



# **OSUN OSOGBO ACROSS THE ATLANTIC TOWARDS PRESERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF NIGERIA'S INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

*Presented By:*


**AJAYI EUNICE OLUWATOYIN**


CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER HERITAGE DEPARTMENT OF  
MONUMENT HERITAGE AND SITE, NATIONAL MUSEUM,  
OSOGBO, OSUN STATE

# INTRODUCTION


- Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove is among the last of the sacred forest which usually adjoined the edges of most Yoruba cities before extensive urbanization in recognition of its global significance and its cultural values. The grove has an active religious site where daily, weekly and monthly worship take place. In addition, an annual processional festival to reestablish the importance of the place as a prominent heritage and mystic bonds between the Osun goddess and the people of the town occurs between July and August every year.

- Preservation, sustainability and management of the grove is carried out at four different levels, these are the traditional institutions which may include the Ataoja of Osogbo land, Traditional Chiefs in council, The Priest and the Priestesses of other Shrines etc, Non governmental institutions e.g. Osogbo Cultural heritage council, Adunni Olorisa Trust and Association of Tourism Practitioners of Nigeria etc; Institutions include National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM), UNESCO, National Orientation Agency (NOA), National Gallery, National Council for Arts and Culture and others which may include secondary school and students, Universities. Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Fountain University, Osogbo, Osun State University etc, as well as African in the diaspora, Tourists and Tour operators.

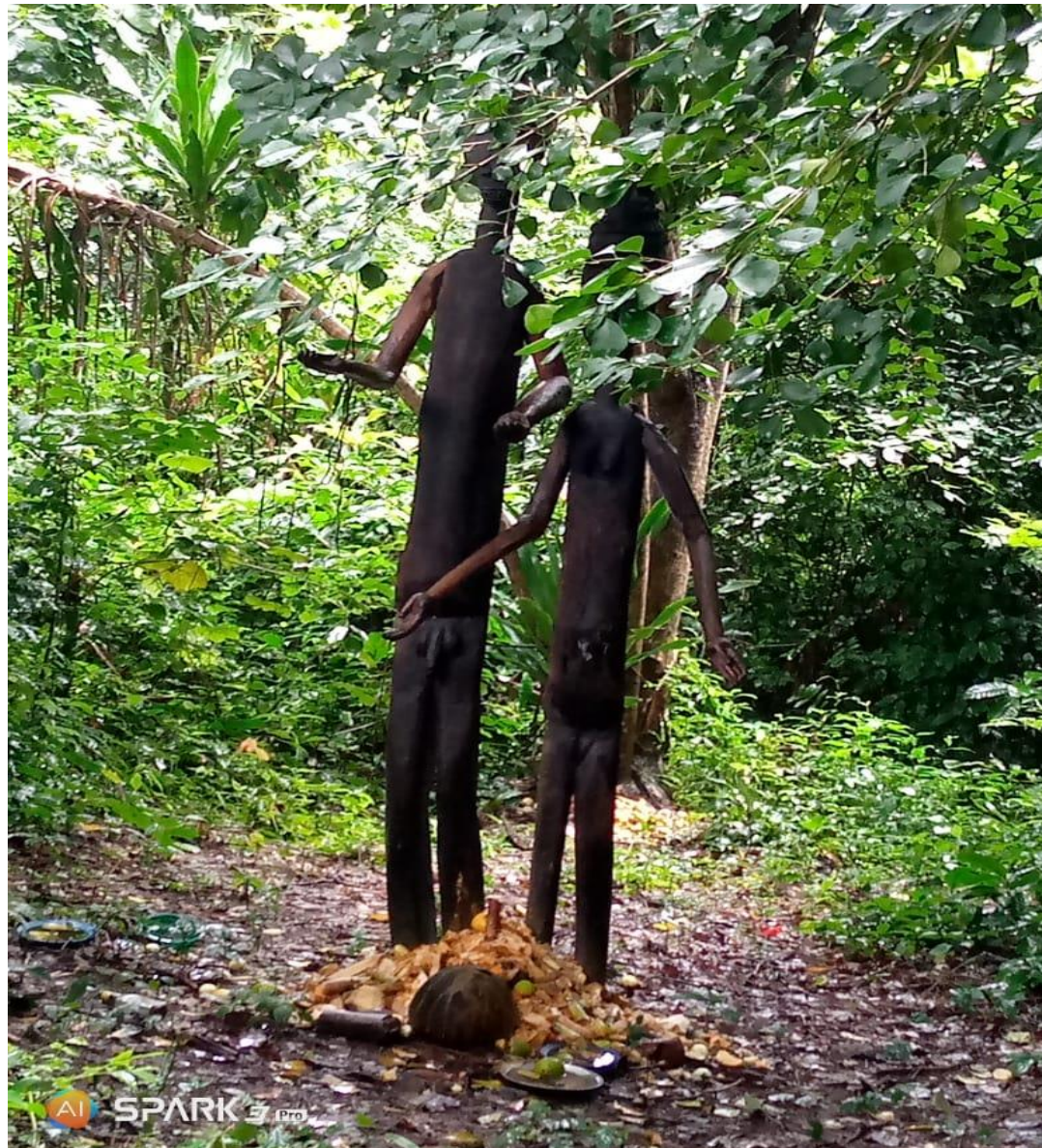
- 
- In order to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, we need different measures from the ones used for conserving monuments, sites and Natural spaces. For intangible heritage to be kept alive, it must remain relevant to culture, be regularly practiced and learned within communities and between generation. There are things we regard as important to preserve for future generations they may be significant due to their present or possible economic value, but also because they create a certain emotion within us, or because they make us feel as though we belong to something, intangible Cultural heritage is an important factor in maintaining cultural diversity in the face of growing globalization. An understanding of the Intangible cultural heritage of different communities help with intercultural dialogue and encourages mutual respect and understanding of other ways of life.



