

The Environmental Foundation for Africa

Annual Report 2006-2007



Message from the director

Since founding the Environmental Foundation for Africa in 1992 I have had the great fortune and pleasure of being an integral part of EFA's growth and evolution for well over a decade. Needless to say, in efforts to realise its vision – *an environmentally conscious people motivated to maintain the integrity of nature in Africa* – there have been a great many challenges but so too have been the opportunities.

While the conflict in Sierra Leone inspired EFA's creation, it also became its biggest challenge when the young organisation started operations in Liberia and Sierra Leone in the mid 1990s, a period of heightened political turmoil and violent war in both countries. However, by late 1990s the visible consequences of the conflict and human displacement on the environment provided EFA with its first real opportunity to highlight and justify the importance and need for environmental considerations in conflict and post conflict situations.

Supported by emergency and short term funding, the bulk of EFA's work in the past decade – from interventions in refugee camps and returnee areas in Liberia to the reconstruction of the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Sierra Leone – has been about addressing the consequences of the conflicts on the environment. With the end of the conflicts and the transition in both countries from relief to development-oriented economic activities, EFA has over the last 2-3 years shifted its strategic focus towards playing a leading role in developing a long term strategy for environmental awareness and action in the national and regional contexts. This approach is informed by global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which point to the urgent need for increased partnerships, results-driven environmental work and synergy among all the stakeholders.

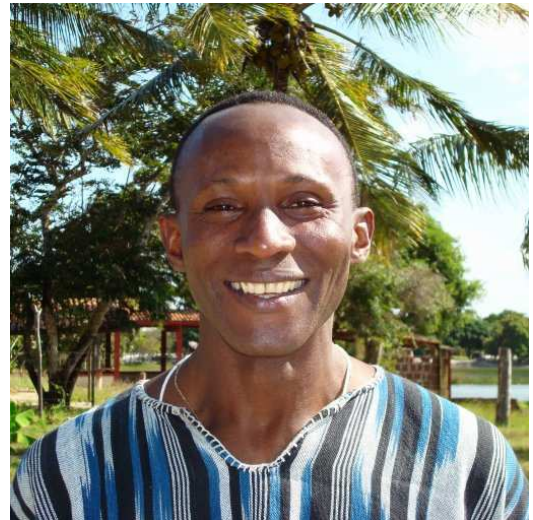
Looking to the future, we remain ever conscious of the persisting economic and social problems which continue to be a cause and effect of the most pressing environmental problems facing Africans today. While EFA's projects in Liberia and Sierra Leone will continue with their current emphasis on environmental education, awareness raising, agro-forestry, eco-tourism and scientific research, a major new thrust of EFA's work will be advocacy and lobbying at the regional and international levels.

Chairing the National Environmental Forum for Action in Sierra Leone since 2005, serving in the capacity of Regional Focal Point for IUCN NL's Eco-regional Grants Program since 2004 and hosting the Secretariat for the Green Actors of West Africa Network since 2006, are among EFA's current responsibilities. These roles and responsibilities demonstrate the organisation's emerging role as one of the leading agents of change in the region, promoting and enhancing collective thinking and action for a better managed environment and natural resources in West Africa.

Let me end here by extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who have given so generously of themselves in time, ideas, resources, encouragement through trusting in us, and in all the other ways that have made our work possible. Without your goodwill and understanding of the need for action, we would have nothing to report about.

Tommy Garnett

Freetown, Sierra Leone, September 2007



Message from the chair of the board of trustees

Both the content and presentation of this report are a great reflection of how much EFA has achieved in only 15 years, at times in the face of what some would consider insurmountable difficulties.

EFA has grown in many respects, from working at (literally) grassroots level planting trees together with the local communities to being central in the functioning of a West African environmental network and everything in between, while at all time embracing and integrating new technologies and providing training and raising public awareness.

I feel proud and privileged to be associated with EFA as a trustee, even more so after I was fortunate enough to attend the strategic meeting in January 2006 and visit some of the projects. It is heartening to see how much of what was planned then has come to pass already.

The challenge for us as the board of trustees is to match the inspiration, initiative, commitment and sheer hard work of the EFA staff.

Moves are underway to merge the UK and Ireland board in order to create a more coherent and effective supporting organisation which will further develop its network in Western Europe in order to create awareness of the role it plays in environmental issues in West Africa. This report will aid us in this task.

In the light of rapid loss of biodiversity and finite energy sources, not to mention climate change, EFA's work has never been more important and urgent than today.

Sieneke Hakvoort

Dublin, Ireland, September 2007

Contents

EFA

- 4 EFA Structure
- 6 EFA Today
- 8 The Information Unit

EFA

Projects

- 10 Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary
- 14 Solar Initiative
- 18 Environmental Education
- 20 Refugee and IDP camps
- 24 Tree Nurseries
- 26 Freetown Peninsula Forests

Projects

Collaborations

- 28 The Darwin Project
- 30 ENFORAC
- 32 GAWA and IUCN NL Focal Point
- 34 Partnerships

Collaborations

EFA Structure

Background

The Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA) was founded in 1992 in the United Kingdom, with a primary focus on Sierra Leone.

In its first four years EFA conducted research, formed relationships with stakeholders and compiled an information database on the major environmental problems in the region. Through its trustees and supporters in the UK and Ireland it also raised awareness on the effects of mining diamonds and other natural resources in countries such as Sierra Leone.

EFA received its first financial grants in 1996 from the Milton Grundy Foundation (UK), the British High Commission and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Sierra Leone. This allowed EFA to establish its office in Freetown and begin projects including a community tree nursery and post-mining land reclamation with four communities in Kambia District.

EFA relocated to Liberia in 1997 after a coup in Sierra Leone made it too dangerous to work in the country. Drawing from its experience in Sierra Leone, EFA began campaigning for environmental awareness and action in Liberia. Tree planting and domestic energy conservation activities targeted 45 schools in 5 counties.

In 1998, EFA became the United Nation's High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) partner for environmental action in refugee and returnee affected areas. Refugees are highly vulnerable to poverty as they have left their entire lives behind in efforts to secure a safer living situation.



The Headquarters for the Environmental Foundation for Africa in Lakka, Sierra Leone. EFA has offices in Lakka, Sierra Leone and Monrovia, Liberia.

Through this partnership, EFA filled a previously empty niche in the refugee and humanitarian operations in Liberia by working to safeguard important environmental resources such as wood, water and productive agriculture land.

EFA was based in Liberia until 1999 when the security situation improved sufficiently for EFA to restart operations in Freetown, funded by IUCN NL.

When Sierra Leonean refugees started returning EFA was asked by UNHCR to develop a program of environmental interventions in the returnee areas. After violence escalated in Liberia in 2002 EFA suspended its operations there until 2004 when the program was restarted after the deployment of UN peacekeepers.

Along side its many other projects in region, EFA continues to work with the refugee and internally displaced person (IDP) communities in Liberia.

EFA Staff

Tommy Garnett, Director of Regional Programs

EFA Sierra Leone program staff

Eugene C. Cole, West Africa Desk Officer

Steve Garnett, Information and Video Officer

Abdul Jalloh, Project Officer for Conservation and Research

Kaiza Koker, Finance Officer

Millicent Kallon, Administrative and Personnel Officer

Osman Marah, French Language Support

Robert Munro, Systems Analyst

Paul Munro, Regional Program Support Officer

Jeneba Navo, Public Relations Officer

Abioseh Pratt, Logistics and Facilities Manager

Erickson Sosokoneh, Information Assistant and Webmaster

Simon Willans, Engineering Coordinator, Solar Initiative

Momoh Magona, Facilities Operator for Tiwai Island

Minah Conteh, Community Liaison Officer, Koya Chiefdom, Tiwai Island

Ibrahim Luam, Community Liaison Officer, Barri Chiefdom, Tiwai Island

EFA Liberia program staff

Dr Aiah Lebbie, Country Director

Koosono J. Ampem, Administration and Finance Officer

Joe Flomo, Agro-forestry Officer

Nancy Gbakoyah, Logistics Officer

Harry Kerkula, Environmental Education Officer

Amos Kullie, Financial Assistant

Board of Trustees

The International Board of Trustees are based in the UK and Ireland:

Sieneke Hakvoort (Holland)

Aine Ni Gerailt (Ireland)

Roshan Ahmed (UK)

Barney Wan (UK)

Jamison Suter (USA)

Financial Support

EFA has received financial support from a large number of international donor organisations.

