



# **ZARIA AFFORESTATION PROJECT**

## **Annual Report**

### **2022**

#### **REFORESTING ZARIA INITIATIVE**

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*Green vegetation cover contributes to sustainable, resilient landscapes' aesthetics, planning, design, and management. Greening cities is key to urban renewal, neighborhood tranquility and community-based sustainability.*

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## Aims and Objectives

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### 1.1 Introduction

The Zaria afforestation Project is a project set up to restore the vegetation cover of Zaria by planting 5,000 tree seedlings, which will go a long way in repairing the damaged ecosystems and mitigating climate change.

Green vegetation cover contributes to sustainable, resilient landscapes' aesthetics, planning, design, and management. Greening cities is key to urban renewal, neighbourhood tranquility and community-based sustainability. The ongoing urban renewal project has impacted the quality and population of local trees in public spaces, hence the need for their restoration in the shortest possible time. The significance of these trees to the survival of mankind and mother earth. Trees serve as a source of green cover, prevent flooding, mitigate deforestation, filter the air we breathe and protect communities against environmental risks and hazards. These among other benefits inform our decision at Yusufu Bala Usman Institute, to contribute our quota towards attenuating the global effects of desertification and global warming.

The global concern over climate change is a topical issue therefore, there is a need for a concerted effort among individuals and corporate organizations to synergize in that regard. In order to achieve this objective the Yusufu Bala Usman Institute extended a hand of partnership to other stakeholders. Some of the pioneer stakeholders in the project are: the Kaduna State Government, represented by the Ministry of Environment, Zazzau Emirate Council, Sabon Gari Local Government Council and Zaria Local Government Council

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## 1.2 The Project Objectives

This project aims to green the environment and restore green infrastructure within Zazzau emirate. Other objectives are:

- Fostering awareness on the issues of environmental sustainability and local biodiversity, among youths and civil society members.
- Mobilization and Community engagement through the facilitation of hands-on street greening and seedlings nurseries.
- Plant and restore and promote native trees of Zaria and its environs.
- Creation of lush, green infrastructures, including fruit orchards flower, gardens, regenerative forests, butterfly reserves, and hedges in order to tackle the issue of air pollution.
- To inculcate in children an awareness and concern for nurturing and protecting trees and the environment through the Green Brigade program in selected primary and secondary schools.

### 1.3 Project Scope

The initial scope of the project is to replace the trees destroyed in the course of road construction in Sabon Gari and Zaria local government areas as part of the urban renewal project of the state government. Roads earmarked for tree planting in the first phase include:

#### **S/No. Zaria Local Govt Earmarked Locations**

1.	Pompom Gwaiba to Gaskiya Junction
2	Kofar Galadima to Zaria Market
3	Kofar Doka to Magajiya
4	Kofar Kuyambana to Kofar Gayan to Nagoyi
5	Kofar Jatau to Fanwanki to Rimin Kwakwa
6	Kofar Doka to Alhudahuda College
7	Hospital Road to Kofar Doka
8	Kofar Fada to Babban Dodo
9.	Mallawa Dynasty Eid Ground

#### **S/No. Sabon Gari Local Govt Earmarked Locations**

1.	Dogarawa Junction to Kano-Kad Expressway
2	Polo Field to MTD Junction
3	Queen Elizabeth to MTD Junction
4	Hanwa Road to Sokoto Road
5	Aviation Quarters to Silver Jubilee Estate
6	Circular Road GRA

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## 2.0 Project Launch

To achieve a seamless delivery of the project objectives, an action plan on the launching of the Zaria Afforestation Program was drafted and deliberated upon during the 5th meeting of the project. The launch was scheduled to coincide with the World Environment Day which was the 5th June 2022. In order to work towards that date, roles were allocated to respective stakeholders. The following responsibilities were allocated to each stakeholder.

### 2.1 Zazzau Emirate:

1. Public sensitization, mobilization -- enlightenment on the benefits of the project. Public enlightenment on the importance of trees, by enjoining Imams to draw the attention of the public through sermons and admonitions on the importance of planting and nurturing trees as a form of an unending charity that would continue to yield rewards even after death.
2. Support in fundraising.

### 2.2 Zaria and Sabon-Gari LGAs:

1. Identification of locations for tree planting, especially public institutions like schools and hospitals, as well as roads.
2. Support on security measures to protect planted trees.

