



FINPA NEWS

Issue 2
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A Newsletter for Nature lovers



It is that time of the year where the trees show us how lovely it is to let go. I am guilty of that...but Nature is my teacher and she is very patient. Not every day we get to talk about nature and what goes on in it, but then again should not we all, talk about it, cherish it, for it is our home and in '*nature nothing exists alone*' *Rachel Carson*.

People still liken a nature park to the zoo. They expect to see animals like it is seen when one visits the zoo. No, that is not what a nature park is about.

Nature is you, me and the rest of our environment. A nature park is a serene environment where plants and animals are left to live freely in their own habitat. These areas are protected and conserved for sustainability. Don't say you did not know again.

These past months, the world focused on nature and our ill-treatment of it, climate change, ozone and its ever increasing danger to earth, habitat and loss of habitat, wetlands and its declining mangrove, loss of wildlife and a whole lot more. For, '*nature protects, if she is protected*'.

Last year, 2015 was recorded as the hottest year in the history of the world. Why? As a result of global warming which stems from man and his activities leading to climate change and its effect on man and his environment. The Amazon is the largest rainforest as we know it, which is declining. Bonny Island is also blessed with its own natural rainforest /wetland/mangrove/swamp forest and one of the major threats to our rainforest today is man's - over-population, over-dependency on natural resources and his quest for more.

The world is gradually moving to a green age and we are all advised to join the world globally to achieve a greener, cleaner, more eco-friendly sustainable home for us and our future generations. So far the outreach program has trained kids into the act of learning to grow and keep a garden, how to grow their own plant from seed to tree and the essence of trees. Let's all go out and think something **GREEN**. Don't be a spectator for life.

FINPA news is here to leave you better informed and also give you the opportunity to lend your hand to nature that it may work better for us all, for '*Nature never did betray the heart that loved her...*' *William Wordsworth*.

In this issue, we learn about ozone and climate change, tree planting /forest horticulture, wetland and mangrove, bird watch expedition, and whole lots more you never expected.

Do not forget to like us on our social media handle; and also visit Finima Nature park with your loved ones. You would experience nature at its best here.

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Opinions are those of the writers and not necessarily the organization as a whole.

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Thank you to all our Supporters and Sponsors.



World Ozone and Climate change Day



We joined the world united to celebrate world ozone day, Sep 16th tagged '**ozone and climate, restored by a world united**' – working towards reducing global HFC's.

Climate change is already beginning to transform life here on Earth. Without action, the impacts of climate change threaten to damage our world. This day is celebrated globally to create awareness on ozone, ozone layer depletion, the dangers and solution.

Already, *National Aeronautics and Space Administration*, (NASA) has informed us that the ozone layer is healing, but work still needs to be done not just the government alone but **by rallying people around the world to be a part of the solution**, together we have the power to limit the effects of ozone layer depletion and climate change. finding solution is as important as knowing the causative agent.

Our take home is to plant more trees, bring back the forest, lets all get cleaner air, take more walks, car pooling, lets **trace** our steps back to nature, do less of take-away, buy more of eco-sustainable products, lets practice proper waste segregation. We are already in change, therefore, **I implore** you all, be the change that you want to see.



Cross-section of Participants

May the forest be with you!!!

Did you know that beer is 90 - 95% water.. I know you did not. But where does this water come from..we all know it isn't from the sea.. it comes from the forest, forest is one source of more than half of our clean water.

Did you also know that a single tree produces approximately 260 pounds of oxygen per year. That means two mature trees can supply enough oxygen annually to support a family of four! Our park trees are still being harvested for many economic reasons. Our forest needs restoration in other for us to get cleaner air and water. These life long trees are part of the reason we all still standing today but these trees do not just grow, people put them there.

Who would plant back our forest ?
A man doesn't plant a tree for himself but for posterity ..Alexander Smith.

On the 29th of October, we at Finima nature park have planted 30 Economic plants (Almond plant, Cleistophoris sp) at NLNG roundabout and we are still counting. So you need cleaner air we have got you covered.. Right now, we have 300 Moringa seedlings screaming to be planted and so in line with UNEP's 15 sustainable development goal (Take Care of the Earth) we have embarked on a mini project called 'Make Bonny Green'. We are moving round schools and organizations on the Island planting and creating awareness on the health and economic importance of Moringa tree.

If you want to be a part of this Green movement, why not join us as we go planting with kids from different schools and other officials. So far we have planted in Community Primary School, Legacy Schools. We hope to reach more schools and other centers around bonny Island. Let us give back to mother earth. Lets teach our young ones the essence of life in itself and the need for these trees.. *For even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree..Martin Luther.* For every tree felled we want to plant 10 more so come do your bit.





