

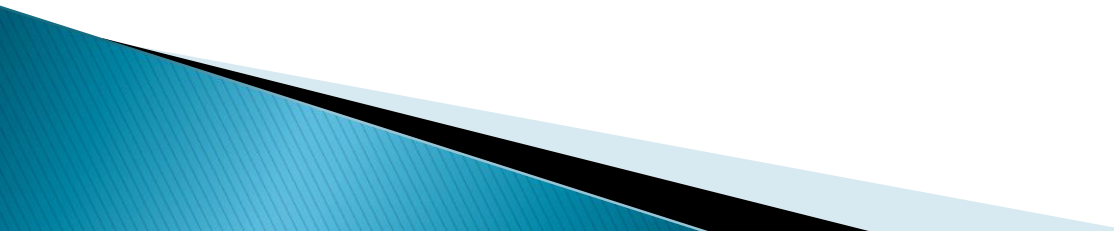


Ecosystem Restoration: Maximizing Benefits for Critical Sites for Biodiversity

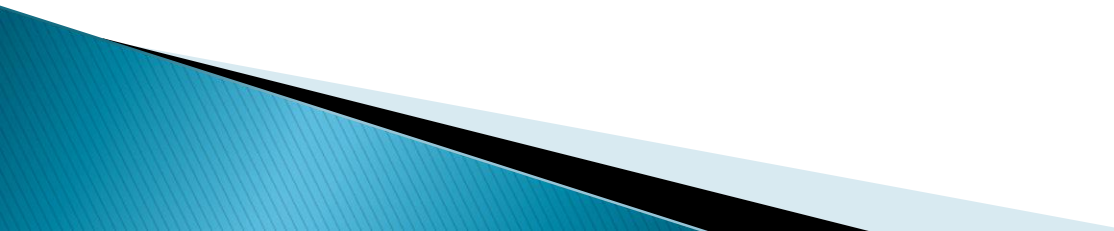
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6th October, 2015

Outline

- ▶ **What are IBAs and AZEs?**
 - ▶ **Conserving across Landscapes**
 - ▶ **The Status of Global IBAs**
 - ▶ **IBAs in Danger in Nigeria**
 - ▶ **Why Ecosystem Restoration?**
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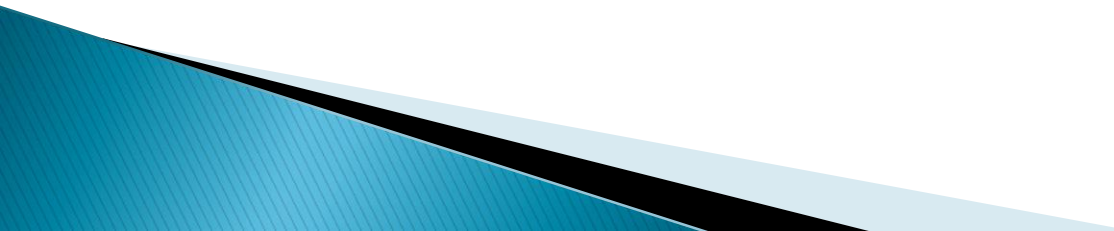
What are IBAs and AZEs?

- ▶ **An Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) is an area recognized as being globally important habitat for the conservation of bird populations and other wildlife.**
 - ▶ **The Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE), of which BirdLife is a founding member aims to identify sites that hold the last remaining populations of highly threatened species. For birds AZE sites can be viewed as a critical subset of IBAs (BirdLife International, 2011)**
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Conserving Across Landscapes

- ▶ **Habitat connectivity across landscapes is increasingly seen as a viable and more sustainable way of conserving IBAs and AZEs. The notion of conservation working in isolation is obsolete.**

