

ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION: ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



By: Aliyu Abdullahi Jama'are

Environmental experts and scholars have emphasised the urgent need for biodiversity conservation as a critical pathway toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the face of increasing environmental degradation in Nigeria.

This formed the focus of a workshop organised by Dr. Abdulqadir Yahaya Mohammed of the Department of Geography, Kaduna State University, titled “Islamic Principles in Relation to SDGs and ESS Framework on Biodiversity Conservation, Islamic Principles and Protection of Sacred Species (Biodiversity).” The event was held on Tuesday, 12 May 2026, at the university’s Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

In his presentation, Dr. Abdulqadir described biodiversity as the variety of living organisms and ecosystems that sustain ecological balance and human survival. He noted that biodiversity supports climate regulation, food security, healthcare, economic growth, and environmental protection.

The scholar expressed concern over the increasing rate of biodiversity loss in Nigeria, driven by deforestation, pollution, bush burning, urbanisation, land degradation, and climate change. He warned that these challenges contribute to flooding, desertification, erosion, food insecurity, poor air quality, and rising temperatures. Citing recent environmental reports, Dr. Abdulqadir stated that Nigeria ranked among the lowest-performing countries globally in environmental management indices, highlighting the urgent need for stronger conservation efforts and sustainable environmental policies.

He stressed that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires collective responsibility and sustainable management of natural resources. According to him, Islam provides a strong ethical framework for environmental protection through principles such as Mizan (balance), Khalifah (stewardship), Amanah (trust), and the avoidance of wastefulness.



Referencing verses from the Holy Qur’an, he explained that Islam promotes environmental balance, justice, and accountability, while recognising humans as custodians of the earth responsible for protecting nature and biodiversity. Dr. Abdulqadir also emphasised the importance of protecting animals and ecosystems, noting that Islam condemns cruelty toward living creatures and encourages kindness and responsible environmental practices.



The workshop highlighted that environmental conservation is not only a scientific and developmental issue but also a moral and spiritual responsibility deeply rooted in Islamic teachings.

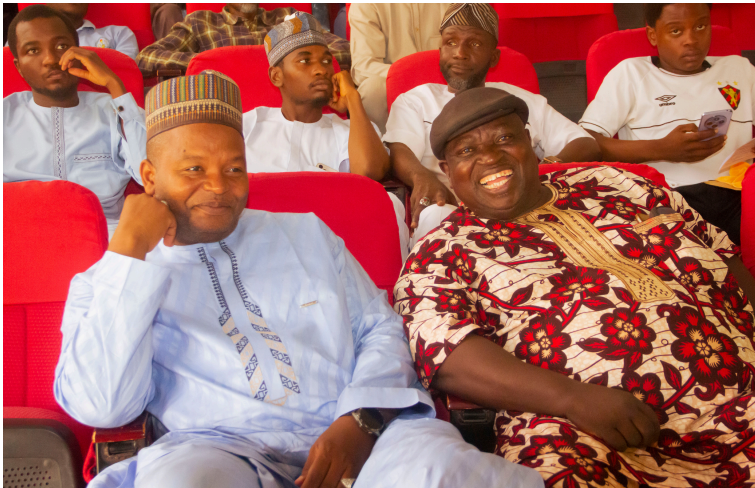


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