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TITLE: Healing Nature, Shaping tomorrow

Growing up, I watched my father tend to the fruit trees and flowers in our compound. Each morning, he would walk through the greenery, touching the leaves as if greeting old friends. “Nature is a gift, not a possession,” he often told me. His words felt poetic until I saw thriving trees replaced by concrete and waste clogging our gutters. The air that once carried the fragrance of flowers became heavy with pollution. That sight made me realize: if we do not take responsibility for our environment, future generations may never experience the beauty that shaped my early years.

Across Nigeria, communities face similar environmental threats. Yet, hope remains. Wetland restoration projects in Lagos reduce flooding, and grassroots movements like the ‘Green Fingers Initiative’ use street art to raise awareness about deforestation and waste. Reforestation, sustainable farming, and responsible waste management are key to healing our planet.

As young people, we must educate ourselves, advocate for environmental policies, and take action. Every tree we plant and every cleanup we join brings us closer to a greener future. The planet’s future depends on us. Let us restore, protect, and nurture our environment—together.