Cross section of participants at the Plant –A-tree event

Our Mangrove

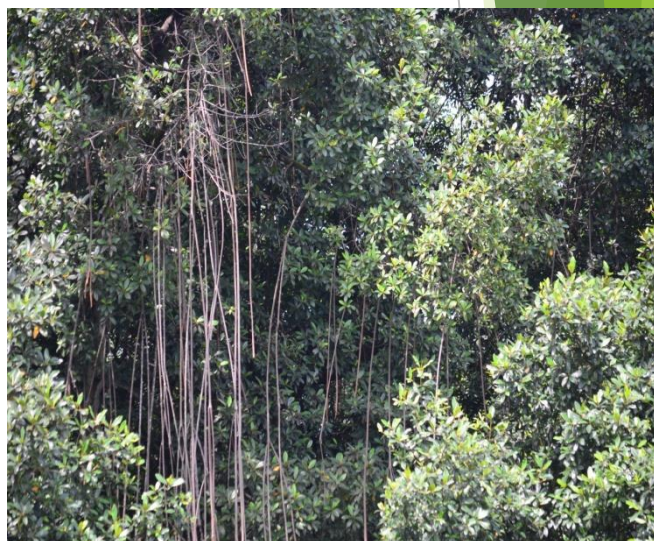
Mangroves are coastal forests that lie on the crossroad where oceans, freshwater, and land realms meet. Mangrove forests are particularly found in the tropical and subtropical regions within 30° of the equator. Did you know that the African country with the largest mangrove area is Nigeria with 1 million ha.

The mangrove forest in Nigeria is the third largest in the world and the largest in Africa. Over 60% of these mangroves or 6,000 square kilometers is found in the Niger-Delta. The fresh water swamps are 11,700 kilometers in area. Mangrove forests provide the community with great source of income, provides protection, clean water, biodiversity and shelter against extreme weather events, such as storm winds and floods, as well as tsunamis.

It is written that a mangrove stand of 30 trees per 0.01 hectare with a depth of 100 m can reduce the destructive force of a tsunami by up to 90%!!! *'the storm makes trees take deeper roots .. Dolly Parton.* Meanwhile recent studies by the TNC and wetlands International have proven that mangroves reduce wave height by as much as 66% over 100 meters of forest. In the past 25 years 20-30% of mangroves in the west and central Africa have been lost and is in decline due to urbanization, urban infrastructure development, salt and sand extraction, industrial pollution, but also mangrove cutting for firewood. We have raised over 1000 white, red mangrove seedlings in preparation for planting at defected areas on Bonny mangrove areas.. *Far off in the red mangroves an alligator has heaved himself onto a hammock of grass and lies there studying his poems ..Mary Oliver.*



Mangrove seedlings



Red mangrove



Nipa palm

Herb Garden

I cannot categorically state this enough but you need to buy more fresh organic produce free of harsh chemical pesticides, herbicides from our very own park organic garden. Its way better than the conventional garden produce, as our own herb gardening is completely void of fertilizers, pesticides, and other harsh chemicals.. We let these plants grow using natural fertilizers (manure), this then gives us a healthier and more natural garden. Before you buy/ eat vegetables, we ought to know the source. Our herb garden is flourishing with lots of herbs like water leaf, pumpkin leaf, African peppers, ginger, and we just recently added African spinach, Green, Roselle (zobo plant), Jute leaf.

Come and get your fresh vegetables from Finima nature park. Do you have your very own organic garden?? We love pictures so send us via email or call.

Do you have seeds of Ornamental or Economic plants that you would love to see in our garden next season? Come donate your flower seeds./seedlings at Finima Nature Park.



Bird Is the Word

*I spend a lot of time learning about bird watching
.. Nikki Giovanni*

Bird watching or birding is an increasingly popular hobby in many parts of the world. Venturing out to look for and listen to various species of birds in your locality can be both enriching and relaxing.

In 2008, Lynn Barber's passion for birding led her to drive, fly, sail, walk, stalk, and sit in search of birds in twenty-five states and three provinces. Traveling more than 175,000 miles, she set a twenty-first century record at the time, second to only one other person in history - One woman . . . one year . . . 723 species of birds!!

I think the most important quality of a birdwatcher is the willingness to stand quietly and see what comes. Our everyday lives obscure a truth about existence- that at the heart of everything there lies a stillness and a light.

On the 10th of August, 40 birders went bird watching along the NLNG Residential Area Perimeter and it was indeed a great experience for all who came. We sighted close to 10 different birds – the woodland kingfishers, African jacana, Great egret, Cattle egret, Green-backed heron, Black kite and Pied crow. We also ended up watching the release of a blanding tree snake!! What a day!!

Sometimes the point of bird watching is not the actual sighting of the birds, but the cultivation of patience that is lacking in some of us. *For in order to see birds..become a part of the silence, sit still like a mystic and wait..* Of course, each time we set out, there's a certain amount of expectation we'll see something, maybe even a specie we've never seen before, and that alone is fulfilling.

