

# JAAFAR, RIDWAN MUHAMMAD

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**Adaptive | Organized | Reliable**

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS and AWARD

- Awarded the **European Commission Excellence-labelled Scholarship** for Erasmus Mundus Joint master's degree in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems (TROPIMUNDO) in July 2019.
- Conferred with an "**Outstanding Research Contributions Award**" by the Nigerian Montane Forest Project (NMFP).
- Participated in a highly competitive ecology field course organized by the Tropical Biology Association (TBA) in Botswana.
- Participated in an ornithology field course organized by the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) in Nigeria.
- Demonstrated experience on processing and analysing ecological datasets in R.

## SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- Acquired hands-on practical skills in experimental design and research methods.
- Good understanding of analytical software being used in ecological research like Microsoft Excel, R statistics, ArcGIS, SAGA GIS, Image J, as a Research Intern and during MSc classes and field training courses in Botswana and Nigeria.
- Confident user of Microsoft PowerPoint to deliver academic and technical presentations.
- Analytical reasoning skills and well equipped to work and carry out research in a multicultural setting gained while working as a research intern at NMFP and during my international field training and currently as an Erasmus Mundus international exchange student.

## EDUCATION and TRAINING

- **Master of Science (MSc) – Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems (TROPIMUNDO)** | 2019 – 2021
  - Mobility trajectory
    - a. Université Libre de Bruxelles and Vrije Universiteit (Belgium)
    - b. Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (Malaysia)
    - c. University of Florence (Italy)
- **Bachelor of Technology (BTech) in Applied Ecology** | 2013 – 2018  
ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA UNIVERSITY – Bauchi, Nigeria

## BTECH THESIS

- **Jaafar, R.M. (2018).**  
"Investigating the effect of tree species functional traits on bird visitation in a regenerating montane landscape". B. Tech. project, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Nigeria.

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- **Jaafar R., Yadok B. G., Elisha E. & Chapman H.** Isolated grassland trees and the common bulbul (*Pycnonotus barbatus*) promote reestablishment of Afromontane forest into degraded grassland. In press in *Biotropica*.

## FIELD COURSES AND CERTIFICATION

### A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute Introductory Ornithology Field Course | Yankari Game Reserve, Nigeria | July 2019

- Completed the four-week course which covered topics on the fundamental principles and techniques of bird identification and habitat monitoring, experimental design, avian ecology, and conservation.
- Conducted a two-week research project and practical analysis.

### Tropical Biology Association (TBA) Field Course | VanThuyne-Ridge Research Center, Botswana

| June 2019

- Completed the course covering current concepts and techniques in ecology, conservation biology, experimental design, and sampling methods through a series of seminars, lectures, and practical analysis.
- Conducted an independent research project on "Patterns of Bird species mobbing behaviours using playback calls of Pearl-spotted Owlet".

## EDITED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- ROSELLI Sasha, CHAPMAN Hazel and RIDWAN Jaafar (2018)  
"*Influence of Post-Dispersal Seed Predation on Forest Regeneration in a West African Montane Landscape*". In F. Babalola (Ed.), Proceedings of the 6th NSCB Biodiversity Conference Vol 6 (273 - 278pp). Uyo, Nigeria: Wordpress.

- JAAFAR R. M.\* , NJIDDA N. I., DANMALLAM B. A. and IBRAHIM A. A. (2018).  
“Vegetation analysis of protected and unprotected areas in Sumu Wildlife Park: Implication for biodiversity conservation”. In E. O. Akindele (Ed.), Proceedings of the 6th biannual conference of Nigerian Tropical Biology Association.

#### CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

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- 6th APIEXPO Africa conference on “Beekeeping industry for sustainable development, wealth creation and economic diversification” Conference. International Conference Center, Abuja. Sept 25-29, 2018
- Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation (GIFSEP) climate summit on “Rise for Climate”. Merit House, Abuja. Sept. 7, 2018
- 6th Biodiversity Conference on “Biodiversity Conservation and National development: Potentials and Challenges”. Nigerian Chapter of Society for Conservation Biology. Uyo, Nigeria. May 7-11, 2018
- Scientific Conference on “Microbes as agents for addressing economic and security challenges”. Nigerian Society for Microbiology. Bauchi, Nigeria Dec. 4-8, 2017

#### VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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##### Student Volunteer | RIMBA – Malaysia (<http://rimbaresearch.org>)

| 7 July – 6 September 2020

- Reviewed Malaysia's conservation and ecologically sensitive area policy documents.
- Conducted bird surveys and compiled Bird species checklist of Kampung Basung
- Assisted with SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) data entry

##### Research Intern | Nigerian Montane Forest Project – Ngel Nyaki, Nigeria

| March 2016 – March 2018

- Research Associate in functional traits and passive restoration project, investigating to what extent frugivorous bird species facilitate passive forest restoration in a regenerating Afromontane landscape.
- Actively involved in the data collection and research work of 5 PhD students from the University of Canterbury in understanding seed dispersal ecology (Ants, Birds and Rodents) and investigating roles of birds in ecosystem services.
- Managed social media operations including setting-up a twitter handle (@Ngel\_Nyaki), gaining over 730 followers.

#### OUTREACH

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- Co-founded the Ecology Students Forum in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University in 2017 and became its pioneer chairman.
- Served as president of the biological sciences student association for 2016/2017 session.
- Able to coordinate series of departmental programmes and represent students at the department
- Planned and executed a symposium on “Conservation of Natural Resources: Role of the University Community” in June 2017.
- Convened a tree-planting campaign to commemorate the 2017 World Environment Day.
- Continue to be involved in the Ecology Students Forum at ATBU in helping to mentor undergraduate students on career prospects in ecology and conservation.