The Status of Global IBAs

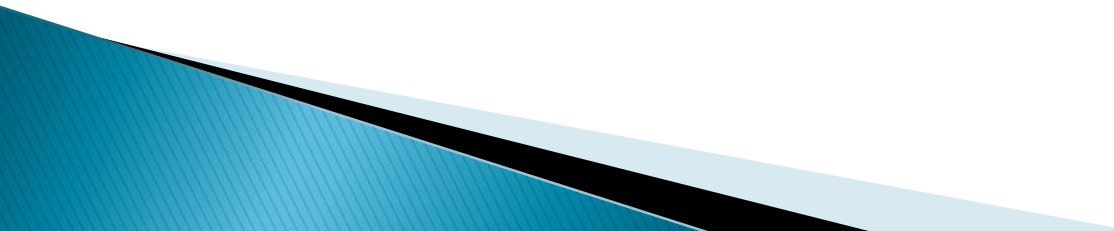
- ▶ There are about 12,000 IBAs and they represent the largest global network of important sites for biodiversity.
 - ▶ Only 40% of IBAs have any form of protection. Protecting the rest is among the most urgent of global conservation priorities.
 - ▶ Source: Birdlife.org
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IBAs in Danger in Nigeria

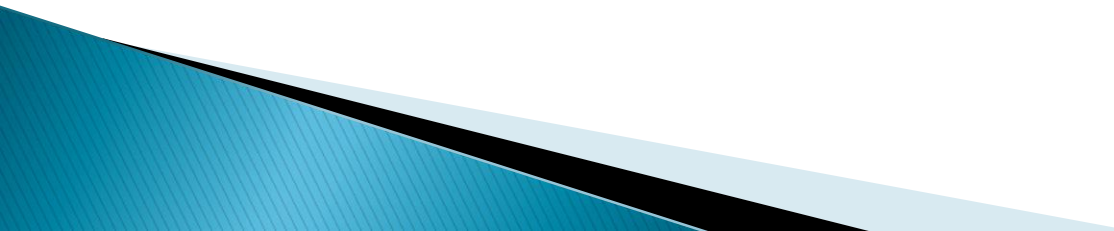
- ▶ Some of the IBAs in danger in Nigeria are:
- ▶ Omo Forest Reserve (Southwest)
- ▶ Major threats: Human disturbance, invasive species, logging.
- ▶ Afi River Forest Reserve (Southeast)
- ▶ Threats: Agriculture/aquaculture, logging, geological events.
- ▶ Gashaka–Gumti National Park (East)
- ▶ Threats: Hunting and trapping, climate change and severe weather.

▶ Source: Birdlife.org

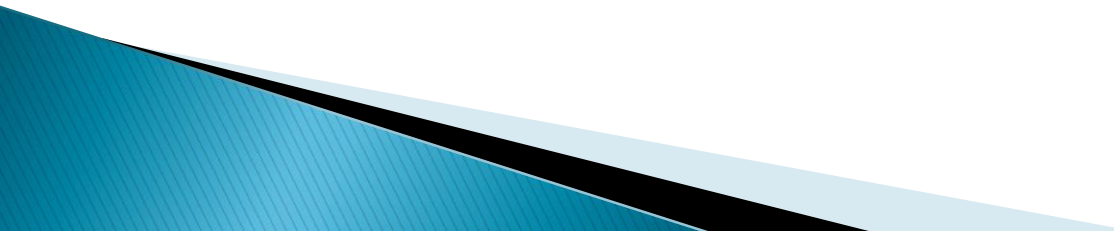
Why Ecosystem Restoration?

- ▶ There is a growing recognition that it is inadequate to focus on conserving the earth's biological diversity through the emphasis on critical areas alone.
 - ▶ Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.
 - ▶ Source: (Gann and Lamb, 2006)
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Why Ecosystem Restoration?

- ▶ **There is a strong need to complement our efforts at protecting IBAs and AZEs with efforts at ecosystem restoration.**
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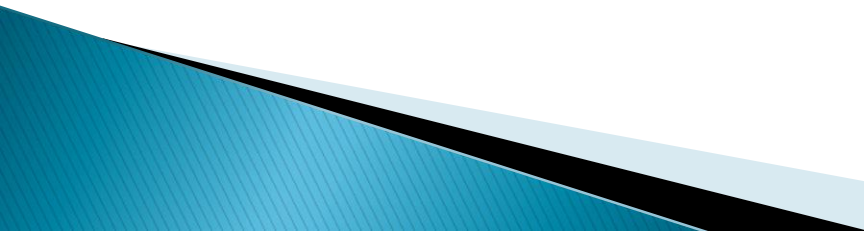
NCF and Ecosystem Restoration

