



A.P. LEVENTIS ORNITHOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF JOS, NIGERIA

APLORI

WEST AFRICA'S FOREMOST ORNITHOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER

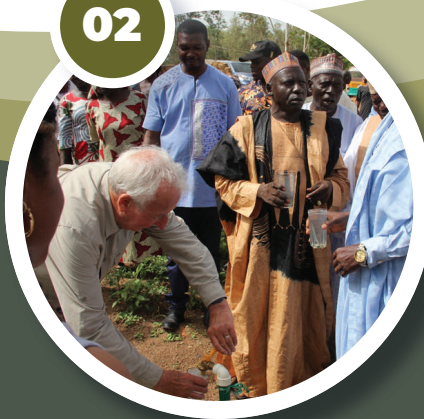
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Calls for Collaboration With
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Commissioned for Laminga
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Vegetation measurement (Amurum Plants Inventory and Phenology)

Approximately, one third of the world's land ecosystem is covered with forest and 50% of such ecosystem is found in the tropics, but is unfortunately

threatened by anthropogenic activities to the extent that the forests are almost reduced to mere grass lands (FAO, 2015; Olajuyigbe and Adaja, 2014; Oke and Odebiyi, 2007; Parthassarathy, 2001; Awotoye and Adebola, 2013).

The Amurum Forest Reserve is one of the nature reserves in Plateau State, North central Nigeria. Strict Nature Reserve is prominent among the methods for in situ conservation of biodiversity in Nigeria and the world at large (Adenkunle et al., 2013). A woody plant is any plant that has wood as its structural tissue and is either a tree, shrub or a liana which is usually described as a perennial plant whose stems and larger roots are reinforced with wood produced from secondary xylem and contains roots that are usually covered by a layer of bark (Chase and Mark, 2004). The importance of woody species to man cannot be overemphasized. Beyond their economic value, shrubs and trees act as biological filters by helping to cleanse the environment of pollutants such as oxides of carbon, toxic gases and heavy metals (Chakraverty and Jain, 1984).

Seventy percent of the world's plants and animals live in forests and are losing their habitats to deforestation, according to National Geographic. Loss of habitat leads to species extinction and also has negative consequences for medicinal research and local populations who rely on the plants in the forest for medicine (Alina, 2005). Hence, the significance of this study, aimed at identifying and documenting species, so as to help conserve such places because of their benefits to the environment. The forest plays a vital role in regulating climate, controlling water runoff, providing shelter and food for wildlife as well as purifying the air.



Some APLORI Researchers at the field collecting data

In addition, they provide valuable materials such as wood, paper pulp etc. The richest of most diverse terrestrial ecosystem on the earth are the tropical forests. Although they now occupy less than 10% of the earth's land surface, they contain more than two-thirds of all higher plant biomass and at least one half of all plants, animals and microbial species in the world.

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Nigeria Environmental Society Calls for Collaboration With APLORI



The Director, giving more explanations to the members of NES..

The Environmental Society of Nigeria (NES) has called for synergy between the Society and APLORI. This will help protect the environment against practices and activities that are unfriendly to it. Chairman of the Plateau State chapter of the Society, Dr. Ibrahim D. Choji made the call when members of the Society visited the A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI). He said APLORI, as a reputable Research Institute with international standards, has made laudable achievements in Species conservation and other areas of research which he said was the reason the Society was proud to be associated with APLORI. The Assistant General Secretary of the Society Dr.

Andesikuteb Yakubu Ali, who represented the Chairman during the visit, thanked the Institute for supporting the activities of NES in the State. He said the Society was at the Institute to create awareness on the activities of the NES, and called on APLORI Staff and Students to register and key into the Society's mission and vision.

He congratulated the management and staff of APLORI for clocking twenty (20) years as a Research Institute and commended the giant strides achieved so far.

Earlier, Director of APLORI Dr. Adams Chaskda, who is also a Member of NES, thanked the Society for the visit and assured of the Institute's continuous support in all environmental activities and projects in the state.

There were two powerpoint presentations highlighting APLORI activities delivered by Dr. Adams Chaskda and a summary of activities of the Nigeria Environmental Society by Dr. Andesikuteb Ali. The NES members were taken on a tour of the Reserve.



Members of NES at the Nursery of the Institute.

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APLORI Management Board Approves the appointment of two new Directors

APLORI Management Board has approved the appointment of Dr. Grace Pam and Dr. Talatu Tende as Directors of Teaching and Research, respectively.

Dr. Pam, the Teaching Director, has seventeen (17) years of teaching experience with the Zoology Department, University of Jos.

