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GOLDEN VEROLEUM (LIBERIA) INC. PRIORITY PLANTING AREAS 5,000, & 7,000  
HECTARES IN BUTAW DISTRICT AND 8,000 HECTARES IN KPANYAN DISTRICT,  
SINOE COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

ASSESSMENT OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES  
REPORT

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## **ACCRONYMS**

CITES	CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
EPA	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
FDA	FOREST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
FMU	FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT
FSC	FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
GIS	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
GOL	GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA
GPS	GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM
GVL	GOLDEN VEROLEUM LIBERIA INC
HCV	HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE
HCVF	HIGHCONSERVATIONVALUEFOREST
IUCN	INTERNATIONUNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE
LISGIS	LIBERIA INSTITUTE FOR STATISTICS & GEO-INFORMATION SERVICES
LNBSAP	LIBERIA NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN
MOA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
NPA	NEW PLANTING AREA
NPP	NEW PLANTING PROCEDURE
PP	PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE
RSPO	ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Information obtained in the location and mapping out of these HCVs went through lot of painstaking effort. There were gaps and constraints in the allocation of some of these information, especially when it has to do with the questions of traditional or sacred forest and the even temporary acceptance of a “sinners” (one who is not part of the society is called) through the area in the name of assessment and demarcation. In these regards, extreme gratitude goes to all the traditional council leaders for their level of support and understanding in allowing this process to go on. Special thanks go to Paramount Chief Harrison Slewion of Plussonie and Chief Emmanuel Wesseh, chairman for traditional heads on behalf of all the traditional leaders of Sinoe County, for their level of cooperation in working along with the HCV team.

In addition to the information assembled for this report by the assessment team information has been included from a number of other relevant sources. These sources included outstanding information from the following individuals of Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. who assisted the team during tours of the various High Conservation Value Sites and their initial effort in identifying and marking HCVs. Your earnest desire to see that all of the assessment of the HCV is independently conducted is worth commending. Special thanks go to Mr. Flomo P. Moluba and Varnie Timminah Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. Biodiversity and HCVF officer and GIS Assistant respectively.

Final gratitude goes to all the local inhabitants for their wonderful traditional stories which assisted the team in appreciating the level of information obtained about their area. To all of you, we hold our gratitude.

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RSPO Approved HCV Assessors

## DEFINITION

### Alternatives

In the context of livelihood sources, alternatives refer to options that are readily available at a low marginal cost, e.g., frozen fish, dry fish instead of deer meat.

### Critically Endangered Species

According to IUCN, a taxon is Critically Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the following criteria (A to E), and it is therefore considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild

### Degraded forest

Forest no longer in its natural state, its structure being modified by human activity or natural conditions, *either directly, e.g., high-impact logging, or indirectly, e.g., flooding of forests caused by downstream obstruction to the free flow of rivers by infrastructure development.* The majority of its floristic composition is retained, but opening of the canopy has resulted in colonization, or regeneration, of light-loving species. Depending on proximity to sources of colonization, scrub species (mammals and birds) may or may not occur.

Also considered is the AMEC definition derived from the World Bank, .This is a forest that has been essentially modified by human activity and has reduced the habitat's ability to maintain viable populations of native species. These forests may also be under current threat from local people involved in illegal activities which will continue to degrade the forest structure and its associated hydrology and thereby its habitat values for the conservation of fauna and flora and sustainable livelihood of local people. Degraded forests have been essentially modified through previous logging, indicated by evidence of railway lines and large openings, fires, or extensive networks of canals in peat areas.

### Endangered Species

According to the IUCN, a taxon is Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the following criteria (A to E), and it is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

### Forest

Unless otherwise indicated all references to .forest. in the report assume natural forest (regardless of its quality). Plantation forest areas are specified as such.

### FMU

## The Forest Management Unit

### HCV

High Conservation Value as determined by identifiable biodiversity components. HCVs are distinct from lower conservation values which may still be worthy of protection as well as other site aspects of no significant conservation value.

### HCV 1

Refers to forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).

### HCV2

Refers to forest areas containing globally, regionally, or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable population of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns or distribution and abundance.

### HCV3

Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.

### HCV4

Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).

### HCV5

Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).

### HCV6

Forest areas critical to local communities. traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance in cooperation with such local communities).

### HCVF

High Conservation Value Forest area determined according to the presence of one or more high conservation values within areas of conservation value.

### Local Community

A village, sub-village or other social sub-group unit within the village or from another village (e.g. fishermen, rattan gatherers), whose area of livelihood development overlaps partly or entirely the project area or is adjacent to it. Local communities may be recently or long established.

The social unit of community may apply to settlements downstream that are impacted by human forest disturbance, e.g., canal digging, or settlements close to smoke sources from fire mismanagement.

### Precautionary Principle

Ethical principle that if the consequences of an action, especially the use of technology, are unknown but are judged by some scientists to have a high risk of being negative from an ethical point of view, then it is better *not to carry out the action* rather than risk the uncertain, but possibly very negative, consequences (Wikipedia 2004, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precautionary\\_principle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precautionary_principle), 18 July 2004).

### Primary forest

Forest in its natural state, unmodified by human activity (i.e., with negligible impact from human gathering activities, including the rare cutting of isolated timber trees). This refers to forest structure, and not to its fauna, or its size. Hunting may have removed certain species (e.g. large mammals), but the forest stand remain undisturbed.

### Severely degraded forest

Forest drastically altered in composition and structure, as a result of human activity or natural events,

### Slash-and-burn

An agricultural technique which involves cutting and burning of forests to create fields

### Traditional

Of long-established social or economic practices reflected in social norms and institutions. In the context of HCV, taken to apply to practices that have been established for at least one generation or approximately 25 years.

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This high conservation value assessment report is focused on a 20,000 ha area (5000ha and 7,000 block of land located in Butaw District the block of 8,000 hectare located in Numopo County District, Kpanyan Statutory District), in Sinoe County. The area forms part of the area included for consideration of concession development (Gross Concession Area), under the Concession awarded to Golden Veroleum Liberia Inc by the Government of Liberia. The Act to retify the Concession Agreement between the Republic of Liberia and Golden Veroleum(Liberia) Inc. was approved September 1, 2010 and published by authority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Monrovia, Liberia and printed September 2, 2010. The signed and ratified concession agreement which was awarded to GVL covers a total of approximately 500,000 acres (220,000 hectares) in five counties. The concession agreement provides for the Government and GVL to implement a social and community development program, which includes employee housing, education and medical care. Additionally, a Liberian smallholder program is to develop 100,000 acres (40,000 hectares) of oil palm in support of local Liberia oil palm farming initiatives.

In March 2011, a three years Environmental Permit (EPA/EC/EIS/001-0511) was issued by the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia for the Project, following the review and approval of an Environmental & Social Impact Assessment report prepared by Green Consultancy Inc for and initial 33,000ha area as part of the Gross Concession.

In consonance with the RSPO a comprehensive and detail assessment was conducted within the 3 blocks from 18 September to 6 October in order to update and validate the initial HCV report prepared in 2010. The assessment involves the analysis of satellite imagery and data generated through the use of GIS, field surveys to identify and demarcate sacred sites, community cemetery, farming reserves and environmental sensitive areas in reference to high conservation values ranging from 1 to 6, holding community and national level stakeholders meetings. All of these were achieved through working along with representatives from GVL and the local communities..

The six HCVs identified and studied are as follow:

1. HCV1. Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).
2. HCV2. Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
3. HCV3. Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.
4. HCV4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).

5. HCV5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).
6. HCV6. Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

The findings of the assessment indicates that there are neither primary forest within the planting area, nor any peat soil; nevertheless, three out of the six HCVs were identified as:

HCV4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).

The remaining forest along the Plussonie, Ceedor Petu and Winnie Creeks, the major surface water bodies within the blocks from which all the other smaller streams originate.

HCV5. Forest areas that is fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence farming, health etc).

Identification of all farmland for use by every town and village within the planting block. With the consent of every town, identification of allocated land areas have been set aside for the use of every community. The entire demarcation process is being discussed with the local communities.

HCV6. Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

This report includes an overview of the HCV assessment process, results of the assessment, and a summary of the current management actions designed to maintain or enhanced those values. It can be noted that there are no primary forests or peat soils within the study area.

This report includes an overview of the HCV assessment process, results of the assessment, and a summary of the current management actions designed to maintain or enhanced those values.

## **1.0 Introduction**

This HCV report is an update and verification of the first report produced for the GVL covering 33,000ha area by Green Consultancy Inc during the reporting of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment. The original report was updated with new information, delineating the identified HCVs and a revalidation of the original public engagement process in regards to documentation of the free prior informed consent of the local population and national level stakeholders.

This report presents the findings of an independent assessment of High Conservation Value in the blocks of 5,000ha and 7,000ha blocks in Butaw District, 8,000 ha block in Kpanyan District, Sinoe County, Republic of Liberia. The original assessment covering the 33,000 ha took place in the month of December 2010. In September 2012, an independent HCV assessment covering 20,000ha of the proposed near term planting area of the oil palm plantation was conducted by two RSPO approved HCV assessors of Green Consultancy. This was commissioned in order to bring GVL into alignment with RSPO for certification. The 20,000ha area has been subdivided into 3 operational blocks – These have been the ongoing priority areas of GVL’s near term operational development plans. and Prior to the commencement of the HCV assessment, GVL had already cleared a total of approximately 1,658 ha within the 5,000ha block. Out of this number a total of 70.81ha has been used for the nursery establishment and 870ha planted with oil palm. According to GVL, the initial development and clearing was predicated upon pressure from the Government of Liberia for the company to urgently begin operations and generate employment as a way of easing the economic hardship of the population in the area and in compliance with the Permit condition of the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia.

The initial HCV assessment conducted in the area in 2010 was organized and financed by the Company to generate the relevant information that would form an integral part of the Environmental Impact Statement. This was necessitated by the company’s own commitments made to the Government and People of Liberia, as well as to satisfy the interest of its external clients and to uphold and abide by local, national and global environmental guiding principles. The assessment of 2012 seeks to validate the initial assessment and fill in gaps in the initial report based on established RSPO guidelines.

### **1.1 Objectives**

This HCV assessment presents the following objectives:

- A. To inform, educate and ensure that the local communities within the planting block fully understand the essence of what HCVs actually are;
- B. To, with the consent of the local communities identify all High Conservation Values within the planting areas to be cultivated by GVL
- C. To work along with the local towns and villages in setting out all the boundary delineation for those High Conservation Value Forest within this area

- D. Outline basic management and monitoring implications for maintenance of identified HCVPs.

## **1.2 Approach**

This present HCV assessment follows the guidance provided in the document prepared by Proforest, "The High Conservation Value Toolkit" Edition 1 December 2003 in which the issues of Identifying, Managing, and Monitoring High Conservation Value Forests is explicitly identified.

The HCV concept was initially developed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for use in forest management certification and first published in 1999. Under Principle 9 for FSC certification, forest managers are required to identify any High Conservation Values (HCVs) that occur within their individual forest management units, to manage them in order to maintain or enhance the values identified, and to monitor the success of this management

Although the FSC provides the generic definition of HCVs, it is not easy to interpret this global definition in different forest types, locations and in different social contexts. This Toolkit provides guidance on how to take the generic definition and develop specific, detailed and clear interpretations for a particular country or region. It also provides guidance to forest managers on how to work with the generic definition when no national definition is yet available, as is in the case of Liberia. It also meant to establish a rationale for those values that are particularly significant and for which conservation is of critical importance.

## **1.3 HCV Assessment Team**

The team members for the study included forestry and biodiversity experts, social scientists, biologists, GIS Specialists – all with long years of practical experience in their specialized fields.

## **2.0 The Concession Area**

### **2.1 An overview**

#### **2.1.1 License**

On 2 September 2010, GVL was granted a concession by the Government of Liberia to develop approximately 500,000 acres (220,000 hectares) of land for sustainable oil palm cultivation plus the support of a Liberian smallholder oil palm program on 100,000 acres (40,000 hectares). The agreement was ratified by the National Legislature. The Act to ratify the Concession Agreement between the Republic of Liberia and Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. was approved September 1, 2010 and published by authority Ministry of Foreign Affairs Monrovia, Liberia and printed September 2, 2010. The rectification of this agreement is a key component of the Government of Liberia program for economic development particularly in southeastern Liberia covering Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland, RiverCess and River Gee. The Concession agreement was preceded by community briefings in May 2010 and further on October 23, 2010 GVL received formal, broad based community invitation from Butaw District, Sinoe County, to begin development in the District.

#### **2.1.2 Location**

A portion of the proposed oil palm plantation will be located within an area of 33,000 HA which is part of the concessions Gross Concession area. This portion is located in two districts in Sinoe County (Butaw and Kpayan). The proposed planting areas, is located in two of 16 districts of Sinoe County, Liberia. ccording to the 2008 National Population Census Report, the population was 3,892 for Butaw District and 10,043 for Kpanyan District.

Figure 1: Location Map for planting blocks in reference to 33,000ha permitted area

