

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

May 2019  
Conservation International

**Renewal of conservation agreements**

CI and partners including the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), ENNR Co-Management Committee (CMC), and Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) signed conservation agreements (CAs) with the two communities of Gbobayee and Yolowee.

In addition to facilitating the signing of CAs with Gbobayee and Yolowee, the key objectives of the signing ceremony were to create additional biodiversity conservation awareness and promote the CA concept among local authorities as a viable choice for conservation, and in particular to share lessons from ongoing CAs.

The two CAs were signed by the respective Town Chiefs and witnessed by key stakeholders: FDA, EPA, CMC, Civil Society Organization (CSO), and district and county authorities.



CMC representative Joe Dyer signing a CA



Participants pose for a photo after the CA signing ceremony

## Piggery

Piggery was one of the major activities implemented during the quarter in Yolowee and Gbobayee as a means of livelihood for the community dwellers, who prior depended on bush meat for protein. The 26 pig farmers in the two villages were given on-site training by piggery technicians on feeding, hygiene, and sanitary management. The pigs were given supplementary feed of Cassava and potato vines, which resulted in proper feed mixture and timely feeding habits that contributed to good health and growth for the pigs.

There are currently 36 pigs in the pig pens in the two communities, as shown in the table below.

Table 1: Number of pigs in the community

Community	No. of pigs		Total
	Piglets	Pigs	
Gbobayee	10	6	16
Yolowee	17	3	20
Total	27	9	36





Pigs in Yolowee pig pen

### **Patrols by Frontline Conservationists (FCs)**

As part of compliance monitoring of CAs in this quarter, a total of 72 patrols (20 in the ENNR, 30 in the community forest, and 22 in the surrounding forest) were conducted by 25 Frontline Conservationists (FCs). A total of 23 violations were reported. Six of these were in the East Nimba Nature Reserve (including hunters' trails and gun sounds) and 17 were in the community forest (including empty gun shells and gun sounds).



Paul Flomo, the head FC in Gbobayee, providing a patrol up-date

### **Challenges**

- There is a shortage of palm kernel for pig feed. This is being addressed by using vegetables (Cassava and potato vines) to supplement the palm kernel feed.
- Some of the FCs were unfamiliar with digital technology and had trouble understanding how to use the tablets, which delayed the roll-out of their use. A schedule has been developed that pairs these FCs with digitally literate FCs in conducting joint monitoring.

### **Plans for the next quarter**

- CAs will be bound and distributed to key stakeholders.
- PLUP (participatory land use planning) will be undertaken with the two communities.
- A quarterly review meeting will be held with key stakeholders including the communities.
- Activities facilitating biodiversity conservation awareness will be conducted in the two communities.
- CAs and livelihood activities will be monitored.

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