Under her guidance, more than seventeen MSc scholars have successfully completed their Research. She is a conservation educator and is actively involved in organizing various capacity building programs and has contributed towards research and has published a number of papers in peer review journals. Dr Pam has a Dphil from the University of Oxford, UK, and was a pioneer Student of the APLORI Msc conservation Biology programme.



Dr. Grace A. Pam, Teaching Director APLORI

Dr. Tende on the other hand is the Research Director. Until her appointment, Dr. Tende has been a Senior Research and Teaching Fellow at the Institute. She was also the acting Project Manager, Nigeria Bird Atlas Project NiBAP.

Dr Tende is a graduate of Zoology, and a member of APLORI's 2004/2005 (second set) Msc Conservation Biology cohort. She obtained her PhD at the Lund University, Sweden. She has extensive Research and birding experience.

Their respective appointments, which are with effect from 1st March 2022, are for a period of two years.



Dr. Talatu Tende, Research Director, APLORI

A Borehole Project Commissioned for Laminga Community by APLORI.



Sir Phil Hall officially commissioning the borehole

The A. P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) as part of its 20th Anniversary activities and as a corporate social responsibility, has sunk a motorized borehole for use by members of its host community, Laminga, as part of efforts to provide portable drinking water. At the commissioning of the project, Chairman APLORI Management Board Sir. Phill Hall said the institute is concerned with the wellbeing of Members of Laminga community. He said it was a good thing to give back to the community especially for giving the Institute massive support since its establishment twenty years ago. In his remarks, Village Head of Laminga, Adagwom Musa Arin, on behalf of the other chiefs present at the event, said the community has enjoyed a cordial relationship with the Management and Staff of

APLORI and has benefitted tremendously from the philanthropic gestures of Mr. Leventis.



Adagwom Izang Azi, welcoming Mr. Hall to Laminga community

He expressed gratitude to Mr. Leventis and the entire management of APLORI for providing Laminga community with sustainable projects like undergraduate admissions and scholarships for indigenous students, employments, among others.

Adagwom Arin assured Mr. Hall of the community's continuous partnership with the Institute for growth and development.

Members of the community, who were visibly excited with the commissioning of the project, prayed for good health and long life for Mr. Leventis.

Afizere cultural dance troupe (Asharuwa) entertained guests at the event. The borehole, located within the central area of Laminga village, will serve the water needs of the community clinic, churches and schools.



Asharuwa International Dancers, entertaining

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APLORI Management Board Chairman Visits UNIJOS Vice Chancellor

SChairman, APLORI Management Board, Mr. Philip Hall, has visited the Vice Chancellor and Principal Staff of the University of Jos, Nigeria.

Mr. Hall who was received at the permanent Site Campus of the University, said he was on the visit to thank the University's Management for all the support given to APLORI through out the past twenty years.

Responding, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Tanko Ishaya said the University Management is pleased with the developments at APLORI, under the Leadership of Dr. Adams Chaskda, and promised to continue to support the Institute in all areas for growth.

According to Prof. Ishaya, the advantages of a university partnership cannot be over emphasized, and commended APLORI for being a model and example of what a good partnership should be. He said the partnership between the University of Jos and APLORI is a success story, and assured the Board Chairman, that they, as a Management, will do everything possible to maintain the partnership.

He told Mr. Hall that the University of Jos was still open to more partnerships and collaborations

He thanked Mr. Leventis and APLORI Management for investing time and resources in the Institute.

Mr Hall, was accompanied on the visit by his wife, Caroline and Management Staff of the Institute.



Unijos Vice Chancellor, Professor Ishaya Tank (left) and Sir Phil Hall (OBE), Chairman, APLORI Management Board with his Wife (Right)

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APLORI Students present M.Sc. thesis



The 2020/2021 set of Students of Masters in Conservation Biology at APLORI, have presented their M.Sc. Thesis. The presentation was held at APLORI's Lecture Theatre, in Laminga, Jos East Local Government Area of Plateau State. Lecturers from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Jos, Supervisors and Co-supervisors, APLORI staff and Students as well as family and friends, graced the event.



A cross section of Lecturers of the University Jos and other Institutions present at the presentation.



APLORI staff attend the 22nd conference of the European Bird Census Council (EBCC)



Roundtable discussion with members of the Swiss Ornithological Institute

Four members of the African Bird Atlas Program (ABAP) based at APLORI have attended the 22nd conference of the European Bird Census Council EBCC,

hosted by the Swiss Ornithological Institute (Vogelwarte.ch) in Switzerland. The Conference which had in attendance, participants from some selected African Countries, featured talks on different topics related to atlasing, bird monitoring and conservation. The Six-Day Conference had as its theme, Bird Numbers: Beyond the Atlas: Challenges and Opportunities.

