

Proceedings of **The First International Workshop on Community Forestry in Liberia**

Monrovia 12-15 December 2005

*Towards a Shared Vision and Action Frame
for Community Forestry in Liberia*



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The first international
workshop on community
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List of abbreviations

3Cs	Commercial, Conservation and Community forestry
ACM	Adaptive Collaborative Management
BOPC	Butol Oil Palm Corporation
BWI	Booker Washington Institute
WOCHIRRC	Women and Children Rehabilitation Resource Center
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CI	Conservation International
CBO	Community Based Organisations
CF	Community Forestry
CFMA	Communal Forest Management Agreement
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DDC	District Development Committee
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
FO	Farmers Organisations
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry - World Agroforestry Centre
IITA	International Institute on Tropical Agriculture
IMF	International Monetary Fund

INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
LACE	Liberia Association for Community Empowerment
LFI	Liberia Forest Initiative
LPMC	Liberia Produce Marketing Company
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MLME	Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTFP	Non timber forest products
NTGL	National Transitional Government of Liberia
PCFMA	Preliminary Communal Forest Management Agreement
RPAL	Rubber Planters Association of Liberia
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Center
Sapo NP	Sapo National Park
SCNL	Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia
STCP	Sustainable Tree Crop Program
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
USAID	United States of Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank

Foreword

The workshop described in these pages was the culmination of over 12 months of engagement by a team of researchers from the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) under what was to become a research grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provided through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Working under the umbrella of the Liberia Forest Initiative (LFI), the team was quickly made aware of the fact that community forestry, one of the three proposed pillars that would drive the renaissance of the Liberian forest sector, was at best a set of good intentions, not much more. In agreement with Liberian partners, such as the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), the LFI and other partners in Liberia, the team set about researching the basis for community forestry in Liberia. This was done on the basis of two missions to Liberia and a set of three 'transect' studies, two of them conducted by Greenstar Inc./ Subah Belleh Associates under direction of the CIFOR/ICRAF team, across forested landscapes to understand how local communities and stakeholders currently used 'their' forests, a contested concept in itself due to the unclear tenure situation, including the social and economic institutions that conditioned this use of the forests. None of these reports form a part of these proceedings. They will be dealt with separately, as research reports and scientific papers.

What was clear to the team was that there was a much broader basis for community forestry in Liberia than was currently understood in the country, consequently the range of stakeholders that would necessarily have to be engaged if community forestry was to be launched successfully was also diverse. The research made it clear to the team that, while there was great potential for community forestry to genuinely contribute to rural development and the economic independence of the communities concerned, there were, and are, equally grave dangers that would arise if the rights of communities over 'their' resources were not sufficiently clarified and protected on the one hand, on the other hand there was also a need to help the communities understand that with these rights were contingent on a number of responsibilities. The exercise of these rights and the execution of the concomitant responsibilities, it became clear to the team, would only be successful if the communities and the national agencies responsible for governing the forest resource were appropriately organized and sufficiently capacitated to deal with these novel challenges. This spelt out the task for the workshop: it had to clarify what community forestry might mean in a Liberian context, and what 'space' there might be for community forestry to unfold. This 'space' would be defined by rights, resources and responsibilities of local communities and all other potential key stakeholders in the forest sector. Furthermore the workshop would need to identify a framework for translating conceptual consensus into action. There was no question in the minds of team members, the LFI and USAID technical experts that it would be important to define and manage expectations of community forestry in a realistic yet ambitious manner.

As these proceedings will show, the workshop met all the expectations the team and other stakeholders had placed on it. So much so that it became necessary to publish a 'proceedings' for the workshop in order to satisfy the demand of participants and the wider community of Liberian and international stakeholders. It was felt that the demand would be best met by producing compilation of the presentations and speeches that enriched the workshop. In doing this we have exercised some editorial freedom in rearranging the material so that the reader is presented with politically or conceptually important information first, including the 'Monrovia Declaration' on Community Forestry adopted by workshop participants, followed then by presentations that sought to delimit the 'space' and options for action for community forestry. Some of the material presented here is based on recorded transcripts of speeches, or the notes of a team of rapporteurs, thus while every effort has been made to be faithful to the spirit of what was presented, some editorial liberties were necessary. Finally we have also included a list of participants who participated in this historic meeting. These 'proceedings' will therefore seem 'rough' by international standards, however in the interest of expediency and in order to maintain the momentum generated by the workshop we have taken the view that it is important for the results of the workshop to be disseminated as widely, with as little delay as possible. In doing so we are aware that this may disappoint some readers who may have been looking for polished and peer reviewed papers and have found only the outlines of slide presentations in some cases.

A large number of people contributed to the success of this workshop, their contributions have been acknowledged in other forums and by other means. It would be wrong however not to make special mention of the contributions of John Woods, Scott Bode, Decontee King, Robert Simpson, Jeanette Carter, Lawrence Greene and Moses Wogbeh. For the rest it will hopefully suffice to thank all participants and all presenters once again for their contributions.

CIFOR/ICRAF Liberia Team (Ravi Prabhu, Crispen Marunda, Peter Mbile, Zac Tchoundjeu, Ousseynou Ndoeye, Anne-Marie Tiani, Nontokozo Nemarundwe, Yemi Katerere, Mohammed Bakarr, David Kaimowitz, Daniel Tiveau, Itai Chibaya)

1

Executive summary

Community forestry in Liberia is an ambiguous and contested concept, at the same time there is an emerging consensus that communities need to be empowered to start managing forest resources in their own (long term) interest. This 1st International workshop on Community Forestry in Liberia brought together a cross-section of the major stakeholders in the forest and community development sectors to develop a shared vision of community forestry in Liberia and chart out how to support its successful development. In particular, the workshop sought to reach a shared understanding on:

- what community forestry should mean in Liberia;
- what enabling conditions need to be created;
- how these conditions can be created;
- what process need to be supported if locally adapted, viable community forests are to emerge.

Principal assumptions of the workshop were that community empowerment must be the motor for community development, and for empowerment to take place, communities must have access to and sustainable use of all forms of assets available to them, including natural assets locked up in their forests as well as in agroforests and fields.

CIFOR and ICRAF, together with partners in Liberia (FDA, LFI), and financial support from USAID, conducted some studies to understand what the opportunities and options for community forestry in Liberia might be. Findings from these studies and experiences from a wide section of the Liberian community stakeholders were presented at the workshop.

Most participants at the workshop came from a broad cross-section of stakeholders. Particular attention was given to ensuring adequate representation from the following groups and agencies:

- Forest Development Agency and relative ministerial organs of the newly elected government
- Members of the Liberia Forest Initiative (LFI)
- Govt. agencies involved in community development
- Local communities' representatives (particularly from Sinoe, Nimba, Cape Mount, Gbarpolu)
- Conservation sector: govt. agencies, NGOs (national and international)
- Commercial sector: concessionaires, processing industry, trading and transport
- Local government representatives
- Community Development NGOs
- Donor agencies
- Academics & trainers
- Research

The workshop was designed to promote informed discussion among the invited stakeholder groups with a view to developing a shared vision and action plan. This involved some technical presentations to sum up the state of our understanding on several topics which included:

- Framing the challenge of community forestry
- Stakeholder views on community forestry
- Finding space for community forestry
- Assets available for community forestry (both physical and social)
- Livelihoods, products and markets
- Governance domain for community forestry
- Legislative aspects
- Sectoral and intersectoral issues
- Developing a shared vision of community forestry.

Besides the presentations on these technical issues, there was some invited responses to the presentations and a series of facilitated breakout groups to chart the way forward, based on the presentations and participants' own knowledge and plans for community forestry and community development. Results from the breakout groups were discussed in plenary. Based on presentations, breakout group results, and plenary discussions a synthesis group comprising one representative each from local communities, FDA staff, CIFOR and ICRAF, continuously monitored the emerging shared vision and action plan. Syntheses of each day are included in these proceedings. The results of the work of this synthesis group informed the process of formulating as the Monrovia Declaration on Community Forestry. The declaration was the major output of the workshop.

These proceedings present the main outputs of the workshop. The proceedings are divided into two main parts. The first part presents the declaration, a copy of an article that appeared in the local press, and the official opening and closing speeches. These speeches were typed verbatim to capture the essence and passion of the speakers on the subject of community forestry in Liberia. The second part presents the technical presentations. The annexes include the discussions in the breakout groups, expectations and evaluation summaries, peer contracts that captured participants' ideas and proposals for possible partnerships within community forestry in Liberia.

2

Monrovia declaration

“Monrovia declaration”

A group of about 100 national and international experts and stakeholders met near Monrovia, from December 12-15, 2005, to discuss the way forward for community forestry in Liberia. The meeting aimed to develop a clear definition of community forestry within the Liberian context, explore the main expectations of local communities, relevant Government of Liberia agencies, and other stakeholders in community forestry, and deliberate on possible next steps to promote community forestry in Liberia. It was convened under the umbrella of the Liberia Forest Initiative (LFI), with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

Recognizing the unique opportunity presented by Liberia’s return to democracy and peace, the meeting **unanimously called** on all stakeholders and well wishers of the Liberian people and Liberian forests to

Promote the development of community forestry based on the aspirations and needs of communities and the potential of their forests and lands as a means to establishing just, equitable and sustainable forms of land and resource use rights and management.

The meeting further **recognized** that community forestry in Liberia.

- Is one of the three pillars of the forest policy
- Is a means by which local communities can achieve sustainable economic development
- Is a relatively new concept that needs to be tested
- Is being held back by tenure insecurity and ill defined access and use rights
- Is an overarching concept within which formally defined Communal Forests are a small part
- Would contribute to the conservation of biological diversity through wise and diverse utilization of forest resources in production landscapes
- Would have to take into account diverse landscapes, cultures, forest conditions, patterns of settlement and aspirations if it was to truly support rural development and sustainable management of forests
- May require government to change the manner of its administration of forest resources.

The meeting **agreed** that

*Community forestry is the governance and management of forest resources **in designated areas or landscapes** by communities for commercial and non-commercial purposes to further their own livelihoods and development. Community forestry incorporates the practices, art, science, policies, institutions and processes necessary to promote and support all aspects of sustainable community based forest management.*

The meeting also **agreed** that

Community in the sense of community forestry should be taken to mean a group of local residents who share a common interest in the use and wise management of forest resources in a designated area, with traditional or formal rights to the land and the forests on it. Such communities should be encouraged to develop clearly discernible representation, decision making and conflict resolution functions. In the long run they would also be legally recognized entities.

The meeting further **agreed** that community forestry

- Represents a hitherto unused and unstructured opportunity to promote the development of local communities in Liberia and the sustainable use of forest resources through the use of a wide range of currently inaccessible, underutilized or underdeveloped products and services.
- Provides an entry point to improve governance and empower local communities.

The meeting framed a **call for action** for all stakeholders and well wishers of the Liberian people and Liberian forests such that:

The *Government of Liberia* and its organs may wish to consider taking concrete steps to:

- Resolve the current lack of land and resource use-rights of rural communities in Liberia. To this end they may wish to
 - o Recognize customary rights to the land and forest resources
 - o Complete the land registration process with a clear view of equitably taking into account customary rights
 - o Consolidate and revise fragmented and overlapping legislation and policy related to land rights, tenure and use rights into a coherent and comprehensive national land tenure policy and legislation.
 - o Provide special assistance to women, youths and disadvantaged groups within society so that they can realize benefits from community forestry
 - o Make provision for community forestry as a land-use form in land-use policy and planning.
- Reform and capacitate the *Forestry Development Authority* and related government agencies so that they can support the development of community forestry by
 - o Assuming a service provision role in order to provide technical and material assistance to communities wishing to undertake community forestry
 - o Assisting in the identification of community forestry areas and demarcation of boundaries
 - o Promoting the development of enabling policies, legislation and regulations
 - o Ensuring transparency and equity in all transactions.
- Support the development of capacity for community forestry by
 - o Introducing curricula on community forestry in universities, technical training institutes, and secondary and elementary schools.
 - o Providing practical training opportunities for community members on technical, financial, administrative and conflict management aspects of community forestry
 - o Promoting agroforestry, tree crops that support biological diversity, non-timber forest products and small-scale logging and timber processing.

Local communities in Liberia may wish to consider

- Taking initiatives to identify opportunities for community forestry and mobilizing support for these initiatives
- Strengthening and developing their institutions for decision making and conflict resolution to deal with the new opportunities and challenges of community forestry
- Developing community based projects for new and innovative products and markets for the attention of development assistance organizations
- Consolidating their voice to provide timely and truly representative input into the development of policy, legislative and other relevant frameworks for community forestry.

Civil society institutions and non-governmental organizations may wish to

- Take cognizance of community forestry as an approach for supporting community development and wise management of forest resources
- Coordinate among themselves, governmental and community based institutions to provide efficient technical, material and financial support to communities for the development of their forest resources
- Support the development and marketing of products and services from community forestry schemes
- Pay special attention to the needs for capacity building of women, youths and disadvantaged members of communities
- Improve the information base on community based management of forest resources including through public awareness campaigns and outreach programmes and services
- Strengthen and empower local savings and credit facilities, also through institutions for pre-financing of production activities.

The international community may wish to

- Provide technical and financial support to the formal development of community forestry through the development of locally adapted pilot models
- Support training programmes to improve community skills in the selection and management of community forests.
- Support capacity building of communities and support institutions, including the Forestry Development Authority, for community forestry.
- Support research on the development of governance and management models for community forestry that build on local indigenous knowledge, institutions and approaches.
- Support the development of market information and marketing skills related to key products and services from community forestry.
- Support the community-based development of agroforestry, woodlots and other applications of forestry to improve rural livelihoods and local conditions.
- Support international exchanges of experiences and information on community forestry programs.
- Consider contributing to improving society's knowledge of indigenous knowledge systems for forest use and management of forest resources in Liberia and other aspects of community forest management, through research and targeted information gathering.

Signed:

The participants of the first International Workshop on Community Forestry in Liberia:
"Towards a shared vision and action frame for community forestry in Liberia"

Monrovia, 15 December 2005

3

LFI ends three-day community forestry workshop

The Inquirer (Monrovia) NEWS, December 16, 2005. Posted to the website, December 16, 2005

What follows are selected excerpts from one of three articles that appeared in Liberian newspapers during or shortly after the workshop. Additionally there was a one hour interview with John Woods and Ravi Prabhu on Radio Veritas, which is not reproduced here.

“The government should see reason to recognize customary rights of rural people to the land and forest resources and complete the land registration process with a clear view of equitably taking into account customary rights.”

“Speaking at the closing ceremony, Dr. Amos C. Sawyer described the deliberations at the workshop as democratic and the beginning of a new democratic dispensation in Liberia. He promised to bring to the attention of transitional team meeting resolution and encourage team members keep them in mind. For his part, Mr. D. Eugene Wilson, Managing Director of FDA, praised the organizers and said upon the completion of forestry reform sector, Liberians will benefit immensely from commercial forestry, conservation and community forestry.”

4

Framing the challenge

4.1. The Liberia forest initiative and community forestry expectations in Liberia

John.T. Woods, Liberia Forest Initiative

Background

The Liberia Forest Initiative is a concerted effort by the NTGL, the international community, including the U.S. government, the European Union, and a group of international NGOs including CI, FFI, and IUCN, to define critical action programs that will assist the Liberian government in meeting the requirements for the lifting of sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council on timber exports and in reforming the forestry sector to international standards of sustainable forest management. Among the reform programs is community forestry.

Forest resources of Liberia

I invite you to begin this community forestry workshop in the frame of mind set by John Gay, former lecturer at Cuttington College at Suakoko in Bong County Liberia when he defined the meaning of the forest in Gbansue in December 1996. “The forest in short, is the basis and essential source of life and power. The village is where life is lived, but the village is only viable if supported by the forest. But the forest is a finite resource, and is itself in danger from the people who exploit it.

The remaining forest of Liberia is 42 % of the remnant of the Upper Guinea forest. It comprises about 10 million acres of evergreen forest in the Southeast around the borders with the Ivory Coast and deciduous forests in Northwest bordering Sierra Leone and Guinea. These forests on which our villages depend for livelihood contain a significant amount of biodiversity, including: over 2,900 different vascular plants (including 225 tree species); 600 bird species; 150 mammal species; and 75 reptile species. Liberia’s forests also produce a wide range of other environmental goods and services that benefit Liberia and the rest of the World.

Forest policy

Assisted by FAO and the international community, Liberia now has a draft national forest policy. It lays out guidelines and principles in three pillars: Commercial, Community and conservation forestry.

Commercial forestry is the production and processing of wood and non-wood forest products for profit. Revenue from commercial forestry can be used to support private sector development and, through the collection of forest charges, government expenditure on public good and services. The aim of commercial forestry is the sustainable production of forest products and the development of viable forest-based industries.

Community Forestry includes the production of wood and non-wood forest products, plus the use of forests for other purposes such as: cultural rituals; future farmland and settlement areas; and the protection of sacred sites. Community forestry focuses more on the interests of people who live in and on the fringes of forest areas.

Forest conservation includes biodiversity conservation (at the landscape, site and species level) and maintenance of the other environmental functions of forests (e.g. soil and water protection). It includes protection of specific forest areas as well as measures to enhance the environmental quality of other forest areas (e.g. through rehabilitation of secondary forests). The aim of forest conservation is to sustain and enhance these functions for current and future generations.

In many cases, these uses can be combined. For example, timber production can be combined with a certain amount of forest conservation in a National Forest, or a community forest can be used for commercial production of forest products. However, in some cases, it is necessary to focus almost exclusively on a single main use of the forest.

Recent studies and findings on options for community forestry

Two years ago community forestry gained an importance as one of the three pillars of forestry in Liberia. On one hand the United Nation Security sanction on logs and timber export in 2002 slowed down commercial forestry activities, decreasing production and the reliance on it to enhance community livelihood. On the other hand the related reform efforts and initiative for the lifting of sanctions has highlighted the critical role of communities in taking control of their forests and participating more meaningfully in sharing the benefits. One of the reform efforts has been directed towards scientific and socio-economic investigations that would justify the establishment of community forestry in Liberia. These studies include three transect studies: Greenville-Sapo Park, East Nimba Reserve and Gbapolu. Findings in these studies are pointing to challenges and opportunities that are to be critically reviewed and confirmed by this workshop. How to define communities and community forestry, what can be done in community forest, lack of capacity to manage forest resources, unclear relationship between community representatives traditional institutions and elites, lack of markets and credits for forest products are some of the challenges these studies are posing for the creation of community forestry in Liberia.

The task of creating community forestry in Liberia

Setting the framework for community forestry

Permit me, ladies and gentlemen, to offer you my definition of community forestry: It is the governance and management of forest resources by communities for commercial and non-commercial purposes. These purposes include subsistence, livelihood improvement and poverty reduction, social, cultural and religious significance from timber and non-timber product production, wildlife management, the conservation of biodiversity and maintaining the quality of the environment. This concept embraces the three pillars enshrined in the national forest policy of Liberia. It points to the direction in which sustainable management of forest resources can benefit the people of Liberia as required by its constitution.

Uncontrolled access to forest resources

Except for timber, forest resources have been freely accessible to users in Liberia. At any time, anyone can clear any size of forest anywhere by slashing and burning it to make farms. An estimated average of one to two percent of the forest is lost every year due to this type of uncontrolled access. Similarly, an estimated 60 millions of United States dollars are traded in bush meat each year without taxes or fees. This is the result of a *de facto* free access to these resources as a result of weak implementation of laws. Similarly any quantity of other non-wood products can be harvested from Liberia's forest at will and free of charge.

The question I pose to this workshop for an answer is how long can the people of Liberia continue to have free and uncontrollable access to forest resources without losing all of it? At the same time there is little value added to the economy as a result of the way these products are processed and traded. Perhaps, I can help you to formulate the answer to this question. Take a transect 30 miles on either side of the road from Monrovia to Gbarnga. You will find little or

no options for community forestry. Transect studies point out that today it takes three times the distance 25 years ago to access animals to hunt in communities around the fringes of our forest. These examples suggest the answer to my question: an unmanaged and uncontrollable access to Liberia's forest resources in the long-run will leave no forest resources to support lives in our communities.

They also suggest that it is time to begin to organize and make communities aware of the need to take some responsibility for the management and control of their forest resources.

The need for community ownership, participation and management of forest resources

Transect studies are also demonstrating that only in few cases do communities own land or forest properties. Some three hundred and fifty acres of forest land are deeded to a community in Gbapolu County. This community is organized to take control but not experienced and skilled enough to manage its forest resources. The Keteabo Community in River Gee County has a deed for some 35,000 acres of forest land. Like most communities on the fringes of the forests in the Southeast of Liberia, the keteabo people are however not organized to control access and to manage their forest resources.

Generally, communities have claims to land but they do not own it. Traditionally they decide who settles on or owns land but they lack the machinery to grant ownership. It is the central government that ultimately grants ownership. If community forestry is to be established this workshop must review the land tenure system and recommend how forest land ownership can be conferred on to communities. The workshop should also propose capacity building facilities for communities to build up social capital and skills to control and manage their own forests. Community forestry without capacity building would be setting up communities to fail, and we definitely do not want that.

Available Assets for community forestry in Liberia

From transect studies the types of assets that present opportunities for community forestry are available in Liberia. Timber and non-timber products are available in all the forests bordering communities, providing the opportunities for logging and producing non-timber products. There are fertile farm lands for agriculture. The organized bush meat trade in Liberia suggests the abundance of animal resources. Areas have been declared protected and proposed for protection. Detailed rapid assessment will determine the design for each protected area within the network for which appropriate trust funds can be established for their management. This will clearly present the conservation alternatives.

The type of social institutions, rights and livelihood products found in our communities have to be identified, improved and can form the basis on which to 'build' community forestry. This workshop is expected not only to catalogue some of these assets but to also look at the legislation and their potentials to empower communities control and derive benefits from their forest.

Expectations for community forestry in Liberia

- The workshop is expected to determine potentials for community based management of forest resources in Liberia. Experiences of participants, the technical presentations and the support of funding authorities are the basis for this high hope.
- Accordingly, the workshop is expected to more clearly define community forestry in a manner that takes into account established and customary community based forest ownership and rights under the law. This includes communal forest and native authority reserves.
- This workshop must identify those rights and responsibilities that Liberian communities must have in order to effectively manage their forests with the objective of participating in the decision making process and deriving and sharing benefits from their forest resources.
- It is not expected that this workshop will decide the appropriate community forestry models for Liberia at this juncture. However, concrete measures can be outlined on the research and design of action programs that can provide options for selecting and implementing such models in various parts of the country.

- At the end of the day options will be explored for locally adaptable pilot trials for community forestry. The models in Nepal, Indonesia, Ghana and Cambodia present good examples of collaborative community forestry in which government owns land but grants tenure to communities for a period of time to manage the forest.
- Out of this workshop will come recommendations for refining policy and implementation procedures based on well documented field experiences.
- The workshop will develop proposals for action research to support the development of pilot trails/models:
 - Flexible definition of community
 - Rules and regulations for implementing CF
 - Guidelines for institutional arrangements
 - Guidelines for preparing management plans
 - Forest user group registration.

The workshop is expected to decide where CF goes from here by clearly setting goals, programs and priority projects with funding sources and commitments.

Conclusions and recommendations

The challenges ahead are found in the expectations from the workshop. The most outstanding end state is adopting models in various forest zones in the country based on research and scientific information.

Capacity building comes at the top of priority activities in establishing community forestry in this country. It is new aspect of forest resource management in this country. This very workshop is a form of capacity building for most of us. Beginning now all partners in the process will require capacity building. It involves raising the awareness of all sectors of this society; reorientation of government staff to fit them for new roles as advisors and extension rather than policing and concession licensing officials; training of government staff and NGO's on procedures for implementing community forestry; training of villagers to give knowledge and skill to manage their forests.

I imagine the new government will be anxious to take on board and run with the recommendations of the Workshop as an opportunity to enhance the quality of life of rural people and reduce poverty in keeping with promises to deliver on its platform.

The eager and anxious communities that have experienced war and misuse of forest resources will be in the position to more equitably share in the benefits from forest resources.

This workshop is an opportunity for all stakeholders. It comes but once and we must take an advantage of it.

4.2. Welcome and acknowledgement remarks

Wilbur Thomas, USAID

- On behalf of USAID Welcome. USAID is very excited to be sponsoring a workshop on community forestry here in Liberia. ... this represents a culmination of efforts over the last 18 months in trying to better define the nature and role of community forestry in Liberia etc.
- I also want to thank Dr. Ravi Prabhu and his team from the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry Center, and John Woods, the in-country coordinator for the Liberian Forest Initiative and their team for on all their hard work in making this historic meeting on community forestry possible in Liberia.
- The timing for this workshop is just right, a successful outcome of the election has given further encouragement to those of you that are moving forward on this central pillar of the LFI, community forestry. And President-Elect Ellen Sirleaf Johnson has expressed words of support for the effort of the LFI in Liberia. These events give us a very positive environment and context in which to hold this week's workshop.

Historic Crossroads

- As we all know, one of the central dilemma throughout Liberia's history has been that Liberia's rich natural resources only benefited a small number of people. Rural Liberians and their needs and aspirations have been neglected for too long. USAID supports community forestry development because we believe it provides an entry point for to address these fundamental inequities that exist in Liberian society.
- Now we have a historic opportunity to develop an approach to the forest and agriculture (or the rural) sector that places the Liberian people at the center. In order to avoid the problems of the past we need to focus on integrating or "weaving" the concept of "community" through the two other pillars commercial and conservation forestry.
- We also need to clarify what community means in the Liberian context – certainly we need to pay close attention to special case of youth, women and issues around rights and access to land and use rights in commercial concession and protected areas.

USAID's long experience in community development and forestry

- USAID has a long experience and knowledge in the area of community-based NRM resources management and the practice of community forestry.
- Globally and historically USAID has and has had many qualified staff and numerous partners that bring skills to bear in this area, we can mobilize and draw on lessons learned from a variety of regions and countries: we have implemented NRM programs across the region and the world: ... examples include Guinea, Mali, Madagascar, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Philippines Central Africa through our Carpe program.
- We recognize that Liberia is unique and solutions need to be developed locally. However, sharing recent learning in the community forestry field can provide guidance and the avoid mistakes that we have made in the past. Indeed we are endeavoring to make the best use of our investments in the community forest sector.
- Our partners in our work span the research to development, and also span the continuum between agriculture and the environment. USAID feels that without representative presence across these disciplinary boundaries, we cannot accomplish are mutual goals of sustainable development, improved livelihoods, stability and peace in Liberia. In other words there are important roles that each can play.
- USAID policy on fragile states: USAID, as a matter of policy has divided the world into Fragile States, TD Development States and Strategic States. Programmatic options vary depending on how a country is classified. Liberia, not surprisingly, is classified as a fragile state. What is key here is that as we debate and discuss options in community forestry for Liberia we recognize that our efforts must take place within a context of the factors that make Liberia a fragile state.

CBNRM and CF are already happening in Liberia

- With regards to community forest or CBNRM, we have heard from the national staff here in Liberia that community forestry is a relatively new concept and seems to be a new or unfamiliar concept among forest sector stakeholders. If we look more closely to local Liberian livelihoods, we will find that people are practicing community forestry and community based NRM. It is important then these practices and activities become more visible to the rest of the agriculture sectors.
- this information is beginning to come out in the research that CIFOR and others are doing, so what we need to is analysis the current systems and choose intervention points.
- STCP: in addition to some of these initial steps that have been taken by CIFOR and ICRAF, USAID is also investing in a program managed by IITA, called the sustainable tree crops program. We feel that this program can be very complimentary to the forestry sector in Liberia.
- We will hear more about STCP in the technical part of the program but I would offer this now: providing technical support in tree crops (starting first with cocoa as an entry point).

With these remarks, I wish you the best in your deliberations for the next 4 days.

Thank you.

4.3. Forested landscapes and community development: Science, scale, and sustainability

Mohamed I. Bakarr, World Agroforestry Centre

Summary

Despite decades of efforts to secure tropical forests and reduce threats to biodiversity, loss of tropical forests continues unabated. Although it is safe to assume that there is no longer a shortage of solutions, efforts to integrated management options at landscape scales remain inadequate. Community Forestry, though not new, is one of many forest conservation and management models to be applied and tested in the West Africa region. This paper advocates for an integrated approach that combines community forestry with other management options at appropriate landscape scales in order to foster community development in Liberia.

Key words: Community Forestry, Biodiversity Conservation, Integrated Natural Resource Management, Landscape Ecology

Introduction

Throughout the developing world, the future of forest ecosystems remains fraught with uncertainty. One thing that is certain, however, is the dependence of a large number of humans on forests and forest resources, particularly in the tropics. Latest estimates for Africa suggests over two-thirds of the continent's 600 million people rely directly or indirectly on forests for their livelihoods (CIFOR 2005). So it makes sense for any discourse on the future of forests to consider the needs and priorities of local people. This is particular the case for the tropical forests of West and Central Africa where such discourse is yet to make significant progress or achievement on the ground.

Over the last 4-5 decades, a range of forest management models and paradigms have been proposed and tested in countries throughout the West and Central Africa region (see Martin 1991; Cleaver et al. 1992). Yet during this same period, both sub-regions suffered considerable loss of natural forests, and the deforestation rate for many of the countries remain some of the highest worldwide. It is no surprise, for example, that progress with forest conservation in the sub region has come under scrutiny (Oates 1999) despite the immense biological importance of these forests globally (Bakarr et al. 1999; 2001). And at the same time, rural communities continue to face a myriad livelihood challenges associated mostly with poverty and food insecurity. *So where are we going wrong?*

In this paper, I have attempted to advocate the need for integration of various forest conservation and management options at appropriate *scales*, including tradeoffs that often tend to be ignored in planning the utilization of forested landscapes. Given the multiple efforts currently underway by many organizations to help Liberia secure its forests for its people for the present and future, I outline a *science-based* framework for streamlining proposed management options to foster *sustainability* at the landscape scale. In particular, I emphasize the need for community forestry as a paradigm to be viewed in a broader context of integrated forest management for generating domestic and global benefits. For the purpose of this paper, I define landscape as a mosaic of habitat patches of different sizes, shapes, patterns, whose biological character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and human factors (Sanderson et al. 2003). I consider the spatial dimension of a forested landscape in hundreds of square kilometers, or to the extent that it is large enough to incorporate multiple land use options that are amenable to integrated management objectives.

