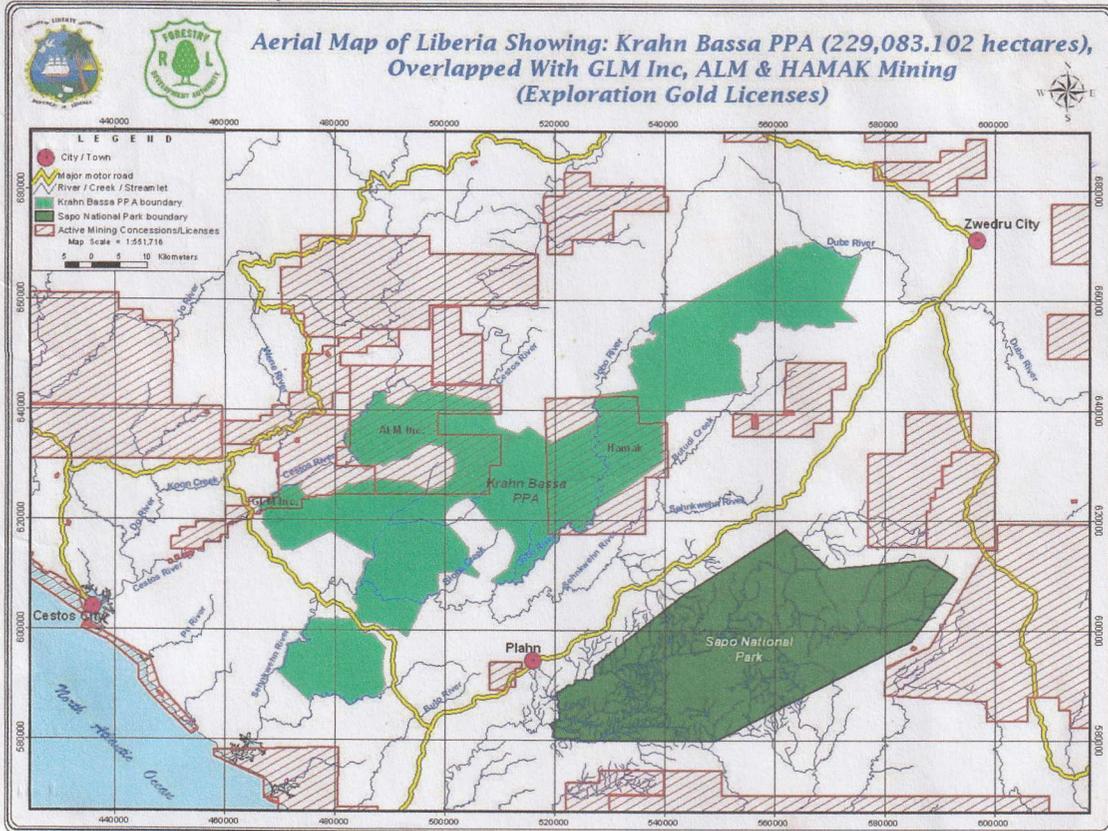




MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES, RIVERCESS COUNTY



Liberia's Forestry Development Authority/October 2024 Edition-003



DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025



SUBMITTED BY: HON. FAHNSETH B. MULBAH

Deputy Minister - Planning and Research (MME)

Mr. ANTHONY KULLIE

Director- Liberian Hydrological Service (MME)

Mr. BILL D.Z. SAYE

Geologist - Liberian Geological Survey (MME)

Mr. E. EKEMA ALEXANDER WITHERSPOON

Consultant on Governance (FDA)

Mr. AUGUSTINE B.M. JOHNSON, SNR.

Forestry Technical Advisor & Expert

Geographic Information Systems & Remote Sensing (FDA)

Mr. JERRY G. YONMAH

Technical Manager

Conservation Department (FDA)

Mr. SIMULU KAMARA

Technical Manager

Research & Development Department (FDA)

Mr. ABRAHAM SHERIFF

National Authorizing Officer (NAO)

Commercial Forestry Department (FDA)

Mr. STEVEN FREEMAN

Planning and Program Officer

Community Forestry Department (FDA)

Mr. MUSA O. LYMAS

Manager, Public Relations (FDA)

Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION	4
2.0 BACKGROUND	5
3.0 KOLA TREE	7
3.1 General Discussion on the History of Conservation and Purpose of the Meeting	7
3.2 Closing Remarks	9
4.0 ITI	13
4.1 General Discussion on the History of Conservation and Purpose of the Meeting	13
4.2 Closing Remarks	15
5.0 SOLO VILLAGE	16
5.1 General Discussion on the History of Conservation and Purpose of the Meeting	16
5.2 Closing Remarks	18
6.0 Conclusion	19
7.0 Recommendation	20
ANNEX	22
Attendance Sheets	22
PETITION	35
Figure 1: Head of Traditional Council and members conducting traditional ritual at Kola Tree	5
Figure 2: Deputy Minister, Planning and Research, MME, presenting purpose of meeting at Kola Tree	6
Figure 3: Community Dwellers and other stakeholders at Kola Tree	9
Figure 4: Community Dwellers and other stakeholders at Kola Tre	14
Figure 5: Community Dwellers and other stakeholders at Kola Tree	17

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A three-day stakeholders' meeting with community members (comprising youth, women, men, religious leaders, and traditional leaders), the superintendent of Rivercess, and government officials from the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) took place from January 13th to 14th, 2025, in Kola Tree Village, ITI Town, and Solo Village, Rivercess County. People from nearby towns and villages around the Krahn Bassa Proposed Protected Area converged at these three meeting sites.

The purpose of the meeting was to verify a **petition** submitted to the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) on September 13th, 2023. Among other requests in the petition, the citizens of Rivercess County, particularly those in the above mentioned communities, urged the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Forestry Development Authority, to allocate a portion of land within the proposed Kranh-Bassa protected area to Bea Mountain for exploration and mining. It was revealed that an exploration company called GLM, a subsidiary of Bea Mountain, had been granted a license to explore for gold in the area. However, when the exploration activities began, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), which has been working with various non-governmental organizations since 2016 to manage the forest and conserve its biodiversity, intervened and halted the exploration.

The FDA's decision to stop the exploration was based on its ongoing collaboration with the communities to conserve the forest. Over the past five years, this partnership had culminated in a signed **Consent Form** between the community, FDA, and other institutions to protect the forest. Following the FDA's actions, the affected communities grouped together, drafted the petition, and submitted it to the relevant government institutions seeking intervention.

The meetings were organized in response to the petition. During the discussions, a brief history of conservation efforts in the area was provided, followed by an explanation of the meeting's purpose. The floor was then opened to hear the perspectives of those who had written the petition. From the overwhelming feedback during the discussions, it was confirmed that the petition was indeed developed and submitted by the community members. Their primary reason was to urge the government to allocate a portion of the land to a mining company to create jobs and alleviate poverty in the area.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the senator, superintendent, district commissioners, paramount chief, town chief, and other local government officials endorsed the community members' views. Elder Bob Kofi Zah, the head of the county's traditional council, remarked that "***the FDA should step back a little so that the people can have something to eat.***" The communities and their leaders emphasized that they are not opposed to conservation but stressed the importance of balancing conservation efforts with their need for survival.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The meetings over the past three days followed an agenda comprising opening prayers, welcome remarks, a traditional welcoming ceremony, a statement of purpose, general discussions, closing remarks, and a benediction. Before the opening prayer, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) Consultant on Governmental Affairs greeted participants and explained that the meeting's mission was to hear from the people of Kola Tree Village, ITI, Solo Village, and surrounding communities regarding a petition sent to the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) and FDA in September 2023. He noted that the information gathered would be relayed to higher authorities, who are the ultimate decision-makers.

The meetings began with opening prayers done by community members from each village. Superintendent Hon. Byron W. Zahnwea delivered welcome remarks, thanking MME, FDA, chiefs, traditional council elder, officials, the press, and residents for attending. He acknowledged that the presence of government representatives brought relief to the people of Rivercess County. Following his remarks, he invited traditional leaders to formally welcome the attendees.

