



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

APLORI

WEST AFRICA'S FOREMOST ORNITHOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER

TOP STORIES



A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute to establish Africa's First Center for Species Survival



APLORI Researchers, attend the fifteenth PAOC in Zimbabwe

APLORI Participates in an Exhibition at The University of Jos.



APLORI Conducts Entrance Examination



Participants on Climate Change, Conflict, Peace and Development Visit APLORI



APLORI signs MoU with African BioGenome Project

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APLORI signs MoU with African BioGenome Project

The A. P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the African BioGenome Project (AfricaBP) for biodiversity conservation and capacity building through Genomic Technologies and Infrastructural development in Africa. The African BioGenome Project (AfricaBP) is an ambitious project to sequence the genomes of African eukaryotes to improve biodiversity protection, food security and environmental health in Africa. The project which is to be executed by African researchers in collaboration with international partners, aims to build the skill set and capacities of African scientists in current and emerging genomics sequencing technologies and infrastructures, and to garner a critical mass of knowledge required to actualize the goal of the AfricaBP.

The MoU between APLORI and AfricaBP formalizes the support AfricaBP gain from the scientific training of African researchers in conservation sciences by APLORI. The Institute is one of the famous specialist Ornithological Research Centers in Africa, dedicated to the study of birds. Just recently celebrated 20th anniversary of capacity building in conservation science and facilitation of cutting-edge research in birds, the Institute is now increasing interest in molecular and genomics technologies for biodiversity conservation and building capacity of candidates in Africa.

Rationalized on the fact that, modern conservation science goes beyond the traditional boundaries of biology, ecology and environmental management; now requiring conservationists to have knowledge in verse specialty areas including bioinformatics and genomics. Also, genomic data have proven relevant in biodiversity conservation, and it's a growing interest in Africa with less capacities and expertise in the field.



Timely with the setting up of the APLORI's Molecular Ecology Laboratory facility, targeted at helping to enhance the institute's speed in this direction. This big step by APLORI in diving into the genomics space, necessitated the signing of the MoU with AfricaBP which is expected to be of great benefits for both partners.

Areas of synergies, contributions and benefits between APLORI and AfricaBP

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APLORI engages in research on several themes on avian science namely; ecology, behavior, breeding, diversity, distribution, migration and monitoring, these generate huge database which AfricaBP can leverage on to model solution for biodiversity and ecology related problems, tailor conservation of biodiversity, and build capacity and expertise in genomics across Africa.

Additionally, APLORI will support AfricaBP with not only access to resources on birds, but also the co-creation of workshops and training opportunities for African scientists across the continent, with help from their training experts. APLORI attracts expertise from local and international scenes to train and build capacity of scholars in conservation science. This is crucial for, and will contribute to the AfricaBP goals; and in the long term, conserve biodiversity and drive sustainability in Africa.

According to a statement by Dr Taiwo Crossby, Chair Genome Annotation Sub-Committee, African BioGenome Project, the partnership with the AfricaBP, is expected to strengthen APLORI's genomics technologies and infrastructures especially as one of the genomic training and capacity building hubs of researchers by the AfricaBP. It is also expected to attract international sponsorship for APLORI and promote transnational research networks and collaborations with experts and diverse research communities within and outside Africa; as well as to build scientific maturity and complementary skills in areas of Next Generation Sequencing methodologies, genome sequencing, assembly and annotation, bioinformatics and computational analysis of large genomic dataset.

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A Willow Warbler from Sweden in Weppa Farm, Edo state, Nigeria



Bird ringing is a sampling technique that involves trapping and attachment of a small metal ring (calibrated with unique codes) or non-metal-coloured rings to the leg of a wild bird to enable individual identification. During mist-netting, the birds are sexed, aged and information such as fat deposits, pectoral muscles, wing length, head moult, body moult, wing moult and brood patch, etc are scored. The re-sighting/ recapture of ringed birds enables ornithologists to answer fundamental ecological questions on bird migration, survival, breeding, moult and habitat utilization. During Constant-effort ringing in Weppa Farm on 29 November, 2022, a first-year Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trichilus* (Plate i) bearing a Stockholm ring was recaptured. We made a report to the Report Bird Ring Recovery (<https://www.nrm.se/en/forskningochsamlingar/miljoforskningochovervakning/rapporterafagelring.3300.html>).

the line transects, point count, and the point transect. From there they were taught on how to use the GPS, Laser range finder and the other important field equipment.

The bird was ringed on 3 August, 2022 at Lake Kvismaren by the Kvismaren Bird Observatory in Sweden. This information shows that the bird was recaptured 118 days after ringing and had travelled a distance of about 5,849 kilometres. Notable, bird ringing started in 1961 at Kvismaren but this report was the first recapture of a Willow Warbler by a ringer in a standardized ringing site from Africa. The bird was a juvenile and had almost finished its post-juvenile moult but had not yet began to put on any fat for migration, which suggests that the earliest start of migration was in the second half of August.

In Sweden, the bird was ringed in Lake Kvismaren, a restored wetland in south central Sweden, which comprised of two shallow lakes in a farmland area with some smaller forest patches. Whereas in Weppa Farm, the bird was recaptured within croplands comprising of cassava plots fallow maize fields hedge rows, cashew plantation and a strip of gallery forest. The pattern of habitat utilization indicates that the species show preference for farmlands in both breeding and wintering grounds.