### 2.3 KDSG Ministry of Environment/Divisional Forestry Office:

1. Provision of street maps to enable the identification of suitable locations for planting.
2. Planting of trees and provision of protection against vandalization and foraging.
3. Maintenance of planted trees and enforcement of protection measures.

### 2.4 Yusufu Bala Usman Institute:

1. Coordination.
2. Tree nursery development to nurture 5,000 seedlings of different varieties for planting.



Nursery of tree seedlings in GRA Zaria

In preparation for the launch of the Zaria Afforestation Project, all stakeholders were updated. The media both electronic and print, local and international, were invited. To achieve the project objective, education secretaries of Sabon Gari and Zaria local government alongside headmasters and headmistress were invited. This was to prepare them for the future role of anchoring the Green Brigade Program in their various schools.

## 2.5 Launching of Zaria Afforestation Project

The project was officially launched on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, which coincide with world environment day, at the Eid ground of Mallawa dynasty, km 1 Old Jos road Zaria. Dignitaries as well as members of the public that grace the occasion are:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. His Excellency Mal Nasiru El Rufai<br>Governor, Kaduna State. | Represented by Deputy Director Forestry<br>Department Malam Lawal Habib Ministry of<br>Environment and Natural Resources |
| 2. Emir of Zazzau His Highness                                   | Amb. Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, CFR   |
| 3. Chairman Sabon Gari Local Government                          | Engr. Mohammed Usman   |
| 4. Chairman Zaria Gari Local Government                          | Represented by Supervisory Councillor,<br>Agriculture Alh Umar Abubakar  |
| 5. Director, Yusufu Bala Usman Institute                         | Ms. Norma Perchonock   |
| 6. Council members Zazzau emirate council                        |  |
| 7. Imams and other religious leaders.                            |  |

The launching was well attended with a large entourage from Zazzau emirate. The programme of the event was arranged in the following order:

1. National Anthem
2. Opening Prayer by Chief Imam of Zaria Alh Dalhatu Kasimu
3. Welcome Address by Mal. Abdullahi Mohammed on behalf of YBUI.
4. Address by Local Government Chairmen:
  - a. Engr. Muhamed Usman, Chairmen Sabon Gari Local Government Area
  - b. Zaria Local Government Area Chairman Represented by Supervisory Councillor, Agriculture Alh Umar Abubakar
5. Speech by His Highness the Emir of Zazzau Amb. Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli
6. Speech by Representative of his Excellency Governor Mal. Nasiru El-Rufai, Director Forestry Department Malam Lawal Habib Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
7. Speech by His Highness the Emir of Zazzau Amb. CFR.
8. Closing remarks by Ms Norma Perchonock of the YBUI
8. Tree Planting by Dignitaries
9. Closing Prayer

The event received a wide coverage from the print and electronic media, such as NTA, FRCN, Nagarta radio, leadership newspaper and several others.



Highlights of the Event.



His Highness the Emir of Zazzau Amb. CFR, delivering his address.



Tree planting by Emir of Zazzau His Highness Amb. Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, CFR



Tree planting by Representative of Governor of Kaduna State Mal. Nasiru El-Rufai  
Malam Lawal Habib.





Tree planting by Chairman Sabon Gari Local Government Area  
Engr. Mohammed Usman

