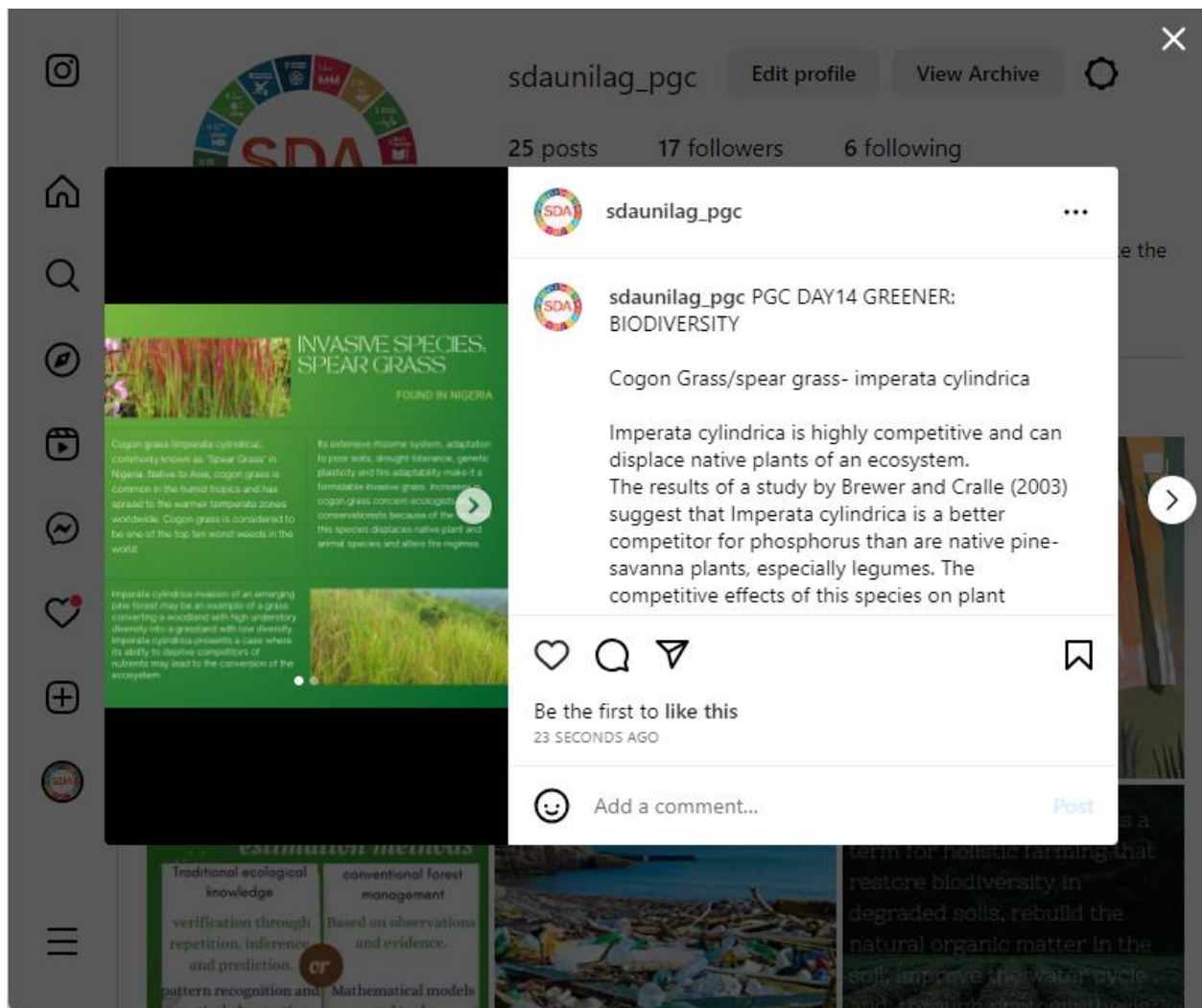


TEAM NAME: SDA UNILAG

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GREENER CHALLENGE DAY 14



Cogon Grass/spear grass- *imperata cylindrica*

imperata cylindrica is highly competitive and can displace native plants of an ecosystem.

The results of a study by Brewer and Cralle (2003) suggest that *Imperata cylindrica* is a better competitor for phosphorus than are native pine-savanna plants, especially legumes. The competitive effects of this species on plant diversity may be of more immediate conservation concern relative to the effects of this species on fire regimes in longleaf pine ecosystems. Invasion of longleaf pine communities by *I. cylindrica* will likely cause significant losses of short habitat-specialists and reduce the distinctiveness of the native flora of these threatened ecosystems (Brewer 2008).

To mitigate the spread of this specie

With integrated management technique, cogon grass can be controlled or removed from a region. Cogon grass should first be burned or mowed, preferably in summer, to remove excess thatch and older leaves. Subsequent regrowth (of one to four months) will reduce rhizome biomass and allow herbicides to target actively growing leaves which maximises herbicide effectiveness. Once control of cogon grass has been achieved planting of desirable vegetation should occur as quickly as possible to prevent reinvasion (MacDonald et al. 2009).