

# FINPARK



## NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER FOR NATURE LOVERS

**Vol 1**  
**Issue 7**  
**March 2021**

# FINPARK





# FINPARK

## NEWSLETTER

- PHONE NO: 08061154038
- EMAIL: finimanaturepark@gmail.com
- WEBSITE: [www.finimanaturepark.com](http://www.finimanaturepark.com)
- FACEBOOK: Finima.Park
- INSTAGRAM: @finimanaturepark
- TWITTER: @finimanaturepark

### NEWS LETTER CONTRIBUTORS:

Asoegwu Chisom Racheal  
Usman Shittu  
Dr Prince Emeka Ndimele  
Raymond Owanlan

### EDITORS

Dagogo Brown  
Solomon Adefolu

### DESIGNER

Yusuf Bello





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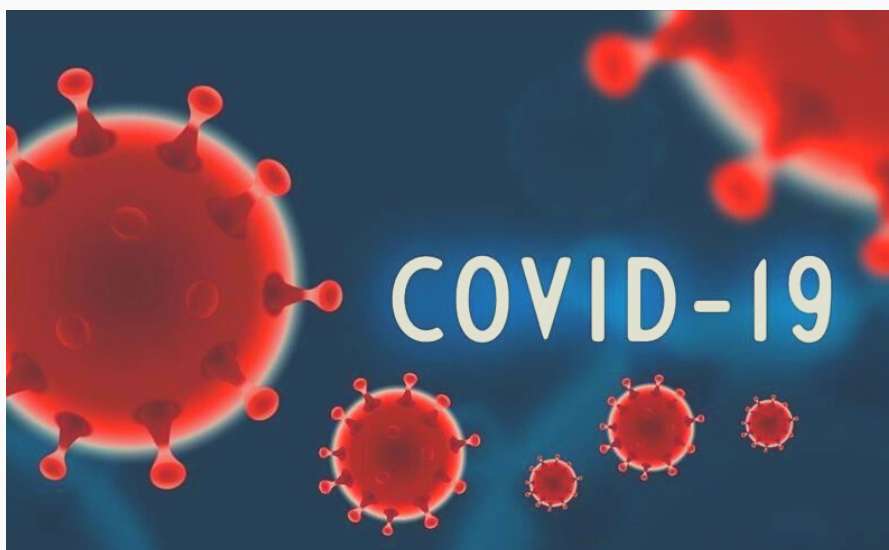
# INTRODUCTION

Official Newsletter of the finima Nature Park

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES DURING COVID-19

BY CHISOM

As an integral component of humans, the environment is affected by every development effort in a particular way. From the very beginning of civilization, human beings gradually started manipulating nature for their own benefit which has led to the degradation of the environment. As the novel coronavirus disease pandemic (COVID-19) hit the world, human life has come to a halt as many Nations shut themselves off from work and other eminent life activities in order to curtail the spread of the virus, this indeed has grim implications for the world.



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## ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES DURING COVID-19

BY CHISOM

Millions of deaths have occurred, social, economic and religious activities have been affected negatively. On the contrary, since numerous people's activities and industrial operations have been shut off for several months in many parts of the globe,



it is anticipated that there would be a rejuvenating process in the Biosphere, the Atmosphere and the hydrosphere. We must jointly protect our environment to be in harmony with each other

## The New Year Program

The New Year Activities saw lots of visitors from different parts of the country to the park to experience the serenity of the park. They engaged in various activities like the canoe ride, games, nature walk, photography etc.

“Deforestation is changing our climate, harming people and the natural world. We must, and can, reverse this trend.”

—JANE GOODALL







## FINIMA NATURE PRESENTS

**World  
Wetlands Day**  
2 February 2021  
Wetlands and water



e



Speaker

**Dr. Gordon Tami Amangabara**  
Department of Environmental Management  
Federal University of Technology Owerri

Meeting ID : 859 7428 6539  
Passcode : WWD2021

Time: 12 Noon West African Time



For Enquiries Contact :

0808 806 0350 0703 744 3265 0703 635 11

## World Wetlands Day

This year's theme "Wetlands and Water" shines a spotlight on wetlands as a source of freshwater and encourages actions to restore them and sustain for future generation. The Finima Nature Park joined the world at large to commemorate the day with an online photo contest and virtually through zoom meeting.



## WORLD WETLANDS DAY

*Written by Chisom*

World Wetlands Day is an annual event which aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet. Wetlands are land areas that are saturated or flooded with water either permanently or seasonally comprising of hydrophytes.



