

Project Update: July 2011

The Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS) formally launched the Wonegizi Youth Environmental Rights Awareness & Educational Training Program on 3rd April 2011 in Konia Town, the headquarters of Ziama Clan, Lofa County. This launching programme brought together 40 members of the Wonegizi Community Forestry Management Board, the Clan Chief and Schools administrators. The purpose of this formal launching ceremony was to officially inform and explain the project background and objectives to representatives from the 20 communities that constitute the Ziama Clan in the present of the Clan Chief and school administrators. It also afforded SADS the opportunity to solicit the clan support throughout the implementation process. In a special statement, Mr. John Woukolo- Clan Chief, commented that *“I am very happy for this program, most especially youth being the targeted beneficiaries. I also believed that if we invest in the minds of our kids, they will change the future and improve living standards”*. A couple of hours were taken to explain the various components of the program and why it is beginning as a pilot in three communities.



During the launching program, SADS also facilitated the selection process of the three communities and schools in which the Wonegizi Youth Environmental Rights Awareness & Educational Training Program will be piloted. After several suggestions and discussions, the participants agreed and selected the following communities and schools for the piloting:

| Name of selected community | School selected | Community Population | GPS Coordinates |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Ziggida Town | Ziggida community School | 2,986 | Zone 29 P 0446634 UTM 0888355 Datum: Liberia 1964 (GPS Code 167) |
| Konia Town | Christian Revival Fellowship School | 6,500 | Zone 29 N 0439979 UTM 0880055 Datum : Liberia 1964 (GPS Code 166) |
| Zuwulor Town | Zuwulor Public School | 3,550 | Zone 29 N 0442939 UTM 087477 Datum: Liberia 1964 |

In June 2011, SADS staff established direct contact with selected communities and schools official to commence modalities for the implementation of the pilot project. With great enthusiasm, the programme was accepted and has kick-off in each of the selected communities and schools. Immediately as school re-open for academic 2011, SADS shall facilitate the establishment of the environmental nature clubs in each school.