



Progress Report
of
Eco-Restoration for Climate Action
(ERCA) Project

Implemented by
Green Environment and Climate Change Initiative
(GECCI)

Funded by
Stiftung Unternehmen Wald, Germany

Start Date: August 2023

End Date: July 2025

Introduction

The Eco-Restoration for Climate Action (ERCA) Project is the restoration of 15 hectares of lost forests in Nnamdi Azikiwe University (NAU) Awka, Nigeria. The restoration would have the capacity to mitigate a few million tons of CO₂. This is a considerable contribution to global climate efforts.

The Eco-Restoration for Climate Action Project will be in three phases. They include:

1. Establishment and nursing of 5000 indigenous forest seedlings
2. Restoration of 15 hectares of NAU degraded forest.
3. Capacity Building of Stakeholders in Ecosystem Restoration.

Project Objectives

- To restore the degraded landscape in Nnamdi Azikiwe University (NAU) Forest.
- Contribute to Nigeria's National Determined Contribution (NDC) to improve forest management and forest restoration with a combined mitigation potential of 89Mt CO₂e/year.
- Contribute to promoting meaningful participation of youth in ecosystem restoration of Nigeria NDCs Awareness and Advocacy key project area.

Activities already Carried out.

The ERCA project began officially with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Green Environment and Climate Change Initiative (GECCI), the ERCA project implementer and Forestry and Wildlife Department, Nnamdi Azikiwe University and Green Initiative for Humanitarian Aid and Development, the partners on the 18th of October 2023.

1. The Establishment and nursing of 6000 indigenous forest seedlings

We commenced the establishment of the nursery with raising 6000 seedlings of *Annona muricata* (Soursop), *Treculia africana* (Ukwa), *Dacryodes edulus* (pear), *Gambeya albida* (African star apple), *Pentaclethra macrophylla* (Ukpaka), *Cola nitida/acuminata* (kola), *Irvingia Gabonensis/ wombulu* (Ogbono). 4000 seedlings have been raised so far which the remaining seedling will be raised before April end.

Pictorial Representation of the Nursery Establishment



Picture showing the potted bags before seed sowing.



Picture showing the seedlings at their growth stage.



Picture showing the GECCI Team and NAU team during project monitoring.

2. Capacity Building of the Project Community

Capacity Building: To make the communities well versed with the restoration and conservation techniques, we undertook training workshops. The workshop was customized to train the students, bio-resources conservation monitors/forest guards and GECCI staff to successfully implement the ERCA project. The following areas were covered during the training:

- Tree Nursery Establishment
- Natural restoration techniques
- Plantation and protection
- Climate Change adaptation
- Monitoring and mapping techniques
- Forest Information System (FIS)

Pictorial Representation of the Capacity Building



Cross section of the participants.



The first Session on Understanding the ERCA project and Climate Change Adaptation. The Participant were enlightened on the ERCA project and all it entails.



The second session on Tree nursery establishment, natural restoration techniques and plantation and protection.



The third session on monitoring and mapping techniques using mobile device and forest information system.



The participants asking questions during the workshop.

1. Establishment of Mini-Tree Nurseries in schools

Objectives: To aid the environmental club members environmental stewardship and improve their knowledge on nature processes.

Methodology

- Discussion with the club members and school authorities.
- Selection a suitable location on the school grounds that receives adequate sunlight and close to water source.
- Bought equipment such as polly-pots, soil, seeds, and tools.
- Organized a session educating the student on the nursery development process and care.
- Potted 100 pot bags and sowed four species of seeds in them. The species include: *Dacryodes edulis*, *Psidium guajava*, *Citrus sinensis* and *Anona muricata*.



Group photograph of the students, Mrs Scholastica (expert from the Ministry of Environment), GECCI Staff and teachers during the establishment of the nursery at Capital City Secondary School.



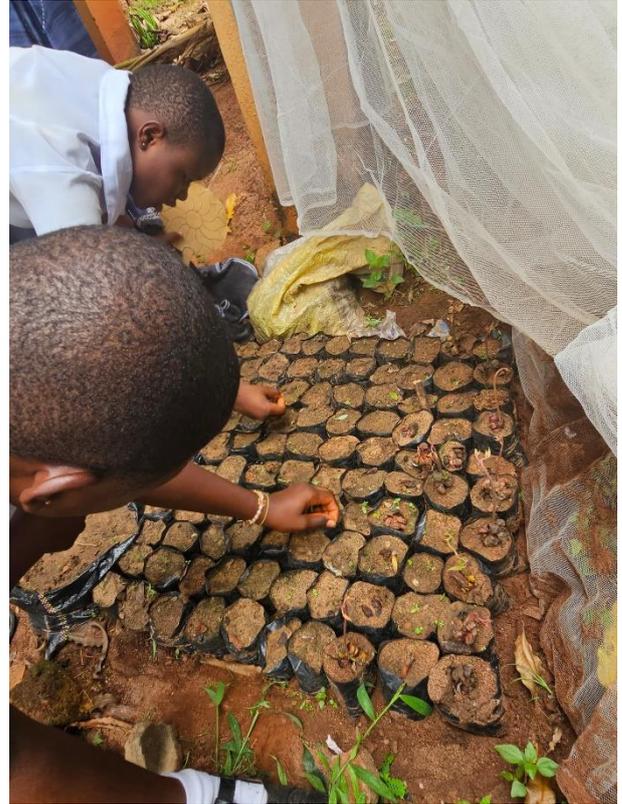
Students sowing the seeds.



Students sowing seeds and recording the activity with assistance from the expert.

Follow Up pictures of the Nursery Establishment with some of the sprouted seedlings.





Challenges

1. Nigerian economy is continuously depreciating which is making cost of materials and labor more expensive. It's now 10 times of what it was last year.

Recommendation.

1. We will consider transplanting the seedling in one of Anambra State Forest Reserve with the Forestry and Wildlife Department in the Ministry of Environment.
2. We will deliver the project with the available funds just that it will take us a little more time to finish.

Finally, the Green Environment and Climate Change Initiative (GECCI) will deliver the project and present the full report at the end of the project.

Thank you so much Stiftung Unternehmen Wald for trusting us with this project and contributing to the forest land restoration in Nigeria.