

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Association Of Environmental Lawyers of Liberia
(Green Advocates)

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Improving Implementation of Environmental Legislation in Liberia

Implementation Partners for this Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004

Date of Report (month/year): January 27, 2006

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

The lack of implementation and enforcement of environmental laws in Liberia has been one of the principal reasons for the acceleration of biodiversity loss and an obstacle for initiating and implementing a comprehensive conservation program in Liberia. Liberia legal system has no experience or history in terms of handling environmental policy, legal issues and cases neither are there any court to adjudicate environmental issues.

This does not mean that there has been no law on the environment prior to April of 2003, when the new generation of Liberia's environmental laws emerged on the national scene. Liberia has had a history of environmental development since the early 1800s. Fragmented environmental legislation such as nuisance abatements, solid waste disposal, public health and sanitation laws, etc...were enacted to ensure protection for public health and the environment.

However what appear to be the major problems has been the lack of implementation of these laws and the diminished capacity in terms of human resources development to facilitate such a process. Green Advocates, Liberia's only public interest environmental law organization with funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is creating the environment for improving implementation of environmental laws in Liberia.

The objective of the program included building the capacity of legal practitioners to face up to the challenge to make the general public to understand Liberia's environmental laws and empower the judicial system so as to improve conditions

for the implementation and enforcement of environmental and natural resources laws in Liberia.

The project's activities started from scratch with the acquisition of office space, office equipment and furnishing of office in January 2004 including recruitment of staff and putting into place management system and work plan to ensure effective operational procedure. The next phase of the organizing process was the establishment of collaborative links with other civil society organizations both local and international. Green Advocates formally joined and became member of the Alliance for Conservation of Liberia.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: Lawyers, judges and decision-makers understand and use environmental legislation to protect biodiversity in Liberia.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
Lawyers file lawsuits and propose draft legislation and regulations protecting biological diversity in Liberia.	<p>Lawyers have filed lawsuit protecting biological diversity in the famous Iron ore case to clean up Mount Nimba Nature reserve of mine waste.</p> <p>In term of proposing legislation, Green Advocates is presently the lead local environmental NGO involved with drafting and proposing legal reform of the forest sector to the Government of Liberia. Those legal reform packages include legislations protecting biological diversity under the Forestry Development Three Cs concept which include Commercial, Conservation and Community forestry.</p>
Administrative and judicial opinions on lawsuits filed by Green Advocates.	<p>The lawsuits and administrative cases we have filed are still pending before the courts so it is now not possible to obtain opinions on these cases. However, we have obtained both judicial and administrative orders on the cases filed. For example, the Supreme courts issued a writ of prohibition in our iron ore case. The Environmental Protection Agency ordered the conduct of an environmental impact Assessment (EIA) in the floating hotel ship and the clean up of toxic waste discharged by Mobil. The Forestry Development Authority also issued an order prohibiting pit sawing in Rivercess county after a complaint was filed by Green Advocates. The Forestry Development Authority ordered the removal of illegal inhabitants from Sapo National Park</p>
Legislators hold hearings to pass bills protecting biological diversity in Liberia., and government agencies	<p>There have been no legislative hearings to pass bills protecting biological diversity in Liberia.</p> <p>However, intensive consultations were held with</p>

	legislators to lobby and obtain support for legislation protecting biological diversity. These consultation led to an understanding to form a conservative caucus at the National legislature
The Government of Liberia passes legislation improving biodiversity protection.	The government has not passed any legislation protecting biological diversity. However, through consultation, the government has committed to passing legislation protecting biological diversity.
Government agencies enforce environmental laws.	Government Agency attempted enforcing environmental laws. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency ordered the conduct of an Environmental Impact Assessment and the clean up of toxic waste that have been stored in a local community for more than 10 years. The Forestry Development Authority ordered and also worked with local and international partners to remove illegal inhabitants from Sapo National Park.

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

Ans: The success of this project can be measured in terms of the slow but gradual increased awareness of environmental laws among Liberian lawyers and judges as well as mid level government officials. This has necessitated the filing of lawsuits and administrative actions.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Ans: The unexpected impact is that lawyers who received training are now providing their services to private law firms and not providing pro bono services as contemplated because of the absence of resources to retain their services at Green Advocates.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Output 1: Green Advocates established as a fully operational and sustainable NGO in Monrovia

Output 2: At least 5 environmental lawyers trained and actively engaged in environmental research and litigation.