Why “forested landscapes”?

Unlike the Congo Basin forests of Central Africa, recent history of West African forests (also known as “Upper Guinea” forests) has shown no apparent indigenous inhabitants or so-called “forest peoples” (Martin 1991). It is no surprise therefore that all of the coastal countries have suffered major forest losses due to a farming culture that is based primarily on slash-and-burn. As a result, the Upper Guinea forest ecosystem has probably existed as a “mosaic” since the arrival of humans to the Gulf of Guinea. This means that the people of this sub region have always exploited natural

forests for wood and non-wood products alongside slash-and-burn agriculture. In addition, large numbers of natural forest blocks of only a few hectares in size have been preserved as “sacred” groves that are associated with various cultural practices in West African countries (Lebbie and Fredenberger 1996; Ntiemoa-Baidu 1995; Chouin 2002).

It is an established fact that forest ecosystems by nature are very dynamic. There are spatial patterns brought about by temporal changes that can be natural (such as tree falls or land slides) or anthropogenic (such as logging or clearance through slash-and-burn agriculture). Because humans are very much an integral part of the ecosystem, anthropogenic transformations for economic and livelihood purposes are inevitable. However, changes brought about by anthropogenic processes are a major concern because of the lasting effect they manifest at the landscape scale. These include loss of habitat, decline in species populations (including those that are valuable for livelihood needs), and degradation of ecosystem goods and services. Ultimately, it is the local communities who suffer the consequences of these changes.

The concept of “forested landscapes” in this context is intended to reinforce the crucial importance of multiple land uses in forest ecosystems. It acknowledges the fact that forest utilization in various forms is inevitable if the livelihood needs of humans who are dependent on the ecosystem are to be met. The forests of Liberia though relatively extensive by West Africa standards, are in reality landscape mosaics characterized by a combination of intact forest blocks (mostly in logging concessions), logged forests, secondary growth, plantations, and farmland. Any future characterization of Liberia’s forests will probably be consistent with this current pattern. The challenge therefore is to ensure that an integrated approach to forest management is fostered at the landscape scale in order to address multiple interests and needs in a sustainable manner.

Toward a paradigm shift – from “forests” to “forested landscapes”

Because of the tendency for most conservation and management models to focus primarily on natural forests, deforested lands are seldom considered in designing projects. As a result, such lands become increasingly marginalized and eventually abandoned by local users, who ultimately resort to clearing new forests to pursue their livelihood needs. This leads to the so-called vicious cycle of poverty in which most rural communities in the subregion find themselves trapped. Although transformation of forested landscapes in some form is inevitable, there is a need for paradigm shift that will balance management of both deforested and forested lands in an integrated manner and at the landscape scale. Such a paradigm shift can benefit immensely from the principles of landscape ecology (Forman 1995) and integrated natural resource management (Sayer and Campbell 2003).

Landscape ecology emphasizes spatial arrangements as a major determinant of functional movement across landscapes (Forman 1995), and recognizes the fact that local ecological conditions are affected by landscape context or attributes of the surrounding landscape (Dale et al. 2000). From this perspective, forest conservation and management options (including protected areas, community forestry and agroforestry) must be viewed in a wider spatial context in order to leverage in a meaningful way for people, and add value to the future of Liberia’s forests. This essentially calls for a shift in management paradigms based on landscape scale integration of management options. Liu and Taylor (2002) proposed four different aspects for such a paradigm shift:

- *from single-scale management to multi-scale management* that foster effective coordination of activities to achieve stronger integration of options at landscape scale;
- *from within boundary management to cross-boundary management* that incorporates landscape functions within a broader social, economic, institutional and political context;
- *from static to adaptive management* to acknowledge the fact that landscapes are constantly changing due to natural and anthropogenic disturbances;
- *from isolated management to integrated management* by incorporating spatial interactions across heterogeneous landscapes to achieve sustainability.

This paradigm shift must also be linked with integrated natural resources management (NRM), which emphasizes the need for incorporating the multiple aspects of natural resource use into a system of sustainable management to meet the goals of resource users, managers and other stakeholders. The integrated NRM approach combines technological, social, economic and

institutional innovations and methods aimed at improving research and development support services, development strategies and policies, and local capacities to manage their natural resources while deriving their livelihood (Harwood and Kassam, 2003). Linking landscape ecology and integrated NRM will therefore enhance opportunities for adding-value to various forest conservation and management options that are intended to foster sustainable development.

Community forestry in the context of integrated management of forested landscapes

Community forestry as a paradigm for forest conservation and management offers strategic entry points for integrated NRM in forested landscapes because it embodies the fundamental principles of social, economic, ecological, and institutional linkages that constitute the foundations of integrated NRM (Colchester et al. 2003). This workshop hinges on a major assumption *“that community empowerment must be the motor for community development, and for empowerment to take place communities must have access to and sustainable use of all forms of assets available to them, including natural assets locked up in their forests as well as in agroforests and fields.”* Furthermore, the workshop recognizes the need to *“incorporate a wider range of environmental issues — spanning local, national, and global concerns — in analysis and debate on biodiversity conservation, agriculture, land use, and natural resource management.”* It is therefore imperative that community forestry be considered in the context of other local, national, and global interest and priorities for Liberia’s forests. These include the need to protect the unique assemblage of endemic and threatened species, as well as maintaining important environmental services that have both domestic and global values. Because after all, the objectives of community forestry per se will not be the answer to safeguarding all of Liberia’s forests, nor will it meet the totality of community development needs in the country.

Framing community forestry in a forested landscape context requires a conscious effort to evaluate and understand a range of spatial and thematic issues. Spatially, we must establish the existing patterns of forest and land use at the landscape scale. For example, *how are intact forest blocks linked with existing logged forests, secondary growth, plantations, and farmland? What is the baseline extent of these various land uses and how are they associated with settlements, roads, watersheds, etc? Are the various land uses associated with a watershed or river basin?* Many of these issues are already the subjects of major assessment by the Liberia Forest Initiative (LFI).

Thematic issues that must be considered include:

- *Biological and conservation status of species and habitats* -- potential for community forestry, protected areas, agroforestry (see Box 1) and other forest management options to enhance coverage and representation of important flagships, as well as habitat connectivity to enhance resilience of the ecosystem;
- *Social dimensions of livelihoods* – nature and extent of human dependence on forests and forest landscapes for livelihoods and food security (extraction of resources and conversion to agriculture); potential for community forestry to address issues of conflict between wildlife and humans;
- *Economic dimensions of forest resource use* – opportunities for commercialization of forest and tree resources (timber and non-timber products) to enhance income generation as the basis for community development; balancing domestic and global benefits, and potential

Box 1. What is agroforestry?

Agroforestry is a dynamic, ecologically based, natural resource management system that, through integration of trees on farms and in the agricultural landscape, diversifies and sustains production for increased economic, environmental and social benefits. Landscape-level benefits of agroforestry include:

- Creating biodiversity reserves that also benefit local farming communities
- Developing habitat networks in “in-between” spaces (i.e. enhancing landscape connectivity)
- Preventing (or reversing) the conversion of wild lands to agriculture by raising the productivity of land already being farmed (e.g. domestication of high value and threatened tree species).

- for community forestry to leverage rewards for environmental services; and
- *Institutional and policy dimensions of forest conservation and management* – issues of tenurial rights, ownership and control of forests and forest landscape; land use policy for balancing global, national and local interests in the context of development priorities.

Many of the issues are already being assessed and evaluated within the LFI alliance as well as other ongoing initiatives. But how can these be linked and integrated at the landscape scale to ensure that the forests of Liberia are sustainably utilized? An important step in this regard is to identify and define target landscapes where community forestry initiatives will be undertaken, so that these become the focus for influencing community development. The targeted landscapes will need to be spatially mapped and thematically evaluated in accordance with the issues outlined above. Spatial components to be considered include existing and proposed protected areas, concessions, degraded forests, active farms, and plantations. The integrated management will be designed to accommodate traditional or subsistence livelihood practices, ecological processes, species-specific conservation needs, and biophysical changes such as climate change. As pointed out by Sayer and Campbell (2003), this is of course easier said than done, and indeed efforts to foster integrated approaches in this manner are few and far between.

The challenges are mainly associated with institutional and policy processes that must create the transparency and enabling environment necessary for effective management of natural resources at the landscape scale. Hence, community forestry in a forested landscape context must also consider:

- *Legal and institutional frameworks* for forest management and governance;
- *Potential for cross-sector integration* – forests and forest management as a development priority, such as links to poverty reduction, agricultural development and economic growth; and
- *Regional cooperation* – framework for harmonizing national mechanisms and priorities to enhance effective management and conservation of forests across boundaries.

Conclusion: Forested landscape as a foundation for community development in Liberia

The dependence of great majority of Liberians on forest resources makes a compelling case for forested landscapes as a foundation for community development. By bringing together multiple interests and actors in a constructive spatial and thematic framework, improved management of forests can be fostered on forested landscapes for both domestic and global benefits (*Box 2*). Forested landscapes allow for local level livelihood needs to be balanced with forest protection, which in turn fosters sustainability in the forestry sector as a major contributor to Liberia's economic growth. Policy innovations are therefore needed to reinforce integrated NRM as a mechanism to facilitate engagement of multiple actors and leveraging benefits at all levels. This will not only help improve forest governance, but also make forest conservation and management more meaningful to the millions of Liberians whose survival depend on the forest ecosystem.

Box 2. Potential Benefits of Managing Forested Landscapes

- Livelihood options for local people – *top priority in forest management and conservation*
- Effective linkages between protected areas and other land use practices – “*beyond boundaries*”
- Innovations in land use practices to create alternative sources of income
- Opportunities to recognize and reward land use innovations (e.g. payments for environmental services)
- Fostering participatory processes for integrated natural resource management.

Integrating spatial and thematic priorities is a key priority for enhancing sustainability in landscapes. Because forested landscapes create a platform where spatial and thematic issues can be addressed in an integrated manner, there is a need to consistently generate practical knowledge that

underpins the natural, physical, social, human, financial capital assets necessary for community development. Major issues that can be addressed include governance (rights, control and ownership), recognition of the role and importance of multiple actors (from private sector to local communities), establishment of partnerships at all levels (e.g. linking government agencies with civil society), negotiation support systems, and incentive measures for environmental stewardship. Research involving multiple disciplines is therefore necessary to enhance stronger understanding of the linkages and lateral flows among various components of the landscape.

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4.4. The international experience with community forestry

David Kaimowitz, Center for International Forestry Research

It gives me great pleasure to be with you here in Liberia. This is my first time in Liberia, so I cannot tell you anything about forests, forestry, or community forestry in Liberia.

What I would like to talk to you about this morning is the international experience with community forestry. This is not so that Liberia should follow the examples of someone else. Liberians will definitely need to find their own way. I think it is useful though, as you go forward, to be aware of some of the different options and possibilities that exist out there, to help you think about what it might be most useful to do here.

I will divide this talk into two parts. First, I will briefly talk about the main types of community forestry that have been implemented in different parts of the world. Then I will mention some of the main problems that often arise with community forestry projects, so that you can think of ways to avoid those problems in your own context.

Before I go on, let me say that when I talk about community forestry I am basically referring to government policies that support local forestry activities. There is nothing new about communities using forests. Communities have been hunting, collecting forest products, and even selling forest products for thousands of years. What is new is that governments are increasingly supporting communities in those efforts. That is not only new. It is exciting.

The main types of community forestry around the world

Latin America has three main types of community forestry.

- In Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Bolivia governments have given communities clear rights to participate in commercial timber harvesting. This has been rather successful and many villagers have benefited from the process. Most of the communities have also done a good job of taking care of their forests.
- Brazil is famous for its extractive reserves. In these reserves the government gives communities clear rights over the land and forests, in return for the communities promising not to get involved in commercial logging or clear too much of the forest for agriculture. These communities usually earn money by selling non-timber forest products and through small-scale agricultural activities.
- Many countries in Latin America have recognized the territorial rights of indigenous peoples over the areas that they have traditionally managed. This has helped the indigenous people keep out outsiders from their territory. On the other hand, many of these indigenous peoples are still very poor. Many of them would like to have some new sources of income.

East and South Asia are much more densely populated than Latin America. There are large areas of forest there that have been heavily degraded or cleared entirely. Now a number of the governments have decided to give villagers more control over those lands and forests so that they can rehabilitate them. Villagers agree with local forestry officials about how those lands and forests will be used. They have the right to use the forests they rehabilitate for their own subsistence use and to share the revenues from commercial forestry activities with the government. China, India, and Nepal all have well-known community forestry programs like this. These efforts have been very successful at rehabilitating the forests. They have had more mixed results when it comes to higher incomes for the villagers.

In the less populated and more heavily forested areas of Southeast Asia and the Pacific, community forestry is much more focused on developing partnerships between communities and logging companies. These partnerships are designed to ensure that communities share in the benefits with logging companies and that the logging companies do not damage the resources that the communities would like to protect. In Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and other Pacific Islands the communities own all of the forests. In Indonesia they do not officially own the forests. However, since decentralization that have been able to pressure logging companies to share more benefits with them.

In Africa you also have various types of community forestry.

- In Southern Africa there are many community forestry programs that are mostly concerned with wildlife. The communities do things to protect the animals that outside hunters come to hunt and that tourists come to see. In return, the communities receive a part of the money that the hunters and tourists pay. Zimbabwe and Botswana are two countries that have well-known programs of this type.
- In the drier countries of the Sahel there are many community forestry projects and policies that are mostly focused on fuelwood and charcoals. These projects have tried to increase the income that villagers get from selling their fuelwood and charcoal. They also try to get them to manage their resources more sustainability. Mali and Niger are two of the countries that have done the most in this area.
- Tanzania, Mozambique, and other countries also have programs designed to recognize the rights of communities over their forests.
- Cameroon has a well-known community forestry program. It is designed to allow communities to sell timber commercially. However, there are some many requirements for communities to participate in this program that communities can only participate if they have the support of a logging company or a donor projects. This has greatly limited the number of communities involved in the program and the benefits that they have received.

Common problems with community forestry programs

Now that I have talked a little about the different types of community forestry in other regions of the world, let me say a few things about some of the main problems often appear with community forestry programs.

Too much bureaucracy and paperwork: Many countries require communities to have management plans and various types of licenses and permits in order to have the right to manage their forests. The idea is to make sure that the communities manage their forests sustainably. The reality, however, is that all these demands on communities make community forestry programs very expensive. Communities don't have the money or the skills required to produce professional management plans; so they are forced to depend on donors and logging companies to get the support they need. As a result they are not really empowered. In situations where there is a lot of corruption, government officials often demand bribes to approve the management plans, permits, and licenses. For community forestry to really work on a large scale you need a system that is simple enough for communities to understand and control. You can still have rules but they should be simple rules, without a lot of paperwork.

Communities get the worst: Many community forestry programs only give communities the right to forests that have already been heavily degraded or completely destroyed. This makes it very difficult for them to benefit from the forests, at least for quite a number of years, until the forests are rehabilitated. Instead, local villagers are actually expected to invest their own time and energy into rehabilitating the forests. So instead of the programs helping to provide short-term livelihoods, they actually become a way to get the communities to subsidize the forestry services' efforts to rehabilitate forests at a low cost. It is important that community forestry programs make rich forest resources available to communities for their use, both for subsistence and commercial sale. If one wants to improve farmers' livelihoods it is not enough to simply encourage them to plant trees and rehabilitate degraded forests.

Provoking conflicts between communities: When governments give rights over forests to specific communities that allow them to get more money from them that often aggravates pre-existing conflicts. In many cases communities have overlapping claims over forests but those overlapping claims did not create too many problems until the government comes in and gives all of the rights to one of the communities. This makes it very important to have a careful participatory process to demarcate the areas of each community and to resolve conflicts resulting from overlapping claims.

One also needs to make sure to protect the rights of nomadic and migratory groups that may use forests, but don't live in any one particular location.

Lack of transparency in payments to communities: Some community forestry programs lead to companies and governments making payments to traditional village authorities. Many times these village leaders take the money and use it for their own benefit without letting the rest of the people in the community know how much they have received and what they have used it for. It is very important for community forestry programs to let everyone know who receives money, how much money they receive, and what that money is supposed to be used for.

Over-emphasis on collective activities: Collective activities are not always the best approach for community forestry. Sometimes it is better to work with individual families. This is particularly true when it comes to tree planting activities. Most community woodlots fail. At the same time, most small farmers plant trees. They deserve support in that process.

4.5. Transcript of opening remarks

D. Eugene Wilson, Forest Development Authority

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, I would like to take some time you have and provide a few comments. I see on the program that I've been asked to give an official opening of the seminar which is going to run for five days. But I also have been asked to give some thoughts on community forestry as a pillar for forest development in Liberia.

I would like to begin by following those that have spoken before me and say to John Woods, Bob Simpson, the members of LFI and all of the organizers (CIFOR and ICRAF) of such a wonderful workshop: Thank you so much. I couldn't go further to emphasize the good things that they have done. But additionally, what I thought I would do before officially opening up this one part [community forestry] of our reform process, I thought I would give you an overview of where we started some two years ago.

The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) of Liberia commenced requests, [on behalf of the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL)] for the lifting of sanctions at the inception of the NTGL sometime in 2003. We [the FDA] thought the way forward would be to recommend an interim arrangement and try to ask that the sanctions be lifted on the Authority. But later we found out that there was even more urgent need for total reform of the forest sector which would serve as a basis for the lifting of sanctions. In our own experience, we've done tremendous work within the sector. We started with the reform of the commercial activities or the commercial aspects and we've done some good work with conservation; but the only piece that needs more attention has been the area of community forestry. The pillars of the forest sector reform of Liberia have actually three pillars: commercial, conservation and now we have community forestry.

As an overview of the commercial aspect, just to tell you where we are, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) on behalf of the NTGL, has had three reviews of the commercial sector. We've had review I and II and the third level review was just been completed by members of the NTGL and members of the International Community. But further than that we worked with LFI to complete a Manual on how commercial activities will be conducted in the Liberian forest sector. If you look at the manual which will come out very shortly, you will see clearly that we started with land use, we've gone on to environmental impact assessment, we've developed a prospectus of every area, we have bidding guidelines, and we have new contract regulations. We also have asked for new laws and regulations and the enactment thereof in order to make sure that we can sustainably manage the commercial aspect of the forest sector in Liberia. So LFI - John Woods, Bob Simpson and to all of our partners, what would come out in the near future is a new Manual of reform of the commercial forestry aspect of Liberia. That work has been very thorough, and it's been very long. To meet the conditions to the lifting of sanctions on logging, we worked very well with the international community [UN, World Bank, USAID and the EU) and we are proud to say that in a short period of time the commercial reform manual will be presented to the

incoming government. I want to say thank you to John, Bob and those who worked tirelessly at the FDA to make sure we come to the completion of this manual. You need to give yourself a big hand of applause. I believe, with this manual, we have done well with the commercial reform of the forest sector and then we should go on to the second 'C' which is conservation.

Lately, you may have heard that we've been able to clear the forest estate starting with Sapo National Park. We've worked very hard with our international partners and we've been able to work with the ten villages around Sapo National Park. But conservation activities in Liberia have given us a new meaning and we've done some tremendous things. We've worked tirelessly with UNMIL, we've worked also with LFI, and we've been able to clear Sapo Park. And we have also started some work with the extension of Sapo, Nimba Nature Reserve and some other protected areas. So today we are able to report that we have new park headquarters for the wardens and the rangers at Sapo National Park. We have worked with the communities around the park. We are looking into research and other aspects of promoting conservation within the forest sector of Liberia. But we've done well and I also want to say thank you to all of those who have worked in conservation department at the FDA. Please give yourself a hand of applause.

And of course, this week, as John and others have been working; we want to bring to the surface the other 'C' which is community forestry. Now that we've done some work with commercial and conservation, the third pillar is community. So I request of you, as a thought process, to engage yourself as you begin to meaningfully look at the approaches to community forestry. To CIFOR and all our international partners, we are asking your guidance, we are asking the FDA staff and participants to this workshop/seminar, to have an open mind to look at what other speakers have said (or will say), to look at the Liberian context in a unique way. Each country is different; each country has its own challenges. But we are asking that you bring us to the point where we can say we have done well in establishing some reform measures as we've done with commercial and conservation. So this other 'C' which is community forestry, is going to be a new challenge to all of us as we begin to look at approaches, as we begin to look at different levels of institutionalizing community forestry in the FDA. The ultimate good is to make sure that community forestry reaches out to serve the basic [underlying] reason for which sanctions were imposed: that revenues generated from the forest sector of Liberia can now begin to benefit the Liberian people. So it is our idea that community forestry will begin to empower our community residents; make sure that these new approaches [community forestry] that we are sitting through this seminar can develop first as an institution, secondly as a framework to make sure that benefits are accrued and thirdly, to make sure the issues of sanctions can also be resolved.

So ladies and gentlemen, I want to say to all of us here, the FDA, our international partners and LFI, thank you so much again. I want to say to you this is an excellent opportunity to open up the seminar and on behalf of the Chairman of the NTGL, the Chairman of the Board of the FDA and all of those that have been working within the forest sector, members of the commercial sector, conservation, I want to say thank you so much for coming to this seminar and I wish to state here that this seminar is now declared officially opened. Thank you very much, may God Bless you and may God guide all of our work.

Thank you.

5

Closing remarks

5.1. Community forestry in Liberia–What I heard

David Kaimowitz, Center for International Forestry Research

<p>Community forestry in Liberia–What I heard</p> <p>David Kaimowitz CIFOR</p> <p>1</p>	<p>We need the three “C”s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation• Concessions• Communities <p>No more “rich Liberia, poor Liberians”</p> <p>2</p>
<p>Community forestry is about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communities benefit from forests & people respect their rights.• Farmers plant trees to help their families.• Local people & small traders earn more money from selling forest products. <p>3</p>	<p>Liberia needs better laws & regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communal forests & land titles for communities are good ideas.• Including community benefits in concession agreements is good.• Need to find simple ways to recognize customary rights to use forests for commercial & non-commercial uses. <p>4</p>

<p>Many group must be brought in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities • FDA • EPA • Ministry of Internal Affairs • Ministry of Lands and Mines • Logging companies • Agricultural companies • Ministry of Finance • Ministry of Agriculture • NGOs • University • Congress • International community • Farmers organizations <p>5</p>	<p>Don't wait for new laws to start</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules & regulations should be made based on experience. • Try several approaches & see how they work. <p>6</p>
<p>Each region needs its own approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties with lots of timber & wildlife need to benefit from them without destroying them. • Counties without much forest may need to plant trees. • Places with access to Monrovia can take advantage of its markets. <p>7</p>	<p>Capacity building is key</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA, the university, and NGOs need support to help understand community forestry and train people. • Liberians should visit other countries & learn from them. <p>8</p>
<p>Include women & youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest products put money in their pockets. • They have important things to say. <p>9</p>	<p>Shine light on payment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone needs to know how much community leaders receive and what they use it for. <p>10</p>
<p>Liberia can learn as it goes along</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research can help identity lessons & share them. • Workshops like this help share experiences & ideas. <p>11</p>	<p>What would CIFOR like to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support action research to develop community forestry. • Share experiences from other places. • Share our research with Liberian universities. <p>12</p>

5.2. Transcript of closing remarks

D. Eugene Wilson, Forest Development Authority

Today, I think you all need a hand of applause first. I know Dr. Sawyer will be speaking after me, but I thought I would just in a special way, on behalf of the FDA family and the folks we've worked with, we would want to acknowledge your presence [Dr. Sawyer] and say thanks for coming and being a part of our process. I think we have all read the three UN Security Council Resolutions on Liberia, amongst them the continuation of sanctions. And there is one thing that always comes every time we look at the resolutions: revenues from the timber sector have not benefited the Liberian people. And that keeps coming up. And one of the other things we recognize, the words transparency and accountability are becoming very, very crucial and critical within the forest sector. We talk of how revenues have been used inappropriately. And when we took over the past two years, there was one word that was associated with the sanctions issue and that word was 'reform'. So I think up to this point and at the end of 16th of January 2006, the management at the Forestry Development Authority will proudly say that we have put in place a new [reformed] forest sector in Liberia.

But let me begin by sharing with you the vision we started with some two years ago. We realized without a total reform of the way we address the commercial needs of the Liberian forest sector, the revenues will never benefit the Liberian people: funds will always be misallocated and misappropriated. We are proud to say that using the three 'C's approach, we've done a total reform of the commercial sector or the commercial aspect of the forest sector of Liberia in partnership with the Liberian Forest Initiative. Bob Simpson, who has been with us for almost a year and a half, and John Woods, the In-Country Director have all done a sterling job. We've now put in place basically six different chapters of a manual: a complete manual of reform of the forest sector. No longer will you be able to just write a letter to the Managing Director of FDA. He/she will in turn send it down to the Mappers [Forest mapping and inventory] and the folks in the engineering department, they go in there in Zwedru [for example] or over in any county and they do a survey. Because now, we realize the importance of knowing and valuing the resources on the ground. So we've totally reformed the commercial department. The practice of just doing a letter and not a system [survey] and not a clear and transparent process was one of the key reasons why we got sanctions imposed on logging in Liberia. Not all of the seventy concessions were reviewed. We had instances of some concessions, [10 concessions] with over-lapping boundaries and many other concessions claiming the same land, same area space. So we've developed a new matrix, you first look at land use and conduct an environmental impact assessment that gathers some critical information on biodiversity. The information is compiled into a prospectus for consideration by all parties. And in January, 2006, there will be a new procurement law in Liberia where we will tender every concession. So step 1: the land use has to be appreciated, (2) is the EIA, and 3) we write up a prospectus. We send all [documents] for bidding and each potential concessionaire will have to provide the FDA with a forest management plan that puts emphasis on sustainability. When that comes to the FDA, it is reviewed, and let's imagine we have four or five companies bidding. The winner is given a brand new contract that has so many amendments to it. But before all of this we are going to have some new laws and regulations passed at the FDA. So the Commercial Department will put up a new manual on operational reform. We're looking into the cancellation of all concessions. We can't give company A the same area if company B has rights over the same area. So we are going to have a clean slate. There are a lot of legal issues and we are working with the Justice Ministry. That's coming up and we want to make sure we prepare all of this before the new government comes in.

Now on the conservation side, we have just concluded the RAP survey [yesterday], in which we had scientists for over three weeks working with us. They've done a good job helping us appreciate our biodiversity, fauna and flora, and our endangered species. They've gone into the Grebo Nature Reserve. We now see conservation on a different level now. Conservation has helped us clear Sapo Park: our only park in Liberia. There is the Nimba Nature Reserve, the protected area we are also looking at. Now we have a new constructed park facility, with forty bedrooms for our rangers and wardens. We [the FDA] are now controlling Sapo Park. And that

was one of the conditions for the lifting of sanctions – taking back the forest estate. So you see here, I've mentioned commercial reform and conservation reform and now today we are talking about reforming community forestry in Liberia.

The reason you are here today is because the last 'C' which has always haunted us – community – community rights, community advocacy, community planning and community benefits. Some have talked about different approaches, an endowment fund, better land use, agroforestry, tree-crops, all the different techniques you foresters know. We've entrusted you over the last few days to give us suggestions and ideas and new opportunities for community forestry in Liberia. The Government and the FDA can have a true commitment to addressing the needs of our communities and our people. Because whether we believe it or not, our local inhabitants, the villagers, the community dwellers rely on the forest for their livelihoods. Forests mean food and many other multiple uses. One of the issues I want to stress is that in the new social contracts with concessions we [FDA, government, the president, senators and the representatives] are looking at revenues that should go to the people and not to the pockets of politicians. So we need to empower our people through information, giving them back what they deserve and what we have not given them in the past. And I think if we can do that, and we can bring out the third 'C', which is the most important 'C', because commercial activities, conservation activities, all of those should benefit the community and the people. Then we would truly be able to say that we have answered the issue of sanctions and benefits to the Liberian people.

So in a special way I want to thank everyone for this monumental experience. You all have done, for the first time, what has been needed by, not only this administration, but all of the preceding administrations. I want to say thank you, God Bless you. Thanks for such a great job, and we are going to take all of your recommendations. We talk about restructuring the FDA where we have a community department now, a new department [clapping]. Some have disagreed with me, they said "well keep it under conservation". Conservation has got its own plate, it's full. You've [conservation department] got enough to do there with research, biodiversity, Sapo Park, the extended areas and tribal reserves. Let's strengthen the community needs by raising that to a department [clapping] in the FDA and I am of the conviction that once we do that, the folks in the department will make sure that we change. The question that has been lingering over us is how to make sure that benefits from the forest sector accrue to the Liberian people. So I want to say thank you very much to John, who led us in this un-chartered frontier, and to CIFOR. I want to say thank you to each of you because what you have done here today is that you've put a foundation for community forestry in place. And you will go down in history as the planners for the establishment of a new community effort in Liberia.

Thank you very much and God bless you.

5.3. Transcript of the closing remarks

Amos Sawyer, Indiana University

Let me say how happy I am to be here. Frankly, had I known these good discussions were going on here; I would have been here much earlier and participated in some of the discussions. And so let me thank you all and congratulate you for an excellent job. What has happened here, from what I've seen, has struck me in a number of ways. For one thing, the spirit with which and the methods use here were the most democratic in consensus building I've ever seen. So this [even that alone], you take that to the local communities, you had a model of democracy that really would truly work in our various communities.

The foundation for democratic governance, I guess comes out of these types of approaches that you used today. And I want to congratulate you, I want to congratulate our international donors for stimulating this type of discourse: a discourse that has involved looking for common good grounds. We can find a way through which stakeholders, people of different interest can share views, feel [see] the others point of view and reach some understanding. That is fundamental for our society. Congratulations on that.

I think you've helped us here and you've started something in yet another way. The reform measures you're talking about here constitutes a very important aspect of the overall governance reform that we are going to be talking about in our country, the type of reform that deepens local participations. Now we are talking about local participations in terms of the flow of benefit. That is good. That is very important. And we are also talking about participation in terms of decision-making: talking about getting local people involved in the process of decision making and about the distribution of resources and use of resources. Now what is this all about? It is making local people governors themselves. Sometimes politicians talk about democracy in terms of voting. When we think about democracy we just think about elections: the way the politicians come out, put a few dollars in somebody hand, get the crowd together, go to the polls, you vote for the man and you don't see him again until the next elections. But this is democracy: now we are talking about people making decisions about the use of resources. And this is democracy that is linked to development. It is just fantastic, really fascinating. We couldn't get it any better.