At the time of recapture, the bird weighed 7.7 grams, which indicates that it was not about to continue migration at that time (probably it has reached its final wintering ground). The bird had also not started its complete winter moult but was carrying out some partial moulting mainly on the head.

In conclusion, bird ringing has provided vital information on the age of migration, approximate migration duration, distance covered during migration as well as moult and habitat utilization on both Swedish breeding ground and West African wintering ground for the Willow Warbler.

Quote “A ringed bird is not an abnormal bird, when you find a ringed bird, kindly report to the nearest bird ringing group as that can provide vital information for bird species conservation”.



*Lake Kvismaren, south central Sweden where the Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* was ringed*



Satellite Imagery of Weppa Farm, west of the River Niger

APLORI Researchers attend the fifteenth PAOC in Zimbabwe



The fifteenth Pan-African Ornithological Congress was held at the Elephant Hills conference Centre in Victoria Hills, Zimbabwe in November 2022. The event was

attended by more than 250 delegates from about 55 countries, making it a huge success.

The congress is held every four years, and it serves as a platform for ornithologists from all over the world to gather and share their research findings, ideas, and experiences. It is also an avenue for participants to learn from one another, network, and form new collaborations. The A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute had a strong presence at the congress, with a number of delegates in attendance. These include the chairman of the APLORI board Mr Philip Hall, the Director of the institute Dr Adams Chaskda, Researchers, and some alumni of the institute. They all made valuable contributions to the congress by presenting their research findings, participating in discussions, and networking with

other delegates. The congress covered a wide range of topics, including bird ecology, conservation, behaviour, migration, and genetics. There were also workshops, field trips, and plenary sessions featuring prominent speakers in the field of ornithology.

One of the key highlights at the conference was the presentation of APLORI's achievements within the past twenty (20) years at a dedicated forum on APLORI. The fifteenth Pan-African Ornithological Congress was a great success, and it provided a valuable platform for ornithologists to come together, share their knowledge, and advance the field of ornithology. The A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute made a significant contribution to the congress, and its delegates left with new insights, contacts, and ideas to bring back to their work.

Participants on Climate Change, Conflict, Peace and Development Visit APLORI



Seventeen (17) participants of the Climate Change, Conflict, Peace, and Development module, organized by the Peace Training Center Jos, Plateau State, have visited the A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) to see practical examples of best practices in ecosystem management. The participants, development workers drawn from Civil Society Organizations and NGOs from all over Nigeria, were mostly from the North.

The essence of the visit was to expose the participants to the practical aspect of ecosystem management, especially as it relates to mitigating the impact of climate change. The visit was part of the training program organized by the Peace Training Center Jos, Plateau State, to equip development workers with the necessary skills and knowledge to address the challenges posed by climate change, conflict, and peace.

The participants were received by the Director of APLORI, Dr. Adams Chaskda, who gave a brief on the history of the institute and its research activities. Dr. Chaskda also took the participants on a tour of the research facilities and the various conservation projects being carried out by APLORI.

The participants were impressed with the conservation initiatives presented to them, which include bird ringing, bird monitoring, and habitat conservation. They were also impressed by the various research activities being carried out by the institute, which included the study of bird migration patterns and the impact of climate change on bird populations.

According to Dr. Samson A. Da'an, one of the facilitators of the training program, the visit to APLORI was an eye-opener for the participants. He noted that the practical exposure to best practices in climate change and ecosystem management would

go a long way in equipping the participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to address the challenges. Mr. Cletus Odoh, another facilitator of the training program, also commended APLORI for its efforts in conserving the ecosystem and its biodiversity. He noted that the institute's research activities would go a long way in informing policymakers and development workers on the best approaches to ecosystem management.





APLORI Commences sale of forms for Master of Science (M.Sc.) In Conservation Biology for 2023/2024 academic session

The Postgraduate School of the University of Jos runs a 12-month Master's Degree program in Conservation Biology under the Department of Zoology. The program covers various aspects of the theory and practice of biodiversity conservation, including the ecologic-economic and scientific basis for conservation. It also exposes students to field practical experiences and builds their capacity to design and execute sound scientific research works in conservation biology. Although students undertake ecological studies in various aspects of biodiversity conservation, the emphasis is often on Ornithology.

Target Group

The course is designed for young Biological Scientists from Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leon with a craving for career opportunities in conservation of renewable natural resources. Admission is opened to all holders of at least a Bachelor of Science Degree SECOND CLASS HONOURS (Lower Division) from a recognized university, in any of the following disciplines: Zoology, Biology, Botany, Forestry and /or wildlife, Wildlife Management, or any Environment Science and with at least O'level credit pass in each of the following subjects: Maths, English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics. To purchase the online application form, aspiring student should do the following:

How to Apply

1. Visit University of Jos Portal:

<https://portal.unijos.edu.ng/Account/AddmissionRegistration?programme=Masters>

- Fill in all the other fields (Phone No, valid email address and password) and click "Sign Up"
- An activation link will be sent to the email address provided on sign up
- Login to your email and check for an email from University of Jos, open the email and click on the activation link to complete the sign on.
- After successful email confirmation and verification (which should take you back to: <https://portal.unijos.edu.ng/>) otherwise visit <https://portal.unijos.edu.ng/>, click on "Click here to login" from the right-hand side panel of the home page
- Login with your email address and password provided at sign up

f. Upon successful login read the instructions on the dashboard carefully then click on "Proceed" to make payment

g. Select the Payment Type and click "Proceed to make payment" for your form.

