



**REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE (RCE) MINNA IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
NIGERIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY (NES) NIGER STATE CHAPTER
ORGANISED**

2019 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED) COMMEMORATION

AT THE

BRIDGET AISHA LEMU CONSERVATORY & CHILDRENS PARK (BAL-CCP)

Minna, Niger state, Nigeria

13TH JUNE, 2019

THEME: AIR POLLUTION



Group Photograph

Photo Credit: RCE Minna

RCE Minna has continued to inspire and educate people through the commemoration of the UNEP World Environment Day. It has also created the

needed awareness for the activities of the Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Minna. This year's edition of the WED has as its theme: "Air Pollution". We can't stop breathing, but we can do something about the quality of air we breathe. However, RCE Minna this year decided to commemorate the day through advocacy and campaign to beat Air pollution by the planting of trees and also the official Unveiling of the Bridget Aisha Lemu Conservatory & Children's Park (BAL-CCP) which includes the Screening of a video for the proposed development for the site.

The event had in attendance the Representative of the Niger State Governors Wife, H.E Hajiya Amina Abubakar Bello, the family Representatives of the Bridget Aisha lemu (of blessed memory), our indefatigable Coordinator Dr Abdul Husaini, Prof. MB Nuhu member RCE Minna Board of Research (FUT, Minna), Prof. Mann Abdullahi Research Expert, RCE Minna Board of Research (FUT, Minna), Mal. Abdullahi Ketso DG NEPAD (Secretary RCE Minna), Representatives of NESREA, Managing Director NARSDA, GM NSUDB, and many MDAs representatives, Lecturers, School Principals, Teachers, University and Secondary School students and the media. Generally, about **200 participants** attended the event.



Invited Guest at the Event

Photo Credit: RCE Minna

WED 2019

The WED 2019 aims to campaign to avert the menace of Air pollution by inspiring people to plant trees and imploring us all to consider how we can make changes in our everyday lives by reducing the heavy burden of Air pollution through the planting of trees to better our environment and health. This is central to the theme of this year's WED. *“The 2019 theme is the fight against air pollution, which hampers on the quality of air we all breathe, eroding precious biodiversity and instrumental to climate phenomenon which all threatens our survival. This year’s slogan “Beat Air Pollution” which is a call to action to stop air pollution which has become a global crisis” and also encourages the world to improve on the quality of the air we breathe by the planting of trees.*

The major things that the RCE Minna will be leveraging on for campaigning in the WED 2019 will be;

#beatairpollution

Plant trees

Clean up trash

Commute without polluting

THE BRIDGET AISHA LEMU CONSERVATORY AND CHILDREN'S PARK

In recognition of the efforts of the Late Bridget Aisha Lemuof blessed memory, the Niger State Government with the persistent lobbying of the RCE Minna decided to immortalize her by designated the Park at the three Arms Zone in her name. The Park was officially flagged-up by H.E Hajiya Amina Abubakar Bello the Wife of the Governor of Niger State. The park was unveiled after the screening of a video "Proposed site development plan" which is a documentary on the plan to the park. The park is proposed to house different species of trees both local and outside the state, an open-air auditorium, an administrative block and a car park.

The planted trees are supposed to educate the populace on their medicinal values, curb the effects of Climate Change on the Environment and be used by students for research purposes. RCE Minna screened the video seeking the support of stakeholders and creating an awareness to the public on the imperative of harnessing and sustaining the park and at the same time commemorating the WED in grand style seeking solutions to our immediate environmental challenges.

ACTIVITIES OF THE RCE 2019 WED

This year's edition of RCE Minna 2019 WED celebration featured several activities that includes;

1. **Remarks** by Dr. Abdul Husaini, Coordinator RCE Minna: The coordinator RCE Minna, gave a remark on this year's theme " Air Pollution", he pointed out the importance of people taking charge of the environment, and tree planting is key to maintaining a serene environment. He also highlighted the concept of the Bridget Aisha Lemu Conservatory and Children's Park is to provide a befitting outfit for the conservation of our our erstwhile lost tree species to promote learning opportunities to people of all ages, emphasizing on natural and traditional knowledge of the plants.



Photo Credit: RCE Minna

2. **Video Screening:** The video “A draft Proposal of the Bridget Aisha Lemu Conservatory and Children’s Park” which is the major highlight of the how the park is expected to look like after its completion.
3. **Remarks on the medicinal value of indigenous trees:** A short remark by Prof. Mann Abdullahi Research Expert, RCE Minna Board of Research (FUT, Minna). He pointed out the need to plant trees but more so, the planting of medicinal trees is more important. The park will house the major trees which are mostly found in the north with the ultimate aim of a systematic compilation of flora as is common in the region.