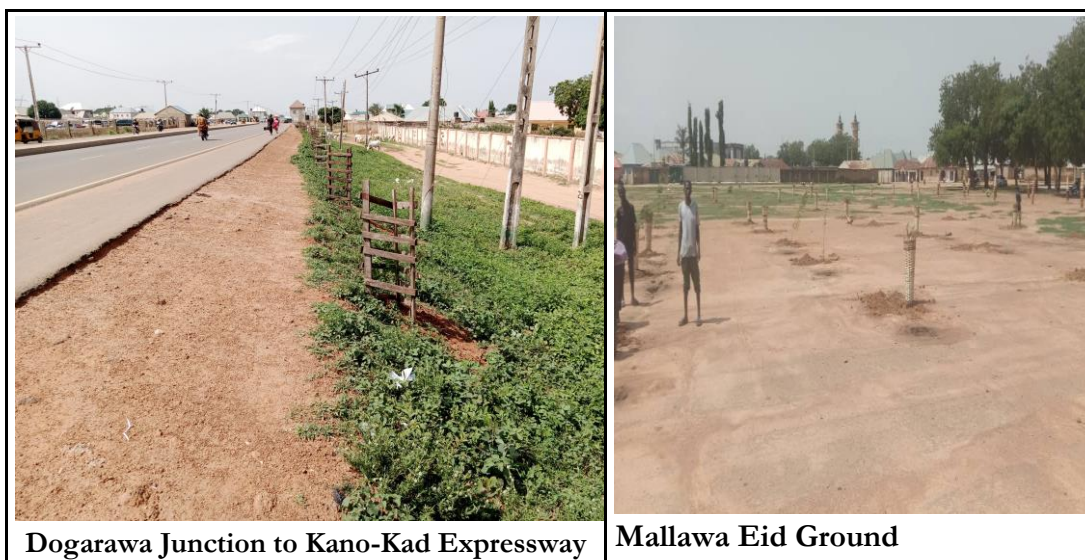


Tree planting by Ms Norma Perchonock of Yusufu Bala Usman Institute

## 2.6 Phase I Metropolis Tree Planting.

Tree planting by streets of Zaria metropolis commenced on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2022. The table below represent the locations number and varieties of trees planted.

	Roads	Tree Variety	No of Trees
1.	Mallawa Eid Ground	Neem, Malmo	150
2.	Sokoto- MTD junction Road	Neem	165
3.	Hanwa road – Sokoto Road	Mango	160
4.	Queen Elizabeth Road	Mahogany	145
5.	Dogarawa Junction to Kano-Kad Expressway	Flamboyant	250
6.	Kofar Fada to Babban Dodo		100
7.	Hospital Road to Kofar Doka	Rimi	37
		TOTAL	1007



Dogarawa Junction to Kano-Kad Expressway

Mallawa Eid Ground





Sokoto Road - MTD Junction



Old Jos Road, Zaria

At the end of this phase of the tree planting, it was realized that, plant protectors were exhausted, while there were a large number of seedlings in the nursery. During this phase, it was also realised that, most of the trees species can be eaten by animals. In order to avoid the impact of animals on the trees, the decision of planting the trees in schools, hospitals and other institutions was taken in order to achieve a good percentage of trees survival and effective distribution of the trees while also preparing the ground for the take-off of the Green Brigade program in primary and secondary schools.

## 2.7 Phase II: Tree Planting in Schools and other Institutions

Part of the problems encountered during execution of the first phase of tree planting was the vulnerability of the trees to wandering animals and that of humans. The experiences acquired during the first phase led to the adoption of the decision to plant in fenced or secured structures, such as, schools mosques, churches, hospitals and other institutions as stated above. The Education Secretaries of Sabon Gari and Zaria local government areas were invited for meeting during which the request for list of fenced schools under their jurisdiction was made. while the representative of the Zazzau Emirate Council provided list a of fenced mosque and churches.

Assessment of the listed schools and institutions were undertaken by the Yusufu Bala Usman Institute. Out of 36 fenced public schools assessed in Zaria local government area, only 10 schools were found to be impregnable by stray animals, while most of the Mosques and churches visited have existing trees planted within their vicinities.