So my congratulations in this exercise go to all the stakeholders here. People who are engaged in the commercial logging, local leaders of communities, our international partners all have been able to see each other through the FDA – Forestry Development Authority – and to reach some kind of consensus in these types of activities. Yes, I think this is very important for the new democratic dispensation that we say, we want to usher in. Clearly many of the things that we are doing here have constitutional implications. And what you've done is that you have pointed to some of those legal issues. You know, the questions dealing with land and tenure are legal matters. It means then that we must go deeper, build on the foundations that you are beginning to lay in this type of exercise. So we can only benefit in multiple ways from this. I think the whole forest sector is now beginning to show the way as to how we can deepen our democratic processes. And you know, when you are deepening those processes by giving people a say, you create foundation for stability. You can't get a stable government by coming down every time or by developing your police-force or the army but by not involving people like this. That is how you get stability. That is how you get good governance. So you have begun to set the path. I hope what we see here is copied elsewhere in the use of other resources, such as our water ways, lakes, rivers, streams, minerals and all other types of common resources. Now we begin to really look at how we can involve our people truly in the decision making processes that govern their lives.

The President-elect appointed me and a number of other people to the governance reform committee of the Transitional Commission. I am happy that I would be able to share this experience with my committee member, because I think this is something they should all be very fully aware of. Because down the pipe-line, many of the things you did here would have to be reflected in the thinking of the government and in its actions right from the start.

Thank you so much, everybody, and to Scott for roping me into this. We've been talking about this on and off, sending emails back and forth, from Indiana University. Thank you so much for the great things you said and to John for championing this cause. I don't know all the faces but let me say thanks to everybody.

Thank you all very, very much.

6

Stakeholder views on community forestry

6.1. The role of the local communities in community forestry

Forceh Soloh, Ministry of Internal Affairs

Introduction

About 70% of Liberia's rural dwellers earn their living from forest and forest related products relying on firewood and charcoal as the main source of energy generation for cooking and heating. Agricultural activities are the other major sources of income for the communities. Protection and management of National Forest areas and reserves have been the greatest concern to the communities. Increasing resistance by resident communities and the declining availability of public funds to meet full protection and management of forest resources has forced government and other conservation organization to consider the role of local communities in the protection of biodiversity and forest ecosystems.

From our perspective, it is quite clear that national forest government agencies (e.g. FDA) have not been good in terms of management of national forest resources as evidenced by continuous illegal logging and encroachment onto national parks and reserves by commercial logging companies and locals leading to the depletion of our national resources.

Sub-set 2 of the Liberian Code of Law of 1956 empowered the Bureau of Forests and Wildlife Conservation to take actions necessary for the creation of the National Forest Areas, Native Authority Reserves, Communal Forests and National Parks.

Since the establishment of the Forestry Development Authority in 1976, the issue of communal forests and native authority forest reserves has not been fully addressed. Because most Liberians in the rural areas depend largely on forest resources, forest sector reforms and rehabilitation must restore connection between local communities, FDA and all other forest users. The scope of community (communal) forestry must include local communities as partners in managing their forest resources.

More recently, the Act for the Creation of a Protected Forest Area Network (October 2003) recognizes the need for communal forests and defines them as "areas set aside temporarily by regulation or legally (deeded to communities) for sustainable use of forest products by local communities on a non-commercial basis. No prospecting, mining, settlement, farming or commercial timber extraction is permitted. Other uses are regulated by the designated local community with assistance from the relevant government authority". We feel that this is very important for the communities as they will have forest set aside for cultural use, limited hunting and fishing and gathering of other forest products such as fruits, medicines, rope and tubers. The other forest resources that we have, we use them for our rice fields, firewood and charcoal, but these are not meeting some of our everyday needs.

From a community perspective, we view community forestry to have the following key objectives:

1. Seeks the incorporation of local communities in the management and use of communal forest resources on a sustainable basis;
2. To distribute forest products fairly to all community members so as to meet their household needs (commercial, economic and cultural purposes);
3. For local communities to improve their food security and initiate programmes for poverty alleviation;
4. Encourage other forest users (e.g. concessionaires) to collaborate with local communities to effectively gain confidence and ownership of their community forest resources for economic gain;
5. To identify and build capacity of local level institutions in the management of communal forest resources:
 - a. community based organization (CBO) be encouraged to take the lead for community empowerment
 - b. private institutions based in the community be encouraged to collaborate with local communities
 - c. NGOs, CBOs and local communities collaborate and work effectively towards poverty reduction in forest communities
 - d. to assist and facilitate local communities to work with government agencies in drafting policies and legislation on community forestry.

Strategy

1. Draft a policy document that include the views of the community members
2. Policy should focus on:
 - a. the role of local communities in forest management
 - b. access, ownership and security over resources
 - c. power to negotiate
 - d. preparation of local level management plans
 - e. whom to work with in managing the established policy and plans (FDA, Agriculture, Land, Energy and Mines, Internal Affairs, CBOs, NGO and INGOs)
3. FDA to develop a strategy to ensure that forest resources are distributed equally and are harvested on a sustainable yield basis:
 - a. Timber products (logs, salvaged timber for reconstruction purposes)
 - b. Charcoal production (from natural forests and plantation e.g. acacias)
 - c. Rice production in the low lands
 - d. Other non-timber forest products (fruits, medicines, snails, bushmeat)
4. Encourage local communities to identify strategies to discourage local communities and outsiders from hunting wildlife that is protected in forests and rivers.
5. FDA and CBOs and all other forests users (e.g. concessionaires) to work collaboratively to empower communities:
 - a. Workshops
 - b. Visits
 - c. Information gathering and dissemination
 - d. Raising awareness
 - e. Agroforestry and agro-tree crops have a larger impact on poverty reduction in terms of income generation and food security. Technical assistance to CBOs and small farmers for planting of agroforestry and other tree-crops must be encouraged.
 - The planting of fruit trees
 - Cocoa & Coffee production
 - Swamp-rice production.

Sustainability/Procedure for local community

- Asset distribution of community forest management benefits to the communities
- Social benefits
- Cultural benefits
- Understanding between forest management and community dwellers
- Cultural expression must be enhanced (*poro, sande*)
- Participation in forest activities
- Women empowerment
- Equity distribution
- Economic benefits
- Job creation
- Health
- Education
- Caring for the well-being of the local communities
- Environmental benefits
- Ecosystem restoration
- Proper treatment of waters
- Proper deposition of waste product.

Challenges facing local communities

- Key opportunities for local communities
- Enhance development
- Improve communities livelihood
- Empowerment
- Capacity building & Training
- Develop frame work to attract aid
- Work in the context of the National Forest Law of Liberia.

Factors that hampers development

- Social – create recreation centers, and construct health posts
- Economic – job creation, short term businesses, shop, table markets, saving clubs.
- Culture – work in the context of the traditional societies (i.e., *Poro, sade*, etc.)
- Political – local authority involvement in CBOs, NGO, INGO activities.

How to tackle development to benefit local communities

- FDA should work within the context of the National Forest Law of 1956.
- Work closely with identified community organizations
- Guide NGOs, private farmers and encourage them to work with CBOs
- Help structure CBO to avoid conflict of interests
- Aid for local communities be directed through DDC (district development committee) and flow down to the CBOs for community development
- Equitable distribution of community forest resources is of primary concern.

Where do we go from here?

- Local communities participation
- Job creation
- Health
- Education
- Culture.

How do we get there?

- Driving force for development
- Local communities
- FDA
- CBOs
- NGOs/INGO
- Other forest users.

Conclusion

Local communities in community forest areas do not want to be seen as mere spectators, do want to be left vulnerable and making their lives illusive after years of civil destruction. Our communities want to be a part of the changing time of our society by being a part of the

- Social change
- Cultural change
- Economic change
- Political change.

Thus, the communities are requesting the responsible authority responsible to include communities in the management of forest resources. The communities want to be included in every plan of action to help provide the framework for change.

Summary of presentation by Forceh Soloh, Ministry of Internal Affairs

<p style="text-align: center;">The role of local communities in community forestry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Forceh Soloh Ministry of Internal Affairs</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Why are forests so important</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source of livelihood • Important for cultural activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bush schools for girls and boys • Land for farming • Firewood and charcoal • Source of bush-meat • Source of water of rivers <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p>Problems in forest management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government agencies have failed to control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Illegal logging - Encroachment into national parks - Depletion of forest resources - Address the issue of community forestry - Conflict of interest between locals and CBOs claiming ownership of forest reserves <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>Forest Legislation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liberian Code of Law (1956) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Empowered Bureau of Forests and Wildlife Conservation to set up National Forests, Native Authority Reserves, Communal Forests, National Parks 2. Since the establishment of the FDA in 1976, the issue of communal forests and Native Authority Reserves has not been fully addressed <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lack of regulation for the establishment of a communal forest b. Local communities depend of forests but are not seen as <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Partners ii. Owners iii. Shareholders <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>

<p>Forest legislation (contd)</p> <p>3. Act for the establishment of a network of protected areas (2003)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protected Areas - Communal Forests (set up by regulation or deeded) - Provides a chance for communities to own resources for traditional use on a sustainable basis <p>5</p>	<p>From a community perspective we would like to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate communities in sustainable use of forest resources • Distribute fairly and equally benefits for forest management to all community members • Improve livelihoods, alleviate poverty and secure food • See collaboration between forest users (concessionaires), FDA and local communities • Empower communities <p>6</p>
<p>This is what we think should be done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include local communities in drafting policy and legislation on community forestry in Liberia • FDA to support communities in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timber production - Charcoal production - Low land rice production - Agroforestry (cocoa, coffee, oil palm, tree species) <p>7</p>	<p>This is how we think it should be done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Training – Information gathering – Raising awareness – Power to negotiate <p>8</p>
<p>What ever we do in community forestry, it should be sustainable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we guarantee sustainability? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assets and benefit distribution among community members – Enhance cultural expression – Women and children empowerment – Link with other aspects of life such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Health - Job creation - Environmental protection <p>9</p>	<p>Challenges facing local communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No clear ownership of forest resources • Lack of assets • Lack of information to empower decision making processes • Poor markets (except in Monrovia) • Our forest laws are not very clear <p>10</p>
<p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local communities do not want to be seen as mere spectators • Local communities would want peace and security • Communities would want to be part of the changing times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Social change – Cultural change – Economic change – Political change <p>11</p>	

6.2. Perspectives from small-scale rubber plantation owners

Keith Jubah, Rubber Planters Association of Liberia

<p style="text-align: center;">Community forestry and rubber production in Liberia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Keith Jubah Rubber Planters Association of Liberia</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Mission for RPAL</p> <p>Management of small-scale rubber plantations in Liberia for the benefit of the members</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-plant rubber trees that have been damaged by bad tapping • Organise the small-holders into cooperatives to control production and marketing of rubber • Creating down-stream processing industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – processing coagulum/cuplump – processing field latex to make concentrate – production of natural rubber furniture from old trees • Intercropping cash crops in new rubber plantations <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3000 members • Plantation base is 150 000 acres (20 m trees) • Production is 190 000 dry tons/year <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>
<p>Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land tenure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land deeds destroyed during the war – No legal transfer of deeds to descendents – Most of the land is under the control of tribal authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no documentation • Disturbances during the war <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Legal owners of farms fled for security reasons – New owners just occupied farms (ex-combatants) • Inadequate technical capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Slaughter tapping of rubber trees – Inadequate planting material (clones) <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>Problems (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand for wood energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Trees being for charcoal production for Monrovia/export • Rubber prices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prices too low for the past 70 yrs for the small-holder – RPAL ineffective for a long time – Prices are now improving • Relationship with buyers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Big buyers are also members of RPAL and they manipulate prices <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>
<p>Expectation from community forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifying land tenure issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Government needs to clean up the deeds issues – Government could issue deeds to communities for establishment of plantations in tribal reserves • Benefits to the small-holder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Access to improved planting material (clones) through research and development – Technical training of the producers in management of plantations – Empower producers to negotiate with the buyers – Availability of micro-finances to add value to products <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>Expectations (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of government in protecting interest of the small-holder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Establishment of free market systems • Creating new opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use of old rubber trees for timber production – Charcoal production <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>

<p>Conclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High potential for rubber production in Liberia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provided tenure and deeds issues are resolved – Provided the small-scale producer is empowered – Provided there is financial and technical support – Free and fair markets for products <p>9</p>	
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6.3. Community development agencies and community forestry in Liberia

Ramses Kumbuyal, Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment

<p>LACE and community forestry in Liberia</p> <p>Ramses Kumbuyal LACE</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LACE: who we are • Challenges for rural communities • LACE's response • LACE and community forestry • Lessons • Conclusions <p>2</p>
<p>LACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established by an Act of NTGL • "Community Empowerment Project" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – World Bank support of US\$ 6 mio. • Flexibility in providing financial support • Beneficiary driven approach • Focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Health, education, water & sanitation, productive capacities & livelihoods, rural infrastructure <p>3</p>	<p>LACE ...2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Empower participation in project development and implementation • Development of 'soft projects' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – E.g. HIV/AIDS, youth, gender, peace building, conflict resolution, environment, reproductive health, rural shelter • Monitoring & Evaluation • Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All of Liberia, but prioritization criteria exist <p>4</p>
<p>The Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme Poverty & hunger • Unemployment • Housing • Water & sanitation • Schools • Health <p>5</p>	<p>Response so far</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 communities in 12 districts assessed and mobilised • 13 sub-projects already launched • Average cost US\$ 35,000, 10% own contribution • 30 Community Facilitators and 210 PMCs trained • Aim: 100 sub-projects by Aug. 2007 <p>6</p>

Community Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No projects so far, flexible approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Help to identify needs and sensitisation – Support to community driven projects – Training, e.g. financial management, enterprise development – Vocational training – Provision of small loans <p>7</p>	Lessons learnt so far <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowerment is now a demand • CDD approach proving effective • Importance of coordination and synergy of rural development projects • Shift in attitude of local authorities, support to CDD • Reintegration is working <p>8</p>
Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is possible to empower the communities • Communities know their priorities • Communities are capable of handling their own affairs, with some capacity building support • LACE has the capacity to empower the communities <p>9</p>	

6.4. Community forestry in Liberia

Webby Bwanali, Natural Resources Division, UNMIL

Community Forestry in Liberia Webby C. Bwanali UNMIL <p>1</p>	UNMIL Mandate THE MANDATE OF UNMIL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES UNIT IS TO ASSIST THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN RESTORING PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AS ENSHRINED IN UN SC RESOLUTION 1509 para. 3 (r) 19 September 2003. <p>2</p>
Basic Definitions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Community Forestry (or Community Forest Management) - is used as an all encompassing operational term. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on the role of local communities (usually forest-dependent) in managing forests and sharing the benefits from these forests. b. An important role of Community Forestry is to foster productive relationships between communities, government agencies and NGOs. <p>3</p>	Situation Analysis/Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberia lacks a holistic national land use policy. • Commercial forestry took precedence over both conservation and community forestry within the FDA. • The 1976 forestry law provides for several taxes for both community and conservation purposes, but lacked enforcement. • Community forest management and public participation neglected over the years. <p>4</p>

<p>Case study: NTFP around Sapo</p> <p>Project Goal Empower local people to establish community forests for sustainable use of NTFP.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent shifting cultivation practices; • Address the lack of adequate basic resource conservation education; • Address the limited ability of local communities to properly catalogue the value of non-timber forest products through community-based initiative. <p>5</p>	<p>Project Outputs and Problems</p> <p>Project Output One of the major project outputs was to acquire legal deeds for presentation to the three communities adjoining the target area to authenticate ownership.</p> <p>Problem/constraint Project was scrapped due to the wrong approach: major problems with the acquisition of “legal deeds” of ownership for local people.</p> <p>Although the deeds were processed, they were never signed due to the bureaucracy involved with the finalization of such documents.</p> <p>6</p>
<p>Environmental Law</p> <p>In the process of resolving the matter, the Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia was enacted, which defines the criteria and requirements for the establishment of protected forests and other protected areas. Fortunately, when this law becomes fully operational, the enforcement of this law will supercede ownership and use of any or all protected forest by land title deeds.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Priority Needs for Liberia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a holistic land tenure policy; Strengthen and make the Environmental Protection Agency functional (or institutionalized); • Increased public participation in decision-making and management over natural resources; • Address fuel wood shortages in peri-urban areas (alternative energy sources – eco-stoves (EFA)); • Address information gaps on community-based forest and natural resources management; • Capacity-building and training, information and planning and community/social forestry development. <p>8</p>
<p>Recommended Actions</p> <p>All relevant stakeholders [to] urgently need to convene a consultative meeting to develop the policy and strategize on the way forward on Land Tenure in Liberia (MLME, EPA, FDA, MEAP ETC). The meeting could focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlining the administration and management of the national coordinating framework of all classes of land. The institutional problem is [among] the most difficult one [y] to [re]solve in [the establishment and maintenance of] land use planning and environmental management; • Since the state is the manager of [the] national [patrimony] resources, which comprises the land and the entire environment, it is necessary [the] that the government [Govt] takes a leading role [to] in institutionalizing the basic mechanisms that will facilitate the process. [as it relates to environmental land use]. <p>9</p>	

6.5. Capacity building in community forestry in Liberia

Lawrence Y. Greene, Division of Community Forestry, FDA¹

Introduction

Based on the fact that the concept of community forestry is new, and coupled with the long civil war in Liberia, the development of institutional framework and capacity for communities to take part in community based resource management is a top priority. Historically, the forest sector in Liberia focused mainly on commercial exploitation of timber and conservation. Whilst the need to involve local communities has been part of the policy and legislation, there has been no concerted effort by government agencies in-charge of forestry to make community forestry a reality. During the conflict period, the use of forest resources and revenues to fund the wars is well known and has resulted in the UN Security Council placing a ban on all exports of timber and timber products. The post- conflict period is beginning to see new ideas being infused in the forest sector of Liberia. The 3Cs (concessions, community, conservation) policy is welcome by many Liberians. The emphasis on community forestry aspects provides a window of opportunity to broaden the base of forestry in Liberia, and includes the disadvantaged rural sector of the community in rebuilding the nation. However, it is quite evident that when it comes to community forestry, there is limited capacity at both the national institutional level and within the communities.

Scope of capacity building

Capacity building involves

Building up of the knowledge base, skills, competencies and attitudes of the individuals separately or in groups at all levels from communities to government agencies in order for them to undertake responsibilities assigned to them (Francis 1999; Saxby et. al 2001). At an organizational level, capacity building involves the ability to achieve specific tasks with the resources available to the organization and the institutional framework in which it is operating.

The draft National Forestry Policy and Implementation Strategy prepared by the FDA and FAO for the NTGL in 2005 sets out a strategy for the community forestry management which will include the following activities:

- Establish the rights and responsibilities of local communities (with respect to the forests) and a framework for community forest management that allows communities to maximize their benefits for all potential users;
- Empower local communities to identify opportunities, set objectives and local management rules and liaise with government and other interested stakeholders;
- Provide extension and technical assistance in community forest management;
- Locate and practice community forestry on communal land.

The strategy envisions that local communities will have responsibility for community forest management and that the role of Government will be to create an enabling environment for local communities as well as collaborating community based organization (CBOs), NGOs and INGOs. However the process of planning for and implementing community forestry in any country requires capacity building for all partners and should include the following aspects:

- i) Awareness raising among all sectors of society (government and NGOs) on the government's policy on community forestry;
- ii) Re-orientation of government staff for new roles as advisors and extension agents rather than as policing and concession licensing officials;
- iii) Training of government staff and NGOs on the procedures (tools and techniques) for implementing community forestry;
- iv) Training of rural people to give them knowledge and skills (technical, managerial and financial) to manage their forests.

¹ Based on material provided by Noelle O'Brien, RECOFTC as a result of her fact finding mission on capacity building as part of the CIFOR/ICRAF project.

Knowledge, skills and attitudes required by the practitioner of community forestry

The knowledge, skills and attitudes required by practitioners of community forestry are very different from those forestry officials involved in large-scale concessions. When building capacity for working in community forestry, decisions have to be made on the knowledge and skills base that are needed for successful implementation.

RECOFTC (Regional Community Forestry Training Center For Asia and the Pacific) capacity building review (unpublished) recently identified core competencies associated or needed when working in the field of community forestry and these include:

- i) Participatory learning and planning processes such as PRA, stakeholder analysis, participatory mapping, transects, seasonal calendars and more recently adaptive collaborative management (ACM);
- ii) Facilitation skills to enable free and open participation of the communities, and to identify different levels of participatory decision making, etc;
- iii) Forest management skills such as PRA, planning, silviculture in community forestry context, harvesting and extraction skills;
- iv) Participatory land-use planning;
- v) Adaptive management and participatory action research;
- vi) Partnership development and management (allowing equal linkages with other players such as communities, tribal elders, local authorities, other line agencies, NGOs, etc.);
- vii) Organizational and developmental skills for community organizers (electing committees, developing constitutions, preparing technical and financial reports, leadership etc);
- viii) Documentation and analysis of lessons learnt and to share experiences and feedback into policy;
- ix) Networking.

Opportunities for capacity building for community forestry in Liberia

- i) Identification and appointment a Community Forestry expert to the FDA
- ii) Developing an action plan for CF in Liberia
- iii) Establishing a field-based project to pilot a range of CF models in Liberia
- iv) Training, education and monitoring
- v) Short-term and long-term training, exposure visits
- vi) Formal education programmes
- vii) Capacity building through mentoring.

Summary of the presentation on capacity building for community forestry by Lawrence Y. Greene

<p style="text-align: center;">Capacity building for community forestry in Liberia A Forestry Development Authority of Liberia & RECOFTC presentation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lawrence Greene FDA Liberia</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Capacity Building for community forestry</p> <p>The entire process of planning for & implementing Community forestry requires capacity building for all partners. Important aspects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising among all sectors of society (government and non government) on the government's policy on community forestry; • Re-orientation of government staff to fit them for new roles as advisors and extensionists rather than as policing and concession licensing officials; • Training of government staff and NGOs on procedures (tools and techniques) for implementing community forestry; • Training of villagers to give them knowledge and skills (technical, managerial and financial) to manage their forests; • Building up of knowledge base, skills, competencies and attitudes of all stakeholders. <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
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<p>Capacity for CF in Liberia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Community Forestry in Liberia capacity refers to the knowledge, skills and attitudes of individuals, separately or as a group, and their competence to undertake the responsibilities assigned to them. • Capacity also refers to the ability of organizations to achieve specific tasks with the resources available to them and the institutional frameworks in which they are operating. • Integrated approach needed to develop capacity for CF in Liberia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the development of institutional frameworks – support for resources – the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes. <p>3</p>	<p>Competencies for community forestry & community based forest management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory learning and planning processes – such as PRA, stakeholder analysis, participatory mapping; transects, seasonal calendars, etc. • Facilitation skills - To enable free & open participation from the start of your interaction with communities, to identify different levels of participatory decision making, etc. • Conflict and negotiation/mediation skills. • Forest resource management skills (such as participatory resource assessment and planning, silviculture in the CF context, harvesting and extraction skills). • Participatory land use planning processes. <p>4</p>
<p>Competencies for CF (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership development and management (allowing equal linkages with other players such as communities, tribal elders, local authorities, other line agencies, NGOs, etc.). • Organizational development skills for community organizers – (electing committees, developing constitutions, preparing financial reports, budgeting, leadership, etc). • Documentation and analysis of lessons learned to share experiences and feed back into policy process. • Networking. • Training of trainers. • Information Technology/Computer skills for Government & NGO staff. (RECOFTC Review of Capacity Building for CRNRM 2005). <p>5</p>	<p>Existing capacities for CF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the twenty years of conflict in Liberia, staff from the FDA have had little or no opportunity for further development of their knowledge and skills. • Very little existing capacity to implement CF within FDA, NGOs or communities. • 37 representatives from FDA and NGOs participated in RECOFTC/LFI CF Workshop in November 2005. • 4 people had attended training on participatory rural appraisal. • 3 people had attended facilitation skills training. • 7 had training of trainers. • No participants had any training on conflict management or other aspects of participatory forest management. • No participants had focused training on establishing CF. <p>6</p>
<p>How to build capacity for CF in Liberia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint CF expert to FDA. • Develop an action plan for CF. • Establish field based projects to pilot a range of CF modalities with support from bilateral project. • Training, education & mentoring. • Short and long-term training, exposure visits. • Formal education programmes. • Capacity building through mentoring. <p>7</p>	

7

Finding space for community forestry in Liberia

7.1. Forests and related policies in Liberia

Anthony J. Taplah, Snr., Forestry Development Authority

<p>Forest and Related Policies in Liberia</p> <p>Anthony J. Taplah, Snr. Deputy Managing Director/ Forest Conservation</p> <p>Forestry Development Authority (FDA)</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Defining Community Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective or individual activities and practices centered on trees, forests and carried out by local communities for the sustainable satisfaction of their needs • That aspect of forestry which is intended to serve and promote the interests of rural dwellers who live on the fringes of forests <p>2</p>
<p>Key Opportunities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Real need for community forestry in Liberia to include all stakeholders in national building 2. International support for community forestry 3. Resource base is available <p>3</p>	<p>Legal Basis for Community Forestry in Liberia</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Article 7 of chapter II of the Liberian Constitution 2. 1953 Act Creating the Bureau of Forests and Wildlife conservation 3. An Act for the Conservation of the Forests of the Republic of Liberia 4. 1976 Act Creating the Forestry Development Authority 5. New National Forestry Law of 2000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All forest resources are property of the Republic • Recognizes the establishment of Communal Forests • No action on establishment of Communal Forests <p>4</p>

Present Forest Policy and Community Forestry

- 1953 Act established Government Forest Reserves, Native Authority Forest Reserves, Communal Forests and National Forests
 - No involvement and participation of rural communities in the decision-making process regarding sustainable forest management
 - No revenue sharing/benefit sharing scheme with rural dwellers
 - No definite land tenure system
 - Recognizes privately owned/deeded land but resources are for the state

5

Draft Forest Policy/National Forestry Policy and Implementation Strategy 2005

1. Three Cs (Commercial, Community and Conservation) approach to sustainable forest management
2. Transparency and Accountability
3. Decentralize forestry administration
4. Involvement and participation of local communities/rural dwellers in decision-making process concerning sustainable forest management
5. Equitable sharing of benefits accrued from the forest sector
6. Establishment of a Conservation Department within the Forestry Development Authority
7. A Community-Base Forest Resource Management (CBFRM) Division within the Conservation Department

6

Objectives of Community Forestry

1. Seek the cooperation of local communities in the sustainable management and utilization of community forestry resources
2. Transfer of rights and responsibilities concerning land ownership to rural communities
3. Local community responsible for management of forest resources with the advice and guidance of FDA
4. Address livelihood improvement and poverty reduction schemes among rural dwellers/local communities
5. Ensure that local communities get a share of a benefit accrued from forestry activities
6. To conserve Forests and Wildlife resources

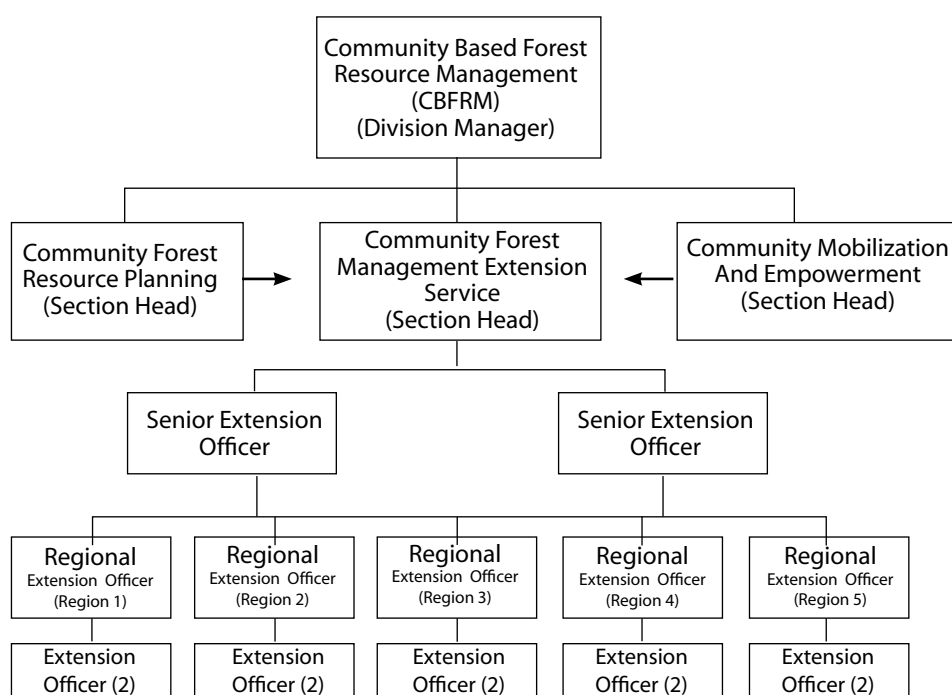
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Status of Community Forestry in Liberia

1. Infant stage
2. Creation of Conservation Department and establishment of Community-Based Forest Resource Management Division at FDA

8

Community Based Forest Resource Management



9

Steps to Implement Community Forestry Starting Up Phase <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation between FDA and local community 2. Formation of community management team/committee by community 3. Apply for a Preliminary Community Forest Management Agreement (PCFMA) 4. Community training from FDA staff 5. Identify and demarcate communal forest with guidance from the FDA 6. Design community based forest management plans <p>10</p>	Steps (contd) Preliminary Phase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of PCFMA • Consolidate institutional management at local level • Prepare management plans Consolidation Phase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA and community sign the Community Forest Management Agreement (CFMA) • Permanent transfer of authority and ownership of forest to community <p>11</p>
Challenges of Community Forestry <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The adjustment and improvement of policies and laws on community forestry 2. Develop rules and regulations of Community forestry 3. Education awareness and funding sources 4. Capacity building and confident building 5. Lack of land tenure system <p>12</p>	Community Forestry Options <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communal forests 2. Reforestation/Afforestation 3. Enrichment planting 4. Fishponds construction/establishment 5. Livestock/Domesticated Animal restocking 6. Wildlife Conservation & Protected Areas management 7. Eco-tourism <p>13</p>
Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights and responsibilities of Community defined • Preparation of Management Plan • FDA/Government provide initial funds • INGO's and NGO's source funding • Donors involvement with financial and logistical support <p>14</p>	

7.2. The land tenure system in Liberia: Finding space for community forestry

Julu Johnson, Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy

Introduction

As our nation recovers from the ashes of war, it is the binding duty of each Liberian professional to give his/her expertise wherever needed so that together, we can improve the lives of our citizens. Community Forestry is one of the ways and means through which we can achieve this objective. Through Community Forestry, our people will be able to appreciate their own environment, the value and usefulness of their forest and in the long term, they will also benefit from community forestry development programs in terms of employment.

