

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

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Conservation International

Conservation Agreements

We introduced these Conservation Agreements in the last quarterly report. CI has been negotiating agreements with two communities around the East Nimba Nature Reserve with the end goal of identifying a series of livelihood projects that communities will benefit from in exchange for conservation actions. Negotiating a Conservation Agreement is a long but important process.

In this quarterly report, we would like to introduce Conservation Agreements that we are implementing with six communities in Nimba. The shifting cultivation method of agriculture practiced in this region causes over cropping of the soil and results in gradually lower crop yields. This leads to the cutting of forests in order to obtain new agricultural land. Conversely, another method of agriculture, called swamp rice production, is practiced in low land areas and can produce large amounts of food over long periods without causing deforestation. Successes have already been achieved under existing Conservation Agreements in which communities chose livelihood-improvement projects that introduce swamp rice production as a way to boost agricultural yields. The two communities currently planning livelihood projects are also considering the introduction of swamp farming.

CI will continue to monitor project activities that nearby communities implemented under previously established agreements to ensure that lessons learned from these are applied in the negotiation and design of the Conservation Agreements of the two communities currently carrying out Daikin's "Forests for the Air" Project. The eventual goal is to have Conservation Agreements with all 20 communities in the region.



Harvesting rice several months after completing the swamp rice paddies
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Preparing a swamp rice paddy for cultivation



Harvesting rice a few months later

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Spreading Education and Awareness around the East Nimba Nature Reserve

CI has been carrying out ongoing awareness raising activities around East Nimba involving theater troupe performances, radio shows, and special meetings at different times across Nimba. In this last quarter CI has taken its awareness raising efforts to a new level by staging a large campaign over 18 days in 18 different towns. Over six hundred persons including special guests were invited to the launch event in a town called Zortapa.

The theatre troupe used a range of different performances that involve singing, dancing, and storytelling to address unsustainable land use activities such as shifting cultivation, hunting, illegal fishing, and artisanal mining. Overall, the event was seen as a great success and it is hoped that this campaign will also boost momentum for the negotiation and design of conservation agreements.



A performance by the theater troupe in one of the 18 towns it visited

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