- ▶ NCF is carrying out pilot studies on ecosystem restoration in the Niger Delta in collaboration with Wetlands International.
 - ▶ The aim of the project is to demonstrate how restoration of wetlands can be linked to improved livelihood opportunities.
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NCF and Ecosystem Restoration

- ▶ **Four communities in the Niger Delta were selected:**
 - ▶ **Abobiri and Opume – Bayelsa State**
 - ▶ **Asarama – Rivers State**
 - ▶ **Obi–Ayagha – Delta State**
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NCF and Ecosystem Restoration

- ▶ As at August 2015, 13,000 seedlings of mangrove species have been raised.
 - ▶ 5,300 seedlings of swamp timber species and equipment for planting have been supplied.
 - ▶ In Abobiri community for instance, training on building technical capacity of establishing and maintaining timber and mangrove nurseries was carried out on June 30th, 2015.
 - ▶ Participants showed surprise on how little they knew about plants despite having them around; especially the swamp timber species.
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Nursery site in Obi – Ayagha

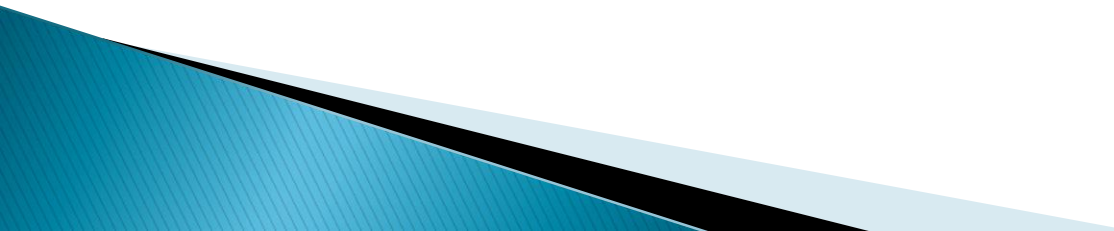


Site inspection visit

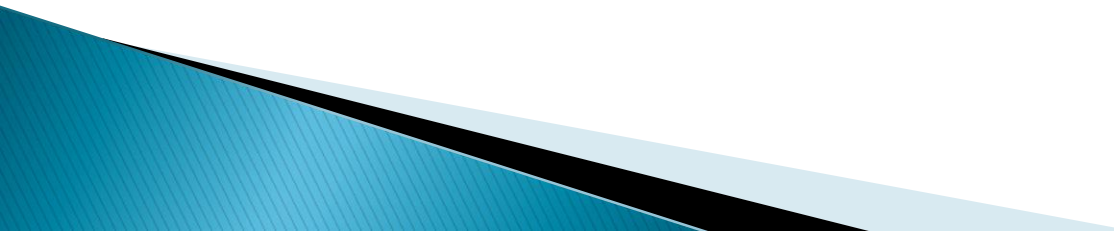


**Hands on training on care for
nursery site in Opume**

NCF and Ecosystem Restoration

- ▶ This project is unique in that it employs the novel bio-right method of Wetlands International which offers a new approach in which global stakeholders pay local communities to provide ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, fresh water supply and biodiversity.
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NCF and Ecosystem Restoration

- ▶ The bio-right approach is based on three simple but powerful steps:
 - ▶ Step 1. Local communities receive micro-credits to develop sustainable income generating activities.
 - ▶ Step 2. Communities repay their loan and the associated interest in the form of conservation services, such as reforestation, habitat protection and refraining from unsustainable land use practices.
 - ▶ Step 3. Micro-credits are converted into definitive payments and subsequently into community-based revolving funds for sustainable development, once the conservation measures prove successful and sustainable.
 - ▶ Source: (Wetlands International, 2009)
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NCF and Ecosystem Restoration

- ▶ **WI/NCF ecosystem restoration project in Nigeria help the country to meet Aichi targets 5, 14, & 15.**

▶ **Thank you.**

