

Aratu Nature and Wildlife Sanctuary

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Introduction

Agbado-Ekiti community environment has a serious concern due to damages to Ecosystems, loss of Biodiversity, loss of revenue to Forest owners, threat of livelihoods to village women and distortion of the market for Forest products. At this peak is the abuse of Aratu Sacred Stream, which serves as the only household water source, ethnomedicinal plants, watershed, rare Species, various animals, fishes, birds and reptiles. This natural sanctuary, along with it's cultural peculiarity, is under threat. The Community Forest Management Committee(CFMC) was established to develop management plan

Objectives

Through mentorship and funding from UNDP-SGP Nigeria, I.A/ Agbado Community took a bold step **to conserve a 1.2Hectare at a spot called "Forest of thousands Herbs"** as a model conservatory for Ecosystem Regeneration. This Community Forest(CF) is provided with facilities like Hall (for trainings),fish ponds, Snails multiplication, Grasscutters domestication, Organic mushrooms propagation e.t.c

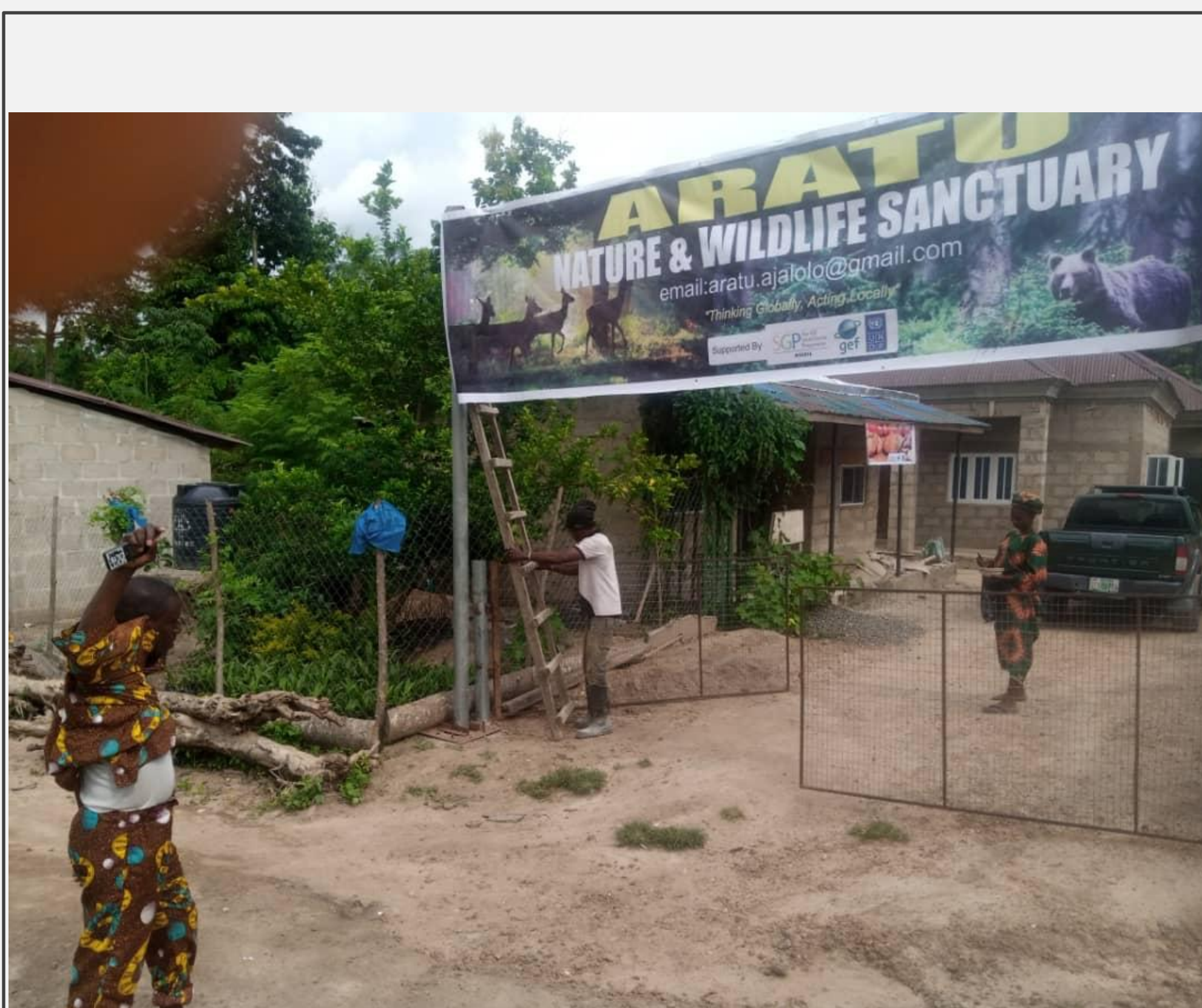


Fig. 1 and Fig. 2: Action Photos from Project Site

Methodology

This started barely 5years ago but it has tremendously boosted the community socio-economic activities through capacity building trainings in various organised seminars, workshops and Field demonstrations in selected topics like Sustainable Forest Management, Forest inventory, Establishing Mico-entreprises of Biodiversity products.e.t.c addressing the risk of child labor by incentivizing farmers to keep their children in school and encouraging crop diversification, which can provide farmers with an alternative income. .

Results and Discussions

Farmers have also adopted agroforestry, which increases the resilience of their crops. Taken together, these measures help address the root causes of social and environmental issues in this region. The project helped to establish the rare Species of endemic timbers e.g baphia nitida(Camwood) mahogany, Mansonia altissimo for in-situ and ex-situ enrichment planting.

The capacity of rural dwellers in Participatory Forest Management(PFM) were built and beneficiaries served in various project committees

Conclusion and Future Work

"UNDP-SGP Nigeria has given us the help we need to restore our degraded forests" ...HRM Kabiyesi Oba Samuel Adesina, The Owa Oroo of Agbado Ekiti..

References



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