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1.0 DAY ONE: MONDAY,3RD OF JUNE,2024

1.1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION

EWM 313 is a two unit practical course which involves going to conserved areas that are naturally protected to fulfill the practical aspect of the course and to be familiar with the visited places in terms of the flora and fauna present in there.

The course is also a platform to develop environmental skills through field work and enhance personal development.

In this course, each student is expected to pay the sum of #40,000, the trip was embarked to Queen's Plot,Obada Village, Ondo State, Nigeria.

The trip started on the 3rd of june,2024 and ended on the 7th of june,2024.

1.2 JOURNEY TO QUEEN'S PLOT

We were all expected to be at EWM lab, Obakekere, FUTA south gate which was our converging point by 7:00am. When we got there, there was availability of two Hilux and four shuttles. Our luggage was parked by one Hilux, which was followed by five male students to help in the offloading of the loads when they get there. While four shuttles was used to students, in each shuttle, there were 18 students. The head of the department in person of prof. Ogunjinmi, Dr. Odewunmi, last Hilux plus some loads. The vehicles left EWM lab, Obakekere, FUTA south gate by 10:08am.

The journey cut through Akure consisting of many towns which includes: Roadblock Junction,Ilesha Garage, Ago-Onireke, Owena, Aponmu. We got to Aponmu junction at exactly 45minutes after we started the journey. Since the road through the village is bad and shuttle cannot convey us through the road, we were dropped at the junction while we were waiting for the Hilux that took the load to the camp to come back and take us there.

We waited for a long time that made us made us lost track of time before we were told one of the Hilux had developed problem due to bad road which made it not able to come get us again. We were left with one Hilux which came around after 12pm. The Hilux was able to convey 17 students which I was among the first set to go, while Dr. Odewunmi volunteered to stay with the remaining students.

1.3 ARRIVAL AT QUEEN'S PLOT CAMP

We got there around 2pm. We were dropped at a primary school not far from the camp due to the narrow road and a bridge which is not too strong enough to allow the easy passage of vehicles. The first set of students which was us that helped in transporting most if the loads from the primary school down to the camp which was Queen's plot building. The building provided to us was a storey building, the load were dropped downstairs. We entered around after 3pm, swept the floor and arranged camp bed so those few people that didn't come with mat can see something to sleep on. The ladies were given two and the guys were given two rooms. Due to the long journey and there was only one available Hilux to convey the students, the others came late.

LIGHT OUT: 10PM.

2.0 DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 4TH OF JUNE,2024

Wake up time for the first day was at 6:00am, and the roll call was done by Dr. Odewunmi.

The morning exercise started by 6:30am and ended by past 8am. When we got back, we assembled again and we were split up into 6 group. With each group having 13 members and I belong to Group 5.

2.1 VEGETATION ASSESMENT

Aim: To identify the abundance of various tress species in the particular ecosystem, to identify dominant species, and to know girth of some trees species in the ecosystem.

Materials Used: Cutlass, mete rule, field book, tape rule, pen, ranging poles, compass.

Coordinators: Mr Benard Omomoh, Mr Wale, DR Odewunmi, Mrs Amoo, Prof. Ogunjinmi, Mr Femi.

Activities: The lecture was taken by the FWT technician in the person of Mr Benard. He started by telling us the vegetation we are working on which is Queen's Plot and it's a Rainforest and also it is a reserved forest spanning approximately 600 hectares of forest which was set aside as the Strict Nature Reserve [SNR], often referred to as the "**Queen's Plot**".

2.2 USES OF TREES IN RAINFOREST ECOSYSTEM

There was a compass bearer. This person takes note of angle point on the Rainforest are the most ecologically important resources on the planet. They exist around the earth's equator from the tropic of cancer to the tropic of capricon. They provide habitat for approximately 50% of the world's plants and animals found on land, they serve as wintering grounds for songbirds. Helps maintain global weather pattern and rainfall, reduce erosion, maintain soil fertility on the forest floor, supply food, medicine and other plants-based products that cannot be found anywhere else in the world, holds immeasurable amount of untapped potential for new medicines.

It is believed that approximately 25% of all western medicines gotten from the plants are found only in tropical rainforests. This includes treatments for a variety of malaria, multiple sclerosis, parkinson's diseases, high blood pressure and more.

The rainforest consist of flora and fauna, where some specific plants, if they are not protected well will have impact in fauna and in the forest also exist some new species tampering the existence of fauna. Since it is a natural forest the forest is protected for fauna purposes. Trees in the forest serve different ecosystem purposes such as:

- Carbon Storage
- Flood Control
- Biodiversity Protection
- Thermal Control

He furthered explained the technique we are using for the vegetation assessment which was **Systematic Sampling Technique** [SST]. The systematic sampling is a statistical method used to selecting a random starting point and it is a parallel technique so we must know the distance from one parallel transect to another. He said the distance between each transect will be 100m and the following should be available for the success of the practical:

- Compass.
- **Edge Effect** : measures with their meter rule to multisafe anthropogenic activities. 5m from the walkway is measured in before the commencement of the practical measurement.
- **Line Cutter**: if the forest is thick, the line cutter will cut off the obstacles for effective movement.
- Range bearer.

Note: The compass bearer will be the one directing the line cutter.

2.3 INSTRUCTIONS ON FOREST SURVEY

We were asked to plot 20m by 20m in Queen's Plot.

Step 1: Measure 3 away from group 2

Step 2: Using the bearing group 2 used(30º), we measure 20m using the bearing of N30ºE.

Step 3: Measuring another 20m of bearing S120ºE.

Step 4: We repeat the same measurements using S120W.

Step 5: We repeated the same measurement again using N300ºW.

Step 6: We number the tree inside the 20 by 20 plot from 1-30.

Step 7: We measured the width of each tree and named them by checking the **Sterculiacae** barks, leaves and their characteristics.