During the traditional welcoming ceremony, the traditional leaders expressed hope that granting a portion of the land to Bea Mountain would improve livelihoods through job creation and social services. They reaffirmed their position from the petition and symbolically presented rice signifying happiness and growth, eggs meaning celebration, kola nuts meaning humans were here, and cultural chalk indicating purity. Accepting the gifts, the FDA team lead, on behalf of FDA and MME expressed thanks, emphasized unity and encouraged constructive discussions for the betterment of the communities.



Figure 1: Head of Traditional Council and members conducting traditional ritual at Kola Tree

After the traditional welcoming ceremonies and the acceptance of symbolic gifts, the purpose of the meetings was outlined by the Deputy Minister of Planning and Research, MME, at Kola Tree Village and ITI Town, and by Director Anthony Kullie of the Liberian Hydrological Service, MME,

Ans

at Solo Village. Honorable Mulbah and Director Kullie explained that the meetings were convened in response to a petition received in September 2023.

The petition highlighted that the government had granted an exploration license to GLM to conduct activities in the area. However, the FDA halted the operations, citing that the company was working in a Proposed Protected Area, which some NGOs and the FDA were working to conserve for its biodiversity. The petition requested that part of the proposed land be allocated for mining to support livelihoods while conserving the remaining portion.

Honorable Mulbah, Director Kullie and Consultant Witherspoon emphasized the need for verification, as the petition was presented by a small group of individuals. They sought to determine whether the petition reflected the consensus of the entire community. When asked, the participants unanimously confirmed their agreement, stating that they had collectively developed the petition and sent it to Monrovia through a few representatives.



Figure 2: Deputy Minister, Planning and Research, MME, presenting purpose of meeting at Kola Tree

Following the Deputy Minister and Director's statements, Mr. Jerry G. Yonmah, Technical Manager for Conservation, provided the historical background of conservation of the Krahn-Bassa Proposed Protected Area. He explained that the FDA's work is guided by government laws, which involve collaboration with international partners such as the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), USAID, and others. These partnerships have supported efforts to conserve the area over the past six (6) years.

Mr. Jerry G. Yonmah emphasized that a **Consent Paper**, signed by the community and FDA, formalized these conservation efforts. He expressed concern over the community's change in position, questioning why they now wished to allocate part of the land to a mining company despite the signed agreement. He noted that any changes to the status of the land must comply with the law and highlighted the importance of preserving the forest for the community's benefit.

Mr. Yonmah stated that the FDA's role in the meeting was to hear from the community and ensure that their position was accurately represented in the report to bosses in Monrovia. He reiterated that the FDA values conservation and that the community's decision would be forwarded to higher authorities for the final decision-making.

Following Mr. Yonmah's statement, a general discussion was held to gather feedback on the issues raised by the Deputy Minister, Director, and Mr. Yonmah. This discussion, intended as a fact-finding process, involved various stakeholders, including youth, women, elders, civil society organizations, and religious leaders.

3.0 KOLA TREE

3.1 General Discussion on the History of Conservation and Purpose of the Meeting

The discussion began with a question from **Mr. Christopher A. Bea, Youth Advisor**. He asked, "How long has FDA been working here? FDA started working with our community in 2016 on the gazettement process. From 2016 until now, the youth have remained in poverty. What development has FDA and its partners brought to us?"

Senator Willington G. Smith:

"Mr. Jerry G. Yonmah, you mentioned that FDA and the communities signed a consent agreement. However, I didn't hear you mention the benefits of this agreement. What has the community gained since your involvement in 2016 and after the consent was signed?"

Mr. Yonmah of FDA said:

"I am here to discuss what I have done. The livelihood improvements would have come earlier, but they were delayed by the land formalization process. I aim to explain where we left off."

Chief of Paramount Chiefs, Bob Kofi:

"Mr. Jerry G. Yonmah, your statement has compelled me to speak. We agreed to conservation and signed the consent form because we believed it would benefit us. However, we have seen no benefits, which is why we have decided to change our stance. Please tell your people at FDA to dress back small so we can eat something".

Danque Prince, Youth Speaker:

"We need the company to work, but if we accept the company, will we not become slaves to it? We have endured hardship before, so we need assurance that the company will not exploit us."

Response from the Deputy Minister for Planning and Research, MME to Danque Prince:

"That is an important question, but it falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labor. However, we hope for the best."

Lincoln Yearu, National Civil Society of Liberia:

"What plans does the government have for conserving the area, especially regarding its wildlife?"

Response from Mr. Jerry G. Yonmah of FDA:

"In 2006, the new Forest Reformed Law was passed, requiring about 30% (1.5 Million hectares) of our land to be preserved as protected forest. Additionally, the government passed the Land Rights Act, which states that communities own the land. FDA has been working with the senator and other stakeholders to align these laws. This approach follows the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) principle, ensuring community rights are respected in local and national development projects. Before undertaking any action, we must consult the land-owning community, in accordance with the Land Rights Act."

Youth Advisor, Christopher:

"From our youth meeting yesterday, we decided that without Bea Mountain, no company will be allowed in our bush." Following his statement, the young people were asked if they supported their spokesperson's position, and they unanimously endorsed it with cheers and applause.

Women's Group, Sister Mamie Bloyuga:

Sister Mamie, one of the communities' members who took the document to Monrovia, said, "I am here to represent the women. Poverty is everywhere. Since this area's foundation, this is the first time a company wants to improve our lives. We want the land given to Bea Mountain so our husbands can work." When the women were asked for their opinion, they endorsed her statement with cheers and applause.

Men's Group, Pastor Friday Gartor:

Pastor Gartor began, "Who enjoys poverty? Poverty makes you old and ugly. During our meeting, we agreed that the land should be given to Bea Mountain so we can have jobs." His statement was met with unanimous support, as the men cheered and applauded.

Representative of Elders, David S. Bloyugar:

Elder Bloyugar began by extending his gratitude to both national and local leaders. He stated that the elders had asked him to speak on their behalf, saying, "We do not have the resources ourselves, so we are advocating for a company to come and help us. Our advocacy has been channeled through Chief Bob Kofi, who is present here. The resources on this land need to be used. FDA should allocate the portion of land required for work to begin. The land should be given to Bea Mountain."

Representative of Religious Leaders, Pastor Jonathan Vanciea:

Pastor Vanciea opened by expressing his support, saying, "We accept Bea Mountain to work." He thanked the senator, local leaders, and the FDA for their efforts in preserving the land. He added,

"I speak on behalf of all Kola Tree men and women who accept Bea Mountain. Youth, no hand?" His statement was met with cheers and claps from the youth and men.

Representative of Civil Society Local Branch, Nathaniel Walker (Director of Sustainable Development):

Mr. Walker noted, "We have observed that everyone here supports Bea Mountain's operation. If the land is granted, we will closely monitor what Bea Mountain provides in compensation to the people. We will monitor their operations and hold them accountable. We will also ensure that the process leading to the granting of land is conducted fairly and properly."



Figure 3: Community Dwellers and other stakeholders at Kola Tree

3.2 Closing Remarks

After hearing the views of various groups, the program concluded with several closing remarks, beginning with the Civil Society Organization (CSO).

Civil Society Organization (CSO):

The CSO representative expressed gratitude for the gathering and acknowledged the citizens' interest in poverty alleviation. The representative emphasized that all citizen representatives must properly channel their requests and ensure they are addressed. They stated, "Future petitions should include provisions for basic social services for the citizens. Requests for jobs are crucial. What happened in Grand Cape Mount must not be repeated here."

The laws governing the land, including park management and conservation, must be strictly adhered to. The livelihoods of the people must be prioritized, ensuring access to safe drinking water and good roads, as well as allowing them to continue farming and hunting.

