

**Liberia**  
**East Nimba Nature Reserve Forest Conservation Project**  
**News from the Field (July 2020–June 2021)**

**August 2021**  
**Conservation International**



**Livelihood improvement activities (pig farming)**

In the two communities of Gbobayee and Yolowee, piggery is an alternative source of income and protein to local community members who prior depended on bush meat.

A total of 50 pigs are being raised the two communities. However, 18 pigs were sold for LD\$ 121,500 and five (5) slaughtered for self consumption as detailed below. Funds were used to establish a village savings and loans cooperative.



Pigs in Yolowee pigpen (left), CI Liberia Technical Director having discussions with the Gbobayee Pigpen workers (right)



Discussions with local community members involved in managing the Yolowee Pigpen (left), cassava and potato garden in Gbobayee community to supplement feeds for pigs (right)

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### **Livelihood improvement activities (rice cultivation)**

Out of the 20 (16 men and 4 women) community members who received training in the previous year, 15 (11 men and 4 women) were still actively involved in lowland rice cultivation on seven (7) standard plots (40x40). However, five members dropped out due to lack of equipment.



Women weeding rice in Gbobayee community  
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### Frontline conservationists

During the field visit, the CI Liberia Technical Director held discussions with Frontline Conservationists, which highlighted key challenges, including worn-out patrol gear and limited food rations during patrols.



CI Liberia Technical Director holding discussions with the FCs in Yolowee (left), CI Liberia Technical Director holding discussions with the FCs in Gbobayee (right)—Photo by community member

### Participation in World Wildlife Day

CI Liberia joined conservation partners in celebration of World Wildlife Day on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at the historical Providence Island in Monrovia. The occasion was graced by representatives from the United States and British Embassies, European Union, USAID, FAO, and a host of other key stakeholders in the sector.





World Wildlife Day theme banner ©Conservation International/Photo by David Dennis Diggs



Participants watching a cultural performance during the World Wildlife Day celebrations  
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### Participation in quarterly coordination meetings for Nimba Region

The CI Liberia team attended four quarterly coordination meetings to jointly identify, discuss and find workable solutions to challenges of biodiversity conservation and development challenges in the Nimba Region.

The coordination meetings were attended by various stakeholders who included: Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Nimba County Authority represented by the Development Superintendent/County Forest Forum Chair, Co-Management Committee, ArcelorMittal Liberia, Community Forest Management Body, Agricultural Research Services (ARS), Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE), Skills and Agricultural Advisory Services (SADS), United States Agency for International Development Forest Incomes for Environmental Sustainability (FIFES), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), and CI Liberia among others.

These meetings highlighted the status of implementation, opportunities, and strategies for biodiversity conservation projects in the Nimba region. Further, these coordination meetings helped avoid duplication of functions by key players in the region and provided a platform for discussing the various strategies for addressing violations in the communities.



Key Biodiversity Conservation Stakeholders at the regular coordination meeting  
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