2.4 MEANS OF IDENTIFYING VARIOUS TREES SPECIES

Rainforests are described by a shut and nonstop tree covering, high dampness subordinate vegetation. The steady environment, with equally spread precipitation and warmth, permits most rainforest trees to be evergreen [keeping their leaves the entire year and dropping everyone of their leaves in any one season. The presence of epiphytes and lianas and the nonappearance of rapidly spreading fire. A few leaves can compound while some and be compound. The presence of brace root in some tree species. The venation pattern, presence of lenticel, presence of fiber.

2.5 TREE SPECIES AND THEIR FEATURES

TREE NUMBER	TREE WIDTH [CM]	TREE SPECIES	FAMILY
TREE 1	120	*TRIPOCHITHO SCLEROXLON*	STERCULIACAE
TREE 2	338	*RICIDENDRUM HEUDEMTOTII*	EUPHORERALLICEAE
TREE 3	98	*ANNONIDIUM MANII*	ANNONACAE
TREE 4	61	*CELTIS ZENEKERI [RING TREE]*	UNMACEAE
TREE 5	78.7	*TISPUTATA SCAUDTII*	MYRISTICACEAE
TREE 6	103	*FUSTUMEA ELASTICA*	APOSTINIACEA
TREE 7	116.8	*ANNONIDIUM MANII*	ANNONACAE
TREE 8	59	*MARIANTHUS ARBOREUS*	MORECACAE
TREE 9	94	*STECULIA RHINOPETATA*	STERCULIACAE
TREE 10	87.5	*PYCNANTHUS ANGOLENSIS*	MYRISTICACEAE
TREE 11	211	*STECULIA RHINOPETATA*	STERCULIACAE
TREE 12	231.5	*STECULIA RHINOPETATA*	STERCULIACAE
TREE13	241.5	*STECULIA RHINOPETATA*	STERCULIACAE
TREE14	78.7	*PYCANTHUS ANGOLENSIS*	MYRISTICACEAE
TREE15	40.6	*AMPHIMAS CEROPIODEA*	STERCULIACAE
TREE 16	66	*GMELINA ARBOREA*	VERBENATEAE
TREE 17	35.5	*CELTIS PHILIPENSES*	ULMACEAE

TREE 18	38.2	*COLA GIGANTIA*	STERCULIACAE
TREE 19	36.2	*FUSTUMEA ELASTICA*	APOSTINIACEA
TREE 20	141	*GMELINA ARBOREA*	VERBENATEAE
TREE 21	42	*GMELINA ARBOREA*	VERBENATEAE
TREE 22	56	*TRICHILIA HEUDELLOTII*	MELIACEA
TREE 23	49.5	*STECULIA RHINOPETAT*	STERCULIACAE
TREE 24	45.7	*MANSONIA ALTISSIMA*	STERCULIACAE
TREE 25	28.9	*TRICHILIA HEUDELLOTII*	MELIACEA
TREE 26	75	*COLA HETEROPHYLLA*	STERCULIACAE
TREE 27	43.2	*KHAYA GANDIFOLIOLA*	MELIACEA
TREE 28	66	*CELTIS ZENKERI*	ULMACEAE
TREE 29	49.5	*STECULIA RHINOPETATA*	STERCULIACAE
TREE 30	56	*STECULIA RHINOPETATA*	MYRISTICACEAE

Table 1: Tree Species and their features

FAMILY NAME/COMPOSITION	**FREQUENCY**
Steroculiacae	11
Euphoreralliceae	1
Annonacae	2
Ulmaceae	3
Myristicaceae	4
Apostiniacea	2
Morecacea	1

Verbenateae	3
Meliaceae	3

GIRTH SIZE DISTRIBUTION

Girth Size	**Frequency**
10-51	10
51-100	12
100.1-150	4
150.1-200	0
200.1-250	3
250.1-300	0
300.1-350	1

2.5.1 FEATURES OF THE TREES

1. ***Gmelina arborea***: it is a moderately deciduous tree with straight trunk and numerous spreading branches, which form large shady crown with whitish grey corky lenticellate bark, exfoliating in thin flakes.
2. ***Funtunmia elastica***: The wood is white and soft. The bark contain a white latex which coagulates readily. It is an indigenous rubber tree.
3. ***Cola gigantean***: Deciduous tree with spreading crown, bole usually long and straight sometimes with small short buttresses, bark thick, rough due to the presence of lenticel. When slashed pink to red turning darker. Presence of fiber, slippery like gum. The leaves are bigger when tree is young.

4. ***Pterygota macrocarpa***: Trunk buttressed, smooth, leaf-bladed broadly ovate in outline. Presence of fibres. When slashed, a colourless white or yellowish exudate appears.
5. ***Mangifera indica***: The simple leaves are leaves are lanceolate, the tree is evergreen and changes color as the tree matures.
6. ***Triplochiton scleroxylon***: Also called Obeche. A semi deciduous tree. Bark usually smooth in young trees but scaly and with fissures in order ones. Slash fibrous creamy white to pale yellow.
7. ***Trepleura tetrapetra***: Also called Aiden. The bole is slender and older trees have very small, low, sharp buttresses. In the forest, the crown is fairly small, thin and rounded becoming flat when old but tends to spread when in the open.
8. ***Khaya grandifoliola***: It has the biggest leaf. Trunk is straight and tall with dark brown bark. Pinnately compound leaves are composed of 4-6 pairs of oblong leaflets with wavy leaf margin and acute apex. It is medicinal. Presence of fiber. Presence of pulvinus at the base of a leaf or leaflet, is the soft mound or bulge and is the junction of the leaf with the axis, responsible for the change in position of the leaf.
9. ***Sterculia Rhinopetata***: straight trunk has smooth, grey to whitish outer bark and fibrous inner bark. Palmately compound leaves are clustered near the branch tip.
10. ***Cells phillippensis***: The bole are usually straight with short buttresses at the base, bark smooth grey. Evergreen tree with small lenticels, three primary venation at the back of the leaf, thick leaf.

