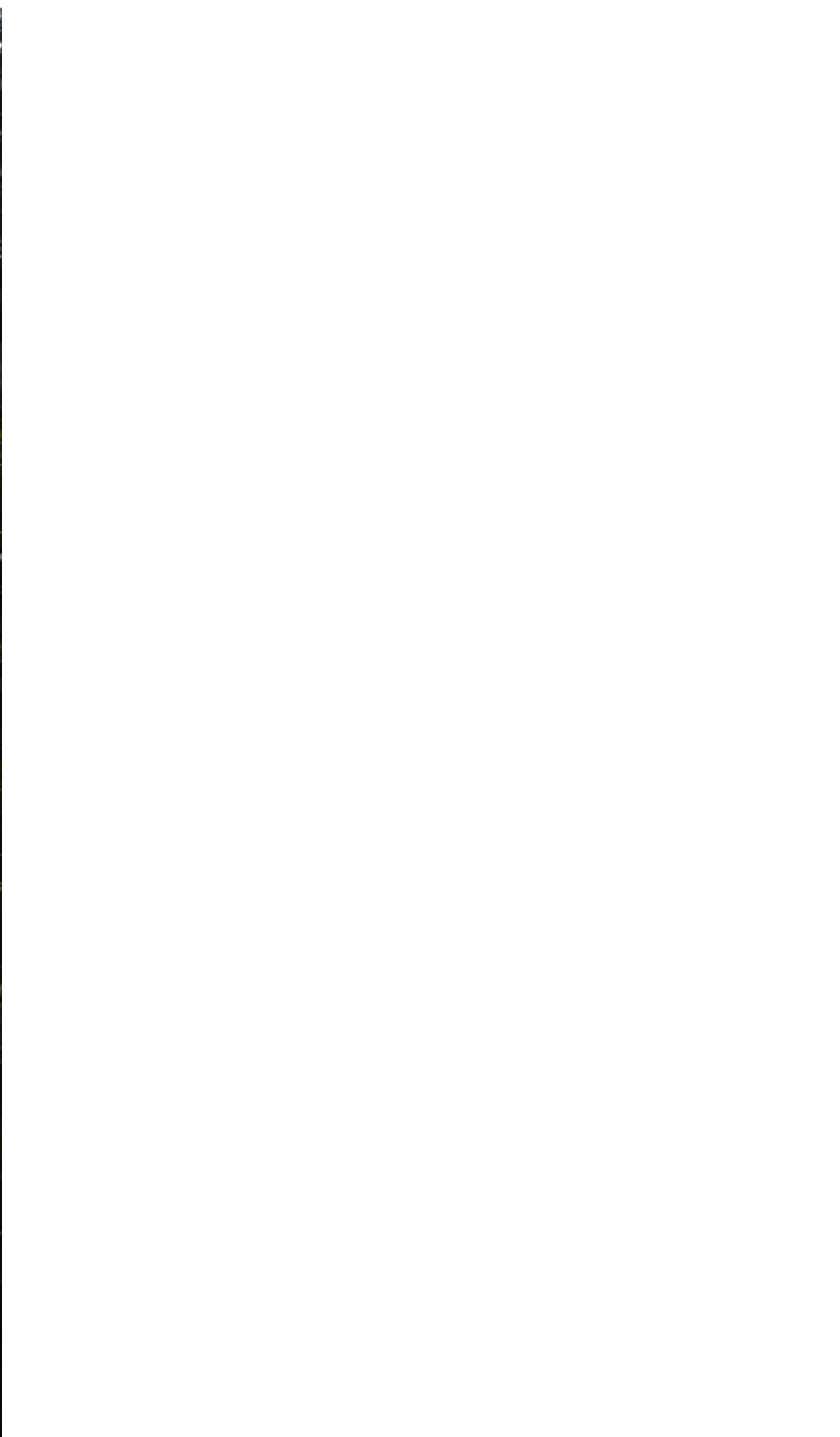


- Growing condition

- Secondary succession in developmental stage
- Yet to reach mature height
- Distinct canopy layers and understory
- Various signs of dynamism
- Standing litter and decomposing litter
- Wildlife (monkeys, small mammals, birds, deers etc)

