INTERCONNECTIONS FOR MAKING AFRICA GREAT, EMPOWERED AND SUSTAINABLE (IMAGES) INITIATIVE

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ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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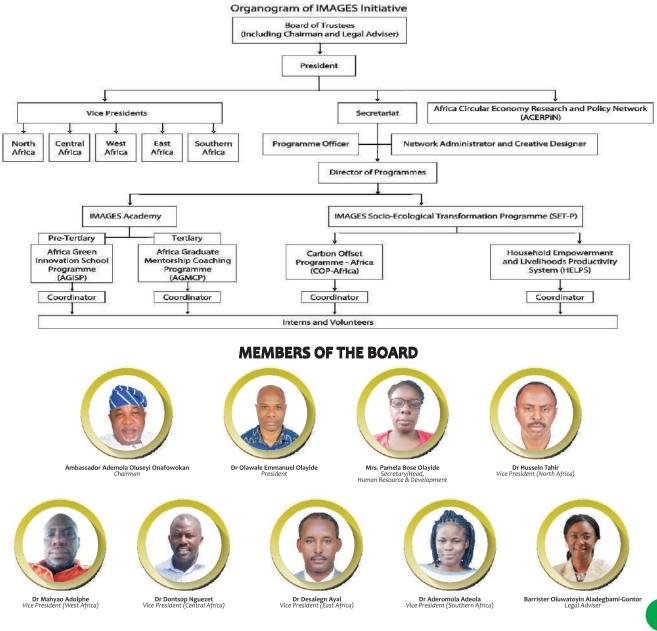
IMAGES Initiative aims to catalyze and help create transformational partnerships to encourage actions that reflect an integrated approach to the 5 pillars of Sustainable Development

Vision:

To provide policymakers, civil society, development agencies and researchers with a comprehensive set of innovative approaches and tested good practices around unlocking people's great potentials in achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and Africa Agenda 2063.

Mission:

To advance the course of the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa Agenda 2063 through Research, Advocacy, Field Trips, Conferences, Seminars, Policy Roundtables, Workshops, Symposia, Summits, Exhibitions, and Communications through Policy Digests, Communiqués, Quarterly Newsletters and Social Media Platforms.



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Executive Summary

The Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative is a non for profit research and policy advocacy initiative whose five pillars of performance are: People, purpose, programmes and projects, platforms and publications, and partners.

- 1. **People**: Our core human values are integrity, professionalism, and impact. Our team and volunteers are defined by these core values.
- 2. **Purpose**: We seek to promote greatness, facilitate empowerment and ensure socio-ecological transformations to sustainability
- 3. **Programmes & Projects**: Our anchor programmes are: Africa Green Innovation School Programme (AGISP), Africa Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP), and Carbon Offset Programme – Africa (COP-Africa).

AGISP promotes Green, Innovation, Science, and Technology (GIST). Green (environmental, agricultural, health and well-being); Innovation (new idea or old idea with new approach); Science: (applied, basic or social); Technology (applications, mobile or integrative).

AGMCP fosters Research & publication, Emotional intelligence, Acculturation, and Professionalism & leadership (REAP)

COP-Africa advocates Carbon-reduction (mitigation), Attitude and lifestyle adjustment (adaptation), Resilience-building (resilience), and Entrepreneurship & empowerment (enterprise)-CARE

- 4. Platforms & Publications: Our operational platform for engaging stakeholders is the Africa Circular Economy Research and Policy Network (ACERPiN). We also connect with our audiences through the Circularity journal and other publications.
- 5. **Partners:** Our partners are from different segments of the society, including the academia, governments, and businesses.

Thank you.

Olawale Olayide President

1 Introduction

This report summarizes the achievements, challenges and charting of way forward at the Interconnections for Making Africa Great, Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative.

This report covers the activities in the year 2020 from January to December.