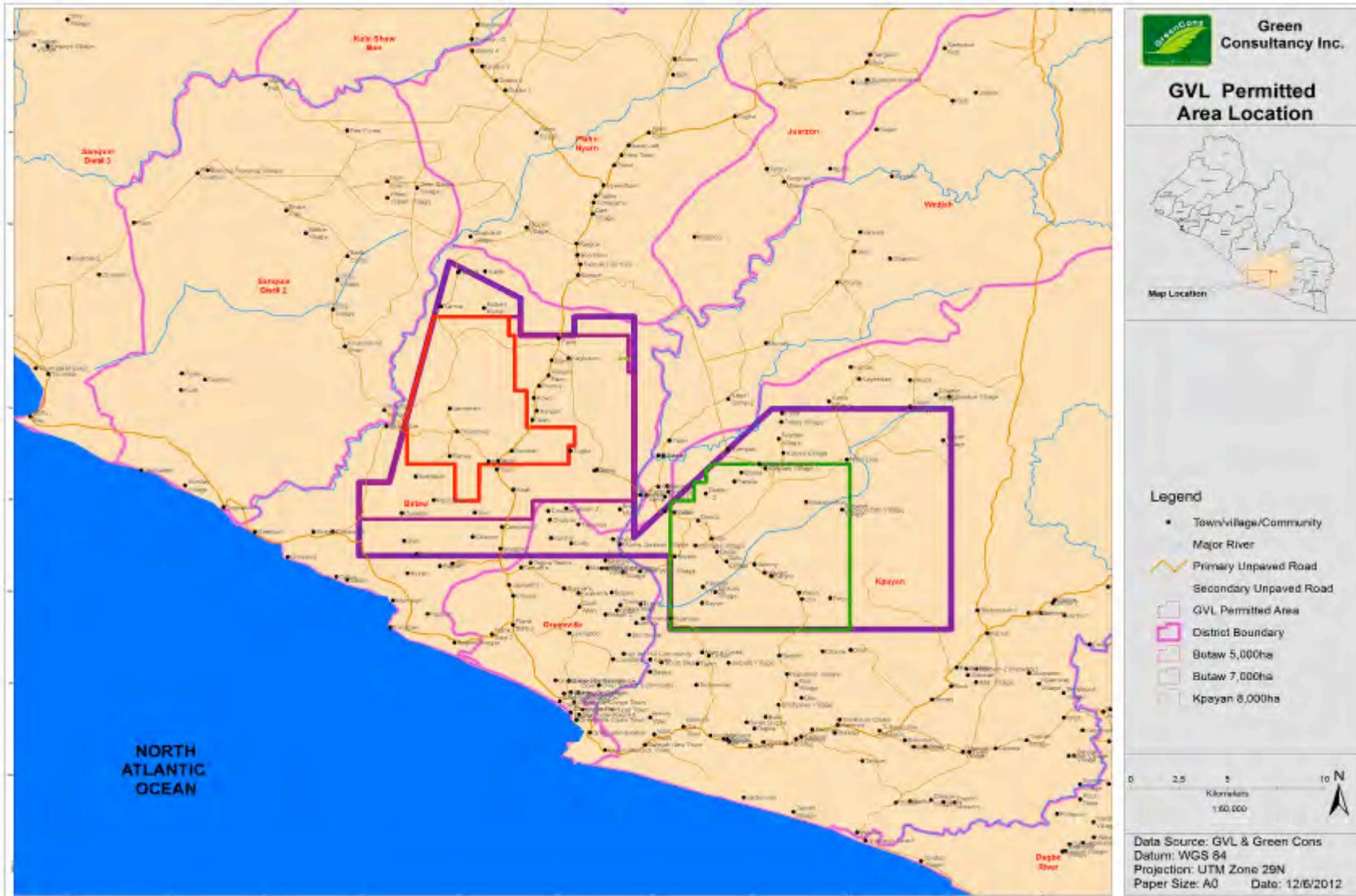




Figure 3: Land Cover Area by Satellite Imagery 7,000HA



Figure 4: Land Cover Area by Satellite Imagery 8,000HA

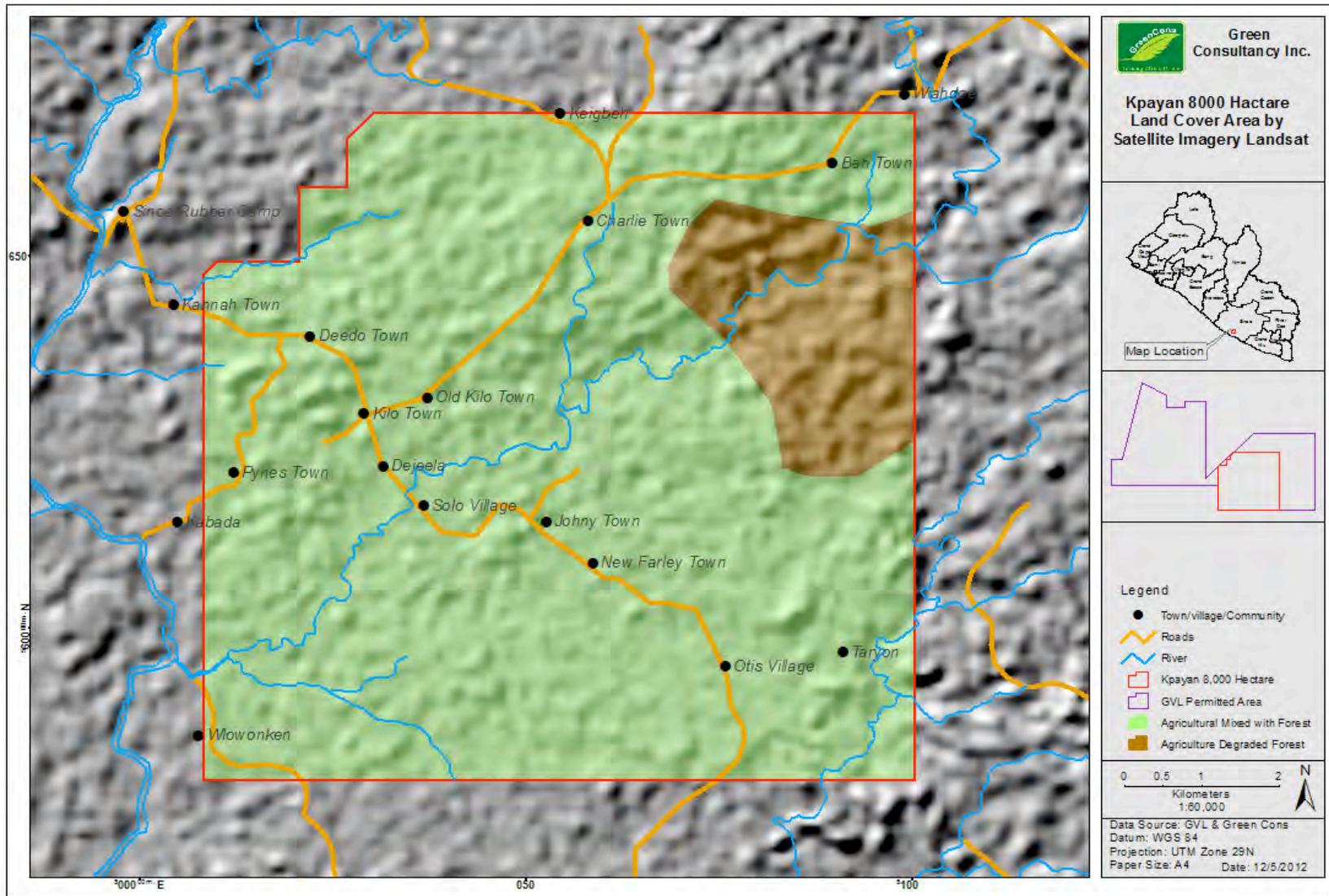


Figure 5: Soil Map 5000HA

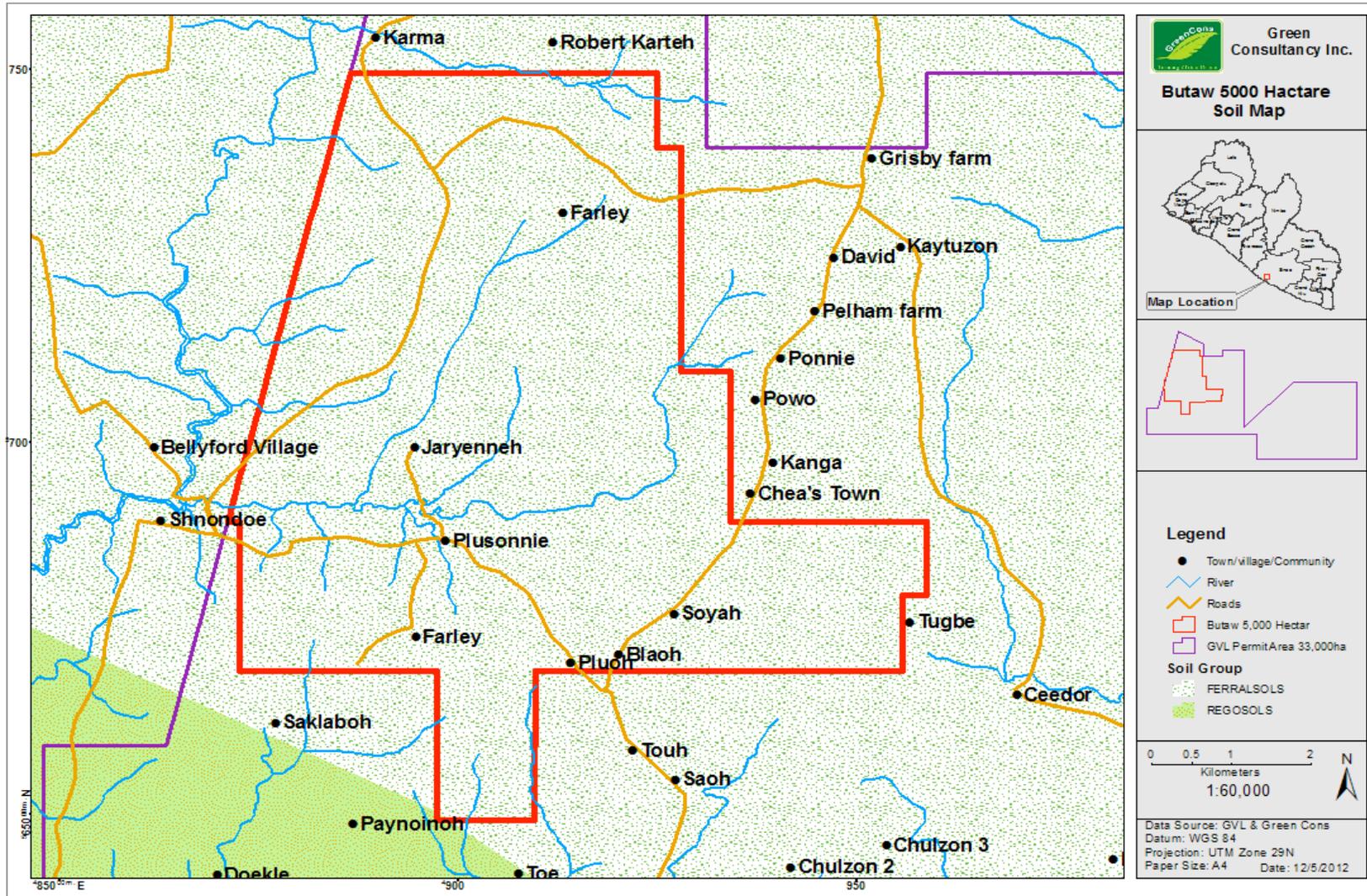


Figure 6: Soil Map 7,000HA

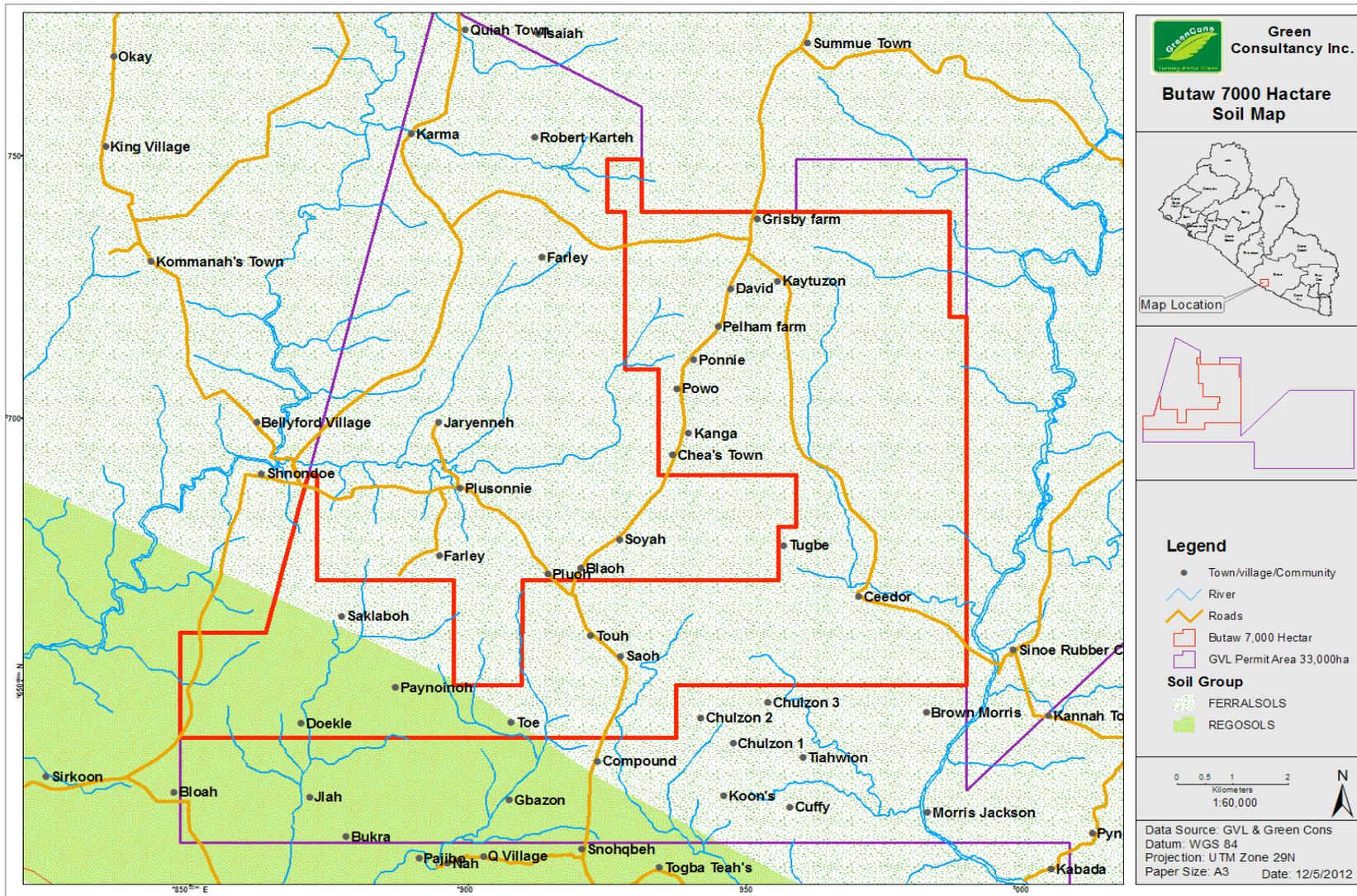


Figure 7: Soil Map 8,000HA

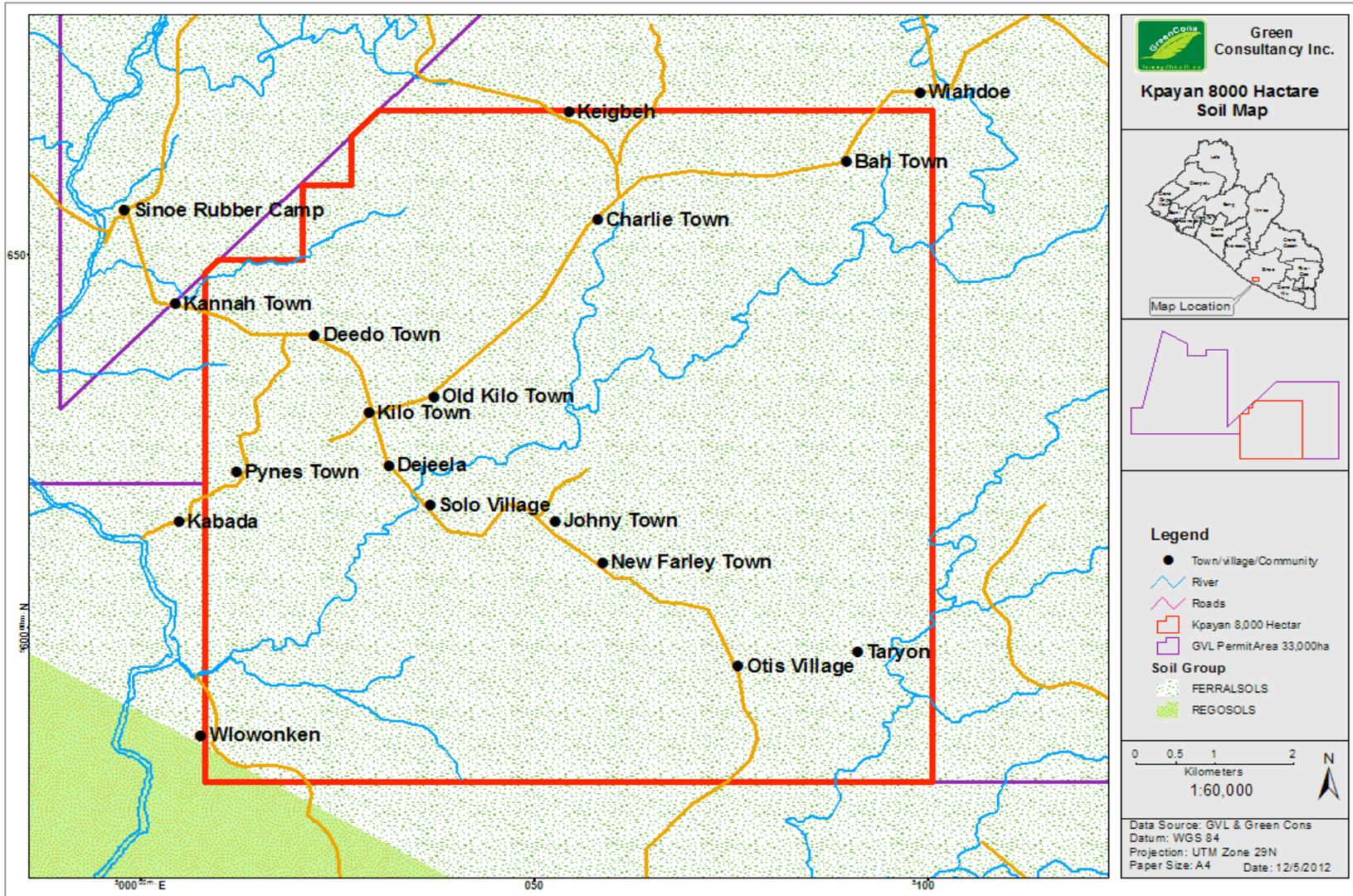
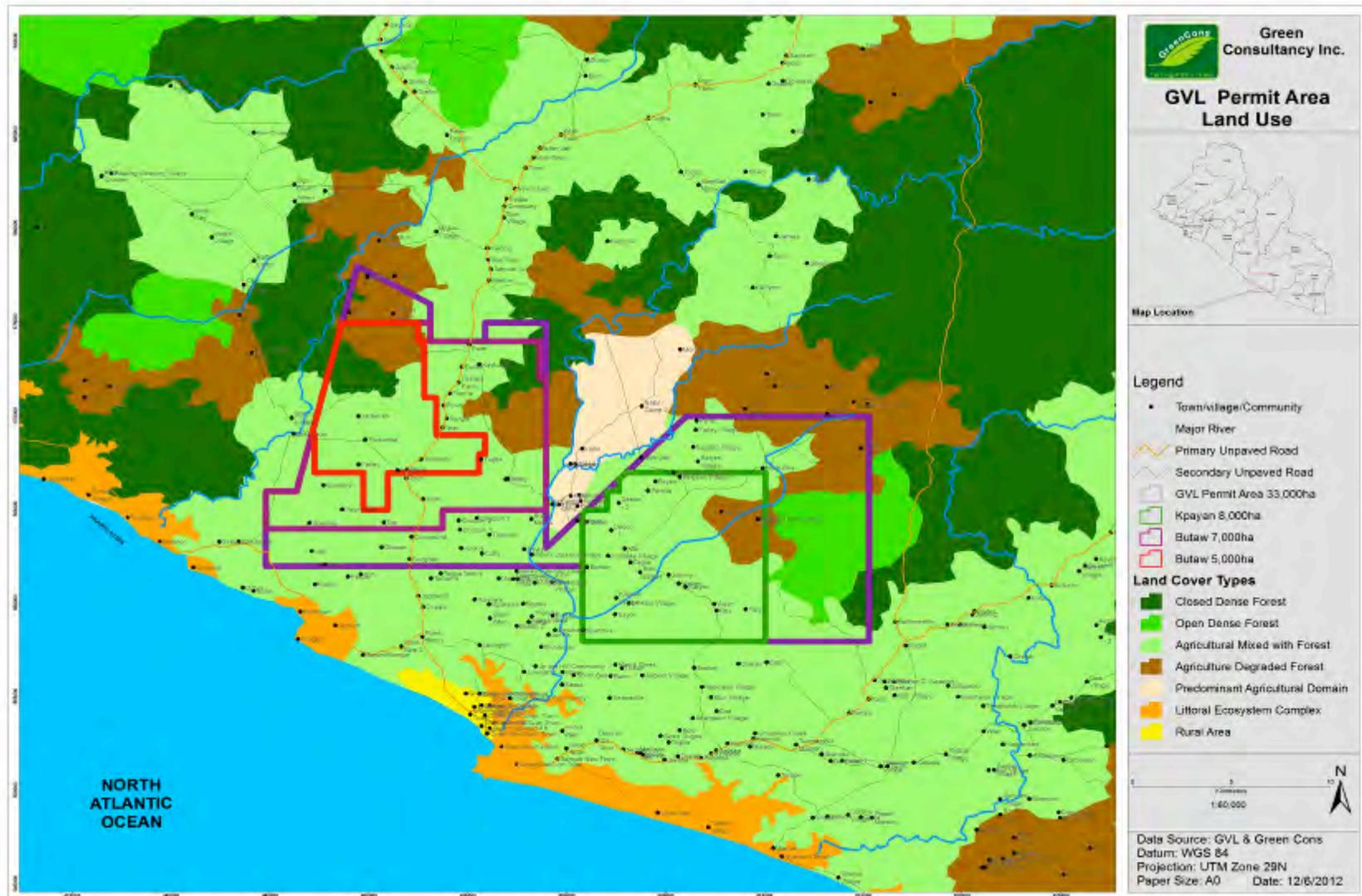


Figure 8: Land use map in reference to the 33,000 HA permitted area



### ***2.1.2 .1 Secondary Habitats & Agricultural Degraded farmlands***

The vegetation cover of the area is predominantly composed of secondary habitats and agriculture degraded farmlands. The majority of these transitional vegetation types have been cleared for agriculture purposes in the past, leaving secondary vegetation of young trees, twigs, climbing vines. Much of the natural habitat of the area has already been transformed by shifting cultivation, using the traditional slash and burn method that is locally practiced.