Amj

If the company begins operations, the people should be given priority, particularly for top positions. CSO, as advocates for the people, must be respected. We are committed to further engaging with all stakeholders to ensure the success of this process."

Nongovernmental Organization representative, Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), Mr. Clement Tweh:

"I bring you heartfelt greetings from the Country Director of the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, in short WCF. For more than 8 years, since 2016, WCF has given support to FDA, and to you, the local communities, to work on the protection of the proposed Kwa National Park, which is a unique area in Liberia, in West Africa and the entire world. We want to say a big thank you to you for the hard work and the achievement made so far. This was only possible with the help of many different institutional donors and development partners who are still supporting the process and are eager to see the park become reality, in order to provide more benefits and support to the local communities and the Liberian government.

The idea is to ensure that this important forest will be promoted for you and for the future generations, while at the same time bringing sustainable long-term benefits for you today, tomorrow and forever. Together with you, almost all steps for the gazettelement of the Kwa National Park were completed from 2016 to 2023, the future boundaries were identified and agreed with you and all 11 host towns in Rivercess County signed the consent forms for the creation of the park in 2023. These towns are: David Village, Gbargbo Village, George Village, ITI, Kolaree, Manneh Town, Mohammed Village, One House Village, Solo Village, Tennie Village, and Teto Village. You also all committed to be part of the co-management of the future national park, which will ensure that you are part of making decision over the park and you get the rightful benefits.

However, we all know that there were serious delays with the Customary Land formulation, which should have been done by another project and should have been completed alongside the gazettelement activities. As the other project failed to do the Customary Land Formulation, we are pleased to let you know that we, WCF, were asked to step in and for the past months, we have been working with the `Liberia Land Authority, to ensure that all host communities for the Proposed Kwa National Park will get their deed before the middle of this year, thus before July 2025.

Likewise, we are pleased to let you know that substantial funding has been secured from the European Union to boost up FDA's and our efforts in terms of jobs, livelihoods and infrastructure development for the host communities for at least the next 8 years. This will allow all of us together to establish a carbon project, to conduct an international research and training site and to promote ecotourism at Proposed Kwa National Park, which will bring sustainable income, without destroying the forest or causing pollution which will put your health and your food security at risk.

Even though the Ministry of Mines and Energy was also part of the gazettelement process and signed the same consent forms that were signed by FDA, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Liberia Land Authority and you, the communities and even through MME also consented to the

creation of the national park and the harmonized boundaries, today we have a situation in which different government institutions have competing interests.

We hope you and your leaders and in particular the Liberian government will take a wise decision to ensure that you will not suffer from long-term pollution and other negative impact for the rest of your lives.

We understand that mining is important for Liberia, but it is also important to plan where mining should be done and where it will not have a negative impact on Liberia's future and your health and food security, and where it will not make you lose the long-term opportunities and benefits you can expect with the creation of the Kwa National Park.

We just appeal to you to not only think about today, but please also think about tomorrow. Please make sure you don't allow fast money to make you be blind for the opportunity that the Kwa National Park can bring you and what this forest means to you and the entire world."

FDA Forestry Technical Advisor, Mr. Augustine B.M. Johnson Snr.:

Mr. Augustine B.M. Johnson, Snr., began by introducing his team members. Following his introduction, he, on behalf of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Hon. Clarence C. Parker and the Managing Director Hon. Rudolph J. Merab, Snr., of the FDA, thanked and appreciated the community and local leadership for addressing the situation in a very respectful manner. He further stated that the report to be generated would capture everything discussed in the meeting and will be presented to their superiors in Monrovia to act in the best interest of everyone.

MME Representative, Deputy Minister for Planning and Research, Hon. Fahnseth B. Mulbah:

The minister began his remarks by acknowledging the many important issues raised, such as pollution, land degradation, and poor labor practices. He urged the community to maintain this same level of engagement during the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process, emphasizing that everything should be mentioned. He encouraged the community to begin their research now, as they are still in the exploration stage. Lastly, he thanked the community for their conduct and assured them that they would hear from their bosses in the soonest possible time.

Senator Willington Smith of Rivercess County:

The senator began his remarks by acknowledging the established protocol. He continued by explaining that the people of Rivercess County are reaching their current decision because they aspire to follow the development journey of other counties. For example, he noted that Nimba receives \$1.5 million annually from Arcelor Mittal as a county development fund. She also benefits from the Cocopa Rubber Plantation and Ganta is becoming a commercial hub. Eventhough the county is not 100%, some life is there.

Similarly, Bong County has the Salala Rubber Plantation, Cuttington University, Gbarnga as a transit city, and the Agriculture Research Institute (CARI), all of which bring some level of life to Bong, even if not 100%. Margibi has the Weala Rubber Company, the capital Kakata as a transit

city, the country's airport is in Margibi, and the chemical research institute is present. Bassa receives social development funds from Mittal and is home to the second-largest port, the Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC), which has been present since the 1950s, and the Equatorial Palm Oil is also present. While none of these counties are perfect, they have opportunities and life.

In contrast, Rivercess County has nothing, the senator emphasized. He clarified that the people are not against conservation, but the lack of opportunities is forcing young people to leave the county. The youths of the county are migrating to places like Bassa and Monrovia, often finding themselves engaged in activities they wouldn't gotten engaged in if they had remained in Rivercess. "They are drowning," he stressed, referring to the struggles they face. He pointed out that there is a dead body right across. He also reiterated that his stance on conservation remains unchanged despite repeated engagements by conservationists.

"We are not against conservation, but we are confronted with issues of commitment and survival," Senator Smith stated. He reassured those present not to worry about what happened in Grand Cape Mount, as he had been the Senate Committee Chair on Labor during that situation and had learned from the experience. He mentioned visiting Grand Cape Mount and Bomi a week before Christmas to speak with and assess the conditions in affected communities.

Before concluding, Senator Smith addressed international NGOs directly, asserting that the discussion about forest preservation should not be done with NGOs. "No NGO has perpetual existence," he said, expressing concern about the possibility of donor fatigue. He argued that if the world recognizes Liberia's forests as critical for carbon protection, global leaders should engage directly with Liberia. "As a matter of fact, what we have planted, we will not uproot. Are you asking us to preserve the forest indefinitely? What is our benefit? The entire world is transitioning, but look where we are now. Our bridges are still bailey bridges in this modern era," he stated.

He concluded by reiterating his position: "We are not against conservation, but we need to live while we conserve."

The Superintendent's Statement:

The superintendent began by extending his gratitude. He continued by stating, "The people have said they came to confirm if the petition came from you, and I am glad you have affirmed that it did. With this clarification, we have resolved one issue and are left with two more. We are thankful that this process was conducted here. The process of improving the lives of our people must be led by individuals with good intentions.

Since our people have agreed to give a portion of the land to Bea Mountain, we fully support their decision. Conservation is important, but I have lived here for many years, and this area has been conserved all along. Should we continue to conserve to thy kingdom come? Furthermore,

let me clarify that this discussion is not about Bea Mountain. This process is separate, and we will ensure that everything is handled properly.

Our laws can be amended; therefore, any prior decisions can be revisited and revised if necessary. Also, this forum is not the place to discuss staff payment matters.

On another note, we are instructing our people to burn all katakata on our rivers. This action will be taken because, under the Land Rights Act, the land belongs to us, and we will act accordingly to protect it.”

4.0 ITI

4.1 General Discussion on the History of Conservation and Purpose of the Meeting

The general discussion, initiated by the Deputy Minister for Planning and Research at MME, Hon. Fahnseth B. Mulbah, and Mr. Jerry G. Yonmah, Technical Manager for Conservation at the FDA, involved representatives from diverse stakeholders, including youth, men, women, elders, religious leaders, and CSOs. The process began with a statement from the youth, represented by Mr. Kennedy Cole.