EFA and the projects it manages are currently supported by:

- Irish Aid
- The World Conservation Union National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL)
- United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

The major providers of support in the past have been:

- The British High Commission in Sierra Leone
- The Civil Service Third World Fund, Ireland
- The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
- The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Sierra Leone
- The Milton Grundy Foundation, UK
- Radio Television Ireland (RTE)
- Stichting Vluchteling - The Dutch Refugee Agency (SV)

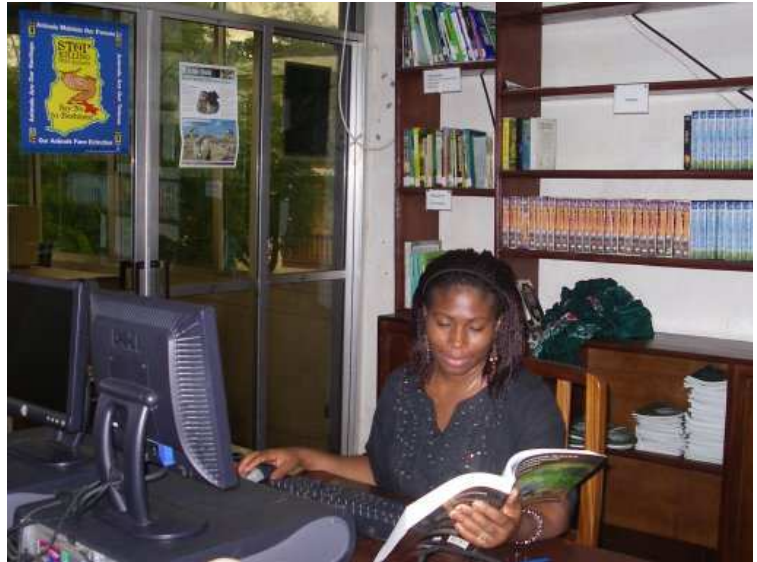
EFA Today

Current Projects

With projects across almost every district in Sierra Leone and every county in Liberia and a leading role in the Green Actors of West Africa, EFA has become a key contributor to environmental movement in West Africa. The past twelve months have brought important achievements to EFA:

- ◆ Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary saw its facilities upgraded and the first long-term hosting of researchers since the end of the civil war.
- ◆ An initiative was launched to install solar power across the region, with successful installations, training workshops and capacity building.
- ◆ As the number of refugees and internally displaced persons in the region decreases EFA's role has moved from managing camp environments to the rehabilitation of former camps.
- ◆ A unique collaboration was formed with a mining company, a university, an international centre for ecology and local communities for the rehabilitation of land degraded through rutile mining.
- ◆ Campaigns for the preservation of the Freetown Peninsular Forests were continued.
- ◆ The environmental education program was expanded throughout the region.

See the *Projects* and *Collaborations* sections for more details.



Jeneba, EFA's Public Relations Officer, working at the EFA internet café in Lakka.

Facilities at EFA

EFA's headquarters in Sierra Leone are in Lakka on the Freetown Peninsula. They are equipped with a number of facilities that benefit not only the staff and volunteers but also organisations and individuals working on environmental projects.

There is a seven bedroom guesthouse for volunteers and visiting persons. It is currently being extended to accommodate paying commercial guests to supplement donor income.

The internet café was installed as part of ENFORAC (see *Collaborations*) allowing participating member organisations internet access at a low cost.

The Library is also being equipped with a growing number of important texts, journals and magazines relating to the region's environment, conservation and environmental development.

Financial activities

(for the period ending 31 December 2006)

		Sierra Leone	Liberia	EFA Total
	<i>note</i>	<i>US\$</i>	<i>US\$</i>	<i>US\$</i>
Income				
Grants	1	467,219	264,306	731,525
Other	1	12,067		12,067
Total income		479,286	264,306	743,592
Expenditure				
Administration	2	62,174	10,008	72,182
Logistics	3	8,193	6,300	14,493
Program cost	4	322,462	208,854	531,316
Staff cost	5	132,684	38,098	170,782
Total expenditure		525,513	263,260	788,773
Surplus / deficit		-46,227	1,046	-45,181
Reconciliation of funds				
Previous funds		58,258	7,395	65,653
Movement during the year		-46,227	1,046	-45,181
Total C/F		12,031	8,441	20,472

1. Accounting policies:

a) *Basis of preparation.* The account is prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the *Standard of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities* (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005 and as applicable in Sierra Leone. Alternative headings to the SORP 2005 standard have been used to make the account easier to read by a non-financial audience. The accounts have also been prepared in accordance with the applicable accounting standards. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the accounts are set below. The accounts have also been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities*.

b) *Income.* Grant income includes all income by our principal donors as indicated in the narrative report. Other income includes fees apart from project grants – consultancy and other fees received by the NGO. Income is brought into the accounts when contracts are sign.

c) *Expenditure.* Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity for which each specific cost was incurred. Expenditure is allocated in the period in which the cost is incurred.

d) *Property, Plant and Equipment.* Items of property, plants and equipment are expensed to the statement of income and expenditure when incurred. They are not capitalised in the balance sheet.

e) *Income tax.* Environmental Foundation for Africa is exempted from income tax under Sec (9) of the Income tax act 2000

2. Administrative costs include all expenditure relating to office rent, electricity, security and other overheads.

3. Logistic costs include all expenditure relating to maintenance and fuel for vehicles and generators.

4. Program costs includes all expenditure relating to materials, workshops, seminars and conferences that are subject to restrictions imposed by the specific donors.

5. About 30% of the staff cost relates non-specific project staff including the director, accountant and other administrative staff and the remaining 70% relate to project specific staff, subject to restrictions imposed by the specific donors.

The Information Unit

Documenting and sharing

After being restructured in 2002, the information unit has in the past 3 years become central to the work of EFA in the national and regional context.

An IUCN NL funded re-equipment of the unit in 2006 has significantly enhanced the technical and staff resource capacities of the unit to reflect the widening regional scope of EFA's work.

In addition to documenting EFA's work and maintaining three websites, the unit now also serves as a hub for video documentary production for IUCN NL partners and other Green Actors in the region.

Activities over the past 12 months have included:

- ◆ Documenting the assessment of the environmental education and awareness project in Liberia (see *Environmental Education*).
- ◆ Documenting the activities and negotiations of the Darwin Project (see *Collaborations*) and screening a short documentary created on a previous visit titled *Novel and Practical Conservation Strategies*.
- ◆ Creating short documentaries that highlight the threat to the western area peninsula forest, promote ENFORAC (see *Collaborations*) and give a graphic profile of Sierra Leone.



Documenting EFA activities.

Television for the environment

EFA continues its role as the local distributor and promoter for Television Trust for the Environment (TVE). The unit is a distributor and promoter for TVE documentaries, arranging for the programs to be broadcast on the local television stations once a week.

The unit also arranges the projectors and audio equipment for public viewings of TVE programs at some of the more remote villages in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The presentation of TVE programs always enjoys a large crowd in the villages. We have found this to be one of the best ways of transmitting information about the larger issues in environmental sustainability as the audiences are always eager to know more about environmental issues following a screening.

The importance of a digital record

Digital technologies are often vital to environmental conservation in less developed regions of the world.

