



**6 – 8 August 2011**

**WHV – Idanre Hills**

**◆ WH Tentative List - Oke Idanre (Idanre Hill), Ondo, Nigeria**

Volunteers participated in the WH site preservation activities and took a part in the awareness-raising campaign.

Originally the area of Ancient Palace of the King was dilapidated since weeds grew all over the ancient antiquities. Volunteers removed the weeds around the antiquities, cut overgrown bushes in the territory of the site and planted flowers around the monuments.

The campaign to raise awareness about the importance of the Idanre St. Paul Mission Primary School as an ancient monument was organized. The school was built by Anglican missionary in 1820 in a unique environment described as “the evil forest”. Local people fondly call this area as “Igbo Olodumare” or “Igbore”. It is told that demons and evil spirits paraded there in the earliest century and the area had been conserved for gods. As a result, the area around school was untouched by humans. The school is now overtaken by thick forest and losing value as an ancient monument.



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To address this problem 3-day conference was held in the school. To make Idanre St. Paul Mission Primary School suitable for the conference volunteers first renovated the walls and mended the roof of the old school. They also organized street rallies with vehicles, using the CCIVS/WHC flyers and literature to raise awareness amongst local people and invite them to the conference. Finally, the press conference and debates were held and covered by local TV station. In the end, many local officials, as well as the local Red Cross team, joined the meeting.

Organization:

**Voluntary Workcamps Association of Nigeria (VWAN)**

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Partners:

Red Cross Society of Nigeria; Natural & Cultural Heritage Foundation

**[World Heritage Volunteers – "Património Voluntary Action 2011"](#)**

Sources: for the description of the World Heritage site: UNESCO World Heritage List, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>

For the description of the activities: [www.whvolunteers.org](http://www.whvolunteers.org) and [www.ccivs.org](http://www.ccivs.org)