In natural forest, Bacteria fistulosa is a specie of tree in the family passifloraceae. This is a kind of tree that has association with an aggressive species of ant with a very painful sting, which lives in its hollow branches and twigs and gibes rise to its common name of "**Ant Tree**".

3.0 DAY THREE, WEDNESDAY 5TH OF JUNE, 2024

The wake up time for the third day was also at 6:00am, and the roll call was dine by DR. ODEWUNMI. We were asked to maintain the Group we were day before. Afterwards, we were grouped into 2, in Group 1 we had subgroup 1,2,3 and in Group 2 we had subgroup 4,5 and 6 which I am among the Group 1. Group 1 went for Ornithology while group 2 went for animal survey.

3.1 ORNITHOLOGY

Coordinators: Dr. Odewunmi, Mr. Wale

Aim: To monitor and identify the abundance of different species of birds and dominant species.

Activities: Dr. Odewunmi started with the introduction to Ornithology; Ornithology is the scientific study of birds, encompassing their behavior, physiology, ecology and classification. Birds are distinguished from other animals with their feathers.

3.1.1 EQUIPMENT USED IN ORNITHOLOGY

1. **Binoculars [Basic equipment]**: it is used because of their size and they fly very fast with the habitat they are found. It is used to aid vision. Ithas two lenses: one side of the binoculars is narrow than the other.

2. **Voice recorder**: It is used to hear the sound made by the bird to know the type of specie the bird is.

3. **Field guide book**: it is used to identify bird sighted. We have different types examples are western bird, eastern bird and so on. There is range map in the book to where each birds dominate and to be able to identify migrants birds too.

He further told us about the bird watching which he said its done for pleasure and leisure and the activities we are to do is to watch birds to identify them.

We have an app called **Bird Laser**. It is used for searching birds name and it is much easier to use in noting birds space.

3.2 FEATURES USED IN INDENTIFYING BIRDS

1. Color of their feather[plumage] and pattern-[main feature].
2. Shape of beak/bill[different color e.g red, yellow, black]
3. Leg [the length of the leg in relation to body size]
4. Habitat types [some are generalist and some are specialist]
5. Feeding [general feeders and specialist feeders]
6. Size of birds[Big or small]
7. The shape of the head whether there is crest, crown or bald
8. Scavengers

3.3 COMMON BIRDS FOUND IN QUEEN'S PLOT

- **SUNBIRD**

~Sunbirds are quick and nimble, constantly flitting between flowers and branches.

~have long, slender beaks that are perfectly adapted for sipping nectar from flowers

~Sunbirds are tiny, typically measuring between 4-12 centimeters (1.5-4.7 inches) in length.

- **AFRICAN PIED HORNBILLS**

~It has mainly black plumage, with a white belly and tail tip.

~It has a long, curved black and yellow bill that has a medium-sized casque.

~It feeds mainly in trees and is attracted to oil palms.

- **COMMON BULBUL**

~Cup-shaped nest in a bush or tree with 2 or 3 eggs

~ Nests throughout the year in the moist tropics

~Black bill, legs and feet

❖ **SPLENDID SUNBIRD**

~Beak: Medium-long, thin, and down-curved

~Breeding: One or two eggs laid in an oval suspended nest in a tree

~Flight: Fast and direct on short wings

❖ **BROWN CHEEKED HORNBILL**

~Call: A descending series of coarse, harsh, and coughing notes

~Beak: Large, cream-colored (male), and smaller and darker (female)

~Length: 24-28 inches, Weight: 921g (female).

❖ **EMERALD CUCKOO**

~- Call: A series of descending whistles, "pee-pee-pee-pee"

~Habitat: Forests, woodlands, and gardens in sub-Saharan Africa

~Length: 23-25 cm (9-10 in), Weight: 60-70 grams.

❖ **KLASS CUCKOO**

~Call: A distinctive, repetitive "cu-ckoo" sound

~Known for brood parasitism, laying eggs in the nests of other birds

~Plumage: Greyish-brown back, wings, and tail, with a white underside

❖ **RED EYES DOVE**

~Call: A soft, mournful cooing sound, "coo-coo-coo"

~Diet: Seeds, fruits, and insects

~Habitat: Woodlands, savannas, and urban areas in sub-Saharan Africa

❖ **BLACK CASKED HORNIBLL**

~Call: A deep, resonant "boom-boom-boom" or "honk-honk-honk"

~Plumage: Glossy black with a slight blue sheen

~Diet: Fruits, insects, small reptiles, and amphibians

❖ **GREY HEADED SPARROW**

~Call: A high-pitched "tsee-tsee-tsee" or "chee-chee-chee"

~Seeds, fruits, insects, and small invertebrates

~Beak: Short, stout, and black

❖ **RAK MARTIN**

~Call: A high-pitched "tsee-tsee-tsee" or "srip-srip-srip"

~Diet: Insects, especially flies and mosquitoes

~Status: Common and widespread, but vulnerable to habitat loss and erosion.

❖ **BRONZE MANNIKIN**

~Call: A high-pitched "tsee-tsee-tsee" or "sree-sree-sree

~Beak: Short, stout, and black

~Habitat: Forests, woodlands, and gardens in sub-Saharan Africa

❖ **GRAN TURAZO**

~Call: A deep, resonant "boop-boop-boop" or "kook-kook-kook"

~Diet: Fruits, leaves, and insects

~Habitat: Forests, woodlands, and gardens in sub-Saharan Africa

❖ **TOWRY PIRINIA**

~Habitat: Open country, grasslands, and agricultural fields in Europe, Asia, and Africa

