

Project Title: Participatory Restoration and Management Of Stubbs Creek Forest Reserve (SCFR), Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

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Introduction

Stubbs Creek Forest Reserve in Akwa Ibom state Nigeria, faces severe forest degradation and encroachment due to excessive logging, oil exploration, expansion of land for industrial use, agriculture and infrastructures with impacts on livelihood, Biodiversity and rural economy of over 30 communities adjoining the forests. Eket Offiong clan in Esit Eket Local government Area is one of such communities. These challenges directly impacts the forest ecosystem leading to increased pressure, biodiversity loss, wildlife decimation, food insecurity and poverty. The impacts disproportionately affect women, who bear the burden of providing food and general care for the household. Without intervention, the community’s livelihoods and environmental resilience would continue to deteriorate, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and ecological decline with grave consequences.

Objectives

The main objective of this project is to restore and sustainably manage the landscapes of Stubb’s Creeks Forest Reserve to set a pace for upgrade to a National Park.

The purpose is to engage critical Stakeholders from indigenous communities, governmental organizations and groups in a participatory manner to implement and sustain livelihood activities; Jackfruit value chain and poultry farming to enhance food security. To educate, train and equip Eket Offiong community people especially women to embrace alternative livelihood while conserving natural resources

Methodology:

The following methods were adopted in the implementation of the project

Statewide project inauguration by WINCO in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

Workshops and trainings on livelihood options; poultry farming and Jackfruit value chain development

Nursery operations/seedlings procurement Of 20,000 indigenous species and 5000 mangroves.

Vegetation Mapping of estimated 10Ha degraded area.

Stakeholders meeting on preparation of 2-year management plan for SCFR

- Results and Discussions**
- i. 380 km2 Stubb’s Creek Forest Reserve influenced for biodiversity conservation. 25,000 trees species raised and including mangroves. Restoration on-going.
 - ii. Restoration of habitat for endemic wildlife species particularly, the Sclater’s Guenon enhanced.
 - iii. Construction of 500-bird capacity poultry farm and training of youths in poultry farming
 - iv. Training of 3,000+ and empowerment of 33 women from Esit Eket LGA on processing of 6 jackfruit products
 - v. Establishment of cottage industry. Jackfruit processing ongoing.
 - vi. Establishment of an active management of community Women-led Cooperative Society
 - vii. Trademark obtained for WINCO Jackfruit products
 - viii. Export Certification by NEPC obtained.
 - ix. NAFDAC registration of 12 jackfruit products in view(Application -NF-FD-558891

Conclusion and Future Work

The UNDP/GEF/SGP project demonstrates a successful model of Gender-Responsive, locally-led development where women are not just beneficiaries but major stakeholders, economic actors, leaders and change agents. By combining skills training, cooperative structures, financial inclusion and leadership opportunities, the project has significantly advanced women’ economic empowerment and gender mainstreaming with clear potentials for replication across vulnerable regions in Nigeria.

Our vision 2026-2028 will plant 50,000 trees, train 5,000 women and empower 500, replicate the innovation in 5 more communities, Promote and sustain sales of export-ready, nutrition-certified products

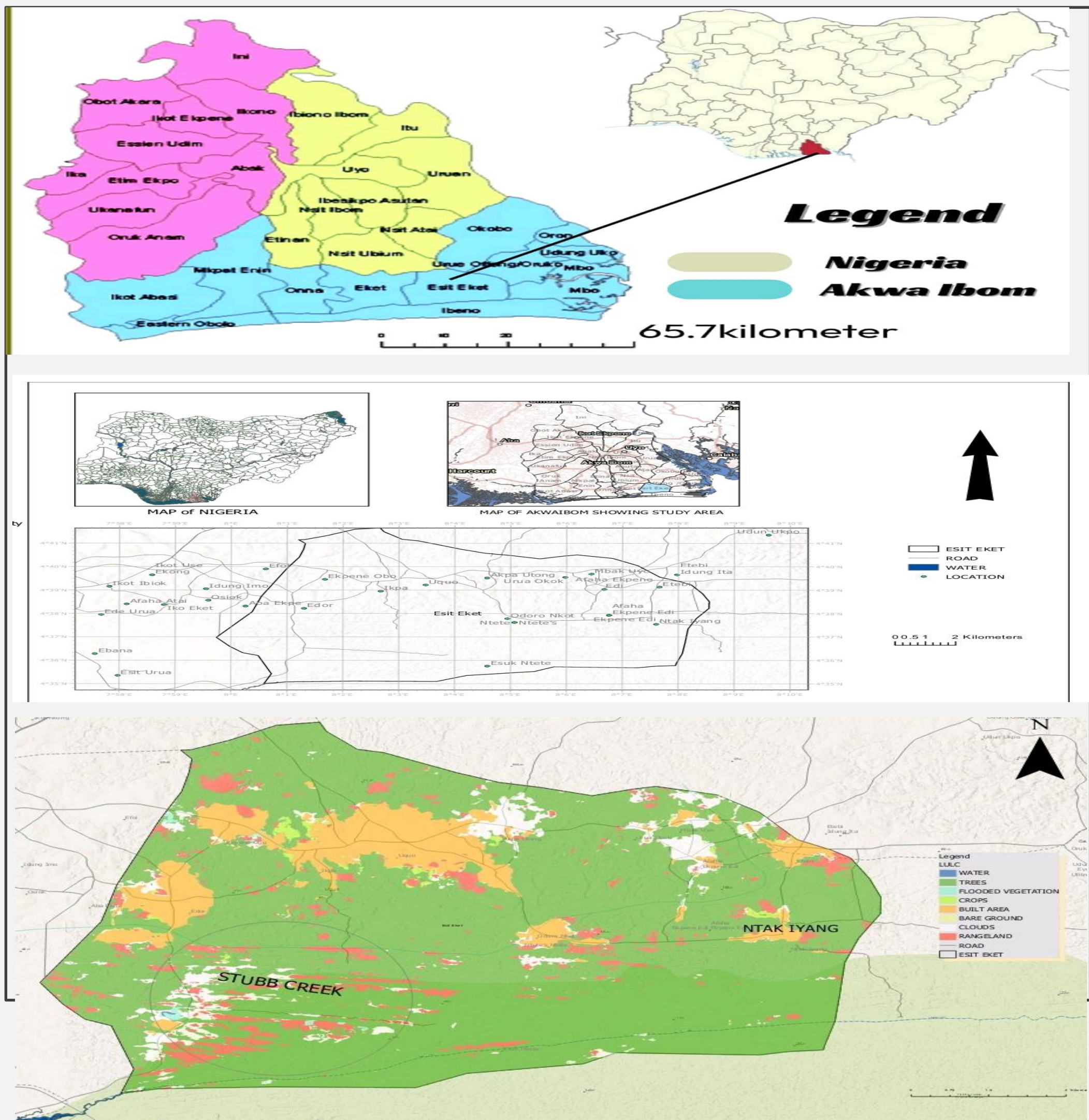


Fig. 1: Mop of Nigeria, Akwa Ibom State showing Project Location and land use pattern



References

The Pioneer Nigeria (2026). UNDP-GEF-SGP: WINCO Inaugurates conservation project in Akwa Ibom, plants 25,000 trees’ <http://pioneernewsng.com>

WINCO Launches Conservation Project, Proposes National Park(2025) <https://pioneernewsng.com>

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