The importance of intangible heritage is not the cultural manifestation itself but rather the wealth of knowledge and skills that is transmitted through it from one generation to the next. The social and economic value of this transmission of knowledge is relevant for minority groups and for mainstream social groups within a state, and it's as important for developing states as for developed ones. There are things we regard as important to preserve for future generations they may be significant due to their present or possible economic value, but also because they create a certain emotion within us, or because they make us feel as though we belong to something, intangible Cultural heritage is an important factor in maintaining cultural diversity in the face of growing globalization. An understanding of the Intangible cultural heritage of different communities help with intercultural dialogue and encourages mutual respect and understanding of other ways of life.

- 
- The importance of intangible heritage is not the cultural manifestation itself but rather the wealth of knowledge and skills that is transmitted through it from one generation to the next. The social and economic value of this transmission of knowledge is relevant for minority groups and for mainstream social groups within a state, and it's as important for developing states as for developed ones.
  - Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove is blessed with various intangible heritage which may include- dance, drumming, cultural performance, incantations, praise, rituals, prayers and even cuisine. These take place often everyday, although, the Osun devotees have some special days in a month (ose) where special indigenous cuisine were prepared in order to appeal to God of Osun with special songs and dances. Idi Egbe, a special worship centre inside the grove is one of the places where African intangible heritage can be established because of the special prayers, dances and songs performing in order to appeal to the Egbe (group members) so as to enable their members in the world fulfill their destinies in life.





**PICTORIAL PICTURE OF IGBO OYA**





**PICTORIAL PICTURE OF IDI ESU**





**UNESCO LOGO**



**UNESCO LOGO**





**IPESE/PROVISION FOR EGBE SHRINE**





**IDI EGBE SHRINE**





**PICTORIAL PICTURE OF OSOGBO FIRST PALACE**

# RECOMMENDATION

- Preparation and approval of annual budget budge for the digital documentation of intangible heritage of each religion spot in the world heritage site by the Federal Government of Nigeria.



# CONCLUSION

- It is in this light that i would want to use this medium to call the attention of all the stake holders to take very serious and to consider the need for proper documentation of the intangible heritage of the cultural site including its biodiversity being an irreplaceable education and research resources.



**THANKS FOR LISTENING**