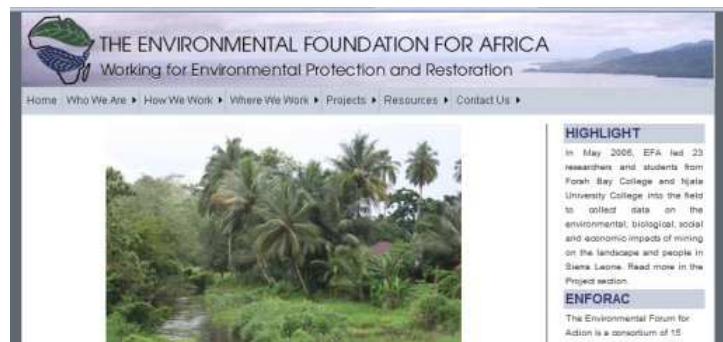
A pressing reason for documenting our activities is to provide a record of conservation activities and the state of protected areas.

Governments and corporations in the region do not always operate with a satisfactory level of transparency, especially in relation to environment. This is due in large part to the high levels of illiteracy and ignorance about the environmental impacts of various commercial and livelihood activities, across various sections of the society. Also it is quite difficult, and often too expensive and risky, for many environmental organisations to collect, process and disseminate reliable and current data about environmental problems and the related interventions.

Therefore, EFA seeks to maintain a credible record of its project activities



Work in the information unit at Lakka. EFA has the equipment and skills to produce short environmental films, from filming to editing and presentation.



EFA manages three websites: the EFA website, the GAWA website and the website for Tiwai island.

as well as the overall conservation efforts of other actors in areas of ecological importance, establishing realistic benchmarks against which future developments can be measured.

An additional reason for video documentation is to include more people in the decision making processes.

In many of the regions that EFA operates literacy rates are very low - as low as 10% in some rural areas. A result of this is that community members can often feel isolated from environmental activities as it is more difficult for them to access the information contained in the reports and publications made by companies, governments and NGOs.

By filming meetings and fieldwork processes, EFA is able to create and replay records of events that do not discriminate against a person's level of literacy, and therefore include a larger number of people in the activities.

Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary

Background

Tiwai Island is Sierra Leone's first, and currently only, community conservation program.

EFA first discovered the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary in March 2000 while conducting research for the production of an IUCN NL-funded book, *The Upper Guinea Forest Heritage: Nature Conservation in Liberia and Sierra Leone*.

On his first visit, the Director of EFA found Tiwai in a state of total abandonment and disrepair and poaching was rife, as evidenced by the many shells of spent cartridges and bush traps found on the island. Following the onset of civil war in SL in 1991 and subsequently the end of research and eco-tourism activities on the island the buildings on both the research and visitor centres had collapsed and poaching was rife. Primates were rarely spotted at this time.

Within a year EFA secured funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to rebuild and re-equip the research and eco-tourism facilities on the island. This followed extensive consultation with stakeholders including the local leaders, Government and Njala University.

Subsequent financial support came from IUCN NL in 2004 to strengthen the Tiwai Island Administrative Committee Secretariat and overall capacity of the Tiwai staff. Today, Tiwai is primarily supported by Irish Aid.



Tiwai, as seen from across the Moa River. The island's isolation has allowed it to support an impressive concentration of animal and plant species.

Biological Diversity

With eleven species, Tiwai houses the second highest concentration of primates in the world including rare and endangered species like the Black & White Colobus, the Red Colobus, the Olive Colobus and the Diana Monkey.

The Chimpanzees found on Tiwai are famous for using stones as hammers and tree roots as anvils to crack open hard nuts.

Tiwai is also host to a large variety of other rare and endemic animals. For example, there 135 known bird species, including eight types of hornbills.

Perhaps most famous of all, the endemic Pygmy Hippopotamus is only found in a small number of remaining forests in Sierra Leone, Liberia and neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

Tiwai wins SEED award!

In 2007 Tiwai won a SEED (Supporting Entrepreneurs for Environment and Development) award, a biennial competition highlighting innovative and entrepreneurial multi-stakeholder partnerships for locally-led sustainable development.

The award is for the Tiwai Island Health and Fitness Centre, a facility to provide health services based on principles of West African ethno-medicine as it represented a unique partnership between a traditional healer association, an academic institution and local communities helping to protect biodiversity and provide sustainable livelihoods for local communities.



The elusive Diana Monkey was once considered highly endangered.

It is now easily spotted on Tiwai and numbers are noticeably on the rise.

Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary is Sierra Leone's first community conservation program. It houses the second highest concentration of primates in the world.

Management of Tiwai

Meeting twice per annum, the Tiwai Island Administrative Committee (TIAC) provides leadership for the Island. TIAC comprises of the Paramount Chiefs of Barri and Koya Chiefdoms (permanent chairpersons), members of Parliament for Barri and Koya Chiefdoms, land owning family representatives from Barri and Koya Chiefdoms, government representatives from the Forestry and Tourism Ministries, local government representatives, Njala University Biological Science Department and EFA.

Day to day management of the Island is overseen by the TIAC Secretariat, hosted at EFA headquarters and employing staff responsible for administration, finance, marketing, fund raising, public relations, maintenance of facilities and community liaisons.

A team of volunteers based near the island assists the facilities manager and community liaison personnel.



In 2006 the then vice-president opens the visitors centre at Tiwai island as paramount chiefs VK Magona and Kanneh look on.

Tiwai island is divided between two chiefdoms, Barri and Koya. While there are no permanent settlements on the island, there are 8 villages in close proximity.

Ensuring a successful future for Tiwai requires agreement at many level, from the national government to the local chiefs and the individuals who rely on the river and surrounds for their livelihood.

Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary

Facilities on Tiwai

There are two sites on Tiwai, separated by a 15 minute walk through the forest. They are the visitors centre and the research centre. Both have undergone a great deal of recent development.

A store featuring a showroom, store-room, office and kitchen has been built. Showers have also been installed and a larger boat has been purchased for transporting visitors.

Solar power has been installed at the visitors centre and will be completed by October 2007 at the research centre (see the *Solar Initiative*).

The provision of a kitchen and showers has helped to ensure a greater quality of stay for all visitors. Accommodation at the research centre has been extended so that it can now accommodate researchers in four independent rooms and three large dorms.

The construction of the store offers Tiwai greater opportunities for income diversification and the solar fridge and freezer for the provision of food and drinks. Both will in turn help to diversify the island's income.

Volunteers on Tiwai Island were involved heavily in the construction of all the facilities.



Researchers return to Tiwai

Tiwai has historically been a hotspot of research with more than 100 publications describing its flora and fauna and numerous documentaries.

In 2007 Tiwai played host to international researchers for the first time since the end of the civil war. From January to May Tiwai hosted two researchers from the German University of Jena "Friedrich Schiller" who studied the behaviour of colobus and Diana monkeys.

They were very appreciative of the facilities provided and the opportunities that the island presented for research.

The hosting of researchers was a big learning experience for the staff of Tiwai with the visit proving to be beneficial for the drafting of future research guidelines.

Tourism increasing

Tourism has been slowly increasing and the sanctuary is gaining increased national and international recognition.

Writers from the Bradt travel guides (see www.bradt-travelguides.com) are currently residing in Sierra Leone, writing a guide book for the country that is due to be released in January 2008. EFA invited and hosted the writers on Tiwai Island. They were greatly impressed by Tiwai's facilities and its potential as an eco-tourism destination and will place a substantial section on Tiwai Island in their forthcoming guidebook.

Local advertising has been increased, with new sign boards promoting Tiwai placed along the road separating Bo and Tiwai island. As expatriate NGO staff are currently Tiwai's biggest source of visitors and income, major NGOs and donors in the region have also been targeted with leaflets promoting Tiwai.

