

Hazel M. Chapman

Associate Professor

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I am a research ecologist with particular interests in plant-animal interactions, tropical forest conservation/restoration and the ecology of plant invasions. I am Founder and Director of the Nigerian Montane Forest Project (NMFP) in Taraba State, Nigeria and am based at the University of Canterbury (UC) Christchurch, NZ.

At UC I teach evolutionary ecology, invasion ecology and conservation biology. I have an active lab group with postgraduate students working in both Nigeria and New Zealand.

#### Current Positions

Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Founder and Director, Nigerian Montane Forest Project

PI of the Ngel Nyaki Smithsonian CTFS\_Forest Geo long term forest plot

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#### Education

Ph.D. Dept. of Botany, University of Otago, New Zealand, Advisor: Professor Peter Bannister

M.Sc. in Ecology and Conservation University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

BSc (Hons) Undergraduate, Botany Department, University of St Andrews, Scotland. Mentors Professors. Robert Crawford and Richard Abbott.

#### PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Fromontane ecology, conservation science & forest restoration.

Forest community response to global change

Ecosystem services, especially as relates to plant-animal interactions such as seed dispersal and pollination.

Knowledge sharing & capacity building in Africa for conservation and environmental management.

Plant invasion ecology, especially as relates to hybridization, rapid evolution and adaptation, epigenetics and plant-animal interactions.

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Visiting Reader, Biology Dept, Gombe State University, Nigeria. 2015

Visiting lecturer Gombe State University 2007-2015

Visiting Lecturer Federal University of Technology, Yola 2004-2007

Represented New Zealand for New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the Academy of science of South Africa (ASSAf) Poverty Reduction meeting in Pretoria 2016

Developed from nothing the Nigerian Montane Forest Project in Taraba State Nigeria.

The station employs 36 fulltime staff, has good facilities and satellite internet. It is a research base for Nigerian and international researchers and postgraduate students. It is a key destination for Nigerian scientists in all stages of their careers and has a major impact in bringing environmental awareness to all age groups and across society from local nursery school children to top Nigerian researchers. We accommodate hundreds of undergraduate students annually.

Funding is primarily from Taraba State Government, Chester Zoo, the A. G. Leventis Foundation, Nexen Nigeria Inc and Rufford Foundation. 2003-present

Oversaw the building of a field station, training and management of over 20 field assistants; established long term monitoring of tree phenology, seed dispersal and forest restoration 2003-present

Found funding from TY Danjuma for a 20ha CTFS ForestGeo plot at Ngel Nyaki forest Nigeria 2015

Advisor to undergraduate Nigerian students based at the NMFP field station for their work experience 2006-present.

Field research in Svalbard as part of NERC funded post doctoral fellowship 1992-1994

#### Professional Services

I am an Associate Editor (Subject editor) of

The African Journal of Ecology (AJE) 2016-present

COGENT- Environment (Open Source) 2016-present

Bima Journal of Science and Technology (Nigerian) 2015-present

Mentor for BSc and MSc student research projects, Taraba State University, Gombe State University and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Nigeria.

Chair of the UC School of Biological Sciences Annual Biology Conference – 2017-current

Represented New Zealand for New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the Academy of science of South Africa (ASSAf) Poverty Reduction meeting in Pretoria. 2016

Blogs for ALERT – the Alliance of Leading Environmental Researchers and Thinkers. 'Massive superhighway imperils Nigeria's environment' and 'China's rapacious appetite for timber is devastating West Africa's woodland' 2017

Chair of the Taraba State UN\_REDD Technical Committee 2010-14

Worked with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) to interact with the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Environment on the revision of the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) for Nigeria. 2012

Invited participation in the Wildlife Conservation Society 'Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee conservation action planning group' Calabar meeting. 2009.

Raised \$50,000 US and organised the building of a nursery school for 300 children from Yelwa village nearby the Nigerian Montane Forest Project, Taraba State. 2008.

Seconded onto the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) Taraba State Community Forestry Advisory Committee (2004-2007)

Contract with Birdlife International GEF funded botanical survey of Tchabal Mbabo, Cameroon 2004

Publications

PUBLICATIONS – Invasion Ecology – Available on my website [hazelchapman.com](http://hazelchapman.com)

Publications - Nigerian Forest Project - Available on my website [hazelchapman.com](http://hazelchapman.com)