Photo Credit: RCE Minna

- 4. Goodwill messages and the Voice of RCE Volunteers:** Goodwill messages were given by the representative of Prof. M.N. Maiturare Vice Chancellor IBBUL, Dr. Francis Gana and Prof. M.B. Nuhu. They all reiterated the importance of tree planting to combat the issue of climate change.



Prof. Mann Abdullahi and Dr. Haliru Ayuba Photo Credit: RCE Minna



Photo: Prof. MB Nuhu and the Youth representative

Photo Credit: RCE Minna

- 5. Address by her Excellency:** Her Excellency, the Wife of the Governor, Niger State and Chairperson of Association of Female Appointees and Wives of Niger State Officials (AFAWNSO), **Dr Amina Abubakar Bello** ably represented by the Perm. SEC. Ministry of Environment graced the occasion and highlighted the importance of a green environment. She went ahead and suggested the need for education and sensitisation as sustainable solutions to the challenges of air pollution and climate change. That, the Park will serve as an avenue for children to connect with nature together with parents, teachers and student researchers. She concluded by applauding the effort of the RCE and other environmental enthusiasts for gracing the occasion of the

World Environment Day 2019.



Representative of the Governor's Wife

Photo Credit: RCE Minna

- 6. Flag-up and Launching of the Park:** The Bridget Aisha Lemu Conservatory & Children's Park (BAL-CCP) officially flagged-up and Unveiled by H.E. the Wife of the Governor, Niger State and Chairperson of Association of Female Appointees and Wives of Niger State Officials (AFAWNSO), **Dr Amina Abubakar Bello**. It involves the unveiling of the signpost together with the

Family representatives of The Bridget Aisha Lemu present.



The Unveiling of the Park

Photo Credit: RCE Minna

- 7. Remark by the family representative of late Bridget Aisha Lemu:** Hajiya Maryam Lemu un-behalf of the family thanked Niger State Government, RCE and other stakeholders for the gesture and recognition of the effort of her mother late Bridget Aisha Lemu. She said if the mother were to be alive, she will have been very happy and be a part of this project. She also promised to support the project in many different ways to achieve success.



Family Representatives of Late Bridget Aisha Lemu

Photo Credit: RCE Minna

MAJOR OUTCOMES

- I.** Participants were implored to enhance their commitments and actions for the environment, especially in averting air pollution.

- II. The programme exposed participants and students to take up action individually and collectively to tackle environmental challenges.
- III. Raised more awareness on climate change in line with goals 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of SDGs.
- IV. The Bridget Aisha Lemu Conservatory and Children's park was officially flagged-up by H.E Hajiya Amina Abubakar Bello and the family representative of the Late Bridget Aisha Lemu.
- V. Tree planting was done as part of the tradition of the RCE Minna to commemorate the World Environment Day 2019.
- VI. Students and the general public are to benefit from the park as different flora of tree species are to be planted in the park.

CONCLUSION

This year's edition of World Environment Day is apt and timely, this is because air pollution has gradually become a pressing environmental challenge worthy of concern. If there is ever a time for us to collectively join our hands and salvage the earth (our environment) from the imminent dangers of air pollution, then that time is now. We at RCE Minna will continue to put in our best by contributing to the addition of different species of trees to combat climate challenges. however, we have a responsibility as individuals to put in our efforts to create a better living for our children and generation yet unborn. The slogan for the year remains ***"Beat Air Pollution"*** with a favourite quote; ***"we can't stop breathing, but we can do something about the quality of air we breathe."***



Group Photograph with RCE members

Photo Credit: RCE Minna

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NIGER STATE CHAPTER



RCE MINNA 2019 WED BANNER



THE REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE (RCE) MINNA

in collaboration with

Nigerian Environmental Society (NES)

NIGER STATE CHAPTER

Welcomes you to the

2019 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

&

UNVEILING OF BRIDGET AISHA LEMU CONSERVATORY & CHILDREN'S PARK (BAL-CCP)



THEME: AIR POLLUTION

Date: 13th June, 2019 / Time: 10:00am / Venue: Bridget Aisha Lemu Conservatory & Children's Park, 3 Arm Zone, Minna

