



From Rhetoric to Regulation: Heritage-Sensitive Urban Development at Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove.

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Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove

- UNESCO World Heritage Site (Nigeria, 2005 inscription).
- One of only two WHS in Nigeria.
- Cultural + spiritual significance as a sacred landscape.
- A living site of intangible and tangible heritage.

Osun Osogbo Grove

Write a description for your map.



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**Accelerated growth in Osun
State.**

**Gradual loss of traditional
knowledge**

The Problem: Urbanisation Pressures



Buffer-zone encroachment





Why Osun-
Osogbo
Matters

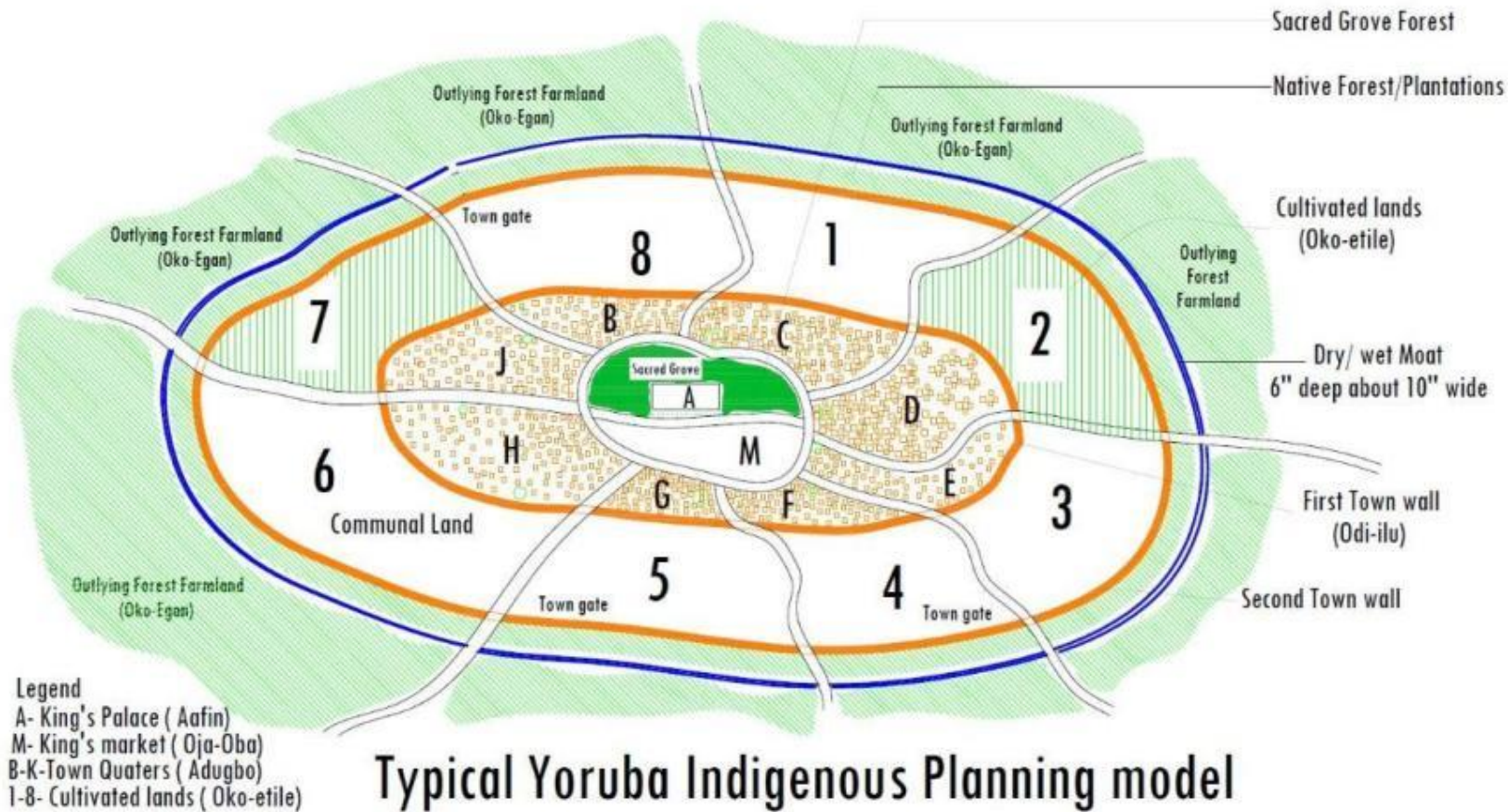


Figure 1: Typical Yorùbá indigenous planning model Source Mokolade Johnson African Journal of Landscape Architecture



