



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 24 March 2025

Nigeria

Osun-Oshogbo Sacred Grove



Designation date	1 March 2024
Site number	2563
Coordinates	07°45'12"N 04°33'02"E
Area	53,88 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a ‘full’ Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Osun Oshogbo Sacred Grove in Nigeria is one of the major biodiversity hotspots in Sub-Saharan Africa with high plant and animal diversity that has suffered considerable human-induced disturbance in recent times. It is one of the few remaining natural tropical dry forests in West Africa, though faced with rapid urbanization and simultaneous loss of the natural area. UNESCO identified the Grove as a global priority area for conservation and listed it as a UNESCO World Heritage Site based on its near-pristine environment and cultural value in 2005. The dependence of the local people on Osun Grove plant resources and ecosystem services contributes to forest degradation because of the belief that trees are naturally endowed and would continue to self-regenerate even if destroyed. The site is rich in both exotic and indigenous plant species, the most prominent is *Terminalia ivorensis*, *Newbouldia laevis*, *Ceiba petandra*, *Tiplochiton scleroxylon*, *Alstonia congensis*, *Spondias mombin*, *Funtumia elastic*, *Afrolicania elaeosperma*, *Baphia nitida*, *Albizia zygia*, *Pericopsis laxiflora*, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Markhamia tomentosa*, *Maliciaexelsa*, *Dialium guineense*, *Rinorea dentata*, *Cola millenii*, *Celtis zenkeri*, *Eriodendron anfra ctuosum*, *Brachystegia eurycoma*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Boskia angustifolia*. Owing to the abundance of trees in the Grove, the site has highly diversified bird species that belong to these families *Sylviidae*, *Cisticolidae*, *Cuculidae*, *Estriltidae*, and *Pycnonodidae*. Other Fauna present on the site are *Natriciteres variegata*, *Dendroaspis viridis*, *Mehelya poensis*, *Boiga blandingii*, *Calabaria renhardti*, *Bitis gabonica*, *Mehelya crossii*, *Grayia smythii*. The dense forest of the Osun Sacred Grove on the outskirts of the city of Oshogbo is one of the last remnants of primary high forest in Southern Nigeria. Regarded as the abode of the goddess of fertility Osun, is one of the Pantheon of Yoruba gods. The landscape of the grove and its meandering river is dotted with sanctuaries and shrines, sculptures, and artworks in honour of Osun and other deities. The sacred Grove, which is now seen as a symbol of identity for all Yoruba people, is probably the last in Yoruba culture. The Grove is also a natural herbal pharmacy containing over 400 species of plants, some endemic, of which more than 200 species are known for their medicinal uses.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Federal Ministry of Environment, Department of Forestry
Postal address	Plot 393/394, Augustus Aikhomu Way, Utako District, P.M.B 468, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Federal Department of Forestry
Postal address	Plot 393/394, Augustus Aikhomu Way, Utako District, P.M.B 468 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2022
To year	2023

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Osun-Oshogbo Sacred Grove
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2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0
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Boundaries description

Situated in the Oshogbo Local Government Area and Olorunda Local Government Area, the Osun-Oshogbo Sacred grove occupies coordinates Latitude 7.755695N and Longitude 4.552264E, positioned over 300 meters above sea level. At the basin of the Osun River within the lowland rainforest of South-Western Nigeria, the grove experiences a mean annual rainfall exceeding 1000mm, with double peaks in June-July and September-October. The grove also faces the fairly severe harmattan during December and January, with a generally high relative humidity of at least 60%. The soil composition, derived from the pre-Cambrian undifferentiated basement complex, tends to be gravelly with pebbles of gneiss, quartz, and feldspar. The boundary of the Osun-Oshogbo Sacred Grove covers its cultural, ecological, and spiritual essence. The boundary stretches along the edges of the primary high forest, meandering Osun River, and vital cultural and ritual sites within the grove. Natural elements like the riverbanks, clearings within the forest, and transitional areas between various vegetation types are carefully included, preserving the diverse habitats and rich biodiversity of the grove.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	South-Western Geopolitical Zone
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Ede

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

- a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes ☐ No ☒
- b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes ☐ No ☒

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):	53.879
Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries	53.879