In consideration of the importance of the program and the enormous benefits it will bring to our people, we [Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy] have offered to give our contribution to this worthy cause by providing the necessary land tenure information, so that the implementing agents will have full knowledge of what is obtaining in the land sector in terms of the land tenure system in Liberia.

What is a land tenure system?

A land tenure system is that legal, contractual and customary arrangement, whereby individuals or organizations gain access to economic and social opportunities through land. The precise form of land tenure is constituted by the rules and procedures which govern the rights and responsibilities of both individuals and groups in the use and control over the basic resource of land. This institutional perspective requires the formulation of rational land policies that entail government and private sector initiatives. Land tenure in essence, is the mode or manner in which land rights are held.

How are land ownership rights held in Liberia?

Although the term land ownership is in common use, it is not possible in a strict sense to own land itself. It is the right to use land that can be owned by an individual or group. Land ownership rights are held under three different land tenure systems in Liberia. They are:

1. Customary Land Tenure System,
2. The Anglo-American System of Land Tenure, also known as the Deed System,
3. The Land Registration System.

What is customary land tenure system and how does it work in Liberia?

The exercise of ownership rights over land in Liberia began with our ancestors before independence. These early inhabitants were able to formulate a policy that gave joint ownership to whole families within a tribe for farming purpose and the development of towns and villages. The direct sale of land, as an economic resource or commodity to an individual was prohibited. The main emphasis was on the use of the land without payment of any fees. Once the lands were shared among family members, property lines were established to separate families. Live trees, such as soap trees, cotton trees or hedges were planted along boundary lines to show boundary demarcations.

Evidence of ownership depended largely on oral history provided by family members and the council of elders. This system, which served as the first land tenure system in Liberia was practiced largely because there were no surveyors as we have today. The system is still widely used in the interior parts of our country.

What is the deed system of land tenure and how does it work in Liberia?

A deed system is a system, whereby formal surveys are conducted, lands are apportioned by parcels, layouts of streets and alleys are made and title deeds serving as evidence of ownership are prepared, signed by the grantor of the land, and are probated and registered.

After the nation declared independence in 1847 and established a government, one of the major areas of concentration for the Government was the land sector. In the absence of mineral resources to support government operations, the nation depended wholly on revenue accrued from agricultural activities and hut taxes. This prompted a review of the Customary Land Tenure System for reforms. The Government of Liberia observed several defects in the Customary Land Tenure system and decided to abolish it. For example, there were no written ownership records. The quantity of land owned or the geographic location was not known.

The government thought that it would be difficult for citizens to obtain loans from any bank for development without any written legal instrument of ownership as collateral. The Government believed these deficiencies deprived the rural masses of access to economic and political opportunities. As a result, the government introduced a system of land tenure known as the deed system, copied from the Anglo-American form of Land Tenure.

Procedures for acquiring land under the deed system

Under this new system of land tenure, the government required that there would be written records of ownership. In order to allow the new system to work, the government declared all lands within the Republic of Liberia as property of the state and empowered the President to be the Chief Custodian or Trustee. On January 11, 1850, the government passed the private land ownership Act. This Act gave citizens the right to possess/own land. This system was imported to Liberia by the freed slaves who returned from America and settled here.

The procedures for acquisition of land in Liberia are as follow:

1. the payment of a fee for the quantity applied for,
2. the conduct of a formal survey measurement to determine the metes and bounds of the land, and the quantity of land,
3. the preparation of a deed, giving the technical description of the location of the land and the legal commitments,
4. the signing of such deed by the president, since indeed all lands had become property of the state, and finally,
5. the probaton and registration of such deed. All lands acquired under this arrangement were for farming and urban dwelling purposes.

The unfortunate thing about this whole arrangement is that the government of Liberia did not make sufficient efforts to provide the needed logistical and financial support to carry out the surveys required to grant titles to all citizens. As a result, only a few wealthy persons were able to obtain titles around the urban areas, while most of the lands in the interior are still not covered by private ownership titles, thus creating a situation of two categories of lands, namely, public lands and private lands.

What are public and private lands in Liberia?

Public Lands

Public lands are lands that have not been acquired under private land ownership. Lands in this category are mostly located in the interior parts of the country. They are under the jurisdiction/trusteeship of the government. Public lands are acquired under the signature of the President. The legal title of ownership is a Public Land Sale Deed. Acquisition of such deeds starts with a tribal certificate from the elders or chiefs of the area where the land is located, payment of money to government revenue, the hiring of a surveyor who conducts the measurements, the Land Commissioner and the Superintendent who process the certificate, the Minister of Lands who orders a spot check and attests that the land is truly public land, and finally the deed is sent to the President for signature. Once such deed is signed by the President and is probated and registered, it becomes a private land.

Private Lands

Under the Liberian land tenure system, private lands are lands that have been acquired through fee simple (bought) from the Government of Liberia or from another individual who has already acquired a title as evidence of ownership. Such lands are no longer under the trusteeship of the Government. The legal title of ownership is a Warranty (Transfer) Deed. Acquisition of such land lies purely with the buyer and the owner who possesses a title deed. After the conduct of a survey, a deed is made and signed by the owner who is known as the Grantor and subsequently offered for probate and registration.

What prompted the introduction of the land or title registration system of land tenure in Liberia?

In the early 1970s, the Government of Liberia observed that the deed system had many openings that were exploited by some unscrupulous individuals to defraud good title owners for economic gains. Land disputes began to mount due to falsification of land documents. The Government then decided to find a solution to the problem. The United Nations offered to help through UNDP.

By the end of 1973, a law was passed by the National Legislature declaring title or land registration system as the legal land tenure system of Liberia. Under this system of land tenure, the instrument of registration is the land parcel; where as, the evidence of ownership right is a Land Certificate.

Following the passing of the law, a pilot project sponsored jointly by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the government of Liberia was initiated. Montserrado County was selected as the first area for implementing the pilot project. It was envisaged that the project would cover the entire nation to bring relief to the people.

During the period of UNDP support for the project, dramatic progress was made to cover most parts of Central Monrovia. But when UNDP's tenure of support expired and the project was turned over to the Government of Liberia, the entire process began to move at a snail pace, and eventually the project suffered stagnation due to the inability of government to provide logistical and other forms of support. As a result, this system of land tenure failed to cover the whole of Monrovia, let alone the entire country. Therefore, Liberia has been left with all three of the land tenure systems. We at the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy are of the strong conviction that, with the exercise of good governance, the land registration system will gain the necessary support.

Institutional arrangements made by the government to improve the system

The Government of Liberia has made significant progress in the management of land rights by putting into place, the legal and institutional framework to enhance the process. As a first step the Government passed the private land ownership Act in 1850 and established the requisite institutions, namely, the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, the Monthly and Probate Courts in each of the counties and the National Center for Documentation and Archive in subsequent years.

These institutions serve as the legal establishments of government responsible for managing the process of land conveyance in Liberia. The Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy deals with the technical survey and mapping aspects, while the Probate Court and the Archives deal with the legalization of the titles and documentation.

Status of technical input by the government in terms of surveying and mapping

Following the establishment of the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, the government of Liberia launched both sporadic and systematic surveys for the apportionment of parcels for conveyance under the private land ownership Act. In order to achieve this objective, the Government of Liberia gave scholarships to train Surveyors, Draftsmen and Lawyers both at home and abroad. These professionals worked for the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy upon completion of their studies. What had started as a small team of surveyors, draftsmen and lawyers has grown

to a sizable team capable of handling all sorts of land problems in the land tenure system of the country. But achieving the cadastral mapping of both public and private lands has been very slow due to logistical and financial constraints. As a result, the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy cannot determine exactly the quantity of public and private lands in the country. Nevertheless, we can assure you that the level of private ownership has not affected quantity of public lands in the country, as most of the private lands are concentrated around urban cities and towns.

Liberia has also been able to establish a good mapping office through the kind courtesy of the United States Defense Mapping Agency and the U.S. Geological Surveys. At present, more than 85% of the total land surface is covered by 1:1000000, 1:50000 topographic base maps. The country has been able to produce other maps at 1:25000 including 1:1000 town plans. The latest of these maps were produced in 1988. However, since the civil war, mapping has been at a standstill, though there has been a flow of map information through the kind courtesy of some internal organizations who made available to the Ministry satellite imageries and maps dated in the 2000s. We hope this situation will change with the installment of the new government.

Finding space for community forestry within the land tenure system of Liberia

As stated earlier, private ownership of land has not affected the quantity of public lands in the country. This is to say that majority of the lands in the country are under the control of the government. The Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy is certain that there is a sizable quantity of land that has not been transferred to individual ownership around the country. Therefore, the issue of finding space for community forestry is not a major one. What the Ministry needs to know is whether or not, the entire community forestry objective intends to acquire lands that will be used as private lands, lease holds or acquire permits for the use of public lands the same as it is done for community farming without title of ownership. We say this because the Ministry's responsibility is to provide the needed administrative and management control over the conveyance of land and to mitigate any problems arising there-from.

Future plan

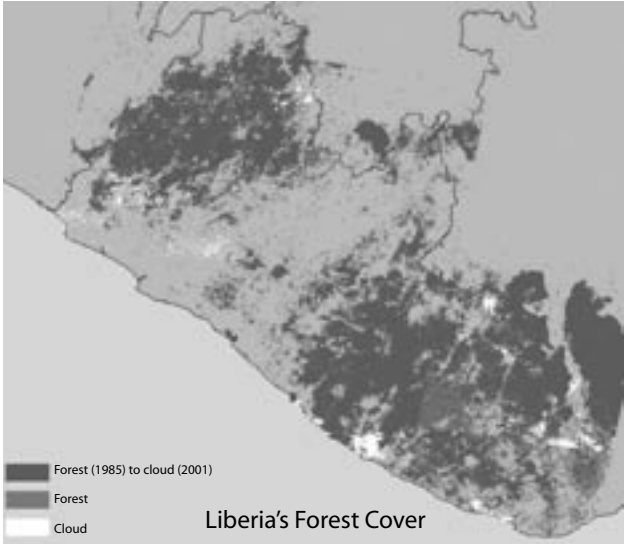
The major task before the Ministry now is to be able to map all land parcels in order to separate public lands from private lands and to liaise with other land agencies to carry out a comprehensive land use classification, and develop a national land use plan, since the basic objective of land tenure is about the use.

Summary of the presentation by Julu Johnson

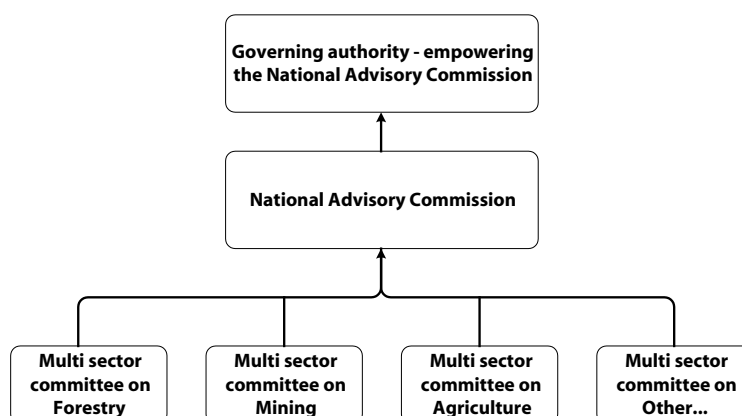
<p style="text-align: center;">Finding space for community forestry in Liberia's land tenure system</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Julu Johnson Dy. Minister, Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>A land tenure system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A legal, contractual and customary arrangement, whereby individuals or organizations gain access to economic and social opportunities through land • Constituted by the rules and procedures which govern the rights and responsibilities of both individuals and groups • i.e. the mode or manner in which land rights are held <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p>Land ownership in Liberia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customary land tenure system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ownership based on oral history of family members and council of elders – Still prevalent in rural Liberia • Anglo-American system of land tenure: deed system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Formally surveyed – Two types: public and private • Land registration system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Introduced to prevent fraud, a titling process – UNDP supported project <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>Public & private lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public lands: under jurisdiction/trusteeship of govt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Legal title: Public Land Sale deed – Deed acquisition begins with tribal certificate • Private lands: acquired from govt. on payment of a fee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Legal title: Warranty Deed – Purely private transaction thereafter <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>
<p>Institutional arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of land rights through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy – Monthly and Probate Courts in each county – National Center for Documentation & Archive <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>Surveying & mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow progress of cadastral mapping due to logistical and financial constraints • More than 85% covered by 1:1000000 & 1:50000 topo base maps • U.S. Defense Mapping Agency & U.S. Geological Surveys have helped • New government to resuscitate process of cadastral mapping <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>
<p>Space for community forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sizable majority of lands under Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy • Thus finding 'space' for community forestry is not a major problem • Ministry needs to know community forestry objectives so as to decide whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Private, leasehold or permit systems • Clear articulation of community forestry and process of development will be necessary <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>Future plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map all land parcels in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – separate public lands from private lands • Carry out a comprehensive land use classification • Develop a national land use plan <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>

7.3. Forest land management planning: Finding space for community forestry in Liberia

Robert Simpson, USDA-FS/LFI

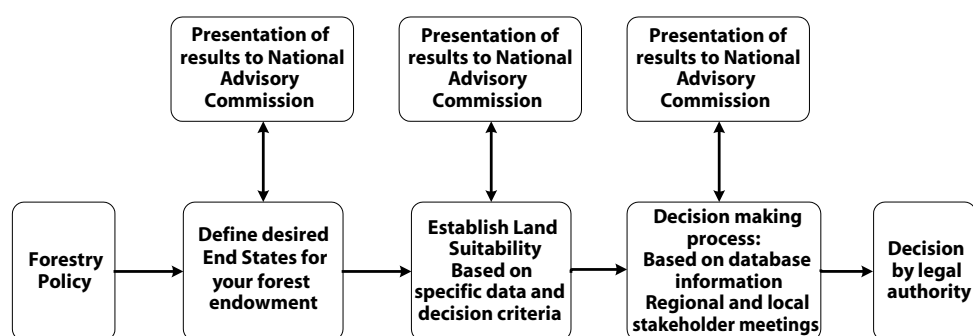
<p style="text-align: center;">Forest land management planning</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Robert Simpson Liberia Forestry Initiative</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Presentation themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions for land use planning • Possible structures for land use planning commission • Reflection on land use planning procedures • Challenges <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Definitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Advisory Committee • Scale and Scope – area and detail by which planning takes place • National Forest Management Strategy – Global large scale strategies to manage forest lands to achieve desired end states • End states – describe the ecological, economic, and social attributes characterizing desired outcomes from land management practices • National zoning criteria – forest characteristics that allow planners to classify forest types for one suitability or more • Management unit – an identified forest area that, for geographic, social, biological reasons, should be managed as whole </div> <div style="width: 50%;">  <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> </div> </div>	
<p>Governance Hierarchy - the planning process</p> <pre> graph TD A[National Policy - interest of the population] --> B[National Development Plan] B --> C[National Forest Policy] C --> D[National Forest Law] D --> E[National Forest Plan] E --> F[Regulations] F --> G[Specific land management action: Concession, community forest, conservation zone] G --> H[Manual of Procedures or Handbooks] A --- I[National Land Planning] D --- J[National Forest Land Planning] F --- K[Regional validation] </pre> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	

Currently in National Forestry Law – National Advisory Committee. However, one could argue that the committee should be more wide reaching. One option:



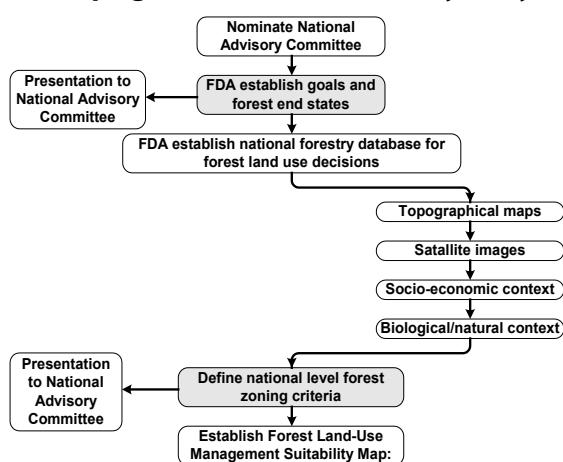
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Basic draft process for land management decision making



6

Developing End-States and Suitability Analysis



At this stage there will be overlapping suitability functions - further decision process should take place at the regional level and involve local stakeholder input.

7


Challenges

- Establish form and function of a "National Advisory Committee"
- Currently there is not a common understanding of the land planning process
- Developing a common data set – identify appropriate scale and scope for assessments
- No legal definition of a community forest

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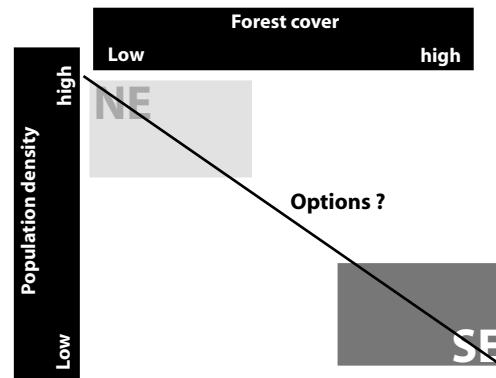
7.4. Signposts from research: Reaching opportunity via diversity

Crispen Marunda, Center for International Forestry Research

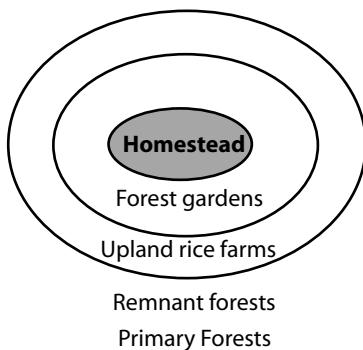
<p>Signposts from research: Reaching opportunity via diversity</p> <p>Crispen Marunda & CIFOR/ICRAF Research Team</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Why research?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information gap of over 20 years • No experience with community forestry • Radical changes to demography, land-use systems • Potential of the resource unclear • High social, ecological and land-use diversity <p>2</p>
<p>Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the potential of community forestry in Liberia 2. Understand the underlying spatial, demographic and livelihood heterogeneity along 3 transects <p>3</p>	<p>Rationale for transects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across Liberia: sample some of the diversity in SE, NE & NW • Along a 'transect': understand changes in landuse, social organization, biodiversity, products and markets from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agriculture dominated landscapes – Mixed agriculture and forest mosaics – Forest dominated areas under conservation <p>4</p>
 <p>5</p>	

Diversity in landscapes

6

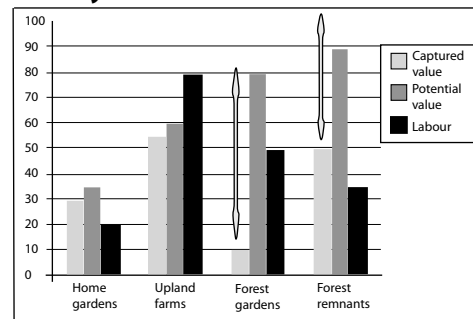


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Biophysical production systems in Sinoe County



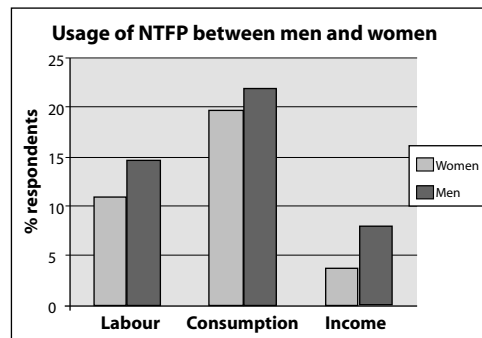
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Analysis so far...

- The largest ready source of rural capital available is in 'nature', especially trees
- There is enormous potential:
 - Timber, NTFPs (incl. domestication) agroforestry
- However constraints exist:
 - Imperfect tenure, Infrastructure, markets, management & processing skills, social organization

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Gender diversity is important



11

Diversity counts!

- Different sections of the community use forests differently:
 - Both a constraint and an opportunity
- Different parts of the country will have different options:
 - Depends on population density, forest availability
- Harnessing diversity will ensure resilient and diverse forests and livelihoods

12

Next steps

- Analysis to continue, reports to be published and disseminated in Liberia
- Policy advice to be distilled • Options and opportunities identified and action research proposals to be developed
- Additional support for capacity building required
- Contribute to clarifying definition, role and potential of community forestry for rural development in Liberia

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8

Physical and social assets available for community forestry

8.1. Biological resources available to communities and their use

Ben Turtur Donnie, University of Liberia/UNDP

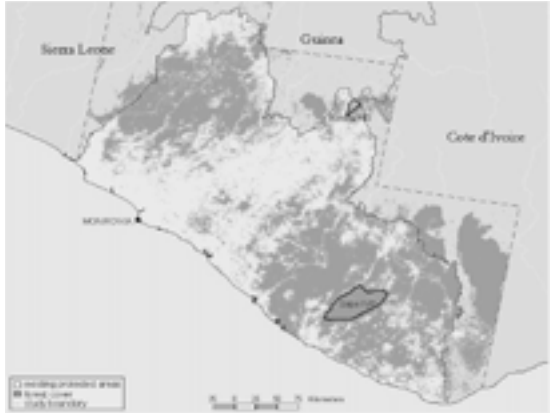
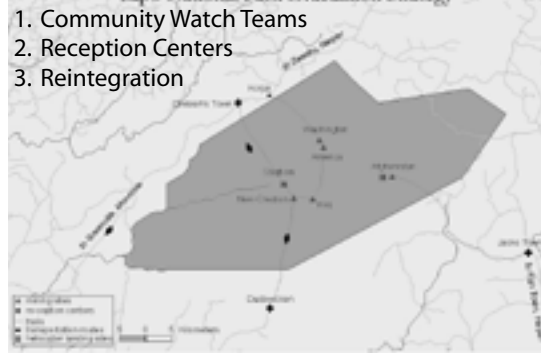
<p>Biological Resources Available as Assets for Community Forestry</p> <p>Ben Turtur Donnie UNDP, Liberia</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Concept of Community Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community forestry is used to describe efforts by communities - those united by a common interest or by a sense of place - to recognize and take advantage of the economic, social, and environmental opportunities afforded by their local forest resource, whether it is public or private. <p>2</p>
<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary purpose for developing a community forestry program is the development of public awareness and support through community outreach and involvement. The key to successful community forestry is an adaptive participatory process, whereas, the planning and implementation involves people at all levels of the community in order to maximize the use of biological resources. The NBSAP recognizes that “sustainable biodiversity management requires a natural balance between and among commercial, conservation and communal uses of forest resources. <p>3</p>	<p>Biological Resources available as assets for community forestry in Liberia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flora species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 2000 plants species. 225 are high forest or timber species. Extensive information is available on the timber species regarding their silvicultural characteristics, geographical distribution and uses, and very little or no information is available on the rest of the plant species. <p>4</p>

<p>Flora species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the information on the lower plants is based on traditional knowledge system. In development of community forestry, there is compelling need to build the capacity of and empower local communities due to importance of traditional knowledge. <p>5</p>	<p>Flora species (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 8(j) of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity addresses knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. It calls on parties to acknowledge, respect and maintain traditional knowledge in the use of biological resources; calls for national traditional healers' association. <p>6</p>
<p>Flora species (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the scientific front, the Convention is fostering the global taxonomic initiative due to the realization that taxonomic knowledge is scanty, and in some cases non-existent in developing countries. With knowledge on 225 out of more than 2000 plant species, Liberia needs taxonomic studies if local communities and scientists must work in harmony. <p>7</p>	<p>Fauna Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 600 bird species. • 67 reptile species. • 193 mammal species. • 38 amphibian species • No information on number of mollusks and other invertebrates. <p>8</p>
<p>Community participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members must be capacitated in the identification, designation and implementation of projects for their forest. Communities must know the resources in their areas-involves public awareness and training for communities. <p>9</p>	<p>Community participation (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of community forestry very new to Liberia has not been fully developed, except for 3 community forests, each 1 square mile or 640 acres, established by the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) and some work being undertaken by Fauna and Flora International (FFI). • Forest products are harvested without involvement of community people. <p>10</p>
<p>What has gone wrong, and looking to the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the present moment there is little commercial use of communal forest resources. • Opportunities to improve rural community livelihood by commercial and sustainable exploitation of forest resources are not sufficiently explored or made available. <p>11</p>	<p>What has gone wrong (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional leaders manage communal areas and anyone wishing to harvest products from the communal forest requires their permission. <p>12</p>

<p>What has gone wrong (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is concern that an increasing proportion of the revenue and benefits from harvested forest products is taken away by outside traders, at the expense of the benefits to the communities in control of the forest resources. Develop codes of conduct and ethics for access to communal resources with provision for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. <p>13</p>	<p>What has gone wrong (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities must retain the control over their forest resources and take measures to remain the principal recipients of the revenue and benefits obtained from forest products. <p>14</p>
<p>What has gone wrong (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to ensure sustainable commercial activities within natural forests a permit system should be introduced, controlled by the community. Communities need to be advised with regard to proper valuation, marketing and management of their forest products. <p>15</p>	<p>What has gone wrong (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to agree on communal and individual tenure rights of the land and to develop clear mechanisms of ownership in order to enable communities establish sustainable use and management of their forest resources. <p>16</p>
<p>What has gone wrong (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the community-based development of agroforestry, woodlots and other applications of forestry to improve rural livelihoods and local conditions. • Set up training programmes to improve community skills in the selection and management of community forests. <p>17</p>	

8.2. Conservation and community forestry

Tyler Christie, Conservation International, Liberia

<p>Liberia: heart of the hotspot</p>  <p>1</p>	<p>Sapo Park Plan of Action</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Process design and preparation 2. Engagement and capacity building 3. Evacuation and Reintegration 4. Community mobilization and development (CCC) 5. Park restoration and management (GEF) <p>2</p>
<p>Sapo National Park Evacuation Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Watch Teams 2. Reception Centers 3. Reintegration  <p>3</p>	<p>SapoPark Elements of Success (...so far)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weather 2. B.O.P.C. 3. UNMIL show of force 4. Community awareness/accountability 5. Medium-term financial support (GEF) 6. Community development..... (?) <p>4</p>

8.3. Liberian communities and the forest

Jeanette Carter, Africare, Liberia

<p style="text-align: center;">Liberian Communities & the Forest</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jeanette Carter Country Representative Africare/liberia</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Liberian Communities & the Forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This presentation will look at several local institutions and assess the implications of these institutions for community forestry in Liberia. • The presentation is based upon the author's research experience in Liberia over a period of 35+ years. • The practice of swidden cultivation, customary land tenure, indigenous knowledge, local governance, and religious ritual and beliefs are relevant to community forestry. • To begin, a quote from Dr. John Gay, former professor at Cuttington University, sets the frame for the discussion. <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p>Liberian (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forest, in short, is the basic and essential source of life and power. The village is where life is lived, but the village is only viable if supported by the forest, that arena of power and danger. But the forest is a finite resource, and is itself in danger from the people who exploit it. The people of Gbansu knew what life is like outside their still relatively remote area. They knew what happens when the fallow cycle drops below 7-10 years between making farms on the same piece of land so that the bush is not allowed to regenerate. They knew that as their population grows they are forced to go still farther into the forest. From <i>"The Meaning of the Forest for a Rural Liberian Village"</i> by Dr. John Gay. <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>Swidden Cultivation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swidden cultivation: extensive form of horticulture in which the natural vegetation is cut, the slash is burned, and crops planted amongst the ashes. • Swidden systems require that farmers have more land available for use than is cultivated in any given year. • Swidden systems are adaptive in situations in which there is a relatively low population density, a low level of technology, and sufficient land to maintain fallow cycles. • When population densities increase and/or when there is no longer sufficient land to maintain the minimum fallow cycle, the system is no longer adaptive. • In a forest ecosystem like Liberia, swidden cultivation helps maintain biodiversity. <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>
<p>The Liberian Case</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberian farmers have efficiently used swidden cultivation for several centuries. • In the past 40-50 years, the system has become less efficient in some parts of the country. • For most parts of Liberia, the minimum fallow cycle required is 7 years. • Population densities have increased in some parts of the country, e.g. Upper Lofa and parts of Nimba, so that there is no longer sufficient land available to the farmers to maintain the cycle. • Competing uses of land have taken land out of the fallow cycle. <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>The Liberian Case (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivation of tree crops such as cocoa, coffee, rubber, and oil palms permanently removes land from upland rice cultivation. • Establishment of concessions permanently removes large areas of land from cultivation by small holder farmers. • Forest reserves also remove land from swidden cultivation. • The major technological change in smallholder cultivation has been the introduction of the chain saw that has permitted farmers to cut higher bush. <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>

Implications for Community Forestry

- Farming, especially rice cultivation, will continue to be the major activity of people in areas where community forests are to be established.
- The community forests must exist alongside farms.
- At this time, there is not a proven alternative to swidden slash and burn cultivation to offer farmers.
- While lowland cultivation may be appropriate in some areas, it has not yet been proven to be a viable long term option for most smallholder farmers.
- Some form of upland cultivation is necessary.
- Long term cultivation of swamps has ecological implications that are not yet understood.

7

Implications (contd)

- Labor inputs are different for upland and lowland cultivation.
- The composition of the rural labor force in Liberia may have changed significantly in the past two decades.
- Alternative systems of upland cultivation need to be introduced and tested.
- An alternative system must be compatible with forest management systems.
- There is an urgent need for research on farming systems in Liberia that will focus upon the broader links between cultivation and the forest.

