

# **SAPO NATIONAL PARK MULTI STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE**

July 13-15, 2017

Greenville, Sinoe County

## **RESOLUTION**

### **A. Preamble**

We, the chiefs, elders, women and youth from the local communities in Sinoe, River Gee and Grand Gedeh Counties that are surrounding the Sapo National Park ("Park") along with the Superintendents, and other local and national authorities of the three counties as well as representatives of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), other relevant government agencies, NGOs, INGOs, and donor partners, who attended and participated in the three-day Sapo National Park Multi-stakeholder Conference organized from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2017 in Greenville, Sinoe County for the purpose of discussing and agreeing on a common and workable strategy to promote the sustainable management of the Park for current and future generations, gather, do acknowledge and affirm that:

WHEREAS, Liberia has the largest remaining rainforest blocks in the Upper Guinea Forest Ecosystem, which contains many rare and endemic plant and animal species that are of national and global importance;

WHEREAS, these forest areas have also been internationally recognized as one of thirty-five (35) 'Biodiversity Hotspots' and, therefore a priority for global conservation efforts;

WHEREAS, Liberia's forests provide a wide range of benefits to the Liberian people and the international community, such as habitat for globally important biodiversity, ecosystem services, ecotourism potentials, timber and non-timber forest products, and make significant input to the national budget through sustainable forest management;

WHEREAS, the Government of Liberia established the Sapo National Forest in the 1960s in recognition of its distinct and rich ecosystem of endemic plant and animal species;

WHEREAS, the Park was established by law in 1983 to conserve 323,075 acres of forest that was carved from the existing Sapo National Forest to promote sustainable forest management in the Republic of Liberia;

WHEREAS, in 2003 the Liberian Government extended the 1983 boundaries of the Park to include 81,353 acres in the west and 41,249 acres in the east, yet to date the extended boundary has not been demarcated on the ground;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Park is currently being degraded and damaged by the presence of illegal occupants, estimated to be around 5,000 persons, including non-Liberians who re-entered the Park following the 2010 eviction exercises and are involved in illicit mining, hunting, drugs abuse, and prostitution;



REALIZING that the Park and its resources offer the potential for generating immense benefits for present and future generations at the local, national and international levels;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the continued presence and activities of the illegal occupants are clear violation of Chapter 9, Section 9.10(b)(ii), of the National Forest Reform Law of 2006, thereby, obstructing efforts by the Liberian Government through the FDA and her international partners to implement sustainable park management;

RECOGNIZING the important role that communities can play in the sustainable management of natural resources, especially through collaborative management practices, and that empowerment of communities will help in the protection of the Park and improve the livelihood of surrounding communities;

ACKNOWLEDGING the high financial cost associated with the effective management and protection of the Park, and understanding the important role that donor funding has played in supporting the management of the Park;

APPRECIATING past efforts of the Government of Liberia and her national and international partners, through the FDA and other line ministries and agencies, to provide communities around the park with basic infrastructure and services to improve their livelihoods;

NOW THEREFORE, we the above-mentioned participants at this three-day Multi-stakeholders Conference concerning the sustainable management of the Park do hereby resolve as follows:

1. We will work together to see and maintain the Park; cleared of all illegal activities and persons, with clearly demarcated boundaries, and whose management is done with the active participation of communities for the benefit of all Liberians.
2. That all current activities relating to mining, hunting, farming, or other nature not related to protecting the Park are illegal, and that all persons aside from FDA rangers in the Park are there illegally and requested to depart the Park immediately.
3. That the chiefs, elders and traditional leaders of all the Communities adjacent the Park will work with the FDA to protect the Park and free it of all illegal occupants and activities through several initiatives, including:
  - a. The formation, training, supervision and supporting of community watch teams that will work with national government security apparatus to prevent unauthorized persons from entering or living in the Park;
  - b. The banning of all community members and all persons from carrying food and any merchandise into the Park for whatever reason(s);
  - c. The establishment and imposition of appropriate action including fines against any community or individual that violates the ban on carrying of food, merchandise or any support to persons in the Park or that helps anyone to enter, remain or live in the Park.



4. That the communities and the FDA will work together to create awareness on the removal of illegal occupants from the Park.
5. That partners will work together to develop a proposal for the rehabilitation of all occupants most especially Liberians.
6. That all government agencies and FDA rangers uphold the rule of law including observing the separation of executive and judicial functions in the enforcement of law relating to protection and management of the Park and, in particular:
  - a. The Ministry of Internal Affairs will take appropriate action against any local government authority who permits, supports or in any way helps any person to enter, live in or carry on mining, farming or hunting in the Park
  - b. That any employee of the FDA found facilitating illegal activities in the park will be immediately suspended, investigated and if found guilty, dismissed and prosecuted
  - c. That any person working with an agency of government that helps facilitate illegal activities in the park, including through the issuance of illicit licenses will be immediately suspended, investigated, and if found guilty, dismissed and prosecuted
7. That any and all illegal occupants and unauthorized persons who fail to voluntarily leave the Park by August 31, 2017 shall face the full weight of the Law.
8. That the existence of the Park is necessary for the communities, Liberia and the rest of the world, and that any discussions about boundary demarcation, i.e. the area that the Park covers, will be done with this recognition and the following will take place:
  - a. That there will be awareness raising in communities around the park on the importance of the forest and its biodiversity;
  - b. That the 1983 Act and 2003 Extension Act and associated maps will be made widely available to the communities by FDA/ MLME and her partners in order to address the limited knowledge among communities about the said Act;
  - c. That there will be flagging of the extended boundary, with the full involvement and participation of the communities.
  - d. Boundary Demarcation will be carried out with the full participation of FDA, LLA, MLME, communities and partners.
9. In recognition of communities commitment to the management of the Park, FDA and her partners have agreed to support job creation, training, livelihood development and other priority needs upon engaging with the communities, with the assurance that there are already financial commitments to achieve some of these goals, with additional funding being actively sought.