IMAGES engaged additional staff and volunteers in 2020. Dr Omobolaji Obisesan assumed duties as Visiting Post-doctoral Research Fellow, and Miss Deborah Ajeboriogbon as Programme Officer. New volunteers were also recruited as follows:

- Director, Africa Green Innovation School Programme (AGISP) Mrs Kikelomo Adegoke
- Coordinator, Carbon Offset Programme-Africa (COP-Africa) Mr Ifeoluwa Olawale
- Webmaster/Network Administrator Mr Tosin Gbadegesin
- Coordinator Household empowerment and livelihood productivity systems (HELPS) Mrs Grace Amiola
- Secretary ACERPiN Ms Victoria Nyabam
- Social Media Blogger and Director of communications for ACERPiN Ms Eniola Adeyemi
- Arts and Creative Design Manager Mr Toluwase Olaniyan
- Social Media Editor Mr Erioluwa Abraham

Circularity Africa Conference was slated for 13th May 2020 – 15th May 2020 with a pre-conference event slated for 8th April 2020, and post conference event on 25 June 2020, hence subcommittees for Circularity Africa Conference 2020 meet every Monday for planning activities. However, COVID-19 disrupted the plans, and the conference was restructured into online discourse series from May to September 2020.



Flyer of the online discourse series on circularity and COVID-19

2.1 Partners for Circularity Africa Conference 2020

The following organisations confirmed partnership for circularity Africa conference 2020

- CEO AFRICA, Lagos
- International Institute for tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan
- Cresting Project, University of Hull, UK
- Recycle Edge, Ibadan
- Recycle Garb, Ibadan
- Eleven-Eleven-Twelve Foundation, Ibadan
- African Creative Hub, Ibadan
- Bovas & Company Limited, Ibadan
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Abuja
- Oyo State Government, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ibadan
- Lead City University, Ibadan
- Friesland Campina WAMCO Plc, Lagos
- Business Strategy and Development, Wiley Publishers, NJ, USA

We transformed our maiden conference into a virtual discourse and offered it as online

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course staggered over five months (May-September 2020). The discourse is a major milestone for us at IMAGES Initiative as we have panellists and speakers from all over the world, including USA, Netherlands, Cote D'ivoire, United Kingdom, China, Ethiopia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa, and Kenya. For us at IMAGES Initiative, COVID-19 is not a challenge but an opportunity. The Pandemic exposed our strength and invigorated our dexterity in turning the stormy tides into tales of triumph.

S/N	Month	Торіс	Panelist
1	Мау	Global perspective of the effect of COVID-19 on circularity and socio-ecological transformations	Prof. Jesse Otegbayo, Prof. Walter Vermeulen, Prof. YuanZengwei, Dr Pauline Deutz, Dr Kyle Davis
2	June	Impact of COVID-19 on sustainable Agriculture and Food system in Africa	Dr Paul Nguezet, Dr Desalgen, Ms Constance Okeke, Dr Debo Akande
3	July	Impact of COVID-19 on migration and Inter African Trade	Dr Isaac Shinyekwa, Ambassador Oluseyi Onafowokan, Mrs Ololade Adesola
4	August	The Impact of COVID-19 on Human Rights and Social Protection in Africa	Dr Aderomola Adeola, Mrs Sheila Nkunika, Dr Mahyao Adolphe
5	September	Impact of COVID-19 on Sustainable Development Goals in Africa	Mr Oluseyi Oyebisi, Ms Lauren Barredo, Mr Paul Mutuku

Table 1. Online Discourse Series on Circularity and COVID-19

2.2 Ongoing Discussion on Circularity Africa Conference 2021 (On-Site & Virtual Edition)

Preparation and plans are ongoing for the Second edition of Circularity Africa Conference 2021. This edition promises to be a conference with a difference. It will put into consideration the lessons of COVID-19. Specifically, it will aim to reduce cost and expenses to its barest minimum. The conference will be free for all to attendees while other logistics such as feeding and accommodation will be catered for by participants. Keynote speakers have been confirmed. The conference will hold during 13-14 May 2021.

The AGMCP is designed for mentoring and coaching graduate-level (masters and Ph.D) students between 20 and 30 years of age in Africa in the areas of research and professional development. Each successful national from an African country was assigned to a mentor and life coach in Africa and Diaspora. The life goal and professional profile of mentees and mentors were matched. The programme for this cohort will run from January to December 2020. Eight mentees emerged to be a part of the fellowship, and profile of five mentees has been uploaded on the website, each quarter with a check in call on diverse topics ranging from research, leadership, marriage and relationship. Fellows' attendance at the monthly online discourse was impressive. There was over 80% attendance of fellows at each discourse. One major criterion for graduation from the fellowship is to be a part of book publication and contribution to IMAGES Initiative Book Project. Fellows were assigned to the mentors in the book projects. Fellows chose their chapters in line with their area of interest. Fellows also worked on Policy Digest for publication.

Applications received for the second cohort of AGMCP in the space of one month was 68 from eight countries in Africa (see Table 2).