In slash-and-burn agriculture, forest will typically be cut months before a dry season. The "slash" is permitted to dry, and then burned in the following dry season. The resulting ash fertilizes the soil, and the burned field is then planted at the beginning of the next rainy season with crop such as upland rice and cassava, as it is in the case of the project communities. Most of this work is typically done by hand, using machetes, axes, hoes, and other such basic tools.

Slash-and-burn fields will typically be used and "owned" by a family until the soil is exhausted. At this point the "ownership" rights are abandoned, and the family will clear a new field, and the forest is permitted to grow on the old field. After a few decades, another family or clan may then use the same land and claim rights. In such a system there is typically no market in farmland, and land is not bought and sold in the open market. Such rights are traditional.

This traditional slash and burn shifting agriculture system has significantly impacted the integrity of the forest vegetation by clearing primary vegetation notable of hosting a rich biodiversity of fauna and flora species. Consequently, only the most hardy and small mammalian species are prominent in the area. No significant red data species with historical ranges are likely to occur in the proposed project area.

The help of a field guide enabled the team to identify several bird species including forest birds, wetland birds and those associated with grass fields during the survey. Birds were observed at low lying plains and along wet marshy areas, in forest communities and on low lying native grasses as well as the floor of the project area.

Mammals, reptiles, amphibian and insect species were also reported or observed during the assessment.

### ***2.1.2 .2 Natural/Primary Forest***

Small remnants of the original tropical forest vegetation are noticeable in the remote parts of the assessment areas and along the Petu and Winnie Creeks within the Kpanyan District. Even the area claimed as sacred forest located in Kilo Town has been over the years, especially during the 14 years civil crisis used as burial ground and for traditional farming activities. There are also small fragments of the original tropical forest vegetation with regrowth noticeable along the Sanna and Plussonie Creek and the reserve sacred forest in Plussonie, Butaw District.

Many of these kinds of forest have been broken or fragmented due to traditional farming practices –slash and burn. In the absence of these remnants areas which have been demarcated as

HCVs, there are no other primary forests area located within the these areas of concentration.

### **2.1.2 .2 Socio-Economic Setting**

Scattered villages, towns and a number of hamlets are spread within the project area. Many of the settlements located in the interior parts of the project area comprise of less than 10 shelters, with little or no access to road, health care or sanitation. The main areas of population density are the settlements that lie along the main roads. The primary and chief source of livelihood for the settlements assessed is shifting cultivation for rice and cassava. Secondary livelihoods include hunting, palm cutting, rubber tapping and petty trading

There are several communities found within the study areas. The tables below presents the population, sexual distribution and numbers of households based on the LISGIS 2008 National Population and Housing Census and field surveys conducted recently.

**Table 1: Population, Sexual Distribution and Number of Household (LISGIS)**

<b>TOWN_VILLAGE</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>CLAN</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>HH</b>
Bloah	Butaw	Lower Kao	20	14	6	5
Farley	Butaw	Belleyalla	31	11	20	5
Farley	Butaw	Upper Kao	33	22	11	10
Plouh	Butaw	Upper Kao	18	11	7	5
Plusonnie	Butaw	Upper Kao	33	20	13	12
Jarheneh	Butaw	Upper Kao	26	14	12	5
Soweah	Butaw	Upper Kao	25	15	10	5
Deedo - 1	Kpayan	Gbardichae	99	53	46	19
Deedo - 2	Kpayan	Gbardichae	33	17	16	5
Dejila	Kpayan	Tobo	528	269	259	62
Farley Village	Kpayan	Upper Jeepo	118	60	58	17
Feah Village	Kpayan	Upper Drepoh	15	6	9	2
Johnny	Kpayan	Tobo	128	52	76	19
Kilo	Kpayan	Gbardichae	357	188	169	48
Otis	Kpayan	Mama Creek	11	8	3	2
Pyne	Kpayan	Upper Jeepo	50	25	25	9
Taryon	Kpayan	Mama Creek	79	42	37	17
Farley Village	Kpayan	Upper Jeepo	118	60	58	17

Source: LISGIS, National Population & Housing Census 2008

By way of further illustration of the socio-economic setting of the concession area to be cultivated, its site-specific characteristics as well as its common features, each of the major communities surveyed as part of the present HCV assessment are catalogued in the town survey form in the appendix of the ESIA report.

**Table 2: Population of survey communities**

No.	villages	Population
1	Tugbeh	15
2	Ceedor	118
3	sakiaboh	22
4	Falay	20
5	panonial	14
6	Quiah	79
7	Grispy town	360
8	kituzon	227
9	David town	336
10	Cheas town	110
11	Soyar town	60
12	Bloah town	280
13	Touh town	512
14	Saoh town	75
15	Jaryenneh	15
16	Pehlam	35
17	Ponnie	10
18	Powo	35-40

*Source: GreenCons Field Survey, September 2012*

Table 3: Social Economic profile of study area

No.	Villages	population	No.HH	AveHH	No.houses	AveHH Income	Main river/stream	Ethnic composition
1	Tugbeh	15	8	3	8	100ld	Kin Dolo	Sapo
2	Ceedor	118	5	3	25	4-5000LD	Ceedor river	Sapo,Kpelle,KRU,Bassa
3	Saklaboh	22	4	1	4	5000LD	K-nea-may	kru
4	Panonial	14	3	1	3	2000LD	Dobornie water	kru
5	Quiah	79	19	2	8	9750LD	Gba-man-nien	sapo,grebo,alien,gbandi
6	Grispy town	360	130	2	125	2000LD	hand pump	kpelle,kru,sapo,
7	Kituzon	227	40	2	22	4000LD	hand pump	sapo
8	David town	336	37	2	32	1500LD	David town stream/hand pump	sapo
9	Cheas town	110	25	2	16	1400LD	Blay-welea	kru,sapo
10	Touh town	512	95	2	85	2000LD	Po river/hand pump	kru
11	Saoh town	75	12	1	12	1500LD	Karyeani creek	kru,sapo
12	Jaryenneh	15	2	1	2	1000ld	hand pump	sapo
13	Pehlam	35	12	3	10	49.66usd	Hand Pump/creek	sapo,kru
14	Ponnie	10	1	2	1	250usd	Creek	kru
15	Powo	35-40	70	3	10	121usd	Hand Pump/creek	sapo,kru

No.	Villages	Livelihood	Health facilities	Education composition	Social Institution	Custom Practice
1	Tugbeh	farming/fishing	no	Elementary	football games	None
2	Ceedor	Farming/palm	no	None	none	None
3	Sakiaboh	rice,cassava,farming	no	None	none	None
4	Panonial	farming	no	None	none	traditional sacrifice
5	Quiah	farming	no	None	ratio	traditional ceremony
6	Grispy town	farming	yes	Elementary	occasional day	traditional dance
7	Kituzon	farming/palm	no	Elementary	occasional day	traditional dance
8	David town	farming	yes	None	none	traditional dance
9	Cheas town	farming	no	None	none	None
10	Touh town	farming	yes	Elementary	nite club/video club	traditional ceremony
12	Saoh town	farming	no	None	none	None
12	Jaryenneh	farming	no	None	none	None
13	Pehlam	employed	no	None	none	traditional ceremony
14	Ponnie	farming	no	None	none	traditional ceremony
15	Powo	employed	no	None	none	traditional ceremony

*Source: GreenCons Field Survey, September 2012*

**Table 4: Population, Sexual Distribution and Number of Household(GreenCons)**

TOWN_VILLAGE	DISTRICT	CLAN	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	HH
Bloah	Butaw	Lower Kao	27	17	10	5
Farley	Butaw	Belleyalla	19	11	6	5
Farley	Butaw	Upper Kao	15	6	9	10
Plouh	Butaw	Upper Kao	31	19	12	5
Plussonie	Butaw	Upper Kao	100	58	42	28
Jarheneh	Butaw	Upper Kao	15	8	7	5
Soweah	Butaw	Upper Kao	10	4	6	5

Source: GreenCons Field Survey 2012

With the exception of Plussonie and other towns and villages along the road, many settlements located inland within the 5,000-HA block comprise of less than 10 shelters, with no access to health care or sanitation. Access to road has only been made recently available through GVL intervention into the areas. Touh, Plussonie, Grisby Farm, Kilo Town, and Dejl among the main areas of population density. The primary and chief source of livelihood for settlements assessed was subsistence rice and cassava cultivation.

Secondary livelihood included hunting, harvesting and processing palm produce into palm oil and other palm products, and petty trading. The intervention of GVL over the last two years has shifted this trend with approximately 90% of the working class population (males and females) now engaged in plantation work at the GVL nursery.

Communities surveyed as part of the HCV assessment are placed in the appendix to the Report. The social and economic condition of these communities and the site-specific characteristics of the project area are a perfect reflection of the general socio-economic situation of the whole concession area GVL plans to cultivate.

### **3.0 Assessment Methodology**

In compliance to Part III, Section 11 of the Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia an initial HCV assessment was conducted following the review of the Environmental Scoping Report and its term of reference in December 2010. The HCV assessment was done along with the ESIA which was requested by the EPA. In January 2011, the ESIA process was initiated within the study area, covering all the districts making up the project area. The assessment was completed in February 2011. During this assessment concentration was centered on the entire area of the concession with concentration of forest vegetation since most areas of the concession composed of degraded lowlands. An initial rapid reconnaissance survey was conducted in the project terrains in order to acquire basic information of the, ecology and physical environment. This was conducted by means of questions and information obtained on numerous issues related to the project and the project areas based on local knowledge and experience.

In September 2012 the focus of the HCV of the studies concentrated exclusively on the on priority ongoing planting blocks areas, including towns and villages. The exercise was intended to review the ESIA report in order to identify areas of the report needing additional information as well as to identify, delineate and map all HCVs and therefore design a management and monitoring mechanism to guide against unsustainable use of the forest and its resources. Towns and villages within the planting block were first made to understand and appreciate the term "HCV" and with the local assistance, all HCV were than easily located and demarcated. This process was carried out from September 18, 2012 to October 6, 2012.

#### **Identifying High Conservation Values**

To assess and determine the presence of conservation values that would be considered HCV according to these definitions requires highly trained ecological and social experts; further consultation with relevant stakeholders (communities, government bodies, forest managers); access to baseline inventories, data sets, maps, and professional judgment based on field evaluation. The steps taken to perform these assessment tasks are described below.

##### **Step 1. Preliminary Assessment and Preparation for Field Assessment**

Preliminary assessment of spatial data, interviews, site assessment and literature supported the decision to proceed with an HCV assessment.

⇒ The Liberia Forest Reassessment map produced in 2004 was reviewed along with the Land Use Suitability Map for Commercial, Conservation, and Community Forests from the Forestry Development Authority. It was evident that this landscape is one of many large landscape original forests that have been degraded due to slash and burn agriculture.

⇒ Indications of fragments of original forest within areas mainly concentrated in small tracts

along the major rivers or creeks like the Plussonie and Sanna creeks and the Plussonie sacred forest and the Petu and Winnie Creeks and the Ceedor rivers.

⇒ GIS overlays of concessions already licensed by the government for conversion indicated that planned land use changes for the landscape will further reduce the area of contiguous forest.

⇒ Literature research included consultation, local village and town reports as to the presence of endangered and threatened species, maps, Forestry Development Authority-Protected Wildlife legislation within the concentrated area regarding the HCVs.

## Step 2. Field Observations and Data Collection

The assessment team prepared a checklist of information to be gathered from GVL and other sources, and that from direct field observations. Due to the limitations of company ecological data, the assessment would rely greatly upon the expertise of the team to collect primary and secondary data.

⇒ Data were gathered through meetings with the management of GVL Liberia as well as the biodiversity and HCV team, which has been identifying and delineating HCVs in the area over the last two years and data were acquired firsthand by meeting with members of local communities, including land users (farmers and hunters).

⇒ Observations, ground-truthing, and rapid survey of conservation values were conducted for species, ecosystems, forest services and community resource uses (basic needs and cultural). These were obtained through field visits to locations within and surrounding the concession area on foot, vehicle, canoe and motorbike.

⇒ Baseline spatial information on forest cover and landscape features was obtained from map (Liberia Forest Reassessment 2004 and Land Use Suitability Map for Commercial, Conservation, and Community Forests-FDA).

⇒ Species inventory baselines were developed through anecdotal information, available literature on the project areas. Original data were sparse and/or inaccurate, requiring primary data gathering at accessible locations.

⇒ Background information on species and conservation status was gathered from literature searches and maps, from interviews with local people and staff / workforce and from conservation and Forestry experts.

## Step 3. Data analysis to determine potential HCV areas

The data analysis instrumental for the determination of HCV areas required significant professional expertise from the evaluators working in the forest and villages.

### *Habitat*

⇒ Evaluation of topographic maps to determine soil and hydrological conditions to assist in defining habitat distinctions. Ecological surveys in ecologically sensitive area were conducted

⇒ Analysis of recent satellite images and aerial photos to delineate remaining forest areas and their contiguity or condition within the concession area.

### *Social*

⇒ Data on the importance of concession areas to local community values primarily relied upon interviews with various village groups (e.g., village executive and council, hunters, fishermen, and traditional leaders) to fill out data sheets on the significance of concession forests as sources of basic needs or as areas of cultural value.

⇒ Social data included estimates of livelihood income and expenditure, alternatives and sustainability.

⇒ Watershed, river, and creek were observed in order to determine whether there were HCVs related to water resource protection.

## **3.1 Mapping of identified HCVs**

The occurrence and distribution of HCVs were related to project maps. However, the specific location of some values (e.g. sacred sites and reserved farmlands) does not immediately translate to a hard HCV boundary on a map. Rather, the team had to interpret these information to best estimate the real world occurrence and extent of the forest in which the HCV was present.

## **3.2 Delineating HCV Boundaries**

The final step in the process was to analyze whether the HCV areas identified should become the proposed HCV boundaries or whether they should be modified further as a result of analysis. The following basic precepts underscore important considerations used in this judgment process:

- Each HCV area is a viable and functional ecosystem unit itself or has the realistic possibility of future management practice allowing it to become a functional unit, or is part of a functional unit.
- Contiguity is paramount in identifying HCVs. Single large areas of habitat are of higher value and priority than a series of smaller, isolated forest areas. Isolated forest areas may be very important to buffer or protect an HCV.
- Each HCVF protects a significant portion of overall biological diversity and/or safeguards significant local community dependence on forests in the concession area.
- Each HCVF assumes company and local community commitment to effective management, resources and appropriate research to ensure optimal short- and long-term conservation while providing opportunities and knowledge for future improvements within the concession area.

## **3.3 Application of the Precautionary Approach**

The FSC (2000) recognizes the Precautionary Principle (PP) for decision-making processes about HCVs in the absence of adequate scientific knowledge on the consequences of human

impact on forest areas. FSC Principle 9 states that decisions regarding high value conservation forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.. The definition of the precautionary approach used by the FSC was ratified during the FSC General Assembly in June 1999. The term is defined as: Tool for the implementation of the precautionary principle. The term principle is defined as: An essential rule or element; in FSCs case, of forest stewardship.

While there are multiple definitions of the PP in circulation, probably the most widely accepted is from the Rio Declaration. In order to protect the environment the Precautionary Approach shall be widely applied by states according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

An IUCN evaluation into the application, effectiveness, and controversy surrounding the PP in natural resource management, and Cooney (2003) has concluded that considerable ambiguity remains regarding the meaning and context of the precautionary principle. [its] meaning and application are unclear in situations where sources of risk are complex and multiple, which is frequently the case in the context of natural resource management and conservation..

