

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

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Conservation International

Adoption of by-laws

By-law proposals were created in the villages of Yolowee and Gbobayee in the previous quarter. After the proposal drafts were circulated in the two communities to elicit opinions, the by-laws were adopted. The by-laws will serve as guides in implementing and managing the conservation agreements and sharing their benefits in the communities.

Refresher training in mobile data collection for forest monitoring

Two-day refresher training for the 24 Frontline Conservationists (FCs) on the use of tablets for monitoring compliance and collecting data was held in Yolowee on June 9 and 10, 2018. The course was aimed at improving the skills of the FCs in mobile data collection to ensure the reliable collection of quality data.

The training was facilitated by a CI Liberia GIS Analyst who used the “learn by doing” method, which included having the FCs undertake practical exercises to identify capacity gaps and thus provide remedial measures. The following topics were covered.

- Patrol route identification and recording
- Methods and steps in mobile data collection
- Review of protected and non-protected animals
- Review of issues/activities to be considered as violations in the community and surrounding forests
- Differences between the community forest, surrounding forest, and the East Nimba Nature Reserve Forest (ENNR)



An intern from Nimba County Community College explains to FCs how to collect data using a tablet (© Alison Miah – CI Liberia Program Assistant)

Forest patrols

A total of 274 forest patrols were conducted by 24 FCs, and the following violations were reported.

- Illegal hunting, as evidenced by the discovery of empty gun shells, gunshot sounds, and signs of hunters' trails and foot paths
- Trapping in the community and surrounding forests
- Illegal farming near the ENNR
- Unsustainable fishing in the surrounding forest

These violations were reported to the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), which is investigating and taking appropriate action.

Piggery and vegetable production

The number of pigs has increased: there are 11 in Gbobayee and 23 in Yolowee. There were also six piglets born in each of the communities; however, one of these died in Gbobayee. Construction of pig pen extensions (a four-room annex in both communities) has been completed.



Newborn piglets in Gbobayee

Production of vegetables, some of which will be used as pig feed, continued from the previous quarter. In Gbobayee, two acres of cassava and sweet potatoes have been established and papaya seedlings have been planted. In Yelowee, 2.5 acres of cassava and sweet potatoes have been established and papaya seedlings have been raised in the nursery.



Cassava garden in Yelowee

Plans for the next quarter

Business plans for the next quarter will be drafted. Refresher training for FCs will once again be facilitated. Support will be provided for record-keeping and monitoring of the project. Project activities will continue to be monitored.

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