



GOVERNANCE OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NIGERIA APPROACH

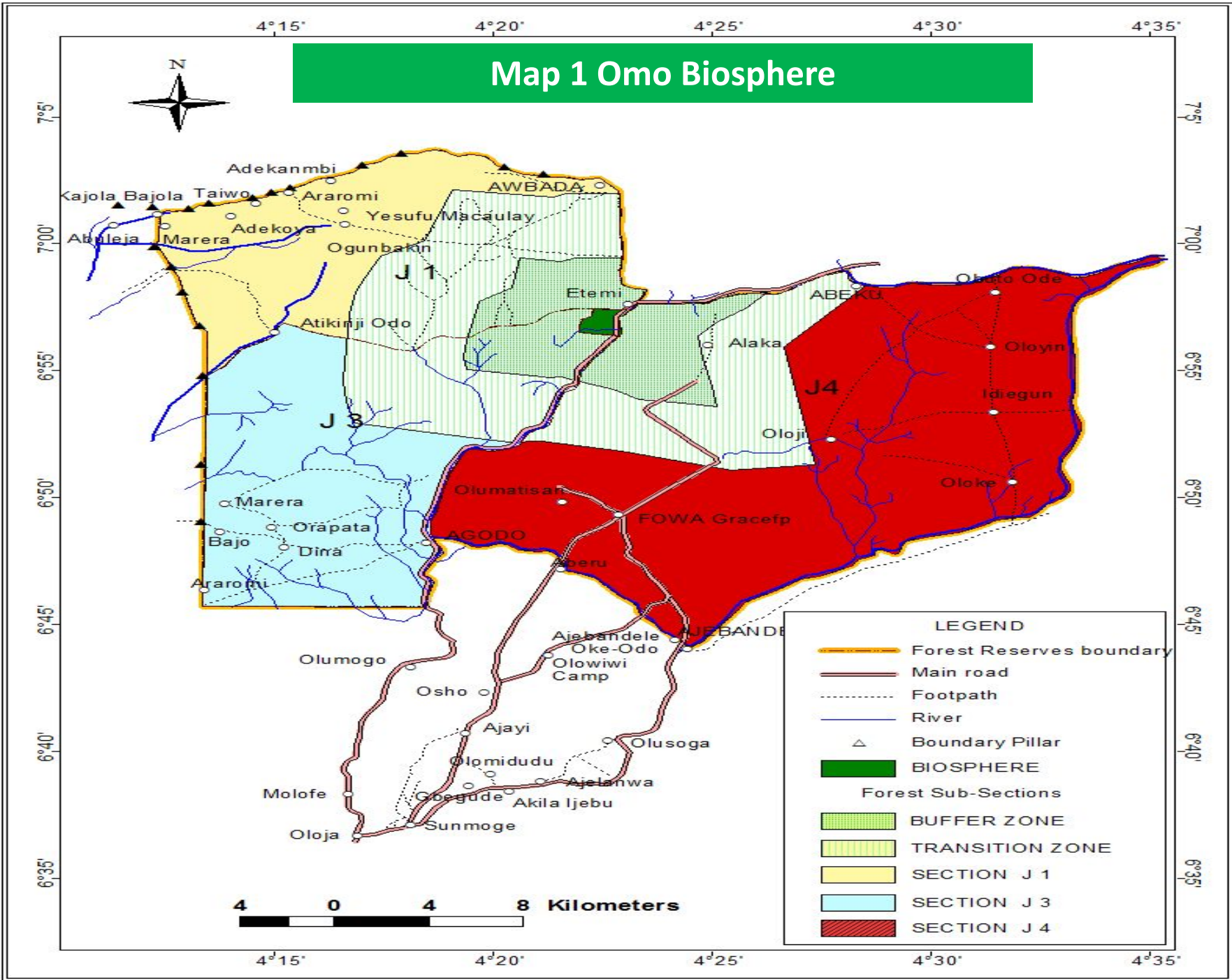
By

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Introduction

- **Nigeria has only Omo Biosphere Reserve, though 2 National Sites and 2 trans-boundaries proposals are being finalised.**

Map 1 Omo Biosphere



Status of Omo Biosphere Reserves

- Omo Biosphere Reserve is gazetted by law and a statutory mandate of Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria both in management and research activities.
- It is one of the country's Strict Natural Reserves (SNRs)

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- Other similar reserves are under other agencies with mandates related to them; such as Parks with National Parks Service, Dams and Watershed with Water Resources Research Institute etc.

Structure of National Committee

- **Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria is the country's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Focal Point by law and manager of Omo Biosphere Reserve by mandate.**
- **Other stakeholders are: State Government covering the Biosphere Reserve, Local Governments covering the Biosphere Reserve, related Scientists from 3 Universities around the Biosphere Reserve, representatives from Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Water Resources, National Parks Service and Non Governmental Organisation.**

National MAB Committee and Biosphere Reserve Communities

- **The Focal Point conducts capacity building trainings in the various communities especially among the youths that are engaged for research works.**
- **The Institute also conduct Environmental/Conservation Education.**
- **National Committee shares knowledge and demonstrates research/scientific findings/results around the Biosphere Reserve communities.**

Operational Approach of National Committee

- **The Focal Point operate with the Outpost in the Biosphere Reserve and the research team that visit at least once in a month.**

Challenges

- **High poverty index and population pressure owing to government approach.**
- **Lack of Government support leading to poor livelihood diversification.**
- **Conservation of forest land to arable farm particularly in the transition zone**

Conclusion

- **The goal of biosphere reserve is not limited to environmental conservation but it include sustainable socio-economic development. Hence, effective governance and management is essential for the sustainability of biosphere reserves**



Thank you for
your attention