



**AFRICAN CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

YOUTH LEAP, 2015

THE JOURNEY SO FAR

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (ACEP)

One of the main focus areas of ACEP is raising Environmental Leaders. These are those who look at environmental problems in light of their own experience and moral values, are committed to leveraging their area of expertise to realize sustainable development in their professional and private lives, and exercise leadership in fulfilling their social responsibilities.

THE JOURNEY SO FAR

- ▶ This project started in 2008 with PEC- Primary Environmental Care and by 2010; we had reached about 100 schools across Rivers State with a total of about 1000 students.
- ▶ In 2009, we started the Conservation Clubs in Secondary Schools and this has been responsible for catering farms and environmental projects in the schools. We currently have just 10 schools involved in this project.

THE JOURNEY SO FAR

- ▶ **2013**, we held **ACEP Annual Environmental Quiz** and celebration of **World Environment Day** and launched the Project **“Plant a Million Trees by 2020”** and has since been involved in awareness programs on climate change to encourage Tree Planting.
- ▶ In this year **2015**, we are modifying our conservation club and launching a new project to compliment “Project Plant a Million Trees by 2020”, Promoting agricultural enterprises – **YOUTH LEAP (Youth Leaders in Environment & Agricultural Projects)**.

YOUTH LEAP

Project Plant a Million Trees and Raise Farms

- ▶ This is a five (5) years project to raise up leaders in the environment and agriculture sector in Nigeria; whilst the pilot project area is Rivers State.
- ▶ Agriculture is pivot to the development of an economy. It is in fact, a pre-condition for economic upliftment. Among its importance are: source of livelihood, source of raw material, contribution to national income, supply of food and fodder, vast employment opportunities, overall economic development, source of saving, source of government income, etc.

Agriculture Interacts With The Environment In Some Areas Of Concerns:

- ▶ Biodiversity (Conservation Concerns): Issues include genetic, species and ecosystem diversity. The intensification of agriculture has led to widespread reduction of species and habitats. This threat may be intensified in a future environment of high food prices in response to growing food and biofuels demand.
- ▶ Food Safety and animal welfare concerns: Issues here is the effect of agricultural practices on human health rather than the physical environment. There is also concern about the consequences for the quality and safety of the food supply of the increasing use of pesticides and drugs, leading to encouragement of organic farming.

- ▶ Landscape (amenity concern): this is more of aesthetic and cultural issue. The marginalization of agricultural land can lead to its abandonment if farming ceases to be viable. Alternatively, intensification of agriculture can lead to the loss of important landscape features such as hedges and ponds, the enlargement of fields and the replacement of traditional farm buildings with industrial structures.
- ▶ Soil quality (sustainability concerns): issues here are contamination, erosion, desertification, nutrient supply and moisture balance. Soils can be damaged by changes in land use practices such as deforestation.
- ▶ Water quality and quantity (pollution concern): issues here include leaching of nutrients and pesticides, water extraction and drainage and flooding. Contamination of both ground and surface waters caused by high levels of production and use of manure and chemical fertilizers is a serious problem, particularly in areas of intensive livestock or specialized crop production.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF ACEP (YOUTH LEAP)

- ▶ To raise future environmental leaders to ensure combating climatic change and sustainability in Nigeria
- ▶ To develop a socioeconomic system in harmony with the environment
- ▶ To raise conventional environmental professionals (nature conservation, pollution prevention, environmental assessment, etc)
- ▶ To plant a million trees by 2020 as part of our commitment to the protection of our environment.
- ▶ To raise farms to boost the agricultural/economic sectors of the nation

HOW WILL THIS BE ACHIEVED

Many of the one million new trees will be planted by individual volunteers, community groups, organizations, and businesses. We will host Grass Roots awareness campaign, give native seedlings to individuals and/or rural dwellers, give trees as gifts, etc.

HOW WILL SUCCESS BE MEASURED

Our success of the project will be measured by the number of trees that have been planted and farms raised in response to Project Plant a Million Trees and raise farms by individuals, organizations and Government; and we expect to attain more than the million mark by the year 2020

WHAT WE NEED FROM PARTNERS

We are looking forward to partnering annually and continuously with organizations that will provide the platform for us to create environmental awareness on the need for a sustainable environment by providing financial support to carry out these programs, inviting us to educate their staff, host communities and other stakeholders on the need to take personal responsibility for the environment.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The central area is white, providing a clean space for the text.

THANK YOU

ACEP