~Diet: Insects, spiders, and small seeds

~Beak: Short, stout, and pinkish-brown

❖ **BLACK AND WHITE MANNIKIN**

~Call: A high-pitched "tsee

~Habitat: Forests, woodlands, and gardens in sub-Saharan Africa

~Beak: Short, stout, and black

❖ **TINKERBELL SPECIES**

~Call: A high-pitched "tink-tink-tink" or "pipo-pipo-pipo

~Diet: Insects, spiders, and small fruits

~ Beak: Short, stout, and black

❖ **VILLAGE WEAVER**

~Call: A series of high-pitched chirps and whistles

~Diet: Seeds, grains, and insects

~Beak: Strong, conical, and black

❖ **NORTHERN GREY HEADED SPARROW**

~Call: A high-pitched "tsee-tsee-tsee" or "chee-chee-chee"

~Diet: Seeds, fruits, insects, and small invertebrates

~ Beak: Short, stout, and black

❖ **AFRICAN DERTER**

~Call: A low, hoarse "krok-krok-krok"

~Diet: Fish, aquatic insects, and small crustaceans

~Habitat: Freshwater wetlands, lakes, and rivers in sub-Saharan Africa

- **RED-HEADED MALIMBE**

~Call: Whistles accelerating into sizzling notes

~Habitat: Primary and secondary lowland forests

~Length: 15-18 cm (5.9-7 in), Weight: 20-30 grams.

Later that evening about 5:00pm, a brief evening session class was handled by Dr. Odewunmi and Mrs. Grace on Binoculars.

He gave a little explanation on what binocular is and how to use them. He also mentioned that Binoculars is a formation of two words; BI- 2 Viewing Areas and CULARS- Optics [Eyes].

Dr. odewunmi explained some of the parts of the binoculars, he also added that the binoculars can be adjusted to the comfortability of the viwers vision because we all have different viewing abilities [i.e people have different eyesight some can see farther than some others. Afterwards, we were given an exercise by the lecturers in charge to use binoculars to capture and write down words on a paper held by them, this was done in other to test how far our eyes can see object through binoculars as well as to know how to use the binoculars. We did about three rounds of the exercise and we were given time to view well and write out what we saw on the note held by the lecturers in charge, then aft3er, we were asked to submit the result of the exercise to Dr. Odewunmi along side with our matric no and names.

We went back inside after submitting, the whole process took about one hour,we rested for a while before we commenced cooking of dinner and this was already 6pm of which I was on of those cooking on the said day, we had our dinner which was jollof spaghetti, and cowskin.

LIGHT OUT: 10:00PM

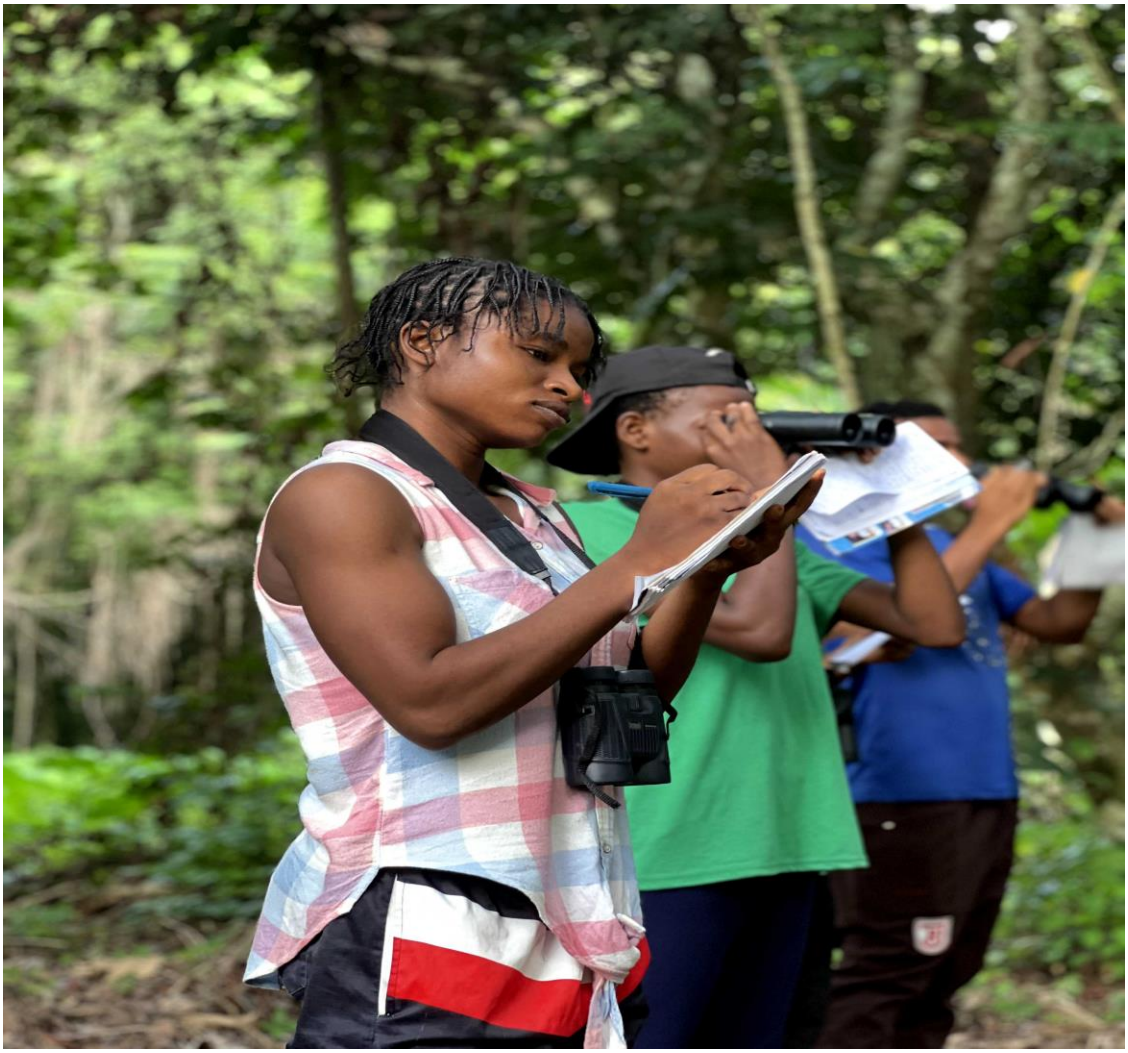

Plate 1: Using of Binocular During Ornithology

4.0 DAY FOUR, THURSDAY 6TH OF JUNE,2024

The wake up time for the fourth day was also 6:00am and the roll call was done and we were asked to maintain the group we were day before. So, Group 2 are to go for bird watching, while we Group 1 we're to go for Animal survey .