TS

Join us on  
zoom

859 7428 6539  
WWD2021

African Time

Speaker  
**Dr. Prince Emeka Ndimele**  
Department of Fisheries  
Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos State, Nigeria



# WATER HYACINTH (*EICHHORNIA CRASSIPES* [MART.] SOLMS) INVASION OF TROPICAL AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS: CHANGING THE NARRATIVES

By NDIMELE, Prince Emeka



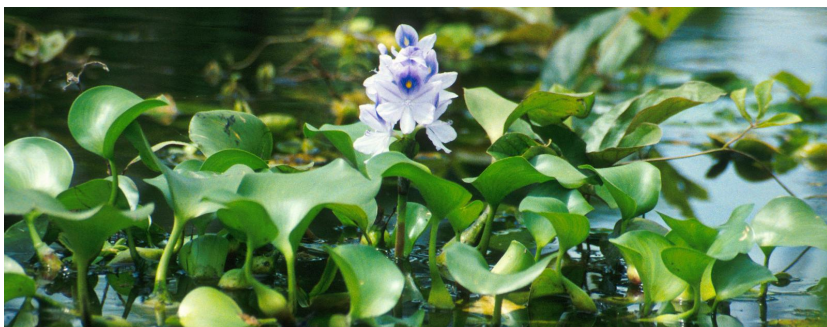
## Background

The aquatic macrophyte called water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is not new in the ecological history of man. Infact, it has been popularly described as the most troublesome weed of the world because of its rate of multiplication. It is aquatic in nature, deriving

its energy from the sun, storing this energy in a semi-succulent stem and a fibrous network of roots (Gopal and Sharma, 1981). This aquatic plant has been portrayed as a menace to fishing, navigation, biodiversity conservation, etc. However, it has some benefits which can be harnessed and converted to biological, economic and social gains. Some of these benefits include water purification, phytoremediation of aquatic pollutants and sequestration of carbon.

## Geographic Distribution

Water hyacinth is a native of tropical South America that has spread to more than 50 countries on five continents, and has become a massive problem in waterways in both Africa and Southeast Asia (Barrett, 1989). Its air-filled tissue (aerenchyma) enables it to float and spread rapidly within and between connected water bodies. It reproduces asexually by breaking apart into pieces each of which develops into a separate plant. This results in a rapid increase in biomass, and continuous mats of living and decaying water hyacinth up to two metres thick covering water surfaces.



## Water Hyacinth

### Control of water Hyacinth

**Mechanical Method:** This involves the removal of the plant from water with hand or instrument like pitchforks, then dumping the accumulated mass on land to die. This method is costly in time, money and energy.

**Chemical Method:** This method involved the use of herbicides to control water hyacinth. Various kinds of herbicides such as 2, 4-D, Dalapon, Diquat and others have been used in some places (Misra and Tripathy, 1975). The ecological problems created by these herbicides were obvious.

**Biological Method:** The outcome of biological control has not been impressive. Two insects that have enjoyed the widest usage in the biological control of water hyacinth are - *Neochetina eichhorniae* - a weevil and *Neochetina bruchi* - a weevil also. A moth; *Sameodes alboguttalis* has also been used.

**Integrated Approach:** Another method of controlling water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is integration of mechanical, chemical and biological methods because of



The problems caused by water hyacinth infestation

i. **Hindrance to water transport, irrigation and hydropower:** Canals and freshwater rivers can become impassable as they are clogged with densely intertwined carpets of the weed and hydropower systems can be affected. The Ologe Lagoon and the entire Lagos Lagoon complex have been rendered almost impassable by this aquatic plant at certain period of the year (Ndimele, 2008).



*Written by NDIMELE, Prince Emeka*

ii. Blockage of canals and rivers causing flooding: If water hyacinth is allowed to grow uncontrolled, it can block canals and rivers, which could lead to flooding.