Output 3: Awareness materials on environmental laws in Liberia available and in use by lawyers, judges and decision-makers.

Output 4: Three (3) non-controversial lawsuits are introduced into trial by December 2004.

Output 5: Increased understanding within government agencies of the new Environment Protection and Management Laws of Liberia

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Green Advocates established as a fully operational and sustainable NGO in Monrovia	Yes, Green Advocates is established as a fully operational and sustainable NGO in not only in Monrovia but through out Liberia.
1.1. Green Advocates leases office space and opens and office by January 2004	Yes, office space was leased
1.2. Office equipment and furniture procured and installed in Qtr 1.	Yes, office space an equipment was procured
1.3. Project staff recruited and hired (Staff attorney, Office manager/Accountant) in Qtr 1	Yes, project staff was recruited
1.4. Detailed project work plan prepared. In Qtr 1	Yes, detailed project work plan was prepared.
1.5. Financial management system set up and functioning in Qtr 1	Yes, financial management system is set up an working
1.6. Appropriate consultations held with partners in Liberia to ensure collaborative and fruitful relationships are established in Qtr 1	Yes, there was and still is constant consultation with partners in Liberia to ensure collaborative and fruitful relationship
1.7. Financial sustainability strategy developed and implemented by Qtr 2.	Yes, Financial sustainability strategy has been developed and is being slowly implemented.
Output 2: At least 5 environmental lawyers trained and actively engaged in environmental research and litigation.	More than 5 lawyers have been trained and are presently engaged into environmental research and litigation.
2.1. Training manuals in 1) general environmental law, 2) international environmental conventions (CBD,	Yes, Training manuals in 1) general environmental law, 2) international environmental conventions (CBD, CITES, Ramsar), and 3) specific

CITES, Ramsar), and 3) specific Liberian laws and situations prepared by July 2004	Liberian laws and situations were prepared
2.2. Potential trainees identified and selected in Qtr 1	Yes, Potential trainees were identified and selected
2.3. Training seminars conducted in July 2004.	Yes, Training seminars were conducted
2.4. Lawyers who participated in the training seminars prepare materials that can be used in environmental advocacy and litigation in Qtr 3	Yes, lawyers who participated in the training seminars prepare materials that were used in environmental advocacy and litigation
Output 3. Awareness materials on environmental laws in Liberia available and in use by lawyers, judges and decision-makers.	Yes, awareness materials on environmental laws in Liberia were made available and use by lawyers, judges and decision-makers
3.1. Develop and produce several educational and awareness materials on environmental law in Liberia for lawyers, judges and government agencies by August 2004	Yes, Green Advocates developed and produced several educational and awareness materials on environmental law in Liberia for lawyers, judges and government agencies.
3.2. Distribute awareness materials to appropriate recipients in Qtr 3 (see Output 5	Yes, Green Advocates distributed awareness materials to appropriate recipients
3.3. Monitor legal situation to determine use of awareness material and need for further distribution/explanation	Yes, Green Advocates monitored the legal situation to determine use of awareness materials and need for further distribution/explanation. There has been constant request for more materials.
Output 4: Three (3) non-controversial lawsuits are introduced into trial by December 2004.	Yes, Green Advocates introduced into trial three (3) non-controversial lawsuits.
4.1. Lawyers representing Green Advocates conduct research on lawsuits for the conservation of biological diversity in Liberia in Qtr 3 and Qtr 4.	Yes, Lawyers representing Green Advocates have conducted research on lawsuits for the conservation of biological diversity in Liberia. The famous Sapo National Park legal memo researched and drafted by Green Advocates lawyers and was widely used to point out the legal