**List of Schools and number of trees planted**

<b>S/NO</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b>No. of Trees Planted</b>
<b>1</b>	Government Secondary School Kwangila	Sabon Gari	63
<b>2</b>	Rochas Foundation School	Sabon Gari	94
<b>3</b>	Aviation Quarters, Sokoto Road	Sabon Gari	95
<b>4</b>	Queen Elizabeth Road G R A	Sabon Gari	50
<b>5</b>	Unguwar Fulani LGEA	Sabon Gari	35
<b>6</b>	Dogon Bauchi LGEA	Sabon Gari	35
<b>7</b>	GSS Dogon Bauchi	Sabon Gari	
<b>8</b>	NCAT (Aviation)	Sabon Gari	60
<b>9</b>	NITT	Sabon Gari	50
<b>10</b>	Tudun Wada ZARIA	Sabon Gari	30
<b>11</b>	Dogarawa 'yan Rake	Sabon Gari	40
<b>12</b>	Circular Road	Sabon Gari	
<b>13</b>	Army Children School	Sabon Gari	30
<b>14</b>	Ja'afaru LGEA	Sabon Gari	30
<b>15</b>	Dr. Aminu I. Sharehu L.G.E.A.	Zaria	15
<b>16</b>	Dr. Nuhu Bayero LGEA	Zaria	15
<b>17</b>	Justice Bashir Sambo LGEA	Zaria	12
<b>18</b>	Alh. Yahaya Hamza LGEA	Zaria	10
<b>19</b>	Alh Nuhu Bamalli LGEA	Zaria	15
<b>20</b>	Nuhu Baturen Makaranta LGEA	Zaria	20
<b>21</b>	Sarki Musa LGEA	Zaria	31
<b>22</b>	Tsoho Abdullahi LGEA	Zaria	15
<b>23</b>	Umaru Isah L.G.E.A	Zaria	31
<b>24</b>	Kongo Danja Mosque	Zaria	50
<b>25</b>	FCE Zaria Fence	Zaria	60
<b>26</b>	Tudun Jukun	Zaria	50
<b>27</b>	St Lukes Hospital Wusasa	Zaria	20
<b>28</b>	St Barth Wusasa	Zaria	20
<b>29</b>	Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic Zaria (UPE Campus)	Zaria	50
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1026</b>





Tree planting in one of the fenced schools



Tree planting in one of the fenced schools



Kongo Danja Mosque



FCE Zaria Fence

## 2.8 Phase III: Tree Planting in Schools and other Institutions

S/NO	Location	LGA	No. Planted
1	New Friday Mosque Giwa	GIWA	50
2	Al-Madina- Ummatu Islamiyya	SBG	45
3	Mallawa Eid Ground	SBG	50
4	Sokoto Road by Polo Field	SBG	80
5	St Andrew Church GRA Zaria	SBG	15
6	Circular Road to Western Way GRA	SBG	95
7	ITN Friday Mosque	SBG	50
8	Mopol Barracks	SBG	250
9	BATC Maje Road	SBG	40
10	School of Management	ZAR	70
11	Zaria Institute of Information Technology	ZAR	40
12	Muslim Specialist Hospital Dan Magaji	ZAR	40
13	Dakace Police Stattion	ZAR	20
14	Dambo Burial Ground	ZAR	40
15	Bashir Alhaji Danmagaji LEA	ZAR	15
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>675</b>

## 2.9 Summary of Trees Planted for the 2022 Planting Season

Stages	No of Tress Planted
Phase I	1,007
Phase II	1,026
Phase III	1,180
Total	3,213

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## 3.0 Problems Encountered and Mitigation Measures

Some of the major problems encountered during this year's planting season have a lot to do with wandering animals and public attitudes toward the planted trees. Despite the protection used to cover the trees, animals push away the protection to devour a lot of trees planted by the roadside and the Eid ground.

Within the GRA there are many herds of cattle within the houses. To surmount these teething problems, the intervention of the stakeholders was requested. Sabon Gari local government responded, indicating their inability to intervene due to a shortage of manpower. Ministry of environment Zaria zonal office recommends that, the attention of the district head be drawn to the problem so that he will in turn caution those who breed their cattle in areas within their jurisdiction, on the existence of a ban on open grazing in Kaduna state

### 3.1 Mitigation Measures

The Institute wrote letters to the Emirate and the local government chairmen, requesting institutional intervention in the area of public awareness on the importance of trees and the need for public participation in protecting the trees through publicising locations where tree planting had taken place in the media.

### 3.2 Role of Stakeholders

Some of the roles stakeholders are expected play in the overall success of the project were observed as follows:

1. Security guards at the Eid ground should be mandated to catch any wandering animal found devouring the planted trees and hand them over to the nearest police station and an amount be slated as a fine should be paid by the owners.
2. Owners of the herds of cattle around the GRA should also be cautioned not to allow their cattle to eat up the trees.
3. Drawing the attention of the public, especially Ward Heads to the importance of these trees and the damage done to some of the newly planted trees by wandering goats and herds of cattle that graze beside the affected roads is a necessity.
4. Staff of the forestry department should be incorporated into the supervision of the planted trees and assert their mandated authority regarding illegal felling of trees and other environment related issues.

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### **3.3 Malabar or Melia Dubia Neem Tree**

It has been realised that, the Malabar or Melia Dubia neem tree variety is not consumed by animals, high survival margin was recorded in places where it was planted. It was therefore suggested that, more of the neem variety should be planted in open spaces next planting season.