4.1 POPULATION ANALYSIS

Aim: To know the type and distribution of species of animal inhabiting a particular habitat and to also know the population status of the animal.

Materials Used: binocular, cutlass, pen, field book.

Coordinators: Prof. Ogunjimi, Mr Femi.

Population analysis is an analysis of a targeted audience focusing on its attributes, abilities and feelings. Methods of carrying out population analysis include:

1. Using indices and
2. Counting directly.

Indices is difficult, it requires assumption and mathematical calculations to determine the defecation rate and also determine the decay rate of the defecation. Sometimes, it requires manipulation when footprint are seen, example like chimpanzee, they use their nest once so you determine if it is a new one or a long one.

The vegetation {Rainforest} the habitat is what we want to record so some animal may not be seen while they can be seen, we want to record their activities and habitat.

4.2 ANIMAL SURVEY

Animal survey is crucial to understanding the health of an animal in an ecosystem and the environment as a whole. They give us insight into which species are doing well, which could be endangered, vulnerable, extinct, least concerned, near threatened. Survey can be done on either mammals, reptiles etc. In 2006, census was done, census is the total enumeration of everyone in the area. Though it is difficult in natural forest because of the characteristics of animal not staying in a particular place. It is also done to protect wildlife and their habitat which is important to their survival and for tourism. Animal survey is used to depend on the objectives of the survey, size of the area, finance etc.

4.3 MEANS OF IDENTIFYING ANIMALS

The status of animals varies geographically. The two main method for estimating Animal survey are direct method and indirect method. Direct method is the type by which animals are counted physically as seen, examples include: Point count, Reece walk, Line transect method etc. while indirect method implies using the indicators of the presence of animals to determine their abundance, indicators such as footprints, droppings, furs, feathers, etc. Cryptic creatures can be difficult because of their shyness, skin color etc. There are nocturnal and diurnal animal, each method is different. For Night survey: 8:00pm – 10:00pm/12:00am while for Morning survey: 6:00am – 10:00am. 1.3 or 1.5m is used for making our transect, it is done left and right using binocular. **Rangefinder** is used for measuring the distance of the observer to the animal.

Why Animal survey is done?

1. To know the quantity or quality of resources, either the animal are going extinct or endangered.
2. To know the dominant animal in the vegetation.

During animal surveys, identifying animals accurately is crucial. To do this, researchers use a combination of characteristics, including:

- **Physical appearance:** Size, shape, color, pattern, and texture of fur, feathers, or scales.
- **Behavioral traits:** Habitat, diet, social structure, and unique behaviors like nesting or mating rituals.
- **Vocalizations**: Calls, songs, chirps, or other sounds made by the animal.
- **Habitat and distribution:** Specific regions, climates, or ecosystems where the animal is found.
- **Morphological features:** Beak shape, wing shape, tail length, or other distinctive physical features.

Researchers use a combination of these characteristics to identify animals, as some species may have similar appearances or behaviors. By observing and recording these traits, scientists can accurately identify and classify animals during surveys, which informs conservation efforts, research studies, and our understanding of the natural world.

We went back home after 11:00am and we got back to the camp by after 12:00pm. We rested for a while before we started making dinner in which I helped in cooking the dinner. 10:00pm we were assembled back downstairs to start camp fire against the

departure for the next day. We had asun meat along with drink for the camp fire.

LIGHT OUT: 12:00am

5.0 DAY FIVE, FRIDAY 7TH OF JUNE, 2024

We were asked to assemble by 6:00am so we can start with the cleaning. We woke upearlier the 6:00am so we can have our bath and park our loads, the generator was on by 5:00am for everybody to be able move around. I was among the group that were asked to wash all the bathrooms and toilet and we were twelve in the group. Everybody got busy with their chores, while we were busy too with washing of the toilets and bathroom s. We finished with washing of the toilet by after 8:00am. We all waited for the Hilux at the primary school to come back and convey us back to owena where we were later carried by the shuttle that brought us while coming take us back to our destination at south gate which was our converging point while we were coming.

6 .0 DAY SIX, SATURDAY 8TH OF JUNE,2024

6.1 JOURNEY TO IDANRE HILLS AND RESORT

We were asked to adjourn at south gate, ewm lab obakekere as our converging point, we arrived at about 8:00am and waited for all the staffs and the drivers to come. At about 9:00am the driver had arrived, and it rained a little, it was still even raining as a matter of fact when we were asked to go into the marcopolo bus for us to commence the trip, we boarded the bus though the bus was not enough for the staffs,the hired hilux was to convey the remaining staffs to the destination. At about 9:30am we set for the journey it was a worth while experience during the journey, the attendance list was called and each student answered when they were called, that was done to ensure all the student was taken and present.

6.1.1 AIM AND OBJECTIVE OF THE TOUR

The aim of our trip to Idanre Hills was to explore the natural and cultural significance of the area. As student of ECOTOURISM AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, we sought to gain firsthand experience and insight into the geological, ecological, and cultural features of the hills. Our objectives included observing and documenting the unique rock formations, learning about the local flora and fauna, and understanding the historical and cultural importance of Idanre Hills to the community. Additionally, we aimed to develop our teamwork and leadership skills through various activities and challenges during the trip.

6.1.2 BRIEF DISCRIPTION OF IDANRE HILLS

Idanre Hills are a range of majestic hills located in Ondo State, Nigeria, with a height of approximately 3,000 feet above sea level. The hills are known for their unique physical features, diverse ecosystems, and rich cultural heritage. They are home to various historical sites, including the ancient Owa's Palace, shrines, and burial grounds.