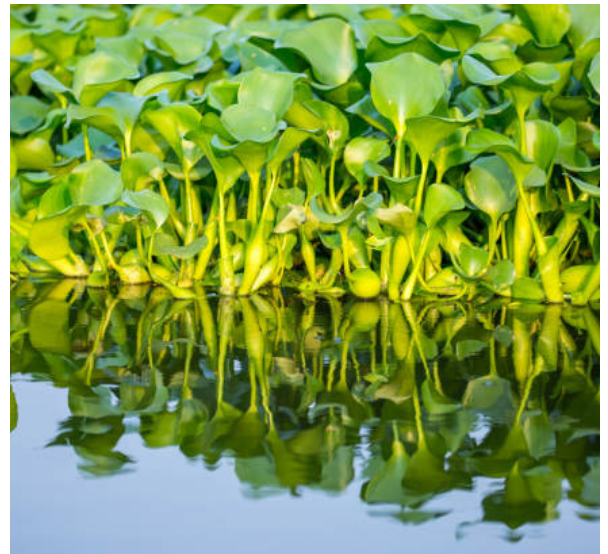
iii. Micro-habitat for a variety of disease vectors: The diseases associated with the presence of aquatic weeds in tropical developing countries are among those that cause the major public health problems: malaria, schistosomiasis and lymphatic filariasis. Some species of mosquito larvae thrive in environment created by the presence of aquatic weeds like water hyacinth.

iv. Reduction in fish catch: Water hyacinth infestation prevents access to fishing grounds. Loss of fishing equipment often results when nets or lines become tangled in the root systems of the weed and the result of these problems is more often than not, a reduction in catch and subsequent loss of livelihood. In addition, mats of water hyacinth limits light penetration, which affects primary productivity and consequently, fish output.

v. Loss in biodiversity: Dense mats of the weed covering the water surface lead to deoxygenation of the water, thus affecting all aquatic organisms. Death of water hyacinth mats may influence changes in the composition, distribution and diversity of aquatic organisms.

vi. Water supply: Water supply to both villages and municipalities is affected by water hyacinth. In municipalities, water hyacinth interferes with the water intake points through blockage, which lowers the quantity of water pumped.

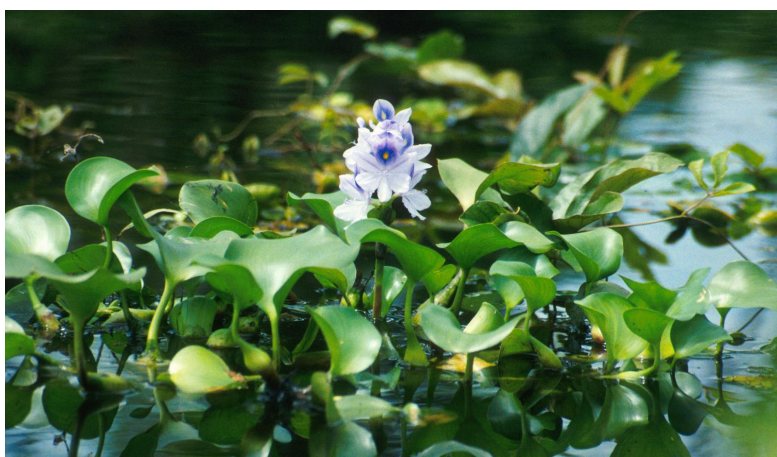
## Water Hyacinth



i. Fish Feed: Water hyacinth has also been incorporated into fish feed.

ii. Phytoremediation of heavy metals and crude oil-polluted site: Studies have shown that water hyacinth can absorb heavy metal and petroleum hydrocarbons and thus rid the aquatic environment of these pollutants (Ndimele and Ndimele, 2013; Ndimele et al., 2014; Ndimele et al., 2015).

iii. Carbon sequestration: Water hyacinth may be able to sequester carbon in wetlands. If this is proven to be true, it will help to reduce global warming.



### Conclusion:

Although, water hyacinth has adversely affected the services provided by inland water bodies, it nonetheless has some benefits, which can change its status from a weed to a billion Naira plant. Eradication or control of the weed has not yielded good results, so efforts should be channeled to its utilization.



# World wildlife Day

FINPARK NEWSLETTER

## WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

WRITTEN BY CHISOM



**FINIMA NATURE PARK**  
PRESENTS




**WORLD WILDLIFE DAY**  
3 MARCH


**SPEAKER**  
  
**PROFESSOR EDEM ENIANG**  
Department of Forestry and Natural Environmental Management  
University of Uyo  
CEO Biodiversity Preservation Centre Uyo.

**THEME:**  
**FORESTS AND LIVELIHOODS:  
SUSTAINING PEOPLE AND PLANET**

Time: 11:00 - 11:45pm West African Time

**SPEAKER**  
  
**PROFESSOR HENRY LJEOMAH**  
Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management  
University of Port Harcourt

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FINPARK NEWSLETTER

World Wildlife Day (WWD) is one of the global environmental days that we commemorate on the 3rd of March 2021. It is to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora and recognize the important role of CITES in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the survival of species.