The clearest guidance in the Indonesian HCVF Toolkit on the precautionary approach is with respect to *managing* HCVF. The guidance itself comes from the FSC: .Planning, management activities and monitoring of the attributes that make a forest management unit a HCVF should be designed, based on existing scientific and indigenous/traditional knowledge, to ensure that these attributes do not come under threat of significant reduction or loss of the attribute and that any threat of reduction or loss is detected long before the reduction becomes irreversible. Where a threat has been identified, early preventive action, including halting existing action, should be taken to avoid or minimize such a threat despite lack of full scientific certainty as to causes and effects of the threat. (FSC Principle 9 Advisory Panel, 2000).

For the *identification* of HCVF, the toolkit states that where doubt exists as to whether an attribute, or collection of attributes, are sufficient to signify HCVs, then the forest manager will treat these attributes as HCVs until information proves otherwise. Given the current limited state of knowledge about biodiversity attributes in the project area, a presumptive interpretation of the precautionary principle might conclude that all such forests hold HCV and hence all should be assigned HCVF status.

There are two kinds of knowledge gaps surrounding an HCVF assessment

1. First, the lack of full scientific knowledge about the concession area will take many years of research to elucidate.
2. Second, the lack of available but readily obtainable baseline inventory data on flora, fauna, human uses, etc. as well as the limited time or resources to conduct comprehensive biodiversity surveys.

This HCVF identification process applied by the assessment team aimed to introduce as much measurable, observable and objective data analysis through the field assessment and consultation to close the first kind of knowledge gap and require less fallback on the PP when making decisions concerning the presence of HCVs. Nevertheless, there were situations in determining

the presence, or extent of the areas considered as HCVs, where the combined knowledge of the team and other expert sources were not sufficient to make a completely informed decision and a precautionary approach was invoked.

## 4.0 Findings

This section covers observations and analysis of ecological and social conservation values (i.e., HCVs) within the planting blocks areas, including their relationship to the surrounding landscape forests, according to the assessment criteria. Each HCV (and their components) is described within the context of the site and relationship is given to the area for the forest area delineated which pertains to these HCVs.

### **High Conservation Value 1(Significant concentrations of biodiversity values)**

Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species). There are four sub-categories within the toolkit which set to assess the presence of such forest areas, and each are treated separately below.

#### HCV 1.1 Protected Areas

##### *Definition*

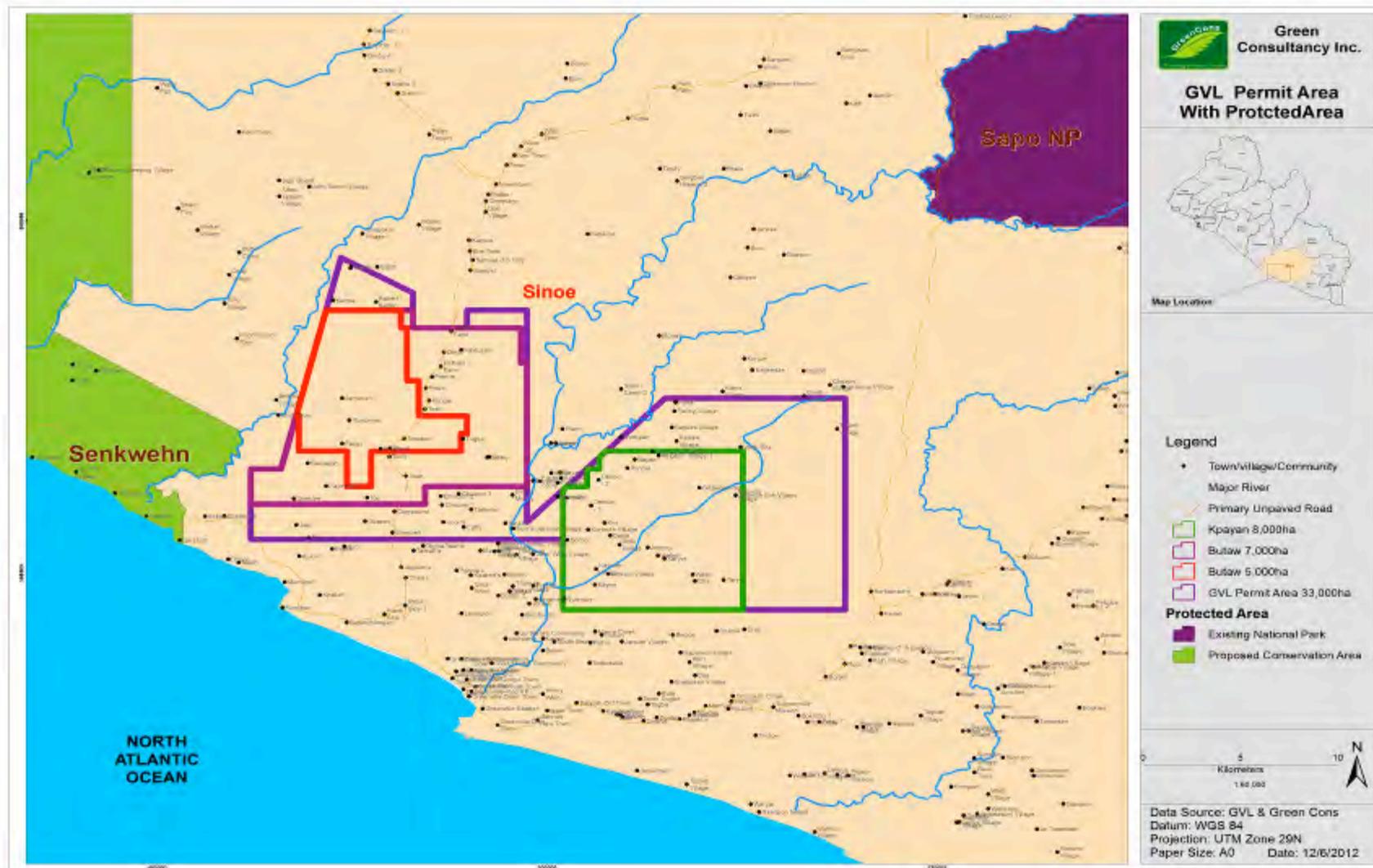
The HCVF Toolkit prepared by Proforest states that all protected areas and proposed protected areas are considered HCVs.

HCV1.1 relates to legally constituted protected areas within the country, and how they contribute to conservation of biological diversity in the context of forest management. The objective of this HCV as gazetted or proposed protected areas within, adjacent or in the immediate vicinity of any FMU are identified as HCVs and protected from any potential impact of FMU operations. Any protected area within the FMU automatically qualifies as a HCV. Protected areas immediately adjacent to the FMU, in the immediate vicinity or having physical and ecological connection with the FMU are HCVs. Those forests or habitats within the FMU that contribute to protecting the values for which a protected area was established, are given due consideration as HCVs.

##### *HCV 1.1 RELATIONSHIP TO ASSESSES AREA*

*In regards to the project site assessed, there are no protected areas located within or in proximity thereof.*

Figure 9: GVL Permitted Area in reference to protected areas of Liberia (HCV 1)



## HCV 1.2 Critically Endangered Species

### *Definition*

The HCVF Toolkit states that any species listed as critically endangered by IUCN or on Appendix I of CITES that is actually or potentially present within the FMU is an HCV.

HCV1.2 Threatened and endangered species: One of the most important aspects of biodiversity value is the presence of threatened or endangered species. Forests that contain populations of threatened or endangered species are clearly more important for maintaining biodiversity values than those that do not, simply because these species are more vulnerable to continued habitat loss, hunting, disease etc. and ensuring their continued existence and viability is not compromised by operations. The objective of this HCV is that critically endangered species dependent upon, or using, the FMU are identified and their ecological requirements protected and managed.

### *HCV 1.2 RELATIONSHIP TO ASSESSES AREA*

Most of the vegetation found within the concession block are degraded vegetation and scattered sections of young bushes found in areas which have been farmed years ago. Apart from the isolated tracts of forest located along the Sanna creek and Plussonie River and patch of sacred forest located in Plussonie, the Petu and Winnie Creeks and the Ceedor rivers the area concentrated for this proposed oil palm establishment have no aspect of this high conservation value. There were no sight of any critical endangered species nor were the team told by hunters interviewed of any endangered species.

## HCV 1.3 Concentrations of threatened or endangered or endemic species

### *Definition*

The HCVF Toolkit states that a forest containing a concentration of threatened or endangered species or a concentration of endemic species, as recognized by national and international experts, is an HCV. The HCV relates to areas which support concentrations of significant species. This implies a comparison between such areas, or habitat types, and other habitats present. These HCVs will be areas of exceptional importance to more than one globally significant species.

### *HCV 1.3 RELATIONSHIP TO ASSESSES AREA*

This HCV was not identified or considered to be present within the Concession Area and no boundary was marked and mapped out for the HCV.

## HCV 1.4 Critical Temporal Concentrations

### *Definition*

Critical temporal use: Many species use a variety of habitats at different times or at different stages in their life-history. These may be geographically distinct or may be different ecosystems or habitats within the same region. The use may be seasonal or the habitat may be used only in extreme years, when, nevertheless, it is critical to the survival of the

population. This component includes critical breeding sites, migration sites, migration routes or corridors (latitudinal as well as altitudinal) or forests that contain globally important seasonal concentrations of species. In temperal and boreal regions, these critical concentrations will often occur seasonally (e.g., winter feeding grounds or summer breeding sites), whereas in the tropics, the time of greatest use may depend more on the particular ecology of the species concerned (e.g., riverine forests within tropical dry forests may be seasonally critical habitat for many vertebrate species). This element is included to ensure the maintenance of important concentrations of species that use the forest only occasionally.

Globally significant concentration of migratory species or a nationally significant temporary concentration or migration route is an HCV. This HCV relates to values involving the temporal usage of specific locations or habitat types by significant numbers of species or individuals of a species, and which are critical to their continued survival. The objective is that areas which play a crucial role in the lifecycles (i.e., breeding, migration) of certain species are identified as HCVs.

#### *HCV 1.4 RELATIONSHIP TO ASSESSED AREA*

The team investigation concluded after numerous interviews and bird watching that the concentrated area does not have habitats that support significant concentration of migratory birds of global significance. The team however found out that the conservation of forests buffer zones along the major creeks and rivers of the concession are critical to the conservation needs of the project area. These buffer zones are to be managed through riparian reserves.

#### **High Conservation Value 2 (large landscape level forests)**

Forest areas containing globally, regionally, or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable population of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns or distribution and abundance.

This part of the HCVF definition aims to identify those forests that contain viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species. It often also includes forests that contain important sub-populations of very wide-ranging species (e.g. wolverine, tiger, elephant) even though the sub-populations may not in themselves be viable in the long term. It includes forests where ecological processes and ecosystem functioning (e.g. natural disturbance regimes, forest succession, species distributions and abundance) are wholly or relatively unaffected by recent anthropogenic activities. Such forests are necessarily large and will be less affected by recent human activities than other forests within the region. Where forest ecosystems naturally form a landscape-level mosaic with other vegetation types and where many species use forest and non-forest ecosystems<sup>3</sup>, then it may be decided that this value relates to the mosaic of natural vegetation and not just the extent of forest.

Large landscape level forests are increasingly rare and continue to be threatened throughout the world, through processes such as deforestation, forest fragmentation and degradation. Nevertheless, the occurrence of large, natural forests differs greatly from country to country. In

countries where there has been extensive forest conversion, there may be no forests that would be considered under this HCV. Alternatively, forests that are capable of maintaining most or all species may be so few that they are already well known. However, some countries retain a relatively large proportion of forest cover and in such cases the extent to which patterns of historical and current use as well as current threats have reduced the ability of forests to support the natural array of species will have to be assessed.

It is also worth emphasizing that the forest considered under HCV2 is not necessarily confined to a particular administrative unit (e.g. forest management unit). This is because several contiguous administrative units of forest land may together form a significant large landscape level forest. An individual forest management unit can be a HCVF under HCV2 if it is whole or part of a significant large, landscape level forest.

There are three sub-categories assessed to identify the presence of such forest:

- HCV 2.1 The FMU is a large, landscape-level forest
- HCV 2.2 The FMU is an integral part of a large landscape-level forest
- HCV 2.3 The FMU maintains viable populations of most naturally occurring

#### *HCV 2 RELATIONSHIP TO ASSESSED AREA*

Does the forest constitute or form part of a globally, nationally or regionally significant forest landscape that includes populations of most native species and sufficient habitat such that there is a high likelihood of long-term species persistence? Characteristics portraying the above were notable in proximity to the edges of the project area, to the Northwest, and in the central Northern area along the Sinoe River. These characteristics represent the closest edges of the Rivercess/Sinoe potential high biodiversity and planned protected zone (beyond a buffer zone to the Northwest) and the Sapu National Park (beyond a buffer zone to the North). In the Management Planning these areas would be set aside from development until the national plan can be confirmed and determination would then be made.

#### **High Conservation Value 3 (rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems)**

Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems HCV 3.1 Forest areas that are in, or contain rare, threatened or endangered Ecosystems

##### *Definition*

Some ecosystems are naturally rare, where the climatic or geological conditions necessary for their development are limited in extent. Recent processes, such as land conversion, may have decreased their extent even further. Examples include montane forests in eastern Africa, cloud forests in Central America or riverine forests in semi-arid regions of Africa. Other ecosystems have become rare through recent human activity, such as conversion of natural ecosystems into agricultural or other land use. It is often these ecosystems that are the most at risk in the future.

This value is designed to ensure that threatened or endangered forest ecosystems, communities or types are maintained. It includes forest types which were previously widespread or typical of large regions. They also include rare associations of species, even when the constituent species may be widespread and secure. These include:

- Associations (intact or not) that have always been rare (e.g. beach forests along the Philippine coast)
- Forests ecosystems, even if heavily disturbed or degraded, which are now rare or greatly reduced, and where intact examples are very rare (e.g. Atlantic forests (*mataatlantica*) of Brazil)

In these cases, the HCV is the rare ecosystem itself, which may be all or part of any particular forest. Native forest ecosystems or species assemblages that are characteristic of a region but are not rare or endangered should not be considered HCVFs under this part of the definition.

The Indonesian HCVF Toolkit also states that where a FMU contains a significant area of these rare, threatened, and endangered forest types and has been identified as a conservation priority area by an independent organization, then the forest type is an HCV. Any rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems that are located outside the FMU that are impacted heavily by FMU activities is also an HCV.

The Indonesian HCVF Toolkit guidance relates HCV3.1 to rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems that have been identified within national conservation plans. The Toolkit provides further guidance as there may be cases where conservation plans do not reflect current forest condition, threats, and trends. Experts should be consulted to identify if there are gaps in these plans and if the FMU which in this context refer to the proposed concession area should be considered critical to the protection of the ecosystem type. Thus, the present assessment would consider as HCV areas within the FMU that are rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems.

### *HCV 3.1 RELATIONSHIP TO ASSESSED AREA*

Does the forest contain naturally rare ecosystem types? Are there ecosystem types within the forest or ecoregion that have significantly declined? Are large landscape level forests (i.e. large unfragmented forests) rare or absent in the forest or ecoregion? Are there nationally/regionally significant diverse or unique forest ecosystems?

In investigating these areas to assess the contribution of the block to conserving ecosystems, the following official sources were consulted:

- Liberia National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan, 2004
- Biodiversity and Protected Areas-Liberia
- United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC). World Database on Protected Areas(WDPA)Version 6
- The Ramsar Bureau.2002. List of Wetlands of International Importance
- Conservation International-Liberia
- Conservation and Wildlife Department, Forestry Development Authority
- Agriculture Ministry-Liberia

Upon reviewing these sources, it was found out that these characteristics of the above HCVs are not present within the area.

## **High Conservation Value 4 (Basic services, watershed protection)**

Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection and erosion control)

All forests provide some services of nature, such as watershed protection, stream flow regulation or erosion control. These services should always be maintained under good management, a fact reflected in the requirements of most forest management standards. The value can be considered an HCV if the consequence of a breakdown in these services would have a serious catastrophic or cumulative impact. For example, a forest that forms a large proportion of the catchment area of a river that has a high risk of damaging and destructive flooding downstream may be critical in preventing flooding and would be considered an HCVF. It is this type of situation that HCV4 attempts to identify.

Since there is a range of separate ecosystem services, this value has been sub-divided into three elements:

**HCV4.1 Forests critical to water catchments:** Forests play an important role in preventing flooding, controlling stream flow regulation and water quality. Where a forest area constitutes a large proportion of a catchment, may be able to play a critical role in maintaining these functions. The greater the risk of flooding or drought or the greater the importance of water usage, the more likely it is that the forest is critical to maintaining these services and more likely that the forest is an HCVF.

**HCV4.2 Forests critical to erosion control:** A second basic service of nature that forests provide is terrain stability, including control of erosion, landslides, avalanches and downstream sedimentation. All areas can potentially suffer some degree of erosion, but often the extent or risk of these is very low or the consequences minor. In some cases, though, forests protect against erosion, landslides and avalanches in areas where the consequences, in terms of loss of productive land, damage to ecosystems, property or loss of human life, are severe. In these cases, the ecosystem service provided by the forest is critical, and it is these that should be designated HCVFs.