8

Customary Land Tenure

- Customary land tenure is based upon USE RIGHTS and not OWNERSHIP.
- Individuals have the right to use land based upon their membership in a particular family or lineage.
- No user can given away land or otherwise alienate it. If land is not being used, the "owner of the land" may allocate it to someone else.
- The "owner of the land" may allocate land to "strangers" who generally were not allowed to plant tree crops or engage in other activities that would permanently remove the land from the swidden system.
- The system of use rights maintains the integrity of valuable resources by preventing the loss of resources through subdivision and conversion to other uses.

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Customary tenure in the Liberian system

- The statutory land tenure system involving deeds has been superimposed on the customary system throughout rural Liberia.
- The statutory system does not recognize the concept of use rights, creating the potential for conflict.
- The "selling" of land by chiefs undermines the integrity of the customary system in which they were custodians of the land rather than owners.
- This practice has become one of the major sources of tension in rural communities.
- In the past, access to farming land was not an issue in much of rural Liberia.

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Customary tenure (contd)

- As population has grown and as competing demands for land have increased, young people in particular now have difficulty obtaining land through their membership in families or kin groups.
- Reform in the land tenure is urgently needed that recognizes the use rights of smallholders and that will guarantee them security of tenure.

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Use Rights and Community Forestry

- The customary system of use rights in land rather than ownership is relevant to the management of community forests.
- The concept of custody or stewardship is central to the management of community forests.
- Rather than viewing swidden cultivation and customary tenure as threats to conservation and management of the forest, we need to look at how these can better be used to support forest management and conservation.

12

<p>Local governance in Liberia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberian government structures have been superimposed on historically-based local political systems. • Historically, there were two major systems in rural Liberia. One was the more authoritarian and hierarchical system found in much of western and northern Liberia among the Mande and Mel-speaking groups. The other was the more egalitarian and decentralized system found in southeastern Liberia among the Kwa (Kruan) speaking groups. • The administrative system that once focused on a system of town chiefs, clan chiefs, and paramount chiefs has been complicated by the introduction of townships and cities headed by mayors. <p>13</p>	<p>Local governance in Liberia (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The political system that has evolved throughout Liberia is based upon patronage in which local communities are linked to the national political system through the network of ties between the chiefs and the representatives of the national system. These include the county superintendents, senators, representatives, cabinet ministers, and, finally, the president. • While there may be aspects of local governance, especially when these are democratic, that may be useful in developing management systems for community forests, the wider patronage system is not compatible. <p>14</p>
<p>Ethno-science or Indigenous Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Liberians have a complex body of knowledge regarding the forest and its utilization and management. • Research is needed to document these systems of knowledge. <p>15</p>	<p>Quoting from John Gay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first and over-riding fact is a taxonomy which divides the world of “things” into the things of the village and the things of the forest. The village consists of human beings and what they produce. The forest consists of the animals and plants on which people depend, as well as the mysterious and powerful genii, spirits, dwarfs, witches and especially the secret society leaders who control the deep affairs of life. The forest is the primal arena, the setting within which people must make their lives and create a moral order. The village is the ultimate human artifact, which is set over against the forest while at the same time using the forest to make human life possible. The village is thus an “artificial” overlay on the “natural” forest. Its identity was clearly displayed by the vine which originally stretched around the houses, protecting the settlement and defining it against the surrounding forest. From <i>“The Meaning of the Forest for a Rural Liberian Village.”</i> <p>16</p>
<p>Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historically, the management of the forest involved concepts or beliefs of the supernatural and rituals that validated these beliefs. • Secret societies such as the Poro and Sande in western and northern Liberia and the Kwiin southeastern Liberia were central to forest and community management. • The role of these societies in contemporary Liberia is not clear. These institutions functioned in relatively homogenous communities in which residents were either members of the societies or recognized and accepted the authority of these societies. • Liberian communities today are increasingly heterogeneous and the legitimacy of these societies is no longer unquestioned. <p>17</p>	<p>Religion (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “bush schools” at the core of Poro and Sande were the major educational institutions in rural Liberia. • The lengthy initiation schools are probably no longer viable. Further the suspension of society activities during the lengthy civil conflicts has left a generation of young Liberians uninitiated. • There are also practices and beliefs associated with these societies, that many Liberians now consider inappropriate or abhorrent. • The expansion of Christianity and Islam have further changed belief systems. <p>18</p>

Religion (contd)

- Liberians will have to look carefully at institutions like Poro, Sande, and Kwito identify those aspects that may be relevant to forest management and conservation.
- In many rural Liberian communities, there is forest land that is considered sacred and to which access and utilization is limited. These sacred areas have preserved areas of high forest near many communities.
- Outsiders are not privileged to know the nature of the sacredness. Violation of these sacred areas is considered a most serious matter and can result in major sanctions against the violator.

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In concluding, Dr. Gay's comments are again appropriate:

- The people during our stay in Gbansu who knew and cared about the land, about the balance between the forest and the village, were largely the older unschooled village residents. They were the ones who knew the trees, the plants, the varieties of rice and other crops which would flourish on each of the various soil and vegetation types. They saw the forest as their life. The younger educated "kwii" people who have often studied or lived or worked outside Gbansu, on the other hand saw the forest as a source of quick profit, and they are the ones who worked to cut it down and tame it. They have forgotten, or don't want to remember, the wisdom of their fathers and mothers, who knew that people must remain in balance with the forest, if both are to survive, who knew that the forest is not just a source of raw materials, but rather is a place of mystery, danger and power.

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In concluding, Dr. Gay's comments (contd)

- We hope that such knowledge can be passed on and respected, when once again Liberia returns to peace. We have seen the warlords rip through much of the Liberian forest, to get quick profits from timber, rubber, gold and diamonds. The old way of life has suffered a serious blow during these years of civil war, but we also must remember that the mind set which led to the war and the destruction of Liberia's forests was present even before the war. The wealthy were even then grabbing the land for short-term wealth, and forgetting the wisdom which the old unschooled people of Gbansuknew. God willing, the old wisdom will be respected in the new Liberia, and the forest will continue to be the source of life. Liberia will have another chance when peace comes. If the forest is not respected in the way that the residents of Gbansu respected it, that chance will be lost.

21

What Next?

- Need to define "community" in the context of community forestry management.
- Liberian society is increasingly complex and diverse. "Communities" are no longer homogenous.
- Plans for managing community forests will have to consider the nature and range of diversity in Liberian society and culture.
- There is a critical need for research on a number of topics pertaining to the historic management of forests and the current situation.

22

8.4. Prospects for community forestry in Liberia? Understanding the role of gender and age-based conflict

Notes by Paul Richards, Wageningen Agricultural University with
Wata Modad, WOCHIRRC (comments in italics by Wata Modad)

The following notes reflect findings in two reports – Community cohesion in Liberia – a rapid post-conflict social assessment (Richards et al. 2005), and Land, agriculture and conflict in West Africa: Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone (Chauveau & Richards 2005).

The first report provides a context for debates about community-driven reconstruction post-war Liberia. It shows that because of the country's history the very notion of "community" is highly politicised and problematic, and that establishing civil society and social cohesion requires considerable debate among Liberians.

The second report frames a discussion about land, property rights, and youth and gender issues to be addressed in any discussion of deep causes of conflict in three neighbouring countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire).

There is wide agreement that the monopolization and "private" use of national resources (notably minerals and forests) have been among the causes of conflict in Liberia. The 1986 constitution provides that forest resources should be used for the benefit of all Liberians. Logging was the mainstay of the presidency from 1997 to 2004, but there was little if any accountability to ordinary Liberians.

This has not been so, the resources are used by the few ruling "high ups" and the masses depressed and even the area the resources are mined are left undeveloped.

Post-war proposals for the forestry sector include the idea of stimulating "community" participation in forest ownership and management. But there needs to be some clarity about what the "community" comprises in much of rural Liberia, and why some basic problems of civil society must first be addressed if "community" forestry is not to be a source of new tensions.

This problem has to be addressed adequately; the central government should give absolute ownership to the rural dwellers.

In Liberia the state owns the land, and can grant rights of deeded ownership to settlers and those it deems "civilised". Traditional land use rights are also recognised (villagers are entitled to use land needed for subsistence farming and other customary purposes). Communities deemed sufficiently "advanced" can apply to have their farming lands delimited by "metes and bounds". Village elders then serve as trustees of a collectively owned territory. Some communities closer to Monrovia have had their lands documented in this way. The majority of villages have not had their lands demarcated. Most Liberian villagers are (in effect) recognised as users but not the owners of the land they farm.

The same as above. The villagers pay taxes and as such they should be made to feel that they are Liberians and not strangers at home. The government should let them take ownership of their land.

Government-appointed land commissioners administer land matters in each of the 15 Counties. They certify land ownership and land occupation, and are able to grant unoccupied land to new users.

This should be decided by the villagers and elders and not the government or their representatives.

Unoccupied forest land clearly belongs to the state. Although much of south-east Liberia remains thinly populated there would be a lot of debate locally as to how much forest land is truly unsettled. Foresters generally reckon there is little if any pristine forest in the Upper Guinean forest block. Even government reserves frequently contain old village sites, graves and other signs of habitation (old fruit trees in the forest). Locally, signs of former occupation are deemed to signify that such land ought to be regarded as (potentially) community trust land, marked by "metes and bounds".

I believe the government can only own a reserve if it is for the purpose of farming or wild-life. Other than those reasonable purposes and there should be no reserve land for the Central government.

Rural communities in Liberia are governed by a hierarchy of (mainly) government-appointed chiefs (indirect rule). This means that the government recognises traditions and customs, but (in effect, through its capacity to appoint and depose chiefs) exercises great influence over how “customary” power is deployed. Some customs – e.g. with regard to marriage and inheritance of property – tend to favour male elders and bear down onerously on women and youth. These have been the subject of recent reforming legislation (see below).

Until the central government can realise that these people have customs and value them, they[government] will not receive honesty and loyalty. Right now there is no patriotism in the Liberian people towards the state. The people feel that they have no say in decision making power on state matters, and that those who make decisions only do in their own and family interests.

In common with much of the neighbouring Upper Guinean forest rural communities in Liberia tend to be the products (historically, and culturally) of what is sometimes termed the “lineage mode of production”. Analysts have proposed two variants.

True

In a benign form, members of the community are positioned by being born into “family” groups descended from founding ancestors deemed to have cleared and settled the land. Young people (including women of marriageable age) respect and serve a “class” of elders in return for assuming their positions later in life. “Fictive” kinship is allocated to outsiders, who become absorbed within lineage groups.

In a less benign variant chiefs long linked to merchant interests form a distinct customary “capitalist” class, accumulating the labour of young men through control of their marriage prospects, and declassifying the disrespectful through court cases and ritual sanctions (in the olden days rebels would have been sold). Young commoners become an under-class of clients, or leave the village altogether (risking losing community land rights). Banishment for the unruly remains common, and has fed militia activity.

This is summed up by one Liberian informant as follows: [The chiefs] fine us too much for any small thing. Because we are poor, we cannot pay. So somebody ‘buys’ our case, and then we have to work for that person, and for the chief. This means we cannot work for ourselves, so we get poorer, so some have to steal to survive and, when...caught...get fined again. We don’t call this justice...it [is] jungle justice...the only outcome will be back to war.” (participant in a youth focus group, Margibi County, Liberia, August 2004).

This is true for some African countries but not true for Liberia..

The constraints on young women in rural areas are even more severe. They continue to marry very young, with the family accepting a bride price (“dowry”). Husbands tend to be older, and wealthier. Young men lack the resources to pay bride wealth. A requirement to refund the bride price to the husband’s family on divorce will keep a daughter from a poor household in an unsatisfactory marriage to her disadvantage. Rural women find it hard to establish ownership over property or land. Land belongs to the lineage of the husband. Even her own children are (traditionally) considered to belong to the husband.

This is very true especially some time back when the bride price was \$40 but refund was \$100 which made it hard for women to be freed.

Marriage rules also foster “criminality” and vagrancy among impoverished young men, who, unable to pay bride price, form unauthorised unions, and then find themselves charged with the tort of “woman damage” in local courts. As the informant quoted above remarks an elder might then choose to “buy” the case, and the fine is commuted to labour. This reproduces the young man’s poverty, until the point comes when he chooses vagrancy. His subsequent hyper-mobility feeds urban street life, petty criminality, squatting (in forest reserves) and militia recruitment. Having broken ties with the rural community there is no easy path to re-integration based on community land resources.

Militia recruitment only happened for the first time to my knowledge during the 1990 rebel activities

Healthy rural development requires mobility of labour, but not the “one way” mobility associated with labour exploitation in lieu of fines for breaking traditional sanctions. It seems clear that Liberia will have to find other solutions to binding young people into post-war rural

civil society than the reassertion of traditional laws relating to marriage and land. Many of the limitations of customary marriage laws have, indeed, been recognised. A new law on marriage and women's property was passed by the Liberian Senate in November 2003, but much work remains to be done to make this new law effective in rural practice.

In the past the central government has not informed the citizens on matters affecting them. This is one of the reasons Liberians get rumours around fast because they want to be informed. This should be addressed properly so the people can be informed and not deprived of information.

Perhaps as serious a challenge is to facilitate a transition from "custom" to "contract" in regard to rural labour and land use. Existing communities are not what they appear. An illustration will help make the point.

The present authors recently took part in a village discussion in which men, women and youth spoke separately. But the youth spokesman sat with the elders, and the women did not speak at all, apart from an acknowledged woman's leader. The silence of the women extended also to the break-out sessions. Further enquiries elicited the explanation that many of the women and youth were "strangers" (war-induced internally displaced persons). They were deemed to have no right to speak. The right-holders remained in town or overseas.

Needless to say effective community action for forestry or other forms of participatory land management cannot be predicated on two communities – a disempowered group of those actually present, and a shadowy group of right-holders located elsewhere. It is increasingly common (in Liberia, as in other West Africa regions) that land users are not rights holders. In these circumstances tradition acts not as a guarantor of the rights of the poor (as conceived under the benign version of the lineage mode of production) but as a way of dividing the interests of users and owners in the direction of land exploitation.

Ways must be found to bring both groups into conversation, and to devise win-win solutions, based on both technical innovation in resource management and innovation in land tenure institutions. The objectives are clear – courts prepared to protect guaranteed short-hold tenancies framed as clear, contractual agreements, and the insertion of conservation or land quality enhancement criteria into such agreements. A land reform clearly focused upon tenancy agreements is now as badly needed in Liberia as the recent marriage reform focused on women's property and the labour exploitation of youth.

These – we would argue – are essential pre-requisites for community forestry initiatives, if such action is to avoid the trap of reinforcing the social forces responsible for the disempowerment of rural women, youth hyper-mobility and war-inducing vagrancy.

As summarised above, the way forward starts from the central government. The central government has to make the people (rural dwellers feel the formed government belongs to them – for them and by them) and make them feel accepted and belonging: the government for the people and the people for the government.

The villagers must own the land and be made to develop it for the community. Once they feel the land and the resources therein are theirs they then become patriotic and develop love for the country, the government, the land and the people they choose to lead them.

The government should employ or contract experts to collect information history from every tribe, areas, counties, chiefdoms and clans to get the clear picture about the people, culture and customs which will be the real true history of Liberia, not guess work.

That contracts should start from the local communities and preconditions to contracts should deal with hospitals, road construction, university, electricity and water. The raw materials must be processed in the local community which will create jobs and improve these areas.

9

Livelihoods, products and markets

9.1. Cocoa as a source of sustainable livelihoods

MacArthur Paybayee, Sustainable Tree Crops Program, IITA

<p>Cocoa as a Source of Sustainable Livelihoods in Liberia</p> <p>MacArthur Paybayee IITA, Liberia</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Outline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of the cocoa/tree crops sector in West Africa and Liberia • Contributions of cocoa systems to sustainable livelihoods • Sustainable Tree Crop Program • Liberia Specific Situation (Production constraints and Related Matters) • The STCP/Liberia Project Overview <p>2</p>
<p>Biodiversity contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible with food crops during establishment (e.g. plantain, cassava, cocoyam, banana, pawpaw) • Compatible with indigenous and exotic fruit and non fruit trees (e.g. oil palm, avocado pear, bush mango, African plum, mahogany) • Provides connectivity between land uses (habitat & resources for plant & animals) • Maintains carbon stocks and hydrological services <p>3</p>	<p>Liberia specific situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil war between 1989-2003 • Hundreds of thousand of Liberians scattered across the face of the globe • Complete disruption of the economy, including agricultural and destruction of agricultural research system • Extreme poverty: the proportion of Liberians living on less than \$1 a day increased from 51% to 76% in 2001 <p>4</p>

Cocoa Production in Liberia

- Major cocoa producing counties – Bong, Lofa and Nimba
- Most farms abandoned
- Poor planting practices at the time of farm establishment resulting in:
 - High density of cocoa trees/ha
 - Tall, multi-stemmed cocoa trees
 - Heavy shade

5

Major cocoa growing areas



6

Production Constraints

- High pest/disease pressure (especially *Phytophthora palmivora*)
- Poor husbandry and post-harvest practices
- Low/no input use
- Lack of suitable improved planting materials

7

Marketing constraints

- Low farm gate price (\$0.17/kg)
- Very bad road conditions
- Middlemen provide inputs at prohibitive prices
- Unscrupulous business practices (middlemen also monitor prices and quality)
- No access to farm credit

8

Policy Issues

- Lack of a national agricultural policy
- Almost completely non-functioning marketing board (non-liberalized system)
- Overlapping functions of government institutions (MOA, LPMC, LFU, CDA, etc)
- Lack of monitoring mechanisms for pricing and quality control

9

Farmer organizations

- Poorly organized and managed
- Lack of training and supports for farmers' organizations - FOs
- Lack of marketing information for FOs
- Lack of warehousing space

10

Proposed Project Site



11

Production support activities

- Baseline surveys - Current practices, farmers organization and other stakeholders
- ICPM FFS (integrated crop and pest management and farmers field school)
- Introduction of improved planting materials
- Training on nursery and farm management and post-harvest techniques

12

Strengthening farmer organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training needs assessment • Grouped sales • Linking savings and loan schemes • Warehousing arrangements • Accessing inputs • Linking farmers' organizations with buyers • Market information 	Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to MOA for policy development, including the issues of overlapping functions of agricultural institutions • Assistance to Government for redefining roles of the marketing board • Assistance to Government for determining roles of research (and probably re-establishing the research station at Suakoko)
13	14

9.2. Trees and livelihoods around Sapo national park

Peter Mbile, World Agroforestry Centre

The presentation broadly illustrate how a careful analysis of revenue, social, spatial, management and investment planning issues around trees, tree systems and their products can help us provide development support through research in community forestry in Liberia.

Trees, Tree Products and Livelihoods

Mbile Peter
ICRAF, Africa Humid Tropics

1

Presentation Plan

- Multi-purpose trees/plants in SINOE and NIMBA counties
 - Tree/plant products with higher potential benefits
 - Tree/plant products with moderate potential benefits
- Services of Multi-purposes Trees and possible ways to finance resource renewal
- Lessons from Cameroon: MPTs

2

Tree/plant products with higher potential benefits

Multipurpose Tree Resources in SINOE and NIMBA counties	Citations from socio-economic survey	'Number Big enough to matter economically' (BETME)
Timber	13	9 timber species
Medicinals	6	none
Edible fruits		
– Forest fruits/nuts	2	1 (walnut)
– Domesticated trees	6	3 (cocoa, rubber, coffee, oil palm)
Spices	1	1 (Piper guinensis)
Loal materials	5	1 (rattan)

3

Tree/plant products with moderate potential benefits

Multipurpose Tree Resources in SINOE and NIMBA counties	Citations from socio-economic survey	'Number Big enough to matter economically' (BETME)
Medicinals	6	6 (Multipurpose trees species)
Forest fruits/ stimulants		3 (Garcinia, <i>Irvingia</i> spp., <i>Cola</i> spp.)
Spices	1	1 (Wollor)
Local craft materials		2 (Bamboo and ropes from tree bark)

4

<p>Timber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber is 'big enough to matter economically • Data for forecasting & value estimation can be acquired at short notice and at reasonable cost • Expected Yield data & Net Present Values using fiscal, economic and production data can be estimated to reasonable accuracy <p>5</p>	<p>'Cash crops'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubber, cocoa, coffee and oil palm are potentially the next most important sources of economic wellbeing • Even for new plantations Expected Yield data & Net Present Values using fiscal, economic and production data can be estimated to reasonable accuracy • To support conservation, methodologies exist to develop multi-strata systems, to support their development with minimal need for additional data within the short to medium term <p>6</p>
<p>Spice plants and forest fruits/nuts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would require additional resources in time and material to acquire data of reasonable quality and completeness to evaluate economic potential and develop management regimes • However successful value-addition can improve marketing of Walnut, <i>piper guinensis</i>, and rattan in the short-medium term before renewal methods are developed in the medium to long-term • <i>Garcinia Kola</i>, <i>Irvingia</i> spp., and <i>Cola nitida</i>, can also be recruited into this group, progressively <p>7</p>	<p>Medicinal plants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional pharmacopoeia remains valuable and local use will continue to be important • Unfortunately no equivalents to <i>Prunus Africana</i>, <i>Pausinystalia yohimbe</i> and say Voacanga were identified • Studies elsewhere even suggests almost equal use of 'modern' medicine and traditional pharmacopoeia by low income people • Long-term collaborative ethno-botanical research, standardization, processing/ packaging will help formalize and main stream this sector <p>8</p>
<p>A Domestication Strategy for Liberia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure growth, sustainability and balance in the Trees, Tree products and tree services development sector • Continued identification of new products, recruitment of new resource species and understanding tree services flows at landscape scale • Managing individual species/products, walnut, <i>Piper guinensis</i>, rattan, <i>Garcinia</i>, <i>Cola</i> spp., wollar and <i>Irvingia</i> spp etc. • Managing trees in systems: community forests, agroforests, their location, management and relationships to other uses... <p>9</p>	<p>Services of Multi-purposes Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monocultures of cash crops though profitable are not often the most environmentally rational choices • Renewal of the trees and tree resources will significantly strengthen the natural asset base • Proceeds from timber can finance domestication but why should they when other beneficiaries exist elsewhere? <p>10</p>
<p>Paying for services that trees provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multipurpose tree assets on watersheds, as part of soft edge management will support biodiversity, enhance water services, gene-flows and pollination services • Who are the beneficiaries of these ESs? Where are they located within the landscapes? Should the beneficiaries be identified and made to pay more for these ecosystem services provided by multi-purpose trees? • How best can we finance the renewal of Liberia's trees and their resource? Can the 'Market' do it? <p>11</p>	<p>Multipurpose Tree Management in Cameroon: <i>Bailonella toxisperma</i> - Lessons for Liberia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflicts of interest over this tree is pitting husband against wife, pygmy against bantu • Its exploitation is pitting traditional authorities against new elite and concessionaire against civil society • Vulnerable groups, women, children, pygmies and the uneducated are losing out • Can these be averted in Liberia? <p>12</p>

9.3. Excerpts from the speech on private sector and community partnerships: Experiences from Firestone

Steve Snoh, Firestone

- Firestone has over 80 years experience working with communities in Liberia.
- Land provided to Firestone by the Government of Liberia through residents of Harbel and its surrounding communities.
- Firestone is the single largest employer (private) in Liberia besides the Government of Liberia
- There is no meaningful development in Liberia if communities are isolated.
- Firestone contributes to development of rural communities through partnership in rubber plantations by providing planting material (clones) and markets for rubber.
- Partnership is a two way process, both parties bring something to the table:
 - Communities: Resources in terms of land and labor, whereas,
 - The private entrepreneur: capital and technical know-how,
 - Firestone comes in to purchase rubber from communities and saves them from shouldering the cost of export.
- Tripartite partnership brings in the private sector, the Government of Liberia, and residents of community and its environs together to work for the common good for the country of Liberia.
- This partnership must entail rights and corresponding responsibilities local communities should do their level best to ensure finance returns for the [entrepreneurs?].
- The private sector should ensure the improvement of the standard of living of the communities in which they are located.
- Equally important in the discharge of cooperative relationship, is the need to maintain ecological integrity, and the environment should not be sacrificed for transient economic benefits.
- If partnerships are to hold for the mutual benefit of all parties, the terms need to be respected and upheld and not to the contrary.

The fact remains that this is not the only partnership that have existed between the private sector and communities in Africa or the developing world, but we [Firestone] are proud to say here that it has become a success story for years now, and the parties involved need some commendations for their commitment to one another and their steadfastness in upholding it over the years. In another sense, this particular partnership in Liberia is worth emulating by others who may want to enter similar exercise; whether between the private sector and communities, government or individuals.

9.4. Community forestry in Liberia: Markets and credits

Sizi Subah, Greenstar Inc.

Introduction

Context and concept of markets and credits

Major products by category as found in Nimba transect

Product Category	Major types	Usage
Food Crop	Rice, Cassava and Plantain	Consumption and income generation
Cash Crop	Cocoa, Coffee, Pepper, Bitterballs	Generally for income generation
Fruits	Oranges, Pineapple and Mango	Little consumption but more selling
NTFP	Spices, Snails and Bitter kola	Little consumption but more selling
Bush Meat	Ground Hog, Deer and Antelope	Consumption and income generation
Fish	Catfish, Craw fish and Scale fish	Mainly for consumption
Livestock	Goats, Poultry and Pigs	Occasional consumption, ceremonies and more for income generation

Market structure

- Market Chain: Process by which products get from producer to the consumer(s).
Producer/farm gate→Local market→Weekly market→Central market→Terminal market
- Actors: The persons involve in product movement from producer to the consumer.
Farmer/consumer/Farmer (housewife)/consumers →Retailers/wholesaler/consumers
- Price: Pricing for products done at various levels:
 - farm gate
 - local market
 - weekly market
 - central market
 - terminal market.

Importance of Price in Marketing

Good prices generate production and promote marketing.

Factors affecting pricing:

Farm gate: Prices are discretionary, generally dependant on

- needs of farmers
- supply and demand/seasonality of product/availability of products

Local/Weekly market: Pricing dependent on:

- Seasonality of product/supply and demand
- Accessibility
- Transportation
- Product availability

Central/terminal markets: Pricing dependent on:

- Supply and demand
- Product availability

- Transport availability
- Accessibility of market
- Profit margin

Marketing Constraints

- Inaccessibility
- Bad Roads
- Lack of Transport Units (adequacy and sufficiency)
- Lack of Physical market infrastructure (buildings, storages, etc)
- Lack of processing and storage facilities locally and at central and terminal markets
- Regulations against certain forest products sales

Access to Credit

- Generally limited credit institutions available
- Local initiatives:
 - Susu - daily, monthly and yearly
 - Saving and credit clubs
 - Pre-finance arrangements (hunting and mining)

Credit Constraints

- No national initiatives
- Local savings and credit clubs not reliable
- No reliable pre-finance production facilities

What are the opportunities and options?

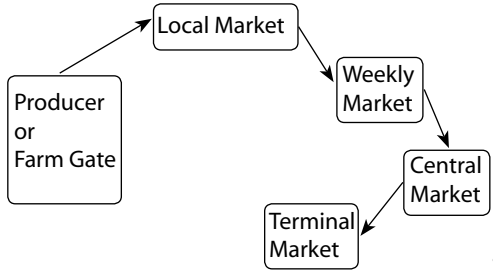
Opportunities

- Involvement of NGOs and donors in community based market credit programs.
- The existence of local saving and credit facilities can be straightened and empowered.

Options

- Strengthen and empower local saving and credit facilities.
- Develop credit facilities through institutions for pre- financing of production activities.

