



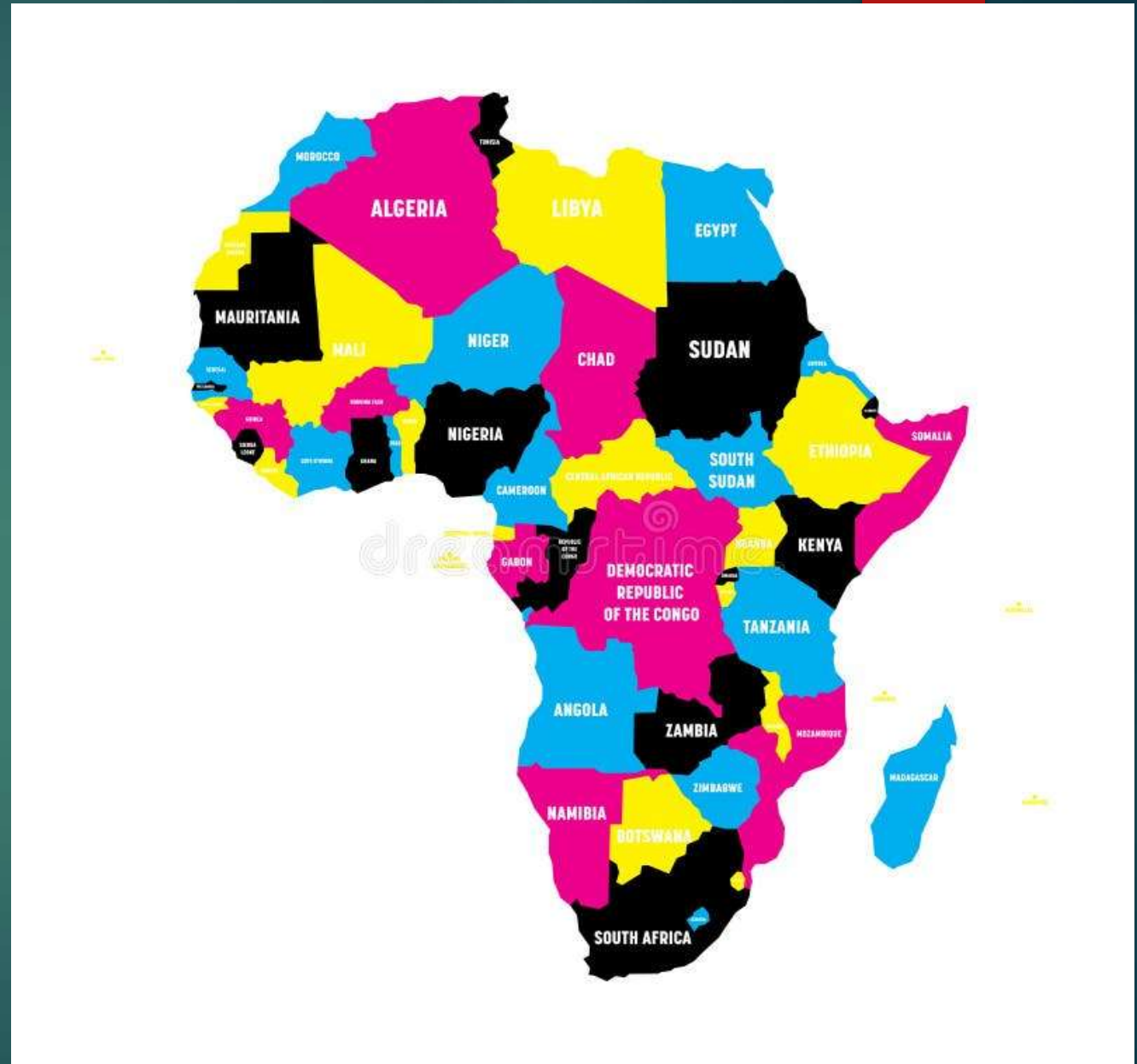
BIODIVERSITY AND MEASUREMENT

CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

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Where is NIGERIA

- ▶ Nigeria is a country located on the western coast of Africa in the region known as West Africa. It borders the North Atlantic Ocean to the south (specifically the Gulf of Guinea), with Benin to the west, Niger to the north, and Chad and Cameroon to the east.



CONSERVATION IN NIGERIA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Conservation is the sustainable management, protection, and restoration of natural resources, ecosystems, and wildlife to ensure their availability for current and future generations. It involves a balance between human use and environmental preservation, covering resources like water, soil, air, and minerals, as well as protecting biodiversity and restoring habitats.