10. Moving forward, the FDA commit that at least 60% of employment in relating to management of the Park will come from the 3 counties with priority given to adjacent communities.
11. That the FDA and Partners agree to fast track investment for the communities surrounding the Park and will continue to seek funding for the sustainable collaborative management of the Park.
12. That the revised management plan and subsequent management activities for Sapo National Park should and will reflect the active participation of community and all other stakeholders including:
  - a. To support community participation in Park management, a local advisory board will be set up immediately by the FDA in consultation with the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Justice as well as the communities to advise in the management of the park, including setting priorities and subsequent evaluation of progress;
  - b. That a grievance redress process is established promptly to resolve disputes between the communities and FDA;
  - c. Establishing a peace-building program to promote cordial relationship between the communities and the FDA and all other partners;
  - d. Ensuring that women and other marginalized groups are actively involved and given particular attention in park activities moving forward;
  - e. FDA and partners commit to working with communities to support and encourage community management of the forests around the Park, including the establishment of conservancies and other community based natural resource management models;
  - f. Conducting environmental and social assessments to understand fully the impact of the illegal miners and hunters on the park and surrounding communities, and undertake actions to address findings.
13. The FDA and partners along with the communities will take actions to engage the Government especially the Liberian Legislature to increase the operational budget of the FDA to ensure sustained operations of the Park including the establishment of an endowment.
14. That all partners will work together to promote the Park as an international research and tourism destination building off the current Sapo Conservation Center.
15. That the FDA will ensure funding from partners for the development of Park infrastructure is utilized for the intended purpose and will work with the relevant government ministries and agencies, and development partners to support infrastructure development in communities around the Park.






16. That the FDA commits to working with partners to provide adequate training and logistics for rangers and communities for the management of the Park.
17. That in the interest of fostering community relations and their active involvement in securing the Park and the removal of illegal occupants, that the GOL consider the prompt conclusion of the investigation of the April 2017 Incident acknowledging that both legal and traditional processes may need to be pursued urgently to resolve the matter.
18. That this Resolution and all information about discussions and decisions of this conference will be distributed to all stakeholders and that a **joint stakeholders committee** will be formed comprising representatives from the three counties, Forestry Development Authority, the Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy, Ministry of Justice, the three counties Legislative Caucuses, Civil Society Groups, NGO Partners, and Press Union of Liberia, with the mandate of supporting and monitoring the roadmap developed at this conference.

Done in the City of Greenville, Sinoe County on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2017.

**Signed:**

1. Sinoe County

**Wedjah District**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Dorah Shebo Myers Janyabeh	District Commissioner paramount chief	
William Changfeh	paramount chief	
CLINTON GEORLUE	- DIST. TOWN LEADER	


**Geelor**

Thomas P. Jabbak - Quarter Chief  
D. Paulsen Garteh - Elder



**Chewlue**

Torbor Tager - Youth Leader - 

Hamilton K. Sneh Youth Adv. - 

Stanley Sunnewear Town chairman - 

**SANQUING**

Betty Dorous - clan chief - 

Funnioh

Ialay

Martin Bolor - Youth chairman - -



Kieh

Gabriel N. Kieh chairman



Sargbeh

William S. Njeswah - General Town chief -



Jarwee

Iedepo District

Doodwicken

Blewariah

Shadee

Sarah Norman - - chairlady



Funnioh

Jalay

Kieh

Sargbeh

Jarwee

Jedepo District

Hon. Otis S. Nagbe Paramount chief ~~Chief~~  
myen Baillah Jedyo Traditional chief ~~Chief~~  
Benedict Jotol Edlos D. N. S.

