

# World Wetland Day celebration in pictures



EPA staff parading on World Wetland Day



EPA Acting Executive Director Jerome Nyanku



World Wetlands Day

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*EPA staff parading on World Wetland Day*



*Minister Lawrence Bropleh delivers keynote address*



*A student gets aboard on WWD after a quizzing program*



*A group photo after the ceremony*

# Observer Environment

## World Wetlands Day Celebrated in Monrovia and Robertsport

By **Yurlee B. Shindale**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) and Partners Associated to Conserve the Environment (FACE)

Franklin City of Ramsar.

WWD was first celebrated in 1971. Each year, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and group of citizens at all levels take advantage of the opportunity to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetlands values

EPA and local partners celebrated the event in Monrovia and Robertsport with focus on the Mesurado and Lake Piso Wetlands respectively. In Monrovia, the program commenced with a march from the YMCA Building to Providence Island where an indoor program was held.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Lawrence Brophy, Minister of Information Culture and Tourism, at the program on Providence Island acknowledged the need for Government to conserve and protect the wetlands throughout Liberia. The keynote speaker also informed the audience of the government effort to renovate the Providence Island back to its pre-war status. "There is money for the renovation work and it's not just another talk." The keynote speaker said.

The program extended the following day, Tuesday to Robertsport City with SCNL, FACE, EPA, FDA and AACCL leading the cleaning campaign along Lake Piso. The Superintendent of Grand

Catherine Watson Klusu, welcomed the local NGOs and mobilized her citizens to join the cleaning campaign.

Lake Piso. After the radio program they led the teams around the shores of the beaches and Lake Piso banks.

Lake Piso. The campaign ended successfully with the Superintendent suggesting a



Sppl. Akassa & Mayor Frances

observed World Wetlands Day (WWD) on Monday in Monrovia and Tuesday in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County on February 2-3, 2009. The celebration coincided with the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands

and benefits in general and the Ramsar Convention in particular. The theme of this year celebration is 'River basin and their management' and it has the slogan, 'Upstream, Downstream, Wetlands Come as One!' Mrs. Cecilia S. Kollie,



Cleaning around the lake

Executive Directors of SCNL & FACE Mr. Hmono B. Mubuh and Mr. Richard Sambohah respectively informed the public on the local Radio Piso about the Ramsar Convention and the

to set an example for the community. The clean-up exercise included the posting of billboards along the beach and the Lake with various messages that highlighted the

one-day cleaning in the last Saturday of every month. This report really wishes that Grand Cape Mount could become a model for cleanliness in Liberia because he was breathless



## Report of the Wetlands Day Celebration

The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) in collaboration with its local and International partners celebrated the World Wetlands Day in Monrovia and Lake Piso Wetland in Grand Cape Mount County from the 2-3 February 2009. The theme of the celebration was “**River Basins and Their Management**” and it carried the slogan **Upstream, Downstream- Wetlands connect us all’**.

### Introduction

The program brought together representatives from Government Ministries and Agencies, International and local NGOs, University and High School students, and others. It began with a march from the YMCA building on Crown Hill, Broad Street to the Providence Island. The Providence Island is a very sacred site in the history of the Republic of Liberia. It is where the first settlers arrived in Liberia and interacted with the indigenous .Fortunately, it falls within one of our largest wetlands, the Mesurado Wetlands. The Island lies at the mouth of the Mesurado River where early settlers to Liberia first settled between 1820 and 1822. At the Providence Island, an indoor program was held. The Minister of Information Culture and Tourism, Hon Lawrence Kunmlah Bropleh, the Assistant Minister graced the program for Tourism, Ms. Scholarstica Doe, and the Acting Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, Mr. Jerome Nyenka and others graced the occasion.. The program was concluded with some awareness activities at Lake Piso in Grand Cape Mount County on February 3.

### Activities in Monrovia

Activities in Monrovia included wetland parade, and an indoor program, which consisted of wetland messages, speeches, quizzing competition etc.

In Dr. Bropleh’s speech, he stressed that “We need to find a way to develop more effective and even creative management strategies, and thus allow appropriate authorities to help focus our energy and conserve our river basin to ensure the maintenance of their ecological approaches, within the context of sustainable development.”

The Secretary General message was read and there was a quizzing competition among high school students from about four different schools. The competition helped to enlighten the participants and improve their knowledge on what wetlands is about.

The press took advantage of the occasion and there were radio broadcast on some radio stations, which highlighted the Minister's speech and the remark given by the Acting Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency. The National Wetland Focal Point was also interviewed to inform the public about the importance of wetlands

#### Grand Cape Mount Activities

Around the Lake Piso area in Grand Cape Mount, there was a talk show on the Radio Piso about the need to conserve and protect the wetlands and on the Ramsar Convention, there was also some clean up exercise including the posting of billboards along the beach and the lake with various messages that highlighted the importance of the beach. Due to this, a proclamation has been made for cleaning up to be done on the last Saturday of each month in the area.