The hills are also inhabited by unique species of animals, such as the Hyrax and special monkeys. Idanre Hills are a popular tourist destination, attracting visitors from around the world to explore their natural beauty, cultural significance, and historical importance**.**

6.1.3 BRIEF HISTORY OF IDANRE HILL

According to the tour guard, Idanre people used to live high up on the hills, in an area which is now known as Old Oke-Idanre, a major attraction at Idanre Hills Tourist Center. This area consists of old and dilapidated mud buildings roofed in rust-brown iron sheets, set on well laid-out streets. Attesting to the architectural taste of the old Idanre people, the old magistrate court, the first primary school, the Oba's palace and the market square hold their original place and location at Odeja Village, Old Oke-Idanre. It was recorded that the old Idanre people descended the hills and resettled at the present foothill location of Idanre town. It has also been noted that every street in the new Idanre town has a replica at the Old-Oke Idanre and every family has been allowed to retain ownership of their family houses at the Old enclave. The people are known to be very proud of their heritage in culture and history and these have never ceased to draw tourists of all ramifications to the hilltop site. However, in order to reach the hilltop village site, one will have to ascend 682 steps that leads up the hills.

Orosun festival is held annually, every May, in Idanre. It is a week-long activity during which every family in the enclave including the traditional Oba ascends the hills and lives in their family houses at the Old-Oke Idanre. Indigenes of the town travel down home from far and near to partake of the festival which is packed full of interesting activities which include cultural dances at the Old Oke Idanre, Bat-hunting expeditions to the largest and most dread and revered caves on the hills- Owa and Ojomu caves as well as spiritual cleansing of the ancient town and sacrificial offerings to Orosun- the god of the highest peak on the hills (Orosun peak).

6.1.4 TOP ATTRACTION AT IDANRE HILL

1. “Ibi Akaso” The Steps

2. The King’s Palace

3. Agboogun’s Legacy

4. Unreadable signs

5. Agboogun’s footprint

6. The wonderful mat

7. Omi Apaara (The Thunder Stream)

8. The Orosun Hill

9. Ancient Court at Odeja

10. Igboore Primary School

The Orosun Festival posed a challenge to our visit, as the priests were engaged in spiritual rituals, limiting our access to the attraction centers. Concurrently, the influx of visitors from the lower areas of the hill to the top created a congested and stressful environment, hindering our ability to fully experience the tourist sites.

6.2 ANCIENT SETTLEMENT

Some of the visited attraction include:

IBI AKASO (THE STEPS)

It is the point of departure where your journey on Idanre hills begins. It refers to the significant steps that lead up the hill. It has about 667 steps, including five resting points, which are set at about 100 meters apart from each other. These resting points are set up apparently because of the energy exerted while climbing, which shows that Idanre Hills is not for the faint-hearted. The 3000 feet tall step gives climbers an idea of what to expect in their journey.

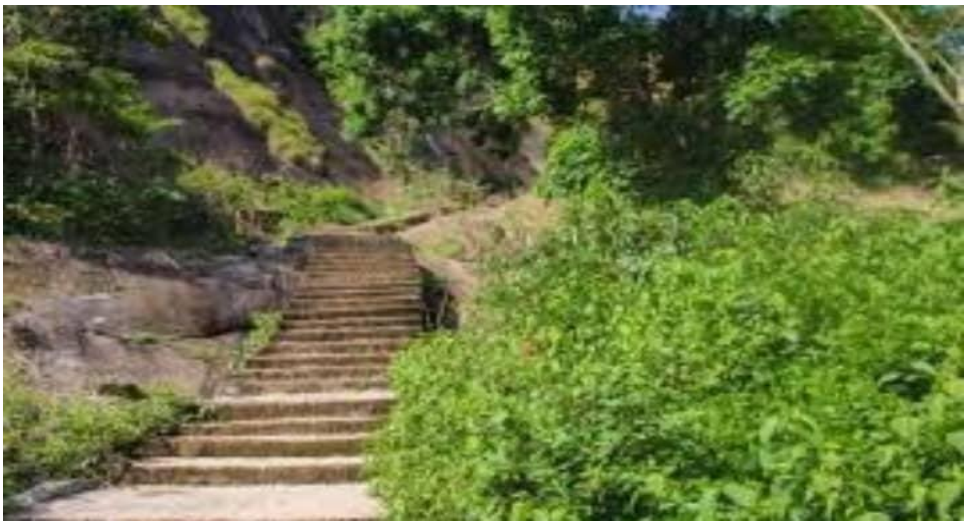

Plate 2: Ibi Akaso (the steps led to oke Idanre 682)

THE OROSUN HILL

The Orosun hill is a smoking hill noticeable in the distance. It is known to be covered in a cloudy haze 24 hours of the day and as a symbol of the presence of Orosun, a significant fertility deity in Idanre. Like many great individuals of the ancient times, Orosun was said to have disappeared into the wild, last seen in the location of the smoky hills.

Her festival is celebrated annually in Idanre even the present day we went there the festival is ongoing and is considered to be a massive deal amongst natives. The spiritual Arun River flows from this smoky hill.