Wildlife is celebrated around the world for the vital roles and benefits they provide:

- Serves as habitat for fauna and human
- Forests serves vital roles in carbon sequestration
- A tapestry of biodiversity upon which we all depend.
- A multitude of recreation, tourism, and cultural opportunities.
- Protection against the impacts of climate change, which are increasing in intensity and frequency.
- Protection against flooding and erosion
- Providing fresh air

The theme for this year is "Forests and Livelihoods" Sustaining people and planet. The Finima Nature Park joined the world at large to commemorate the day with an online pre-event quiz and virtually through zoom meeting.

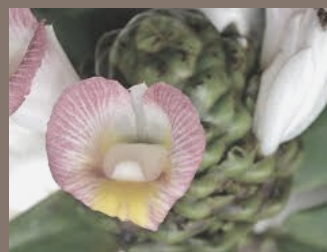


**WORLD WILDLIFE DAY**  
3 MARCH

World Wildlife Day Quiz Contest

QUESTION OF THE DAY  
WHY DO WE COMMEMORATE  
WORLD WILDLIFE DAY?

 @finimanaturepark  
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# TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES

WRITTEN BY USMAN SHITTU

Trees contribute to the environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. During the process of photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide and produce the oxygen we breathe. Trees are an important part of every community, and as such streets, parks, playgrounds and backyards are supposed to be lined up with trees. Trees increase our quality of life by bringing natural elements and wildlife habitats into urban settings. Trees control climate by moderating the effects of the sun, rain and wind. Leaves absorb and filter the sun's radiant energy, keeping things cool in summer.



*“The Earth is what we all have in common.”*

*—Wendell Berry*

Trees also preserve warmth by providing a screen from harsh wind. In addition to influencing wind speed and direction, they shield us from the downfall of rain, sleet and hail. Trees also lower the air temperature and reduce the heat intensity of the greenhouse effect by maintaining low levels of carbon dioxide.

Both above and below ground, trees are essential to the eco-systems in which they reside. Far reaching roots hold soil in place and fight erosion. Trees absorb and store rainwater which reduce runoff and sediment deposit after storms. This helps the ground water supply recharge, prevents the transport of chemicals into streams and prevents flooding. Fallen leaves make excellent compost that enriches soil.

Finima nature park as a way of helping to protect the environment planted a lot of trees of about 10,626 this quarter. This was done in order to improve the environment.





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# CONSERVATION CLUB ACTIVITIES

Official Newsletter of the finima Nature Park

BY CHISOM

60 schools on the island(De Choice School, Divine High Flyers, St. Theresa's Catholic School, Kings Royal Academy, Legacy School, Victory Academy, Praise Model School, Industrial unit, Lucille education Centre, Central school, Model primary school, Foursquare international school, Toli brain academy, Royalty learning solution, Bishop Willaim Brown school, and Community primary school) to mention but a few were visited within this quarter for club activities with topic centered on Wetlands education, Biodiversity and Environmental conservation.



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## FOREST CONSERVATION AND POACHING ACTIVITIES

BY SHITTU

The regular biological monitoring and anti-poaching patrol round the perimeter of the Park was carried out during this quarter.



No poaching or logging activity was observed, and no encroachment. Diverse species of fauna were sighted during these surveys among which were insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Some of the species sighted are Mona Monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*),

White-faced Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*), Red Eyed Dove (*Streptopelia semitorquata*), Nile Crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*), Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Emerald Snake (*Haspidophrys smaragdinus*), Western Reef Heron (*Egretta gularis*) and Yellow-Billed Kite (*Milvus aegyptius*) among others.

“Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”

-GEORGE BERNARD SHAW





# PLASTIC EVOLUTION TRAINING

*Written by Raymond*

Plastic Evolution Initiative is an environmental waste management NGO established in the year 2020 by Mrs Mary Otorukiri-Hart (Founder), Mr Adeniran Fadeyibi (Chairman) and Mr Augustine Adekoga (Executive Director), with the sole aim of creating a clean and safe environment that is free from plastic/nylon bags waste.

Plastic/nylon bags are ubiquitous and they can stay in the environment for about 1000 years. Due to their ubiquitous nature, they have impacted the environment in some negative ways and these includes; destruction of local habitats, aesthetic degradation, risks to humans, pollution of ground water, disruption of the natural food chain, etc.