(Note: You can choose to pay using any of: Debit/Credit Cards (VISA, MASTER and VERVE), Internet Banking, PocketMoni, POS, Remita_Pay, RRRGEN or at a Bank Branch by printing and taking your RRR Number and total amount to pay at any bank branch)

h. After successful payment, a receipt will be generated which can be printed.

Candidates are strongly advised against patronizing road side Business Centres for making payment. ALL PAYMENTS WILL BE VERIFIED BEFORE ADMISSION PROCESSING.

NOTE Misrepresentation/falsification of documents is a serious offence. Candidates are, therefore, advised to submit genuine documents only. Anyone found guilty of this offence will be disqualified automatically and in appropriate cases, handed over to the Law Enforcement Agencies.

Candidates are strongly advised to adhere strictly to the guidelines stipulated above and the published requirements for admission into the programme applied for. For more information contact us on 09033655620. Completed application forms together with an application letter containing the Applicant's email address and telephone number must be returned to the institute before 31st January, 2024. Applications that do not contain all the requisite materials will not be processed. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for a combined written and oral interview. Please contact our admin: admin@aplori.org for further enquiries.

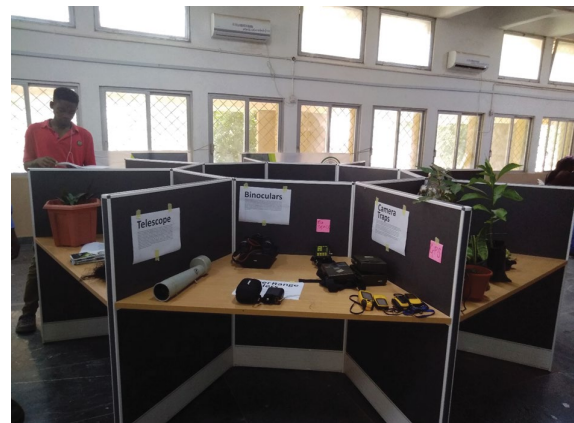


APLORI Participates in an Exhibition at The University of Jos.



The A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) has participated in an exhibition, as part of activities to mark the 33rd and 34th combined convocation of the university of Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria.

The exhibition provided APLORI with an opportunity to showcase the tools and equipment used in their research work at the institute. This platform allowed them to demonstrate their scientific contributions and highlight the importance of ornithological research. During the exhibition, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Tanko Ishaya, and members of the university's governing council visited the exhibition venue. Prof. Ishaya commended APLORI for the good work being done.



APLORI's Equipment on display at the Exhibition Center, University of Jos



The Vice Chancellor, University of Jos, Prof. Ishaya Tàanko holding the GPS

Some of the items displayed at the exhibition include;

Binoculars, an essential tool for ornithological research, as they allow researchers to observe birds from a safe distance without disturbing them. They provide a closer view of birds in their natural habitat, allowing researchers to study their behavior, movements, plumage, and other physical characteristics.

Telescopes, play an important role, particularly when studying birds in flight or at long distances. Telescopes are capable of providing a much higher level of magnification than binoculars, making it possible to observe birds in great detail from far away. They also allow researchers to observe birds in flight, a perspective that is difficult to achieve with binoculars alone.

Mist nets, are a vital tool used in ornithological research to capture and study birds. These nets are made of a lightweight mesh that is almost invisible to birds, enabling researchers to catch them without harming them in any way. Mist nets are commonly

used in bird ringing studies, where birds are caught and tagged with small, lightweight bands or rings that help identify and track them over time. This is crucial in understanding bird populations, migration patterns, and behaviors. They are crucial for conservation efforts that aim to protect bird species and their habitats.

Field guides, are essential tools in ornithological research, as they provide detailed information on bird identification, behavior, habitat, and distribution. These resources allow researchers to accurately identify birds and better understand their ecology and conservation needs. Field guides are typically compact, portable books that include detailed descriptions, illustrations, and distribution maps of different bird species. They often feature photographs or drawings of the birds, including their distinctive plumage, beak shape, and other physical characteristics that help identify them. Field guides usually contain detailed information on individual bird species, including their ecology and behavior. They may also include information on bird migration, breeding biology, and other topics relevant to ornithological research.



APLORI Organizes Training Workshops for Management and Staff of the Institute



As part of efforts to promote productivity and a positive work environment, the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute organized a two-day workshop for its management and staff on work ethics and conflict management. The workshop took place on the Institute's premises and was facilitated by two expert speakers - Mr. Zakka Mugu, who is an expert in conflict management and work ethics, and Dr. Emmanuel Idenyi, a financial Management expert. Dr. Idenyi, in his session, provided practical insights on personal financial management, stressing the importance of financial independence and proper financial planning. He emphasized the need for transparency, accountability, and proper record-keeping in personal finances and educated participants on financial decision-making,

budgeting, and financial reporting among others. On his part, Mr. Zakka Mugu who is the Executive Director of Unique Centre for peace building and Trauma Healing Jos, Plateau State, facilitated a session on conflict management, providing practical tools and techniques for managing conflicts in the workplace. Participants were educated on the need to approach conflict resolution in a proactive and constructive manner and were given practical scenarios to analyze and proffer solutions on how to effectively manage conflicts.