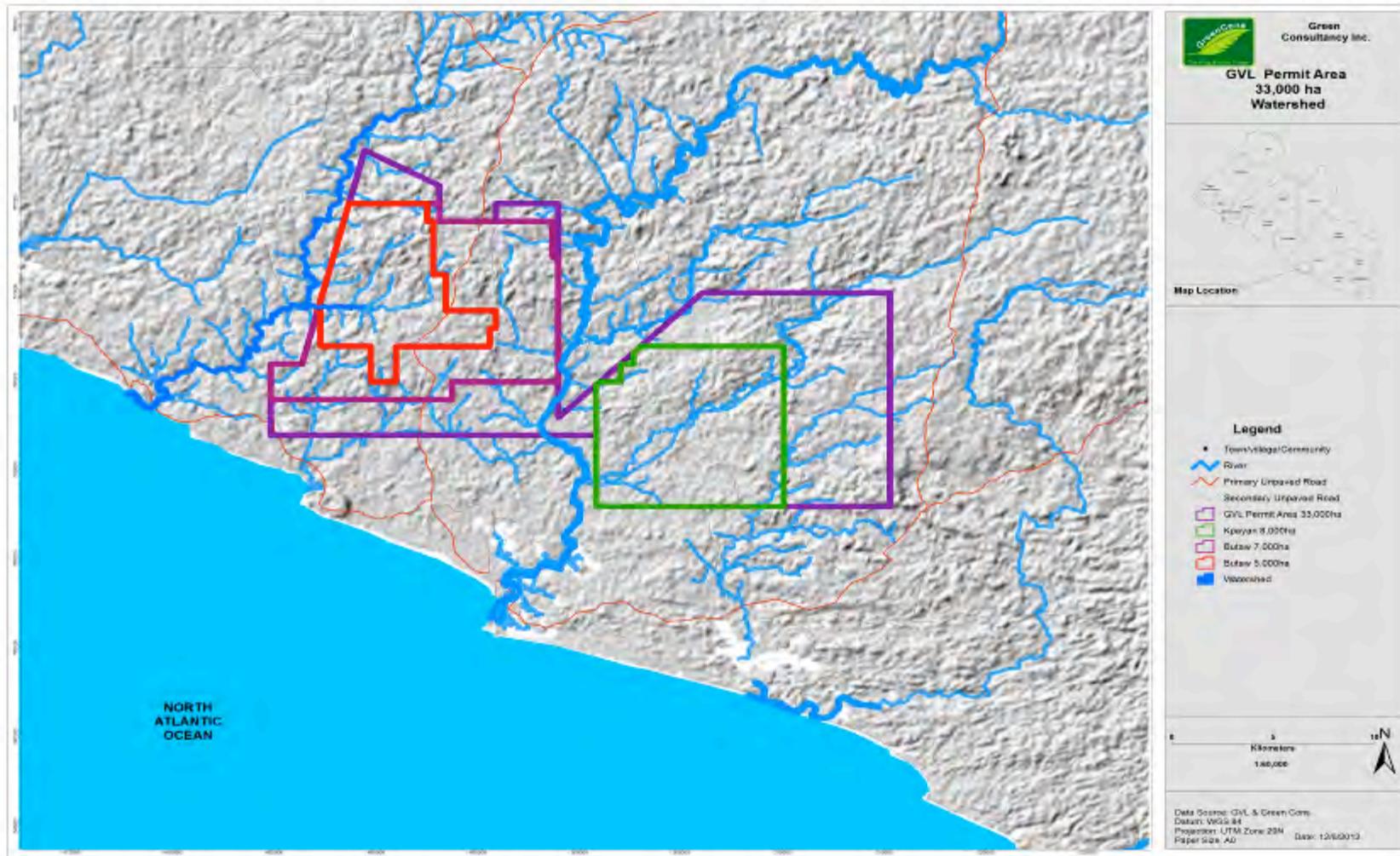
### *RELATIONSHIP TO THE AREA*

Does the forest provide a significant source of drinking water? Are there forests that provide a significant ecological service in mediating flooding and/or drought, controlling stream flow regulation, and water quality? Are there forests critical to erosion control?

The forest along the Sanna Creek and Plussonie and Ceedor Rivers in Butaw and the Petu and Winnie Creeks in Kpanyan are considered under this element of controlling stream flow regulation and water quality and unique source of water for daily use. Other major tributaries to these major rivers and creeks are also considered under this condition (see maps of river/creeks buffers). In addition to these, the water is also use for domestic purposes and transportation. There are stretches of overlapping vegetation extending their canopies over the edges of the

rivers. These conditions keep the water cool and shade it from intense sunlight thereby maintaining its constant flow and tide level. The presence of the forest along these rivers is also critical in controlling erosion and downstream sedimentation.

Figure 10: Water Catchment



HCV4.3 Forests providing barriers to destructive fire: Fire is a part of the natural dynamics of many forest ecosystems, such as boreal forests in Canada or eucalypt forests in Australia. However, forest fires, whether started by natural causes or by humans, can sometimes develop into destructive, uncontrolled fire that can be a serious risk to human life and property, economic activity, or to threatened ecosystems or species. An HCV under this element includes forest that naturally acts as a barrier to fire in areas that are prone to fire where the consequences are potentially severe.

#### *RELATIONSHIP TO THE AREA*

No condition was identified within the concession area to characterize the above.

### **High Conservation Value 5 (meeting basic needs of local communities)**

Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities.

*The Proforest Toolkit* definition of HCVFs recognizes that some forests are essential to human well-being. This value is designed to protect the basic subsistence and security of local communities that are dependent on forests - not only for "forest-dwelling" communities, but also for any communities that get substantial and irreplaceable amounts of income, food or other benefits from the forest.

Employment, income and products are values that should be conserved if possible, without prejudice to other values and benefits. However, management of HCVs does not imply excessive and unsustainable extraction of resources, even when communities are currently economically dependent on the forest. Nor do they include the excessive application of traditional practices, when these are degrading or destroying the forests and the other values present in the forest.

A forest may have HCV status if local communities obtain essential fuel, food, fodder, medicines, or building materials from the forest, without readily available alternatives. In such cases, the High Conservation Value is specifically identified as one or more of these basic needs. The following would not be considered HCVFs:

- Forests providing resources that are useful but not fundamental to local communities.
- Forests that provide resources that could readily be obtained elsewhere or that could be replaced by substitutes.

HCV5 applies only to basic needs. For example, for a community that derives a large part its protein from hunting and fishing in forests where there is no alternative and acceptable source of meat or fish, the forests would constitute an HCVF. Another forest, where people hunted largely for recreational purposes (even if they did eat their catch) and where they were not dependent upon hunting, would not constitute an HCVF.

Over time, a value may grow or decline, with changing community needs and changes in land use. A forest, which was previously only one of many sources of supply, may become the only, or basic fundamental source of fuel wood or other needs. Conversely, needs may decline and

disappear with time. For example, a forest that protected a stream that provided the only source of water for drinking and other daily needs to a community would cease to become an HCVF if a tube-well was constructed that provided water of sufficient quality and quantity for the community.

HCV5 is determined by *actual* reliance on the forest of communities (even when this reliance is only occasional, as in the case of forests providing food in times of famine), rather than a future or potential situation. For example, the government of a particular country may have a scheme to generate employment and income for rural communities.

If this is not implemented for all communities, or if some members of certain communities are unable or unwilling to take advantage of this and are consequently still dependent on forests for some of their basic needs, then a forest can still be an HCVF.

## RELATIONSHIP TO THE AREA

Are there local communities? (This should include both people living inside the forest and those living adjacent to it as well as any group which regularly visits the forest). Is anyone in the community making use of the forest? Is the use for their basic needs/livelihoods?

All of the settlements in their historical state surveyed have demonstrated great reliance on the forest surrounding their area or forest far from them. The forest provided basic necessity such as food, medicine, meat, firewood and construction material among other for them; although some elements of the population have had other alternatives including employment, nevertheless, the dependence of livelihood on the forest would be very critical for these communities unless other alternatives are achieved. The settlements have significant relationship to any remaining forest area inside the concession area and representative of the major social groups actively or passively affected by the presence of natural forest in the area. However, all communities see this state as caused by lack of alternatives and lack of opportunity for development, expressing overarching desire and aspiration to rise above reliance on forest based sustenance levels.

For each of the eight communities identified, a forest farmland was identified and preliminarily mapped to serve as reserve forest land for farming purposes. The allocation of reserve farmland was informed by statistics generated from the MOA/LISGIS agriculture production sample survey conducted in 2011, which puts the average household land cultivated per acreage for agriculture production at 0.9 ha.

The overwhelming majority of HCV and land compensation matters were conducted amicably between GVL, communities and local farmers. In total \$118,158 compensation was paid to 195 farmers in the area prior to the recent HCV assessment. There is no indication of land use without consent. Specific areas have been delimited for no development where communities or farmers have not consented.

Considering that in the midst of the current slash and burn shifting cultivation agriculture practice, any quantity of land would not be sustainable over a long term future; GVL has consented as part of its corporate social responsibility to assist the farmers with training in

sedentary agriculture practices, including land preparation and fertilizer to enable them farm on a plot of land over a long term without the need to shift from one plot to another.

Figure 11: Farm Allocation for 5,000HA

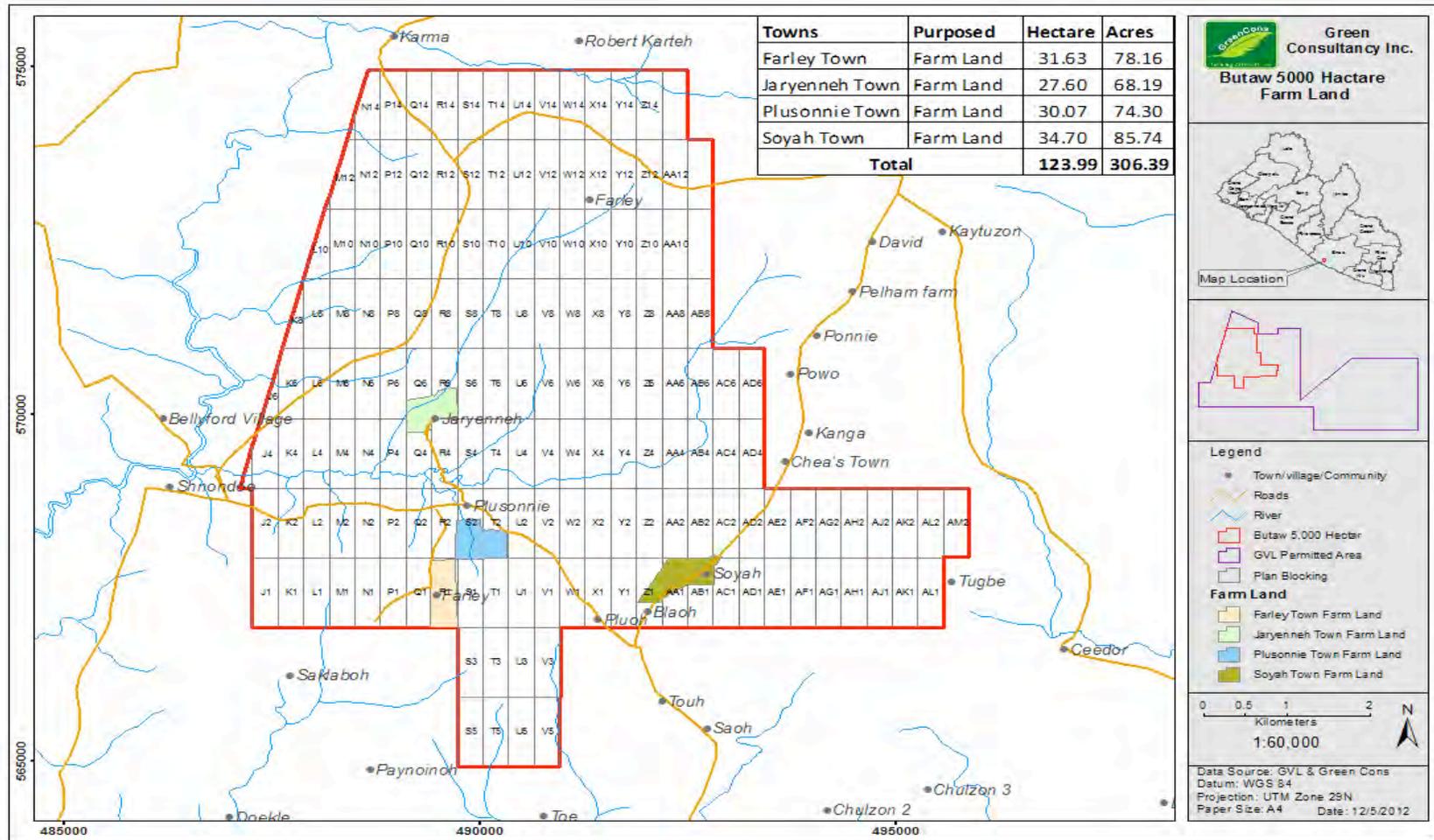


Figure 12: Farm Allocation Map 7,000HA

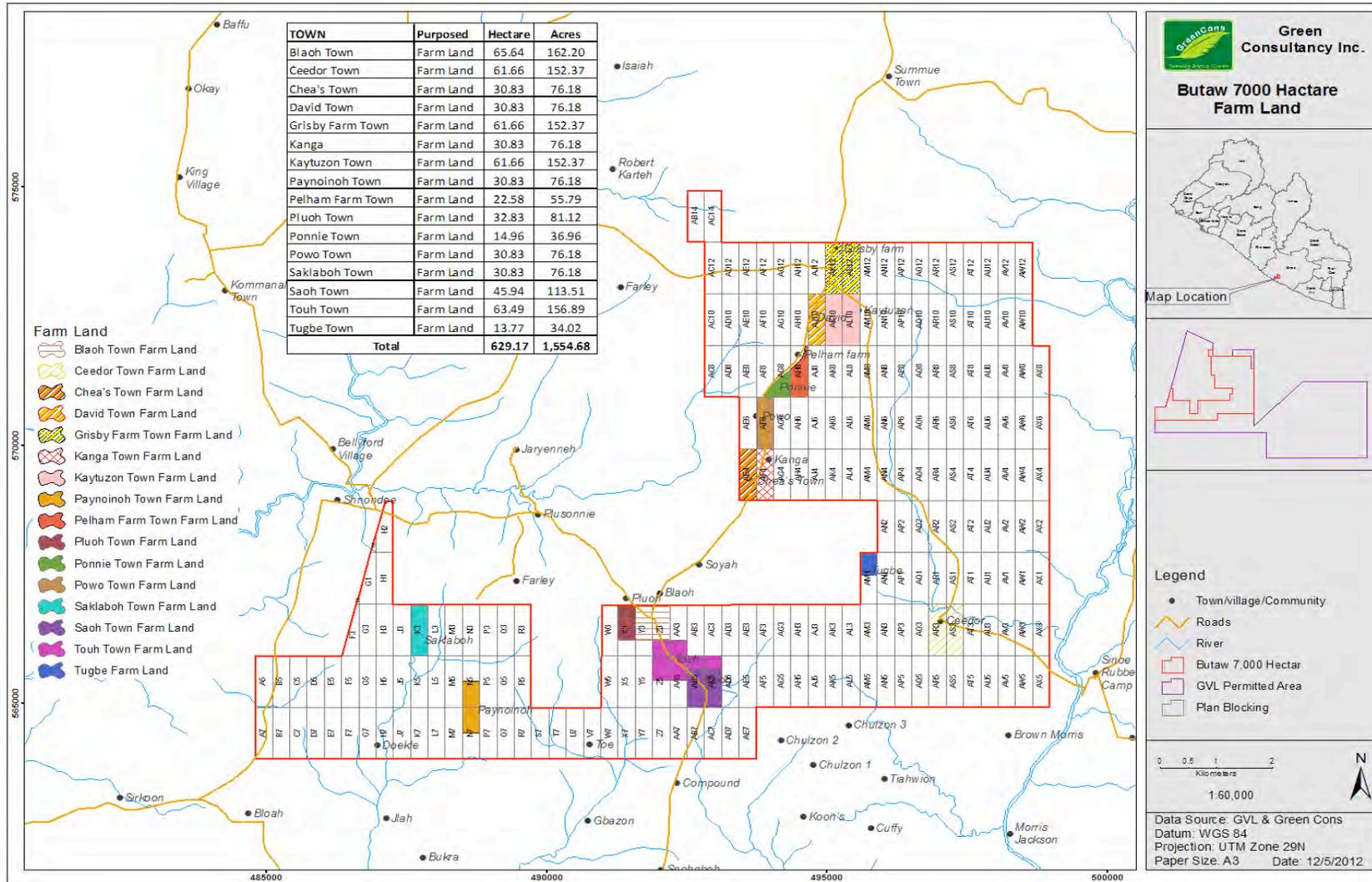
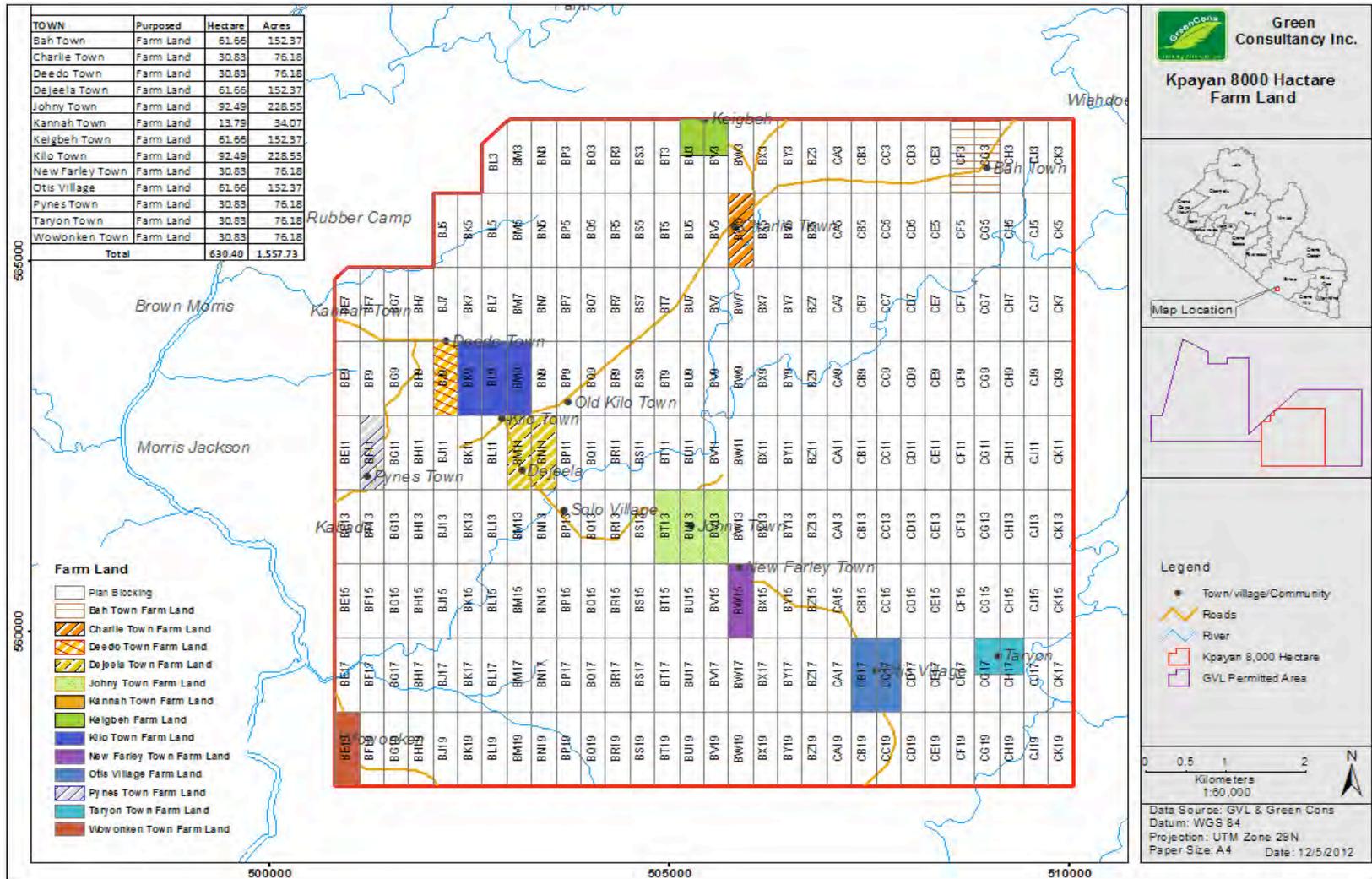