A workshop, organised by the African Bird Atlas Programme (ABAP) followed thereafter with the theme "Breaking the language barrier". The workshop was intended at integrating francophone countries into ABAP data collection.

In attendance were participants from some selected African Countries, with Panshak Solomon, Iniunam Iniunam and Adamu Bello Danmallam representing Nigeria at the Conference.



Some participants at the International Conference.



From left to right, Sikenkeny Kenedy, Kenya Data Manager (GBIF), Panshak Solomon, Bello Danmallam, Ulf Ottosson and Iniunam Iniunam (African Bird Atlas Programme Team)

Sharing their experience about the conference and workshop, they said the workshop gave them a great opportunity to learn new things like how to develop new Atlasing App in major languages of Hausa, Yoruba and Swahili

A free copy of the Swiss Breeding Bird Atlas which gives a distribution and population trends of birds in Switzerland was displayed.

Meanwhile, a Biodiversity Data Mobilization badge has been given to Bello Adamu Danmallam, an APLORI Alumnus and a Data Manager with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Project, after participating in the Biodiversity information for Development (BID) capacity enhancement course, in Biodiversity Data.



The badge was given after the completion of the assessment on the course which lasted for three months.



Management and Staff attend Training Workshop



A cross-section of members of Staff at the training workshop.

As part of efforts to strengthen and equip its workforce, the A. P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute has organized a one-day training work

shop for Management and Staff of the Institute.

Held at the Leventis Guest House in Jos, Plateau State, the training focused on how to work differently and efficiently as well as how to improve skills for change and development.

The training workshop which was facilitated by the office of the Registrar, University of Jos, was tagged, Standardization of HR Procedures and Practice.

Similarly, an inhouse workshop has been organized for all Field and Research Assistants at APLORI.

The five-day intensive workshop was organized to help introduce and familiarize the Staff with conservation, basic ecological principles, field techniques (insect sampling, vegetation sampling, field ornithology and safe practices) as well as data entry

and analysis methods.

Participants at the workshop said the training was enriching and has added to their competences and knowledge on field craft and techniques.

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A Greenhouse build by APLORI was commissioned by the University of Jos Vice Chancellor



Cutting of tape by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Tanko Ishaya at the commissioning supported by Traditional Rulers and some Unijos Principal Staff.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Jos, Professor Tanko Ishaya has showered praises on members of Laminga Community for being a good host and partner in the APLORI project.

He said the community shares in the willingness to project and participate in the University's vision through APLORI.

Prof. Ishaya was speaking at Laminga community, during the commissioning of a Greenhouse farm constructed by the Institute. He said APLORI was demonstrating what a good research institute should do, and called on the host community to jealously guard the greenhouse project as it will be of mutual benefit to the community and the Institute.

Village Head of Laminga, Adagwom Arin Musa, while welcoming the Vice Chancellor and his entourage thanked the Management of the Institute and that of the University of Jos. Director of the Institute, Dr Adams Chaskda stated that, the Greenhouse was constructed to train members of the host community on environmentally friendly agricultural practices, as well as serve as a Research facility and to generate

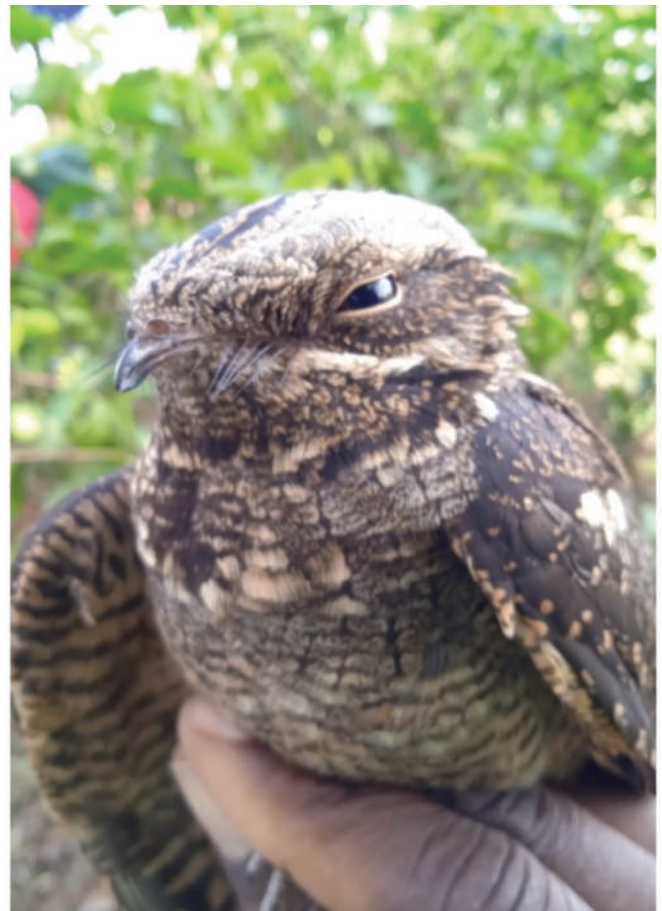
funds among other benefits.

