

## **Report on the Observance of World Wetlands**

Liberia on 2 February 2007 joined many nations of the world to celebrate World Wetlands Day. The day commenced with an indoor program. It was attended by cross section of the Liberian population; international organizations, government ministries/agencies, environmental ngos, students, artisanal fishermen and the general public.

At the program two presentations were made. A representative from the Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture made presentation on Wetlands and Fisheries, while representative from Flora and Fauna International (FFI) deliberated on the topic “What are Wetlands”.

Ramsar CEPA Focal Point EPA- Liberia and Ramsar Focal Points (NGO) led a field trip to the Mesurado Wetlands. (One of the designated RAMSAR Sites).



Ramsar (CEPA) Focal Point (Eunice N. Dagbe) / EPA- Liberia, is seen leading the participants at the Mesurado Wetlands. This is one of the four Ramsar sites in Liberia. This field trip afforded an effective awareness campaign of our wetlands.



Participants listened attentively to lecture during the field visit.



Flomo Mulbah, Ramsar CEPA Focal point / NGO, explaining some strategies to Sustainable Management of Mesurado Wetlands.



Flomo Mulbah, Ramsar CEPA Focal Point (NGO) and Eunice N. Dagbe Ramsar CEPA Focal Point Environmental Protection Agency (EPA- Liberia) are seen outlining strategies, which could attract tourists to the Mesurado Wetlands.

## Wetlands are not dumpsites

### Portion of Mesurado Wetlands



The participants were warned that Wetlands are not dumpsites; rather they are important resources of our livelihood.

They provide breeding grounds for varieties of animals.

- ❖ Habitats for plants and animal.
- ❖ Control floods
- ❖ Protect Costal Zones.
- ❖ Serve as temporary or permanent reservoir of water for domestic and industrial use, including irrigation for fish and crops production

The participants were conscientized about the adverse effect of wetlands being use for sewage and garbage disposal. This effect will lead to nutrient overloading resulting to eutrophication, which subsequently will also lead to blooms of aquatic weeds and algae.

Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia

### **A Senegalese fishing boat plying Lake Piso**



Yevewno Z. Subah from the Agriculture Fishery Bureau lamented that 50% of marine fisheries is said to be over exploited, with 25% exploited beyond recovery.

This is attributed to the activities of large industrial vessels of foreign origin that remove significant biomass of target species and obnoxious fishing habits, resulting to a decline in catch by artisinal fishers. 21 fishing boats were recorded in Robertsport in March 2006.

## A Fish Pond



- ❖ Swamps are used for the development of ponds for the culture of fish, shrimps/prawns, crabs and mollusks, etc
- ❖ Swamps are also used for the cultivation of rice and vegetables, most of which are sold to buy fish.



This is Lake Piso in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia  
The community is seen carrying on fishing activities. Their livelihoods depend on fishery.



Richard Sambollah, a representative from Fauna and Flora International (FFI) presents “What Are Wetlands” at the indoor program marking the celebration of World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2007,

This is Lake Piso Wetlands; it presents beautiful scenery for recreation.



Participants were told to help keep it healthy and sustainable.

**This brought the celebration to an end**

**Fish for Tomorrow?**

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