Item	Frequency	Name
Gender		
Male	42 26	
Female	26	
Education level attained		
Ph.D	16	
Masters	52	
Countries		Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, Ghana,
		Senegal, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa

Table 2. Breakdown of AGMCP Candidates 2021 Cohort

The Applicants were called up for an interactive session and interview before and onward selection of twelve new cohorts: 4 PhD candidates and 8 Masters Degree candidates.

3.1 Graduation Ceremony for AGMCP Fellows

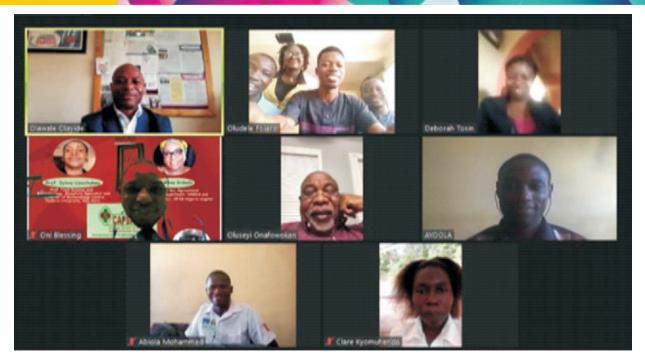


The graduate ceremony of the first cohort of AGMCP Fellows held on 15 December 2020. It was another memorable day in the history of IMAGES Initiative. The online graduation and sendforth ceremony was organised with each AGMCP graduate giving an overview of their experiences in the one year journey of mentormentee relationship.



From left to right: Mr Oludele Folarin, Mr Ifeoluwa Caleb, Dr Omobolaji Obisesan, Dr Olawale Olayide (IMAGES Initiative President) and the Cordinator AGMCP, Mr Gboluwaga Olaomo

Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme 3 (AGMCP)



AGMCP 2020 Graduands

3.2 Memorandum of Understanding with Milken Innovation Center, Israel

IMAGES Initiative also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Blum Lab, Milken Innovation Center, Israel in September 2020.





https://milkeninnovationcenter.org/

8 September 2020

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

The general public is hereby informed of the strategic partnership between the Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative, Nigeria and the Blum Lab of the Milken Innovation Center-Jerusalem Institute, Israel.

IMAGES Initiative and Blum Lab share common objectives with regard to the networking of experts, practitioners and businesses in the field of sustainable development as well as capacity development in field-based projects at communities in Africa in partnership with projects and businesses in Israel.

The strategic partnership enables both organisations to initiate, plan and organise joint activities that are geared towards human capacity development, empowerment as well as co-creation of sustainable business solutions.

Thank you.

De Olamala Olayida

Professor Glenn Ungo

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The AGISP is designed for mentoring of pre-tertiary students on the concept of sustainable development goals across Africa. We launched out in March 2020 through localizing the concept of green economy and green business amongst secondary school students in Oyo State to commemorate the first edition of Circularity Africa Conference 2020. Before the closure of schools in Nigeria, we successfully got an approval letter from Oyo State Ministry of Science, Education and Technology to carry out Oyo State Green Innovation School Challenge. We had 45 instructors from schools in Ibadan cities to carry out the innovation. Instructors were progressing in the challenge until there was a mandatory closure of schools by the federal government. Discussion is ongoing for Africa Green Innovation School Programme 2021, the project will be opened to all secondary schools in Africa with a befitting cash prizes.

The Objective of the Green Innovation School Challenge is to inculcate the culture of caring for the environment among students of public secondary schools and to Promote Youth Entrepreneurship. Students are to provide sustainable solutions or innovations to sustainability challenges.

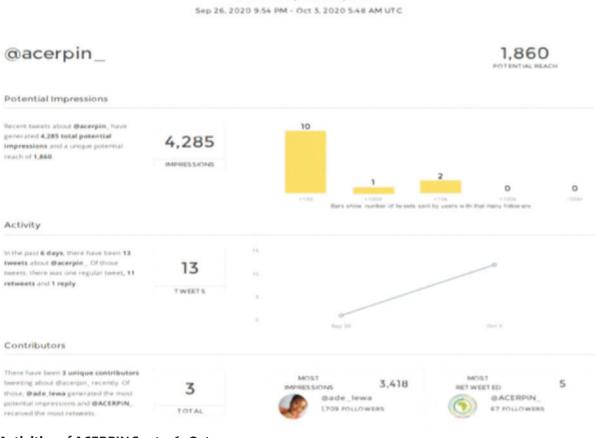
Cash prize of One million naira was attached to the school challenge as follows: N500,000 plus certificate for First Position. N300,000 plus certificate for Second Position. N200,000 plus certificate for Third Position.



