

Liberia
East Nimba Nature Reserve Forest Conservation Project
News from the Field

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Conservation International

Conservation Agreement 1: Piggery

As previously reported, the construction of pig pens was completed in the communities of Gbopayee and Yolowee and the raising of three sets of piglets began.

Twenty-six community pig caretakers (12 in Gbopayee and 14 in Yolowee) received training in pig management, including feeding, pig pen hygiene and sanitation, the identification of diseases, treatments and vaccinations and personal safety. This crucial training enables community caretakers to provide pigs with proper care and ensure that the pigs are healthy and plump.



A caretaker in Gbopayee checks the health of his pigs



Pig pen in Yolowee

Initially, 21 people from Gbopayee were scheduled to attend the training, but unfortunately nine of them were unable to attend.



Yolowee pigs



Gbopayee pigs

Conservation Agreement 2: Frontline Conservationists

During the quarter, a total of 432 patrols were conducted by 24 Frontline Conservationists. Of these the 432 patrols, 10 were conducted in the East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) and 422 were conducted in the community and surrounding forests.

A total of 20 violations were reported. 12 of these violations occurred in the ENNR, including (1) passing through the ENNR without permission from the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), (2) empty gun cartridges, (3) hunter footprints and trails and (4) trap wires. No violations were discovered in the community. However, in the surrounding forests, eight violations were discovered, including (1) empty gun cartridges, (2) hunter trails, (3) trap wires and (4) the sound of gunshots.

The violations were addressed by the community using the established local structures. For example, one person who trespassed in the ENNR was apprehended by the forest rangers and handed over to the Conservation Agreement committee in Yolowee, which imposed a fine consisting of USD 20 cash, one gallon (approximately 3.8 liters) of oil, palm wine and a chicken. These items were used to facilitate community activities.

Most Frontline Conservationists are unable to read or write, making patrol reports a challenge. In addition, there are not enough cameras, making it difficult to photograph evidence of violations.



Explaining patrols to Gbobayee Frontline Conservationists

Conservation Agreement Monitoring

The monitoring of conservation agreements is critical for ensuring communities comply with the conditions of the agreements and reduce violations within the community. Heavy rains this quarter made it extremely difficult to reach these communities and adversely affected monitoring activities. For this reason, meetings were held in each community to review the conservation agreement details.



Participants in the Gbobayee meeting



Yolowee meeting participants



Yolowee meeting

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