

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

May 2018
Conservation International

Training in Farming as a Business (FaaB)

A total of 20 community members, 10 each from the communities of Gbobayee and Yolowee, underwent a three-day training program in Farming as a Business, or FaaB. The objective was to equip the leaders and members of various communities and groups with the necessary agri-business skills and tools so that they can effectively manage and sustain livelihood activities in their communities.

The training workshop was led by Conservation International (CI) and experts from organizations including a local company Arcelor Mittal and a local NGO Skills and Agricultural Development Services, which has an expertise in agricultural development. The training had both theoretical and practical sessions in the topics of group dynamics, entrepreneurship, record keeping, and business planning.



Participants in a group discussion during the training



Participants in a theoretical session

Piggery and vegetable production

Piggery is one of the livelihood projects being undertaken in the communities. Nine piglets were born in Yolowee in the previous quarter. In Gbobayee, the birth of a piglet was expected but unfortunately the sow had a still-birth. Currently there are 15 pigs being raised in Yolowee and six in Gbobayee. Both communities are continuing to enlarge the pig pens: Yolowee needs only to build the roof, while Gbobayee has completed a four-room annex pen.



Piglets in Yolowee



Expanded pigpen in Gbobayee

Vegetables are also being produced under the project. Each community has about 0.8 hectare (2 acres) that is selected, surveyed, and cleared. Planting of cassava and papaya has begun on a portion of the land.



Land for vegetable production

Training in using tablets to collect data

Under the Conservation Agreements, the Frontline Conservationists (FCs) are responsible for routine monitoring of East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) and its surroundings. To this end, four FCs and five rangers were trained on the use of mobile data collection (biophysical and socioeconomic data, including threats to wildlife and wildlife habitat) using a method called survey 123. The FCs and rangers now use tablets to conduct monitoring and collect data.



CI staff explaining the use of tablets in data collection

Frontline Conservationists (FCs)

A total of 36 patrols were conducted in the surrounding community forests, and two empty gun shells were found on two separate occasions during the patrols.

Development of by-laws

The leaders of the two communities have drafted by-laws on conservation and circulated these to community members for review. These by-laws are expected to be endorsed and signed during the next quarter. The by-laws are a means by which community leaders will be able to hold community members accountable for their actions.

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