In 2006 and 2007 a BBC documentary, *Wildlife in a Warzone*, that featured Tiwai was screened internationally. The documentary crew were hosted by EFA on Tiwai and lent motion sensitive cameras to the staff. As a result history was created when a camera installed by Minah took the first ever photograph of a Pygmy Hippopotamus in the wild.



A short walk from the boat landing (above) facilities at the visitors centre now include solar powered lighting, fridges, recharging stations, new showers, new bathrooms and a large communal shelter (opposite page).



It may not look like much, but this is the first ever photograph of a Pygmy Hippopotamus in the wild.

Logging and pollution are the biggest threats to this nocturnal, forest dwelling animal, with its shy nature largely protecting it from hunting. In fact, the Pygmy Hippopotamus is so shy and elusive that it is likely that not a single one was killed during the ten year civil war.

Looking forward

A partnership has recently been established between EFA and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and EFA will soon be the beneficiary of VSO volunteers specialising in eco-tourism.

This will be a great opportunity to further improve the facilities, promote eco-tourism, and to capacity build among Tiwai Island Staff.

EFA hopes that Tiwai and TIAC will become a model for best practice for conservation, internationally respected research and act as an engine for change in the local communities.

Solar Initiative

Background

EFA has been an advocate for many years for domestic energy conservation and alternative energy sources. This has been demonstrated through a number of projects such as the training of eco-stove production (see *Refugee and IDP camps*).

The Solar Initiative is EFA's newest large-scale project, beginning in 2007. It has three main objectives.

Firstly, the initiative is providing solar power to regions of Liberia with a high concentration of refugees and



The installation team with staff and students at Foequelleh Public School. The solar power allows the school to run night-classes for returnees without the cost and limitations of kerosene lamps.



Vaccine fridge and a securely boxed battery-bank. The fridges are powered with independent systems so that they will remain functional even if daily activities and/or poor weather limit the main systems.

returnees. Solar power systems are being installed in medical clinics and schools that are otherwise without power, or rely on irregular and expensive power supplied through fuel-driven generators.

Secondly, the initiative aims to install solar power at the visitors centre and research centre at Tiwai island.

Thirdly, an overarching objective is capacity building, with EFA training willing students and volunteers in the installation and maintenance of solar technologies.

Central to the solar initiative is the work of two EFA volunteers Paul Munro (Australia) and Simon Willans (Canada) who have supervised the installation of the systems, conducted the training and promoted the use of solar technologies among International NGOs in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Funding

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) funded the installations in Liberia and worked closely with the project in Liberia.

The project was seeded with a grant from Irish Aid which supported the installation of solar power on Tiwai Island.

The Tiwai installations acted as a pilot project for the larger initiative. As it sits near the Sierra Leone / Liberia border it also provided the ideal location for the solar training workshop.



Lahai snr, Paul, Alfred, Simon, Mr Magona and Lahai jnr installing solar panels at Tiwai island. The Tiwai installations doubled as training programs for the installation and maintenance of solar technologies.

In regions where grid electricity is non-existent and costly fuel-driven generators are rare, solar power presents a greener, cheaper and more sustainable power source.



Simon instructing volunteers and students in solar technology at the training workshop.

Solar training workshop

The training workshop on Tiwai island in June 2007 was attended by six electrical engineering students: three from University of Liberia and three from Fourah Bay College, the University of Sierra Leone. Also attending the workshop were the three project staff on Tiwai Island; Mr Magona, Ibrihim and Minah who are successfully maintaining the system installed there.

The training was divided into sessions on the different components of solar power systems and practical sessions which included site analyses, fixture construction, fixture mounting, inverter installation, controller installation and system wiring. One output of all of these practical sessions was the fully operational solar power system at the visitors centre.

The training was a great success and the Liberian students are now working with EFA on the installations in Liberia.

Solar Initiative

Installations in Liberia

The UNHCR selected a number of potential locations for the installations in Liberia and in consultation with EFA established a final twelve sites.

Site selection was a difficult process—there are no shortages of locations deserving reliable, clean power.

It was finally decided that five medical clinics and seven schools would receive power. The sites are in areas with a high concentration of refugees, internally displaced persons and/or returnees.



Two-Five, one of the electricians on the project, wiring Tumuquelleh school, Gbarpolu county, in preparation for solar power.



Passing on the knowledge. Freeman Gohu, a volunteer on the project from the University of Liberia, training the staff at Saclepea Community Clinic in the maintenance of their solar power system. The clinic serves a community of 38,000 people.

The clinics are being installed with fully functioning electrical systems including vaccine fridges, lighting and inverters for AC outlets. Three of the schools are being installed with full systems and four with lights-only systems.

Five electricians from Freetown accompanied the installation teams.

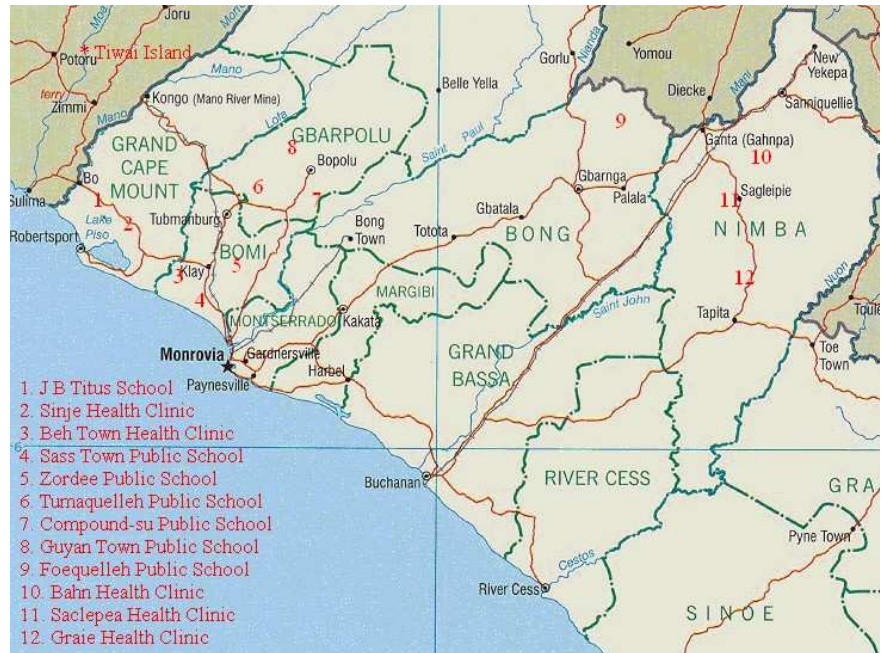
Many of the students quickly became proficient in the installation and maintenance of solar power systems, and by the end of the initiative they were installing the systems and training the clinic/school staff independent of EFA.

Installations a success!

In advanced notice for our next report, we are very happy to add here that the 12 installations in Liberia were successfully completed in August 2007.

The schools and clinics are now enjoying a safe, clean, reliable source of electricity.

The staff and communities at the sites are extremely grateful and give their thanks to all of EFA and UNHCR.



The locations of the solar power installations in Liberia and across the border on Tiwai island.



Solar panels at Bahn Community Clinic. The 31,000 people who rely on this clinic for health care now enjoy a fully powered clinic and better healthcare as a result.

Impact of installations

The installation of solar power systems will have a great impact on the communities they serve.

The clinics, who each support communities of between 10,000 and 80,000 people, are expected to lose their existing power sources within the next couple of years as foreign support scales down. UNHCR and UNICEF are currently funding the fuel for generators that power the vaccine fridges for three of the clinics, but this funding is soon transferring to councils who will not be able to meet the running costs.

One clinic, Beh Town, did not have any power and previously kept their vaccine fridge cool through a weekly delivery of ice.

The schools can now operate classes at night, giving a much wider variety of people the choice of an education and training outside of working hours. In addition, electrical equipment including computers can now be used at the schools with fully functional systems, allowing more flexible teaching methods.