Summary of presentation by Sizi Subah

<p style="text-align: center;">Community Forestry Management</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Market and Credits</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sizi Subah Greenstar Inc.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key contextual issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Product demand – Product supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production - Fetching - Purchasing <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p>Key Conceptual Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markets and credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Livelihood sustenance for community forest dwellers • Market and credit opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Contributing to improved livelihoods through community forest management <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>Market Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Chain <i>"The Channel by which products get from the producer to the market"</i>  <pre> graph TD A[Producer or Farm Gate] --> B[Local Market] B --> C[Weekly Market] C --> D[Central Market] D --> E[Terminal Market] </pre> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>
<p>Actors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer/producer • Farmer (Market women) and consumers • Retailers/wholesalers/consumers <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>Price of NTFP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good pricing generates production and promotes marketing • Pricing of products done at various stages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Discretionary and depends on farmers needs – Supply and demand – Seasonality of products – Availability of products <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>
<p>Local/weekly market level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors influencing prices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Supply and demand – Seasonality – Accessibility – Availability of products – Transportation <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>Central/Terminal market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors influencing prices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Supply and demand – Seasonality – Accessibility – Availability of products – Transportation – Profit margins <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>

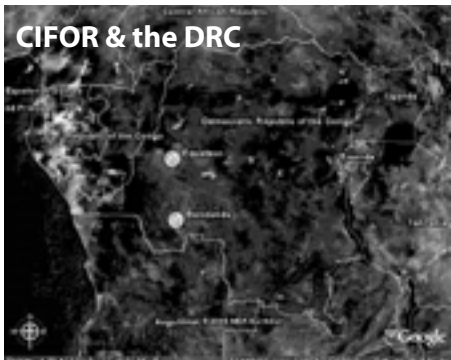
<p>Market constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Accessibility • Bad Roads • Lack of Transport (adequacy and sufficiency) • Lack of Physical Market Infrastructure (buildings, storages, etc.) • Lack of Processing and Storage Facilities (local, central and terminal levels) • Regulations on Certain Forest Product Sales (Methods of Enforcement) <p>9</p>	<p>Access to credit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally limited credit • Local Initiatives • Susu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – daily – monthly – yearly • Savings and Credit Clubs • Pre-financing Arrangements (hunting and mining) <p>10</p>
<p>Credit constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No national initiative • Local savings and credit clubs not reliable • No reliable pre-production financing <p>11</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market/Production Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Production of Certain Forest Products <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bitter Kola/Spices 2. Snail Rearing 3. Livestock/Poultry Rearing – Commercialization of Forest Products <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Livestock 2. Select Forest Products 3. Inland Fisheries <p>12</p>
<p>Opportunities (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of NGOs and donors in community-based market credit programs • The existence of local savings and credit facilities can be strengthened and empowered <p>13</p>	<p>Opportunities (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and empower local savings and credit facilities • Develop credit facilities through institutions for pre-financing of production activities <p>14</p>

10

International experiences with community forestry

10.1. Lessons from the Democratic Republic of Congo

Ousseynou Ndoye, Center for International Forestry Research

<p>Lessons from the Democratic Republic of Congo</p> <p>Ousseynou Ndoye Center for International Forestry Research</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Why DRC?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several years of armed conflict, with drastic consequences on natural resources, poverty and food security • Country with important forest cover and biodiversity • Weak infrastructure • 70% of the population live in rural areas • No health facilities in rural areas <p>2</p>
<p>CIFOR & the DRC</p>  <p>3</p>	<p>The Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on livelihood options and governance issues • Participatory action research • Capacity building of local communities • Policy dialogue with Government and donors <p>4</p>
<p>Lessons for Liberia</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to include gender aspects in all stages of production, processing and marketing of forest products • A strategy of participatory management and equitable benefit sharing mechanisms should be put in place to avoid conflicts <p>6</p>

<p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities can derive more benefits from forests if they integrate production and trade in an efficient manner The capacity of communities needs to be strengthened through sensitization, market information, and training in forest based enterprises <p>7</p>	<p>Policy/Institution 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenure issues need to be taken into consideration and well studied The concept and practice of community forestry should be included in the curricula of universities and other training institutions <p>8</p>
<p>Policy/Institution 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State has an important role to play by reducing transaction costs, improving road and market infrastructures <p>9</p>	

10.2. Community forestry: Some international experiences and lessons

Robert Fisher, University of Sydney and
Ravi Prabhu, Center for International Forestry Research

<p>Community forestry: Some international experiences and lessons</p> <p>Bob Fisher (Univ. of Sydney) & Ravi Prabhu (CIFOR)</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General introduction to Community Forestry Case studies: Nepal, India, Tanzania and Thailand Lessons learned <p>2</p>
<p>An evolving concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasis on the need to enforce protection of forests (either because of their value as resources or for conservation) Now: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shift to sustainable use and local management Future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small scale enterprises with democratic decision making? <p>3</p>	<p>Community forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approaches based on the view that local communities have or should have the capacity to manage forests sustainably Different approaches, with the real power lying in different places, outside agencies involved in different ways Many terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E.g. Collaborative management, co-management, joint management, community forestry, social forestry <p>4</p>

<p>Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical management (instrumental): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – E.g. Forest department lacks capacity, forest value too low to justify administration • Justice/rights (ethical) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Traditional claims too strong to ignore <p>5</p>	<p>Early Community Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving people in plantation (including woodfuel lots) • Program designed by outsiders • View that people needed to be educated, motivated and organised – no recognition of local capacity and action <p>6</p>
<p>Community Forestry in Nepal: 1970s and early 1980s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing concern that conventional forest management was not addressing deforestation • Concern with fuelwood shortages in many countries - seen as a major cause of deforestation • Recognition of need to meet community needs in order to manage forests better <p>7</p>	<p>Community Forestry in Nepal: 1970s and early 1980s (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on plantation and protection, i.e. forest <i>restoration</i> • Working through formal politico-administrative structure (panchayat) • No recognition of Indigenous Knowledge or local organisations/systems <p>8</p>
<p>Nepal - late 1980s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of local needs and importance of natural forests • Studies of local forest management systems (organisation etc) showed people were successfully managing forests without legal authority • Local institutional arrangements often present – locally agreed practices <p>9</p>	<p>Nepal summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large program (Over 12,000 user groups) • Based on idea that communities in the form of Forest User Groups can be granted permanent use rights subject to an agreement with Forest Department <p>10</p>
<p>Lessons (Nepal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People can manage forests effectively in the absence of legal authority • Intervention works when it recognises existing use rights • Importance of training staff to work as advisors rather than enforcers • Field staff training without supportive management and regulations of limited value <p>11</p>	<p>India: Joint Forest Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests remain under the direct control of forest departments • Agreements between forest departments and local people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – people gain access to products in return for carrying out forest management tasks • Decision-making power held by forest departments <p>12</p>

<p>Lessons (JFM India)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible to achieve a great deal in forest regeneration • Serious concerns about extent to which local people (especially poor) have benefited (because Forest Departments maintain control) <p>13</p>	<p>Shinyanga (Tanzania)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests very degraded due mainly to government policies • Change in policy encouraged people to grow trees (by allowing them to use the products of trees) • <i>Ngitili</i> – a traditional system of forest closure • Huge increase in tree cover and improved biodiversity • Benefits to poor <p>14</p>
<p>Lessons (Shinyanga)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People needed natural resources rather than biodiversity as such, but the result was improved biodiversity • The change in institutional arrangements led to a change in outcomes. Institutional context changes behaviour • Poverty doesn't necessarily lead to environmental destruction • Restoration was an outcome of sustainable use of resources <p>15</p>	<p>Pred Nai (Thailand example)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangrove forest • Mangrove damaged by activities of outsiders (logging and shrimp farming) – both government policies at the time • Local people took control – improved resource condition and biodiversity by restoration • Planting activities • Improved production of marine animals – benefits to poorer members <p>16</p>
<p>Lessons (Pred Nai)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forest condition and biodiversity not perfect, but improvement over the degraded environment that existed before • Local communities can manage forests effectively • Strong local organisations emerged as key factor – supported by civil society <p>17</p>	<p>A word of caution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malawi: the disappearance of 'village forests' • Solomon Is.: the temptation of quick money • Bolivia (initially): the burden of administration without capacity building • Generally: the temptation of quick solutions and patent recipes <p>18</p>
<p>Key Lessons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of people's own knowledge is a key • Formal-politico-administrative structures usually suppresses rather than supports community forestry • Emphasis on "natural" users, i.e. the ones who were anyway using the forest • Importance of "institutional base" – the local decision making and conflict management structures • Continually evolving process <p>19</p>	

11

Concessions in Liberia

11.1. Experiences with concessions in Liberia

Drayton K. Hinneh, Ministry of Finance

<p>Concessions and Governance</p> <p>Drayton K. Hinneh Ministry of Finance, Republic of Liberia</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Concession</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant of interest in public asset by government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To private sector entity for specified period – To operate, manage or improve • The private entity pays fees and royalties under set conditions and time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mining Concession (LAMCO, Bong Mines) – Agricultural Concession (Firestone, LAC) – Forest Concession (OTC, LWMC) <p>2</p>
<p>The Important of Concessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concessions are major sources of government revenue; • They are key to national social & economic development; • They offer strategic and operational choices to government in the development of public infrastructure and assets; and • They create competitive environment for efficient service in the public sector. <p>3</p>	<p>Concession Allocation in Liberia: Shortcomings & Effects</p> <p>Contract and Monopolies Commission (CMC – April 2005) records show that the allocation process of concessions has been characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lack of competitiveness, – Corruption, – Lack of transparency and accountability – Under development – Poor health delivery system – High illiteracy rate – Lack of the rule of law – Sectoral segregation – Civil unrest <p>4</p>

<p>War Time Concession Operations</p> <p>Lawless during the war</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Concessions worked under whims and caprices of the power of the day, and – Some concessions were untouchable - “Pepper Bush” <p>5</p>	<p>Effects of the Lawless Situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption • Lack of infrastructural development • Absence of the rule of law • Lack of basic social needs • Civil unrest • UN Sanction #1521 on export of Minerals and Forestry Sector Resources <p>6</p>
<p>Community Involvement in Concession Operations – Historical perspective</p> <p>Involvement of local people limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provision of labor – Provision of housing facilities – Provision of secured environment <p>On the other hand, local people were denied</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Participation in decision making – Concession acquisition – Benefit sharing – Training in local resource management (Forestry Sector) <p>7</p>	<p>Effects of mis-management of concessions on communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor community and concession relationship • Lack of knowledge and practical experience in resource management - Deprived of financial income from commercial forestry <p>8</p>
<p>Community Involvement in Concession Management</p> <p>Tribal Forest Reserve Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To initiate forest property management instead of simply collecting royalties <p>Cooperative Forest Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group of local people should work together - With domestic and external support undertake forest business enterprises <p>9</p>	<p>Community Involvement in concession Management (contd)</p> <p>Coordinating Management and Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sectorial empowerment would enable local people to work with state authority to manage the forest and the land. <p>10</p>

12

Communities and community forestry in Liberia

12.1. Defining the 'community' in community forestry in Liberia

Samuel N. Koffa, Fauna and Flora International

Introduction

In the context of community forestry, much of the literature sees 'communities' in 3 major ways: as a spatial unit, as a social structure, and as a set of shared and locally-evolved norms and rules about managing the world's critical natural resource base efficiently: forests being the case in point. In other words communities of agrarian and resource-dependent families are defined in terms of space, size, composition, interactions, interest and objectives. It is on the basis of one or a combination of these ideas that most of the advocacy of community rests.

An anatomy of the challenge

The characterisation of a community as a small, unified, organic whole, fails to capture the differences within communities, and ignores how these differences affect resource management outcomes, local politics, and strategic interactions within communities, as well as the possibility of layered alliances that can span multiple levels of politics. Indeed, certain types and levels of these characteristics might facilitate collective action. However, few studies demonstrate that this collective action is necessarily connected with conservation behaviour.

Most importantly, few social scientists or policy makers have systematically tested these propositions in the field where it matters most, and a reservoir of key publications on the subject indicates that some community characteristics considered important to collective action (an extremely important requisite for the successful management of a common property resource) may actually thwart conservation efforts. For example, small sized groups may be unable to defend their resources in the face of strong external threats, or be able to manage resources if they are spread over large areas; strongly held norms may support exploitation behaviour, or be resistant to outside attempts at their modification.

Elements of a solution

To be more accurate in our efforts to depict communities and their relationship with their natural resources – and thus to be more relevant to policy-making – the need is quite urgent that greater attention be trained on three critical aspects of communities: the multiple actors with multiple interests that make up communities, the processes through which these actors are interrelated, and, especially, the institutional arrangements that structure their interactions. These 3 proposed foci for the study of community-based resource use and management allow for a better understanding

of the factors critical to the success or failure of efforts aimed at local-level conservation and development initiatives, employing the principles and practices of community forestry.

The approach

Attention to test the above details is critical if policy changes on behalf of community are to lead to outcomes that are credible, sustainable and equitable as far as the use and management of forest resources by people closest to them. Drawing on an increasing body of literature on the subject and on the author's own observations in Liberia and other countries in Africa and Asia (Southeast), this paper discusses the problems weak definitions of communities poses, suggests a way forward, examines the virtues of community-based natural resource management, and makes some key conclusions and recommendations

Summary of the presentation by Samuel N. Koffa

<p style="text-align: center;">Defining the 'Community' in Forestry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Samuel N. Koffa Communal Forests Project Fauna & Flora International Monrovia, Liberia</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Why 'Community' in Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dismal failure of intrusive resource management and planned development strategies by the state • Inability of state agencies to manage and conserve forests and forest resources • Potential for cost-effective local management based on social sanctions • Social equity and the need to draw on detailed local knowledge of ecological dynamics • Enhanced motivation to conserve natural resources when this creates economic benefits for user groups <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p>A Superficial View of 'Community'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small spatial unit • Homogeneous social structures • Set of shared and locally-evolved norms and values <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>Small Spatial Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small groups hence fewer individuals share the same geographical space • More frequent interactions are possible, and these lower the costs of making collective decisions in the interest of the common good <p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small groups may not be able to exert control over a huge common property resource (forests, watersheds, etc) • Smallness does not necessarily correlate with better resource use and management • Fugitive resources are an added complexity <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>

<p>Homogeneous Social Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarity in assets, incomes and resource endowment • Possession of common characteristics in relation to ethnicity, religion, language, etc • Reduction in hierarchical and conflictual interactions, and promotion of better resource management and use efficiency <p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scanty knowledge about the degree of homogeneity and the dimensions of it that are important to resource conservation • Highly heterogeneous groups of people can use local resources sustainably <p>5</p>	<p>Set of Shared and Locally-Evolved Norms & Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition of some actions/activities that are against efficient resource use and management • Promotion of cooperative decision-making • Guidance of resource management outcomes in desired directions <p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of damaging resource exploitation practices • A syndrome of unreliability <p>6</p>
<p>In-Depth View of Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple interests and actors • Local-level processes • Institutional structures <p>7</p>	<p>Multiple Interests and Actors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of many groups and subgroups with conflicting interests • Each group seeks its own interest and these interests change with emerging opportunities <p>8</p>
<p>Local-Level Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals negotiate the use, management and conservation of resources • Efforts are made to implement the agreed-upon rules that are developed out of negotiation • Individuals and groups work towards resolving disputes that arise in the implementation of rules <p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All local interactions take place within the context of larger social forces, this makes analysis of interaction only on the local level insufficient <p>9</p>	<p>Institutional Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets of formal and informal rules and norms that shape interactions of humans with others and nature • Provision of tools for understanding local-level processes and outcomes better • Contribution to creating concrete points of intervention and design than a general reliance on community <p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutions can change because of constant challenges to their form by the actions of individuals whose behaviour they are supposed to influence <p>10</p>

Conclusions

- The characterization of community as a small, unified, organic whole, fails to capture the differences within communities and ignores how these differences affect resource management outcomes, local politics (in the sense of human organizations), strategic interactions within communities, as well as the possibility for layered alliances that can span multiple levels of politics
- Instead, a focus is suggested on the divergent interests of multiple actors within communities, the interactions or politics through which these interests emerge and different actors interact with each other and nature, and the institutions that influence outcomes. This focus will help community workers and policymakers to factor these differences into planning human-centered activities

11

Recommendations

- The need for checks and balances among parties. CF, if it is to be successful, must be founded on the principles of checks and balances among various stakeholders/actors: grassroots groups, government, NGOs (national, international), aid agencies, the private sector, etc, rather than having faith in the regenerative capacities of anyone of them. This must be so because unchecked authority for community-level decision is likely to lead to perverse community forest management outcomes
- The significance of federated structures of community user groups. Grassroots groups are usually the least powerful among the different parties interested in CF. It is therefore essential that CF advocates make more strenuous efforts to channel greater authority towards this group.

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Recommendations (contd)

It is only after such efforts are made that grassroots groups can form effective checks against arbitrary actions by government and other actors. Critical to such attempts is the need to forge federated structures of community user groups that can negotiate with government officials and aid agencies on more equal terms than those prevailing today in many countries

- **The question of funds for grassroots groups.** Effective institutionalization of CF requires that grassroots groups have access to adequate funds for implementing the rules they create. The sources of such funds should also be local (on the grassroots level), raised through contributions of users rather than granted by central government.

13

Recommendations (contd)

Over time, this would mean that government agencies not just cede their authority to make rules about how local groups should manage their forests, but that community groups also demand control over the resources themselves

- **Support for institutional reform.** Experience suggests the need for institutional reform in the forestry sector for CF. Reform is particularly required to improve accountability of institutions charged with managing agricultural landscapes, re-orient attitudes of forest departments, and mainstream participatory approaches

14

Recommendations (contd)

- **Continuing education.** The time to educate foresters and development workers involved in supporting and implementing CF is now. Since formal education lays the foundation for future reforms and directions, it is essential that education programs be carefully reviewed to ensure that students in forestry and related fields are well versed in all aspects of community forestry before joining the work force.

15

Message

‘Over the last 20 years, I have realized one thing about institutionalizing Community Forestry: it is a long arduous process. Linking lessons from the field to policy level is difficult, especially in the forestry sector. There is still much resistance from different actors. Upon reflection, it is crucial that approaches be developed and refined at the local level, but this alone will not ensure that local forest users are supported in their management efforts. Local experiences need to be linked to changes occurring within each country and the forestry sector itself. In short, the question is how we can build trust between the various actors to allow for pluralistic forest management.’

Somsak Sukwong, Executive Director
The Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia & the Pacific (2002)

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13

Legislation and community forestry in Liberia

13.1. Communal forest legislation in Liberia

Jamison Suter, Fauna and Flora International

<p>Communal forest legislation</p> <p>Jamison Suter Fauna & Flora International</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Descriptions:</p> <p><i>Community forestry: (proposed) the collection of practices where forests and forest resources are managed by communities for their benefit?</i></p> <p><i>Communal forest: one of eight legal categories of protected area in Liberia. It is dedicated specifically to community uses and benefit. One tool among many to promote community control of forests on which they depend.</i></p> <p>2</p>
<p>Communal forests are <u>not</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the only or principal way to pursue community forestry in Liberia • subordinate to any non-community forest management objectives <p>3</p>	<p>The legislative and regulatory framework for <u>communal forests</u> prior to 2003:</p> <p><i>** State of confusion **</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incoherence within forestry laws (see Vohiri 2002) • Unclear relationship between forestry laws/ regulations, rural community laws/ regulations (Hinterland Laws) and land ownership/ resource use laws/ regulations • Persistent unknowns and/ or dissatisfaction with land tenure and resource use rights <p>4</p>

Communal forest legislation according to the Act Amending the New National Forestry Law

A *Communal Forest* is “an area set aside legally or temporarily by regulation for the sustainable use of non-timber forest products by local communities on a non-commercial basis...

“Acts prohibited in communal forests shall include: No prospecting, mining, farming or commercial timber extraction. Other uses are to be regulated by the designated local community with assistance from local authorities and declared by Regulations of the [Forestry Development] Authority.”

5

Controversy 1 surrounding Communal Forests

- Intended for “sustainable use of non-timber forest products... on a non-commercial basis”
- “No... commercial timber extraction”

Controversy may be overblown:

- Need to define “commercial” in the context of communal forests (and Multiple Sustainable Use Reserves)

6

Controversy 2 surrounding communal forests

Deeds (statutory law) provide title to land, not to forests or forest resources.

Communities can clear forest from land they own.

Should deeds be the means through which communal forests should be pursued?

Or should communal forests involve transfer of ownership or rights to forests?

7

Controversy 3 surrounding Communal Forests

Communal forests to be piloted around Sapo National Park (FDA, MIA, FFI, others) give the false impression that they are merely a tool for nature conservation.

Communal Forests are NOT a tool for conservation or subordinate to conservation

8

Misunderstanding of ‘buffer zone’

“‘Buffer Zone’ in the context of Protected Forest Area[s], means a transitional zone (such as Communal Forest, Game Reserve, Multiple Sustainable Use Reserve) surrounding a more strictly protected zone, intended for low-impact sustained human use to reduce the impact of outside human disturbance, to protect the boundaries from encroachment, and to preserve the natural state of the more strictly protected zone it surrounds.”

Buffer zone is *NOT* a protected area type unto itself

9

Regulatory framework for Communal Forests

Under-developed/non-existent: communities could not establish communal forests

Being developed and tested around Sapo Park (UK Darwin Initiative funding)

Draft Manual for Establishing Communal Forests (December 2004)

10

<p>Governmental agencies concerned with communal forests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA: responsible for managing the forest resources of Liberia including establishment and management of protected forest areas • Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA): responsible for rural community affairs, incl. deeding land and tribal reserves • Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): responsible for EIAs, district and county environment committees, etc. • Lands, Mines & Energy: land registration <p>11</p>	<p>Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarify legal definition of “commercial” for communal forests and multiple sustainable use reserves 2. Clarify if the emphasis on “non-timber forest products” in the definition of communal forest precludes any timber extraction 3. Increase awareness of the range of protected area types that can support community uses of forest resources, eg. communal forests, cultural sites, game reserve, national forest and multiple sustainable use reserve (see Magin and Freeman, 2003) <p>12</p>
<p>Recommendations (contd)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Clarify, support and promote community rights in ALL forest management activities 5. Formulate a national land tenure and resource use policy or law so the relationships between forestry, Hinterland, land registry and other sectoral laws are clear 6. Recognise communal forests’ role in a buffer zone but do not compromise their intent <p>13</p>	

14

Sectoral and inter-sectoral governance issues

14.1. Local governance issue for community forestry

Munyaradzi Motsi, UNMIL, Liberia

<p>Local Governance Issues in Community Forestry</p> <p>Munyaradzi Motsi UNMIL, Liberia</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Key Message</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For community forestry to succeed there is need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – appropriate policies and legislation – enforcement and implementation of policies – good governance & transparency – appropriate local level structures <p>2</p>
<p>What is governance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance is the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented) Good governance, several definitions, but for the UN it is: consensus oriented, participatory, follows the rule of law, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive, responsive, transparent and accountable <p>3</p>	<p>Community forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer of rights and responsibilities to communities for the management and utilisation of forestry resources This transfer must be carefully managed at all levels to avoid failures, corruption and elite capture Hence the need for good governance <p>4</p>
<p>Governance issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Good governance – Transparency – Inclusiveness – Democracy – Decentralisation Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Responsible leadership – Participation of the broader community – Avoid elite capture/gate keepers <p>5</p>	<p>Governance issues (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management of centre-local relationships The need to mainstream gender and youth interests in community forestry <p>6</p>

<p>Policy formulation process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy formulation: the development of effective and acceptable courses of action for addressing what has been placed on the policy agenda • Has to be consultative, inclusive, democratic, participatory • Legislative process critical, laws should be in line with the constitution of the Republic of Liberia, input from all stakeholders • In a post-conflict situation, the policy formulation process has to seek to address related causes of the conflict <p>7</p>	<p>Issues covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy formulation process and constituencies • Decentralisation and participation: the governance of forestry resources • The politics of local-central relations • The risk of resource misappropriation in community forestry • Elite capture in community forestry <p>8</p>
<p>The way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to put in place good legislation that recognises the traditional and modern use of resources by communities • The need to consult all levels of Liberian society • The need to ensure that local communities have the capacity to manage forestry resources when decentralisation occurs • The need to ensure that implementation of local community forestry policy does not result in exclusion: government protects the interests of the entire nation; local communities protect community interests <p>9</p>	<p>The way forward (contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to protect the local community from third-party interests • The need to make the elected few-the local community leadership accountable to the community • The need for legal recourse in case of malpractices • The need to ensure that community forestry policy is gender sensitive and takes into account the interest of the youth <p>10</p>

14.2. Inter-sectoral governance issues and community forestry

Johansen Voker, Environmental Protection Agency

Introduction

Community forestry offers local dwellers enormous opportunities to improve their livelihoods and communities through management of forest resources. Community forestry, according to the 16th Report of the Regional Community Forestry Training Center, is being increasingly seen as:

- A social movement whereby local communities are expressing their desire to be actually involved in the management of their local resources;
- A process oriented approach rather than a project or government programme;
- A global movement giving voice to community (both in developed and developing countries) and allowing them to better control their own destinies in the face of increasing globalization;
- A way to promote biodiversity and move away from highly contentious and conventional forms of protected area management and large-scale logging.

Along with these opportunities, however, come responsibilities. Community forests, as any other resources, must be judiciously used to ensure their sustainability as well as the sustainability of the general environment of which they are part.

It must be appreciated that community's responsibility of sustainably managing their forests hinges largely on how sectors involved in environmental governance address pertinent issues that affect community forestry. In this presentation, "Inter-sectoral Governance Issues," we shall endeavor to identify salient inter-sectoral governance issues that impact on community

management; some attempt will also be made to address any such issues to enhance success of the community forestry enterprise. But we shall begin discussion of our substantive issue with giving a synopsis of the structure and role of the Environmental Protection Agency as the lead Agency of the Liberia Government on environment matters.

The Role and Structure of the EPA: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established by Legislative Act (The Environment Protection Act, 2003) to coordinate, monitor, supervise, and consult with relevant stakeholders on all activities in the protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources. The Agency is headed by an Executive Director appointed by the President through recommendation of the Policy Council. The Policy Council which is the ultimate decision-making body comprises representatives from relevant institutions. The council is responsible for policy formulation and direction, and sets priorities for national goals and objectives to enhance environmental governance.

The Act creating the EPA provides for a Board of Directors authorized to supervise activities of the Agency. Membership of the Board comprises nine (9) persons from both public and private institutions.

Additionally, the EPA administrative structure is made up of several functionaries responsible for specialized activities in environmental protection. For the purpose of decentralization to expedite the work of the Agency at the local levels-county and district, officers are to be appointed to coordinate the Agency's activities. Further, county and district committees whose members are drawn from a cross-section of the communities are to be set up to liaise with the county and district environmental officers in the execution of pertinent environmental activities.

A particularly vital role of the EPA worth mentioning is the preparation of both policy and legal instruments to enhance environmental governance. The three (3) instruments which have been passed into law since 2003 include the National Environmental Policy, the Environmental Protection Act, and the Environmental Protection and Management Law.

The objectives of the National Environmental Policy include the following:

- To ensure the improvement of the physical environment;
- To improve the quality of life of the people;
- To ensure reconciliation and coordination between economic development and growth and sustainable management of natural resources.

The Environmental Protection and Management Law is a framework law that addresses a number of environmental issues including environmental Impact Assessment, Audit and Monitoring; Environmental Quality Standards for water and soils; Management of pesticides, toxic, and hazardous chemicals and materials; water, air and soil pollution, protection of the landscape from environmental degradation, protection of biodiversity, land-use planning etc.

It is worth mentioning too that in a bid to ensure effective environmental governance, Liberia has acceded to/rectified several international conventions on the environment. These include:

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1981;
- The UN Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol in 2002;
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutant (POPs);
- The RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in 2003;
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (2000);
- Convention on Desertification (1998), etc.

Although Liberia has demonstrated sufficient goodwill for environmental governance by becoming party to these conventions, the lack of financial resources and necessary infrastructure as well as the paucity of trained human resources, are seriously hampering implementation of these conventions. This general lack of national capacity affects the various sectors involved in environmental governance.

Identification of Inter-sectoral governance Issues

The success of community forestry as a potent developmental and conservation tool will require concerted efforts by all stakeholders –including sectoral institutions involved in environmental governance. The following are pertinent inter-sectoral governance issues that must be addressed to ensure effective and productive community forestry management.

Land Tenure: Tenure rights are a serious problem in the emerging community forestry in Liberia due to ambiguity in the legal system. On the one hand, the formal legal system obtaining title deeds for land is required but on the other hand, the traditional system under which local people own and govern their forest resources is allowed and recognized. This has resulted in establishment of community forestry without the legal land deeds and the requisite statutory rights to the resources.

Networking: Collaboration amongst the various sectors involved in environmental protection is presently weak. The environmental units proposed by the EPA in the various relevant sectors remain dormant due to the poor networking with the relevant institutions.

Plant/crop introduction: A possible scenario in the establishment of community forestry could be the introduction of exotic plant/crop for cultivation. This requires strict adherence to the Plant Quarantine Law to prevent inadvertent introduction of pests of invasive alien species.

Lack of land-use planning: The country faces serious pressures from a number of competing sources for its landscape including forestry, mining, agriculture and human settlement. In order to balance land-use pressures between the sectors, as well as between commercial, community and conservation interests, a comprehensive national land-use plan is required. A national land-use planning process involving all government ministries and key stakeholders should be initiated under the auspices of the Environment Protection Agency. All government ministries, environmental NGOs as well as the local level actors should be part of this participatory planning process.

Lack of adequate sustainable forestry management practices: The Government, with the assistance of International Community should provide the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) with policy guidance and training on best practice in sustainable forest management and on how to balance commercial, community and conservation interests in the forestry sector. Other areas that require review in the formulation of a new forestry policy include agroforestry, community forestry management, reforestation and the economic value of non-timber forest productions, including bush-meat.

The need to develop alternatives to slash-and-burn agricultural practices: Slash-and-burn agricultural practices have contributed to forest degradation. Recent years have witnessed pressures from huge movements of the population and new logging roads have been constructed improving access to the forests. As a result, traditional shifting agricultural practices have become unsustainable, since forests no longer have the time to regenerate. As part of the rural population is dependent on these methods for their livelihoods, there is a need to develop alternatives, such as inter-cropping, agro-forestry, tree crops, animal husbandry and appropriate use of swamp cultivation.

The need to build the capacity of the environmental administration: United Nations agencies and other international organizations should train staff of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) on key policy areas such as environmental management and monitoring, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) international environmental conventions and public awareness and participation in decision-making.

Lack of National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP): Although Liberia's Environmental Protection Policy is in place, it does not have any defined actions for its implementation. It is therefore necessary that a national environmental action plan be developed to implement the policy goals and priorities.

Lack of Environmental Awareness: There is a grave lack of awareness on general environmental issues including community forestry. Efforts need to be made to raise adequate and sustained public awareness at all fronts including community level.

<p style="text-align: center;">Intersectoral governance Issues</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Johansen T. Voker Environmental Protection Agency EPA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Outline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Structure and role of EPA • Identification of intersectoral governance issues • How to address intersectoral governance issues • Impacts of CF on the environment <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p>EPA</p> <p>Coordinate, supervise and consult with relevant stakeholders on all activities in the protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>Community forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many facets to community forestry which may have different effects to the environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Managing natural forests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NTFP - Timber - Environmental services – Tree crops – Agroforestry – Plantations <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>
<p>Intersectoral issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of landscapes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Forestry – Agriculture – Protection of plant and animal species – Water • This requires intersectoral coordination <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>Intersectoral governance issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clear tenure • Lack of land-use planning • Lack of collaboration amongst conservation institutions • Lack of National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) • Lack of environmental awareness <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>
<p>Positive effects of CF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of communities in forest management • Benefits accrue to the communities • Protection of cultural landscapes <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>Possible negative effects of Community Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of local biodiversity with tree crops (e.g. rubber tree <i>Hevia brasiliensis</i>) • Introduction of invasive tree and other plant species • Land degradation if resources are not managed properly <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>

Conclusion

- CF could provide enormous opportunities to enhance rural livelihoods and communities in Liberia, but there are many serious inter-sectoral issues that need to be addressed to realize the full potential
- CF could impact negatively on the environment if the salient inter-sectoral governance issues are not addressed adequately

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14.3. Building capacity for community forestry development in Liberia

Jerome Nyenka, Department of General Forestry, University of Liberia

Introduction

The Forest Estate of Liberia is made up of natural and artificial forests. According to FDA (1999), the natural forest covers approximately 4.8 million hectares which amounts to 50% of its total land area. The artificial forest covers roughly 10,158 hectares of reforested land. Liberia's forest ecosystem can today be divided into four classes: primary dense forest, climax secondary forest, secondary forest, and mixed vegetation.