	issues surrounding the illegal occupation of Sapo Park.
4.2. Lawyers representing Green Advocates introduce into trial at least three administrative or judicial lawsuits for the conservation of biological diversity in Liberia by December 2004.	Yes, lawyers representing Green Advocates have introduced into trial administrative and judicial lawsuits for the conservation of biological diversity in Liberia.
Output 5: Increased understanding within government agencies of the new Environment Protection and Management Laws of Liberia	Yes, there have been a slow but gradual increased understanding within government agencies of the new Environment Protection and Management Laws of Liberia
5.1. Conduct pre-workshop consultations with selected judges, legislators and key line ministry staff in Qtr 2.	Yes, Green Advocates conducted pre-workshop consultations with selected judges, legislators and key line ministry staff.
5.2. Procure and mobilize pertinent materials for workshops in Qtr 2	Yes, Green Advocates procured and mobilized pertinent materials for workshops providing training for judges
5.3. Prepare and organize logistics, and send our invitations for holding of workshop by September 2004	Yes, Green Advocates prepared and organized logistics, and send our invitations for holding of workshop
5.4. Conduct workshops for judges, legislators and key line ministry staff in Qtr 4	Yes, Green Advocates conducted workshops for judges and key line ministry staff. Selected legislators were not involved as they wanted separate training which was not provided for with in the project budget.
5.5. Conduct post workshop follow-ups between November and December 2004 to gather feed back on workshop impact	Yes, Green Advocates conducted preliminary post workshop follow-ups to gather feed back on workshop impact.

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

The success of this project in terms of delivering the intended outputs include the formation of the Association of Environmental judges and the evolution of Green Advocates from the originally conceived urban environmental organization to a nationally oriented environmental organization.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

Yes, Green Advocates was not successful to involve legislators to participate in the training for judges and key government staff because the lawmakers wanted separate training sessions. This did not significantly affect the overall impact of the project as we have constantly held consultations with selected lawmakers leading to an understanding to form a conservation caucus at the legislature.

It is however, important to state that even most of the other outputs as required under this project were realized, there is an urgent need to improve upon the success obtained thus far. For example, we need to improve upon our feedback mechanism and figure out how to use the information obtained from those mechanism to improve upon our work. We need to build upon and strengthen opportunities realized out of this project. For example, focusing support for additional and intensive training for judges and selected legislators would go a long way in protecting biological diversity.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS
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Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

This project had no environmental and social impact

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

One major lesson learned during this project is that it is very important to peers of individuals targeted in a training program. For example, there were a lot of difficulties in obtaining the cooperation of lawyers and judges in our training program.

This was over come by first providing in house training for selected peers and then using these peers as facilitators in our training programs.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)

Involving targeted lawyers in research and preparation of awareness materials as well as research and investigation for litigation contributed immensely to the success of this project.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

Pre- project consultation, selection of targeted participants and the submission of training materials prior to the conduct of training workshop contributed to the success of this project.

VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Funds for Global Human Rights	C	20,000	Funding provided to monitor and document environmental and human rights abuses in three local communities. It is slightly linked to the CEPF project because as some of the lawyers trained under the CEPF project were involved in the implementation of this project.
Conservation International/United States Forest Service.	C	3900	Funding provided to prepare training manuals for protected area managers and forest rangers
Environmental Law Institute/United States Forest Service	D	40,000	Funding provided to draft forest regulation to providing for sound forest management, environmental impact assessment, promoting transparency and accountability and concession allocation.

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****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)***
- B Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF funded project)***
- C Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)***
- D Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)***

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

Green Advocates intend to continue this project. However funding is required to retained some of the lawyers trained. The present two room office space need to be increased. We need to improve upon the training manuals. We need to follow up on the cases already filed and also to retained lawyers to follow up on those cases and research and bring up additional cases.

We need to provide more training, strengthening and support for institutionalizing the Association of Environmental Judges as this may pave the way for the establishment of the environmental courts as required under Liberian environmental laws.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
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This project was an initial attempt to introduce a preliminary understanding of the implementation of environmental law in the Liberian legal and administrative processes. We have gained a foot hole in this attempt.

What is now required is rationalizing, strengthening and consolidating this process. Increased financial and technical support is required to move this process to the next stage. For example there is a need to renew this proposal to retain the present corps of lawyers as well as hired additional lawyers to follow

up on the lawsuit filed. There is a need to expand the office and procure/replaced more equipment. There is a need to provide support to the Association of Environmental Judges among others.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes

If yes, please also complete the following:

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