



SKILLS AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (SADS)

(ANNUAL REPORT 2010)



Prepared by

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Cover page photo: Display of SADS staff post with members of the Wonegizi Community Forestry Management Group after successful management meeting.

Photo by: Donna J. Sheppard- NCRC

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Management and staffs of the Skills and Agricultural Development services (SADS), we wish to extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to all of our friends, partners and well-wishers who supported our initiatives spiritually, morally and financially throughout the year 2010. We are very grateful.

In a very special way, we like to extend gratitude to all our donors including Rufford Small Grant Foundation, Conservation International, United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization, McCall MacBain Foundation and the IUCN- Netherland for the technical and financial supports given us in ensuring that our vision for Liberia becomes a reality. We wish to acknowledge the level at which your supports have help to positively impact the lives of many Liberians, especially the forest-dependent people and the poor.

We also wish to recognize the overwhelming technical and financial support received and continue to receive from the Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC- Ghana), Conservation International (CI), Calgary Zoo (Canada) and Fauna and Flora International (FFI). Thanks for teaching us the value and dignity in working with community people.

The year 2010 witnessed a brand new application of SADS approach and strategy to implementing community-based environmental conservation, environmental education, biodiversity research and community livelihood programs. We like to underline that it wasn't an easy task for SADS to achieve all it has accomplished without the partners and donors supports. There were several lessons learnt, but, SADS intends to build on these lessons to improve her program for 2011.

Therefore, as we move into the year 2011, we wish to enforce our dedication and commitment to the call of our duties, and to ensure that our works remain very focus on poverty reduction and providing equal opportunities with a strong sense of ownership for all.

Happy and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely yours,



Peter G. Mulbah

Executive Director/ Secretary- Board of Director

1. ORGANIZATION PROFILE

The Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS) is a registered not-for-profit and non-governmental organization established in March 1999 but did not become active until 2003. SADS is a registered as a non-governmental organization under the laws of the republic of Liberia, with accreditation by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs (MPAE/ NGO/ AC# 0158).

SADS's mission is working for empowerment, rendering social services to humanity and ensuring environmental sustainability in Liberia. This is pursued through an educational and empowering process in which the people in partnership with each other and those able to assist them identify their priorities, mobilize resources and assume the responsibility to manage and control the environment where they live and depend on. The organization's activities are directed towards the environmental protection, facilitation of nature conservation and embrace the promotion of social justice, equality and respect for human rights; research and community development. SADS envisions a new Liberia in which the empowerment of the Locals will serve as the bedrock for poverty reduction and equal opportunities with a strong sense of ownership for all.

SADS uses community participatory engagement techniques to help especially rural people to identify their problems and needs. Information gathering is focused on the environmental elements, social issues and sustainable development of the people. The purpose of our extensive background research/survey is to ensure that SADS understands the social and physical environment in which they are working in order to employ best practice in the implementation of resonating programming and for creation of capacity surrounding awareness, empowerment and to influence policy making.

SADS has worked in six counties (Lofa, Montserrado, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Grand Cape Mount and Sinoe), and considers everyone within the borders of the Republic of Liberia as integral to the implementation of its program, in adherence to the laws of the Republic of Liberia, especially those governing NGOs operations. All of the organization's supports come from private foundations and individuals. SADS do not accept donations, both cash and kind, from individuals and multinational corporations whose activities negatively impact the environment, contribute to human right violations and increase in poverty, political parties or anyone with a proven criminal record or affiliations, especially those engaged in money laundering, drug trafficking and dealing, illicit arms trading, instigating violence or armed conflicts. SADS does not receive funding from any source expressly for propaganda purposes, against the interest of the state and the people of Liberia. SADS collaborate in partnership with institution/organization (s) that supports it cores of value: respect for the environment and social justice, rural empowerment and gender equality.

SADS is governed by a Board of Directors and a management team. The Board of Directors is comprised of five people from diverse professional background; and meets on a quarterly basis, and is headed by a Chairman. The management team is responsible for the day- to- day operation of SADS and reports directly to the Board of Directors, and is headed by the Executive Director.

The year 2010 which began November 2009- December 2010, witnessed great success evidenced by an increased local and international recognition of our work.

2. THE YEAR 2009- 2010 IN RETROSPECT

➤ The Development of an Integrated Youth Environmental Rights & Education Outreached Program.

Liberia host the last two significant blocks of the remaining closed canopy tropical rainforest within the Upper Guinea forest of West Africa, which spans Ghana, Ivory Coast, Guinea Sierra Leone and Liberia. The original extent of the forest in the sub-region is estimated at 727,900Km², but has shrunk to approximately 92,797Km², almost 12.7% percent of its original size. Presently, Liberia accounts for approximately 45% of the forest followed by Ivory Coast with 29.1%.

