



**ANIMAL PROTECTION
ORGANIZATION OF NIGERIA**

2023

Annual REPORT

**PREPARED BY
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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Animal Protection Organization of Nigeria - APON, continues to remain a leading animal rights and environmental organization in Nigeria. Despite how daunting the tasks are working with meager or without external funding, we remain active and proactive towards ensuring we stay put to our agenda. We understand how difficult it is to secure external funding these days, nevertheless, we remain committed to our values and mission to make life conducive for all animals.

In 2023, we recorded remarkable achievements in the area of policy development for a plant-based transition in the agriculture sector. Just as we are close to also recording another remarkable landmark for wildlife and paws.

We appreciate the unflinching support of our traditional funders and newly incorporated partners. Your support means so much to us. We will always strive to ensure your every single contribution makes the expected impact.

Let me mention here all our 2023 supporters:

SNIP International: We received from SNIP, a huge stock of equipment ranging from a diverse range of dog cage catch equipment to hospitalization transfer cages, estimated over 2000 pounds. We have since commenced catch-treat-and-release operations on stray dogs in the city of Ibadan with these supplies.

Catholic Concern for Animals: Although a little support came it went far to touch the lives of over 50 dogs, which we vaccinated with anti-rabies injections and Antibiotics. We also gave a token each to individual owners to support dog feeding.

Nicholas Christoph: Mr Christoph is an individual based in Germany who has consistently supported the feeding of our rescued dogs kept in the hands of foster carers until March of 2023 due to financial incapability. His support has also purchased a plot of land to develop a small-sized shelter.

Vegfest Nigeria Supporters: The following organizations were instrumental to the success of Vegfest Nigeria Stakeholders Food System Conference: Vegfund, Vegan Society of Aotearoa, Black Veg Society, The Vegan Stay, Vegan Africa Fund, A Well-Fed World, and Peter Odika Memorial Foundation.

Thank you all!!!

Ambassador. Joseph Odika (Board Chair)

Our Mission, Vision, and Values

MISSION:

Animal Protection Organization of Nigeria exists:

- To end animal homelessness and suffering through innovative rescue, advocacy, and community engagement.
- To protect endangered species and their habitats through scientific research, conservation action, and policy collaboration.
- To build a sustainable future where human needs are met responsibly, respecting the delicate balance of nature.

VISION:

At APON, we envisioned a future:

- where shelters are obsolete because responsible pet ownership and animal welfare are universally embraced.
- where endangered species populations bounce back and ecosystems flourish, free from human threats.
- where sustainable practices become the norm, ensuring a healthy planet for humans and animals alike.

Values:

At APON, the organization's decisions and actions are guided by the following principles:

- Compassion: We believe in treating all animals with respect and empathy, recognizing their sentience and intrinsic value.
- Collaboration: We partner with diverse stakeholders to achieve shared goals, leveraging collective knowledge and expertise.
- Innovation: We embrace new ideas and solutions, constantly seeking to improve our impact and effectiveness.
- Science: We base our decisions on sound scientific evidence and data, ensuring our work is informed and impactful.
- Advocacy: We speak up for the voiceless, pushing for policies and practices that protect animals and the environment.
- Integrity: We operate with transparency and accountability, earning trust and building lasting relationships.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



AMB. JOSEPH ODIKA

FOUNDER, APDN & CLIMATIX

Amb. Joseph Odika is a community based climate ambassador. He has led several movements in animal welfare and climate change mitigation. He is the founder of Animal Protection Organization of Nigeria and the creator of Vegfest Nigeria. He is also the CEO of Climate Solution Based social venture.

His panacea in climate and animal welfare shot him into limelight in the animal and climate advocacy movement global space. He sits as an advisory board member in Aquatic Animal Alliance, he is also a freelance writer for Sentient Media.



MRS OGUNTUYI-ABIMBOLA FOLASHADE

THE SOUTH WEST ZONAL DIRECTOR, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Oguntuyi-Abimbola, Omolara Folashade Mrs. is a graduate of Agric. Animal Science from University of Ibadan. Started her career as a cooperative officer at the Ministry of Labour and Employment, went to the Federal Cooperative College, Ibadan and was later transferred to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development serving as cooperative officer before being transferred to the South West zonal office.



THEME:
TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE PLANT-BASED FOOD SYSTEM

VENUE: DAVID HALL, MANHATTAN EVENT CENTRE, JERICO, IBADAN, OYO STATE, NIGERIA.

DATE: MAY 27TH, 2023 || **TIME:** 9AM - 5PM

SPEAKERS



DR. ANGELA CRAWFORD, PH.D.
TITLE: CREATING A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE VEGAN LIFESTYLE



DR. KIOOPE OLUWARORE
TITLE: SCIENCE OF ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN



ZAKARIYYU YUSUF
TITLE: PLANT BASED TRANSITION FROM EA'S PERSPECTIVE



MODUPE OGUNWURA
TITLE: THE PLANT-BASED TREATY



FIDELIS EWANG ESBE PH. D, MRSN
TITLE: A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE NEXUS BETWEEN AGRONOMY AND HUMAN EXISTENCE



THOMAS EMMAUEL
TITLE: INFORMAL PLANT RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINABLE AND SECURE FOOD SYSTEM



In May 2023, the Animal Protection Organization of Nigeria hosted its annual Vegfest Nigeria for the second time. The 2023 edition brought stakeholders in the Nigerian food system together to share knowledge about plant diversity and how to make use of the system to catalyze sustainable development.