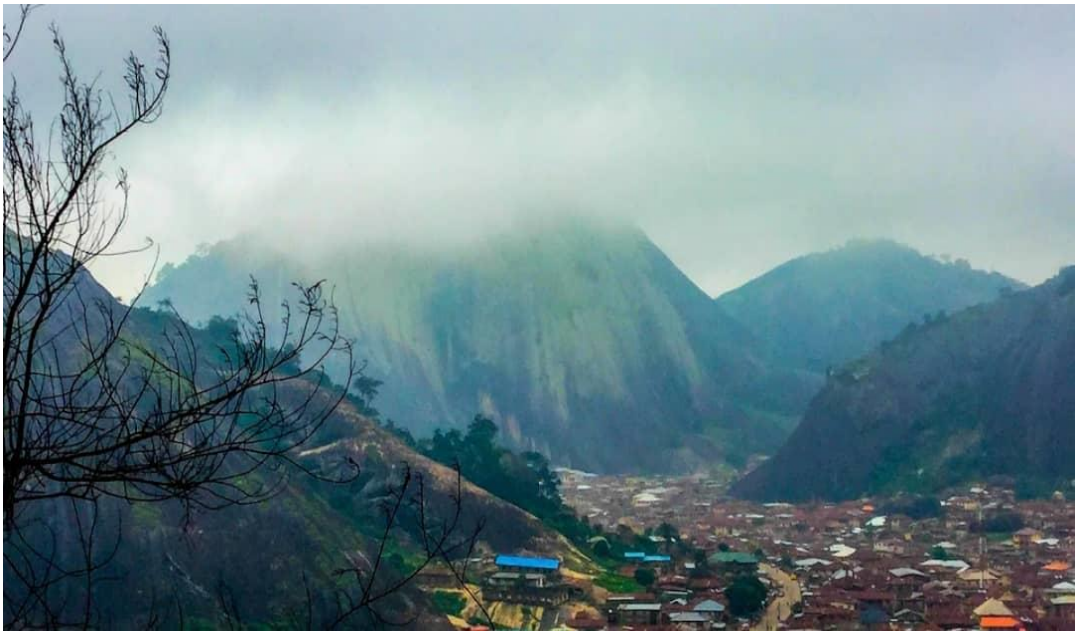

Plate 3: The Orosun hill at oke Idanre

The Kings Palace

The King, who is known as Owa of Idanre, has an ancient palace, which has three entrances, explicitly catering to three different categories of people, the first for the King, the second in the middle for the queen, and the third for others. The palace houses a massively sized, beautiful courtyard with beautifully carved figures.

One can only access the castle, which is enclosed within the mountain via the chief's quarters, and you should become alert as you may never know what novel experience to expect from this stage. The palace was strategically and mainly enclosed inside the mountain for defense and security reasons.

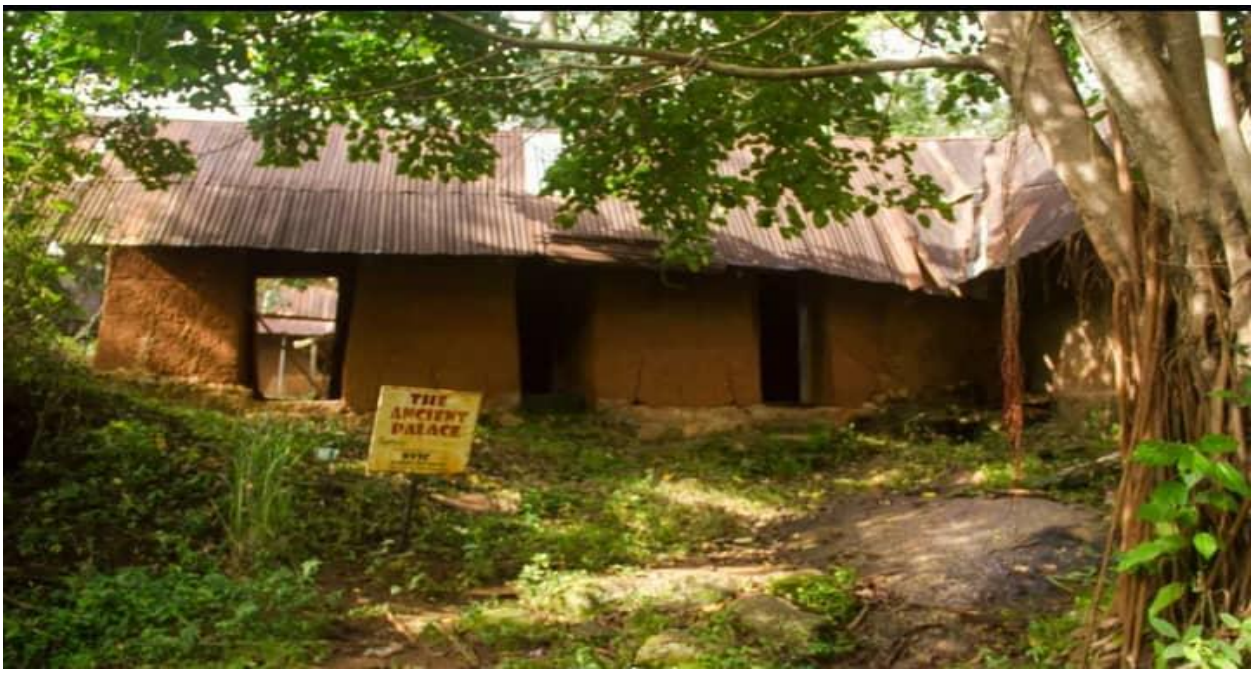

Plate 4:The Ancient palace at oke Idanre

IGBOORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

In 1896, the Church Missionary Society founded Igboore Primary School, the remnants of which still stand at Idanre Hills, marking the pioneering effort in introducing Western education to the region. The elementary primary school at Oke Idanre Hill was built by a team of missionaries led by Rev. Gilbert Carter. This school was a pioneering educational institution in the area, and its clay building still stands today.

The missionaries established the school as part of their efforts to introduce Western civilization to the ancient city, just two years after their arrival in 1894. The school represents a significant cultural and religious shift in the region during the colonial era, leaving a lasting legacy. The school was eventually relocated to the new settlement at the foot of the hills and renamed St Paul's Anglican Primary School.

6.3 IDENTIFICATION OF PLANTS/TREES AND ANIMAL/SPECIES IN IDANRE HILLS

6.3.1 PLANTS/TREES

1. Tropical rainforest trees like Iroko (Milicia excelsa), Obeche (Triplochiton scleroxylon), and Mahogany (Swietenia mahagoni).