### **3.4 Public Enlightenment**

Members of the public need to be enlightened on the importance of planting trees as a means of reducing the impact of climate change and other concomitant derivable benefits. The instrumentality of the role of members of the public will establish a sense of belonging towards tending to the trees and also play an important role in the overall success of the project.

### **3.5 Feedback mechanism**

Feedback mechanism should be established through which report of the death of a tree can be promptly made and a replacement is made, to achieve uniform growth of the trees, which will make the project a work in progress. It was also suggested that, an event should be set aside to celebrate and reward those members of the public who maintain trees planted in their vicinity to maturity in order to encourage as well as incentivize public effort towards planting trees and other acts of environmental consciousness.

### **3.6 Donation of 750 units of the Silk Cotton Tree (Rimi)**

During the period under review 750 units of the Rimi trees were received from the palace as donations to His Highness the Emir of Zazzau, this forms part of the existing collection of trees available in the nursery. Rimi trees have significant cultural value in Zazzau Emirate but its gradual disappearance on the landscape of Zaria has been observed, due to indiscriminate felling by members of the public and wood merchants, which informs the resolve by the project to conserve the Rimi tree, by raising more of its seedlings in the nursery.

### **3.7 Maintenance of the trees**

The financial investment that accompanies the reforesting Zaria project is an enormous one. There is for concerted effort to bring in other categories of stakeholders into the project. Staff from the

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forestry division need to be actively incorporated into the project so as to bring their expertise to bear on the project through supervision, maintenance and protection of the trees. The use of protective baskets and putting in place persons to be responsible for spot weeding, watering, and other maintenance activities. It was also suggested that agroforestry such as private orchard development, should also be encouraged as an economic activity. So also, fruit tree seedlings should be distributed to members of the public which will encourage tree planting and in the long run attain local fruit availability within households.

## 4.0 Sustainability Plans:

### 4.1 Registering Reforesting Zaria Initiative as a Non-governmental Organization

To put the Zaria Afforestation Project on the path to achieving its long-term, strategic, partnership, and activities as self-sustaining Non-Governmental Organization, efforts have been made to register the name, **Zaria Afforestation Project** with the Corporate Affairs Commission but this was denied due to possible confusion the name may create as a result of the inability of the public in differentiating whether it is a private or government project. An alternative name, **Reforesting Zaria Initiative**, was forwarded and accepted. Registration under **Reforesting Zaria Initiative** is at an advanced stage.

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## 4.2 Green Brigade

Part of the problem the initiative is facing regarding tree planting, is insufficient public understanding about the way in which trees and other vegetation reduce the negative impact of climate change, through improving air quality, providing shade from the scorching sun and heat waves and also assist in sustaining biodiversity. It is in this regard that the initiative put forward the idea of the **Green Brigade program** to inculcate in children an awareness and concern for nurturing, protecting trees and the environment in various primary and secondary schools. The blueprint for the program will be ready for implementation during the next planting season.



School pupils participating in tree planting.

## 4.3 Collaboration and Partnership.

In the course of undertaking this project, collaboration was established with organizations and individuals who share similar concern for the environment. Organization such as the Zage-Zagi Charity Foundation are also involved in reforestation project in Zaria City. They were able to plant several trees along the road from Kofar Doka to Magajiya. Their approach is through door-to-door seedlings planting as well as distribution. The Zaria Afforestation Project has pledged to donate trees to them for distribution via their established channel, next planting season.

There is also a discussion on possible alliance with Society for Green Conservation, their area of concern is the protection of trees, through reporting to concerned authorities any case illegal felling of trees by the public. They showed interest in our activity and promise to participate in the replanting and protecting of mahogany trees along Gaskiya Corporation to Barewa junction, when the road construction has been completed next planting season.