Mr. Cole - extended his gratitude to the leadership of the ITI community and the Government of Liberia. He emphasized that the petition submitted to the government on September 13, 2023, was prepared with their involvement and full awareness. After his statement, the youth were asked to confirm his remarks, and they endorsed his statement with claps and cheers.

The women's group - was represented by Madam Josephine Richards. She stated, “We, the women of ITI, have agreed that the land should be given to Bea Mountain to operate, so our husbands can gain employment and our standard of living can improve.” Her statement was warmly endorsed by the women with claps and cheers.

The men's group - represented by Mr. Salay Dowah, declared that the town's men have agreed for Bea Mountain to operate in the forest to help alleviate poverty in their community. He further explained that since OTC left the county, no other company has returned, and therefore, they urgently need Bea Mountain in Rivercess. His statement was also met with claps and cheers from the men.

The elders were represented by Mr. Garmonyou Youndo, who stated, “Since you have agreed to come, we want to inform you in bold writing that we are part of the petition.” His statement was endorsed by all the elders.



Figure 4: Community Dwellers and other stakeholders at ITI Town

Civil Society Organization (CSO) – The civil society organization was represented by Mr. Abel Omaskey Jaye of the Concern Citizen Movement of Rivercess. Mr. Jaye began by stating that the CSOs’ primary concern is to see the people of ITI alleviated from poverty. He acknowledged the numerous discussions on this issue and thanked the government for their involvement. He emphasized that their desire is for jobs to be created for the people of Rivercess. He concluded by stating that CSOs are present to advocate for the citizens of Rivercess, and he called for all managerial positions to be filled by individuals from Rivercess during the operations of the company.

Nongovernmental Organization Representative – The first representative was Mr. Abu Musa Kamara of the National Union of Community Forest Development Committees (NUCFDC). Mr. Kamara began by stating that since 2013, they have been representing the people at the national level. This year, they, along with other organizations, represented Liberia at the COP 29th in Baku, Azerbaijan. Their goal is to ensure that communities benefit from their natural resources. He expressed concern that communities are often excluded from decision-making processes. Based on their review of the situations in Kola Tree and ITI, he stated that they would remain on the fence, observing all developments.

The second speaker from the nongovernmental sector was **Mr. Clement Tweh** of the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation. Below is the statement read by Mr. Tweh:

“I bring you heartfelt greetings from the Country Director of the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, in short WCF. For more than 8 years, since 2016, WCF has given support to FDA, and to you, the local communities, to work on the protection of the proposed Kwa National Park, which is a unique area in Liberia, in West Africa and the entire world. We want to say a big thank you to you for the hard work and the achievement made so far. This was only possible with the help of many different institutional donors and development partners who are still supporting the process and are eager to see the park become reality, in order to provide more benefits and support to the local communities and the Liberian government.

Curt

The idea is to ensure that this important forest will be promoted for you and for the future generations, while at the same time bringing sustainable long-term benefits for you today, tomorrow and forever. Together with you, almost all steps for the gazettelement of the Kwa National Park were completed from 2016 to 2023, the future boundaries were identified and agreed with you and all 11 host towns in Rivercess County signed the consent forms for the creation of the park in 2023. These towns are: David Village, Gbargbo Village, George Village, ITI, Kolaree, Manneh Town, Mohammed Village, One House Village, Solo Village, Tennie Village, and Teto Village. You also all committed to be part of the co-management of the future national park, which will ensure that you are part of making decision over the park and you get the rightful benefits.

However, we all know that there were serious delays with the Customary Land formulation, which should have been done by another project and should have been completed alongside the gazettelement activities. As the other project failed to do the Customary Land Formulation, we are pleased to let you know that we, WCF, were asked to step in and for the past months, we have been working with the `Liberia Land Authority, to ensure that all host communities for the Proposed Kwa National Park will get their deed before the middle of this year, thus before July 2025.

Likewise, we are pleased to let you know that substantial funding has been secured from the European Union to boost up FDA's and our efforts in terms of jobs, livelihoods and infrastructure development for the host communities for at least the next 8 years. This will allow all of us together to establish a carbon project, to conduct an international research and training site and to promote ecotourism at Proposed Kwa National Park, which will bring sustainable income, without destroying the forest or causing pollution which will put your health and your food security at risk.

Even though the Ministry of Mines and Energy was also part of the gazettelement process and signed the same consent forms that were signed by FDA, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Liberia Land Authority and you, the communities and even through MME also consented to the creation of the national park and the harmonized boundaries, today we have a situation in which different government institutions have competing interests.

We hope you and your leaders and in partiaular the Liberian government will take a wise decision to ensure that you will not suffer from long-term polluton and other negatve impact for the rest of your lives.

We understand that mining is important for liberia, but it is also important to plan where mining should be done and where it will not have a negative impact on Liberia's future and your health and food security, and where it will not make you lose the long-term opportunities and benefits you can expect with the creation of the Kwa National Park.

We just appeal to you to not only think about today, but please also think about tomorrow. Please make sure you don't allow fast money to make you be blind for the oppportunity that the Kwa National Park can bring you and what this forest means to you and the entire world."

4.2 Closing Remarks

After remarks made by the second nongovernmental representative, the meeting concluded with closing remarks, beginning with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA).

Forestry Development Authority (FDA) – Mr. Augustine B.M. Johnson, Sr., began by introducing his team members and, on behalf of the Board of Directors and Managing Director of the FDA, extended his gratitude. He stated, “We appreciate the decision made and will work to implement the will of the people.” He also thanked Chief Bob Kofi, remarking that wherever Chief Kofi is, there is peace and calm. Mr. Augustine B.M. Johnson, Sr., concluded by wishing everyone in Southeastern Liberia a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Research, MME – Hon. Fahnseth B. Mulbah stated, “We have come, we have listened, and we will take the message back.” He expressed his gratitude for the manner in which the participants conducted themselves throughout the meeting. He concluded by saying he hopes a decision will be made by the relevant authorities in the soonest possible time.

Superintendent of Rivercess County, Hon. Byron W. Zahnwea – Superintendent Zahnwea began by stating, “We have long anticipated this moment, and now the time has come, with all the responsible parties present. If you have any issues, let us know, and we will work to resolve them by engaging the appropriate individuals. Let’s continue to collaborate as we have been doing.”

He added, “Tomorrow, we will visit Solo Village at 9 a.m. The purpose of these meetings is to confirm whether you are indeed the ones who wrote and submitted the petition, and I am pleased that you have provided clarity on this.”

5.0 SOLO VILLAGE

5.1 General Discussion on the History of Conservation and Purpose of the Meeting

The general discussion, initiated by the Director of the Liberian Hydrological Service at MME, Mr. Anthony Kullie, and Mr. Jerry G. Yonmah, Technical Manager for Conservation at the FDA, involved representatives from diverse stakeholders, including youth, men, women, elders, religious leaders, and CSOs. The process began with a statement from the youth, represented by Mr. Peter W. Dagbeh.

Youth Representative:

The youths were represented by **Mr. Peter W. Dagbeh**, who began his statement with a parable: “Eat some and keep some.” He explained, “We cannot keep all our forest and live in poverty. Therefore, we want to use part of the forest to improve our people’s lives while conserving the rest. We propose that the mining company be allowed to operate in a portion of the area.”

Women’s Representative:

Madame Annie Gartu, the Chairlady for Norman Clan, represented the women and stated that they are the founders of the petition. She said, “To our county leaders, we are not strangers. We used to be here, and bamboo would come and eat with our fathers, until Oriented Timber Corporation (OTC) brought the road. The government [FDA] came and told us to preserve our

forest, and later, they told us to not even kill animals like monkeys. When the OTC road became impassable, we prepared food, and our husbands took cutlasses and other tools to go fix the road. You who told us to preserve the forest, when your car breaks down, you will get on a bike and leave us and your cars behind. So, we want the mining company to come.”

Men’s Representative:

Mr. James Maleh, from Sabi Village, represented the men and began with a parable: “Dried dog sweet, but what we will be eating before the dog gets dry?” He acknowledged the importance of preserving the forest but emphasized that their lives are also important. “So, we want the mining company to come,” he concluded.