The workshop was highly interactive, with participants sharing their experiences and perspectives on work ethics, personal financial management, and conflict management. They were encouraged to actively participate and ask questions to deepen their understanding of the topics covered. Dr. Adams Chaskda, Director of the Institute, expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the workshop and commended the participants for their active participation and enthusiasm. He reiterated the Institute's commitment to maintaining a positive work environment that fosters productivity, collaboration, and mutual respect among staff. The workshop was a success, with participants leaving with a renewed sense of purpose and enhanced capacity to manage conflicts and personal finances in the workplace.

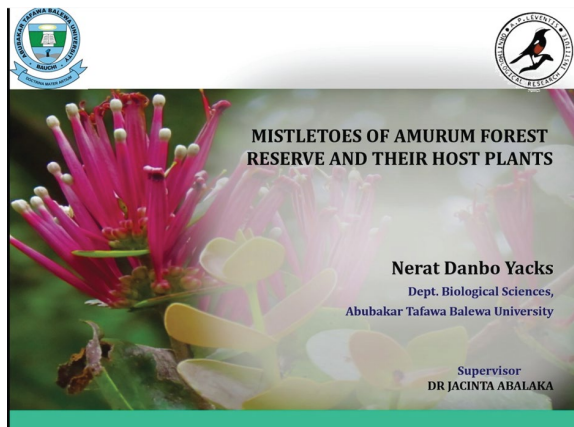


Assoc. Prof. Adams A. chaskda. Director, APLORI



Students on One Year Industrial Training Present Mini Project.

Two female students from the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) Bauchi on Students' Industrial Work Experience Scheme, (SIWES) at APLORI have rounded up their one-year training with a mini project presentation. Held at the Lecture theatre of the Institute in February, 2023, Nafisa and Nerat gave their final presentation at the Institute in the presence of the staff and students.



In a remark, SIWES Coordinator at APLORI Dr. Jacinta Abalaka praised the students for their dedication and hard work during the training.

The A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute has trained a considerable number of industrial trainees, most of whom have returned to pursue their master's degree program in conservation biology at the Institute. The Institute has become known for its exceptional training programs and the opportunity it provides for students to gain hands-on experience in the field of ecology and environmental conservation.



Nafisa and Nerat's successful training is yet another example of the Institute's dedication to nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards. With the Institute's focus on training and its commitment to excellence, it is clear that it will continue to produce skilled professionals in the field of environmental conservation for years to come.



APLORI MSc. Students Present Seminar Proposal



The M.Sc. students of the A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute have presented their seminar proposals to a distinguished audi

ence at the Lecture theatre in Laminga, Jos East LGA. The event was presided over by the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Science University of Jos, Prof. Nestor Chagok.

The seminar proposal presentation provided the students with an opportunity to showcase their research work, which will form the basis for their Masters' theses. The research work covered various topics, including avian migration patterns, breeding biology of local bird species, and the effects of climate change on bird populations.

The Director of the Institute, Dr. Adams Chaskda, expressed his pleasure at the quality of research proposals presented by the students, stating that it

was a testament to the Institute's commitment to producing well-rounded scientists. He also thanked the members of staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the event.

Research Director, Dr. Talatu Tende, and Former Teaching Director, Dr. Grace Pam who were also in attendance, both commended the students. They encouraged the students to continue with their research, as they will be contributing significantly to the growing body of knowledge on birds.

Prof. Nestor Chagok, the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Science, in his remarks, applauded the efforts of the students and commended the Institute for providing an enabling environment for them to conduct their research. He also urged the students to take advantage of the opportunity to learn from their supervisors and fellow researchers.



The presentation session was well-attended, with members of staff of the Institute, University of Jos and other guests present.

The presentation was a success, with the students receiving constructive feedbacks on their research proposals, which will guide them in their future research work.

The seminar proposal presentation was a significant milestone in the academic journey of the M.Sc. students of the A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute.

The students have since proceeded with their research, armed with valuable feedback from their peers and supervisors. It is hoped that their research work will contribute significantly to the understanding of birds and their habitats, and ultimately lead to the conservation of bird species in Nigeria and beyond.

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The A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute, Conducts Entrance Examination



In an effort to promote ornithological research and conservation biology in West Africa, the A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) held its entrance examination for the 2022/2023 academic session. The examination, which was sectioned into two (written and oral), took place at the Institute's premises in Laminga, Jos East LGA of Plateau State. The entrance examination was organized to enable the interview panel to select the best candidates who will be admitted into the Institute's prestigious Masters in Conservation Biology programme. The programme, which runs for a period of 12 months, is a scholarship, championed by Mr A. P Leventis and admits 10 students every year from the West African region.

More than 30 applicants from different parts of West Africa attended the interview. The applicants were subjected to a rigorous selection process that tested their knowledge and understanding of conservation biology and ornithological research.

The Masters in Conservation Biology programme is a flagship programme of the APLORI and is designed to provide young researchers with the necessary skills and knowledge to contribute to the conservation of birds and their habitats in West Africa.

This year's turnout of applicants for the entrance examination was impressive, and only the best candidates were selected to join the programme."



This is a great opportunity for young researchers and conservationists in West Africa to gain the necessary skills and knowledge to contribute to the conservation of birds and their habitats in the region.



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APLORI Green House



Global crisis in food production and conflict has been attributed to rapid population increase, urbanization and land management. It is said for every one degree rise in temperature we lose about 20% of our farm produce according to FAO report 2020.