Figure 13: Farm Allocation Map 8,000HA



## HCV SUMMARY

HCV CATEGORY	LOCATION	STATUS	FUNCTION	AREA COVERED		BLOCK GRIDS
				Hectare	% to planting block	
High Conservation Value 1 Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values	BUTAW 5,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	BUTAW 7,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	KPANYAN 8,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
High Conservation Value 2 Forest areas containing globally, regionally, or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable population of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns or distribution and abundance.	BUTAW 5,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	BUTAW 7,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	KPANYAN 8,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

HCV CATEGORY	LOCATION	STATUS	FUNCTION	AREA COVERED		BLOCK GRIDS
				Hectare	% to planting block	
High Conservation Value 3 Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems HCV 3.1 Forest areas that are in, or contain rare, threatened or endangered Ecosystems	BUTAW 5,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	BUTAW 7,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	KPANYAN 8,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
High Conservation Value 4 Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations	BUTAW 5,000 (Plussonie River/ Sanna creek)	HCV 4.1  HCV 4.2	Protection of water catchments  Erosion control	101	2.02	J4, K4, L4, M4, N4, O4, P4, Q4, R4, S4, T4, U4, V4, W4, X4, Y4, Z4, AA4, AB4, AA6, AB6, AB8
	BUTAW 7,000 (Ceedor River)	HCV 4.1  HCV 4.2	Protection of water catchments  Erosion control	87	1.24	AQ10, AQ8, AP8, AN6, AP6, AN4, AP4, AQ2, AR2, AN1, AP1, AQ1, AR1, AR3, AS3, AT3, AU3, AV3, AW3, AX3, AC8, AD8, AE8, AH10, AH8

	KPANYAN 8,000 (Wannie and Petu Rivers)	HCV 4.1  HCV 4.2	Protection of water catchments  Erosion control	155	1.93	BE17, BF17, BG17, BH17, BJ17, BJ15, BK15, BL15, BL13, BM13, BN13, BN11, BP11, BQ11, BR11, BS11, BT11, BU11, BV11, BW11, BV9, BW9, BX9, BY9, BZ9, CA9, CB9, CC9, BV7, BW7, CC7, CD7, CE7, CF7, CG7, CH7, BV5, BW5, BX5, CG5, CH5, CJ5, CK5, CH3, CJ3, CJ17, CK17, CF19, CG19, CH19, CJ19, CK19
	TOTAL			343	5.19	

HCV CATEGORY	LOCATION	STATUS	FUNCTION	AREA COVERED		BLOCK GRIDS
				Hectare	% to planting block	
High Conservation Value 5	BUTAW 5,000	HCV 5	Livelihood and Farmland			

<i>Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities</i>	Farley Town Farm land	31.63	0.63	R1
	Jaryeneh Village Farm land	27.60	0.55	Q6, R6, Q4, R4
	Plussonie	30.07	0.60	S2, T2
	Soyah Town	34.70	0.69	Z1, AA1, AB1, AC2
	TOTAL	124	2.47	

HCV CATEGORY	LOCATION	STATUS	FUNCTION	AREA COVERED		BLOCK GRIDS
				Hectare	% to planting block	
High Conservation Value 5	BUTAW 7,000	HCV 5	Livelihood and Farmland			
<i>Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities</i>	Saklaboh Town Farm land			30.83	0.44	K3
	Ceedor Town Farm land			61.66	0.88	AR3,AS3,AT3,AU3
	Chea Town Farm land			30.83	0.44	AE4
	David Town Farm land			30.83	0.44	AI10
	Grisby			61.66	0.88	AK12, AL12
	Kanga			30.83	0.44	AF4
	Ketuzon			66.66	0.952	AJ10,
	Paynoinoh			30.83	0.44	W7, W5
	Pelham Farm Farm land			22.58	0.322	AH8
	Pluoh			33.83	0.483	X3
	Ponni			14.96	0.213	AG8
	Powo			30.83	0.44	AF6
	Saoh			45.94	0.656	AB5, AC5,
	Touh			53.49	0.014	Z3, AA3, Z5, AA5, AB5, AC5
	Tugbe			13.77	0.196	AM1
	TOTAL			559.53	7.236	

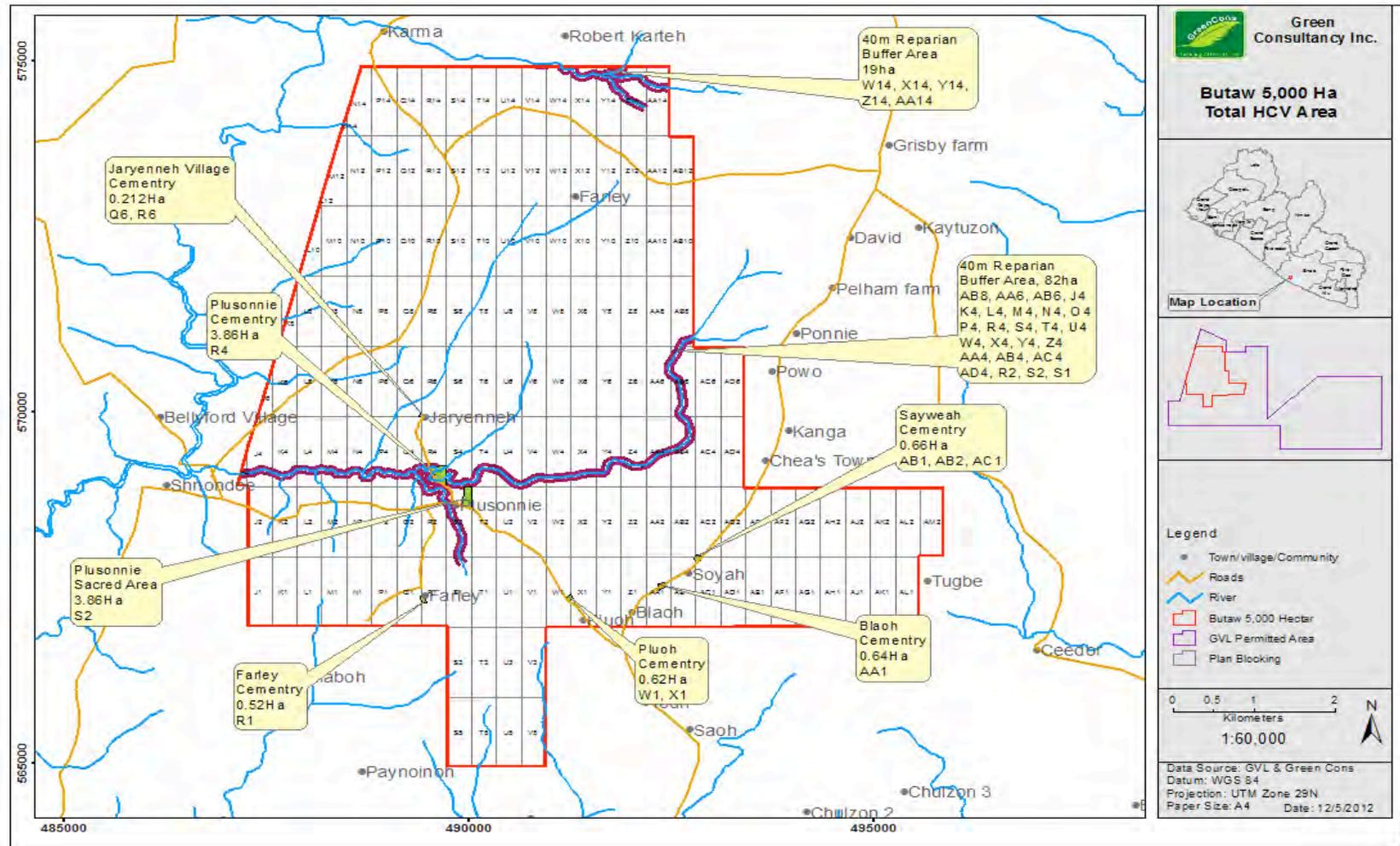
HCV CATEGORY	LOCATION	STATUS	FUNCTION	AREA COVERED		BLOCK GRIDS
				Hectare	% to planting block	
High Conservation Value 5	KPANYAN 8,000	HCV 5	Livelihood and Farmland			
<i>Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities</i>	Deedo Town Farm land			30.83	0.386	BJ9
	Kilo Town			92.49	1.156	BM9,BL9,BK9
	Charlie Town			30.83	0.385	BU5
	Keegbah Town			61.66	0.77	BU3,BV3
	Johnny Town			92.49	1.156	BT13,BU13,BV13
	Karyon(New Farley town)			30.83	0.385	BW15
	Taryon Town			30.83	0.385	CG17,CH17
	Otis Village			61.66	0.77	CB17,CC17
	Pynes Town			30.83	0.385	BF11
	Wowonken			30.83	0.385	BE19
	Dejeela			61.66	0.77	BM11,BN1
	TOTAL			554.94	6.933	

HCV CATEGORY	LOCATION	STATUS	FUNCTION	AREA COVERED		BLOCK GRIDS
				Hectare	% to planting block	
High Conservation Value 6  Forest Areas of critical to traditional cultural identity, and other values not covered	BUTAW 5,000	HCV 6	local communities' traditional cultural identity			
	Plussonie Sacred Site			3.86	0.08	R4
	Plussonie Cemetery			3.86	0.08	S2
	Farley Town Cemetery			0.52	0.01	R1
	Jaryenneh Village Cemetery			0.212	0.004	Q6,R6
	Soyah Cemetery			0.66	0.013	AB1, 1B2, AC1
	Blaoh Cemetery			0.64	0.01	AA1
	Pluoh			0.62	0.01	W1, X1
TOTAL			10.37	0.207		

HCV CATEGORY	LOCATION	STATUS	FUNCTION	AREA COVERED		BLOCK GRIDS
				Hectare	% to planting block	
High Conservation Value 6  Forest Areas of critical to traditional cultural identity, and other values not covered	BUTAW 7,000	HCV 6	local communities' traditional cultural identity			
	David Town Grave Site			0.44	0.006	AH10, AJ10
	Ketuzon Town Cemetery			0.86	0.012	AL10
	Pehlam Farm			0.43	0.006	AH10, AH8
	Ponni Town Grave Site			0.42	0.006	AF8
	Saklaboh			0.44	0.006	J3
	Paynoino			0.79	0.011	Q5
	Powo			0.44	0.006	AF6
	Chea			0.23	0.003	AF4
	Ceedor			0.5	0.007	AR3
	TOTAL			4.55	0.063	

HCV CATEGORY	LOCATION	STATUS	FUNCTION	AREA COVERED		BLOCK GRIDS
				Hectare	% to planting block	
High Conservation Value 6  Forest Areas of critical to traditional cultural identity, and other values not covered	KPANYAN 8,000	HCV 6	local communities' traditional cultural identity			
	Deedo Town Grave Site			1.1	0.013	BJ7
	Kilo Town Cemetery			3.07	0.038	BM9,BM11,BN9,BN11
	Charlie Town			1.91	0.023	BW5
	Keegbah Town Grave Site			0.86	0.01	BW3
	Kilo Town Sacred Forest			36	0.45	BJ,BK11,BL11
	Johnny Town Grave Site			0.41	0.005	BU13
	Karyor Town Grave Site			3.14	0.039	BX13
	Taryon Town Grave Site			2.6	0.032	CG15
	Bah Town Grave Site			0.55	0.006	CG3
	TOTAL			49.64	0.616	

Figure 14: Analysis of the HCV in the 5,000 NPA









**Figure 17: Typical House unit constructed with piassava fronds and other forest products**

## **High Conservation Value 6 (communities' local cultural identity and other values not previously covered)**

### Forest Areas of Critical Value to Traditional Culture

#### *Definition*

As well as being essential for subsistence and survival, forests can be critical to societies and communities for their cultural identity. This value is designed to protect the traditional culture of local communities where the forest is critical to their identity, thereby helping to maintain the cultural integrity of the community.

A forest may be designated an HCVF if it contains or provides values without which a local community would suffer an unacceptable cultural change and for which the community has no alternative. Examples of HCVF under this part of the definition would include:

- Sacred groves in India, Borneo and Ghana
- Forests used to procure feathers of the Argus Pheasant used by Dayak communities in Borneo in headdresses for important ceremonies.
- Forests in the Brazilian Amazon that are used by extractivist communities (such as rubber tappers) as the sole or main source of economic activity.

This should include both people living inside forest areas and those living adjacent to it as well as any group that regularly visits the forest. For example, the Maasai people of East Africa are mainly involved in herding cattle on the plains. However, they use forest as an integral part of their initiation rites and so should be considered in any discussion of forest use.

The Indonesian HCVF Toolkit further states that if forest areas are critical to the traditional cultural identity of local communities, e.g., restricted-use and reserve forest, ancestral burial, spiritual, religious, and taboo sites, then the forest area will be HCV.

### RELATIONSHIP TO THE AREA

Is the traditional cultural identity of the local community particularly tied to a specific forest area? Is there a significant overlap of values (ecological and/or cultural) that individually did not meet HCV thresholds, but collectively constitute HCVs?

In all of the communities covered during the survey these elements of high conservation values were identified. All of the towns for example has grave site. Some of these sites are scattered around the town, while others are in designated location within the town. The team realized that these sites are significant. The GVL team had already identified and demarcated these sites. These sites have all been mapped as part of the HCVs. In addition, two sacred forests were initially identified by the GVL team in Plussonie and Kilo Towns, both of Butaw and Kpanyan Districts respectively. These sites were also validated and mapped in consultation with the local traditional people. Local concerns/misunderstanding mounted regarding the concept applied by GVL HCV team in marking identified HCVs with the inscription "GVL Sacred Site", implying that the site belong to GVL. This misunderstanding was harmonized with the understanding between both parties that all of the sites be remarked indicating the names of the communities attached to the sites.



Figure 18: Kilo Town Sacred Forest



Figure 19: Plussonie Town



Figure 20: Plussonie Sacred Forest



**Figure 21: HCV 4 Plussonie River Bufferzone Demarcation**



**Figure 22: HCV 6 Plussonie Cemetery**



**Figure 23: Pictorial showing team demarcating cemeteries within the planting block**



**Figure 24: Grave Site-Taryon Town**

## **5.0 HCVF Management, Monitoring and Research Implications**

[THIS SECTION IS VERY WEAK, I have not edited, leave as is for submission]

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The intention of this section in regards to HCV assessment is to identify HCVs and delineate the HCV areas. Detailed management and monitoring guidelines will have to be developed by the company, in consultation with stakeholders, on the basis of the identified HCVs and preliminary delineation of HCV.