Elder Representative:

Elder Sam Quadou responded, “Welcome and thank you to everyone for coming. We also welcome the company, as we need them, especially for our youth and men.”

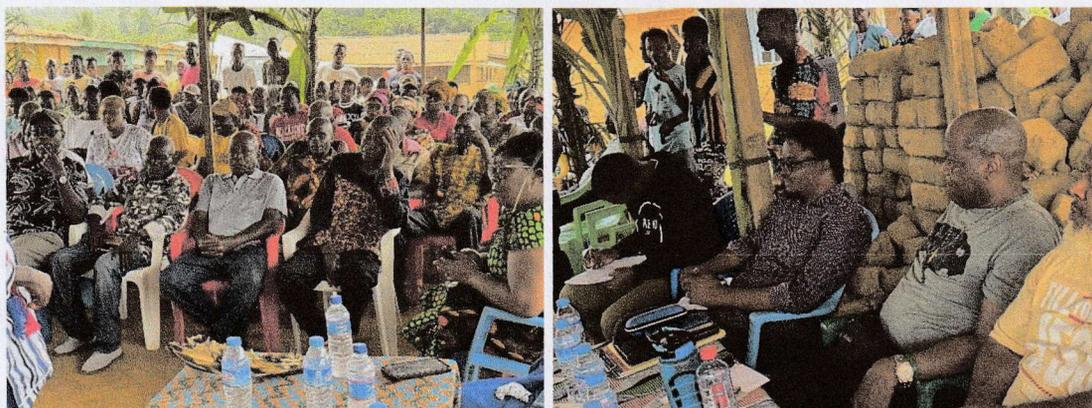


Figure 5: Community Dwellers and other stakeholders at Solo Village

CSOs Representative:

The representative of the CSOs stated, “We are observing, and our concern is the interest of the citizens. We want the company to provide jobs, development, and other opportunities. However, why are our leaders only telling the citizens about the opportunities the company will provide, but not about the citizens' obligations? Do the citizens have the skills the company would need during its operations? If they do not have the required skills, the mining company will hire people from outside the community instead of the local residents. If the company comes, will the citizens not write another petition or protest two to three years from now?”

Mr. E. Ekema A. Witherspoon, a Consultant on Governance at the FDA, responded to the CSO representative, saying, “Citizens have the right to make decisions or agree on something today and change it tomorrow if they deem it a mistake. We are here to promote the company but also to gather facts from the citizens.”

Handwritten signature or mark in blue ink.

5.2 Closing Remarks

After the response made by Mr. Witherspoon, the meeting was concluded with closing remarks, beginning with Mr. Abu of one of the NGOs.

NGO Representative:

Mr. Abu Musa Kamara spoke on behalf of the NGOs and said, "We are partners of the FDA and we appreciate the people of Norman Clan. We hope they make the best decision."

MME Representative:

Director Anthony Kullie spoke on behalf of the MME and said, "Let me appreciate the people of Rivercess County, starting with the County Superintendent and all of you, my people for the hospitality shown us over the last two days. We appreciate this level of coordination. We came for fact-finding, and the results will be sent to our bosses."

FDA Representative:

Mr. Augustine B.M. Johnson Snr., the Forestry Technical Advisor, said, "We appreciate the people and their leaders. I also want to acknowledge that Annie Gartu (Norman Clan Chairlady) recognized the road that (OTC) Oriental Timber Corporation and Liberia Hatrdwood Company built through the instrumentality of the FDA in 1998 and 2016. This is commendable and shows the FDA's impact on the people here."

Mr. Witherspoon:

"I want to appreciate the county leadership and the people of Rivercess for hosting us and for expressing themselves in a civil manner."

Senator Bill Tweahway (COS-Hilary Mento):

"Let me extend thanks and appreciation to the delegations from MME and FDA for coming to host this meeting. Other counties, like Nimba, Bong, and Bassa, are receiving funding from companies, but Rivercess has received nothing. Honorable Tweahway urges everyone to remain calm and avoid violence. He fully supports the company's presence here. He's not physically present here today because he is sick and have gone to China for medical treatment."

Chief Kofi Zah:

"Brother Jerry, we are not against conservation. My brother, the CSO representative, even if our children do not all stay here, does that mean we cannot give our land to a company? FDA, we are not against you, but we want you to reconsider. Bea Mountain has been here for a year, and we have not seen any tangible benefits. Every time we raise concerns, we are told that FDA is holding us back. Please, let us give Bea Mountain the chance to see what they are going to do. Many thanks to the county leadership as well."

Sup. Hon. Byron Zahnwea:

“Thanks to the MME and FDA teams. MME told us that they needed to verify information from the communities, and we thank my people for helping with that verification. We will look at the Local Land Rights Act, and if we see something we are not satisfied with, we will ask our senators to take it to the House for amendment. My people are not against conservation, but while they are conserving, they need to live decent lives. The CSOs are not the spokespersons for the people, but they are important in this process, and they need to join with the people for the betterment of all. As we conclude today’s meeting, the results from the discussions will go through the proper channels before we can receive the final outcomes for action.”

5.0 Conclusion

The six days’ meetings successfully provided an opportunity for all stakeholders in Kola Tree Village, ITI Town and Solo Village to voice their concerns, share their ideas, and engage in meaningful discussions about the future of the county, Rivercess. The community leaders, youth, women, men, elders, and civil society organizations all expressed their desire for development, enhancement of livelihood, and careful management of the county’s natural resources. While acknowledging the importance of conservation, they agreed that any development, including mining, should benefit the local people and improve their life.

The representatives from MME and FDA listened carefully and stated their commitment to ensuring that the decision and desire of the people are taken to the bosses for decision-making. It is crucial that the concerns raised are taken seriously, and that both the environmental and socio-economic needs of Rivercess County are balanced.

We are hopeful that the results from those meetings will inform future decisions, lead to actions that will foster growth, respect for the environment, and improved living standards for all residents of Rivercess. The collaboration shown gives everyone hope that the path forward will benefit both the people and the environment.



7.0 Recommendation

Based on the feedback gathered from the diverse groups of stakeholders in Kola Tree Village, ITI Town, and Solo Village, the teams from the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) recommends the following:

1. Approval of the Petitioners' Request for Delineation

It is recommended that the request made by the Petitioners to delineate the licensed area of GLM from the Krahn Bassa Proposed Protected Area and allocate it for exploration and subsequent mining be granted. This decision is based on:

- Verified evidence and supporting reasons outlined in the Petition.
 - Outcomes of stakeholder engagements that confirm the feasibility and minimal environmental impact of the request.
- Granting this request will support economic growth while ensuring that proper measures are in place to protect the ecological value of surrounding areas.

2. Lifting the Ban on GLM Mining

It is recommended that the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) lift the ban imposed on GLM mining. This action is critical for:

- Facilitating job creation and boosting local economies.
- Alleviating economic hardship among communities reliant on mining activities for their livelihoods.
- Demonstrating the government's commitment to balanced development that considers both environmental protection and socioeconomic priorities.

3. Establishment of Coordination and Communication Mechanisms

The Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Forestry Development Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Liberia Land Authority, and other relevant agencies should establish a comprehensive and coordinated mechanism to ensure:

- Proper analysis, selection and declaration of Protected and Proposed Protected Areas in Liberia.
- Integration of cross-sectoral priorities, such as mining, forestry, and agricultural development, into the decision-making process.
- Collaboration to mitigate conflicts between land uses and promote sustainable development.

