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SAFEGUARDING AFRICAN TREES: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

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ABSTRACT

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Trees play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem stability and mitigating the effects of climate change. Africa forests are repositories of biodiversity ranging from tree species to lower plants and several properties of the properties literatures and online databases, this review highlights the urgent need to address challenges in African forest conservation so as to improve resilience in global climate change scenarios. Indigenous trees in natural forests, agroforestry systems, and exotic species are mostly affected. Thus, worsening the existing threats posed by climate change to natural resources, economic growth, and ecosystem conservation efforts. Pest and disease invasions continue to disrupt sustainable forestry practices, reduce productivity in agroforestry, and endanger biodiversity across reduce productivity in agroforestry, and endanger biodiversity across are increasingly vulnerable to climate change with potentially devastating consequences. Therefore, integrated and coordinated approaches are essential to enhance biodiversity conservation, improve biosecurity, implement biological pest control measures, and develop approaches are essential to enhance biodiversity conservation, improve biosecurity, implement biological pest control measures, and develop tree resistance to abotic stressors. Efforts to intensify tree cultivation establishment of gene banks for germplasm conservation, are paramount. Strict enforcement measures are also necessary to combat illegal logging, especially within protected areas. Collaboration with international agencies and active engagement with local communities are crucial components for achieving sustainable protection of natural resources and biodiversity conservation on the African continent

Key words: Biodiversity conservation, Climate change mitigation, Indigenous tree species, Biosecurity

Olanipon D. G., Olayide O. E.

INTRODUCTION

Trees are crucial for Africa's future (Graziosi et al., 2020). African tropical forests and woodlands are rich in biodiversity, with various endemic flora and fauna compared with temperate forests. Vegetation consisting of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species provides a plethora of resources, including timber-based products such as woods for various industrial processes and non-timber

A PURPOSE-DRIVEN, CHEERFUL AND POSITIVE LEADER

OUTLINE

- EXPERIENCES
- KEY OUTPUTS
- CONTRTIBUTION TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- CHALLENGES
- SUGGESTIONS TO THE AGMCP TEAM
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

EXPERIENCES

- Participation in:
- Monthly webinars and training sessions by established scholars on data collection and analysis, effective mentee-mentor relationship, research leadership and work-life balance among others during the fellowship period.
- SHINY RIMA Course organized by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
- Local and international conferences
- Summer school by Ife Institute of Advanced Studies
- Circularity Africa 2024 and publication of conference proceeding
- Networking with fellow researchers and AGMCP Mentees

KEY OUTPUTS: Conference, workshop and summer school certificates

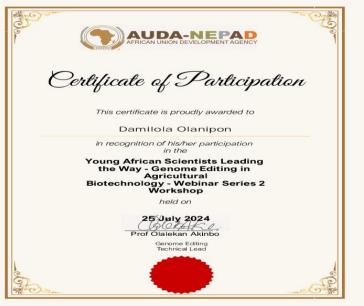




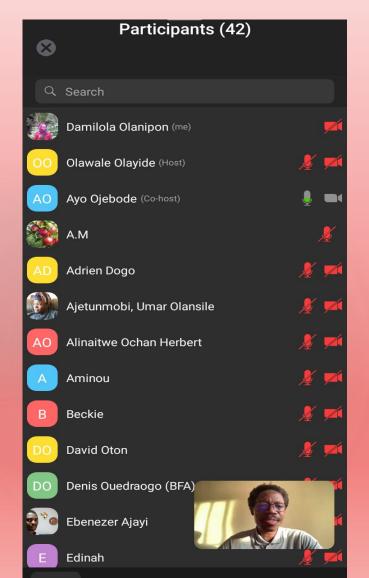


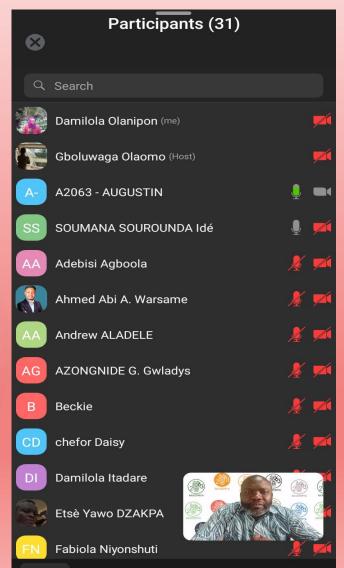


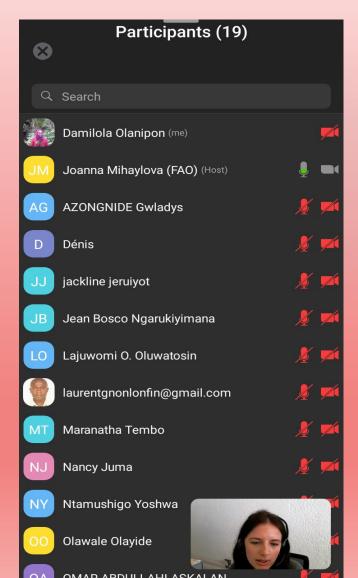




KEY OUTPUTS: Pictures from webinars during the fellowship period







KEY OUTPUTS: Pictures from



CONTRIBUTION TO PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- My research sub-theme during the fellowship year was Agro-ecological and Environmental Sustainability of African Food Systems and I gained relevant insights and experiences which would be pivotal to my career progress.
- I have become a better person and leader by the virtue of the responsibilities and assignments that I carried out during the fellowship period.
- I now have an improved understanding of managing intercultural work relationships, cultural and emotional intelligence.
- My time management skills have been greatly enhanced, I have a good grasp of the modalities of proper prioritization in the face of busy schedules.
- I have come to understand people better especially with respect to effective menteementor relationship
- Together with my mentor, Dr. Olayide, we have published a proceeding following my presentation during the Circularity Africa Conference, 2024.
- My mentor also facilitated a research linkage with the International Institute of Agriculture (IITA)

CHALLENGES

- My major challenge was not knowing about meetings/other fellowship events until the due date.
- Combining fellowship[p activities with my role and responsibilities as a University lecturer and researcher.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE AGMCP TEAM

- Emails will be a better means of communication with regards to meetings and webinars, WhatsApp communication may not be sufficient as not everyone will be have sufficient time to sort through so many chats, and this cause some information to be lost in between.
- A better structured scheme of activities or events will also help the mentorship to be more effective.
- Calendar invites are encouraged to improve attendance of mentees to meetings.
- Zoom video calls between mentors and mentees may be useful in instances of long distance mentorship

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