

PROJECT REPORT

2024

# AWARE PROJECT, NIGERIA



**SAVING RIVERS AND LAKES ORG.**

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Linh, our Project Manager in África, together with volunteers after cleaning the river in Abuja, Nigeria.

# Turning Awareness into Action

Launched in early 2024, the Aware Project addresses one of Nigeria's most pressing environmental challenges: plastic pollution. With over a billion plastic items used each year, inadequate waste management systems pose serious risks to rivers, lakes, and communities. To confront this issue, Saving Rivers and Lakes partnered with the Pan African Care (PAC) Foundation to design a program that combines education, community engagement, and hands-on clean-up activities in and around Abuja.

The initiative focuses on empowering local communities — especially students, teachers, and youth — to take active roles in protecting their environment. By turning awareness into action, the project encourages sustainable habits that can gradually transform the way plastic waste is handled in everyday life.



## Bringing the Project to Life

The project works on two interconnected fronts: **education** and **community action**.

In the **educational** component, workshops and seminars were held in two schools, where students, teachers, and parents learned about the effects of plastic waste on ecosystems and health. Through interactive lessons, participants developed skills in recycling, reusing materials, and creating simple solutions to reduce single-use plastics. These sessions inspired young people to become advocates for change within their schools and neighborhoods.

The **community** action side focused on organizing clean-ups at key locations, including Jabi Lake, one of Abuja's main recreational and ecological sites. Volunteers — trained and equipped through the project — collected and categorized waste, demonstrating the immediate impact of collective effort. In parallel, advocacy meetings with local authorities and environmental agencies helped open dialogue about integrating sustainable waste management into public policies and school curricula.

## Change in Motion

Since its launch, the Aware Project has fostered a growing network of local volunteers committed to protecting Nigeria's waterways. Clean-up activities have not only removed visible pollution but also sparked conversations about the hidden consequences of plastic waste in urban ecosystems.

Students and teachers who participated in the workshops are now leading small initiatives in their communities — from recycling drives to awareness campaigns in schools.



The collaboration between SRL, PAC Foundation, and local government partners is helping build long-term strategies for education, advocacy, and environmental protection.

The Aware Project continues to expand its reach, proving that awareness, when paired with action, can become a powerful tool to restore ecosystems and strengthen environmental responsibility in Nigeria.