To curb the aforementioned, APLORI'S GREENHOUSE also known as controlled farming was established, which is generally for the following reason(s): Research purposes: To look for environmentally friendly alternatives, to obnoxious chemicals used on farmlands to support biodiversity conservation in the area, and the farming communities surrounding the reserve.

Training: so far, we have trained at least four community members (interns). They are locals selected from each clan to be trained on environmentally friendly farming and conservation at large.

To generate revenue for the institute and enhance sustainability of the green House project.

So far the institute has raised healthy vegetables such as the tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumbers, brock choy and lettuce which serve the institute's kitchen, surrounding community and the university community.



We have great prospects and market under the leadership of the director of the institute Dr. Adams Chaskda to increase the number of greenhouses and improve on our research seeking to promote good health and to conserve soil, water and biodiversity at large.

Students on Industrial training from the University of Jos, Complete 6-month Program at APLORI



T Six students from the Department of Zoology at the University of Jos have completed a successful six-month Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) at the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI). Throughout their industrial training, the students engaged in diverse tasks, including data collection and vegetation measurement. Under the careful guidance of Research Associates at APLORI, they learned the methods of utilizing various tools essential for effective research in the field.

The culminating event of their training was marked by a seminar held at the Lecture Theatre of the Institute in Laminga, Jos East Local Government Area. During this seminar, the industrious students presented a mini project, showcasing the skills and knowledge they had acquired during their time at APLORI.

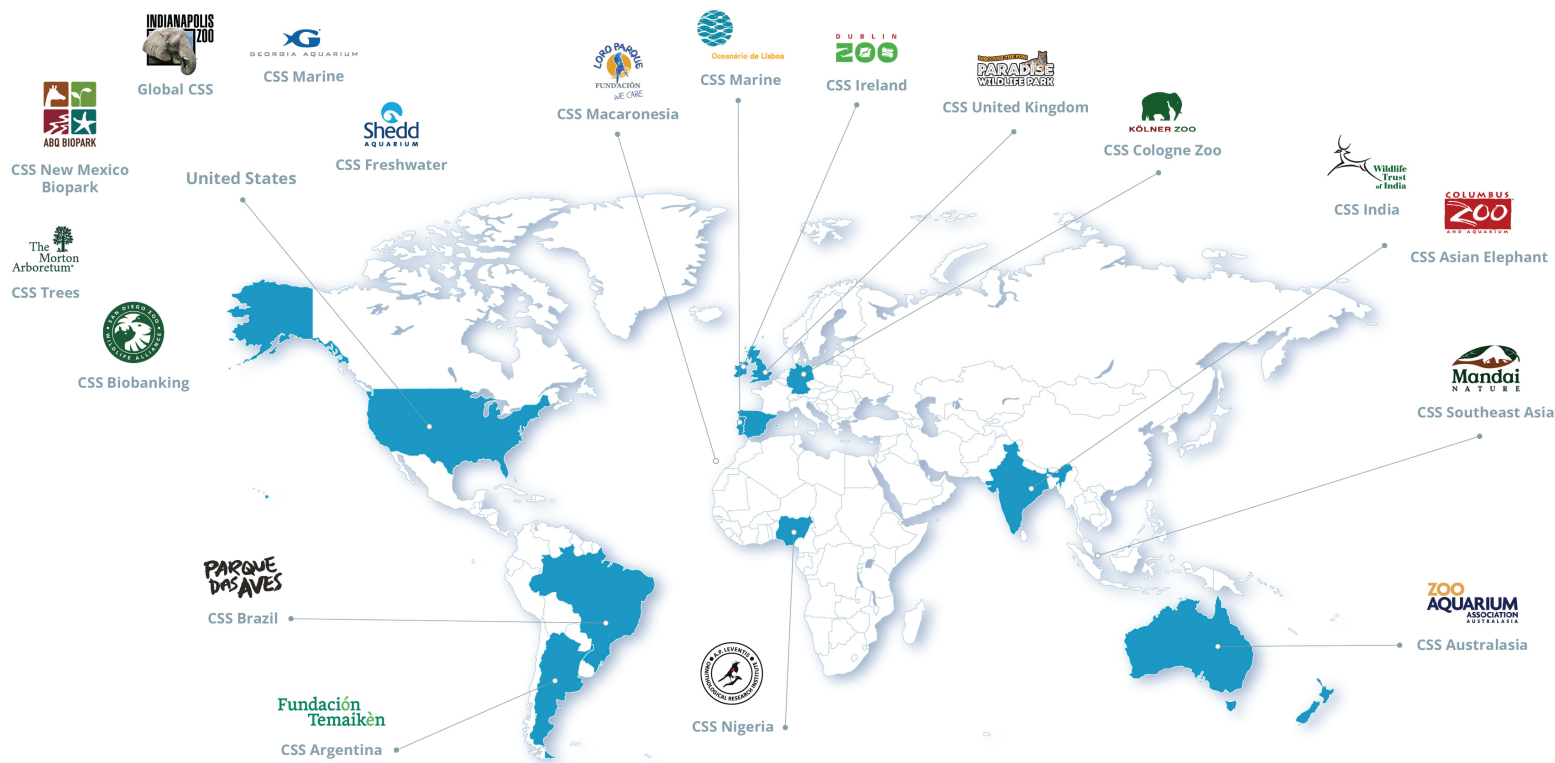
This hands-on experience not only enabled the students to apply classroom concepts in a real-world setting but also provided them with invaluable industry exposure.

