

CENTRE FOR BLACK CULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL  
UNDERSTANDING(CBCIU) AND THE OSUN OSOGBO  
SACRED GROVE:EXPLORING THE UNDEREXPLORED  
TOURISM POTENTIALS

BEING  
A PAPER PRESENTED BY MURITALA MONSUR  
AT THE  
INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON  
OSUN OSOGBO ACROSS THE ATLANTIC:TOWARDS  
PRESERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF NIGERIA'S  
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

## INTRODUCTION

- ◉ The dense forest of the Osun Sacred Grove, on the outskirts of the city of Osogbo, is one of the last remnants of primary high forest in southern Nigeria. Regarded as the abode of the goddess of fertility, Osun one of the pantheon of Yoruba gods. The landscape of the grove and its meandering river is dotted with sanctuaries and shrines, sculptures and art works in honour of Osun and other deities.
- ◉ The Osun grove has been described by UNESCO as a tangible expression of Yoruba divinatory and cosmological systems; its annual festival is a living thriving and evolving response to Yoruba beliefs in the bond between people, their ruler and the Osun goddess. In fact, Osun sacred grove became inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage site in 2005. There are two important parties to the development of the Osun Osogbo grove beyond occasional tourism patronage. They are the promoters of culture and the custodians of culture. CBCIU is one of the promoters of black culture in Africa. Hence, the centre has significant role to play in the promotion of Osun Osogbo for tourism patronage.

# OSUN RIVER DURING THE FESTIVE PERIOD



# OSUN RIVER DURING THE NON-FESTIVE PERIOD



# ONE OF THE IMAGES FROM THE GROVE GALLERY



# OSUN GROVE TOURISM POTENTIALS

- ◉ 1. Location and Spatial extent (190 Hectares)
- ◉ 2. The City of Osogbo
- ◉ 3. Osun Osogbo Components i.e Osun grove, votary maid (Arugba), Sixteen point lamp (Atupa), Royal Priestess (Iya Osun), The priest (Aworo).
- ◉ 4. Museum and Monuments in Osogbo
- ◉ 5. The Palace and Corporate Sponsors i.e MTN, NDL, GLO, IBL
- ◉ 6. Osun Heritage Council
- ◉ 7. CBCIU, Osogbo
- ◉ 8. National Television Authority and OSBC
- ◉ 9. Yoruba Language Centre, University of Ibadan
- ◉ 10. The Internet and Social media i.e website, Youtube, Tiktok and Facebook

# UNDEREXPLORED TOURISM POTENTIALS

1. Location - Environmental upgrade, Film village/ Cinematography
2. Documentary on all components of Osun Osogbo festival i.e the grove, Arugba, sixteen lantern, yeye osun etc (To be featured on local television & Social media)
3. Joint occasional workshops between CBCIU, Museum and monuments and Yoruba Language Centre, UI
4. Joint International Conference between CBCIU and Osogbo Heritage Council
5. Functional website with adequate information for intending tourists

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING