

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

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Conservation International

Conservation Agreement 1: Livestock production

The pigpens that had been under construction in Ghopayee and Yolowee were completed and now belong to the communities, who will soon begin using them for raising pigs. The pigs raised here will provide the villagers with both protein and a source of income.

Each community hired a pig production expert for the project. In this reporting period, 21 farmers in Ghopayee received expert training in managing the pigpen. Piglets born in the pigpen will first be given to these 21 farmers, who will raise them at their own farms. The three pairs of piglets that were selected and purchased based on advice from the expert are now being raised in the pigpen. The piglets are being fed well so that will grow big and healthy.



Piglets in a pigpen in Ghopayee

The pigpen in Yolowee was completed in the reporting period. The Yolowee community also purchased pigs with the advice of the expert and have begun raising them in the pigpen. The expert is training 14 selected farmers in pigpen management. As in Ghopayee, these 14 farmers will be the first to receive the piglets born in the pigpen.



Pigpen in Yolowee

There is extremely high interest in pig production in the two communities. The head of Yolowee village expressed his gratitude for the project, and said he looks forward to the day when every household in the village has its own pigpen. He added that pork is an extremely important source of protein that will support villagers' diet.

Conservation Agreement 2: Frontline Conservationists

During the reporting period, 24 Frontline Conservationists (FCs) from the communities who had undergone training carried out patrols 18 times in the East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) and surrounding forests. For 12 of these patrols, they were accompanied by rangers from the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), which has jurisdiction over the ENNR. For the remaining six times, it was just the FCs patrolling the forests surrounding their communities. The patrols have successfully reduced poaching of protected species of wild animals and curbed illegal activities such as farming in the ENNR. Patrol data is stored in a special location for the project and is accessible anytime. Plans have been made to periodically share patrol reports among concerned personnel.

Capacity-building for local NGOs

During the reporting period, nine staff members from three local NGOs underwent training in planning and budgeting conservation agreements, monitoring their implementation, and writing activity and financial reports following the agreements' implementation.

The three NGOs were Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS), Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE), and Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL). At the training, each of these NGOs was represented by a project manager, accountant, and supplies procurer. Participants got together to revise the various boilerplates and other reporting formats they had been using previously. This is sure to greatly improve the quality of future reports on the conservation agreements.

Plans for next period

Training will continue for the 21 farmers in Ghopayee and 14 farmers in Yolowee, as will pig production activities. FCs will also carry on with their patrols.

With the cooperation of the FDA, we plan to hold meetings in the two communities on topics covering recognizing protected species, methods of protection, and publicizing FC activities. There will also be training on the conservation agreements for the three NGOs.