The following management techniques will have to be considered:

- Eand training villagers to help inform other communities of the benefits of collaborative management of HCV areas.
- GVL should work towards the establishment of an association of village communities surrounding the area in alliance with the company to reduce HCV threats and sustain direct and indirect benefits. Understandably, there might be concern that such an alliance might backfire and result in unrealistic, even extortionary demands. Certainly the risk is there, but mitigated by the kind of participative and trust-building measures this can be avoided.
- The company should focus on benefits with wide reaching implications for the larger community rather than benefits that are easily captured by the elite or create social jealousy, e.g., high-yielding crop planting material rather than processing equipment, meeting place rather than village government offices, and primary health care and school facilities. Any village development funds related to HCV to be managed transparently and audited. As far as possible connect the flow of benefits with verifiable conservation progress, monitoring outcomes together with the community

Mutual trust is seen as a sine qua non of community-company collaboration. These strategic management steps are suggested to guide efforts at improving community relations to minimize threats to the ecological integrity of HCV areas and keep these within manageable limits. Although the steps outlined below are in sequence, in practice the process should be seen as a progressive series of feedback loops as implementation experience leads to appropriate changes. For example, having identified target communities, while working with them it may become evident that further division or merging makes more sense. Over time, experience will necessitate management adaptations. Each of these steps should be informed by one of the key outcomes of monitoring and evaluation.

### **1. Company Organization.**

The importance of a dedicated unit in the company levels for management of HCV and other set-aside areas, fully integrated into the company's organization structure (with sufficient human and financial resources), is noted as a general management implication in this assessment. The social dimension of HCV management will require the following:

The HCV Management Unit should have a distinct Social Section that is an equal partner among other sections of the HCV Unit. The Social Section should be involved in decision-making about claims and be kept fully informed of claims.

## 2. Mutual Trust

*How can trust -- the foundation for lasting collaboration -- between the company and local communities be nurtured?*

- First, there should be a stakeholder analysis. The interests of both company and communities are estimated, comprising expectations and concerns (hopes and fears), differentiating between interests that are declared and hidden.
- In an environment in which company and the specific community feel comfortable in the company introduces its intention to demarcate and manage HCV areas. All parties agree to the need for a better understanding of the implications of this intention, focusing on their interests (expectations and concerns). No agreements or promises are sought at this stage, only dialogue towards mutual understanding. As is well known and documented for conflict resolution, it is critical to emphasize interests and to avoid creating a platform for promoting (intransigent) positions.
- Proper facilitation is key. A third party, such as an NGO or other institution, in which both company and community have confidence, is more likely to succeed at moderating the process.
- With mutual understanding that each party has legitimate (if not always legal) and essential livelihood concerns and that both are willing to seek accommodation with each other rather than to perpetuate the *status quo*, mutual respect is fostered.
- Mutual respect into mutual trust requires the realization that both company and community can gain some early concrete demonstrations of good faith. Increased transparency is an example, e.g., sharing with communities maps, information of land use in and outside the area, and where feasible and useful, amending maps.

## 3. Better Boundaries

Once there is sufficient mutual trust, one of the first collaborative activities between the company and relevant communities should be:

- Participative mapping to demarcate the HCV boundaries identified. The process itself can build further trust. Participative mapping is particularly important for establishing a fixed boundary around the set asides for smallholder agriculture through natural forest areas. Participative mapping, however, if not done properly can erode trust and create disputes over land control.

- HCV boundary demarcation through participative mapping should be fully aware of the current land claims situation. Indeed, it may be possible to find solutions to some land claim through participative mapping processes.

#### 4. Enhancing Efficiency and Effectiveness

During the early stages of managing the social aspects of HCV protection, more time and resources will be required. There are a number of efficiency and effectiveness measures that should be pursued, e.g.

- Ensuring effective representation within specific communities, ensuring the voices of typical silent but numerous groups are heard, e.g., women, the landless poor, traditional leaders.
- Explore the possibility of employing and training villagers to help persuade other communities of the benefits of collaborative management of HCV areas.

## 5.1 Monitoring, Evaluation and Responses

### 5.1.1 Monitoring Regime

Periodic monitoring should have internal and external components.

- Clearly, internal monitoring by the HCV Unit is important for timely management responses.
- A separate agency within the company should evaluate progress annually before the arrival of any independent auditors.
- The company should set up accessible information system that shows key monitoring parameters such as natural forest cover and HCV boundaries.
  - The emphasis on monitoring should be outcome-based, rather than an administrative exercise of checking on reporting and documentary procedures.
- Monitoring should be able to track the indicators of success and similarly capture failure.

#### Monitoring Indicators

- Number of known cultural, sacred sites and graves identified, demarcated and marked
- Documented evidence of local participation in HCV management
- Internal and Independent HCV Monitoring/Audit reports showing that boundaries of HCVs are respected
- Documented complaints regarding HCV management and actions taken to correct them
- Protocols for management responses need to be developed.

Annually, a lessons-learned exercise should be conducted. Lessons means, *.what we thought we knew but experience proved otherwise..* Management must always and at all times realize that the local has unique characteristics when dealing with information flow and management of flowed information. There are people within every village or town who are refer to as “village champion”(influential person, though sometimes seem like nobody), the clear understanding of management operation for these people must be management priority as it help disseminate the information more widely and clearly; on the other hand, the misunderstanding of management intention by them is also dangerous to management forward movement as it breed mistrust, arrogance, and on the extreme unrest within management operation area.

For instance, the misunderstanding among some villages and some village champions are that some HCVs areas, particularly burial ground already delineated by GVL management on behalf of the affected communities, though with the fullest participation of the local communities, still do not belong to them. While this has been fully resolved with the villages and with GVL management committing herself to changing all the signs and replacing it with the town name, GVL management was shock to realize that villages believe that the company has used them to demarcate their own burial ground and has illegally stop them from entering it by putting up signs which claims the area now belong to the company, and therefore will be used for new planting also. These misjudgments have been there for up to eight months since those signs were posted.

**Figure 25: What GVL Management thought it knew but experience proved otherwise**



- Lessons-learned processes involve (i) identification, (ii) learning and (iii) remembering.

#### Monitoring Indicators

- Number of known cultural, sacred sites and graves identified, demarcated and marked
- Documented evidence of local participation in HCV mapping
- Internal and Independent HCV Monitoring/Audit reports showing that boundaries of HCVs are respected

### **5.1.2 Research and Development**

There should be support for research that systematically compares across different incentives and disincentives for local communities to help safeguard HCVs. This may be outsourced but there should be company competence to oversee and interpret such work and to use the results to modify management decisions.

Research to close knowledge gaps about forest areas required to safeguard the habitat of medicinals and to conserve fish populations might reasonably be expected to result in smaller area requirements that do not need to be so conservative. Buffer strips for medicinals may not be required along the entire length of the river nor need to be as wide. Riparian Management Zone to avoid water pollution, erosion and loss of soil might be more finely adjusted according to river width and therefore in some settings be narrower.

## Conclusion

In the HCVs assessment conducted within the planting area comprising of a number of towns and villages, it was investigated that no primary forest was found neither was there any peat soil, infact, there is no peat soil found in Liberia. Nevertheless, among the six categories of HCVs, only three were identified within the planting blocks ..

HCV4.1 Forests critical to water catchments:

HCV4.2 Forests critical to erosion control: A second basic service of nature that forests provide is terrain stability, including control of erosion, landslides, avalanches and downstream sedimentation. All areas can potentially suffer some degree of erosion, but often the extent or risk of these is very low or the consequences minor. In some cases, though, forests protect against erosion, landslides and avalanches in areas where the consequences, in terms of loss of productive land, damage to ecosystems, property or loss of human life, are severe. In these cases, the ecosystem service provided by the forest is critical, and it is these that should be designated HCVFs.

The forest along the Plussonie and Sanna creeks and the Petu and Winnie Creeks and the Ceedor rivers

High Conservation Value 5: *Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities*

Every forested area surrounding town and villages within the planting area has been allocated owing to the fact that they depend on forests for some of their basic needs.

High Conservation Value 6: Forest Areas of Critical Value to Traditional Culture. The Sacred Forests found in Kilo Town and Plussonie and the many burial ground identified within and surrounding the towns and villages in the concession.

This HCV report must be considered not an event document in which once approval and certification have been acknowledged, then the report is thrown on the shelf as one of management past trophies, rather, a living document that daily informs management about the outcomes of the delineated HCV, its monitoring techniques, positive outcomes and challenges associated with the management of the HCVs and the best recommendations. If necessary, and along with the surrounding towns and villages being affected by the HCVs, revision to the document depending on changing situation can be made.

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4. International Finance Corporation(IFC) Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines Forest Harvesting Operation and Environmental, Health, and Safety General Guidelines
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6. Liberia Forest Reassessment, 2004
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## APPENDIX 1: RECORD OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION

### PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

SEPTEMBER 22, 2012

THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL AND ALL AFFECTED, CONCERNED OR INTERESTED PARTIES ARE HEREBY INFORMED THAT IN KEEPING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL (RSPO), GOLDEN VEROLEUM LIBERIA INC HAS CONTRACTED THE SERVICES OF MESSRS SOLOMON P. WRIGHT AND E, ABRAHAM T. TUMBAY JR; RSPO APPROVED HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE (HCV) ASSESSORS FROM GREEN CONSULTANCY INC FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING AND PREPARING THE NECESSARY ASSESSMENTS AND DOCUMENTS TO COMPLY WITH RSPO NEW PLANTING PROCEDURE (NPP) DOCUMENTS TO CARRY OUT NEW PLANTING OF OIL PALM IN THREE BLOCKS WITHIN GVL CONCESSION AREAS IN SINOE COUNTY ( NUMOPOH COUNTY DISTRICT/KPANYAN AND BUTAW DISTRICT). THE THREE BLOCKS INCLUDE 8,000 HECTARES IN NUMOPOH, KPANYAN STATUTORY DISTRICT AND TWO BLOCKS OF 5,000 HECTARES AND 7,000 HECTARES EACH IN BUTAW DISTRICT.

THIS EXERCISE WILL INCLUDE A HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE (HCV) ASSESSMENT. THE TEAM WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FIELD STAFF FROM GVL AND LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE SITES. THE ASSESSMENT WILL INCLUDE SATELLITE IMAGERY AND GIS ANALYSIS, EXTENSIVE FIELD SURVEYS TO IDENTIFY AND DEMARCATATE SACRED SITES, COMMUNITY CEMETERY, RESERVED FOREST AND SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES. BESIDES FIELD SURVEY, THE TEAM WILL COLLECT INFORMATION FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH INTERVIEWS OF SELECTED INDIVIDUAL, FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD), AS WELL AS PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITIES LIVING IN THE PROJECT AREA SO AS TO ALLOW THEIR FREE PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT ON THE PROJECT.

THE HCV ASSESSMENT REPORT WILL INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE HCV FOUND WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA. THE FINDINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE HCV ASSESSMENT WILL ALSO BE INTEGRATED INTO THE MANAGEMENT PLAN IN KEEPING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF RSPO FOR NEW PLANTINGS.

IN SO DOING THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY LEVEL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

KILO TOWN, CHARLIE TOWN, BAH TOWN, DEEDO TOWN, DEEJELA, SOLO VILLAGE, JOHNNY TOWN, NEW FARLEY TOWN, OTIS VILLAGE, TARYON, PYNES TOWN, KABADA, WLONWONKEN, KEIGBEH

DATE: SEPTEMBER 29, 2012 (SATURDAY) VENUE: KILO TOWN, KPANYAN STATUTORY DISTRICT TIME: 12:00 PM

TOUH, SAOH, TUGBE, TOE, PAYNOINOH, SAKLABOH, DOEKLE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2012 (SUNDAY) VENUE: TOUH (BUTAW JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL), BUTAW DISTRICT

TIME: 4:00 PM

GRISBY FARM, KAYTUZON, DAVID, PELHAM FARM, PONNIE, POWO, KANGA CHEAS TOWN, CEEDOR

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2012 (SUNDAY) VENUE: GRISBY FARM (GIBSON ELEMENTARY & JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL), BUTAW DISTRICT TIME: 1:00 PM

PLUSUNIE, FARLEY, SOYAH, BLAOH, PLUOH, JARYENEH

DATE: OCTOBER 6, 2012 (SATURDAY) VENUE: PLUSUNIE, BUTAW DISTRICT TIME: 1:00 PM

COUNTY AUTHORITIES, CHIEFS, WOMEN LEADERS, YOUTH LEADERS, ELDERS, TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND ALL THOSE CONCERN INCLUDING NGO'S COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS AS SCHEDULED IN ORDER TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS AND DISCUSS ISSUES REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW PLANTING EXERCISE AND GVL OPERATIONS IN THESE AREAS.

SIGNED 

SOLOMON P. WRIGHT-HCV ASSESSMENT TEAM LEADER

Location: Plusunnie Town  
Date: October 6-2012  
Time: 2:00pm  
Venue: Town-Hall

### **AGENDA**

1. Opening Remarks - Mr. Solomon P. Wright (RSPO ASSESSOR)
2. Welcome Remarks - Paramount Chief (Plusunnie Town)
3. Brief explanations about Golden Veroleum Liberia and her operations in Butaw & Kpayan Districts - Mr. Flomo P. Molubah (Specialist-Biodiversity & HCVF/GVL)
4. General details on RSPO/HCVF activities in the concession areas - Mr. Solomon P. Wright (Managing Director/Green Consultancy INC & RSPO ASSESSOR).

The above agenda was used for the entire community consultation held in the 5,000ha are.

### **MINUTES**

The meeting started with introduction of the delegation from Monrovia and other important individuals who came from the two (2) districts. The opening statements were read by Mr. Wright who discussed about the importance of RSPO/HCVF activities in Liberia, especially, palm oil producing companies which are members of the RSPO International group. The paramount chief of the district along with the citizens welcome the delegation and praise GVL and her hardworking staff for their tireless efforts and the friendship between the stakeholders.

Mr. Flomo Molubah (Specialist-Biodiversity & HCVF/GVL) expressed his concern about the failure of citizens to reached authorities of GVL whenever conflict erupted between citizens and administration of GVL. The example is the issue concerning the sacred forests which resulted into conflict and management decided to halt all employment exercises until final resolution of the problem. Mr. Flomo acknowledges that GVL has invested millions of United States dollars and wishes to do more investment in Sinoe County. He outlined numerous projects that the company (GVL) has earmarked but awaiting the dry season to implement several of them. Mr. Flomo also informed the audience about the total concession area (33,000ha) with about 1million palm seedlings awaiting transplanting into the field.He emphasized the need for the youth of sinoe county to take education very serious as the company (GVL) support government with U.S 100,000.000 annually for deserving Liberian students to attend universities, colleges, and other institutions that offered Agriculture, Forestry, Engineering courses.

Additionally, Mr. Solomon P. Wright (RSPO ASSESSOR) explained in details regarding the role of RSPO/HCVF and the rules/guidelines for monitoring and evaluation activities in Golden Verolum Liberia concession areas, especially, theplanting areas located in both districts. Hence, Mr. Wright concluded with the final explanations on the various types of HCVF (1-6). The major emphasis was on water pollution, buffers and demarcation of Graves/Cemeteries, Rivers/streams and allocation of farming land for affected communities. Again, the RSPO ASSESSOR stressed

the importance of investment into the palm oil sector and other relevant issues.

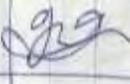
Vickie(Vice-President for operations/GVL) informed the citizens about the developments and employment opportunities(building of clinic,schools, and modern housing facilities for workers/employees).He told the affected communities about the need for common ground and consultations that would bring peace and happiness to both parties as the company(GVL)will never remove or relief citizens from their ancestors inheritance.He also promise those communities that are lacking roofing materials(zinc)—each person involved would paid for the zinc in Monrovia and the company (GVL) will transport the zinc from Monrovia to Greenville free of charge.

Questions and Answers period:

1. Mr.Thomas Nyannon from plusunnie Town: Our town is considered the host town of GVL because the company settled in our town first before moving to other towns/villages but today most of our youth are not employed with the company (GVL) WHY?

Answer by: Mr. Vickie (VP/Operations-GVL): We are grateful to you and the entire communities for their support and cooperation during the time of establishing the nursery sites in Butaw district.Let me have you informed that our company has employed more than half of the youth of Butaw district and hope to still continue the exercises as soon as possible between now to next year. Even the older people are employed because our job required all category (skilled, unskilled) laborers.

