

## FOREWORD

The growing widespread concern for the environment must be translated into positive action for environmental protection and conservation. Environmental awareness training and education provides the foundation for successful action for a sustainable environment. This major challenge needs cooperation among a wide range of organisations and individuals.

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation Environmental Awareness and Education Programme for Nigeria supported by the WWF-UK is meeting this challenge by offering overseas training opportunities to Nigerians in sustainable environmental education and establishing environmental education units in Nigeria. There is a need for appropriate literature in environmental education for use in Nigeria.

This publication constitutes a pioneer contribution to the task of curriculum development in environmental education. The conference papers show clearly Nigerians perception of a global problem. The lead and contributory papers should be of great value to all resource development centres as well as to educational institutions. The report is warmly recommended to all those for whom it is appropriate.

**Ambassador Aduke Alakija**

*Ag. Chairman, NCF Executive Council*

## EDITORIAL

I am delighted to bring to you the first issue of the *Proceedings of the National Conference on Environmental Education* organised by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) with the support of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF - UK). NCF/WWF Environmental Awareness and Education Programme has laid the foundation for the development of environmental education in Nigeria by providing post-graduate training to Nigerians in environmental education at Jordanhill College, Glasgow, and establishing environmental education units in Benin, Calabar, Lekki and Okomu.

The commitment of Nigerians trained on this programme and their exposure to global and local environmental problems led to the organisation of the first National Conference on Environmental Education and the birth of the Nigerian Association for Environmental Education (NAFEE). Knowledge and experience gathered from NCF Education Department Workshop Series influenced the structure and activities of this conference. The commitment of Nigerians trained in environmental education and exposed to global and local environmental problems led to the organisation of the first National Conference on Environmental Education and the birth of the Nigerian Association for Environmental Education (NAFEE). Knowledge and experience gathered from NCF Education Department Workshop Series influenced the structure and activities of this conference.

Underlying themes running through the addresses by Chief A. Ajao, Chairman of NCF Public Awareness Committee, Ambassador Aduke Alakija, Acting Chairman of NCF Executive Council and Dr. Tayo Ogunbadejo representing the Secretary of Education can be seen from two major perspectives:

1. Institutional framework for pursuing the goal of environmental education must not only be identified but should be supported by the appropriate agencies and individuals;
2. Environmental education is meaningful if it is related to personal values and life styles, therefore, promotion of sustainable life style is basic to Environmental Education.

It is now apparent to many that if we want our investment in development and education to last we must place the environment first.

The keynote address, lead and contributed papers presented from an interdisciplinary perspective generated more questions and inquiry for further action. It is noteworthy that this conference also witnessed the inauguration of the Nigerian Association for Environmental Education which I consider a necessary development towards the professionalisation of environmental education in Nigeria.

This conference proceedings is not only a record of events at the 1st National Conference on Environmental Education but also a catalyst for the publication of resource materials in environmental education which are at various stages of development before the end of 1993.

Yomi Noibi  
Editor

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## OVERVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE

### Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the conference commenced at about 10.45 a.m. with a welcome address delivered by Chief A. Ajao, Chairman, Public Awareness Committee of NCF. This was after the conference has been declared open by Dr. Ogunbajejo, the representative of the Secretary of Education and Youth Development. The Chairman of the Opening Ceremony, in person of Ambassador Aduke Alakija also delivered an address on the need to take the theme of the Workshop serious.

Goodwill messages were taking from NARESCON, Chief Executive, UNESCO, Acting Sub-Regional Director, Mr. J. Kyazee, and WWF UK

A Keynote address titled "Environmental Problems and the Challenges of Environmental Education", was delivered by Prof. S. W. Petters, who through slide presentation familiarised the participants with the state of the Nigerian environment.

The Opening Ceremony came to an end at about 11.15 a.m.

### 1st Plenary Session

This session was chaired by Prof. Ralph Omojuwa, Director, Institute of

Education, University of Calabar, Calabar. The rapporteur of the session was Mr. John Ighrakpata, Co-ordinator, Community Education Programme, EEU, Benin.

