



FUTA NEWS

Stop Sale of wild Animals, Deal Decisively with Poachers, Illegal Loggers

---FUTA Don Urges Government

Governments at all levels must devise and mete out strict punishment to those who destroy Nigerian's natural resources through illegal logging, poaching, illegal grazing, encroachment of game and forest reserves and national parks. This was the submission of Professor Adebisi Ilesanmi Adeyemo, while delivering the 68th inaugural lecture at the Federal University of Technology, Akure. The lecturer who spoke on the topic 'Earth without Biodiversity: What would have been the fate of Man?' outlined measures that can be taken to improve biodiversity in order to sustain human existence and survival of man and his environment. He advocated the intensification of Federal government's tree planting campaign to improve afforestation; proper funding of forestry research institutes to enable them carryout their functions effectively; restriction on sale of wild animals on the street, with government agents seizing illegally poached animals from the reserve areas; creating public awareness on protecting biodiversity in the environment which will reduce the continuous rise in global warming and climate change; conscious effort by government and non-governmental organizations to encourage the establishment and funding of zoological gardens and wildlife parks in all Nigerian Universities, research institutes and other tertiary institutions.

He said the enormous contribution of biodiversity to nature clearly shows that without this unique natural endowment the earth would not have been habitable for man. He described biodiversity as the totality of genes, species and ecosystems in a region. Adeyemo, a Professor of Wildlife Nutrition and Utilization however warned against irrational utilization of Natural endowments by man as this could lead to biodiversity destruction and quick deletion from the surface of the earth. Speaking further, the don called for favourable government policies geared

towards conservation and preservation of the natural resources and a separation of implementation of conservation policies from political consideration.

Professor Adeyemo called on government and stakeholders in the education sector to provide adequate funds to Nigerian Universities to carry out research on sustainable conservation of Nigerian biodiversity. He also called on the private sector to adequately participate in conservation processes by sponsoring research and scholarship to Nigerians to study courses locally and internationally. This according to him will boost the country's economy and contribute to knowledge development. He also advocated for training of young men and women in nature conservation courses in the Universities, urging government and the affluent in the society to award scholarship and bursaries for such training from time to time. Adeyemo also called on Nigerian Universities including FUTA to emulate foreign Universities whose campuses are beautiful, friendly and inviting. This, according to him will encourage and sustain the revolution of green Environment and reduce damage that fuel and its components can cause.

Concluding, Adeyemo said "Biodiversity is life without which no single man can survive the various demands of life. I therefore wish to emphasize that rational utilization of biodiversity and careful planning of its sustainable renewal is the only thing that can make life possible for man. I submit therefore that earth without biodiversity as the planet would have been dull, lifeless, frustrating, uninteresting, uninhabitable, shapeless and impossible."

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola represented by Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, Professor Adedayo Fasakin described the lecturer as an erudite professor who has contributed immensely to research and academic development in his field of specialization. Said he, "Professor Adeyemo has really demonstrated his intellectual prowess in his field. He has been a consistently productive scholar and a renowned Wildlife Nutritionist. He has contributed significantly to knowledge in his chosen area of Wildlife Nutrition in addition to providing leadership both for his students and younger academics since he took up appointment in the University."

The lecture which held at the University's new auditorium on Tuesday February 24, 2015 was graced by FUTA Principal Officers, Deans, Vice-Chancellors of neighboring Universities, staff, students, friends and family members of the lecturer and other stakeholders in the education sector.