Meetings with partners on the Oyo State Green Innovation School Challenge before the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic.



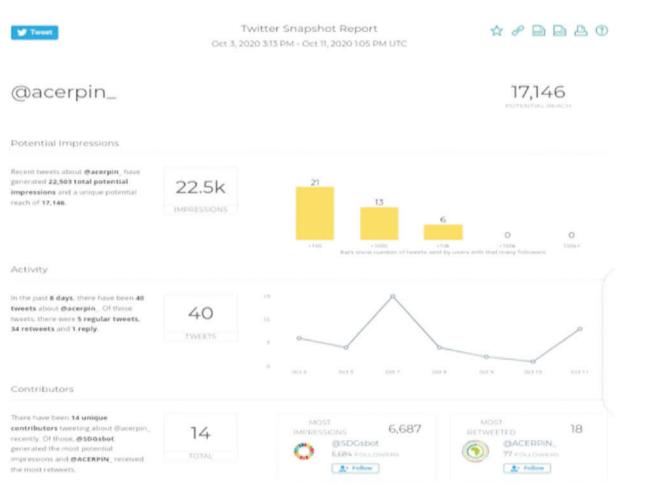
Africa Circular Economy Research And Policy Network (ACERPIN) a network of scholars, researchers, practitioners and policymakers in Africa. Its membership comprises Africans, Africans in the diaspora, non-Africans and relevant organisations around the world. ACERPiN is the foremost indigenous network for facilitating research and policy on circular economy in Africa. ACERPIN was officially launched June 2020. At ACERPIN we promote regenerative consumption and production systems that enable the seamless socio-ecological transformation to a circular economy in Africa. ACERPiN engages the public through via Twitter and LinkedIn platforms. Over 220 members are currently registered. For more information, please visit: http://imagesinitiatives.org/acerpin.



Twitter Snapshot Report

Activities of ACERPIN Sept. 26 - Oct 3

5



ACERPIN Activities Oct.3-Oct.11



The general aim of this unit is to reduce to the nearest minimum carbon dioxide emissions generated from the conference programmes and activities. These include planting of trees for carbon sequestration activities at the International Conference Centre. Donation and facilitation towards the mounting of a giant recycle station at the University of Ibadan International Conference Centre and Lead City University was also achieved. The projects was aimed at facilitating recycling of plastic wastes; life cycle assessment of conference materials and resources, with emphasis on end-of-life use and fostering integral collaboration with other sub-committees to ensure reductions of carbon dioxide emissions. The giant recycle station mounted in the University of Ibadan Conference Centre is beginning to make positive impacts.



A large pet bottles Recycle Station was donated to the International Conference Centre, University of Ibadan, Nigeria by IMAGES Initiative in May 2020.

Recycle Station presented to ICC University of Ibadan by IMAGES Initiative



Recycle Station Presented to ICC University of Ibadan by IMAGES Initiative





IMAGES Recycle Station donated to the International Conference Centre, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Carbon Offset Programme Africa 6 (COP-AFRICA)



UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN ENDOWMENT FUND, IBADAN, NIGERIA

Facility Manager's Office International Conference Centre 2nd Gate University of Ibadan Ibadan, Nigeria. Cable & Telegrams: UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN Tel: 09030021777, 07019077888 E-mail: uieficc@gmail.com uiendowmentfund73@yahoo.co.uk

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June 2020

RC: 11924 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

To: The President/Founder

IMAGES Initiative,

2, St. Annes Hostel, Barth road,

University of Ibadan.

Dear Sir.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I write on behalf of the Board of the University of Ibadan Endowment Fund, Management and Staff of the International Conference Centre, University of Ibadan, to convey our deep appreciation to the board of IMAGES Initiative for the donation of a recycle station to the Centre on 13th May, 2020.

We count it as an honour for the Centre to be chosen for this worthy and most useful donation. We also appreciate the fact that it was given as an appreciation of the management's effort in promoting proper waste management and for ensuring "a green and serene environment for academic and social events of international magnitude."

This no doubt will serve as an encouragement for us to do more for the environment.