The successful completion of the SIWES program signifies an important step forward for these aspiring zoologists as they prepare for their future careers in the field.

Congratulations Danyil N. David, Rotimi A. Oluwase-mire, Wisdom A. Akpeakighir, Papi P. Yakubu, Abdul-fatah M. Bako, Wisdom M, and Joshua Emmanuel.



A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute to establish Africa's First Center for Species Survival



IUCN SSC Centers for Species Survival / September 2023

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) announced a groundbreaking partnership to create

a Center for Species Survival (CSS) in Nigeria, located in the Amurum Forest Reserve in Jos. The official agreement was signed by the IUCN SSC Chair, Dr Jon Paul Rodríguez, and the Director of APLORI, Dr Adams Chaskda.

This agreement between the largest of IUCN's seven volunteer Commissions and the West African ornithological Institute

aims to provide strategic support and capacity in catalysing assessments, planning and action for species conservation in Nigeria, and to provide capacity and training support for species conservation assessments, planning and action across the West Africa region.

"Saving species is possible, if we act more collaboratively and strategically. SSC is excited to partner with APLORI to create the first Center for Species Survival in Africa. Together we can grow understanding, foster partnerships and scale up action to protect and restore critical biodiversity in Nigeria and across West Africa," said Dr Kira Mileham, SSC Director of Strategic Partnerships.

The Center's main goal is to address the urgent need for regional-level knowledge and understanding of birds and biodiversity status and to undertake concerted efforts for their conservation.

The Center has a dual goal of improving capacity building in West Africa while also supporting the species conservation cycle. This includes training on Red List assessment, conservation planning, and action, ultimately leading to improved conservation measures and promoting a harmonious coexistence between humans and the natural world.



At APLORI, we believe that understanding and conserving our biodiversity is not only a responsibility but also an opportunity for a sustainable future. Through our partnership with the IUCN Species Survival Commission and the establishment of the Center for Species Survival in Nigeria, we are dedicated to catalysing initiatives that will safeguard our natural heritage, develop regional capacity, and promote a balanced relationship between humanity and the natural environment," said Dr Adams A. Chaskda, Director A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI).

CSS Nigeria will catalyse initiatives aimed at understanding the status of species and implementing conservation action plans for biodiversity across the country and developing capacity focused on West Africa. Additionally, it will coordinate diverse stakeholders in developing the first comprehensive National Red List in the region and ensure that these assessments contribute, where possible, to the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is collaborating with an increasing number of partners to establish Centers for Species Survival across the globe. These Centers work together with IUCN volunteer specialist groups to share expertise and capacity in scaling up strategic species conservation.

About the IUCN Species Survival Commission

With over 9,000 members in 186 territories, the Species Survival Commission (SSC) is the largest of the seven expert Commissions of IUCN and enables it to influence, encourage and assist societies to conserve biodiversity by building knowledge on the status and threats to species, providing advice, developing policies and guidelines, facilitating conservation planning, and catalysing conservation action. Learn more at www.iucn.org/ssc.

*Visit cssn.aplori.org
for more information
about the center*

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*Assoc. Prof. Adams A. Chaskda
Director, APLORI*

Tree planting campaign in Jos, a collaboration between the Nigeria Conservation Foundation and APLORI.



The socio-economic impact of climate change and extreme events remain a pressing concern, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria, where vulnerability is high. One significant strategy for both mitigating and adapting to climate change is afforestation. Afforestation involves planting trees to sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases, and create favorable conditions for climate-related factors. In recent years, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) has partnered with APLORI to combat climate change by raising awareness, conducting environmental education, and planting valuable indigenous trees in selected areas, with a particular focus on dryland environments like Nigeria.

Funding for this initiative was generously provided by Stanbic IBTC Bank through the Nigerian Conservation Foundation.

The seedlings planted, include that of native plant species, such as *Parkia biglobosa*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Vitellaria paradoxa*, *Khaya senegalensis*, *Adansonia digitata*, *Syzygium* spp, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, and *Vitex doniana*. The seeds underwent cleaning, treatment, and dormancy breaking before planting. To ensure the success of the project, only fully matured trees were transplanted to the permanent field.

DAY ONE: Opening ceremony at University of Jos

The inaugural tree planting event took place at the University of Jos, Nigeria, with distinguished guests including the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Prof. Rahila Gowon, and other key figures from APLORI, NCF, and the Ministry of Environment. The university community expressed their commitment to nurturing these trees, symbolizing their dedication to environmental conservation.



Tree Planting at the EMS Centre Sabon Gari Jos East Plateau State Nigeria.

DAY TWO: Visit to EMS Centre in Sabon Gari, Jos East L.G.A., Plateau State

The team visited the EMS Centre and worked closely with its coordinator, Rev. Dr. Hassan, and the center's manager. Research Director, Dr. Talatu Tende led the tree planting campaign there, further strengthening the project's reach



The Vice Principal Government Secondary School Rantya addressing the students on the purpose of visit.

DAY THREE: Visit to Government Secondary School Rantya

The APLORI team received a warm welcome from the Vice Principal of Government Secondary School Rantya. After an educational talk on the benefits of trees and plants, the students actively participated in planting the trees.

Methods for Seedling Distribution

Careful site selection was essential for the successful distribution of seedlings. Sites were chosen based on accessibility, protection, water availability, and the willingness of local communities to care for the plants.