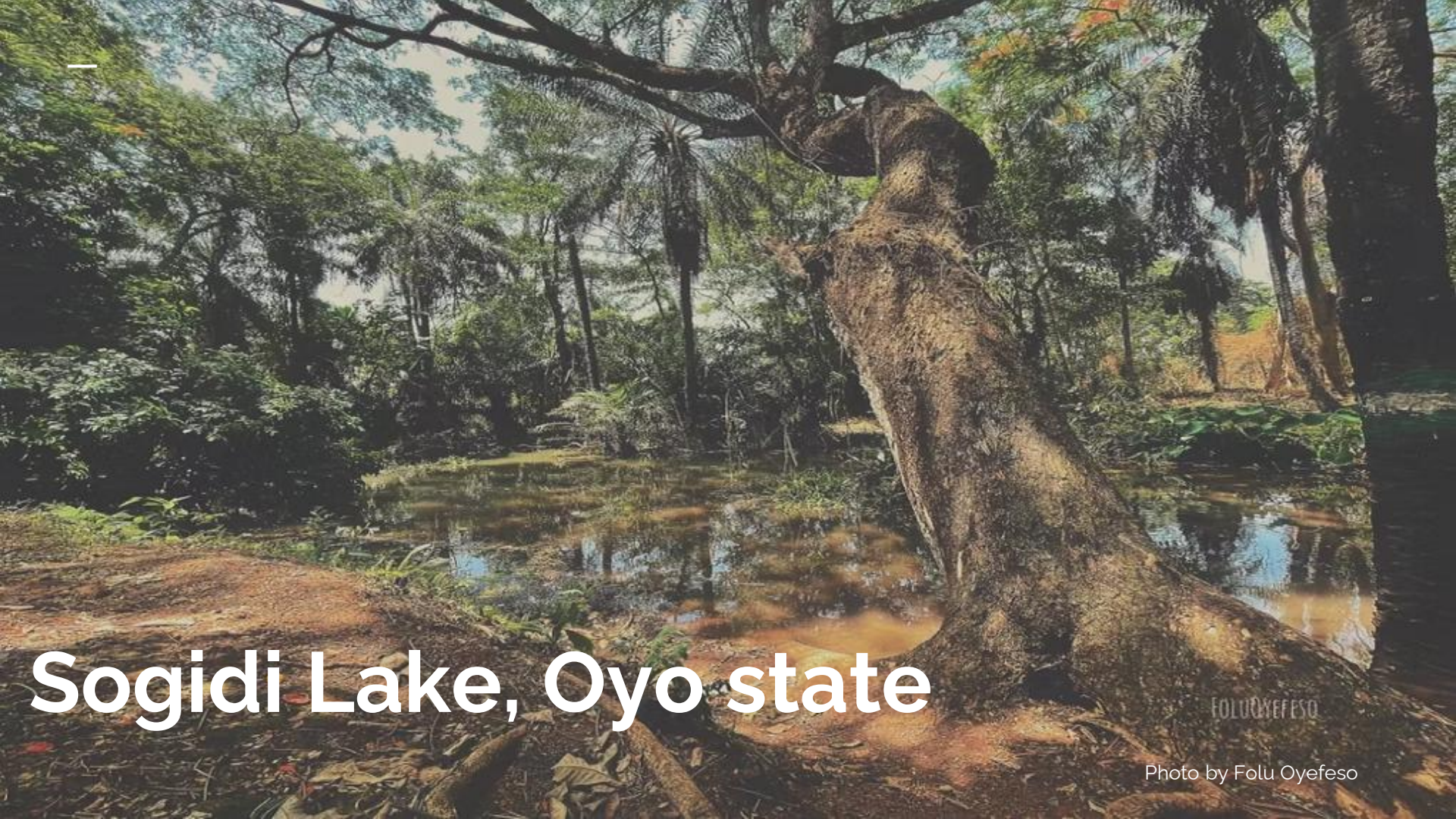
How were buffer zones traditionally maintained without physical fences?