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions	Rainforest

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

Rainforest Grove

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☒ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided	The Osun River within the grove plays a crucial role in regulating water flow and maintaining hydrological balance within the ecosystem. It helps in controlling flooding during periods of heavy rainfall and ensures a steady flow of water during dry seasons, supporting the survival of aquatic and terrestrial species. The presence of wetland areas along the riverbanks facilitates groundwater recharge, contributing to the sustainability of local water resources and providing a vital source of water for surrounding vegetation and wildlife. The Osun River which courses through the grove contributes to improving water quality by removing impurities and enhancing overall water clarity.
Other ecosystem services provided	The Osun-Oshogbo Sacred Grove supports a diverse array of flora and fauna, including endemic and endangered species. These habitats provide breeding grounds, shelter, and food sources for various organisms, contributing to the overall biodiversity of the region. The vegetation and soils in the grove's wetland areas contribute to carbon sequestration, aiding in the regulation of greenhouse gases. The grove provides tourism and recreation services. Visitors engage in activities such as birdwatching, nature walks, and cultural ceremonies along the riverbanks, fostering a deeper appreciation for natural and cultural heritage.

☒ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☒ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification	The grove is renowned for its rich and diverse ecosystems, including both terrestrial and aquatic habitats, which support a wide array of plant and animal species. The grove is home to over 400 species of plants, many of which are endemic to the region or have cultural and medicinal significance. The grove supports a diverse range of animal species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. Many plant and animal species within the grove hold cultural significance in Yoruba religion and traditional practices. These species are revered and protected as part of the sacred heritage of the grove, contributing to its unique cultural and biological value.
End year	2023

☒ Criterion 7 : Significant and representative fish

Justification	The grove's aquatic ecosystems, particularly the Osun River, support a variety of fish species that contribute to the overall ecological balance and biodiversity of the site. These fish species are representative of the freshwater ecosystems found within the grove, contributing to the overall biodiversity and ecological functions of the Osun-Oshogbo Sacred Grove as a Ramsar Site.
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☒ Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification

The grove's aquatic habitats, particularly the Osun River, serve as essential spawning grounds and nurseries for various fish species. The river's slow-flowing sections, shallow areas, and submerged vegetation provide ideal conditions for fish reproduction and early life stages. During the spawning season, fish migrate to these areas to lay their eggs and ensure the survival of their offspring. The diverse array of fish species found in the grove indicates the presence of suitable spawning habitats and confirms the importance of the site for maintaining fish populations and supporting healthy aquatic ecosystems. breeding.

Optional text box to provide further information

Aligator, Reptiles

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Afromorus mesozygia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Albizia ferruginea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NT	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Albizia zygia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Alstonia boonei</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Baphia nitida</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Brachystegia eurycoma</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Brachystegia nigerica</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Cleistopholis patens</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Cola millenii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Cordia millenii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Dialium guineense</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Drypetes afzelii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Entandrophragma utile</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Ficus exasperata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Funtumia elastica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Grewia carpinifolia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Lecaniodiscus cupanioides</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Margaritaria discoidea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Microdesmis puberula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Millettia thonningii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Nesogordonia papaverifera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Picralima nitida</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Rothmannia whitfieldii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Spondias mombin</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Trichilia monadelpha</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Trichilia welwitschii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Trilepisium madagascariense</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Triplochiton scleroxylon</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Cercocebus torquatus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Cercopithecus erythrogaster</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Manis tricuspis tricuspis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Python regius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Python sebae</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Tragelaphus spekii spekii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Clarias gariepinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Heterobranchus longifilis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Malapterurus electricus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Birds																	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

this grove is highly sacred , a sanctuary where different shrines, sculptures and art works have been erected to honor, celebrate Osun and other Yoruba deities. Traditionally, sacred trees, sacred stones, metal objects , mud and wooden sculptures were used in defining and impersonating the various deities inside the grove. the fishes in the Osun River and the animals in the Osun-Oshogbo Sacred Grove are the totemic representation of Osun. Fishing and hunting are therefore forbidden by customary law and religious sanctions.

inside the grove lay the origin of the Oshogbo Kingship institution; inside it lay the foundation of the Oshogbo kingdom which started from the grove to what it is today. The grove and the town are parallel to each other. The first two ancient palaces lay in the grove(Osun-Oshogbo) whilst the 3rd palace lay in the town(Ode-Oshogbo). As the "first" market lay in the grove, so its replica, the king's market, lies in the town. As there is a shrine to honour osun in the grove, so there is an Osun House(Ile-Osun) in the present pce grounds of the town. Thus, Osun-Oshogbo grove is replicated in Oshogbo town. The grove is the repository of the fundamental values of all tangible and intangible heritage of the Oshogbo people. That is why in August every year, her devotees from within and outside Nigeria attend the Osun festival in large numbers. Osun grove is therefore an outstanding pilgrimage centre where religious activities are conducted daily, weekly and annually. It is the spiritual fulcrum on which the Oshogbo kingdom stands. It is a melting pot for all religions; Muslims, Christians and Traditionalists.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M. Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks	Ogun River	0		Representative

