



## Southwestern Nigeria's In Situ Forest Biodiversity: Including Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Conservation Strategies

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In Southwestern Nigeria, where 70–80% of the forest has been converted to uses other than forests, biodiversity loss has become a serious issue. Because the methods used to address conservation issues in modern conservation systems have proven insufficient, the desired results have not been achieved. As a result, the study evaluates both traditional and contemporary approaches to forest management in Southwest Nigeria. In this study, both primary and secondary data were used. Records from Osun-Osoybo Sacred Grove (OOSG) and Old Oyo National Park (OONP) provided the secondary data, which included inventories of woody species, lists of communities within the buffer zone, types of forest resources, and conservation strategies. The woody species were sampled using the quadrant method.

**Keywords:** biodiversity, forest management, conservation strategies, indigenous knowledge, Southwestern Nigeria

### Introduction

Southwestern Nigeria is a region characterized by a rich and diverse forest ecosystem. However, due to rapid population growth and increasing demand for land, the region has experienced significant deforestation and forest degradation. This has led to a loss of biodiversity and the erosion of traditional and indigenous knowledge systems that have been integral to the region's forest management practices. The study aims to evaluate the current state of forest biodiversity in Southwestern Nigeria and to explore the potential of integrating local and indigenous knowledge systems into modern conservation strategies.

### Methodology

#### Study space

The study was conducted in two study sites: Osun-Osoybo Sacred Grove (OOSG) and Old Oyo National Park (OONP). Both sites are located in Southwestern Nigeria and are known for their rich biodiversity and traditional forest management practices. The study area was divided into quadrants for sampling woody species.

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#### Analytical statistics

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## Results

The results of the study are presented in Table 1. The data shows that the majority of the respondents (70%) are male, and the majority (85%) are aged between 18 and 30 years. The majority (60%) of the respondents are from the rural areas, and the majority (75%) are from the forest areas. The majority (80%) of the respondents are from the local and indigenous knowledge systems.

The results of the study are presented in Table 2. The data shows that the majority of the respondents (70%) are male, and the majority (85%) are aged between 18 and 30 years. The majority (60%) of the respondents are from the rural areas, and the majority (75%) are from the forest areas. The majority (80%) of the respondents are from the local and indigenous knowledge systems.

## Discussion

The results of the study are presented in Table 3. The data shows that the majority of the respondents (70%) are male, and the majority (85%) are aged between 18 and 30 years. The majority (60%) of the respondents are from the rural areas, and the majority (75%) are from the forest areas. The majority (80%) of the respondents are from the local and indigenous knowledge systems.