In September 2009 SADS launched its successful environmental education project “The Development of an Integrated Youth Environmental Rights & Education Outreached Program in communities around the Wonegizi proposed protected area in Lofa County, Liberia”, which goal was to assess the knowledge and understanding of youths in environmental conservation who will be trained as forerunner in the development and implementation of a more integrated environmental conservation outreached program in Liberia. Due to the level profile and recognition this project received amongst players in Liberia environmental sector, there are huge enthusiasm awaiting the implementation of the teaching modules developed.

The Key activities of the project included:

- Conduct youth- base environmental assessment twenty (20) communities around Wonegizi forest area.
- Conduct youth- base environmental awareness education twenty (20) communities around Wonegizi forest area.
- Develop and design environmental awareness and education training Program targeting youth around Wonegizi forest area.

➤ **A Market Analysis and Development Baseline Survey conducted in communities Lofa, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount Counties.**

In May 2010, United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) through the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) awarded a consultancy to SADS to conduct “A Community Based Enterprise Market Analysis & Development Baseline Assessment” in Lofa, Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Counties respectively. The results of this survey identified primary and secondary non- timber forest products in ranking of priorities and livelihood options in each of the targeted communities.

The overall goal of the Community-Based forest enterprise development initiatives was to substantially reduce poverty for forest dependent people in key partner countries by increasing the number of successful and sustainable small forest enterprise.

The Key activities of the project included:

- Train LACE County facilitator in basic research methodologies and data gathering techniques.
- Develop and design data gathering frame and questionnaires.
- Facilitate the administering of survey questionnaires.
- Analyze and interprets survey data.

➤ **Prepare and Establish the County Forest Forum (CFF) of the Lofa County.**

In June 2010, the United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) approved the project “Prepare and Establish the County Forest Forum (CFF)” in Lofa County.

Lofa County is located in the North Western region of the Republic of Liberia. Lofa County is the third largest county in Liberia with an estimate population of 270,144 people (LISGIS 2009), and composed of seven major districts (Foya, Kolahun, Voinjama, Salayea, Vahun, Quardu Gondi and Zorzor). However, in 2005 National Election Commission (NEC), these districts were clustered into five electoral districts (Salayea, Zorzor, Voinjama, Foya, and Kolahun).

There are two national forest blocks in Lofa county, they are the North Lorma (137,427 ha) and Lorma (43505ha) National Forest blocks. The North Lorma national Forest Block is consists of the Wonegizi and the Wologizi Proposed Protected areas. The Wonegizi Range is a southern spur of the Guinea Highlands and the site is contiguous with the Massif du Ziama Biosphere Reserve in Guinea, and includes Liberia's highest peak, Mt. Wutewe at 1,424m, one of the most important highland rainforest regions in Liberia.

The Lofa County Forest Forum (LCFF) will function as a body through which forestry issues will be discussed and given high priority among people in various villages, towns, districts and the

entire county, by bringing a diversity of views from forest communities and relevant groups in order to bridge the understanding gap and encourage open discussion in a transparent and participatory manner.

The overall goal of this project was to bring together all relevant stakeholders with interest in the forestry and environmental sector to develop a County Forest Forum. The functions of this organized body is to serve as reservoir for the disseminations and exchange of forestry and environmental information, ensure that locals can work together cooperatively and collaboratively with FDA through program and sharing of ideas, and Networking with other counties' forest forums and Interagencies regarding forestry activities in Liberia.

As a major success of this project, SADS facilitated the establishment of the Lofa County Forest Forum (LCFF) with headquarter in Voinjama City. The LCFF governance structure composes of two layers. The first layer constitutes an Advisory Board Member that is made up of representatives from all districts and is headed by the County Superintendent, and the second layer compose of the secretariat which has a total of twenty- eight members elected from five districts and headed by a Chairman. There exists also an observer status which is given to civil society group and international partner at each meeting session.

The Key activities of the project included:

- In consultation with key partners (e.g., FDA, Communities), conduct stakeholder identification and analysis at the Chiefdom, District and County levels in the assigned County;
- Prepare material for awareness raising on the County Forest Forum;
- Set up and implementation the County Forest Forum.

➤ **The Green Forum Program**

In May 2010, Conservation International approved the project "The Green Forum". The purpose of The Green Forum was to set a stage for the exchange of ideas and information on current environmental issues such as climate change, mitigation and adaptation, and global warming of relevance in Liberia in order to raise public awareness and lay the framework for informed engagement. This program is been implemented in partnership with Action Against Climate Change- an environmental NGO currently working in Liberia.