Why not come out 17th December, 2016, lets go bird watching, May the birds teach us what belief In ones self is all about ,*for a bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, its trust is not on the branch but its own wings.*



A cross-section of bird watchers

#DYK? Interesting facts about Our Environment



- Nigeria, once in the heart of the tropical rainforest belt, has lost about 95% of its total forest cover.
- According to the World Resources Institute, Nigeria is home to 4,715 different types of plant species, and over 550 species of breeding birds and mammals, making it one of the most ecologically vibrant places of the planet.
- Over the past 25 years, the value for Forest area (sq. km) in Nigeria was 69,930km/square as of 2015 compared to the value in 1990, 172,340km/square.

- 652,504,860 tons of food **has been** lost globally this year as at the 28 Nov 16. Nigeria's food waste has hit \$750 billion yearly, as 80% of food is wasted in Nigeria as opposed to the 33% in rest of the world.
- The number of disposable nappies each baby gets through weighs the same as a family car!!!
- Bottled Water Is the "Grandfather of Wasteful Industries."For instance, out of the 10,000 plus metric tonnes of waste generated in Lagos per day, 12 per cent of the waste consists of plastic materials in the form of soft drink plastic, bottled water, pure water sachets.
- **#crushplastics, #Reuseplastics #Recycleplastics**

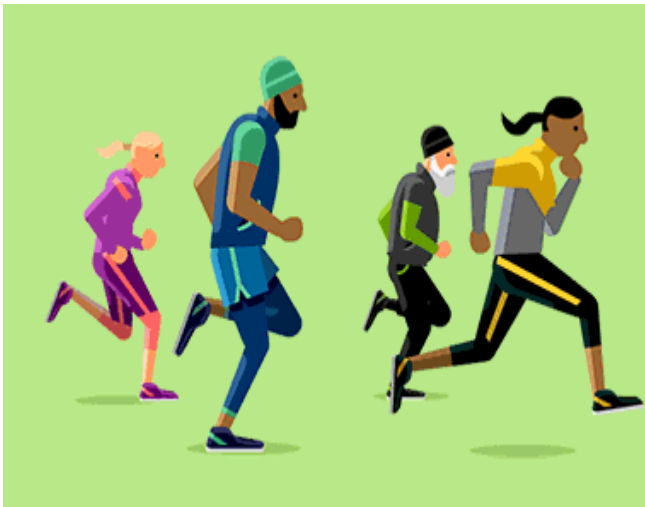


- It's not just what goes in the bin that counts as waste – water can be wasted, too. A single leaky tap in your house can waste as much as 5,000 liters of water a year. If we all fixed our dripping taps we could supply 120,000 people with a day's worth of water.
- **#savewater**

- Being a predator and prey, the crocodile plays an important role in keeping a wetland ecosystem healthy- by removing toxins and pollutants. They help keep the balance in the complex web of life in freshwater and estuarine ecosystems. When a wetland habitat is healthy, the fishery is considered to be healthy.
- Less than one percent of eggs laid by these creatures actually survive to adulthood. Overheating, flooding and predation by goannas, claim about 70-80% of unhatched embryos. More than half of the few that hatch die in their first year of life, mainly from predation by birds of prey, fish, snake-necked turtles and other crocodiles..
- Of the 24 species of crocodilian, the Nile crocodile which was sited along Finima Nature Park is of Least concern, and the Dwarf Crocodile which was rescued into the pond is a vulnerable species.
- Never trust a crocodile smile – they have constant supply of teeth as they can grow 8000 tooth in a life time!!
- **#Respectthehustle #Croclifeisnteasy**



Nile crocodile



Your health & you

- I bet you did not know that you burn more calories during the 23 hours of a single day than you do during...Your workout!!!..
- I would like to share this little tip on how to join the energy saving club
-Always phone at the wrong time – Do you have friends or relatives who talk to you for hours on the phone? Well I do.
 Find out what their favorite TV show is, and call them just as it's starting. They'll offer to call you back in an hour, which means they'll pay for the call. If they forget, you've saved the energy in your phone battery and you from electro-magnetic waves!!

Christmas Holiday Activities

- Bird watching: Our next birding trip will be round the perimeter fence of NLNG
 - Date: 17th December, 2016.
 - Time: 7.00am
 - Venue: Resource Center, Finima Nature Park
- Christmas walk for Nature
 - Date: 24th December, 2016
 - 2nd January, 2017
 - Venue: Resource Center, Finima Nature Park.
- lots of fun activities for kids also!!!!... Canoe ride, Floor games – Chess, Snake & Ladder, Ludo

Merry Christmas AND a Happy New year from all of us here at Finima Nature Park!!!!

About Finima Nature Park

The Finima Nature Park is a land grand held in Trust for Finima People supported by Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) and is managed by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), an NGO. To help preserve and protect our flora and fauna for a sustainable future.

VOLUNTEER today! Make a difference in
OUR ENVIRONMENT!!!!