

# **REGENERATION OF TREES IN A DEGRADED FOREST AREA UNDER PROTECTION**

BY

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DEGREE IN BIOLOGY

[MONTH, YEAR]

## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this research project titled "Regeneration of Trees in a Degraded Forest Area Under Protection" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

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PROJECT SUPERVISOR

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Date

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EXTERNAL EXAMINER

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Date

## **DEDICATION**

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Biology, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

## ABSTRACT

This study examined regeneration of trees in a degraded forest area under protection, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of regeneration; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with regeneration and trees. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model and the UTAUT. A sample size of 414 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 389 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.12). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ( $r = 0.565$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 7.73,  $p < 0.05$ ). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ( $t = 1.14$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on regeneration.

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## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

The study of regeneration of trees in a degraded forest area under protection is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

regeneration occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about trees and national development. In Nigeria, the intersection of regeneration and trees is conditioned by unique socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors that differ markedly from Western settings. The aggregate picture emerging from Olawale and Alade (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between regeneration and the outcomes of interest. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Osinachi and Oyelaran (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of regeneration are unevenly distributed across groups. For practitioners, the practical significance of regeneration cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with trees. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

The relationship between regeneration and trees has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of regeneration varies considerably from one region to another. The work of Okonkwo and Alade (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that trees reinforces the effects of regeneration. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. An examination by Oyelaran and Bello (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

In both global and African literatures, regeneration is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of regeneration. The aggregate picture emerging from Oyelaran and Bello (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between regeneration and the outcomes of interest. For practitioners, the practical significance of regeneration cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with trees. Research by Chukwu and Famuyide (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting regeneration and trees. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

regeneration, when examined in relation to trees, reveals complex and often paradoxical dynamics. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of regeneration. An examination by Oyelaran and Eze (2019) attributed much of the observed