We promise that the station will be put to judicious use. We also welcome any initiative from you that will promote better relationship between the Centre and your initiative.

Kindly extend our regards to all executives and members of the team.

Thank you very much.

Yours faithfully,

Alesesan Adesesan O.A.

Facility Manager

Letter of appreciation from the International Conference Centre, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

7.1 Research Proposals

We submitted two collaborative proposals. One was focused on estimation of greenhouse gases, while the other was under the umbrella of the Nigeria Social Protection Forum (NSPF).

7.2 Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow's Report

- Published an article on 'The quality of Nigerian home-grown rice is poor in 'The Conversation African'. This article was published August 31st and as at 20 December 2020, it had 4,337 reads.
- Participated in an ongoing research project: Building an Economically Sustainable, Integrated Cassava Seed System; CGIAR Research Program (BASICS research) a collaborative research project between the University of Ibadan Centre for Sustainable Development and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).
- This well-deserved and honourable feat was birth on the wings of IMAGES Initiative's goodwill of allowing me to be a part of the University of Ibadan Mentoring of Early and Middle Career researchers' training that held in February 2020
- All these achievements are based on the constant support I receive from the President, despite his very busy schedule. I had the opportunity of reviewing a number of research papers and articles for the President and I tried to submit them for his peruse as at when due, this has enhanced my review training for which I am grateful. To cap all the activities for the year 2020.

To sum up my experience this year, it has been filled with joy because I am seeing more fruits from all work done since joining the IMAGES Initiative, of which I am very grateful. God bless IMAGES Initiative, and all members of the Board for giving me this opportunity both to learn and serve.

The HELPS Programme is an arm of IMAGES that reaches out to communities through empowerment and social protection programme, officially launched 27 April 2020.HELPS participated at the National Social Protection Forum meeting in Abuja in August 2020. The meeting was convened by Save the Children International with the aim to strengthen social protection systems in Nigeria. Through this forum, IMAGES HELPS is joining other organisations in Nigeria to ensure social protection is attained, achieved and implemented properly in Nigeria. Also, this forum has been a platform where we have generated new relationships that can later result in partnership to better carry out our work. HELPS has been an active contributor to the forum's major activities, include the webinar series.

The National Social Protection Forum had its second physical meeting organised and Sponsored by Save the Children, this workshop was attended by different dignitaries and IMAGES Initiative was represented by Mrs Grace Amiola and Miss Deborah Ajeboriogbon. The workshop/meeting started on the 12th of November, 2020 at Providence by Mantis Hotel, Ikeja GRA, Lagos. The workshop started around 10am with Mr Saheed Mustapha of Save the Children going through the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) with all the participants. We went through an abridged version of the policy output together.

In order to have a good look at what the policy contains, we divided into 5 groups to look indepth into the policy and answer some review questions that bother around relevance, adequacy, effectiveness, efficiency, inclusiveness and gaps in the policy and come up relevant recommendations that can make the policy better and all encompassing. The group assignments spanned into the second day of the workshop. The workshop had 35 people in attendance from different organizations such as: InclusiveFriends, CISLAC, DRAC, Budgit, Connected Development, Save the Children and Action against Hunger, IMAGES Initiative among others.

Some resolutions from the meeting include:

- 1. A website and mobile app will be developed for the forum for the purpose of advocacy, recognition and data management.
- 2. The communiqué developed from the review of the social protection policy will be presented to the National Working Group on Social Protection.
- 3. New meeting coordinators for the December forum meeting should commence meeting plans.

8 Household Empowerment and Livelihood Productivity Systems (HELPS)



National Social Protection Forum Workshop at Providence by Mantis, Ikeja GRA, Lagos (12th - 14th, November, 2020)



IMAGES Initiative started a registration process with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission's Special Control Unit against Money Laundering (SCUML) to get the statutory anti-graft certificate from the Unit for the smooth operations of our financial accounts. Due to the pandemic and other challenges arising from SCUML & trademark registration, the process was very slow. The SCUML certificate has now been issued.