Environmental Education

Background

Environmental sustainability should be one of the key factors underpinning the national capacity development process. If the dynamics of environmental sustainability are appreciated at a young age it ensures environmental responsibility and maximises sustained socio-economic outputs for the population.

EFA seeks to take advantage of its presence in several of the counties where refugee and IDP camps once existed in Liberia to support schools to achieve this.



Harry, EFA's Environmental Education Officer, inspecting a well EFA is constructing at a school adjacent to the former Senji camp.



Construction at Isaac Tondo Public School. Beyond our work in environmental education EFA constructs and/or renovated schools in communities with a high population of refugees and/or IDPs.

Following the end of the civil war in Liberia in 2004 there has been an official closure of all IDP camps and a substantial repatriation exercise. However, a significant number of people are still residing in the former camps and host communities.

These communities continue to grow, with many who initially left the camps making their return.

Most of the donors and NGOs who once served these populations are no longer operating in these camps and their associated communities. On the other hand, not all the communities are yet working toward self-sufficiency.

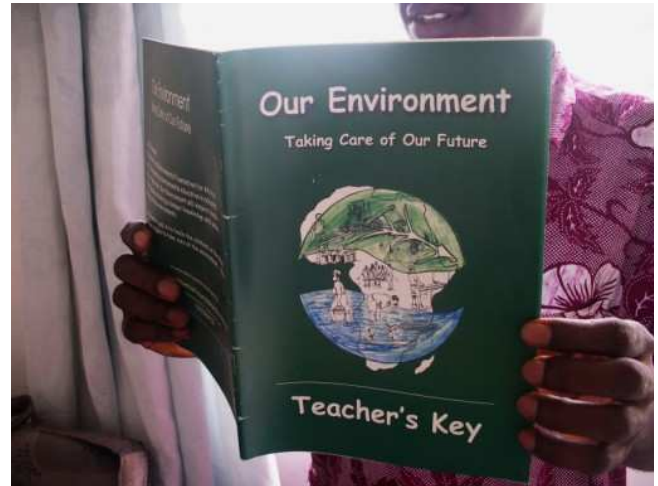
Project Goals

The goals for environmental education range from education itself to the maintenance of the school premises and supporting the livelihoods of the communities they serve:

- ◆ Increasing the knowledge and understanding of environmental problems and issues related to or caused by ongoing livelihood and subsistence activities.
- ◆ Rehabilitating basic school infrastructure including clinics, cooking areas, wells, toilets and the school buildings.
- ◆ Developing and updating environmental education material reflecting the current circumstances in the target areas.
- ◆ Training teachers to effectively run environmental clubs in the schools and use associated educational materials.
- ◆ Providing agricultural extension services in schools to establish agro-forestry programs. This will aid in the nutritional requirements of students and also act as an income generating activity.



Eugene, EFA's West Africa Desk Officer, instructing primary school teachers on how to integrate environmental education into different parts of the school curriculum.



EFA's teaching manual is used by teachers across Liberia as an aid to environmental education.

E-Clubs

The Environmental Clubs (E-clubs) have been a great success at 15 schools that EFA has constructed/renovated. The students have been particularly active in awareness raising activities and in managing tree nurseries.

The schools with E-Clubs are:

- ◆ Tozoe School
- ◆ ULICA School
- ◆ Johnny Volker School
- ◆ Saclepea Refugee School
- ◆ Karnwee School
- ◆ Martha Tubman School
- ◆ Salvation Army School
- ◆ Catholic School
- ◆ Gormalon Walker Community School
- ◆ Lutheran School
- ◆ Falie Public School
- ◆ Sinje Public School
- ◆ J. B. Titus Elementary School
- ◆ Zimmi-Bambala Community School
- ◆ REAP (Refugee Education Assistance Program) Community High School

Refugee and IDP camps

Background

EFA has worked extensively in refugees, returnees and IDP camps in both Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Although overall numbers are decreasing, the number of refugees and IDPs in the region is still in the hundreds of thousands, with a recent influx of refugees to Liberia from neighboring Côte d'Ivoire following the unstable political situation in that country.

EFA works to both improve the living conditions of people residing in the camps and to raise awareness of their environmental impact.



A water-pump installed by EFA at a fresh water well in Perry camp.



Providing sanitary living conditions.

Project Goals

- ◆ Improving the living conditions of people residing in the camps, especially sanitation and access to water.
- ◆ Sensitisation through awareness raising on sustainable environmental practices in the refugee camps and host communities.
- ◆ Providing monthly incentives and stationery supports.
- ◆ Providing/acquiring tools for tree planting and nursery activities.
- ◆ Promoting wide use of eco-stoves in the camps and host communities as a practical alternative in light of the economic status of the beneficiaries.
- ◆ Constructing an eco-stove shelter in all the camps.
- ◆ Improving agricultural practices by encouraging and promoting lowland farming practices, especially in Agro Forestry settings.
- ◆ Supporting the Environment Clubs in the schools.

The World Food Program adopts eco-stoves!

The World Food Program (WFP) has pledged to support the use of eco-stoves in all camps in Nimba county.

A group of five women from the camps who had been trained by EFA demonstrated the production of eco-stoves as part of World Environment Day celebrations organised by EFA in Saclepea.

They impressed a large audience with the ease of the stoves' creation and their efficiency of use, leading to the WFP representative pledging support for the use of eco-stoves in all WFP food-assisted camps and schools in the region.



Efficient 'eco-stove' cookers save fuel and minimise local deforestation.

Funding

The bulk of EFA's work in refugee, returnee and IDP affected areas has been funded by UNHCR.

The Dutch Refugee Foundation – Stichting Vluchteling (SV) provided supplementary funding in Sierra Leone in 2004 and in Liberia in 2005.



Young students follow the results of the quiz, essay writing and painting competitions

Quiz, Essay writing and Painting Competitions

EFA hosted the Quiz, Essay writing and Painting Competitions at various camps as an awareness raising and education program.

Eight schools took part in the Environmental Quiz held in Tobanda camp

Junior Secondary students submitted essays on the topic: "Natural environment protection in refugee camps, is it essential?". Primary students were invited to submit paintings under the title "Painting for Nature".

The activities were enjoyed by all entrants and promoted environmental awareness in the participating camps.

Refugee and IDP camps

Rehabilitating former IDP camps

As the number of refugees and internally displaced persons in the region decreases, EFA's role is moving from managing the camp environment to the rehabilitation of former refugee/IDP camps.

The primary beneficiaries of camp rehabilitation in the areas affected by the 34 camps in Liberia will be the immediate communities, the landowners who donated their land during the displacement of the population and camp residents choosing to establish new lives for themselves in the region of the former camps.

The past 12 months has been an important time in this regard, with a number of key activities:

Sanitation safety workshops

A safety training workshop was conducted in each camp for the teams of workers recruited to undertake the collection and safe disposal of wastes. The workshops focused on highlighting the critical environmental concerns to be addressed by the workforce. Safety precautions were stressed on the handling of hazardous wastes such as medical and corroded metals.

Collection and disposal of wastes

In all former camps cleaning crews of between 5 and 40 people were con-



The site of the former Ricks IDP camp, Liberia. At least 85% of people have now left the camp, with only a few shelters such as this one remaining. The crops in front and trees behind show the successful rehabilitation of land once devastated.

tracted following the safety training workshops to undertake the collection and safe disposal of wastes from the camps. The collection and disposal of wastes targeted such materials as discarded batteries, corroded nails, zinc, cooking oil cans, plastic shoes, vehicle parts, broken glass and bottles and medical wastes. Where possible, cleaning crews were instructed to recycle the non-degradable materials.

Cleaning and sealing of wells

Wells have been cleaned and the concrete slabs around the wells reinforced.

Demolition of abandoned shelters

The demolition of vacated shelters following the repatriation of former refugees and IDPs has been undertaken at

a varying pace. Most of the remaining shelters are occupied by individuals currently choosing to remain in the camps rather than be repatriated.