The Vice Chancellor, before the commissioning ceremony, made a stop at the Institute's Molecular Laboratory to see the level of work. Before his departure, a gift was presented to the Vice Chancellor.



Presentation of gift to the Vice Chancellor, by Dr. Grace Pam on behalf of APLORI Management.

First observation of European Nightjar (Caprimulgus europaeus) in Amurum Forest Reserve, North-Central Nigeria.



First photographic record of European Nightjar (Caprimulgus europaeus) taken at Amurum Forest Reserve.

The European Nightjars, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, follows a convergence loop migration route as they move between breeding, stopover and wintering sites (Evans et al., 2017). However, they are among the Palearctic species that remains silent, without a call at stopover and wintering sites (Borrow and Demey, 2000). Additionally, they are crepuscular and nocturnal insectivores. Thus, its presence is often not detected during survey.

On 30th April 2022, a second calendar year European Nightjar (mass-79.69g; winglength-181mm) was captured at Amurum Forest Reserve during the Constant Effort Site coordinated by A. P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) and photographs were taken after identification (Figure 1 & 2). This is the first European Nightjar trapped within the reserve since the inception of bird ringing in 2001 and the first record in the APLORI bird ringing database.

Nigeria is among the several stopover sites utilized by this species during periods of high emergence of insects (early wet season during spring migration, and late wet season during autumn migration) used for refueling before further migration. Many European Nightjars have been recorded in East Nigeria and a few in West Nigeria (Fry and Keith, 2004); and a few identified in the hand at Ibadan and Vom (about 36km away from Amurum Forest Reserve), near Abuja, Gombe and Kano (Elgood et al. 1994). Prior to this record, Vom was the only place this species have been recorded in Jos Plateau and the first photographic evidence taken within the reserve. This record will be captured in Recent Record ABC bulletin and an interesting one to be reported locally in its bulletin as the reserve is a regenerative forest with more species utilizing the reserve after twenty years conservation effort being put in place.

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GALLERY

Grand Opening of APLORI GreenHouse by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Jos Prof. Ishaya Tanko



GALLERY

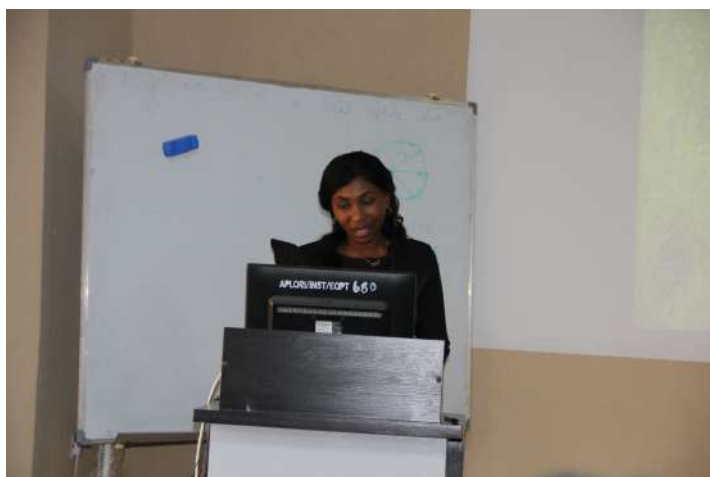
Harvest of farm produce at APLORI's GreenHouse at Laminga village, Jos East Local Government Area of Plateau State





GALLERY

Project presentation by the 2020-2021 set of Msc, conservation Biology of the A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute



*Courtesy visit by Officials
and members of the
Nigeria Environmental
Society at APLORI*



| GALLERY

Students and Staff of Legacy School Jos, on a field trip at APLORI





GALLERY

Training workshop for Management and Staff of APLORI, held at Leventis GuestHouse





| GALLERY

Vegetation Sampling of the AMURUM Forest Reserve





GALLERY

Visit by the APLORI Management Board Chairman Mr Philip Hall to the University of Jos





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