A total of 4,020 seedlings were raised and distributed as follows:

University of Jos main campus: 2,000 seedlings

EMS Centre Sabon Gari: 1,500 seedlings

Government Secondary School Rantya: 500 seedlings.

In addition, over 7,000 plants were raised in the APLORI plant nursery, with 6,120 distributed and 1,600 seedlings remaining.

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We intend to raise more seedlings for distribution before the end of this year's rainy season. However, we will monitor and reward the clan that takes good care of the trees given to them.

Nigerian Defence Academy Cadets Visit APLORI for Practical Training.

A group of 300 Level Officer Cadets from the Biological Science Department of the Nigeria Defence Academy (NDA) in Zaria embarked on an educational visit to the

A. P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI). The visit aimed to provide the cadets with practical exposure to the subjects they study in the classroom, particularly in the areas of ecology, plant and animal breeding, wildlife conservation, and management.

The cadets, accompanied by officers, arrived at APLORI in the morning and were warmly welcomed by the institute's Director, Dr. Adams Chaskda. To begin the visit, a brief presentation was delivered by Dr. Chaskda at the Lecture Theatre of the institute, highlighting the activities and research conducted at APLORI.

Following the presentation, research associates from the institute guided the cadets on a tour of the Amurum Forest Reserve, specifically focusing on bird and plant ecology. This practical experience allowed the cadets to observe and study various bird species and their habitats, as well as gain insights into the ecological dynamics of the forest reserve.

APLORI, renowned for its expertise in ornithology and wildlife research, provided a valuable learning opportunity for the officer cadets. By directly engaging with the natural environment and its inhabitants, the cadets were able to deepen their understanding of the principles and concepts they have learned in their academic coursework.

The visit to APLORI underscores the Nigeria Defence Academy's commitment to equipping its cadets with practical knowledge and experience that complements their theoretical education. Such initiatives serve to enhance their professional development and prepare them for future roles in protecting Nigeria's natural resources and environment.

As the cadets and officers concluded their visit, they expressed their gratitude to the Director and staff of APLORI for hosting them and providing an enriching educational experience. The visit undoubtedly broadened the cadets' perspectives and fostered a greater appreciation for the importance of wildlife conservation and ecological management in Nigeria.

This educational visit to APLORI serves as a testament to the ongoing efforts to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, ensuring that future officers of the Nigeria Defence Academy are well-prepared to address the complex challenges of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the country.

Federal College of Forestry Jos, Delegation Visits A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI)

In a move towards fostering collaboration and project development, Dr. Ezra Anamayi, the Provost of the Federal College of Forestry in Jos, led a delegation to

the A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI). The purpose of the visit was to engage with APLORI's management regarding an important project to establish the Shere Hills as an important Biosphere Reserve, for which the Institute's expertise is needed.

The delegation, consisting of esteemed members from the College of Forestry, was warmly received by Dr. Adams Chaskda, the Director of APLORI. During the meeting, Dr. Chaskda expressed APLORI's commitment to supporting and guiding the realization of the project, emphasizing the institute's willingness to be an active stakeholder.

This visit marks a pivotal moment in the collaboration between the College of Forestry and APLORI, as they jointly work towards achieving their project's objectives. The involvement of APLORI, renowned for its expertise in ornithological research, brings invaluable knowledge and resources to the table.

The collaboration between these two esteemed institutions is expected to enhance the project's outcomes, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges at hand. The exchange of ideas and best practices between the College of Forestry and APLORI will strengthen research capabilities and contribute to the advancement of the field. Dr. Anamayi expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and the assurance of assistance provided by Dr. Chaskda. He emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in tackling complex projects and commended APLORI for their commitment to the partnership.

As the project progresses, it is anticipated that the combined efforts of the College of Forestry and APLORI will yield significant results, benefiting both institutions and furthering the field of ornithological research.

The College of Forestry eagerly looks forward to working closely with APLORI, drawing upon their shared expertise and resources, to accomplish the goals set forth by the project. With this collaboration, they aim to contribute meaningfully to the understanding and conservation of bird species and their habitats.

This visit signifies a positive step towards a fruitful partnership, and the College of Forestry remains dedicated to fostering similar collaborations with leading institutions in the future.

Some members of staff of the Federal College of Forestry, Jos accompanied the provost on the visit, including Dr Collina Kambai, the project coordinator Community consultation for Shere Hills as a proposed Biosphere Reserve, and Mr. Samuel Nyam from the Plateau State ministry of environment.

Two members of staff of APLORI, attend a two week-long Workshop and Training Program on Bioacoustics in Switzerland



We are thrilled to share some recent highlights from two of our staff members, Yitmwa Joel and Iniunam Iniunam who had the incredible opportunity to attend a two-week workshop and training program on bioacoustics at the prestigious Institute of Swiss Ornithological Research Institute, Seerose, Switzerland. Here's a glimpse of their enriching experience:

Exploring the World of Bioacoustics

During the workshop, our team delved into the fascinating realm of bioacoustics. They received comprehensive training and a captivating introduction to this field, gaining insights into the science of studying bird vocalizations and sounds.

Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) and Beyond

The program also featured in-depth sessions on passive acoustic monitoring (PAM), a vital technique in wildlife research.