Acquisition and distribution of hand tools

A large number of hand tools including shovels, wheelbarrows, cutlasses, diggers, scratching hoes, rakes, files, regular hoes, hand trowels, hand forks, twines and tape rules have been acquired. We have started distributing hand tools to vegetable gardeners in former camps and surrounding communities.

Vegetable gardening

A total of 436 beneficiaries have so far received seeds and other agricultural inputs like hand tools. Seeds include groundnuts, pepper, bitter ball, beans, palava, okra, water melon, cucumber, cassava cuttings, cocoyam and potato greens. Vegetable nurseries were set up in 11 camps.

Construction of latrines

94 latrines have been reconditioned/constructed across the camps and adjacent communities. Communities and landowners were involved in the selection of sites and the construction.

Backfilling of pits

A total of 1,549 latrine pits were identified in the camps, with 1,492 backfilled. This exceeds the targeted number of pits (600). 242 garbage pits were successfully backfilled, again exceeding the original target of 50.

Environmental awareness raising campaigns

This has been ongoing from the inception of project activities (see *Environmental Education*).

Tree nursery and agro-forestry related activities

This was crucial to environmental rehabilitation (see *Tree Nurseries*).



The main road of Perry camp, Liberia.

The residents of the camp are predominantly refugees from Sierra Leone. Many have elected to remain in the camp rather than accept offers of repatriation, and some refugees and IDPs from other camps have also joined Perry camp rather than return.

Local communities and NGOs are successfully working to integrate those who remain into their Liberian communities.

EFA provides a number of services in the camp including the renovation of nearby schools, the installation of wells, the rehabilitation of surrounding land including the establishment of tree and vegetable nurseries and training in efficient farming and cooking practices. For all services EFA actively seeks to employ and train workers and volunteers in and around the camps, ensuring the knowledge and skills remain long after EFA scales down its work.

With restaurants, shops and even a video den on the main road, Perry camp is already beginning to look more like a township than a refugee camp.

Tree Nurseries

Tree nursery & agro-forestry activities

A total of 25 tree nurseries were constructed adjacent to 23 refugee and IDP camps in Liberia where landowners and local communities expressed the need for environmental rehabilitation.

An additional nursery was created at the EFA Liberia Headquarters for controlled experiments with varying types of tree, soil condition and compost composition.

To date, 147,688 seedlings have been raised at the nurseries.



Joe, EFA's Agro-forestry Officer, inspecting native (non-farming) and acacia seedlings at a nursery managed by an E-club at a school that EFA has renovated.



Oil-palm seedlings at a nursery supporting the rehabilitation of the Ricks camp, and behind them local cocoyams, banana trees and paw-paws supporting the local Memeh community.

EFA works closely with the landowners and local communities to negotiate which crops should be planted.

In addition to rehabilitating the land in and surrounding former camps the nurseries are a great benefit to the local communities who effectively hosted the refugees and IDPs.

Using the experience gained through EFA's training in managing the tree nurseries, local communities are now successfully producing a larger volume and variety of local foods and cash crops in an environmentally sustainable manner, improving their own income and living conditions.

Seedlings grown for camp rehabilitation in Liberia

	Oil-palm	Acacia	Rubber	Cocoa	Citris	Bread nut	Terminalia	Avocado	Makore	H/utilis	Other
Blamasee	5,865	597				100		41		116	136
YOA Demo site	886	3,000									
Kpallah community	6,850	325			111	18					30
Vonson	4,320	1,544			20	70	6	35		18	
Ricks	5,634	1,813			36					50	
Sawegbeh	4,393	1,112					90	75		40	11
Senji III	3,476	2,000					15				
Mt Barclay	4,821	1,890			21	144	102				
Civil Compound	3,218	1,474					12	51		75	
Bonard Curve	4,558	268			8		68				
Freeman Reserve	3,421	1,162					50				40
Kingsville	4,151	410				133	96	6			15
15-Gate	4,280	645			44	44				4	
Newland	3,999	125					52				
Conneh	4,293	1,000			82						7
Hontor	4,171	600		1,800					30		
Massaquiz	2,476	700									
Tumutu	3,480	1,001		1,400					80		
Salala Demo site	3,242	300	1,400	150	30	112					
Salala I	6,367	1,940				3		130	150		180
Salala II	3,031	702	3,500	200	20	30			75		
Bassayma	4,997	1,000									
Maimu I	4,592	1,339	750		30						
Maimu II	5,221	1,072	765		20			32		2	
Maimu III	4,464	400	350		20					18	
EFA Office	867	4		8	651	4			3		177
Total	107,073	26,423	6,765	3,558	1,093	658	491	370	338	323	596

The number of seedlings grown to date at EFA nurseries supporting the rehabilitation of former refugee and IPD camps in Liberia.

147,688 seedlings have been raised in total, with 7,500 of them raised by E-clubs.

The other seedling types include shade trees, additional native (non-farming) trees, cash crops specifically requested by certain landowners and/or communities and a variety of species grown at the experimental nursery at the EFA Liberian office.

Freetown Peninsula Forests

The Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve

The Freetown Peninsula is the only place in tropical West Africa where forest-covered mountains meet the sea. Its preservation in the face of development is paramount. The Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve was declared a forest reserve in 1916.

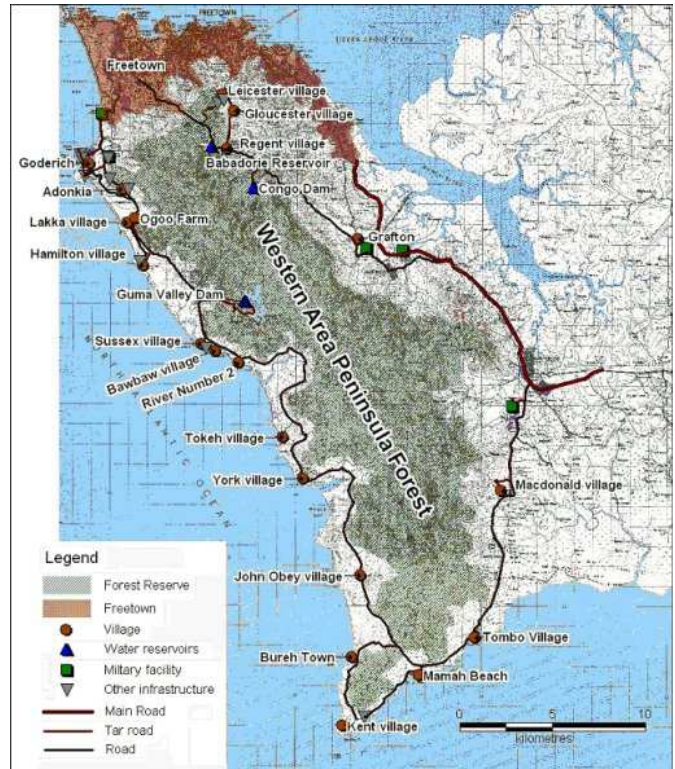
The reserve, which is also Freetown's water supply, is currently threatened by deforestation due to settlements at both ends of the economic spectrum.

Shanty settlements of people who left their rural communities to look for a better life in Freetown are spreading into the reserve and placing pressure on the ecosystem.

The appearance of many wealthy looking structures, including embassies, in what was once a forest reserve raises questions about the government's effectiveness in protecting the reserve.



Land being cleared and wealthy settlements being constructed in areas long designated as forest reserves.



The proximity to Freetown threatens the reserve, but also gives the opportunity for education and eco-tourism.

RARE Pride Campaign

The RARE Pride Campaign sought to generate broad based support for ecosystem protection. It combining grassroots and mass-marketing techniques, ranging from catchy songs about the flagship species to puppet shows, bumper stickers and television spots.

One of EFA's main roles was to determine changes in Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour (KAB) as a result of campaign activities.