Forests represent one of the most abundant material resources in Liberia and play a crucial role in its economy. In 1989, the period just before the commencement of the civil conflict, forestry ranked third as national foreign exchange earner. From 2000 to 2002 forestry represented the country's most important economic activity, responsible for 50-60% of the nation's foreign exchange and accounted for 26% of GDP in 2002. In March 2003, the IMF observed that the near term growth prospects of the Liberian economy would rely primarily on timber products.

The concept of community forestry is relatively new in Liberia. However, there have been traditional communal farms from time to time. Traditional communal farms are owned by the clan or chiefdom and planted with rice and other cash crops to support the unit that owns the farm. [The crops developed are the property of the clan or chiefdom and not any one individual]. In recent times, there have been two major initiatives to develop community forests in Liberia. The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in partnership with the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) have been working with local communities in southeastern Liberia, proximal to the Sapo National Park, in developing community forestry programs. The second initiative is the Fauna and Flora International (FFI) communal forest creation regime also piloted around the Sapo National Park, representing one the most promising efforts in this area.

The essential role of capacity building in community forestry development cannot be over emphasized. Capacity building at individual, institutional, and systemic levels removes barriers to development by empowering individuals and institutions to pursue social as well as production objectives; and at the time laying the policy necessary foundation.

Institutional settings for training in forestry and biological Sciences

Training in forestry and biological sciences is undertaken by vocational/technical institutions as well as universities. Among the vocational/technical training institutions are the Booker Washington Institute (BWI) and the Smythe Institute, both offer courses for middle-level skills in agriculture. Though currently shut down, there once existed the Mano River Union Forestry Training Institute in Grand Cape Mount which focused on middle-level skills development in silviculture, dendrology, forest ecology, inventory and mensuration. Universities currently involved with training in forestry and biological sciences include the University of Liberia and

the Cuttington University. The University of Liberia runs various bachelor's degree programs in biology, general forestry, general agriculture, zoology, agronomy and wood science and technology; while the Cuttington University offers bachelor's degree programs in general science, biology and agriculture and integrated rural development. Of the currently operational institutions, the following constraints are common:

- Inadequate trained personnel
- Lack of basic facilities and infrastructure
- Insufficient political will
- Poor financing

Capacity needs for community forestry

1. Individual/Human Resources Level

- Support local farmers and other rural entrepreneurs by providing small-holder credits.
- Train farmers and other rural communities in appropriate production practices.
- Raise public awareness on the opportunities benefits and prospects of community forestry.
- Invite the will of and involve the rural communities in planning and designing of development plans.
- Empower rural communities to monitor and control threats to natural resources.
- Train relevant stakeholders in improved farming practices and disseminate appropriate technologies.
- Empowering women through micro project activities, and or loan repayment arrangements
- Provide local crop genetic materials for use by local communities.
- Encourage and prioritize the use of local crop genetic materials.
- Establish/provide mini agro industrial processing plants to local communities.
- Build social capital through peer learning, communication, sharing information and knowledge, reflection and establishing feed-back mechanisms into decision making processes.

2. Institutional Level

- Strengthen the extension services and programs agencies and organizations involved.
- Support training and research institutions involved in forestry work.
- Create forum for corporation, collaboration and coordination amongst NGOs, CBOs, biodiversity institutions and existing training institutions in placements and implementation.
- Upgrade the skills of such agencies and institutions stated above.
- Establishment of effective mechanisms for information processing, sharing and dissemination.
- Support NTFPs production and utilization projects/programs.
- Strengthen the research capabilities of training institutions to evaluate indigenous traditional knowledge and practices in crop establishment and management and document and encourage those that support sustainability.
- Support CBOs' programs and activities.

Prioritizing the capacity needs of rural communities

Forestry is a public issue and involves multiple stakeholders and therefore in the development and implementation of forestry programs, each stakeholder should be incorporated.

One of the most important stakeholders whose view and concerns need to be brought to center stage, but over the years kicked out or ignored are the forest-dwellers or rural communities. The fact that community forestry emphasizes the involvement of communities, the local people should be the lead-stakeholders in the planning processes.

Indigenous people and traditional communities often have a deep understanding of their environment and its ecology through traditional knowledge. Strengthening their capacities is a major requirement if success is to be achieved through them. Especially important is their

capacity to access resources in the natural environment on a sustainable basis. Forests are of immense importance for rural people, especially in remote or otherwise under-developed areas. Their culture is built up and strongly related to the forest. There is need to catalogue, document and evaluate these practices with a view of improving and enabling them harness genetic resources appropriately.

Conclusion

About 70% of the Liberian population live in the rural areas and depend on the products and services of agriculture and forestry for their livelihoods. Community forestry therefore is a reliable and practical approach through which forest-dwellers or rural communities can raise their living standard. This concept of people's participation in forest production with the aim of responding to the specific needs felt by the community thus making it people-driven will go a long way in alleviating poverty.

In order to attain desired results, community forestry in Liberia should consider coalition building through stakeholders' participation. Community forestry should respond to the basic need felt by the community, defined in terms of a goal to meet that need, and the link between such goals and the basic objectives and needs of the community must be kept clearly in mind. Also required to ensure effective changes on the ground is capacity building at individual, institutional and policy levels. At present there is very little if any capacity in terms of human resources as well as the requisite infrastructure to adequately address natural resources management concerns.

Annexes

Annex 1

Participant expectations at the beginning of the workshop

Participant	Expectations
Soko Koryon, FDA	At the end of this workshop I would like to see the quick involvement of government, FDA, NGOs and all other stakeholders to come out with a standardized policy that will be accepted by the international community to allow the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) to [practice] community forestry in Liberia to improve sustainable development in Liberia for community dwellers.
Anonymous	I would like communities to undertake commercial activities in community forestry.
Hons. Nehemiah N. Saydee, Wedjah County District Commissioner, Sinoe County	My expectation at the end of this workshop is that community must be benefit from owning their reserve forest. So that Sapo national park will not be destroyed. Government must issue deed to the communities. Communities must be benefit from assistance through the following: water, sanitation, health, schools and farm to market roads to enable them to sell their products.
	Anticipated workshop outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of strategy for establishment of community forestry program - Provide guidelines/policies that will seek support from government in the development and implementation of community based forest development program.
Joseph Yeneken EPA	At the end of the workshop we should adopt national community forestry laws and policies in line with our indigenous practices and benefits derived from the forest.
Anonymous	More insight into community forestry.
Forceh Solloh, Ministry of Internal Affairs	I would like to see the total involvement of the local communities in the community forestry program and not have them be spectators in their own community.
	To identify non-timber forest products in the Liberian Forest Regions and identify a way of marketing such commodities.
Edison P. Manneh	I want this workshop to empower local communities to have their own community forest in Liberia.
Anonymous	I'd like to see: <p>Participants agreeing on the imperative to promote community forestry through appropriate regulatory framework (politics, laws, etc.) and establishment of community forestry areas and capacity building of communities to effectively and efficiently manage the forests.</p>

Participant	Expectations
Eric Paasene President Emiritus, ALL	At the end of the workshop I would like to see the comprehensive meaning of community forest and an appeal to legislators to review the land tenure laws of Liberia.
R. Toneh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community forestry in Liberia means forest that are owned and backed up by deeds or traditional norms. Traditional norms are defined as follows: demarcated by <i>Sande</i> bush and deed signed by President or head of state 2. Enabling conditions that can be created: Educating forest owners on the usefulness of the forest, e.g. commercial forestry, importance of medicinal values, etc.
Anonymous	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community forestry should be defined within the Liberian context 2. Define clearly what a community is in the Liberian context 3. Define capacity building within the context of creating community forestry
Eunice N. Dagbe	At this workshop, I would like to see policy that will empower the local communities economically through community forestry program development, such as small scale enterprises. These programs will serve as supplementary income sources for communities and employment for marginal farmers who cannot find employment in other sectors. I also want to see from this workshop the promotion of research that will lead to the knowledge on how to increase the commercial value of forest products in community forestry. [<i>Institutional development, Capacity building and policy development also mentioned in this long note</i>]
Anonymous	I would like the community to undertake commercial activities in community forests.
Hon. Willian Clarke, Commisioner Pyne Town, Sinoe County	I would like to see at the end of this community forestry workshop, to do everything that is said, to build the capacity of communities to avoid them [<i>embarrassing</i>] the national park.
Paul Duo	<p>This workshop on community forestry has so many expectations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop consensus on the meaning on community forestry practice in Liberia 2. To learn lessons on community forestry from other countries 3. Community involvement in managing forest resources.
James S. Karmon	My assumption is that all the results from the workshop will be implemented in full by the Government of Liberia and all friendly countries.
Anonymous	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manpower training is needed 2. Scholarships to professional foresters 3. Public awareness to adequately inform the communities.
Joseph Tally	At the completion of this workshop, the community forestry division of FDA's capacity will be built through basic training in community forestry, even at Masters level, adequately or well structured and supported financially. Also public awareness on community forestry be carried out in the rural areas.
Abu Limbar	At the end of the workshop, I expect achievements through-out Liberia where rural dwellers fully take part in decision making. If this goal is achieved, we expect the standard of living will improve in the next 10 to 15 years both in livelihood and food security. Also we need to introduce training and job facilities among communities. Improve road networks for easy transportation and services. To achieve this, FDA and other agencies should empower the communities.
Anonymous	I would like communities to undertake commercial logging activities in community forestry.
Soko Koryon	At the end of the this workshop, I would like to see the quick involvement of Government, FDA, NGOs and all other stakeholders to come out with a standardized policy that will be accepted by the international community to allow FDA to implement and practise community forestry in Liberia, so as to improve the livelihoods of the rural people.
Anonymous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community forestry should be defined within the context of Liberia • Define clearly what a community is in the Liberian context • Define capacity building within the context of community forestry.
Nehemiah S Saydee, Sinoe County	My expectation at the end of the workshop is that the community must benefit from owning their forests so that Sapo National Park will not be destroyed. Government must issue deeds to the communities. Communities must also be helped in water provision, sanitation, health, farm to market roads to enable them sell their produce.
Joseh Yeneken	At the end of this workshop, we should adopt National Community Forestry Laws in line with our indigenous practices and [the benefits derived from the forests].

Participant	Expectations
Anonymous	Anticipated workshop outcomes 1. Development of a strategy for the establishment of a community forestry programme 2. Provide guidelines/policies that will seek support from government in the development and implementation of community-based forest programme.
Ricks Toweh	1. Community forestry in Liberia means forests that are owned and backed up by deeds, or, 2. Traditional... <i>Sande</i> bush, demarcated and deeds signed by the President or Head of State 3. Educating the forest owners on the usefulness of the forests e.g. commercial use, medicines, etc.
Eric Paasewe	At the end of the workshop, I will like to see the comprehensive meaning of community forestry and an appeal to the legislators to review the land tenure laws of Liberia.
Anonymous	I like to see participants agreeing on the [imperative] to promote community forestry through appropriate regulatory framework (policies, laws, etc.) and establishing community forestry areas and to build capacity of the communities to efficiently and effectively manage forests.
Edison Q Manneh	I want this workshop to empower local communities to have their own communal forests in Liberia. To identify NTFPs in the forest regions of Liberia and identify a way of marketing such commodities.
Forcel Soloh, MIA	I would like to see the total involvement of local communities in community forestry program, and not be seen as mere spectators in their won community.
	More insights into community forestry.
Hamilton Saydee	My expectation at the end of the workshop is that I would like to see that everything that is said must be practiced, so that local inhabitants' capacity will be built to avoid them destroy the national park.
William Clarke	I will like to see at the end of the workshop, doing everything that has been said and to build the capacity of locals so as to [avoid embarrassing the national park].

Annex 2

Evaluations and suggestions provided by participants at the end of the workshop

- What I observed or liked about the meeting:
 - The meeting of different people from different parts of Liberia;
 - A group of people expressing views on national issues of interest to the government;
 - I did not like the short time available for discussing issues.
- My observations and recommendations:
 - The workshop is very significant in that it introduced a new bold thinking (ideology) on community forestry in Liberia which is in the best interest of the communities. Similar workshops should be held in forests areas or near national parks so as to involve the local leadership who interact daily with their community. All international NGOs attached to the FDA should establish local offices in order to create jobs opportunities for local members. Because of the failure of INGOs to open local offices in the district, we observed that some individuals work in two places whilst other are working as volunteers.
- The workshop gave me more ideas about what community forestry really means. So I want to see all we discussed being implemented.
- The community forestry workshop was very educating and it addressed the issues (purpose, sensitization, decision making skills and capacity building).
- Community forestry – is the science that deals with the forest for the community people
 - Community forestry is the basic need for people
 - What I observed is the need for NGOs or government to hold such workshops in communities so as to educate the people
- I enjoyed this community forestry workshop because it educated me more about community issues. Also our community was not benefiting from the forest resources

7. My comments regarding the conduct of the workshop
 - a. The time allocated for presentation was short, and,
 - b. The number of questions for presenters should have been based on the nature and length of the presentation
8. Observations
 - a. Success story
 - i. Deliberations and presentations were clear and informative
 - ii. Participation 100%
 - iii. Workshop activities – well organized
 - b. What was disappointing
 - i. Participants were not shown facilities e.g. toilets
 - ii. The hall (church) was not suitable
 - iii. Venue was too far from centre of town
9. Workshop evaluation
 - a. Food – excellent
 - b. Transportation – good
 - c. Respect to time- very poor
 - d. Workshop conduct – good
 - e. Material supplied – good quality
10. I want the FDA to create time and opportunity for communities in forest areas to learn more about community forestry
11. What I love about this community forestry workshop is that I was [nearly] exposed to the meaning of the word. I will take this message back to my village
12. This 1st international workshop on community forestry in Liberia was well organized attended and successful. The venue was appropriate
13. The workshop on community forestry held in Monrovia from 12-15 December 2005 was an educative one. It exposed me (us) to certain concepts I did not know. It also made us become aware of the policy issues on forestry management.
14. Issues I observed
 - a. Less community forest dwellers representation in the workshop
 - b. There were also less women and youth in the workshop
 - c. I also expected CIFOR to recognize the participation of the Liberian Research groups in the transect studies.
15. The workshop went well
 - a. The presentations were good
 - b. However there were more males than female presenters
 - c. I think more women should be given opportunities.
16. The need for community forestry to have good housing for communities, need to have improved varieties of local seeds for rice, cassava, yam, corn and vegetables, need for research on soil, water, wildlife, for example there are areas where some soils are [gifted] for some plants and animals. I would like to see a school from ABC to PhD on forestry only.
17. Having been in the workshop for 4 days, these are my comments
 - a. I observed that the time given to present was very short
 - b. That transportation to town should have been given while workshop was going on.
 - c. Let this awareness be carried after 6 months.
18. Comments
 - a. I highly appreciate and congratulate the organizers of the workshop
 - b. One thing I have to say to the organizers who are responsible for the workshop is that there should be no distinction between participants. I observed that certain participants were given bags, files and envelopes and some of us were denied. Now we are talking of democracy and so I feel that this is not democracy and it is not alright to be so. Everything should have gone across the board because we all contributed.
19. My recommendations
 - a. I request that the donors assist my district, Wedjah in Sinoe County with the following: two reserve forests and a road from the farms to the market
20. I am thankful to the organizers of this all important workshop on community forestry in Liberia. The lessons learnt are numerous and I am of the strong conviction that these lessons will definitely assist in achieving the development goals of local communities when timber sanctions are finally lifted. This shared vision on community forestry practice will go along way towards sound community forestry management by local communities in Liberia.
21. My observations
 - a. The entire workshop was educative, challenging and involved lots of hard work by the organizers. Community forestry will help improve the livelihoods of the local communities

- b. Women were out numbered at this workshop
- 22. Important points/observations
 - a. Local communities poorly represented at the workshop
 - b. Higher institutions of learning, churches, mosques, NGOs and INGOs poorly represented
 - c. Workshop was more of an FDA workshop instead for local communities. There were more FDA people than local communities.
- 23. The way forward for community forestry practice has been introduced in Liberia. The workshop adequately addressed livelihood needs of communities. Governance issues were adequately discussed and considered the diverse needs of the stakeholders involved in the community forest establishment.
- 24. We are all happy to be involved in this new idea of community forestry. That is a very new and [strange] to us Liberians. However for the success of community forestry, I will suggest that a workshop of this type should be held in some parts of rural Liberia such as Nimba county, Sinoe county etc. The central government should pass laws on community forestry that benefit the communities of this nation. I am very much sure that this workshop was a success.
- 25. On the average, the workshop was well conducted with respect to the environment, good facilitation etc., but the major constraint was that there was not much time for presentations and questions.
- 26. Comment/remark on the role of local communities
 - a. No broad-based representation from our large forest communities. Future workshops should include a broad-based representation from the rural areas.
 - b. Our opportunity to know that indeed we are the direct beneficiary of our forests and products should not only be told to us, but actions are expected in a short possible time
 - c. We are ready and capable of sustaining ourselves through the resources of the forests if we are empowered and our capacity enhanced
 - d. We want to give thanks to national and international institutions especially CIFOR, USAID, LFI and the FDA, MIA, MOA, EPA, MLME for ably contributing to the success of the workshop
 - e. We do not want to be seen as spectators but seen as part of the process for a better Liberia
- 27. We need hand-pumps for our community. We need toilets in our community.
- 28. Evaluation
 - a. The workshop was well planned and executed
 - b. Plan similar workshop in counties in the future
 - c. Time allotted for each presenter was too short
 - d. Increase female participation in the future
 - e. Presenters and participants performed very well
- 29. Evaluation
 - a. Training workshop should be conducted in the rural areas
 - b. Public awareness should be provided on community forestry nationwide
- 30. Comments
 - a. Workshop was timely
 - b. Facilitators given less time – more in the future
 - c. Certificates should be given to participants in the future
 - d. Enjoyed everything
- 31. My recommendation is that I want CIFOR, CI, CIFOR, USAID and other NGOs to help communities with funds so as to have their forests deeded. Because we do not have funds to deed our forests
- 32. What I learned from this community forestry workshop is very important. This workshop will help me in the area of community forestry as a field worker. To explain the benefits of establishing community forestry. The ideas from the workshop will help me educate the local community on the importance of community forestry and the main [danger to assets], shifting cultivation, hunting etc.
- 33. I wish to thank the organizers of this workshop for ably introducing this important portion of forestry in Liberia. Now that rural dwellers had been made aware of their rights (through consultative, inclusive and participatory processes), they should be able to benefit from natural resources. The introduction of community forestry to local communities will empower them to protect and benefit and improve their livelihoods. To conclude I have learnt a lot from this workshop and this will enable me to educate [our] people on how to improve their livelihoods
- 34. Comments
 - a. This workshop on community forestry was well timed. Educative and a first step towards progress in community forestry development in Liberia.
 - b. The participants in this workshop, NGOs and all stakeholders have worked very hard to build a platform on which community forestry will now start to [improve] sustainable development of the communities.
 - c. Based on the above view points, I highly evaluate this workshop as a way forward in the new Liberia.
- 35. The next workshop should be around the SAPO National Park as this will help the park staff in the management and protection of the park. Also use this park as an example. Also involve more local communities, rural

authorities and not only the urban Monrovia based people; the reason being that we are talking community forestry. Include more field staff especially park staff. The selection of participants should not be left to the FDA central office. Time should be considered.

36. Community forestry is a new concept in Liberia. From my experiences from the areas visited, there is a need for a complete community awareness programme to encourage the larger community to be involved. The need to do this is urgent so that communities can have their own forests and can manage and control access.
37. Evaluation and comments on the just ended workshop on community forestry
 - a. Orientation should be held next time for the workshop, acquaint and direct people to workshop facilities such as toilets, dining rooms and other housing facilities
 - b. More youth groups should be invited next time
 - c. Please also organize some sporting activities to climax such stimulating and [teasing] discussions
 - d. I noticed that there was insufficient coordination between the organizers and some orators e.g. those that spoke on legislation, democracy and property rights etc were not assisted with power-point presentation.
 - e. Materials printed for the workshop did not cover every participant
 - f. Finally, the plenary sessions were extremely good, while the organizers were very friendly and educative.
38. Observations/comments
 - a. Organizing community promised to have delivered the background information before resumption of the workshop. Please consider this for the next time.
 - b. Presentations were too many per day and as a result there was limited time for presenting and questions
 - c. Overall, the workshop is rated good with intended objectives achieved

Annex 3

Notes from the four discussion sessions on various topics related to community forestry in Liberia

Session 1: Group discussions

Topic: What might community forestry mean in Liberia?

Questions

1. Identify your expectations of community forestry
1. Provide a definition of community forestry
2. What do you think are the main constraints?
3. Who should be the leading players in developing community forestry and what roles should they play?

Group 1: Low population density and high natural forest

1. **Expectations of community forestry**
 - Management & control of the forest resources for the benefit of the community
 - Empowerment of local communities by building their capacities
 - Government should support community rights
2. **Definition of community forestry**
 - Community forestry is a piece of forest set aside by law, demarcated, owned, controlled and sustainably managed by the community for commercial and other uses for the benefit of the community members
3. **Main constraints**
 - Poor infrastructures
 - Lack of community participation in forestry activities
 - Land disputes among tribal people
 - Unavailability of market outlets
 - Lack of skill training facilities
 - Lack of transparency and accountability
 - Non-clarity in the national forest policy (ies)
 - Leading players and their roles
 - Local communities designate areas for community forestry
 - Government: protect community rights; E/A
 - Local NGOs: build the capacity of local communities
 - Concessionaires: offer market outlets and improve road network for the communities

Group 2: High population density and low forest cover

1. What might Community Forest Mean in Liberia in high population, low forest area

2. Which are the geographical sites?

- Bong County
- Nimba county
- Bomi County
- Lofa county – Zolzor, Salayeh districts
- Upper Lofa county – Foya district
- Maryland county – Pleebo
- Montserado county
- Margibi county
- Western Cape mount county

3. Expectations from the Community Forestry process:

- Increased income generation
- Increased investments in agriculture
- Increased employment opportunities
- Increased community empowerment
- Creation of woodlots
- Re-forestation

4. Elements that should be in the definition of Community Forestry

- Maintain, protect, conserving of the forest by local people
- A designated area with regulated use
- Common interest
- Ownership
- An organized structure is the management team

5. Constraints

- Inequities in sharing of benefits accruing from the process
- Difficulties agreeing on benefits sharing mechanisms
- Inadequate funding and resources to meet/make relevant investments
- Competing uses for land and other natural resources
- Lack of community involvement in decision making processes
- Lack of relevant skills

6. Leading players

- Local communities
- FDA
- Civil society
- Traditional societies
- International NGOs and bodies
- Donors; USAID, UNDP, World Bank, etc

Group 3: Planted forests and plantations

1. Definition of community forestry

Community forest management is where the Gov't grants access to a community or communities with the interests to own, use and manage wisely a specific area of forest for the benefit of the community or communities

2. Expectation of community forestry

- Learn from each other
- Spread word about importance of protecting forests and species
- Give possibilities to communities, not companies
- Wiser use of NTFPs
- Fresh start for communities in Liberia
- Sensitising campaigns
- Mobilisation and Empowerment
- All groups heard (youth, women, elders, chiefs etc)
- High level of interaction

3. Major constraints

- Poor access to knowledge
- Poor access to market information and marketing skills
- Lack of feeling among people to be a part of the system, of being in charge of their own future
- Low inclusion of people, important to ask them what THEY want (not what the gov't thinks they want)
- Profit sharing at an early stage
- Clashes among groups (ethnic, age groups etc)
- Insufficient product processing facilities and transportation

4. Leading players and their roles

- Community groups
- Government including agencies
- Specialist groups
- Youth, women, elders, NGOs
- International agencies

Group 3: Conservation areas**1. Expectation from community forestry from a conservation perspective**

- To ensure that the livelihoods of local communities, while conservation methods for biodiversity are not jeopardized
- To improve good management skills for community forestry e.G. Community participation (how?)
- By creating awareness among community leaders of their rights and responsibilities in conservation
- To formulate policy framework for CF establishment on a sustainable basis
- By creating awareness among community leaders of their rights and responsibilities in conservation
- To formulate policy framework for community forestry establishment on a sustainable basis
- Creating jobs for local people through community forestry eg. Small scale enterprises
- Develop and add value to resources for commercial purposes
- Involve communities in decision making
- Networking system for agencies involved in community forestry to provide technical backstopping, such as skill training, institutional development

2. Constraints

- Community forestry is a new idea
- Training man-power to make community forestry work
- Lack of land demarcation and land use policy or link between such policy and people. At most realities on the ground eg: implementation and enforcement
- Rules and regulation guidelines
- Sense of what constitutes a “community”
- Tribal/Ethnic conflict that may or may not be due to lack of clear land tenure policy
- Lack of cooperation and sometimes trust between community leaders
- Willingness of government to financially support community forestry
- Moving beyond pilot phase to long term implementation - funding and ownership; conflict management

3. Players

1. government	Decision-making Prioritization problem Management
2. Government agencies a. FDA b. EPA c. Ministry of Internal Affairs d. Ministry of Agriculture	Advice and guidance Training Monitoring Provision of tools and methodologies Environmental impact assessment (EIA) EPA Conflict management (FDA)
3. NGOs	Empowerment Funding Capacity building Awareness, education Networking
4. Research and education	Knowledge generation Value adding Market information Researching value of the forest

4. What is Community Forestry?

It is a self help initiative developed by local communities in conservation landscape through an act of legislation which grants ownership and control, provides sustainable development opportunities and prioritize biodiversity conservation of for

Group 5: Concession areas

1. Definition of community forestry

Any forest managed under the authority of the community or legal recognition of community right: traditional or administratively

Varieties of Community forests

- Passive receipt of benefit
- Participation in management of or commercial concessions (negotiation, jobs, and or enforcement of rules)
- Concession owners (the community is responsible and accountable)
- Participate in management of concessions

2. Expectations

- Participation of communities in the negotiations
- Portion of the area base tax should be left with the communities for development
- Increase transparency
- Local people should be empowered to work with the FDA
- Incorporating forest projects in the tribal forest reserve management
- Protection, co-management and owner-operator opportunities

3. Constraints

- Not informed
- Lack of education or public awareness
- Various cultural backgrounds
- Lacking technical skills and financial resources
- Legal constraints exist, legal component needs to be clarified
- Government and community equity problem
- Political will not there to pass legislation for community forestry
- Legal clarification on obligations
- Scale and scope of concessions
- Difficult to build partnerships

Group 6: Deeded lands: expectations for Community forestry

1. Definition of community forestry

CF could be defined as a union of families or residents with common interests in the land on which they depend for livelihoods

Legal framework

That gives GOL exclusive rights

- Constitution
- Natural resources law
- Natural forestry law
- Through free lease-hold

Conditions

Deeded land

Communities with deeded lands must given the potential to practice community forestry

Undeeded land

Community without deeded land must acquire deeds and some forestry resources rights from GOL to practice community forestry

2. Constraints

- Amend the law
- GOL must waive some rights to the use of forest resources on which a union of families depends for livelihoods
- The size of land for the community forest is limited to the range within their tribal metes and bounds

3. Actors/players

- FDA administers the law
- Communities manage the forest resources

Session 2: Group discussions

Group 1: Identify based on your own knowledge and presentations the main assets available for community forestry

1. **Main assets**
 - Forestry availability
 - Timber stands e.g. niangon, iroko, ekk
 - NTFP
 - Flora, medicinal plants, thatch etc
 - Wildlife
 - Water (rivers, lakes etc)
 - Soil, clay, loamy soils
2. **How might these resources be mobilized and by whom**
Mobilization through:
 - Organized grouping (community)
 - Sensitization
 - Standard policy formulation
 - Community empowerment
 - Capacity building
3. **By whom**
 - Communities
 - Specialized government agencies

Group 2: Low population and high forest cover

Low population areas

- South east
 - Sinoe
 - Grand gedeh
 - River gee
 - Grand kru
 - Maryland with the eception of Pleebo
 - Others
 - Gbarpolu
 - Kolahum
 - Grand Cape Mount Gola Konneh
 - Tappita
1. **Main social assets for community forestry**
 - Kuu (coop work groups)
 - traditional social groups (societies, schools, *poro*, *sande*, *kuu*)
 - religious groups
 - Susu
 - Local government
 - CBOs e.g sports, cultural, women, youth groups
 - Local and international NGOs
 - Private sector, entrepreneur
 - Indigenous institutions
 2. **How might these social assets be mobilized and by whom?**
 Education sensitization: Civil society, Religious groups, govt, traditional societies, market demand, infrastructure, economic policy
 3. **Main dangers**
 - Market forces and policies
 - Unclear land tenure and ownership
 - Lack of community participation and ownership
 - Corruption, lack of accountability
 - Lack of trust
 - Poor or mis-communication
 - Inappropriate interventions and perception
 - Sterotypes
 4. **Do we know?**
 - Cultural heritage
 - Production and market

- Social institutions
- How to organize, mobilize,
- Indigenous knowledge

Group 3: Identify based on your knowledge and presentation the main assets available for community forestry

1. Resources

- Forests
- NTFP
- Medicines
- Construction timber
- Forests
- Honey
- Snails
- Bush-meat
- Water
- Fish

2. How might these assets be mobilized and by whom

Mobilization through

- Through organized grouping
- Sensitization
- Standard policy
- Community empowerment
- Capacity building

3. Whom?

- Communities,
- Government agencies

4. Can you identify the main dangers to their sustainable use

- Shifting cultivation
- Uncontrolled logging
- Creation of human settlements
- Commercial hunting of wildlife for bush-meat
- Unsustainable harvesting of NTFP
- Environmental degradation and pollution
- Unclear laws and regulation

5. Do we know enough about them

- No, we need to know more about their existence, and domestication of those that exists. Processing storage and marketing is also not developed.
- How to regulate their uses, what is the current status

Group 4: Main social assets in high population and low forest cover

1. Main assets

- Cultural identity
- Collective action
- Trust and respect
- Good leadership skills

2. How can they be mobilized

- Creating awareness on population growth
- Conduct skill training on swamp farming and tree planting

3. By whom?

- Government agencies
- Community

4. Main dangers

- Land disputes in community
- The absence of land-use policy on national and local levels
- Government intervention in local leadership
- Very little is known about them-need training

Group 5: Main assets available for community forestry

1. **Main assets**
 - Low land areas suitable for agriculture and fish production (river fishing, fish ponds)
 - Tropical forests- small islands of forest surrounded by people and degraded areas/forests
 - Wildlife- in tropical forest both pristine and degraded
2. **How to best mobilize the resources and by whom**
 - Pressure on forests from high population density. This is reducing the fallow period and result in the expansion of agriculture land into forests
 - Soil depletion, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, reduced agricultural productivity
 - Cacao and coffee production reduces biodiversity if cash crops replace tropical forests
3. **Do we know enough about them, if not what else do we need to know?**
 - No
 - Alternative intensification of agriculture and fish production
 - Alternative income generating activities
 - NTFPs and their utilisation
 - Wildlife resources and ecosystem attributes need to be studied

Group 6: Skills and knowledge and technology needed to use assets

Secondary forests

1. **Traditional knowledge**
 - a. soil fertility
 - b. regeneration
 - c. crop suitability
 - d. traditional uses
2. **Skills**
 - a. Slash and burn farming
 - b. Fertilizer
 - c. Broadcasting
 - d. Dig and buried
 - e. Production of non-timber forest products (rattan, broom, roofing, utensils)
 - f. Seed and bushmeat preservation
3. **Technology**
 - a. Improved technology
 - power saws
 - use of fertilizers and insecticides
 - traditional technology axes, hoes and cutlasses

Primary forests

1. **Timber and NTFP**
 - a. Timber products (logs and planks)
 - b. Knowledge of tree types and quality. Use of information very limited'
2. **Skills**
 - a. Pit-sawing/chain sawing
 - b. Modern production and extraction by concessions
 - c. NTFP, medicines, edible fruits, honey production
 - d. Bush meat
3. **Technology**
 - a. Axe, cutlasses hoe etc
 - b. Chain saws
 - c. Fertilizers
 - d. Power tillers
 - e. Integrated pest management

Wetland forest management

- Capital intensive
- Yield is high
- Occurrence of infestations diseases to the farmers

Skills

- Inadequate skills

- Technology
- Laying out plots

Social assets

- Family, villages, kingship, clan, chiefdom

Institutions

- Poro, Sande, Kwi traditional institutions
- Political systems
- Superintend, district commissioners, paramount chief etc

Skills for management of wetlands

- Managerial, professional and planning need to improvement for community forestry
- Technology is inadequate and under developed, documentation, communication record keeping and storage poor

Group 7: Main assets for community forestry development

1. Assets

- Forest, rivers, wildlife, timber
- Land, mineral resources and settlements
- Traditional and cultural knowledge
- Community and social structures
- Infrastructure, road bridges, schools and clinics
- Micro-finance

Mobilisation of assets how?