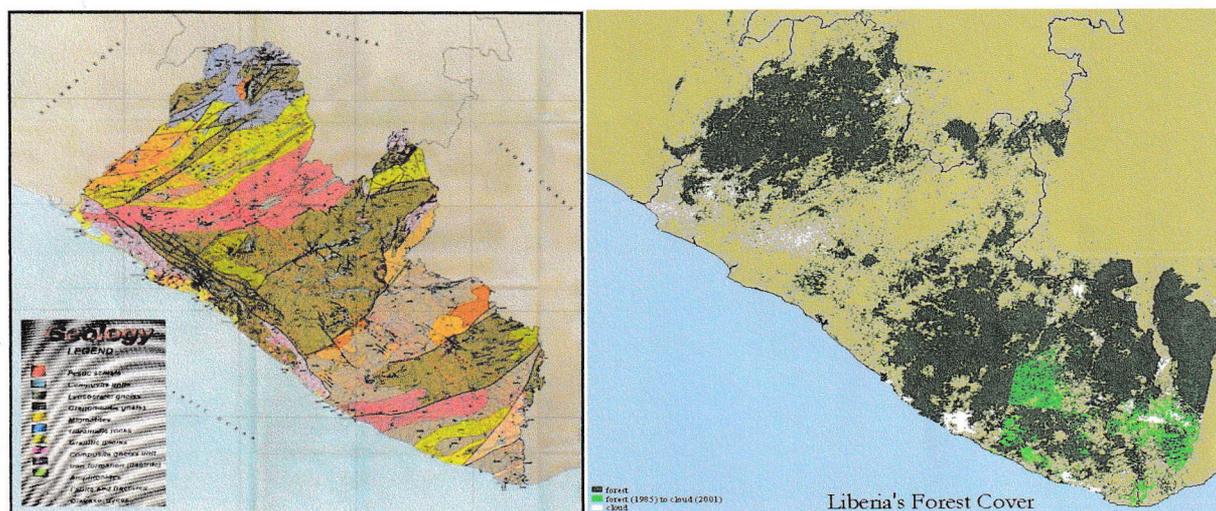
4. Regular Exchange of Geospatial Data and Databases

There should be a formalized agreement between the Forestry Development Authority and the Ministry of Mines and Energy to facilitate the regular exchange of geospatial and geo-referenced data. This exchange should include:

- Sharing of maps, boundary delineations, and databases to avoid overlaps and conflicts in land use.
- Technical collaboration to assess the impact of proposed activities on protected areas and biodiversity.
- Inclusion of other sectors, ensuring an integrated approach to sustainable resource management.

By implementing these recommendations, Liberia can strike a balance between environmental protection and economic development while fostering inter-agency collaboration for better decision-making.

Geological and Forest Cover Maps of Liberia (NATURAL WEALTH)



Liberia is endowed with a rich geological landscape that hosts an abundance of minerals beneath its surface, including iron ore, gold, diamonds, and other valuable resources. These minerals have historically been vital to the nation's economy and hold immense potential for future economic growth. Above the surface, Liberia's lush tropical forests are among the richest in biodiversity within the West African region. These forests not only serve as a critical carbon sink in the global fight against climate change but also provide timber, non-timber products, and livelihoods for local communities. The sustainable management and utilization of these resources require the concerted efforts of multiple institutions. **Minerals** and **forests** are interconnected, as mining activities often overlap with forested areas, raising concerns about environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Collaborative approaches between government agencies, private sector actors, conservation organizations, and local communities are essential to balance resource extraction with environmental protection. The Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Forestry Development Authority will work together to ensure that mineral exploration and forestry activities adhere to sustainable practices, minimize ecological damage, and contribute equitably to national development. This collaboration will foster transparency, strengthen regulations, and support capacity-building initiatives for responsible resource management. By bridging gaps and leveraging synergies, Liberia can maximize its resource wealth while preserving its natural heritage for future generations.

CW

ANNEX

Attendance Sheets

(MME)

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES

ATTENDANCE

Area: ITI

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
1.	Fahnesth B. Muibah	MME	Deputy Minister	0886917222
2.	E. Akoma A. Othman	ADP	Consultant	0886517811
3.	Augustine Bm Johnson	Sierra Leonean Authority	Technical Adm	0886519571
4.	Jerry S. Faurah	FBA Monrovia	Technical manager	0886482584
5.	S. S. K. K. K.	✓	Technical manager	0775282511
6.	Abraham M. Sheriff	FBA	NAO	0777029044
7.	Lawrence Okyere	MME Monrovia	Inspector	0775566050
8.	Ceylan Kede	MME Monrovia	//	0880545712
9.	Chael O. Jaye	(ITI)	CSO	0770230010
10.	Emmanuel Obamfin	ITI	Town man	0555198317
11.	D. Maxwell Olaywheasr.	ITI	Teacher	0881724526
12.	Sunday Gaylin	ITT	Choles	
13.	Mr. Amos J. Y. Boe	ITI	citizen	0881483305

CMAJ

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING (MME)
AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES

ATTENDANCE

Area: I T I

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
01.	BYRON N. ZAHARA	MIA	Superintendent	077585320/0886
2	Estrella A. Lynn	MIA	CEO	0886510271
3.	Bob Kofi	Council	Chairman	0886881355
4.	Moses Z	myers II	Coordinator	0722462800
5.	Arthur C.	David Grand Zoo	Investor	0555285717 0886738416
6.	Abraham Gbozo	Council	Ehler	
7.	Willie Bob	ITI		
8.	Joshua W. Sherman	ITI	Town Chief	0888789560
9.	Yarmyau	Tanlo	Ehler Speaker	088120584
10.	Abraham	Bando	Town member	
11.	Anthony	fomo	member	088888+9+1
12.	Saturday	Dawals	II II	
13.	Jemio	Boo	ITI	
14.	Sarahel	Henry	II II	

Amj

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES (NAME)

ATTENDANCE

Area: I T I

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
1	Patrick Boatw	WCB	CEO	0886731490
2	Prince Gbabo	ITI	Member	0886615258
4	Mulbah Johnson	ITI	Member	055528336
5	Sampson B. Jaye	ITI		
6	Boakai F. Jallah	ITI	Concern Youth Speaker	0888710918
7	William B. Dear	ITI		0886870597
8	Nathanse Zor	Zor town	Financial Sec. ITI	0886213707
9	Joseph V. Hill	I.T.I	elder	0888262358
10	Johnson O. WHEA	I.T.I	ELDER	0886969356/0776061367
11	Hon Emmanuel C. Whea	Abokan Township Commissioners		0880017177/0777122481
12	Terrist Dimely	ITI	Youth	0555151575/0778154784
13	Nathaniel Cole	ITI		0770767141/0555679555

0877021890

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES (NAME)

ATTENDANCE

Area: I T I

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
	Yamah	FOLW		088814951
	G Emmanuel Queeglay			0886759000
	Lilian M. Johnson			0558100743
	Josephine Joe	Aitia Community	Member	
5	Daniel K. Kerkula	ITI Community		0888107591
6	Abeliah Smith	ITI Community		0881553242
7	Francis Reeves	ITI COMM		0555760732
8	Elisha B. Gbah	ITI		0880640006
9	Cyrus G. Juepah	ITI		
10	D. Emmanuel Gorder	ITI		0886620909
11	Osuman Kromah	ITI		0881090886
12	Othello Weah	ITI		0880-66-18-50

201

GETTING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES (MMME)

ATTENDANCE Area: ITI

No.	Name	Institution/community	Position	Contact
10.	Thomas M. Kangar		Elder	0752267969
11.	John P/h		III Elder	0886192070
12.	Mary Hammy			
13.	Rebecca Moses			
14.	Cecelia Carter			
15.	Patience Toe			
16.	Ieta Wada			
17.	Dorcas Baton			
18.	Nathan Zol			
19.	Joyce Dohngbor			

GETTING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES (MMME)

ATTENDANCE Area: ITI

No.	Name	Institution/community	Position	Contact
1.	Princess Paul			
2.	Samuel Toton		Speaker	010 08018998
3.	Lewis Peter			
4.	Kruth Ima			078455314
5.	SABU	B.KATHARA		055659133
6.	Belal			076110378
7.	MAT NAME			0886950682 - ITI Community
8.	OTRE GIE			055775096
9.	Yana	Folkloria		088619847
		Gunilla		

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING (MMAE)
AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES

ATTENDANCE

Area: I T I

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
1	Amos Sarrphah			0880192073 I.T.I.
	Horst Thompson	Z Goble clan	Chief	0772493145
3	Richard Terry			I.T.I.
4	Edward Gerpu			I.T.I.
5	Neacy mubak			I.T.I. 0880589983
6	Charles Carblee			I.T.I. 0888743096
7	Amos Sarrphah Jr.			
8	Rooslem Uach			0555881523. I.T.I.
9	Emmanuel Kalay			I.T.I.