(ECD) Habitat connectivity

Ecosystem interwind with trees species, animals, understorey and river

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	Rare
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Glyphaea brevis</i>	Rare
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Milicia excelsa</i>	rare
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Ricinodendron heudelotii heudelotii</i>	Rare
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Sterculia tragacantha</i>	Rare
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Terminalia leiocarpa</i>	Rare

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Sida acuta</i>	Actual (minor impacts)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Tithonia diversifolia</i>	Actual (minor impacts)

Optional text box to provide further information

They exist for ecosystem balancing, though symbiosis form of association exists.

4.3.2 - Animal species

Optional text box to provide further information

NA

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
A: Tropical humid climate	Am: Tropical monsoonal (Short dry season; heavy monsoonal rains in other months)

Oshogbo is the capital city of Osun State, South-Western Nigeria, is some 88kilometres by road Northeast of Ibadan. It is also 100km by road South of Ilorin and 115 kilometers Northwest of Akure. Osun Sacred Grove is situated in Oshogbo Local Government Areaand Olorunda Local Government Areaon Latitude 7.7827N and Longitude 4.5418E over 300metersabove the sea level.

The Grove is at the basin of Osun River, Osun Sacred Grove is in the lowland rainforest of South-western Nigeria. The mean annual rainfall is over 1000mm and the rainfalldistribution is as follows; The grove have double maximum rainfall- June to July and September to October. The harmattan during Decemberand January is often fairly severe. Relativehumidity is generally high not below 60%. The soils of the area are derived from the pre-cambium undifferentiated basement complex and tend to be gravelly with pebble of gneiss, quart and feldspar.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

Entire river basin ☒

Upper part of river basin ☐

Middle part of river basin ☐

Lower part of river basin ☐

More than one river basin ☐

Not in river basin ☐

Coastal ☐

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Ogun-Osun River Basin

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral ☐

Organic ☐

No available information ☒

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ☐ No ☒

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	
Usually permanent water present	No change

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	
Water inputs from groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water destination

Presence?	
To downstream catchment	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	
Water levels largely stable	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology:

Osun-Oshogbo Sacred Grove is a natural wonder to behold in South-Western Nigeria. The grove covers an area of 75 hectares and it is a typical example of a true primary rainforest that is fast disappearing in the West African Sub-region and one of the few vestiges of rainforest in Nigeria. The grove is fenced with a 4kilometre chain link or wall in areas where land pressure exists. It has a buffer zone of about 47hectares surrounding it.

(ECD) Connectivity of surface waters and of groundwater

(ECD) Stratification and mixing regime

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site ☐Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site ☐Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site ☐Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually ☐Sediment regime unknown ☒

(ECD) Water turbidity and colour Clear during dry season and unclear during raining season

(ECD) Water temperature Room Temperature

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5) ☐Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4) ☒Alkaline (pH>7.4) ☐Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

The Water is neutral in PH(6.5)

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☐Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l) ☐Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l) ☐Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l) ☐Unknown ☒

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic ☐Mesotrophic ☐Oligotrophic ☐Dystrophic ☐Unknown ☒

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ☐ ii) significantly different ☒

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☐Surrounding area has higher human population density ☐Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☐Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☒

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

Naturally endowed water with supernatural myth of "given child"

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	High

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	High

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High

Within the site: 20000

Outside the site: 5000

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☒

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland ☐

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☒

Description if applicable

Osun-Oshogbo Grove is an epitome of exceptional cultural tradition

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☐

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland ☐

4.6 - Ecological processes

(ECD) Primary production	NA
(ECD) Nutrient cycling	NA
(ECD) Carbon cycling	NA
(ECD) Animal reproductive productivity	NA
(ECD) Vegetational productivity, pollination, regeneration processes, succession, role of fire, etc.	NA
(ECD) Notable species interactions, including grazing, predation, competition, diseases and pathogens	NA
(ECD) Notable aspects concerning animal and plant dispersal	NA
(ECD) Notable aspects concerning migration	NA
(ECD) Pressures and trends concerning any of the above, and/or concerning ecosystem integrity	NA