2. Fruit trees like Mango (Mangifera indica), Orange (Citrus sinensis), and Guava (Psidium guajava).

3. Medicinal plants like Aloe vera, Euphorbia heterophylla, and Garcinia kola.

4. Climbing plants like Piper nigrum (Black pepper) and Dioscorea dumetorum (Bitter yam).

Iroko (Milicia excelsa) - a large deciduous tree with a broad crown.

2. Obeche (Triplochiton scleroxylon) - a tall tree with a straight trunk and smooth bark.

3. Mahogany (Swietenia mahagoni) - a large tree with a spreading crown and reddish-brown wood.

4. Mango (Mangifera indica) - a large fruit tree with a spreading crown and sweet fruit.

5. Aloe vera - a succulent plant with fleshy leaves and medicinal properties.

6. Euphorbia heterophylla - a succulent plant with diverse leaf shapes and sizes.

6.3.2 ANIMAL SPECIES

1. Mammals:

- Forest elephants (Loxodonta cyclotis)
- Bush pigs (Potamochoerus larvatus)
- Monkeys (Cercopithecus spp.)
- Antelopes (Tragelaphus spp.)

2. Birds:

- Hornbills (Buceros spp.)
- Parrots (Psittacus spp.)
- Eagles (Aquila spp.)
- Turacos (Tauraco spp.)

3. Reptiles:

- Snakes (Python spp., Naja spp.)
- Lizards (Agama spp., Chamaeleo spp.)
- Crocodiles (Crocodylus spp.)

4. Insects:

- Butterflies (Lepidoptera spp.)
- Beetles (Coleoptera spp.)
- Ants (Formicidae spp.)

6.4 OROSUN FESTIVAL AND CHIEF/TRADITIONAL RITES IN IDANRE HILLS

6.4.1 Orosun Festival

- Celebrated in May or early June
- Commemorates Orosun: a legendary woman who performed remarkable feats in Ile-Ife and Idanre
- Honors Orosun's life, love, healing powers, and her unjust death and deification

6.4.2 Chief/Traditional Rites in Idanre Hills

- Owa of Idanre: Paramount ruler of Idanre Kingdom
- Chief Olofin: Associated with the Olofin festival
- Chief Orosun: Linked to the Orosun festival and veneration of Orosun as a deity
- Other traditional titles include Ogun, Ulesan, and New Yam Festival chiefs
- Agheregbe Festival: Celebrated in June, involves frying and sharing of "Akara" (bean cakes)
- Osu Ifa Festival: Celebrated in March, decreed by Agboogun for freedom of slaves
- Osu Ise Festival: Bat-hunting festival for young men, held every February

6.4.3 OBA OBIRIN OF IDANRE KINGDOM

Oba Obirin is a title given to the Queen Mother in the Idanre Kingdom, a Yoruba kingdom in Nigeria. The title is translated as "Queen Mother" and is a position of great respect and influence in the kingdom.

Here are some key points about the Oba Obirin of Idanre Kingdom:

- The Oba Obirin is the mother of the reigning Oba (King) of Idanre.
- She plays an important role in the kingdom's affairs, particularly in matters related to tradition and culture.

- She will be responsible for performing ritual for the traditional rites and it would last for 7 days. After festival she relocates to her base.

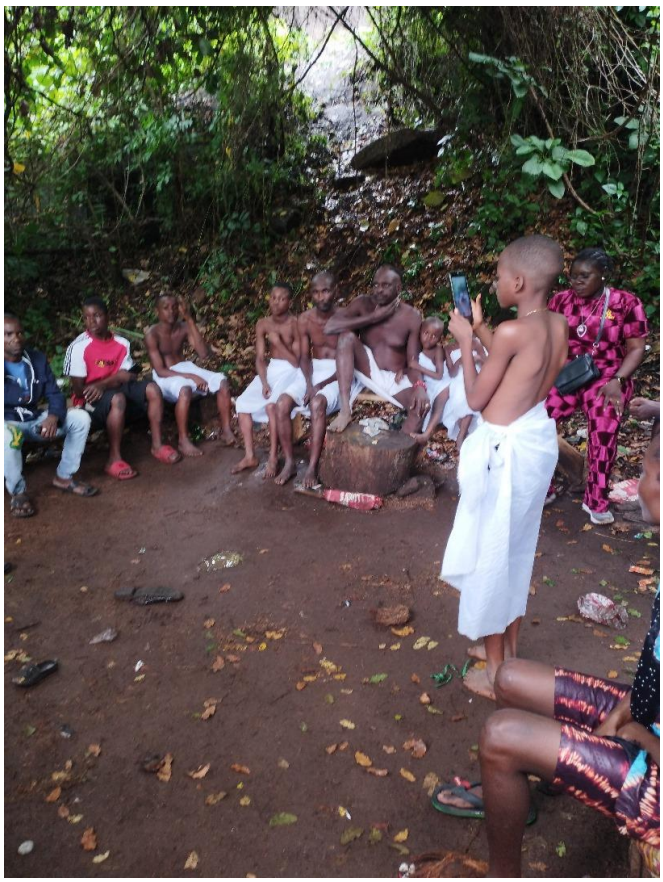

Plate 5: People Observing Orosun Festival at Chief Ajana Oluko's Residence

Finally, another chief we were told of was CHIEF OSOLO, he is the chief priest, he leads them on any traditional rites, and holding of hands is forbidden.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The field trip which lasted for seven days was such an educative and out of school experiences, it has speedily increased my level of knowledge and also my love for nature. It introduced me to the immediate nature without any human destruction. I was open to some places which worth the journey. I also learned how to use the binoculars and naming of some tree species.

After our guide took us round the historical site at the IdanreHill, we step back to the base. It was are reflective and educative moment at Idanre, We walked back to our bus while the driver transport us back to school. We got back to school around 3:00pm and we departed to our various houses, what a moment and educative program it was.