Realising the importance of synergy, partnership and collaborations in contemporary management and leadership, the Conservator-General and Chief Executive of National Park Service, Ibrahim Musa Goni has demonstrated that for the Park Service to chart a new course for itself in terms of development and recognition, it needs to proactively reach out to institutions and agencies in both the public and private sectors including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Since coming in to office in April, 2017, the Conservator-General has relentlessly been promoting and propagating biodiversity conservation, pointing out that this sub-sector requires the requisite push so that it can be transformed and positioned into one of the nation’s revenue generating agencies – as found in other parts of the world.

In this regards, all the seven unit parks within the National Park Service were signaled to tow along and chart this course with a view to being on the same page for the greater and collective actualization of this agenda. In doing this, Ibrahim Musa Goni further reasoned that necessary developmental strides which would give the park the needed publicity and push could also be achieved through these synergies.

Keeping faith with the above, the management of Okomu National Park has been partnering with Okomu Oil Palm Company Plc- a multinational company that is contiguous with the park. As a result of increased collaborations, the park has been reaping from the numerous gestures of Okomu Oil Palm Company Plc. Only recently, the company undertook the construction of a befitting Research Center consisting of office space, a library, laboratory, Herbarium and a hall for lectures within the Park’s Head office. This gesture would boost the park’s desire and aspiration to accentuate effective research programmes, especially, in the area of wildlife ecology. Similarly, Okomu Oil Palm Plc also built a Meteorological Center at Arakhan Camp to allow for easy tracking of the climate and weather dynamics buffering the park which is an IUCN category II Protected Area and other places adjoining it.

Furthermore, in order to effectively liaise with the Meteorological Agency (NIMET) for the authentication of all its weather data, the company undertook to train two officers to make them proficient and effective in weather and climate forecasts.

Also previously, when the management of Okomu National Park saw the need to review its Participatory Management Plan (PMP) - (a management tool that plans and guide administration over a timeline of 5 years), the shouldered the responsibility for the engagement of Consultants to carry out the review for the park.

In addition to, and consequent upon this existing synergy, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed for the joint management and protection of Buffer Zones that house various categories of High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs) such as HCVAs 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6, all found within the Park and the Company’s plantation farms. The MoU empowers and enables the two organizations to jointly manage the wildlife migratory corridors by ensuring that faunal resources that traverse these boundaries without borders, are protected from any harm.
collaborations and initiatives point to the importance of how vital institutional synergy can easily translate into and fast-track protected area management and development. It clearly shows that the passion and vision of the Conservator-General is beginning to yield fruit.

The National Park Service and the Management of Okomu National Park salute Okomu Oil Palm Company Plc and recognize the company as a Great Conservation Partner. Indeed, these numerous laudable interventionist gestures to the park could not have come at a better time.