The results were very positive. Knowledge among samples of the population increased markedly in all areas, especially about the effects of timber harvesting and coal burning.

Sussex forest reserve

EFA manages a 15 acre plot of land on the Freetown Peninsula that has been purchased and maintained as a forest reserve against further development and to serve as a reminder in time to come of how the area once looked.

The reserve has been a success with a troop of monkeys making the reserve their home after most of their previous territory was bulldozed or burnt for developments and farming.

Today, the reserve itself is being encroached upon by farming. There are tensions with local farmers angered by the possibility of the monkeys stealing crops and threats have been made against the reserve's caretaker, Pa Konte.

EFA is currently acting to negotiate with the farmers and resolve this matter to the satisfaction of all parties.



Pa Konte at the Sussex forest reserve

The Freetown Peninsula is the only place in tropical West Africa where forest-covered mountains meet the sea. Its preservation in the face of development is paramount.



Deforestation along catchments in the Freetown Peninsula. While areas along waterways can be the most accessible to log, the impact of such clearing is often the most severe.

Reforestation

One of EFA's first projects was establishing a community tree nursery on the peninsula in 1996.

It has continued this work in a number of forms.

Most recently EFA helped organize a one day tree-planting event at the Guma Valley Reservoir.

EFA were involved in fund-raising, site preparation, publicity and the mobilisation of school children to participate in the activity.

The Darwin Project

Background

In 2006 large scale commercial rutile mining recommenced in the Moyamba and Bonthe Districts in Sierra Leone.

Rutile is a mineral composed primarily of titanium dioxide. It is dredged by creating large artificial bodies of water and separating the raw material from sand, soil and other matter.

Local communities rely on the land affected by mining for their daily life. The loss of fertile land, in-



Rutile mining dramatically changes the landscape as low-lying, fertile land is converted into large freshwater lakes and sandy plains during the extraction process.



Arnold Okoni-Williams of Forah Bay College conducting the wildlife survey to establish baselines for measuring the rehabilitation.

igenous plant species and wildlife habitat greatly reduces the ecological complexity of the environment. These landscape changes also alter the social and economic dynamics of the communities around the mining concessions in some cases reducing livelihood opportunities.

The project evolved from a 9 month IUCN NL funded scientific study, conducted in partnership with Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), Fourah Bay College and Njala University. The study concluded the previous rehabilitation efforts were inadequate.

The Partnership

The Darwin Project, titled *Novel and Practical Conservation Strategies Following Mining*, is a unique partnership between local and international NGOs, the national universities, overseas scientific institutions and Sierra Rutile Limited (SRL). Funded by the Darwin Initiative (UK), the project seeks to develop and experiment with methods for practical reclamation and conservation that both conserve biodiversity and enhance community livelihoods, using the Sierra Rutile as a case study.

The main partners are the UK-based Centre for Ecology and Hydrology – main contractor; EFA – the country coordinator; Fourah Bay College; Njala University; Conservation International (USA) and Sierra Rutile Limited. Additional local and international organisations will be collaborating throughout the project which began in November 2006 and is currently due to be completed in late 2009.

A recent evaluation by the stakeholders shows that in addition to improved communication and relations between the company and the local people, some economic benefits are becoming visible to the landowning communities. However, there are still substantial problems and grievances which the partners hope to influence in positive and significant ways in the coming years.



Millicent, EFA's administration and personnel officer, taking part in the planting of seedlings at the demonstration plots.

EFA encourages all its staff, even the typically desk-bound ones, to actively engage in fieldwork.

Progress

The project has established a solid platform for ongoing consultations and negotiations between SRL and the local communities.

Recent achievements include:

- ◆ A participatory joint stakeholder workshop at the mining site.
- ◆ Four technical workshops in nucleolus villages with representatives from several surrounding villages.
- ◆ A complete Social, Environmental and Economic analysis (SEE 360 analysis) of rutile mining's impact.
- ◆ Negotiations for the supply of compost, seedlings and other materials required for rehabilitation.
- ◆ The assessment of service payment options.
- ◆ The design of demonstration plots for seedlings, including negotiations with local communities for regarding their location and the commencement of planting.

ENFORAC

Background

EFA has chaired the Sierra Leone-wide Environmental Forum for Action (ENFORAC) since 2005.

In 1996 EFA, the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) and a few interested individuals were working on a national program for environmental activism. This work was interrupted following the coup d'état in 1997 when the main parties left the country.

Back on track, in 2004 EFA hosted a meeting resulting in ENFORAC's formation. The meeting was funded by CEPF, IUCN NL, UNDP and GTZ (SL).

Since then ENFORAC has been a key national player on environmental issues, undertaking a number of high profile events, including hosting a re-



A mural from the Dry or Fry project highlighting the possible outcomes of slash-and-burn agriculture, including desertification.

gional conference on biodiversity in April 2006. The conference was opened by the then President of Sierra Leone and drew widespread attention.

Founding Members

Action For Development Sierra Leone
Beautification, Rehabilitation and Conservation Organisation
Centre For Biodiversity Research
Conservation Society of Sierra Leone
Council for Human Ecology
Environmental Foundation for Africa
Fourah Bay College
Friends Of The Earth – Sierra Leone
Green Scenery
Njala University
Organisation for Research and Extension of Intermediate Technology
Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary
Union of Environmental Journalist



ENFORAC employed local artists to create the murals in Freetown promoting ENFORAC, ENFORAC members, and the various projects they undertake.

Aberdeen Creek Estuary Ramsar

One important ENFORAC project is the conservation of Aberdeen Creek.

Aberdeen creek is an official Ramsar site, meaning that it is a wetland of national and international importance. However, its location next to the capitol, Freetown, makes it an irresistible site for unplanned development and threatens it with pollution.

ENFORAC members have worked together to campaign for its preservation.



Protestors campaigning for the preservation of Aberdeen creek. Prior to the campaign most residents of Freetown were not aware of the ecological importance of Aberdeen Creek or the threats to it.



Marshland at Aberdeen Creek with the hills of Freetown behind. The greatest dangers to the marshland result from its proximity to urban environments.

Dry or Fry project

Dry or Fry is a IUCN NL funded project jointly undertaken by ENFORAC members. It is aimed at educating communities about the dangers of unsustainable land use practices and the threat of dry lands becoming deserts if these practices continue.

Activities included:

- ◆ A participatory rural assessment of 16 communities around 4 major trading centres (Makeni, Magburaka, Mile 91 and Port Loko).
- ◆ The design, construction and locating of billboards in each of the centres.
- ◆ Researching the possible effects of global warming on Sierra Leone.
- ◆ Painting murals in Freetown promoting the project and ENFORAC itself.
- ◆ Painting a large number of murals in rural areas highlighting the importance of forests in the water cycle and the threat of slash-and-burn agriculture and wildfires to the soil and water.

GAWA and IUCN NL Focal Point

GAWA

In addition to establishing a vast network of contacts in conservation, development, government, donor and private sector circles, a key outcome of EFA's recent activities has been the formation of the Green Actors of West Africa Network (GAWA). Having been instrumental in its formation, EFA currently hosts the GAWA secretariat.

GAWA is a regional initiative of environmental organisations. Its goal is to unite the environmental movement across the region to share knowledge among organisations, divide regional tasks between members and to act as a large single voice in the region lobbying for change in environmental policies and practices.

The most recent meeting of members took place in December 2006 in Dakar, Senegal. At the meeting, the table of West African environmental issues was distilled to seven focus areas: renewable energies; forests; mining; gender; water resources and river basins; coastal/marine resources; and waste management/pollution. A key outcome was an agreement that each country be represented by a national network, such as ENFORAC, in each of the ten cooperating countries, with each country/network assigned a specific focus area.

The key challenge now for GAWA is empowering the national networks and groups of interested individuals. The networks need to be proactively involved in providing a green voice in the region and undertake projects that can be held up as exemplary actions in the region.