KEY ASPECT/COMPONENT OF CONSERVATION

- ▶ Sustainable Usage: Managing natural resources (e.g., forests, fisheries) to prevent depletion, allowing for use without exhausting them.
- ▶ Protection and Preservation: Safeguarding habitats, biodiversity, and species from destruction, pollution, or neglect.
- ▶ Active Stewardship: Restoration of natural functions and careful planning of land use.
- ▶ Cultural Heritage: A secondary meaning includes the long-term preservation of artifacts, art, and historic sites.

CONSERVATION IN NIGERIA

- ▶ Conservation in Nigeria focuses on protecting dwindling biodiversity and reversing severe deforestation, with over 90% of forests lost in the last three decades. Key initiatives involve the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) and government agencies managing protected areas like Cross River National Park, focusing on endangered species like the Cross River gorilla and mangrove restoration.

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- ▶ Deforestation Crisis: Nigeria has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world, losing almost 90% of its forest cover in 30 years due to illegal logging, agriculture, and fuel wood reliance.
 - ▶ Wildlife and Biodiversity Threats: Large mammal populations like elephants and lions have faced massive declines, with the West African black rhino already considered extinct, and only about 100 Nigerian-Cameroon chimpanzees remaining.





Western black rhinoceros



Pangolin

Animals Thought to Have Gone Extinct or Locally Extinct in Nigeria

- ▶ Black Rhinos: Historically found in northern Nigeria, these are widely considered extinct in the country due to severe poaching.
- ▶ Giraffes: Naturally occurring giraffe populations are considered extinct, with only introduced, contained populations formerly existing in northern reserves.
- ▶ Northwest African Cheetah: These are feared extinct in Nigeria's largest national parks, including Kainji Lake National Park.
- ▶ Leopards: While widely found, their populations have declined sharply, leading to fears of local extinction in many areas.
- ▶ African Wild Dog: The species is rarely seen and likely extinct in many of its former Nigerian ranges.
- ▶ Hippopotamus: Similar to the cheetah, these are feared extinct in some major national parks.

CONSERVATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ▶ The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) is the premier Non Governmental Organization (NGO) dedicated to nature conservation and sustainable development in Nigeria. Established in 1980, the Foundation was registered in 1982 as a Charitable Trust under the Land (Perpetual Succession) Act of 1961 – a policy that was replaced by the Company and Allied Matters Act of 1990. Founded by late Chief S. L. Edu, NCF has its patron as the President and Commander- In-Chief of the Armed Force of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- ▶ The Foundation has a vision to be “A leader in creating sustainable societies where people and nature thrive”. This vision drives its Mission to protect and restore natural resources, tackle emerging environmental threats in partnership with communities and other stakeholders, for the benefit of present and future generations.



KEY ORGANIZATION

- ▶ **Key Organizations:** The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) is the primary NGO focusing on nature conservation, sustainable development, and public education. Other groups include the Coalition for Biodiversity Conservationists of Nigeria (CBCN).
- ▶ **Deforestation Crisis:** Nigeria has one of the highest rates of deforestation globally, losing roughly 400,000 hectares of forest annually, with less than 10% of its original forest cover remaining.
- ▶ **Protected Areas & Wildlife:** Key protected areas include Gashaka-Gumti National Park, Cross River National Park, and Yankari Game Reserve. These protect endangered species such as elephants and the Cross River gorilla, though over 77% of large mammal populations in these areas have declined.
- ▶ **Marine & Wetland Conservation:** Efforts are ongoing to protect the Niger Delta mangroves and wetlands, including the Finima Nature Park.
- ▶ **Major Threats:** Illegal logging, rapid urbanization, agricultural expansion (specifically shifting cultivation), and dependence on fuelwood drive habitat destruction.

Conservation at local level

- ▶ Conservation at the local level in Nigeria has shifted from traditional exclusion to community-led models that integrate indigenous knowledge with modern environmental protection. Current efforts focus on creating sustainable livelihoods to reduce dependence on activities like logging and hunt
- ▶ Key Local Conservation Models
- ▶ Community-Led Initiatives: Programs like the Ekuri Initiative in Cross River State have preserved over 33,000 hectares of rainforest by empowering local residents to manage their own land against logging interests.
- ▶ Alternative Livelihoods: To curb poaching and deforestation, local projects now offer training in beekeeping, snail farming, and ecotourism. For example, in Ogun State, former loggers are now leading major forest restoration efforts.

CHALLENGES

- ▶ Conservation efforts face weak enforcement of regulations, inadequate funding, and, in some cases, lack of community support, according to a Scientific Reports in Life Sciences article and a World Journal of Environmental Biosciences study.
- ▶ **Key initiatives** involve restoration projects in states like Edo and Ogun, and the management of nature reserves like the Becheve Nature Reserve.



THE END

THANK YOU FOR YOU AUDIENCE