Media Activities

10.1 YouTube Channel & Social Media Platforms

As a first class organisation in Africa, we are committed to reaching our audience by creating educative and relevant video content that will be useful .According to research 65% of people are visual learners and 30% are aural learners .We created our YouTube channel to help connect with our audience in a more friendly way and also share contents of our online discourse to other global participants. Video recordings of the Series on Circularity and COVID-19 are now on our YouTube Channel. Total of 17 videos has been uploaded on the channel. Members of the Board are encouraged to subscribe to the YouTube Channel. We have a total of 25 videos on the YouTube channel as follows:

- 21 videos are for the 5 months online discourse
- 1 video carbon offset project
- 1 video for launch of IMAGES Recycle Station
- 1 video for Milken innovation Centre's Presentation at the last board meeting
- 1 video for the documentary on Post-Doctoral Research



As at 24 November 2020, there were 555 contacts on mailchimp list

10.2 Certificates Produced and Web Posts Certificates of Achievement: 7

Certificates of Appreciation: 20

Flyers (electronic): Five (5) for the five-month series on Online Discourse on Circularity & COVID-19

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Media 10 Activities

Logos completed: Africa Circular Economy Research and Policy Network (ACERPiN)

Policy Digests: 5

Number of web posts: 7

Pages updated: 5

Redesigning: 1

10.3 Feedbacks



Benjamin Agyin Turkson MPhil Candidate in Environment and Resource Management || Green Entrepreneur || Environmental Practitioner

View full profile



Benjamin Agyin Turkson • 2nd MPhil Candidate in Environment and Resource Management || Green Entrepren... 1w • Edited • 🔇

This year has rounded up in my favor. Just a few days to the end of the troublesome 2020. I have been accepted into the Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme 2021, a fellowship that seeks to nurture graduate students through their career and professional journey for a period of one year. I am grateful to Dr. Olawale Olayide for accepting to mentor me throughout this journey.

#coaching #Graduatestudents #Africa #Sustainability Africa Circular Economy Research and Policy Network (ACERPiN)



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11.1 Summary of Accomplishments

- 1) Weekly online meeting: Continued attendance of our virtual weekly meetings.
- 2) Monthly webinar: Completion of the monthly webinar series on the impacts of COVID-19.
- 3) Mail subscribers: Increased from 178 to 555
- 4) Network membership on ACERPiN-212 members (July-date) with a comprehensive list of members on the website.
- 5) Collaborations and Partnership with ActionAid International and Forum of NGOs on Social Protection coordinated by Save the Children, Nigeria
- 6) An average of 46 persons participated in the monthly quiz and assessment of the monthly online discourse series.
- 7) Ongoing work on book project
- 8) Memorandum of Understanding signed between Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative, Nigeria and the Blum Lab of the Milken Innovation Center, Jerusalem Institute, Israel
- 9) Recruitment of 2020/2021 of AGMCP (Cohort II)
- 10) Publication of five issues of IMAGES Policy Digest
- 11) Facilitated the publication of seven research articles in the Special Issue of *Business* Strategy and Development, Wiley Publishers.
- 12) Commenced a book project
- 13) Received letter of recognition for future collaboration from the Ministry of Environment Nigeria
- 14) Graduation of 2020 cohort of AGMCP Fellows
- 15) Processed SCUML certificate
- 16) Participation at partners and collaborators' virtual events
- 17) Launch of two Recycle Stations

11.2 Challenges

COVID-19; the continued spread of the pandemic disease as well as different nationally and locally deployed measures has been a major threat to the outlined plans and implementation strategies for projects to be carried out in 2021 specifically on the second wave of the virus.

11.3 Recommendations

The ease of lockdown restrictions and the opening up of economic activities as necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic seems promising for the return of the "new normal" and thus recommended that activities and plans should be flexible enough to leverage on the eventual circumstances.

Despite the challenges of 2020, the year ended in a positive note for us at IMAGES Initiatives. The end-of-the year get-together and thanksgiving ceremony was organised by the Board of Trustees IMAGES Initiative. It aimed at bringing together members of staff and volunteers with their families. This event took place on the 15 December 2020. Members of staff and volunteers received the souvenir.



Customised thermobottles as souvenir



President of IMAGES Initiative giving a welcome address at the end-of-year ceremony

12 End-of-Year Get-Together and Thanksgiving



IMAGES Initiative's friends and families poses with the cake at the end-of-year party



Some members of IMAGES Initiative Team

12 End-of-Year Get-Together and Thanksgiving



Presentation of gift item to Visiting Post Doctoral Fellow, Dr Omobolaji Obisesan (middle)

Season's Greetings

Be responsible in consumption and production (SDG 12) Reduce * Re-use * Recycle

Register: www.imagesinitiatives.org/circularityafrica2021

From Circularity Africa 2021 Team Twitter: #CircularityAfrica



Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative

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