Our team explored the latest methods for collecting and analyzing acoustic data to better understand avian behavior and ecosystems. Unveiling the Power of Data Visualization

In addition, the workshop emphasized the importance of data visualization techniques, enabling our staff to present their findings effectively and engage with fellow researchers.

Occupancy Modeling and Open Soundscape

Occupancy modeling, a key tool in avian research, was a crucial part of the training. Our team learned how to use this statistical approach to estimate species distribution and occupancy.

Open Soundscape, a powerful open-source software for soundscape analysis, was also introduced, providing our team with valuable tools for their future research endeavors.



Introduction to BirdNet

BirdNet, an innovative resource for automatic bird sound identification, was another highlight of the program. Our staff had the opportunity to explore its potential for species identification and data analysis.

Exploring Remarkable Locations

Beyond the workshop, our team enjoyed a cultural and scientific exchange, visiting awe-inspiring locations. One of the highlights was a trip to The Cal de Bretolet, where a remarkable long-term bird ringing program has been in operation for over fifty years, offering a unique opportunity to witness ongoing research.

The team also explored the breathtaking Aletsch Glacier, further enriching their understanding of the environment and its significance for avian research. The workshop concluded on a high note as Yitmwa Joel and Iniunam Iniunam developed a project related to stone partridge data. This project was presented to the organizers of the training, showcasing our institute's dedication to advancing the field of ornithological research.

We are immensely proud of our team's participation in this enriching experience, and we look forward to the valuable contributions their newfound knowledge and projects will bring to our ongoing research efforts.



Office of the Research Director, Organizes a Weeklong Training for Field and Research Assistants.



The A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) recently conducted a follow-up training workshop for its Research and Field Assistants. The workshop, organized by the office of the Research Director, aimed to address recommendations from the 2022 workshop, focusing on enhancing staff skills in presentation, data analysis, and PowerPoint preparation.

Hosted at the Leventis Guest House in Jos Plateau State, Nigeria, the weeklong event provided Research Staff with practical insights into PowerPoint creation, data analysis techniques, and effective presentation methods. The workshop concluded with participants undertaking a mini project to apply their newly acquired knowledge.

Dr. Adams Chaskda, the Director of the Institute, delivered an opening remark, urging participants to embrace organizational changes and leverage the knowledge gained during the five-day workshop.

Notable resource persons include APLORI's teaching fellows Prof. Filibus Danjuma Dami, Dr. Longtong Turshak, Dr. Talatu Tende, Dr. Jacinta Abalaka, and Research Associates Josiah Ibrahim and Anap Ishaku.

Report on the MSc Students Field Trip to Weppa, Edo State, Nigeria.



The A.P Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) is renowned for its commitment to avian research and the development of capacity in the field of ornithology. In line with its educational objectives, the MSc students of the Conservation Biology program embarked on a weeklong field trip to Weppa in Edo State. The objective of the trip was to provide students with hands-on experience and practical application of the theoretical knowledge acquired in the classroom since February of the academic year 2022/2023.

The primary goal of the field trip was to expose students to various field application techniques crucial for conservation biology. This included hands-on experience with point count methods, vegetation measurement, line transect sampling, bird ringing, and the implementation of a mini-project.

Also, the field trip aimed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. By immersing students in real-world scenarios, the intention was to reinforce their understanding of concepts learned in the classroom and develop practical skills essential for future careers in conservation biology.

Activities Undertaken during the field trip include:

Point Count Methodology: Students actively engaged in point count surveys, a fundamental technique for monitoring bird populations. They honed their skills in identifying and counting birds in specified locations, gaining insights into the importance of standardized methods in avian research.



Vegetation Measurement: Understanding the interplay between avian species and their habitat is integral to conservation efforts. Students learned how to conduct vegetation measurements, assessing factors such as tree density, vegetation height, and composition. This knowledge contributes to habitat assessment and management strategies.

Line Transect Sampling: The utilization of line transect methodology provided students with a practical understanding of estimating population densities of birds across diverse habitats. This method is crucial for assessing changes in bird distribution and abundance.

Bird Ringing: The field trip included a practical session on bird ringing, allowing students to actively participate in the process of attaching uniquely numbered rings to birds for individual identification. This method aids in long-term population monitoring and migration studies.

Mini-Project Implementation: To cap off the program, students engaged in a mini-project where they applied their cumulative skills and knowledge. This hands-on project provided a platform for creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving, fostering a holistic understanding of conservation biology.

The Outcomes and Benefits of the field trip are listed below;

-Enhanced Practical Skills: The field trip provided an invaluable opportunity for students to enhance their practical skills in fieldwork. By actively participating in data collection and analysis, students gained confidence in applying theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios.

-Teamwork and Collaboration: The collaborative nature of fieldwork strengthened the students' ability to work as a team. Effective communication and collaboration were essential for the success of various activities, mirroring the interdisciplinary nature of conservation biology.

-Exposure to Biodiversity: Weppa, with its diverse ecosystems, provided students with exposure to a rich array of biodiversity. This experience was not only educational but also instilled a deep appreciation for the complexity and interconnectedness of ecosystems.

The experience was instrumental in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, equipping students with essential skills for their future careers in conservation biology. The hands-on activities, ranging from point count surveys to the implementation of a mini-project, not only deepened their understanding of research techniques but also fostered teamwork, collaboration, and a profound appreciation for biodiversity. The success of this field trip underscores APLO-RI's commitment to providing a comprehensive and immersive education in the field of ornithology and conservation biology.



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