



**End of Project Report**  
**For the**  
**Eco-Restoration for Climate Action**  
**(ERCA) Project**

**Implemented by**  
**Green Environment and Climate Change Initiative**  
**(GRENCI)**

**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 flagship initiative of GRENCI aimed at combating climate change through large-scale tree planting, biodiversity conservation, and community-based ecosystem restoration.

The goal of the ERCA project is to restore degraded landscapes, contribute to biological richness in forest area, contribute to Nigeria's National Determined Contribution (NDC) to improve forest management and forest restoration with a combined mitigation potential of 89Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e/year. Nigeria is losing over 350,000 hectares of forest annually, which translates to loss of about 3.7% forest cover, contributing to rising emissions, desertification, biodiversity loss, and declining agricultural productivity. The degradation of these sites threatens local food systems, water sources, and community resilience. Restoring it aligns with Nigeria's urgent need to address land degradation and advance climate adaptation efforts as outlined in the National Climate Change Policy, REDD+ Strategy, and Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. ERCA project supports SDGs 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land), and 1 (No Poverty).

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 degraded forest.
3. Capacity Building of Stakeholders in Ecosystem Restoration.

## Project Objectives

- To restore the degraded landscape in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Forest.
- Contribute to Nigeria's National Determined Contribution (NDC) to improve forest management and forest restoration with a combined mitigation potential of 89Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e/year.
- Contribute to promoting meaningful participation of youth in ecosystem restoration of Nigeria NDCs Awareness and Advocacy key project area.

## Project Site

The project site is 15 hectares degraded site at Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Anambra State.



GPS: 6°17'55.0"N 6°57'51.0"E

### **Activities already Carried out.**

The ERCA project began officially with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Green Environment and Climate Change Initiative (GRENCHI), and our partner Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu Univeristy.



*MoU Signing between the Green Environment and Climate Change Initiative (GRENCHI) and Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU)*



## 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). The extra 1000 is to replace diebacks during project maintenance phase.

### Pictorial Representation of the Nursery Establishment



*Picture showing seedlings in the nursery.*



*Picture showing seedlings in the nursery.*



*Picture showing GRENCI Team member during seedlings upkeep.*



## 2. Restoration of 15 hectares of degraded forest



*Seedlings loading for transportation to the project site*



*Seedlings loading for transportation to the project site*



*Seedlings offload at the restoration site at COOU*

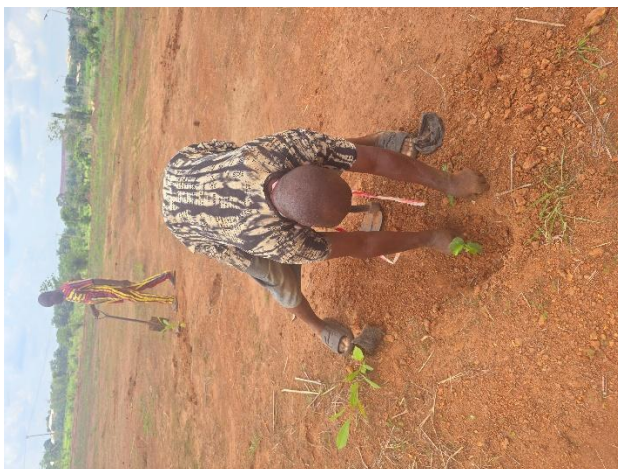


## Site Marking and Pegging



*The Labourers, GRENCI team and COOU team marking the project site*

## The Transplanting of 5000 Seedling





## Planted Seedlings



*Seedlings on the first day of planting*



*Seedlings after one week of planting*



*Seedlings after three weeks of planting*



## 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 participants asking questions during the workshop.



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



## 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), SECCI 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.**





Tree planting by the students





## **Challenges**

1. We experience regulatory challenges with our initial partners, after several attempts by GRENCI to resolve it, it persisted. So, we withdrew from the partnership.
2. Nigeria rising inflation was another challenge, but we manage it

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