Doodwicken

DAVID N. SOPAN P/C

Dennis Jals Community member ~~Chief~~

Blewariah

PRINCE S. DWEL Community-member S. DWEL



Nyenwicken

1. James N. Komoteh Youth
2. Nerbo Nirkier PLC
3. Jayee S. Jelli Women

Gbarteken

Onetha Harris Youth  
Cecilia N. Sloh Youth

~~At. At.~~ Leader

~~CSloh~~

Geeken

Gary J. L. Kanmoh

Kanmoh

Rock Town

Robert Torbor  
T. Burenyoumeh Wela

~~Torbor~~

Ducor Free

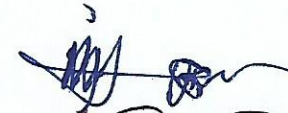
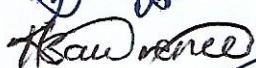
Hon. Stephen D. Nyenkan - PLC - Sed  
Residual Slobo - T.C.L. - R. Slobo

Kabadea District


Wiah Town




Chebioh Town

MINTY TENNOH prominent citizen   
Lawrence B. Kulah youth sec. → 


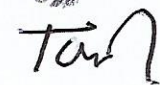
Korjavee

Stephen Wiayan Clan Chief - 

TARTWILLAGE


Vester Tompuh → chairlady → 

Gbliyee

Frances Weah Town chief →   
Tarpeh Weah — Elder → 

Mile 48

Gbalawein

 Felicia Karpah — Youth — chair la  
F.k

Barduah

Morris K. Tarlue Youth leader



Kpanyan District

New Town

Chebloh Town

Korjayee

Gbliyee

Mile 48

Gbalawein

Barduah

Kpanyan District

HENRY F. SAKWONL-ple H.F.S.




New Town

Robert T. Badoke & Badoke  
Johnson Geor - youth leader.  
Roosevelt S. Brown  
Emmanuel Quaree youth


Handwritten signature and initials.




Wesay Town

Mayatu J. Jialulu chair lady   
Prince Nincely youth   
Augustine Tarteuh chairman 

Wesseh Town

S. pabor Geoh youth 

Nimopo District

Jackson Liarblan P.L.   
Kannah Sayda youth chairman S.K.

Kayedae

Klaniedae

## 2. Grand Gedeh County

### Putu

Peter Karr Paramount Chief

Henry Saydee

Lieyee S. Joe, Jr.

NEW TOWN

11  
youth

11

~~Pat~~  
HES  
~~W. H. H. H.~~

Elizabeth Challan Chairlady

E.C.

KET'S TOWN

P. Prince Farley Elder

P.F.

TWIGHT TOWN

Morris Tweh - - - Elder

M.T.

GEEHLO TOWN

Alex Tweh - - - youth chairman

### 3. River Gee County

#### Chedepo District

J. Bolton Dwehswen - County Commissioner - J.B.

E. Tulay Nyan - clan chief - - -

Bendater Sackar - Woman Leader -

Harry N. Teah - Opinion Leader - H.N.T.

J. Wallage - Town Chief - J.W.

Melvin B. Toe leader

M.B.T.

Sam

Lee community leader

~~Sant~~



## Signed:


### Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Darlington S. Tuagben	Managing Director	

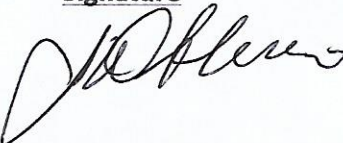
### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Signature</u>
ANYAA VOHRI	EXECUTIVE Director	

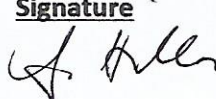
### Fauna & Flora International (FFI)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Signature</u>
MARY MOLOKWI-ODOZI	COUNTRY & OPERATIONS MANAGER	


### Conservation International (CI)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Jessica Donovan Allen	Country Director	


### Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Dr. Annika Hiller	Country Director	


### Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Signature</u>
MICHAEL F. GARBO	Executive Director	

### World Resource Institute (WRI)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Signature</u>
JOEL GAMYS	Nat Coordinator Liberia	

### NGO Coalition of Liberia

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Matthias Yeanay	Nat. Facilitator	

### World Bank Group:

#### LFSP TASK TEAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Signature</u>
ZINNAH S. MULBAH	ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST	

Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE)

Name

Salome G. Gofan

Position

Executive  
Director  
RICCE

Signature



VOSIEDA

Name

Richard HOFFER

Position

Program Manager

Signature



Attested by:

Ministry of Justice

Name

Frederick B. Chune

Position

Minister

Signature



Ministry of Internal Affairs

Name

Henrietta Jaka

Position

Minister

Signature



County Superintendents

Name

1. PETER L. SOLA Supt

Position

Signature



2. Philip Q. Njeme Supt

3. PROSPER K. PARSONS Supt.



Liberia National Police (LNP)

Name CHARLES B. BLAKE

Position COMMISSIONER

Signature





Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN)

Name

Albert D. DeLong

Position

Regional Commander

Signature



Land Authority

Name

Tom Wesley Kopp

Position

Senior Tribal  
Officer

Signature



Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

Name

Bill McGill Jones

Position

Special Technical Asst.

Signature



Attested by:

Members of the National Legislature

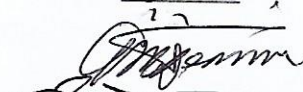
Name

Position

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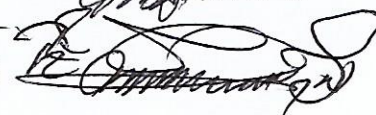
1. Sen. A. Marshall Dennis

Senator / Gov. Sec. Co.



2. J. Milton Teahjay

Senator / State County



3.

4.

5.