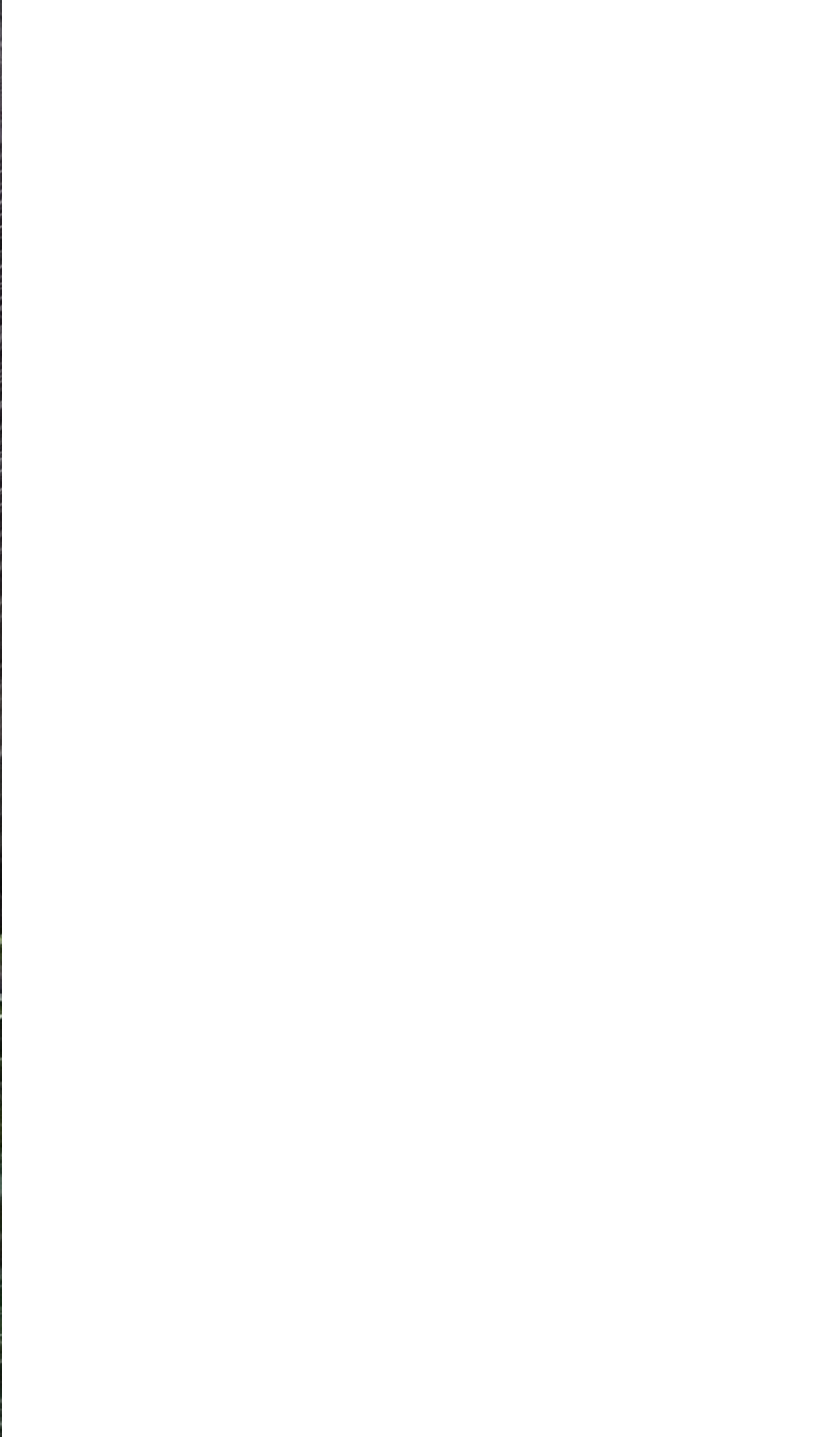
















# Economic benefits

- Continued funding loop for maintenance
  - ▣ Fixed funding from Chevron
  - ▣ Earning from entrance fees and annual passes
- Future uses
  - ▣ Open for controlled exploitation (logging, palm oil collection)
  - ▣ possible cures to diseases

# Social benefits

- Promote environmental education in primary and secondary schools
- Provided resources to local community (free water and access for resources)
- Hiring of local citizens for workers in the centre
- Providing facilities for local activities



# Discussion

- Environmental
  - ▣ Successful rehabilitation of the area
  - ▣ Dynamic and stable ecosystem
  - ▣ Swamps as a carbon sink
  - ▣ Insufficient research on existing species hence lack of a comprehensive database → difficulty in conservation

# Discussion

- Economic

- Continued funding and income from entrance fees

- Social

- Insufficient income level for employees to maintain livelihood
- Insufficient involvement of local community in the decision making process
- The conserved forest is not a direct compensation to the victims of environmental destruction by oil exploitation

# Conclusion

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- Great improvement of the forest area
- Can be used as an example of conservation projects in Nigeria under the proposed law of pollution compensation
- Management strategy should base on comprehensive research of the ecosystem