Some of the speakers



Mr. Ayodeji Ajisope - Moderator



Mrs Oguntuyi Abimbola Folashade, the South West Coordinator Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.



Sab Ebierikwe, Director of Raw Materials Research & Development Council



Ambassador. Joseph Odika – Founder, APON during his Keynote address.



Mr. Humphrey Ibanam from Vegan Africa Fund delivered a paper on blockchain Vegan fund accesibility



Dr. Fidelis Egbe, Senior Lecturer at Bowen University, delivered a lecture titled: Agronomy and Human Interdependency

Press Review

<https://tribuneonlineng.com/vegfest-2023-apon-stakeholders-advocate-sustainable-plant-based-food-system-policy-in-nigeria/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/joseph-odika-7b5528213/recent-activity/all/>

Some of the equipment donated by SNIP International



Free Anti-Rabies vaccination. Courtesy: Catholic Concern for Animals



In the month of August 2023, an American Bully was gruesomely murdered for wandering into a neighbor's compound. The case is still under review by law enforcement agency and we are keeping close watch as the dog owner is waiting for justice.



Our team during our visit to Lagos to interview the owner of the dog. Inset is the picture of the slain dog trying to escape from the killer's compound after being shot the first time.

Vegan Earth Day, 23rd April, 2023.

On the 22nd April, 2023, Vegans globally, celebrated Vegan Earth Day March in commemoration of Earth Day celebration.

Animal Protection Organization of Nigeria was not left out as we equally marked the event.



WORLD ANIMAL DAY: Every year, 4th of October precisely, advocates around the world celebrate World Animal Day, in recognition of the importance of animals on the planet. Nature Watch Foundation, UK is the creative content owner of World Animal Day, and since its inception, has incorporated well over 80 organizations from over 60 countries in its group. Our founder happens to be one of the Ambassadors of WAD. APON celebrated WAD for the 5th time since the creation of the organization. We created a symposium on the importance of animals to mankind, regardless their sizes.



APON's Executives in a group picture with TAMPAN Executives



APON Executives

IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

VEGFEST NIGERIA 2023: The 2023 edition of Vegfest Nigeria targeted stakeholders in the Nigerian food systems. The conferences act as catalysts for transformative action in the plant-based food space. The goal was to foster collaboration between diverse stakeholders (farmers, scientists, activists, and policymakers) to build a more sustainable and ethical plant-based food future through policy dialogue, financial access, capacity building, research, innovation, and training while addressing environmental and animal welfare concerns. The conferences rounded up with a communique to push for a plant-based food policy with the following institutions as parties to the policy development: Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, Raw Materials Research and Development Council, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and National Environmental Standard and Enforcement Agency. The dialogue is currently taking place. This is a big achievement for us. The second face of the Vegfest which are radio and public campaign on the benefit of the plant-based transition reached over 5 million Nigerians.

DOG WELFARE: Since the inception of APON's Dog Welfare Campaign, we have been able to reach over 200 people in public spaces, over 500 students, saved over 20 dogs from painful death, vaccinated over 70 dogs, and fed more than 50 dogs, with donors' money in addition to dues paid by our members.

WORLD ANIMAL DAY: The 2023 edition of World Animal Day was celebrated in collaboration with the Theater Arts and Motion Pictures Practitioners Association of Nigeria – TAMPAN. With a symposium titled: Big or Small, Love Them All, members of the group were informed about the true meaning of sentience, and why respecting animals of all sizes is crucial. The group leadership initiated a call to action for every member of the group who owns animals to ensure the 5 freedoms of animals are upheld.

VEGAN EARTH DAY MARCH: A march was conducted by our volunteers in recognition of World Vegan Earth Day. This was the first time such an event was organized globally, and we delivered our quota to make the global event memorable. More than 120 non-vegans signed the plant-based treaty.



ANIMAL PROTECTION ORGANIZATION OF NIGERIA

FUTURE GOALS

In the vibrant tapestry of a future we weave, no thread shines brighter than compassion for our fellow creatures. Here, at the heart of APON, our vision stretches beyond rescuing the lost and healing the hurt. We yearn for a world where every single animal, from the majestic wolf in untouched wilderness to the playful pup in your loving embrace, lives a life free from suffering, exploitation, and fear.

Imagine sanctuaries pulsating with life, not confinement. Vibrant ecosystems hum with rescued wildlife, their songs echoing our restoration efforts. Shelters transform into havens of holistic care, nurturing every paw, feather, and fin back to health, and then guiding them to forever homes overflowing with love. Our educational tendrils reach far and wide, instilling empathy and respect for all beings in every heart, young and old.

In the bustling corridors of power, our voices reverberate. We forge alliances, shaping policies that safeguard animal welfare, and championing ethical practices in every industry that touches their lives. From laboratories to farms, cages crumble under the weight of scientific advancements that honor life, not extinguish it.

But our ambition transcends borders and boundaries. We envision a global chorus of change, where animal welfare isn't a privilege, but a birthright. Through collaborative efforts, we empower communities to become guardians of their local ecosystems, champions of responsible pet ownership, and advocates for their furry, feathered, and scaled neighbors.

This, dear friends, is our future. A symphony of compassion, echoing through generations, where every heartbeat, from the tiniest hummingbird to the mightiest elephant, resonates with the profound truth: all life deserves to be cherished, protected, and celebrated. Join us, and let us write this magnificent future, paw by paw, wing-beat by wing-beat, together.