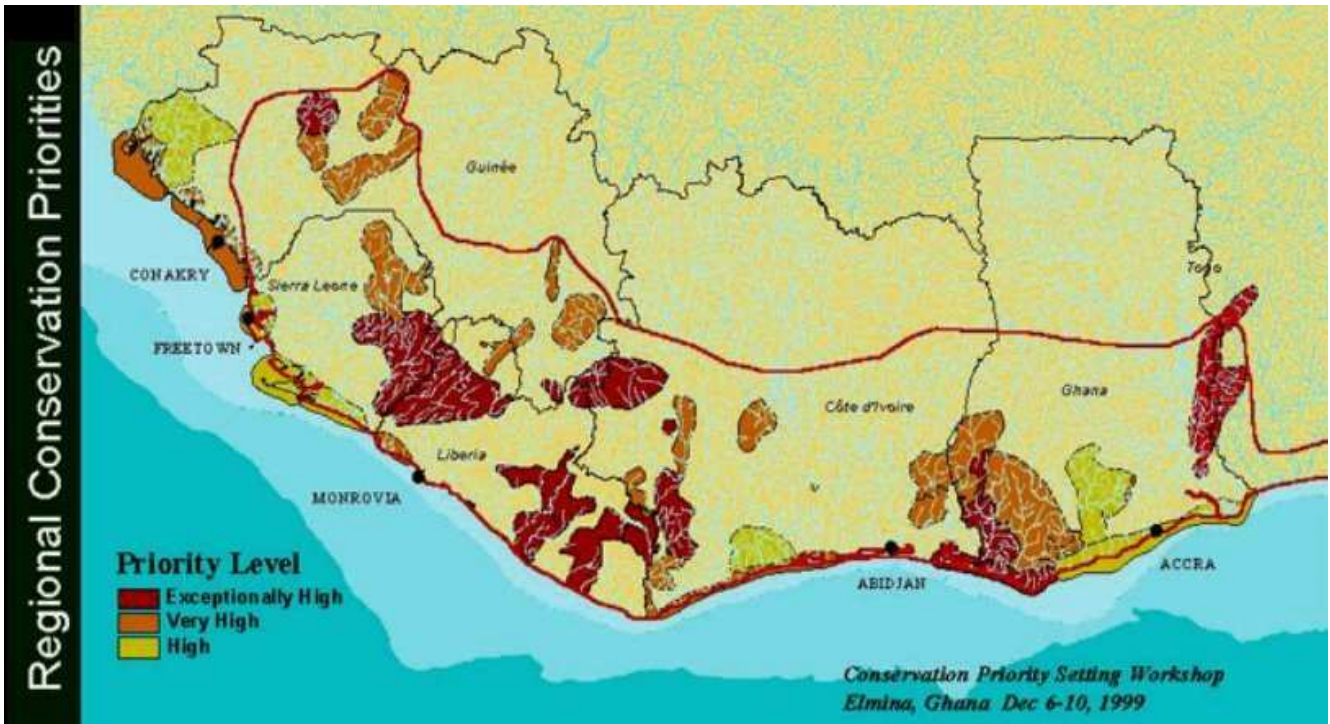
IUCN NL grantees meeting to discuss regional collaboration and with IUCN BRAO.

IUCN NL focal point

In March 2004 EFA was presented with the role of the World Conservation Union National Committee of the Netherlands' (IUCN NL) regional focal point for West Africa.

This was following several years of successful implementation of projects funded by IUCN NL. This initiative, considered an experiment, was the result of IUCN NL's intention to intensify its work in West Africa after nearly a decade of supporting conservation efforts of providing small grants to environmental NGOs.

Through a focal point organisation, IUCN NL aims to stimulate a synergy of efforts among its partners and grantees in the region to improve the quality of outputs of the various projects funded through the small grants program. It is believed that working through a focal point improves the assistance to local NGOs and encourages greater collaboration between them.



Areas of environmental importance in the region covered by GAWA.

Achievements

During the first cycle of EFA's focal point role, ended in December 2006, specific tasks included:

- ◆ The identification of potential partners for small grants programs of IUCN NL and additional potential donors.
- ◆ Improving coordination among green NGOs in the region.
- ◆ Providing technical support to improve the performance of partners in the field.
- ◆ Facilitating coordination and combining the efforts of green NGOs in lobbying relevant institutions to make development programs more ecologically sustainable.
- ◆ Identifying and recruiting as necessary, regional-based resource persons for capacity building and training of environmental NGOs.
- ◆ Facilitating online communication flow and collaboration between partners in the region.

- ◆ Stimulating the formation of new national networks and strengthening existing ones.
- ◆ Encouraging documentation and the distribution of case studies, best practices and lessons learned.

A comprehensive report is posted on EFA's website outlining in detail the results of the first experimental phase. It is noteworthy that as a direct result of being a regional focal point, EFA's capacity to operate within a regional/international dimension was enhanced to the extent that it successfully hosted a major international conference with over 100 participants from 17 countries in April 2006.

Having organized a number of successful meetings and training events for partners in the region during the past 2 years, there is increased communication between various Green Actors with a growing sense of urgency among them to cooperate more meaningfully. There also now exist real possibilities for developing strategic partnerships with major stakeholders in the development sector to undertake larger-scale programs and effect lasting changes in the coming years.

Other Partnerships

The United Nations

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees has been a crucial funder of EFA activities for many years. It has worked with EFA closely on a number of projects and provided both logistic and transport support.

EFA has also worked closely on number of projects with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).



A transport vehicle loaned by UNHCR supporting the solar initiative in Nimba county, Liberia.

Other Organisations

Beyond the work outlined in this report with the Green Actors of West Africa, ENFORAC and the collaborations in the Darwin Project, EFA continues a close working relationship with many other organisations.

For example, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been monitoring the project activities in Liberia, providing guidance and direction with respect to established environmental standards.

Volunteers

From Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary to the tree nurseries adjacent to refugee and IDP camps, EFA has enjoyed a large number of in-country volunteers.

Recent international volunteers have included Juliet Ceesay (Human Resources Development), and Evyenia Wilkins (Project Development and Fundraising).

An exciting new partnership with Voluntary Service Overseas should see the number of international volunteers continue to expand.

Researchers

EFA continues its long history of collaboration with researchers from the region and internationally. EFA has recently hosted researchers and students from a number of institutions including the University of California Santa Cruz, Kings College, Stanford University.

EFA works especially close with Fourah Bay College and Njala University College, Sierra Leone, and the University of Liberia, often organising and leading field work expeditions.

A note of thanks

The Trustees, Management and Staff of EFA would like to thank all its donors, sponsors, volunteers and well wishers who have made possible all the achievements reported here.

In particular we wish to express our appreciation to the Governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone and their International Partners, who apart from facilitating our work in countless ways, have done an excellent job of enabling us to live and operate in an atmosphere of peace and security.

About this report

This report was compiled from June to October 2007 by Robert Munro. I'd like to personally thank everyone who was involved in its creation:

I extend a special thank you to the staff and volunteers at Bahn Heath Clinic, Graie Health Clinic, Foequelleh Public School, JB Titus Public School, Perry camp, Ricks camp, Saclepea Health Clinic, Sinje Health Clinic and Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary for their hospitality.

I'd also like to thank everyone at EFA who supported and contributed to this report. In Sierra Leone: Tommy, Abdul, Abioseh, Aiah, Charles, Condor, Erickson, Eugene, Fodah, Fortune, Ibrahim, Jeneba, Kaiza, Millicent, Minah, Pa Magona, Osman, Pa Konte, Pa Samba, Paul, Sammy, Simon and Steve. In Liberia: Dr Lebbie, Amos, Ampem, Anthony, David, Freeman, Harry, Isaac, Joe, 'super' Morris, Nancy and Soloman



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