As a result of these impacts of plastic/nylon bags on the environment, Plastic Evolution Initiative was formed to minimise these effects by employing the Recover, Reuse and Recycle method in her mode of operation.

Plastic Evolution Initiative has been going to schools, organizations, as well as religious organizations, orientating people of these impacts and how it can be minimized by reusing these plastic/nylon bags and turning them into desirable and usable household items of choice with just a crochet hook and a pair of scissors.



In light of this, Nigerian Conservation Foundation in partnership with Plastic Evolution Initiative organised training sessions on the 5th, 12th and 19th of March 2021, for the staff of Finima Nature Park in Bonny Island, Rivers State. These training sessions covered recovering plastic/nylon bags from the environment, processing these bags into plastic yarn (PLARN) and crocheting this PLARN into useful household items of choice.

The goal/target of Plastic Evolution Initiative is to equip every family with a crochet hook that will be used to turn these plastic/nylon bags waste into useful household items of choice; reusable shopping bags, table cloths, baskets, window blinds, place mats, etc.

By so doing, the impact of plastic/nylon bags waste on the environment will be reduced, thereby creating a clean and safe environment for us to live in that will be free from plastic/nylon bags waste.





# UP NEXT

NEWSLETTER

- World Migratory Bird Day 11th May 2021
- World Environmental Day 5th June 2021
- Club Education Continuous
- Forest Conservation Continuous

## SOCIAL PAGE STATS

Daily Views - 300+

Monthly Views - 1k+

Unique Views - 4k+

## STATISTICS



5k+



862+



1.3k+

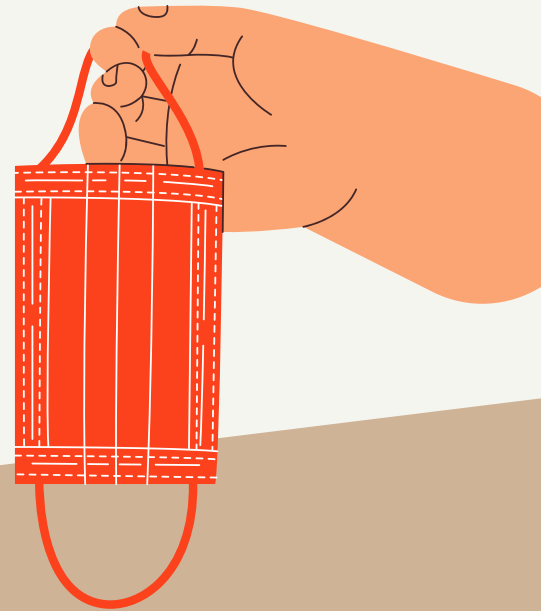




#StopTheSpread

# How to use a mask?

Source: World Health Organization



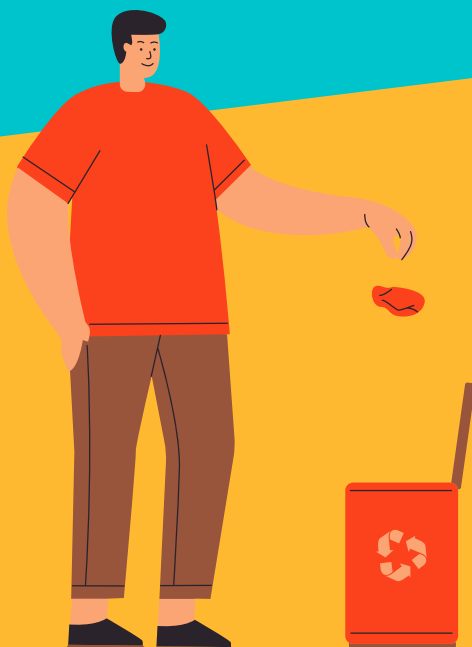
## Before Putting on a Mask:

**Clean hands** with **alcohol-based hand rub** or **soap and water**.



## While Wearing a Mask:

1. **Cover your mouth and nose.** Make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask.
2. **Avoid touching the mask.** If you do, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
3. Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it is damp. **Do not re-use single-use masks.**



## To dispose of the mask:

1. Remove the mask from behind using the strings. **Do not touch the front of mask.**
2. Discard the mask **immediately** in a closed bin.
3. **Clean hands** with **alcohol-based hand rub** or **soap and water**.