

Advocacy campaign in Grand Bassa

Citizens of Grand Bassa County on Friday, July 12, 2013, again demonstrated their frustrations with the Concession Agreement signed between Liberia Agricultural Company (LAC) and the Liberian Government since 1959.

They complained that LAC's 54 years of operations has not meaningfully impacted their lives and called for a review of the LAC Concession Agreement. They want to be fully represented on the review panel to ensure that real benefits come to citizens of Grand Bassa County this time around. They also want those benefits to be outlined in a very well crafted social agreement to be signed between citizens and LAC's management.

The campaign took place at Compound # 3 where the citizens paraded the principal streets in white and yellow T-Shirts

with inscriptions such as "Know the LAC Concession Agreement", and "We want GOL to review the LAC Concession", called for an immediate review of the LAC Concession Agreement.

The campaign was organized by 14 Community based organizations of Grand Bassa County that SAMFU has worked with for nearly 2 years providing training and support for local advocacies for rights to and benefits from exploitation of natural resources. These CBOs are also monitoring projects funded from the County and Social Development Funds for Grand Bassa County. Support for this project has been provided by Trocaire.



Campaigners at Compound # 3

Maria bids SAMFU good bye!!



SAMFU Team with Maria and Daniel

Following nearly 3 years of active service with SAMFU, Maria Bongard, a Germany national, bided farewell to SAMFU staff and partners on July 11, 2013. The ceremony took place during her last team event with staff of SAMFU held at her residence at 7th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia

Maria joined SAMFU in November 2010 under the auspices of the Civil Peace

Workers Program supported by the German Government.

Saying "good bye" to Maria was a difficult moment for us as she came to be a very important member of the SAMFU team. She happily provided strategic supports to SAMFU in the areas of institutional development, program development and implementation, and capacity

building for both staff of SAMFU and target communities.

Particularly, Maria will be remembered for organizing team events, annual retreats, and the establishment of quarterly News Letter.

During this Team Event Maria and Daniel (her husband) were gowned by James Makor, SAMFU Executive Director.

SAMFU NEWSLETTER

SAMFU/IBIS begin Partnership

Following several months of engagements and institutional capacity assessments, SAMFU and IBIS, a Danish INGO, have established partnership.

A six (6) month pilot project under this new partnership has provided 6 motor bikes, monthly supply of gasoline, and stipend for River Gee Forest and Resource Protectors, a community based organization. The project is also providing support for our 8 field staff to undergo all 4

phases of the DELTA (Development, Leadership, Teams in Action) training for transformation offered by DEN-L, in Gbarnga Bong County. Phase one of this training has already been completed already.

The project will also upgrade SAMFU financial management capacity by providing advance accounting software (Quick

Book) and training our finance officer and her assistant to it.

The aim of this project is to help improve the overall performance of Forest Protectors and SAMFU's field and finance staff.

The pilot started in June and it is expected to end in December.

Some results of Arkondeh advocacy



Gborbo Central High School Annex

Middle Island Inc., a gold mining company has constructed a 9 classroom annex to Gborbo Central High School located in Zai Town as well as carried out some reno-

Toe Memorial High School in Toe Town, Grand Gedeh County. These have come as a result of continual engagement of the company by Arkondeh since it started work over 2 years ago. Initially, this company was very reluctant to dialogue with Arkondeh.

More support needed to complete SAMFU's office

Three years ago, during a 5 year strategic planning process, SAMFU identified a permanent office space as one of four strategic issues which needed to be addressed urgently to cope with ever-increasing rentals being charged in Monrovia and its environs.

Estimated cost of this project is 58, 167.78 USD. To date total amount raised and fully applied to the project is 20, 752.7 USD with the following activities completed: 1. One (1) acre

of land purchased, surveyed, and deed probated, 2) Foundation of building erected, and 3) Walls constructed up to windows level.

Total amount needed to complete this project is 38, 167.78 USD.

Hats off to American Jewish World Service (AJWS) and Trocaire for contributions of 10, 000 and 2000 USD respectively made to this project.

Your contributions in cash and kind will be greatly appreciated. It will help create a better working

atmosphere and reduce our overhead cost. Thanks for your decision to help.



Sea Turtle Project extends to new communities

The Liberia Sea Turtle project has recently extended its monitoring activities to 2 new communities (Doe and Klaygbe) in River Cess County thus increasing the length of safe heavens for nest and nesting turtles to 20 km.

This extension brings to 10 communities protecting sea turtles in the San Gbala District, River Cess County.

A total of 58 nests were recorded by monitors working under this project during the last 2 quarters.



Olive Ridley Turtle, Borgor Point Beach



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Vision: SAMFU plays a major role in the sustainable management of Liberia's natural resources. SAMFU works in a strong network to ensure that the management processes are participatory, transparent, accountable, and peaceful.

All our involvements are unique and committed driven.

Mission: SAMFU promotes partnerships with environmental organizations, the Liberian government and communities to ensure a sustainable management of Liberia's natural resources.

For more information, please visit our website or contact us directly via phone or in our office.

Working for Nature Conservation



Inside SAMFU

Following a scrutiny of applicants for the position of Program Assistant advertised in our last New Letter, Mr. Augustine has been selected. His employment begins next month.