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
No information available	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

In 1965 the grove was declared a National Monument. In 1992, after further surveys, the National commission for Museums and Monuments managed to extend the property to what is now its present area of 75 hectares. The grove is now protected by Decree No. 77 of 1979. It is also protected by the Land Use Act of 1990 (Caption 202) which confers on the Federal Government of Nigeria through a state Government trusteeship of lands in urban areas. The law also empowers the federal Government to acquire any piece of land for national interest. However, the Federal Government recognizes the customary rights of indigenous people and traditional institutions as stated in section 21 of the Land Use Act.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

UNESCO in conjunction with Osun State Tourism Board

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

UNESCO and Osun State Tourism Board

Postal address:

State Government(+2348051253350)

E-mail address:

admin@osunstate.gov.ng

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Unspecified development	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Unspecified	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Unspecified	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Recreational and tourism activities	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Unspecified/others	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Unspecified	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Household sewage, urban waste water	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Geological events

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Unspecified	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Unspecified	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Global legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
World Heritage site	Osun-Oshogbo Sacred Grove	www.osunstate.gov.ng/mdas/ministries/home-affairs-culture-and-tourism/	whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Other non-statutory designation	Osun-Oshogbo Sacred Grove		whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☐
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☐
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☒
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☒
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☒
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☒

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Catchment management initiatives/controls	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of wastes	Implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ☒ No ☐

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ☐ No ☒

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

Yes

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant): www.osunstate.gov.ng/mdas/ministries/home-affairs-culture-tourism/

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Yes, there is a plan

Further information

Further information can be found at
www.osunstate.gov.ng/mdas/ministries/home-affairs-culture-and-tourism/

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Implemented

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Ogunfolakan, A., Nwokeocha, C., Olayemi, A., Olayiwola, M., Bamigboye, A., Olayungbo, A., ... & Oyebanjo, O., (2016). Rapid ecological and environmental assessment of Osun Sacred Forest Grove, Southwestern Nigeria. *Open Journal of Forestry*, 6, 243–258. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4236/ojf.2016.64020>

National Commission for Museums and Monuments (2010). Osun-Osogbo sacred grove, UNESCO world heritage site 2010-2014, conservation management plan.

Ogundiran, A. (2014). The Osun-Osogbo grove as a social common and an uncommon ground: An analysis of patrimonial patronage in postcolonial Nigeria. *International Journal of Cultural Property*, 21(2), 173–198. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0940739114000058>

Oladeji, S. O., Osanyinleye, G. D., & Lawal, A. (2021). Assessment of the conservation values of Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove, Osun State, Nigeria. *Tanzania Journal of Forestry and Nature Conservation*, 90(2), 97–114.

Oyeleke, O. O., Ogunjemite, B. G., & Ndasule, N. A. (2017). Assessment of collaborative and multi-level management of Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove, Nigeria: A world heritage site. *International Journal of Development and Sustainability*, 6(7), 439–450.

Yusuf, T. G. (2016). A micro analysis of tourists, other participants and tourism activities at Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove, Nigeria. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 7(7), 96–104.

Uchekchukwu, D. L. (2021). Harnessing cultural heritage for tourism development in Nigeria: A study of the Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove and Festival. *Heritage Tourism, Cultural Tourism, Cultures and Heritage Tourism, Cultural Heritage Tourism, UNESCO World Heritage*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2020.1734331>

Oladeji, S. O., and Olatunji, F. M. (2020). Impact of tourism products development on Osun Osogbo sacred grove and Badagry slave trade relics. *Journal of Tourism Management Research*, 7(2), 170-185.

Olawale, T. N. and Orga D. Y. (2019). Assessment of challenges and potentials of Osun osogbo sacred grove among staff of national commission for museum and monument, Osogbo, Osun State Nigeria. *Journal of Travel, Tourism and Recreation*, 1(4), 1-9.

Orga, Y. D. (2016). Tourists' perception of Osun Osogbo Festival in Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria. *Journal of Tourism Theory and Research*, 2(1), 41-48.

Oseghale, G. E., Omisore, E. O. and Gbadegesin, J. T. (2014). Exploratory survey on the maintenance of Osun-Osogbo sacred grove, Nigeria. *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*, 3 (2), 1-22.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>


vi. other published literature

<no file available>

<no data available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

 Osun-Oshogbo Sacred Grove (Consultant, 15-11-2022)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2024-03-01