

## Biodiversity And Natural Regeneration Assessment of The SNR3 of Urhonigbe Forest Reserve, Edo State, Nigeria



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### Abstract

The plant biodiversity and natural regeneration status of the SNR3 in Urhonigbe Forest Reserve, in Edo State Nigeria was investigated in this study. The study revealed that there were 242 individuals belonging to 23 species distributed between 17 families in the SNR. Annonaceae, Ebenaceae, Meliaceae and Mimosaceae were the most prominent families while *Baphia nitida* and *Hannoa klaineana* were the most occurrence species. Diversity index, evenness and richness were -2.6834, 0.8560 and 22.8178 respectively indicating high diversity and homogeneity of the forest. The life- form distribution of the species was seedlings (33.5%), saplings (45%) and poles/trees (21.5%). *Entandrophragma angolense*, *Guarea* species and *Treculia africana* had no seedling life-form representation. Pockets of high and low populations of pole/tree life-form occurred from the outside plots inwards. Recruitment from one life-form to the next level was linear and negatively sloping in the direction of pole/tree. The regeneration status of the forest is low and would not be self sustaining without appropriate silvicultural and protective interventions like climber cutting, thinning, enrichment planting, stricter and more regular control of entrants as well as social forestry programmes that would enhance community participation in sustainable management and conservation of forest resources.

**Keywords: Biodiversity, Regeneration, Life-form, Recruitment, Species.**