This program has been hatched out of the need to enhance access to global environmental issues effecting the lives of Liberians who, at present, cannot contribute meaningfully on these issues due to lack of knowledge and familiarity with the topics, with the realization that a majority of Liberians do not have access to the global environmental initiatives that tend to

affect their lives. This leaves them incapable of contributing meaningfully to contemporary dialogue and action plans moving the country forward in the environmental sector.

The Key activities of the project included:

1. Community Radio Program

SADS coordinates a live thirty (30) minutes radio program open to receiving telephone calls from listeners in the forms of suggestions, comments and questions on the topic under discussion. The Green Forum Community radio program is broadcast twice monthly on the second and last Saturday at 9:30am, and is repeated the following Tuesdays at 3:30pm on the Star Radio.

The Green Forum radio program has had eight (8) editions covering the topic following topics:

- a. What is the purpose of the Green Forum and who can participate?
- b. What is Climate Change and how is it handled globally?
- c. What are the indicators of climate change in Liberia?
- d. What are the national initiatives on to combat climate change and who are involve?
- e. What is REDD+ and what does it mean for rainforest country like- Liberia?
- f. The forest of Liberia, what is the economic benefit of conserving it?
- g. What is happening in Liberia with regards to Climate change and who involve?
- h. What have changed since COP15 in regard to Liberia's position?
- i. What are messages the delegates are taking on behalf of Liberia to the rest of the world?
- j. How was the delegation members selected and by whom?
- k. The outcomes of COP 16, and what will Liberians stand to gain and lost;
- l. Update on the National Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) of Liberia, and who are the key drafters and driving the process;
- m. The National Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) of Liberia stakeholders validation workshop, who will be involved and how are participants selected;
- n. How does the National REDD+ fit into the existing regulatory and legal framework, i.e. National Forestry Reform Law, Community Right Law, Benefit Sharing mechanism, etc

This radio program has hosted practitioners from the Conservation International, Fauna and Flora International, National Oil Company of Liberia, Civil Society, Federation of Liberia Youth and Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia.

2. Newspaper Publication

The newspaper publication remains a self sponsored activity of implementing organization and its aim is to provide and inform the reading public on issues and events happening in the environmental sector in Liberia. With the lack of funding supports, the Green Forum publication is published at least thrice per month based on our ability to sponsor.

The Green Forum Newspaper Publication comes in edition (Part) and is published based on the availability of relevant news and information in the Daily Observer Newspaper. The Daily Observer Newspaper is one of Liberia's oldest newspaper publishers; they published in hard copies and on the website. Since November, the Green Forum has had more than twelve (12) editions in the Daily Observer Newspaper. With the inclusion of the



The Green Forum Newspaper edition featuring the recent Carbon harvesting concession fraud. By: Yurfee Shaikalee- AACC

Executive Directors of the two implementing organizations on the Liberian government delegation to COP16 in Mexico, the Green Forum Newspaper Publication serve as the only medium through which information and progress at the conference were disseminated to the general public in Liberia.

This newspaper publication was very useful in disseminating adequate and up-to-date information on the Carbon harvesting concession fraud case, which led to the dismissal and suspension of several government employees and is currently still being investigated.

3. School- Based Environmental Education Program

SADS has launched School- Based Environmental Education Program in four (4) renowned high schools in Monrovia, in the form Environmental Education Clubs. The names of the schools are: **1. Haywood Mission High School, 2. Monrovia Open Bible High school, 3. Calvary Baptist High School and 4. ST. Teresa Convent High School.** These clubs are intended to serve as the conduit through which students and faculties can be informed and educated about the environmental activities on-going in Liberia.



M. Taire presenting at the one day Environmental Leadership Workshop for School Clubs leaders. Photo by: B. Sayon- CI

The four Environmental Education Clubs have a membership of about 329 students (female= 205, male= 124) in total, with Female constituting 62.3% of the population. Each club also has a leadership structure comprise of elected president, vice president, secretary, treasure and chaplain.

➤ **Liberia National Carbon Strategy: Capacity Building and Community Conservation Pilot in Ziama Clan, Lofa County, Liberia.**

This project is a continuation of grant awarded to SADS through Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC) to implement a community forestry program in twenty communities around Wonegizi Proposed Protected forest areas in Ziama clan, Lofa County. This project is co-sponsored by McCall MacBain Foundation and IUCN- Netherland.