- Demarcation of forest resources to establish ownership (legislation/deeds. Rights)
Whom? = Community and govt
- Inventory of biological surveys
Whom? = Communities, FDA and other stakeholders
- Community sensitisation and awareness
Whom? = Communities and FDA and other stakeholders

Main dangers to assets

- Shifting cultivation
- Commercial hunting
- Mining
- Water pollution
- Land disputes/tribal conflicts
- Un-regulated logging

Session 3: Group discussions

1. Identify key livelihood strategies/products & markets/institutional arrangements
2. How well developed or resilient are they? What are the main challenges
3. How might community forestry be shaped to support them?
4. Do we know enough about them? If not what else do we need to know?

Group 1: Low population density areas with high natural forest cover: Livelihood strategies

1. Key Livelihood strategies and products

- Bush meat
- Backyard gardens and other types of farming (cassava, rice, etc)
- Mining
- NTFPs
- Handicraft

2. Markets and institutional arrangements

- Weekly markets
- Trans-border trade
- Pre-financing arrangements (bushmeat and mining)

3. How developed are these markets and institutions?

- Fair but not properly organized

4. Main challenges

- Poor road infrastructure

- Irregular prices
 - Regulations (bush meat and mining)
 - Lack of storage facilities
5. **How might communities be assisted towards addressing the constraints identified above?**
 - Raising overall awareness
 - Training in:
 - Small-scale marketing enterprises
 - Improved agriculture and agroforestry approaches
 - Improved handicrafts
 - Finding markets for products
 - Organizing cooperatives
 6. **Do we know enough about these improvement strategies?**

Knowledge gaps include:

 - Market information (prices)
 - Sustainable harvesting levels for NTFPs
 - Management skills for forest products

Group 2: Key products, markets and livelihood strategies in Low population areas and plentiful forest resources

1. **Key livelihood strategies**
 - Cash crops – cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber,, etc
 - Food crops – Rice, cassava, etc.
 - NTFPs – Bush pepper, bitter kola, rattan, walnut, wollar, raffia (wine), etc
 - Livestock – goat, poultry, etc
 - Bushmeat – monkeys, deer, etc
 - Fish (inland)
2. **How well developed are these strategies?**
 - Markets for food crops and cash crops are not well developed
 - Livestock and fish sectors are undeveloped.
 - Oil palm and rubber – reasonably well developed, at industrial scale.
 - Bushmeat is available but market is closed and heavily regulated
3. **What are the main challenges?**
 - FDA regulations present an important challenge
 - Some of the products are difficult to find
 - Production level do not lead to marketable surpluses
 - The low prices for NTFPs do not provide the necessary incentives for increased production.
 - Poor road infrastructure, limited buyers and inadequate transportation facilities negatively affect marketing.
 - Lack of investment capital is an impediment to enterprise development
 - Depletion of the parent stock weakens the supply and regeneration base.
4. **How can community forest evolve to address the identified short comings?**
 - Capacity-building should be introduced early enough.
 - technical support should be provided to the process to improve productivity and better understand functioning of markets.
 - Market access and transportation should be improved.
5. **Do we know enough about these improvement strategies?**
 - Action research should be carried out

Group 3: Livelihood strategies: High population low forest cover areas

1. **Strategies for livelihoods**
 - Inland fish production
 - Animal husbandry/livestock rearing
 - Permanent lowland production facilities on fringes
 - Intensive upland crop production
 - Bushmeat hunting (ground hog, etc)
 - Domestication of non-timber forest products
 - Encourage agroforestry in general
 - Arts and crafts development
2. **How well developed/resilient are these livelihood strategies and what are the main challenges?**
 - Not generally well developed
 - Retain high potential to support livelihoods if improved

3. Main challenges would include

- Requirements for increased investments from government, NGOs and private sector
- Willingness of the local communities to participate

4. How might community forests be shaped to support these strategies?

- Rejuvenation of degraded forests to support NTFPs and commercial logging
- Serve as permanent production systems such as fish ponds, agroforestry, paddies around fringes to develop economic activities, improve livelihoods without destroying the forest.

5. Do we know much about these systems and strategies?

- Information remains scant
- Need to carry-out assessments
- Need to carry-out sensitization
- Need to build capacity
- Need to generally empower the community
- Need to study the impact of the technologies on people and the environment.

Group 4: Products and markets in high population and low forest cover**1. Livelihoods strategies**

- Farming (rice, cassava, eddoes, etc)
- Harvesting and collection of forest products (wood, poles, firewood, charcoal)
- Tree crops (cocoa, coffee, palm)

2. Institutional arrangements

- Liberia Produce Marketing cooperation (LPMC)
- Local marketing cooperative
- Local marketing associations
- They are not well developed

3. Weaknesses

- Lack of local demand for certain tree crops/products (cocoa and coffee)
- Lack of post harvesting facilities for perishable goods
- Lack of adequate processing facilities
- Poor road network

4. Improvement through

- Community cooperative systems
- Training
- Goop policy guidelines
- Mobilization
- Empowerment

5. Not much is known about them

- What do we need to know
- We need awareness
- Improve information
- Need to improve transportation systems

Group 5: Identify key livelihood strategies, products and markets/institutional arrangement**1. Arrangements**

- Joint ventures with would be investors (communities have forest but no finance)
- Acquire loans to carry out their own operations (WB loans?, and other sources with low interest rates)
- Pre-financing or contract production for certain products
- Production of produce for employee in town or private enterprises
- Training and empowerment to manage tree crop farms

2. How well developed or resilient are they? What are the main challenges?

- Not well developed

3. Challenges

- Lack of cohesiveness in the community
- Level of education is low
- Lack of long term commitment by the private sector
- No willingness to pay premium price on the part of the buyers
- Traditional/cultural norms and practices not being adhered to
- Lack of support institutions e.g. banks
- Poor accountability

4. **How might community forestry be shaped to support them?**
 - Collaboration between communities and the private sector
 - Creation of national investment climate
 - Incentives to both private sector and community
 - Sustainable projects
 - Commitment and truthfulness on the part of the communities/partners
 - Legal organizations' involvement in community forestry
 - Economic viability of the venture
 - Monitoring mechanisms
5. **Do we know enough about them?**
 - No
6. **If not what else do we need to know/do**
 - Feasibility studies
 - Awareness/education (symposium, workshops, information dissemination)
 - Lessons learnt from other communities

Group 6: Key beneficiaries of community forestry

1. **The community at large**
 - The elite within the community
 - Grass-roots
 - Local authority
 - NGOS and other service providers
 - Commercial loggers
 - The entrepreneurs (middle-man and marketers)
 - The finance people
2. **Primary obstacles that stop benefits from reaching communities**
 - Lack of knowledge on how to benefit, what benefits they receive
 - Interference by govt.
 - Rent seeking
 - Bureaucracy
 - Price setting
 - Inappropriate policy
 - Ownership and resource rights (they are either unclear or overlapping)
 - Inappropriate start-up requirement
 - Insufficient returns from commercial forests to communities
 - Insufficient trust, collaboration and communication between concessionaires and community
 - Inadequate participation of community responsible for the forest resources
 - Lack of reconciliation between goods and services from forestry systems
 - Dysfunctional markets, credits systems and economic infrastructure such transport roads, etc.
3. **What support is need for communities to realize benefits**
 - the will of the national govt. to grant use rights to communities
 - the willingness of govt. to subsidize support to communities
 - access to marketing information

Session 4: Group discussions

Group 1: Land tenure - What steps do we need to sort out the mess?

1. No individual/should be allowed to buy more than 50 acres in the interior
2. People with customary land use right should be given legal use rights to manage their forest
3. Communities should measure and demarcate their land and claim the rights for the communities
4. Ministry of LME should help communities get legal deeds
5. If land purchasers do not use land, it should be given back to the communities after a certain period of time (5-10 years)
6. Revise all laws related to land tenure
7. Land owners should also own the forest on their land but they have to pay taxes
8. People who have inherited lands that have been used by their parents should be respected
9. land sale should be approved by the elders, board and not just chiefs
10. Ministry of IA and MLE need to work on the land sale problem issue

Group 2: Community forestry and communal forests

Communal forest

- A category in Liberian law (statutory) which is established by decree or legislative act
- It confers statutory user rights but title is not specified.
- Govt conferred
- CF can be used as a tool for protection of biodiversity

Community forest

- A forest managed and controlled by traditional rights (property by statutory law for the community).

Community forestry

- A science for the sustainable management of forests by communities who have title or user rights

Similarity

- they all provide for community livelihoods
- all managed by the community

Differences

- CF products are not for commercial purposes
- The need for title is not specified

Recommendations

1. Policy/legislative clarification relative to communal forest on
 - Limits of user rights
 - Degree of commercial use or non-commercial use
2. Enact policy regulations and framework to provide enabling environment for CFM
3. Work out modalities for transfer of title and/or user rights to community forest to enable control and management by communities
4. Provide capacity building and empowerment to communities and associated agencies (govt, NGOs) to support CFM in Liberia

Group 3: Elements on or of who the community is

1. Community?

- Living together
- Common interests
- Working together in defined geographic context
- Leadership, authority structure
- Bound together by culture and traditions

2. How do we get fair representation?

- Elect representatives to their culture and rules/traditions
- Advocating new processes and support from civil societies that build on existing structures

3. How do we get communities to make fair decisions?

- Reporting back to communities regularly
- Regular presentation of financial records
- Ensure the development of a code of conduct or by-laws

Group 4: Information flows and monitoring

1. How to ensure the maintenance of rights and responsibilities to the communities

- a. Making govt. regulation and policy on CF issues accessible to the communities
- b. Raising adequate public awareness with local community involvement
- c. Ensure that there is total participation of all stakeholders in the management and protection of CF
- d. Respect the cultural and historical values of the local community
- e. Ensure transparency and accountability by CF management team to the community.
- f. Strengthen local community in information dissemination for CF
- g. Holding joint consultative meetings to plan and implement CF programmes/activities
- h. Feed back information on research conducted within the community to the community

2. The constitution supports the CF in that it allows the full participation of all citizens in the management of natural resources

3. Constraints

- The legislation states that all natural resources belongs to the state
- Yes, the community should have user rights to manage and control resource in CF
- Yes, communities should take collective action by engaging policy makers for change of legislation to suit their taste.
- Conduct massive sensitization of the values of their rights and responsibilities (local people) in order to engage govt. and service providers constructively

Group 5: How should FDA support community forestry?

- FDA should identify community needs and services
- Assist communities to demarcate inventory for community forests
- FDA needs strengthening skills for community forestry
- Should assist communities to exercise rights and responsibilities to manage resources
- FDA should seek support from NGOs for extension services

Assumptions

- Community forestry will be managed by the local people
- FDA is the leading agency in administering community forests
- FDA should promote gender equity

Group 6: What alternatives to the CF are there in the relevant areas?

1. Gbarpolu County – tribal reserve forest (deeded)
2. River Cess County – Kploh Native Reserve
3. Margibi County – Gboh Town native forest reserve
4. Cape Mount County – Bulu native reserve
5. Nimba County – Boe and Quila Reserve
6. Nimba County – Tribal reserve (deeded)
7. Sinoe County – Kabada communal forest reserve (deeded)
8. Sinoe County – Upper Wedja Community forest reserve (deeded)
9. Sinoe County – Putu Native reserve (deeded)
10. Sinoe County – Seekon Community reserve forest (deeded)
11. Sinoe County – Lower Jaedpo Communal forest
12. Sinoe County – Kaedea Community reserve

Alternatives

1. Farming – shifting cultivation
2. fishery
3. Hunting
4. Cash crop production (rubber coffee cocoa)
5. Mining
6. Livestock production
7. Pit sawing
8. Collection and processing of NTFP
9. Oil palm
10. Palm wine production
11. Rubber production

Annex 4

Peer contracts proposed at the end of the workshop

Name	Proposal	Who will assist with this proposal?
Mr. Ricks Y. Toweh	I would like to go into cocoa production	USAID
Mr. Eric Paa-Sene	Log production	
Forcel Soloh	I have a coconut plantation in my village and I want to rehabilitate it	
William Clarke	I want a community palm farm	
Hon. Nehemia N. Saydee	Community palm farm	
Joseph M. Biaty	To conduct training in ecology and establish ecological farms for graduates in their respective farms	
James S. Karmon Snr	Seeking for partnerships in the areas of gold and logging business. I am a gold miner and logger with both gold and forest areas	
J. Botoe McCay	My community needs a project proposal on financial aid for the construction of a market building	
Soko Koryon	I want to do advanced study in community forestry to help up grade C forestry in Liberia	USAID/CIFOR
Boima Z. Ricks	Training and awareness with local community through the FDA	
Moses Kolubah	Agro-forestry and community forestry projects	USAID/CIFOR
G. Kaikai Ferhller	Community forestry training awareness at FDA	
Abu J. Limhor	Raising awareness and training of communities in vegetable production and cash-crop production	
Aaron Buah	I want to open a commercial plantation after my school/study and become a big business man both national and internationally	
Wata Moda	Workshop on the awareness of women and youth's right on land ownership and participation in decision making	
Willian M Seh	Would love to export pit sawn timber but do not know how to do it and there are no funds	
Lawrence N. Satia sr	Would love to survey the land of my community for the establishment of	
Jonathan W. Yiah	Would be happy to provide my service and experience to communities interested in establishing and managing community forestry projects	
Crispen Marunda	I would like to put together a team of authors to write a paper on "Community forestry in Liberia: challenges and opportunities"	moses.massah@unep.ch
Forkpa D. Karmon	I would like to do plantain farming	

Name	Proposal	Who will assist with this proposal?
Boima Johnson	I have an old pig pen that was built by my parents. I seek for help to start the programme, please help me with two pigs and some finance	
Robert L. Nyalu	Want to pilot community driven development in 10 villages around the SNP	
J. Gayflor Kokro	I want to undertake livestock production especially to communities around SNP. The efforts will reduce hunting wildlife in the park	
John K. Dwoima	I would like to see a school built for learning forestry from ABC to PHD level in forestry only	
Eunice Dagbe	My organization wants to save the only RAMSR site in Liberia (wetlands of Lake Piso). This site is now used as a dumb-site	
Jackson Kpaleh	I would like to see school built for the community	
Romeo Varney	Vegetable production around SNP, SE Liberia	
Edison Mameh	Power saw	
Sam Koffa	Agroforestry	
Moses Wogbeh	Agroforestry	
Paul Duo	Agroforestry	
Joseph Tally	Community forestry awareness project	
John B. Warner	I want to get married	
Zlenyonoh Tarlue	Domestication of NTFP	
Sampson Nyema	Small scale tree planting proposal project	
Rebecca Kaha	I want to take care of children	
Augustine Laveleh	Re-activation of 3 community based forests established around SNP by SCNL and CRS	
Yarkpuzz0 Kessellie	Power saw	
Lawrence Green	Cane-rat production around SNP	
Quyan Harris	Snail production (large scale)	
Edwin Walker	Establishment of 50 acres of rubber trees	
Sara Nyanquor	Conservation and environment training	

Annex 5

List of participants

No.	Name	Organization	No.	Name	Organization
1.	Aaron Buah	FDA	36.	James S. Karmon	URFA/Gbarpolu
2.	Abu Limbor	FDA	37.	Jamison Suter	FFI
3.	Alfred Mehn	Nimba	38.	Jangar Kamara	FDA
4.	Allison Lounpie	Nimba	39.	Jeanette Carter	AFRICARE
5.	Amos Sawyer	Indiana University	40.	Jerome Nyenka	University of Liberia
6.	Anthony Tarplah	FDA	41.	Johansen Voker	EPA
7.	Anyaa Vohiri	FFI	42.	John Dwana	FDA
8.	Augustine Lavelah	CRS	43.	John T. Woods	LFI
9.	Beatrix Mensah	World Bank	44.	John Warner	FDA
10.	Ben Turtur Donnie	UNDP, Liberia	45.	Johnson Zleh	FDA
11.	Bladee Dagbe	FDA	46.	Jonathan Yiah	SDI
12.	Blamah Goll	FDA	47.	Joseph Bioty	Greenstar
13.	Boima Johnson	FDA	48.	Joseph Sam Sesay	UNMIL
14.	Boima Ricks	FDA	49.	Joseph Tally	FDA
15.	Crispen Marunda	CIFOR	50.	Joseph Yeneken	FDA
16.	Daniel Tiveau	CIFOR	51.	Jospeh Fully	SCNL
17.	David Kaimowitz	CIFOR	52.	Jospeh Yomie	Nimba
18.	Edison Manneh	Sinoe	53.	Julu Johnson	MLME
19.	Edwin Walker	SBA	54.	Kaikai Fehlleh	FDA
20.	Emanuele Santi	World Bank	55.	Keith Jubal	RPAL
21.	Emmanuel Gbato	Nimba	56.	Kokro Gayflor	FDA
22.	Eric Jusu	Pitsawing Assoc.	57.	Lawrence Green	FDA
23.	Eric Paasewe	ALL	58.	Lawrence Satia	MOF
24.	Eugene Wilson	FDA	59.	Letla Mosenene	FFI
25.	Eugene Wilson	FDA	60.	MacArthur Paybay	STCP
26.	Eunice Dagba	EPA	61.	Mike Geh	Nimba
27.	Forceh Soloh	MIA	62.	Mohammed Bakarr	ICRAF
28.	Forkpa Karmon	SBA	63.	Morris Geaway	Nimba
29.	Francis Wreh	MPEA	64.	Moses Biah	FDA
30.	Frederick Cherue	Dugbe Law Firm	65.	Moses Kolubah (Aron Kota)	FDA
31.	Greg A. Booth	AED/Mercy Corps	66.	Moses Massah	UNEP
32.	Grody Dorbor	ALEJ	67.	Moses Wogbeh	FDA
33.	Hamilton Saydee	Sinoe	68.	Munyaradzi Motsi	UNMIL
34.	J. Botoe McCay	Bopolu, Gbarpolu	69.	Nemiah Saydee	Sinoe
35.	Jackson Kpadeh	FDA	70.	Ousseynou Ndoeye	CIFOR

No.	Name	Organization
71.	Patrick Flomo	LBS
72.	Paul F. Duo	FDA
73.	Peter Mbile	ICRAF
74.	Philip Joekolo	FDA
75.	Quyen Harris	Greenstar
76.	Ramsey Kumbuyal	LACE
77.	Ravi Prabhu	CIFOR
78.	Rebecca Kaba	Transport Union
79.	Richard S. Sambolah	FFI
80.	Ricks Toweh	ALL
81.	Robert Howard	FFI
82.	Robert Nyahn	SAMFU
83.	Robert Simpson	LFI
84.	Romeo Varney	FDA
85.	Rudolph Merab	Timber Assoc.
86.	Sampson Nyema	FDA
87.	Samuel Koffa	FFI
88.	Sara Nyanquoi	FDA
89.	Scott Bode	USAID
90.	Sizi Subah	Greenstar
91.	Soko Koryon	FDA
92.	Steve Snoh	Firestone
93.	Thomas Fallah	Pitsawing Assoc.
94.	Wata Modad	W&CRS
95.	Webby Bwanali	UNMIL
96.	Wilbur Thomas	USAID
97.	William Clarke	Sinoe
98.	William S-e-h	Gbarpolu
99.	Yarkpazu Kessellie	FDA
100.	Zlenyonoh Tarlue	SDI

Annex 6

Workshop agenda, Dec. 12-15, 2005

First international workshop on community forestry

Towards a shared vision and action frame for community forestry in Liberia

Baptist Seminary, Monrovia

Time	Topic	Presenters
Day 1, Dec. 12		
Setting the scene		
08:00-09:00 – Registration		
1st Session 09:00-10:00: Framing the challenge		
09:00-09:10	Liberia Forest Initiative and community forestry: expectations	John Woods, LFI
09:10-09:20	Forested Landscapes and Community Development: Science, Scale, and Sustainability	Mohammed Bakarr, ICRAF
09:20-09:30	USAID and community forestry	Wilbur Thomas, USAID
09:30-09:45	International perspectives on community forestry	David Kaimowitz, CIFOR
09:45-10:00	Official opening: Community forestry as a pillar of forest development in Liberia	Eugene Wilson, FDA
10:00-10:30	Coffee break	
2nd Session 10:30-12:30 – Stakeholder views, Chair: Scott Bode		
10:30-10:40	Aims and organization of the workshop	Ravi Prabhu, CIFOR/ICRAF team
10:40-10:55	Local communities	Forceh Soloh Ministry of Internal Affairs
10:55-11:10	Plantation owners	Keith Jubah, Rubber Planters Association
11:10-11:25	Community development agencies	Ramsey T. Kumbuyal, LACE
11:25-11:40	UNMIL and Community Forestry: expectations	Webby Bwanali, UNMIL
11:40-11:55	Capacity building for community forestry	Lawrence Green, FDA & Noelle o'Brien, RECOFTC
11:55-12:05	A Loggers view point	Mr Ricks Toweh (respondent) (Rudolph Merab)
12:05-12:30	Plenary discussion	
12:30-14:00	Lunch break	
3rd Session 14:00-15:00 – Finding space for community forestry Chair: Moses Wogbeh		
14:00-14:20	Forest and related policies	Tony Taplah, FDA
14:20-14:40	Land tenure	Julu Johnson, Ministry of Lands Mines & Energy
14:40-15:00	Land use planning	Robert Simpson, LFI
5:15-15:30	Coffee break	
4th Session 15:30-17:30 – Breakout groups on the day's presentations Chair: Mohammed Bakarr		
15:30-15:50	Results of the CIFOR/ICRAF research	Crispen Marunda, CIFOR
15:50-16:00	Introduction to break out groups	Ravi Prabhu, Organising Committee
16:00-16:40	Breakout groups	
16:40-17:10	Reports back from breakout groups	
17:10-17:30	Discussion of reports in plenary	
17:30-18:30 – Process steering group meets to evaluate progress made and take adaptive steps		
17:30-18:30 – Synthesis group meets to begin work		
18:30 – Welcome cocktail and snacks (Hosted by Liberia Forest Initiative)		

Time	Topic	Presenters
Day 2, Dec. 13		
Assets available for community forestry		
08:00-08:30 – Late registration		
1st Session 08:30-10:00 – Natural Assets		
08:30-08:45	Biological resources available to communities and their use (technical presentation)	Ben Donnie, UNDP
08:45-09:00	Conservation and community forestry	Tyler Christie, CI
09:00-09:20	Community views on assets	Local community participants
09:20-10:00	Plenary discussion	
2nd Session 10:30-12:30 – Social Assets		
10:30-10:50	Rights (This was cancelled due to Mr. Brownell's absence)	Alfred Brownell- Green Advocates
10:50-11:10	Liberian communities and the forest	Jeanette Carter, Africare
11:10-11:30	Understanding the role of gender and youth	Wata Modad & Paul Richards
11:30-12:30	Breakout groups: implications for community forestry	
12:30-14:00	Lunch break	
3rd Session 14:00-15:00 – Livelihoods, products and markets		
14:00-14:15	Livelihood strategies (technical presentation)	MacArthur Paybay, STCP
14:15-14:30	Trees and Livelihoods	Peter Mbile, ICRAF
14:30-14:45	Partnerships between the private sector and communities	Steve Snoh, Firestone
14:45-15:00	Markets and credit	Sizi Subah, Subah Belleh
4th Session 15:30-17:00 – Breakout groups on livelihoods and markets		
15:30-16:10	Breakout groups	
16:10-17:00	Report back	
17:30-18:30 – Process steering group meets to evaluate progress made and take adaptive steps		
17:30-18:30 – Synthesis group continues work		

Day 3, Dec. 14		
Governance		
1st Session 08:30-09:30 – International experience with governance...		
08:30-08:45	Lessons from the DRC	Ousseynou Ndoeye, CIFOR
08:45-09:00	International lessons	Stephen Kelleher, IUCN Ravi Prabhu & Robert Fisher, Sydney Univ.
09:00-09:15	Plenary discussion with panelists ...and national experiences (Cancelled to make up for lost time)	
09:15-09:30	Concessions	Drayton Hineh, Ministry of Finance
09:30-09:45	Communities	Sam Koffa, FFI
09:45-10:00	Plenary discussion with panelists	
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break	
2nd Session 10:30-12:30 – Legislation		
10:30-10:45	Communal forests	Jamison Suter, FFI
10:45-11:00	Property rights	Fredrick Cherue, Elect Senior Senator, RiverGee county
11:00-11:15	Democracy and representation	Anyaa Vohiri, FFI
11:15-11:45	Breakout groups	
11:45-12:30	Reports	
12:30-14:00	Lunch break	

Time	Topic	Presenters
3rd Session 14:00-15:00 – Sectoral and inter-sectoral governance		
14:00-14:20	Local governance issues	Munyaradzi Motsi, UNMIL
14:20-14:40	Inter-sectoral governance issues	Johansen Voker, EPA
14:40-15:00	The University and training for governance	Jerome Nyenka, University of Liberia
4th Session 15:30-17:00 – Breakout groups on governance		
15:30-16:10	Breakout groups	
16:10-17:00	Reports and plenary	
17:30-18:30 – Process steering group meets to evaluate progress made and take adaptive steps		
17:30-18:30 – Synthesis group continues work		

Day 4, Dec. 15		
Sharing the vision, developing the plan		
1st Session 08:30-10:00 – Towards a shared vision		
08:30-08:40	The emerging vision: Report back from synthesis group	
08:40-08:50	Plenary discussion of report back	
08:50-09:20	Breakout groups on vision	
09:20-10:00	Report back & discussion	
2nd Session 10:30-12:30 – Planning for action		
10:30-10:50	The building blocks of a plan: Report back from synthesis group	
10:50-11:30	Parallel Breakout groups to identify next steps: opportunities, risks and possible actions for consideration	
11:30-12:30	Report back	
12:30-14:00	Lunch break	
3rd Session 14:00-15:00 – Conclusions & responses		
	Plenary discussion on workshop report	
	Conclusions and resolutions of the workshop – formal adoption	
	Response to workshop outcomes 1:	Scott Bode, USAID
	Response 2:	David Kaimowitz, CIFOR
	Response 3:	Eugene Wilson, FDA
	Formal Closure	Dr. Amos Sawyer, Former President of Transitional Government of Liberia
4th Session 15:30-17:00 – Peer contracts		
Call for peer contracts		
18:30 – Farewell Cocktail and snacks (Hosted by CIFOR)		

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) is a leading international forestry research organization established in 1993 in response to global concerns about the social, environmental, and economic consequences of forest loss and degradation. CIFOR is dedicated to developing policies and technologies for sustainable use and management of forests, and for enhancing the well-being of people in developing countries who rely on tropical forests for their livelihoods. CIFOR is one of the 15 Future Harvest centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). With headquarters in Bogor, Indonesia, CIFOR has regional offices in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Zimbabwe, and it works in over 30 other countries around the world.

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First steps towards community forestry in Liberia

Outcomes of an international workshop

Liberia's forest sector is in the process of major reform and revitalization after years of mismanagement and civil war. A major plank in the strategy to develop a healthy, productive and sustainable forest sector is the development of community forestry. Proposed about two years ago as the 'new' component of forest policy, to complement commercial and conservation forestry, community forestry remained poorly understood and ambiguous.

This volume contains proceedings of a historic workshop held in December 2005 that has brought clarity to the concept of community forestry in Liberia. The workshop addressed a wide range of issues pertaining to community forestry, based on presentations from a range of experts, local community representatives, policy makers, researchers and the donor community. The 'Monrovia Declaration' adopted by the wide cross-section of stakeholders in Liberian forestry who attended the workshop, sets out a framework for future action on community forestry based on a common understanding of how the concept can be made practical in the Liberian context. It was the unanimous view of all workshop participants that community forestry had great potential to act as the motor for sustainable development of Liberia's rural areas, and within an integrated framework that will help safeguard the country's rich and diverse forest for posterity.

Given the historical nature of the workshop, it is anticipated that these proceedings will form a valuable reference work as community forestry takes its next steps towards maturity.

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