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 Sapó 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 Sapó National Park Multi-stakeholder Conference organized from the 13th to the 15th 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 Sapó National Forest in the 1960s in recognition of its distinct and rich ecosystem of endemic plan 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 Sapó 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 15th day of July 2017.

Signed:

1. Sinoe County

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<tr>
<th>Wedjah District</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dorah Stako</td>
<td>District Commissioner</td>
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<td>Meyers Jowoko</td>
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<td>William Chans</td>
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Funniah

Ilay
Martin Boler - Youth Chairman

Kiih
Gabriel Kiih Chairman

Sargbeah
William G. Biiawah - General Town Chief

Jarree

Jedepo District

Doodwicken

Bierwarah

Shadee
Sarah Norman - Chairlady
Funnioh

Jalay

Kieh

Sargbeh

Jarwee

Jedepo District

Hon. Otis S. Dargbe paramount chief

Benedict Anteo Edos

Doodwicken

David N. Soran PC

Dennis Sell, Community member

Blewariah

Prince S. Dweh, Community member
Nyenwicken
1. James N. Komoteh Youth
2. Verbo Mirker PLC
3. Jayee S. Jell Women Leader

Gbarteke
Dora Harris Youth
Cecilia N. Sloh Youth

Geeken
Gary J. K. Kallon

Rock Town
Robert Korbor
T. Queenyounwe Wea

Ducor Free
Hon. Stephen D. Nyenkan — PLC — S.D.
Reginald Sloo — T.C.— R. Sloo

Kabadea District

Wiah Town
Chebioh Town

HINTY RENNOH Permanent Citizen
Lawrence M. Kula Youth Sec.

Korjayee

Stephen Wia'an Clan Chief
TART WILLAGE Vester Tompo - Chair Lady

Gbliyee

Frances Weah Town chief
Tarpeh Weah - Elder

Mile 48

Gbalawein

Felicia Karpeh - Youth

Barduah

Morris K. Torlue - Youth Leader

Kpanyan District

New Town
Chebioh Town

Korjayee

Gbulyee

Mile 48

Gbalawein

Barduah

Kpanyan District

HENRY F. SAKWONLÉ

New Town

Robert Johnson, youth leader.
Wesay Town
Maryam Jaiheira chair lady
Prince Ninley youth
Augustine Terrick chair man

Wesseh Town
S. R. G. youth

Nimopo District
Jackson Tiahblay P.C.
Khannah Saye youth chairman

Kaneydae
2. Grand Gedeh County

Putu
Peter Karr Paramount Chief
Henry Saydee Youth

Keh's Town
Elizbaeth Challan Chairlady

Prince Farley Elder PF

Keh's Town
Morris Tweh -- Elder Mt.

Geeboto Town
Alex Tweh . . . Youth Chairman

3. River Gee County

Chedepo District

J. Bolton Duwens - County Commissioner
E. Tulay Nyan - Clan Chief
Benatter Sacko - Woman Leader

J. Wallace - Town Chief

Melvin B. Joe leader
Sam Lee Community leader
Signed:

Forestry Development Authority (FDA)
Name: Darlington S. Tuagben  Position: Managing Director

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Name: AYAH VOHRI  Position: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Name: MARY MOL knocks  Position: COUNTRY & OPERATIONS MANAGER

Conservation International (CI)
Name: Jessica Donavan Allen  Position: Country Director

Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF)
Name: Dr. Anika Hillers  Position: Country Director

Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL)
Name: MICHAEL F. GARBO  Position: Executive Director

World Resource Institute (WRI)
Name: JOEL CAMYS

NGO Coalition of Liberia
Name: Matthias Yeany

World Bank Group: LFSP TASK TEAM
Name: ZINNAH S. MULBAH  Position: ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

Signature: 

**Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE)**

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>RICCE</td>
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<td>Richard Hoff</td>
<td>Program Manager</td>
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**Ministry of Justice**

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<td>Pablo Alega</td>
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**County Superintendents**

1. **Peter L. Sofo**  Supt

2. **Philip O. Ngauv**  Supt

3. **Prosper K. Porocone**  Supt.

**Liberia National Police (LNP)**

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<td>Charles B. Blake</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
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Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN)

Name:  
Position:  
Signature:  

Land Authority

Name:  
Position:  
Signature:  

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

Name:  
Position:  
Signature:  

Attested by:

Members of the National Legislature

1. Sen. A. Marshall Denis  
   Signature:  

2. J. Milton Tchay  
   Signature:  

3.  

4.  

5.