

## A Report of Events on the International Year of Biodiversity- 2010

### The University of Agriculture Abeokuta (UNAAB) Nigeria, Supporting the International Year of Biodiversity 2010

*Excerpts from UNAAB Bulletin: Monday May 24, 2010*

#### **UNAAB Is Committed To BioDiversity Sustainability — VC**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun has described the newly established Institute of Food Security, Environmental Resources and Agricultural Research (IFSERAR) in the University as a confirmation of the University's commitment to the sustainability of biodiversity. Speaking at the Opening Ceremony of a symposium, to mark the International Year of Biodiversity at the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Professor Balogun reiterated the University's commitment towards promoting agricultural productivity with unequivocal concern for the environment. He said UNAAB, was one of the three specialized institutions in Nigeria, which is committed to the improvement of agricultural productivity with emphasis on a stable environment for the continued promotion of a safe and productive universe. Stressing that the University would do everything to encourage the sustainability of biodiversity, Prof Balogun said "we are particularly pleased with the programme of activities, especially the tree-planting campaign and would do all we can to encourage these activities, both locally and within the University's landscape and our mandate . . ."

The Vice-Chancellor, who was represented at the occasion by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Christopher Onwuka pointed out that the prevailing awareness on biodiversity across the world and Nigeria was particularly a move towards the right. direction.

Corroborating him, the convener of the event, Professor Segun Ayodele emphasized the need to promote biodiversity in the world as a catalyst against factors which may enhance adverse climate change. He noted that this rich diversity was being lost at an accelerated rate, due to human activities. The world relied on the diversity of life to provide man with food, fuel, medicine and other essentials in which we cannot live without, he added. Professor Ayodele, therefore, called on all to help preserve this irreplaceable natural wealth and biodiversity degradation.

The occasion was witnessed by the Director, FMENV/UNAAB Linkage Centre, Professor Michael Aduradola; Head of Department, Biological Sciences, Professor Adejare Agboola and Dr. G. A. Dedeke of the Department of Biological Sciences, among others.

For full article visit:- [www.unaab.edu.ng/unaabbulletin](http://www.unaab.edu.ng/unaabbulletin)

In compliance with the call from the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) based in Montreal Canada for countries around the world to raise the profile of the year through diverse organizations celebration of the importance of biological resources; the activities marking the **International Year of Biodiversity** was kicked off here in a special ceremony where the Vice-

Chancellor declared open the different programmes planned. Below are extracts from the opening ceremony.



**L-R:** Prof. D. A. Agboola, Head, Biological Sciences Department; Guest Speaker, Prof. Michael Aduradola; Prof. C. O. Onwuka, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. O. O. Balogun; Prof. M. S. Ayodele, Convener IYB & Biodiversity Conservation Awareness Programme; Dr. G. A. Dedeke, Symposium Speaker/Animal Ecologist at the opening ceremony of May 18, 2010.



Members of the Head Table, Selected Staff and Students Representative Participants in the Opening Ceremony and Symposium of May 18, 2010 in a group photograph

### **Plan of work**

- Dialogue has started between stakeholders for the steps to be taken in the post- 2010 period
- Letters on programmes to relevant establishments on permission / collaboration / soliciting for fund support
- Distribution of awareness leaflets and pasting of posters at points of activities
- Sensitization talks: Schools, local government and community Halls
- Marathon collaborative field-trip organized for interested staff and especially students from tertiary institutions in mandate zone: **Qualitative and quantitative appreciation of the extent of change in former vegetation delimitation of the country, causes and solutions**
- Symposia in selected Universities on “**Evolving an alternative attitude to our flora and fauna – the way forward**”

### **Convener:**

Prof. M. S, Ayodele  
 Biological Sciences Department,  
 P. O. Box 30, UNAAB post Office  
 University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. Nigeria  
 Tel.: +234 803 337 1504 ( Mobile ); +234 2 751 3241 (Landline)