**How did the Osogbo
people delineate
boundaries around their
sacred spaces?**



Culturally embedded taboos, community vigilance and stewardship, and practices that promote biodiversity conservation within the sacred areas.



Sogidi Lake, Oyo state

FOLU OYEFESO

Photo by Folu Oyefeso



The map illustrates the layout of Awe Town, showing its various quarters and landmarks. Key features include:

- Quarters:** ODOFOIN QUARTER, ONSA QUARTER, BASI QUARTER, and BAI QUARTER.
- Landmarks:** Awe High School, Pottery Workshop, Cattle Paddock, Cocoa Factory, Odofoin Church, Odofoin School, Odofoin Road, Akumoon Road, Soap & Pottery Work Site, Alafia Road, ONSA QUARTER, Soap Work Site, Alagbade Asatu Lane, Postal Agency, Orita Merin, Motor Park, Catholic Church, Palm Kernel Oil Press, Soap Work Site, BASI QUARTER, Deleola Secondary School, First Baptist Church & School, Dispensary, Muslim Primary School, Alpha Market, Bode Market, Road, Awe, Soap Work Site, Catholic Church, Palm Kernel Oil Press, to Ife Odan Road, to Emi Abata Market, to Oyo, to Ife Odan, and to two and Alpha Market.
- Directions:** to Oyo, to Ife Odan Road, to Emi Abata Market, to Ife Odan, and to two and Alpha Market.

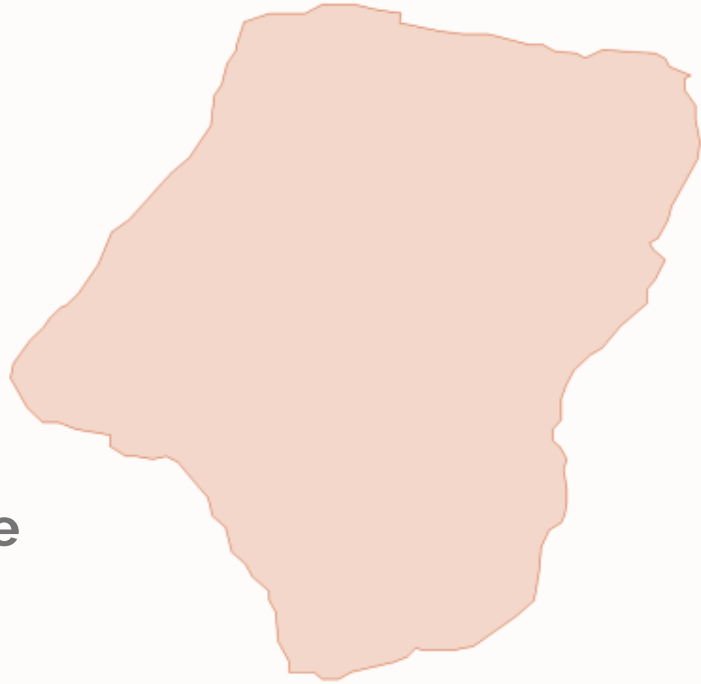
Map of Awe town showing the location of Sogidi grove represented with a triangular shape as inserted (cf. Lawrence and Titilola, 1998, with modification).

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Protecting Africa's sacred and cultural landscapes demands **more than preservation**—it demands systemic planning reform.

Anchored in:

- **Community leadership & collaboration**
- **Culturally embedded taboos**
- **Continuity of intangible heritage**



Emphasis on long-term sustainability

**We must go back to the tacit
knowledge of our ancestors**

**“What is understood doesn’t
need to be said”**