The first lead paper was presented by Mr. Sola Adara, Deputy Director, C.D.C. NERDC, Abuja. The title of the paper was "*Environmental Education in Formal Sector: Problems and Prospects*". The paper examined the environmental implications of our various developmental activities in the country. The early concerns towards addressing these issues were also discussed before more formal efforts were highlighted. The roles of the Works and Health Ministries, FEPA, NCF and other NGOs in solving the various environmental problems confronting us were discussed.

Specific commendation was made of the role of NCF in the development of a National Conservation Education Strategy which finally led to the adoption of EE as part of the Curriculum of Citizenship Education in the country.

Other efforts aimed at ensuring effective resolution of our environmental problems in Nigeria were also highlighted. These include:

- Tree planting exercise by the Presidency;

- Monthly Environmental Sanitation;
- Establishment of National Co-ordinating Committee for Environmental Education;
- Establishment of Parks and Forest Reserves;
- Formation of School Conservation Clubs;
- Establishment of ordinary and postgraduate programmes in University of Calabar;
- Internationally sponsored training programmes on EE for Nigerians;
- Sponsorship of Nigerians to the Earth Summit;
- Development of EE Resource Materials.

The paper was concluded with a comment that Agenda 21, of the Earth Summit should be the main focus for the 1990s.

Questions raised and responded to on the presentation included:

- That the components of EE in the Citizenship Education Curriculum being developed by NERDC will take care of that. This will also take care of the suggestion that EE be introduced as general studies into the University Education, through NIJC.

## 2nd Plenary Session

**Chairman:** Dr. Obi Akatchak

**Rapporteur:** Mr. E. Usang

**Presenters:** Yomi Noibi and Tunde Lawal

**Title:** *Training and Education for Conservation and Sustainable Development*

The presentation was done in four parts viz!

- Introduction
- Conservation and Sustainable Development
- Nature of Training and Education for Conservation
- Strategies for training and education

The paper presented a picture of the local and global environmental problems confronting us all. Factors responsible for these problems were also highlighted. Among these were, poverty, style of living, technology, etc. It was pointed out that the gravity of these problem makes training and education to become highly unavoidable.

The paper attempted a critical appraisal of the nature of the existing training and education system. It was concluded that the existing system cannot promote co-operative living with the environment. It was recommended that, there is need for shift from the existing nature to one that is capable of promoting value acquisition and feeling

of concern for the environment, if conservation and sustainable development must be practised.

The target groups recommended for such modified nature are: women, children, youths, industrialists and policy makers.

The strategies for making the nature work were critically discussed with their merits and demerits highlighted. Some of the strategies discussed include the developmental approach, the problem-solving approach, and the project approach. It was however observed that a combination of two or all of them would serve better for any meaningful training and education in conservation and sustainable development.

Discussion, comments, and questions on the presentation were taken. Most of which bordered on how best conservation and sustainable development ethics can be imbibed by people through training and education.

### 3rd Plenary Session

**Chairman:** Prof. Amadi  
**Rapporteur:** Miss Rita Hedo  
**Presenter:-** Prof. P. A. O. Okebukola  
**Title:** Research and Evaluation  
in Environmental Education

The paper looked at various conceptions of environmental education, research, and evaluation. The state of research on Environmental Education was assessed,

and it was observed that there is dearth of research in EE.

The key issues to guide any research were also highlighted, and these include: relevance, cost effectiveness, themacity and collaboration.

The paper also identified the challenges for research in Environmental Education. Some of these include research capacity - in terms of personnel and resources and funding.

Specific methods of facing the challenges were also outlined. Some of which are:

- Government should allocate part of education levy to environment education
- Establishment of viable journal of environmental education in Nigeria
- Individuals should act positively towards the environment
- General encouragement of research work

In the discussion session that took place after the presentation looked into the issue of Computer Data Centre. It was observed that University authorities all over the country have not yet considered this as a priority. As for research funding, it was suggested that NERDC should be more pre-occupied with the funding of major research work, which as at present is being neglected.