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING (MMAE)
AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES

ATTENDANCE

Area: Solo Village

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
1	K. Koorah A. Witherspoon	FDA	Consultant	0886519811
2	Augustine Wm Johnson	FDA	Swedish technical Advisor	0886-517591
3	Jerry G. Yonah	FDA	Monrovia Technical Manager	0886462564
4	Abraham M. Sheriff	FDA	FDA NAO	0777028044
5	Sprule M. Roman		Technical engr.	0775287511
6	Foday A. Kromah	Solo Town	Youth speaker	0880228089
7	Samuel S. Gbagbo	Gbagbo Town	Elder speaker	0881125024
8	Annie D. Gortel	Gbagbo Town	Chairlady	
9	SAM Ganton Sarfey		Elder Speaker	0888440370
10	Onemus Kistomana			0772152349
11	S. Shadrach George Jr			
12	Abu Nwiso Kamara	NUCFDC - Monrovia	Administrator	0886977-936
13	Steven H. Freeman	FDA	Head of Planning & Programs/CFD	0777464012
14	MUSA G. Park-el			

AMJ

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES (MMAE)

ATTENDANCE			Area: Solo Village	
No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
15)	Judeior Karibpa	GLU		0555151591
16)	Clement G. Tweh	Wild chimpanzee foundation	Program Manager	0886926627 / 0775212915
17)	MARY Q David			
18)	Mercy G. Johnny	Gbagbo	youth	
19)	Pascal P. Chender	Gbagbo	youetic	
20)	Timb fofana	Solo	Elder	0
21)	Hannah Dol	Gbagbo	member	
22)	Louisee	Gbagbo	"	0886600413
23)	Deeontee Gisee	Gbagbo	"	0777516310
24)	Nathanel Zor	Gbagbo		
25)	Othello Geeraye	I T I Zor Town		0888262558 - 0775
26)	Patricia Gbar	Gbarbo Town		0775008829

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES (MMAE)

ATTENDANCE			Area: Solo Village	
No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
15)	Judeior Karibpa	GLU		0555151591
16)	Clement G. Tweh	Wild chimpanzee foundation	Program Manager	0886926627 / 0775212915
17)	MARY Q David			
18)	Mercy G. Johnny	Gbagbo	youth	
19)	Pascal P. Chender	Gbagbo	youetic	
20)	Timb fofana	Solo	Elder	0
21)	Hannah Dol	Gbagbo	member	
22)	Louisee	Gbagbo	"	0886600413
23)	Deeontee Gisee	Gbagbo	"	0777516310
24)	Nathanel Zor	Gbagbo		
25)	Othello Geeraye	I T I Zor Town		0888262558 - 0775
26)	Patricia Gbar	Gbarbo Town		0775008829

Cumj

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING (NAME)
AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES

ATTENDANCE

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
				Area: Solo Village
27.	Samu Chalull	Solo	Member	
28.	Amelia Gbangbo	Solo	"	
29.	Mercy Gbangbo	Solo	"	
30.	Haava BONDU	"	"	
31.	Comfort Byeh	"	"	0777086414
32.	Winston G. Uwach	"	"	0777571995
33.	Jacob Das	"	"	
34.	James Smith	"	"	0778585143
35.	Lisa J. Parker		"	
36.	Rufus G. Smith	De Kay Village	"	072-19-66-40
37.	Bobby Tarrell	Abaloo	"	
38.	Prince Geyjee	Solo	"	0886974525
39.	Eric Abenu	Itol	"	0880877733

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING (NAME)
AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES

ATTENDANCE

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
				Area: Solo Village
	John T. Mulbah	Sarfee Village		0777-598-868
	Fedrick G. Geah	Solo Village		0776017377
	Jouahar Kollie	Solo	Box chief	
	George Cooper	Solo		
	Joe Whorogarah			0775344191
	Alice Mensch	Solo		
	Jennet Anderson	Solo Town		0886807050
	Trokon B. Harvey	Solo Town		0886910707
	Dea. James mantleh	SAFE Village		0886998841
	Samuel Ghabo	Solo		
	ISSAC WCAH	Solo Village		0886906822

Amj

(MME)

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING
AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES

ATTENDANCE

Area: Kola Tree

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
1.	Chief Bob Kosi Zah	Chairman/Traditional Council Riversess		0770387071
2.	W. Gevon Smith			
3.	Esther A. Logan	Senator CDO IMIA		077710066 0886570279
4.	Isaac B. Williams	Sub office/Kola	Information Officer	0880943684/077802204
5.	Stan Byron W. Zebawa	Area local council	County Supt.	077585320/0886585320
6.	Clément G. Tsch	WCF	Program Manager	0775212915/0886926607
7.	Steven H. Freeman	FDA	Head of Planning & Programs/Community Forestry Dept.	077364012 0880970930/0775572605
8.	Alan Musa Kama	NUCEBO	Administrator	0886553464/077023205
9.	W. Layan S. C. Tipayson	SD 1	Field Facilitator (Land Program)	0886553464/077023205
10.	FUBENE P. SUTH	NUCEMB	Coordinator	0716535388/0555839921
11.	Bill DZ SAGE	MME	Geologist	0770830075/0880830075

(MME)

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING
AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES

ATTENDANCE

Area: Kola tree

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
1.	Ito T. Mameh	MIA - Mameh-Town	ACI. Dis. Comm.	0886437037
2.	Sam M. Mameh	MIA - Mameh-Town	Toucheif	0886837890
3.	Cecelia Jayphax	Community member - Mameh-Town	Member	
4.	Poston G. Friday Gantor			07757177-44
5.	Aaron Gortoue		Youth Leader	0775256134
6.	Refecia Nelson	Kolar Tree	Member	
7.	Participant Sarkpah	Kolar Tree	member	077500806
8.	Participant Dahnwaleh	Kolar Tree	member	
9.	Mamee Kkey	Kolar Tree	Member	0880386088
10.	Oretha Gbde	Kolar Tree	Member	0555555773
11.	Salome Bob	Kolar Tree	member	0886647918

Amj

(MME)

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING
AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES

ATTENDANCE

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
1.	Fahnesth B. Muttah	MME	Deputy Minister	0886817222
2.	K. Komla Ntikpooy	ADA	CONSULTANT	0776579811
3.	Augustine Bm Johnson	Social Development Auth	Special Technical Advisor	0886-519-591
4.	Jerry G. Honmah	FDA	Technical Manager	0886462564
5.	Simuly m. Kamin	FDA	Technical mgr.	0775 282511
6.	Abraham M. Sheriff	FDA	NAO	0777028044
7.	MUSA O. Lymus	FDA	Acty. Manager PAA	077542608
8.	Garpul Jimmy	Committee Board	Members	0771858928
9.	Emmanuel Whea	MIA	Partnership Commission	0555151575
10.	Annie Grantor	David Village	Chair lady	
11.	Samuel S. Ebabo	Tenneh Village	Town man	0881125024
12.	Nathaniel faruwa	Kalar Tied	elder	
13.	James Grantor	Kolen Trees	Member	0770772134
14.	Anthony Kullie	MME	Director	077000838

(MME)

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING
AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES

ATTENDANCE

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
11	Abraham Gboga	Inkaguning	NCCCL	0776289295
12	John	Blayougar	Kolatree	
13	Samuel	Gologo	"	
14	Parck	Gologo	"	
15	Prince Blanyan	Kolatree		
16	Daniel S. Jaffan	Kolatree		0772529071
17	Moses Freeman	Kolatree		0881068622
18	Emmanuel Boe	Kolatree		
19	Daniel W. Beoblea	Kolatree		0888542383
20	Oliver	Kolatree		0776942483
21	B. Cooper Swah	Kolatree		0776 94.36.72
22	LEVI KLAY	Kolatree		0770789309
				0770569948

Amj

(M)

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON MINING AND PROPOSED PROTECTED AREA ISSUES

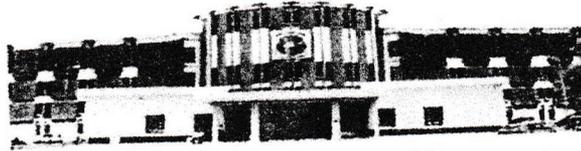
ATTENDANCE

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Position	Contact
1	HON. Emmanuel Gben	I.T.I	I.D.C	086642145
2	Speaker Samuel Willes	Gale	Speaker	0770690073
3	Mathaniel Zor	Zor Eban	Chairman	0888202558
4	Charles Karibee	Zor Eban	mining chairman	0888743096
5	Kar David Biagogan	Kala Tree	Elder	0891080246
6	Joseph V. Hill	Kolon Tree	Member	0860900350
7	Peter Gafere	Kolon Tree	town Chief	0775290450
8	Bob Stenley	Kolon Tree	Principal	0778570008
9	Christopher S. Grant	Kolon Tree	Woman President	0778879243
10	John Biagogan	Kolon Tree	Member	

- (13) Gwede Sankpa
- (14) Same Bge - 0775454570
- (15) Uvoh in Nelson - 077601649
- (16) Abbinga Ee 088600108
- (17) Elyah Danwida - 0770799571
0779226913
- (18) Hans J. Vanriek - 0779226913
- (19) Shadrach S. Gortore 0770677944
- (20) Anah, Klay -
- (21) Morris - N - Gortore

Joseph J. Johnson

1) Robert N. Blouger Kola tree Junior Elder
2) Othello Mahm Member Town Farmer 079711045
3) Victor T. Bumbel Member Town Youth Leader 077732887
4) Luckis Tarnwela Kola tree - Women Elder -
5) Member Sandi Kola tree - Women Elder - 0881998285
6) Mamie Biogwagan Kola tree
7) Jeremiah Morris (Mrs) Kola tree
8) Alex Vancak Kola tree
9) James S. Smith - Driver (WCF) Kola tree
10) #0720198157 Wild Cl. Mammal Foundation
11) Jerry Moses
12) Rubin Sage
077516305
0881853088



The Liberian Senate
CAPITOL BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL, MONROVIA, LIBERIA
WEST AFRICA

September 3, 2024

Honorable Rudolph J. Mareb
Managing Director
Forestry Development Authority
Fendell Community, Liberia

Dear Honorable Merab:

Compliments and sincere best wishes.

Let this serve as an attestation of a petition to the Forestry Development Authority through the River Cess County Legislative Caucus for the purpose of demarcating and extracting the prospective mining areas of GLM Incorporated from the proposed Kwa Protected Forest.

It may interest you to know that the GLM Incorporated cannot commence operation because its' prospective operational areas in Yarnee and Central River Cess Districts fall within the proposed "Kwa Protected Forest"

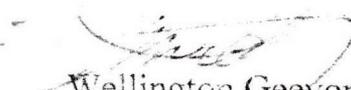
It is my fervent hope as Senior Senator of the County that the FDA will look into the petition of the affected communities and address their concerns The Petition attached.

We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of NGOs and other international stakeholders to preserve the forest for Liberia's endangered species. However, there is no job opportunities in River Cess County, causing untold hardship and suffering of the people.

Thanks for the cooperation _____ igh esteem.

Kind regards.

Sincerely yours.


Wellington Geevon Smith
Senator, River Cess Coui

Mr. Yonmah
please draft
a reply to
the senator to
update him.

**PETITION TO THE FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA) THROUGH THE
RIVER CESS COUNTY LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS**

WHEREAS; River Cess County, situated on the central eastern costal line of the Republic of Liberia, is one of the fifteen (15) political sub-divisions of the Republic with four (4) Statutory Districts and eight (8) Administrative Districts for effective Local Government Administration and a population of nearly one hundred thousand (100,000) people;

WHEREAS; River Cess County still accounts for a significant portion of the remaining rainforest of the Republic of Liberia, endowed with a fertile agriculture land and rich with several natural resources including gold;

WHEREAS; In the midst of these abundance natural resources, River Cess County is one of the least developed Counties of the Republic with no paved road and other infrastructure development for the growth of the County;

WHEREAS; River Cess County suffers a total lack of job opportunities coupled with abject poverty, resulting in the continual suffering of the citizens and residents;

WHEREAS; The people of River Cess County only source of survival is the forest that they harvest for farming, hurting and the creation of jobs for the upkeep of the families;

Whereas; There is a compelling need for job creation for the people of River Cess County, mainly the youthful population, many of whom are migrating from the County due to the lack of opportunities while others are drowning in the Cestos River in search of gold to make a living;

WHEREAS; River Cess County has been a major contributor to the National Budget of the Republic through the logging industry but cannot be considered for development to commensurate with the extraction and depletion of its forest;

WHEREAS; The people of River Cess County realize the efforts of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other international stakeholders for the conservation of Liberia's endangered species, some of whom survive in the forest of the county;

WHEREAS; A greater portion of the forests of River Cess, Sinoe and Grand Gedeh Counties have been earmarked for conservation and now known as the **"Proposed Kwa Protected Forest"**;

WHEREAS; The people of River Cess County see the provision of job opportunities as a matter of urgency and were anxious to receive **GLM Inc**, a legally registered mining company that expressed its intention to operate in the County;

WHEREAS; The **GLM Incorporated** cannot commence operation because its prospective operational areas in Yarnee and Central River Cess Statutory Districts fall within the **"Proposed Kwa Protected Forest"**;

Therefore, We, The Elders, Chiefs, Women and Youth Leaders of the affected areas present this Petition to the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) through the Local Government Authority and Legislative Caucus of River Cess County for the following reasons to wit:

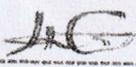
1. That while we appreciate the efforts of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other international stakeholders to preserve the forest for the survival of Liberia's endangered species, there is no job opportunities in River Cess County for us to develop as a County and people. **WE MUST SURVIVE WHILE WE CONSERVE**, and
2. We present this **PETITION** for the National Government Through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Forestry Development (FDA) and the Liberia Land Authority to demarcate and extract the prospective mining areas from the **"Proposed Kwa Protected Forest"**.
3. While the re-demarcation process is ongoing, that **GLM INC** be permitted to carry out its exploration in said area

We, The Elders, Chiefs, Women and Youth Leaders from the affected areas, affixed our signatures to this Petition on this **3rd day of September 2024**.

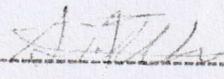
Signed: _____
Garmondyu Yondoe/Speaker, Elders' Council
0881520534

Signed: _____

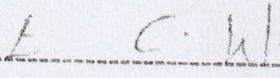
Mamie Bloyougar/Women Leader
0881998285

Signed:  _____

Lucy George/Women Representative
0881132925

Signed:  _____

Samuel Trokon Whea/Clan Speaker
0880189993

Signed:  _____

Emmanuel C. Whea/Youth Leader
0555151575

Signed:  _____

Chief Bob Kofi Zah/Chairman, County Council of Chiefs
0770387071

Cc: Superintendent Office
Cc: River Cess Citizen Union (RCU)
Cc: Civil Society of River Cess
Cc: Ministry of Mines and Energy
Cc: File