

Project Update: January 2018

Introduction

The aim of the project is to understand why the communities are not fully cooperating with conservation policies to protect the mangroves. The study involves participatory approach to assess this problem targeting communities around and within the Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve in Liberia. According to our work plan, in this period we concentrated on meeting relevant stakeholders and representatives from different institutions. The project started its implementation by first introducing the project and having discussions with the stakeholders such as community representatives, Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Farmer Associated to Conserve the Environment (FACE), Conservation International (CI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Activity implementation progress

The project is on track as far as the work plan is concerned with few hiccups. We have managed to pull together the relevant stakeholders and convinced the community on the aim and importance of the project. We have also progress to our next month activities preparation.

Implementation Status

The project team has concentrated on the work schedule and its implementation. We have formulated the data sheet with an expectation to begin the data collection process (from the mangrove swamps to PRA/RRA) by February, 2018. The immediate result from our discussions with different stakeholders (communities and NGOs), we are currently working with Green Globe Consultancy a Liberian NGO to gather support from Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the community request on alternative livelihood such as snail farming, bee-keeping and cassava production. We also got use of a boat and one person from FDA that we will work with to facilitate a big coverage in the data collection process. In addition, we were provided with an office and conference hall where we can run our office work and in our PRA/RRA discussion.

Implementation Challenges

We have not been able to gather all institutions listed in our proposal in a general meeting. This was due to the presidential elections (from campaign period to election) and subsequently due to the transition of the government. However, we have focused on the closest institutions in terms of importance needed by this project.