Activities achieved up- to- date:

➤ ***Baseline Survey Work***

- ✓ Socio-economic, ethnographic and biodiversity baseline surveys completed including GPS mapping of natural forest areas, sacred and community-protected forests, tree crops species and plantation locations, non-timber forest products (NTFP) species presence and prevalence, and documentation of human settlement patterns.
- ✓ Biodiversity assessments completed for both pilot sites with the aid of trap camera installed in areas of expected heavy wildlife usage. Baseline biodiversity lists generate.

➤ ***Governance***

- ✓ Creation of a management board for the community forestry REDD+ pilot including two community-selected representatives from each beneficiary settlement within the surveyed pilot area
- ✓ Establishment of tree crops farmers' cooperative management group including one Community-selected representative from each of the target settlements.
- ✓ Establishment of a crafters' guild at the Wonegizi site to improve conditions for the harvest, creation and sales of NTFP craft products such as; baskets, hammocks and other rattan creations

➤ ***NTFP Industry Establishment***

- ✓ NTFP species survey and mapping conducted in forests surrounding all target Communities
- ✓ NTFP awareness campaign completed including 3-day staff training for field staff to ensure high quality delivery program delivery
- ✓ Completion of interactive training sessions at each of the beneficiary community within the pilot areas
- ✓ Distribution of colorful NTFP posters to each community for posting to encourage ongoing education
- ✓ Creation of a practitioner's resource manual for use by staff team members

- ✓ Completion of summary NTFP awareness campaign report for distribution to local government and community stakeholders
- ✓ Selection of Kombo nut processing center locations through a collaborative decision making process involving community board representatives within each of the community forestry REDD+ pilot sites; construction to commence at the end of the current rainy season.

➤ **Agro-forestry Rehabilitation**

- ✓ Tree crops survey and mapping conducted in farmlands surrounding all target communities
- ✓ Completion of two day tree crops training programs for registered farmers' co-operative with both practical and classroom sessions
- ✓ Underbrushing of 166 tree crops farms
- ✓ Establishment of tree crop nurseries site completed

6. NETWORKING

The Community Forestry Partnership of Liberia

The Community Forestry Partnership (CFP) is a collaboration between three non-governmental organizations including the Farmers Associated to Conserve the Environment (FACE) of Liberia, the Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS), also of Liberia, and the Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC) from Ghana. The collaboration is geared towards the implementation of a community forestry pilot program in Liberia with a preliminary focus on two geographical areas including the Lake Piso Proposed Multiple-Use Protected Area in Grand Cape Mount County and the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area in Lofa County.

The CFP is important for Liberia because it can serve to showcase the first concrete examples of community conservation leading to the successful implementation of carbon sequestering programs (such as REDD and REDD +). In addition to the expected conservation benefits, the program strives to alleviate poverty through the communal management of natural resources. In other words, all conservation efforts must have tangible results for rural communities thereby ensuring an economic baseline to all conservation efforts.



*Members of the CFP post at the end of a one day NTFP Awareness Education Trainer- of- trainer workshop.
Photo by: M. Zono- CI*

The NGOs coalition for Liberia

SADS is a member of the NGOs coalition for Liberia which was founded in 2003. The coalition comprises of several local environmental organizations who goal is to insure the efficiency of their works through networking, collaboration and coordination of members' activities. At present, the Coalition's single key challenge is to make sure that the ongoing forest sector process is carried on comprehensively to address the complex problems of the sector with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders.

The coalition has employed a core staff to handle and facilitate all of it's affairs, with it being headed by a facilitator. During regular meetings of the coalition, information on various partners' activities shared to coordinate their activities.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR NOVEMBER 2009- DECEMBER 2010

Donor	Project	Cost(USD)
McCall MacBain Foundation	Liberia National Carbon Strategy: Capacity Building and Community Conservation Pilot in Zياما Clan, Lofa County, Liberia	\$17,400.00
IUCN- Netherland	Liberia National Carbon Strategy: Capacity Building and Community Conservation Pilot in Zياما Clan, Lofa County, Liberia	\$27,661.14
Rufford Small Grant Foundation	The Development of an Integrated Youth Environmental Rights & Education Outreach Program in communities around the Wonegizi proposed protected area in Lofa County, Liberia.	\$8,760.00
United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization	A Market Analysis and Development Baseline Survey conducted in communities around the Wonegizi proposed protected Area and Lake Piso Multiple-use Protected Area.	\$4,000.00
United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization	Prepare and Establish the County Forest Forum (CFF) of the Lofa County	\$13,900.00
Conservation International	The Green Forum	\$6,000
GRAND TOTAL		\$77,721.44

