



Volume 18

Issue – 3, October 2022

The 2022 Young Women in Conservation Biology (YWCB) biennial award

By

Janette Wallis

The Society for Conservation Biology Africa Section is pleased to announce the winner of the 2022 Young Women in Conservation Biology Award. This award recognizes the contributions of early career African women working in conservation. We seek to shine a light on those women who go above and beyond to provide service to conservation and prove themselves to be valuable team members as well as strong leaders.

This year's winner is **Ms. Ito Joseph Archibong** from Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria. Ito is a researcher, mentor and Assistant Lecturer of Environmental Biology & Conservation in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, University of Uyo, Nigeria. She holds a B.Sc. in Zoology, M.Sc. in Environmental Health Management, both from the University of Uyo, and is currently a Ph.D. student of Environmental Toxicology at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Nigeria.



Among the many outstanding accomplishments of Itoro's short career, she is a volunteer Conservationist with the Women in Nature Conservation Organization (WINCO) where she coordinates the organization's activities in the South-South and South-East region of Nigeria with one of their major activities being tree planting. She is a member of the Organization for Women in Science in the Developing World (OWSD), Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources (WOCAN), Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), and other local NGOs that promote gender and environment.

Clearly, Ms. Archibong is an excellent example of the kind of conservation biologists we seek to honor with this award. The future of Nigeria's wildlife and wildlands depends on people like her. During the SCB Africa Section's virtual business meeting in December, Ms. Archibong will provide a short presentation discussing some of her work. We look forward to hearing more about her and congratulate her once again for this honor.

Dr. Janette Wallis is SCB Africa Section Director of YWCB.