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#### 4.4 Public Schools Outreach

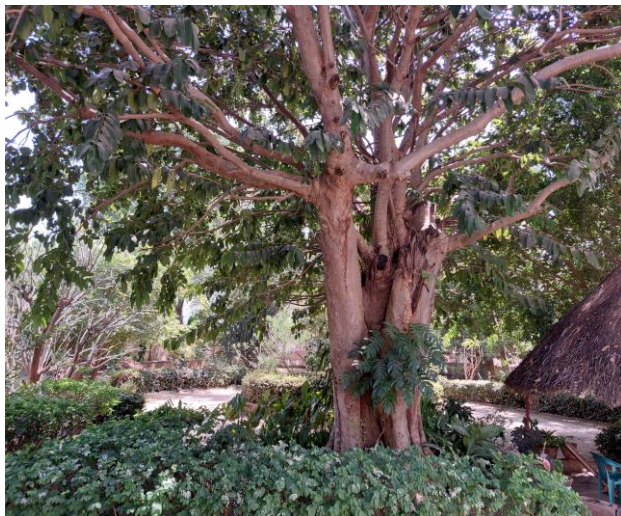
In order for the Green Brigade program to succeed, primary school pupils and secondary school students need to be on board. The program is intended to cover public schools. The cooperation of headmasters and headmistresses will be solicited, so as to inculcate in the youths a concern for the future of our environment, through planting trees.

#### 4.5 Funding and Financial Support

Funding is an important sustainability component for the initiative, in order to effectively pursue its aims and objectives. It has been suggested that after making inroads into the activities of the initiative, fundraising campaigns or direct mail solicitations will be organized targeting corporate entities and government agencies. Local and international donor agencies, will also be approached in order to solicit support or funding.

#### 4.6 Endangered Native Trees Protection

As part of our objective of Planting, Restoring and Protecting native trees of Zaria and its environs, it has been realised that, some of these native plants are endangered, due to the myriad of human activities. It is common fact that, roads construction, agriculture and other development activities have taken their toll on many of the indigenous tree species, including previously common trees like locust bean tree *dorowa* (*Parkia biglobosa*), *cediya* (*Ficus thonningii*) West African Ebony, *kanya* (*Diospyros mespiliformis*) and *kade* (*Vitellaria paradoxa*) shea tree and dinya black plum (*Vitex doniana*) are facing threats of becoming extinct. One identified tree species that is at the verge of extinction is *combretum erythrophyllum*. What gives credence to our observation is the abundance of different varieties of the *combretum* in the savannah region. It is referred to in Hausa with well over 22 names. Some of the most common names of the species are; farar geza, farar taramniya, gogen damo, kankara, and tariya. Despite the abundance of these other members of the *combretum* family, we are glad to state that for the first time after several years of attempt at propagating one of the few surviving *Combretum Erythrophyllum*, we now have a hand full of its seedlings carefully nurtured in our nursery.



Combretum Erythrophylum tree in a private property in Zaria



Nursery of some Combretum Erythrophylum trees

The best way to protect endangered plant species is to protect the places where they thrive, and intensify public awareness on the importance of trees and other natural resources. Our efforts at conserving endangered plant species will come to fruition when we have a vast and secured botanical garden that will ensure the perpetuation of the endangered native trees as viable populations, for sustainable aesthetics, medicinal and commercial use.

#### 4.7 Botanical Garden

The initiative is planning to establish a botanical garden that will host the nursery for nurturing trees for annual planting and preserving endangered tree species that are on the verge of extinction. The only constraint to this plan is the lack of land to carry out the activity. We therefore enjoin stakeholders to advance this course of acquiring land for the botanical garden through reaching out to the state government, friends, colleagues, well-wishers who share similar concern for preserving the earth and its rich biodiversity.

#### Conclusion

The year 2022 planting season came to an end with **3,213** varieties of trees planted, which fall short of the initiative's ambition of planting 5,000 trees, is a lofty achievement, despite the several teething problems encountered. Next year we hope to have a larger participation of individuals and groups who share a similar concern for the propagation and conservation of trees in Zaria.



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We also hope to see greater institutional intervention and participation. The State and local government can provide greater impetus to the success of the project through naming streets after some of the endangered tree species and planting same tree on the length of the said street. Property owners who cooperate towards ensuring the survival of the tree can be assured of a waiver on the payment of tenement rate for a particular period, in order to encourage public cooperation in the planting and nurturing of trees.

The staff of state and local government forestry units should be mandated to exercise their statutory responsibilities of enforcing laws that pertain protection and conservation of old and newly planted trees. Public awareness of the role the public can play in protecting and conserving trees and other vegetation as a buffer against the effects of climate change need to be further enhanced, through the participation of the initiative in programs of government and privately owned radio and television stations.

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## Company Information

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