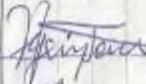
**Attendance from the meeting**

TIME: 12:50		PLUSUNNIE Meeting Date: Oct. 6, 2012		
<u>Attendance</u>				
Name	Town	Position	Signature	Phone #
1. <del>Dunson D. Koon</del>	Blash	Elder	<del>D. Koon</del>	
2. Henry Jaryenneh	Jaryenneh	Town Chief		
3. Marcus Jaryenneh	Jaryenneh	Dweller	MIC	
4. Nah <del>Tea</del> Teah	Blash	Youth head	NT	
5. <del>Levy</del> Jaryenneh	Jaryenneh	Dweller	HJ	
6. Stanley Dugunah	Soya	Chairman		
7. Patience Kobbe	Plusunnie	Dweller		
8. Harris P. Mulbah	Plusunnie	Comm. Police	H.P. 11	
9. Joseph Nymah	Plusunnie	Dweller		
10. Levy Farley	Plusunnie	Youth Mobilizer	LE/V	

Plusunnie Meeting Date: Oct. 6, 2012

Name	Town	Position	Signature	Phone #
11. Varney Johnson	Plusunnie	Youth		
12. Francis Nympha	Plusunnie	Dweller		
13. Morris Boyee	Plusunnie	Dweller	MO 2255	
14. Lawrence Stewion	Plusunnie	Youth	SAT	
15. George Nympha	Plusunnie	Elder		
16. Joseph Clark	Plusunnie	General Town Chief		
17. Harrison Stewion	Plusunnie	Paramount Chief		
18. Tubman Nympha	Plusunnie	Youth	T. Nympha	
19. Richard Doe	Plusunnie	Elder	R. Doe	
20. J. Benedict Trail	Soyak Town	Town Chief		

Plusunnie Meeting Date: Oct. 6, 2012

Name	Town	Position	Signature	Phone #
11 Varney Johnson	Plusunnie	Youth		
12 Francis Nymphin	Plusunnie	Dweller		
13 Morris Boyce	Plusunnie	Dweller	MORRIS	
14 Lawrence Stewion	Plusunnie	Youth	SAF	
15 George Nympha	Plusunnie	Elder		
16 Joseph Clark	Plusunnie	General Town Chief		
17 Harrison Stewion	Plusunnie	Paramount Chief		
18 Tubman Nympha	Plusunnie	Youth	Tubman	
19 Richard Doe	Plusunnie	Elder	R. Doe	
20 J. Benedict Teal	Soyah Town	Town Chief		

## PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

PHOTO ID	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO
001	Mr. Solomon P. Wright communities in Butaw District.	
002	Mr. Vickie (VP/Operations-GVL) with citizens of Plusunnie Town, Farley, Jaryeneh and Pluoh after the meeting	
	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING	



## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING**

Location: TOUH TOWN  
Date: September 29, 2012  
Time: 2:00pm  
Venue: School Building

### **AGENDA**

Opening  
Welcome remark  
Introduction  
Discussion  
Questions & answers  
Closing

The above agenda was used for the entire community consultation held in the TOU TOWN Community.

### **MINUTES**

The meeting commenced with welcome remarks by the Commissioner of the district. He wholeheartedly welcomed the organizers of the meeting and asked his fellow district men and women to pay attention thereby to ask the right questions on their minds.

Mr. Solomon P. Wright, an approved RSPO assessor from Green Consultancy explained about the importance of the RSPO/HCV activities (HCV 1-6) in Liberia. Mr. Wright provided the audience with information about reasons for which his team was on the field doing this particular job. He stated that as a member body to the agreement of the establishment of RSPO, Golden VEROLUEM Liberia has an obligation following the procedures leading to the new planting process as required by the international body before any activity is done on the ground. Following the administration of the procedures as required by the international body, GVL will have its approval to carry on the new planting, said Mr. Solomon P. Wright.

Mr. Flomo Mulbah, Environmental Coordinator at GVL explained to the citizens about the general activities of Golden Veroleum Liberia which included the rationale behind the new planting season and the role of the environmental department. Mr. Flomo told the citizens about the exact size of the planting area within both Butaw and Kpayan districts. He told the audience about the new role and development package that GVL is preparing for all affected communities which include the building of Clinic, School and other major facilities. Some of the facilities which he talked about included the refinery to be built near Ceedor and the increment to be done at the port of Greenville.

Finally, Mr. Flomo acknowledge that Golden Veroleum Liberia contribute us\$100,000,00(One Hundred-Thousand united states dollars to the government of Liberia as funding to support

deserving students wishing to studied Agriculture and other related sciences at the university of Liberia and several other universities or colleges. He emphasized the need for citizens from Sinoe to venture in the studies of agriculture and other related sciences. According to Mr. Flomo, GVL is presently supporting several projects in the two (2) districts which include the adult Literacy school program. Again, GVL sponsored few county authorities to travel to Indonesia (last year) and the delegation met with high level officials of GVL. The trip lasted for about 14(days) and the company will be sending interested individuals to Indonesia for 2-3 years to study engineering courses at several universities in Asia respectively.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PERIOD:

This section was intended to hear from the communities.

N <sup>o</sup>	Inquirer	Towns	Question	Respondent	Response
1.	Teah Jr.	Farley	We appreciate the company operations in our community but will the company construct hand pumps for us.	Mr. Flomo Mulbah	GVL have constructed several wells in the communities and is prepare to construct more as the need arises.
2.	Mr. Othello Jawotoe	soah	What will the company do about securing farm land for those who won't be working for the company?	Mr. Solomon P. Wright	GVL is going to secure land in all the communities for the purpose of farming for the communities.
3.	Mr. Paynolor	paynolor village	What is the means by which GVL is using to demarcate her area so that the company does not take private properties?	Mr. Mcdonald Weamount	GVL made several announcements on the local radio telling property owners to come to the Butaw administrative office for negotiation and to address most of the claims by citizens but

					only few persons came to management and GVL responded positively to the request of the affected communities. GVL is still standing by to hear other complains from the communities.
4.	Mr. Oratus Duyan	Tou town	Even though I am employed by the company my late father's grave was demarcated by GVL during one of GVL land clearing processes.	Mr. Mcdonald Weamount	Grave site areas were demarcated by GVL company as awareness for the bull dozer crew. But the company will not stop any one from visiting their ancestors' graves.
5.	Mr. Duyan	Tou town	Will people be allowed to secure family cemetery areas in the plantation?	Mr. Solomon P. Wright	It is only good to bury in the identified cemetery area rather than burying around the plantation.
6.	Mr. Mark Pattern	Tou Town	What is the role of RSPO.	Mr. Solomon P. Wright	RSPO will provide certificate to the company to show that the company has complied with all the requirements for the planting

					process.
7.	Mr. Emmanuel P. Saydee	Tou Town	When will the process of demarcation of farmland start?	Mr. Flomo Mulbah	The process has already started in some area such as Plusunnie and it is going to continue in other areas
9.	Mr. Robert Tugbeh	Tugbeh	How will GVL minimize the health problem in the area?	Mr. Flomo Mulbah	The company (GVL) is looking at these problems critically and will respond to them as part of her obligations.
10.	Mr. Steven K. Thompson	Tou Town	We are aware of the lease agreement entered into by the government and the company but the social agreement is complicated to comprehend.	Mr. Solomon P. Wright	It is your duty to consult your county and district authorizes for answers to any issues in the social agreement that you don't comprehend.
11.	Madam Martha Bloah	Bloah Town	I am grateful for the level of employment GVL has brought to the community but the issues of land clearing still remain a doubt in my mind.	Mr. Flomo Mulbah	The company is doing everything possible to secure farmland for every community.

**Tou Town meeting attendance**

NAME OF TOWN: Butaw / Compound  
 Name of Town Authority: Tou Town  
 Position: Dist. Commissioner      Time: 4:00 PM  
 Date: Sept 29-2012

	NAME:	Town:	Position:	Sign
1.	PRASAD	GVL	Gr Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Jaya Kumar	GVL	Sr. Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.				
4.	K. Teek Pongonoh			
5.	Hsu. A. Tobah Bestman			
6.	Chief Emmanuel Wessh		Tractor Club	
7.	Mike S. Hakla		Sec Traditio	
8.	Roosevelt Doegmah		Chief Mayor	
9.	William Bloh		Clan Chief / Corp.	
10.	McDonald Wlemus, Jr.		PR Mgr / GVL	
11.	Matter	Bloh	Compound	
12.	Lucy	Jallah	Tou h	
13.	Mark	Patten	Touh, Clan / <del>PR</del>	
14.	O. Jilleh	Jartoe		
15.	Martha	Bloh		
16.	Emmanuel P. Saylee		Touh	
17.	Oratus T. Doyen		or	
18.	Robert Tobah		Leader	
19.	Colonel Teah. S.			
20.	George Aba	GVL		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PHOTO ID	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO
001	Madam Martha Bloah expressing thanks and appreciation to the management of GVL for employment	
002	The RSPO Assessor explains	
003	An elder and owner of Paynoinoh town, Mr. Paynoinoh illustrates a point during the meeting.	
004	Mr. Flomo Molubah (Specialist-Biodiversity & HCVF) Explaining about GVL activities in the 2(two) districts, while the audience are listening carefully. The meeting held in Tou Town.	



## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING

Location: GRISBY TOWN

Date: September 30, 2012

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: School Building

### Agenda:

1. Opening Statement --- Elder David S.Nah
2. Welcome Remarks ---- Mad. Francois Mondubue (Paramount Chief)
3. Brief explanations about Golden Veroleum Liberia activities ---- Mr. Flomo Molubah
4. Explanations on RSPO and HCVs activities-- Mr. Solomon Wright

The above agenda was used for the entire community consultation held in the GRISBY Community.

### MINUTES

The meeting started with Elder Nah appreciating the work of Golden Veroleum and further thanked the delegation for making sure that the citizens were able to understand the role and activities of RSPO/HVC. However, there was a roll call to make sure that those invited for the meeting were actually present so that their voices could be heard. Meanwhile, Mr. Wright explained the activities of RSPO.

Mr. Wright (RSPO Licensed Evaluator/Monitor) introduced the members of his delegation and further explained in details the role of RSPO/HCV and the new planting season. He told the audience about the reason for which GVL contracted his entity and the activities involved with RSPO monitoring & evaluation. Mr. Wright announced that the RSPO have several parameters and they are HVC1-6; all of which are to be fully respected by the concession companies. The citizen became more eager to listen and understand the meaning and role of RSPO in the oil palm industries. Mr. Wright emphasized mostly on the protection of Riverine Species, Water-bodies and natural ecosystems management.

Mr. Flomo Molubah (Specialist-Biodiversity &HCVF/GVL) outline the total land area occupied by Golden Veroleum Liberia and appeal to the citizens for more land allocations as they will be the intermediate beneficiaries. The more you give the

land, the more development will come to your county. The company has to decide on employing more people in the next few months (November-January 2013). Again, we will always be happy to set and discussed important issues with those who may be affected by our actions.

**Meeting Attendance for Grisby Farm**

Name of Town Authority:		Grisby Farm		Sept. 30, 2012
Position:				Time: 2 p.m.
NAME	TOWN	POSITION	SIGN	
1. Francois Mandubuc	Grisby	Paramount Chie	F. M.	
2. William Clay	Ceedor	P. C.		
3. Da-Diq Totek	Leader	Township Comiss		
4. Solomon Kaiph	David town	Clan Chief.	S. Kigchi	
5. D. tuch sathigarah	Grisby farm	Clan Chief	D. tuch	
6. Jerry komnah	David Town	Greetauna Cha	J. K.	
7. Ellen mah	Grisby farm	Centrum chief	E. mah	
8. David S. Mah	Grisby farm	Elder	D. Mah	
9. Anna Snokde	"	"	A. N. N. A. Snokde	
10. Johnny Snokde	"	"	J. Snokde	
11. Isaiah Samson	"	"	<del>Isiah Samson</del>	
12. Chayeejanba	Kaytuzon	Elder	Chayeejanba	
13. JEROME SEEBE	BONNAN	TAKIONE	B. T.	

GRISBY FARM

Sept. 30, 2012  
Time: 2pm

NAME	TOWN	POSITION	SIGN
14. Charles Shagbeh	Katuzum	Teacher	Shagbeh
15. Rutte Joo	Grigsby Farm		
16. Oti's Jackson	David Town	Sectional clerk	Oti's
17. Reuben pahi-bo	Ceedor	youth Chairman	RE
18. James Judue	Grigsby Farm	Teacher	JH
19. Jasper Monday	211	Clerk	Jasper
20. Nathan Kariel	David town	Youth leader	Nathan
21. Augustine G.	Judue Grigsby Farm		<del>Augustine</del>
22. MOLTON	MONDUBEE	SOLART	Molton
23. S. PARCUS	JERULLUE		SPARCUS
24. Neculous	Roberts		Neculous
25. Sheagbeh S. Peal	Grigsby Farm	Teacher	Sheagbeh
26. Torbor Eshagbeh	Katuzum	G/Tas-chika	Torbor

NAME	TOWN	Position	SIGN
27. Solomon Kommanah	Lt Bomo kpo	Farmer	SK
28. Jefferson Kariel	David Town	Teacher	Kariel
29. Tafanai Totel	Ceedon	Teacher	Tafanai
30. Sam manna	David Town	Farmer	Sam
31. Ernie Kommanah	Katuzum	Farmer	Ernie
32. <del>Joseph Monday</del>	Grigsby	Chairman	<del>Joseph</del>
33. George Abu Tich	Gull / Greenwood	Driver	George
34. Rudolph Teah	CHEA TOWN	Farmer	Rudolph
35. Alfred WIEA	CHEA TOWN	Farmer	Alfred
36. D. Oliver Pyne	CHEA TOWN	Student	D. Oliver
37. V. Danghe	Grigsby Town	Farmer	V. Danghe
38. PROSES Jenghe	Grigsby	Farmer	PROSES
39. Adama - sallye	Grigsby	Student	Adama
40. MILDRED Seede	Grigsby		MILDRED
41.			

Questions and Answers Period:

N <sup>o</sup>	Inquirer	Town	Question	Respondent	Response
1.	Mr. Isiah Sanwoe	Chea town	GVL has to employ most of the youth here on permanent employment.	Mr. Flomo Mulbah	The largest portion of GVL employment comes from the communities of Butaw and Kpanyan. The issue of permanent employment is a gradual process.
2.	Mr. Ruldolf Teah	Chea Town	Is it true that the company is forcing people out of their home for demolition?	Mr. Solomon P. Wright	If it is a rumour it must be false because GVL is responsible enough to know that it is against best practice to evict home for any planting purposes.
3.	Mr. Tolbert Tuweh	Quaih Town	Was it an error by the company to clear our land before this new process of information and consultation with the towns?	Mr. Solomon P. Wright	It is going to be investigated but there should have been no clearing before the commencement of the RSPO requirements start.
4.	Mr. Milton Kaye	David Town	I would like to thank the management and staff of GVL for the huge employment and urge them to do more for the interest of the youth.	Mr. Flomo P. Molubah	The company is contemplating huge employment soon.
5.	Mr. David P. Junior	Pennah Town	When will the construction of hand pumps	Mr. Flomo P. Molubah	GVL is concerned about the

			and clinic s start as promised by the company.		welfare of the communities dwellers so much that she has already started the construction of wells in some towns and villages in the project area.
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## PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

PHOTO ID	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO
001	A cross section of citizens from Kaytuzon Town, David Town, Pelham Farm, Ponnie Town, Powo Town, Kanga Town, Cheas Town, Ceedor Town and Quiah Town during the meeting	
002	One of the local leaders of Grisby Town made a point during during the meeting.	
003	Citizens of Quaih Town being talked to about the NPP process and their level of involvement in the entire process.	

<p><b>004</b></p>	<p>Group of citizens from affected communities listen carefully to various speakers during the general meeting held in Grisby Farm.</p>	
<p><b>005</b></p>	<p>Paramount Chief mad: Francais Monbudule of Grisby Town making a point during the meeting</p>	
<p><b>006</b></p>	<p>The leadership of Grisby town listening during the town consultation meeting</p>	
<p><b>007</b></p>	<p>Participants during the consultative meeting expressed their voluntary approval of the NPP process after listening to the RSPO Assessor and getting answers to their concerns.</p>	

<p>008</p>	<p>The chiefs and elders of the towns represented also express their approval to the NPP process for the 7,000 block area.</p>	 A group of approximately ten men are seated in a room with white walls and a large window with a grid pattern. They are all raising their right hands in a gesture of approval or agreement. The men are dressed in various casual and semi-formal attire, including patterned shirts and jackets. The room appears to be a meeting or a community hall.
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## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING**

Location: KILO town  
Date: September 29, 2012  
Time: 12:45

### **AGENDA**

Opening  
Welcome remark  
Introduction  
Discussion  
Questions & answers  
Closing

The above agenda was used for the entire community consultation held in the KILO TOWN Community.

### **MINUTES**

The meeting commenced with a welcome remark which was said by the Commissioner of the Nimapoh District. The Commissioner welcomes everyone and extends appreciations for people leaving their busy schedules to prioritize this essential meeting. He further comment the organizers of the meeting and elucidated that the meeting will definitely bring some relieves to his people by educating them on things regarding the operations of the new oil palm plantation company in the District which many citizens have doubts of what was happening in the area.

Following the commissioner's statement, Mr. Solomon P. Wright of Green Consultancy and an assessor for RSPO explained to the audience that the meeting was called by him as to disseminate some essential information to the affected communities as it relates to some obligations that are required by the oil palm plantation company before initial planting of seedling's from mature nurseries to the plantation areas. In his explanations, he informed the audience that before the commencement of planting from the nurseries to the field, the company must ensure that there are no land areas considering any of the high conservation values as listed from 1-6 for clearing. Mr. Wright further explained that he had chosen to speak to 14 towns and villages within and around the project areas. Facts being that these areas are closer to the areas which have been identified by the oil palm company for planting purposes. In this light, the below list identified towns selected for the meeting: Kilo, Dejela, solo, Bah, Charlie, Johnny, Karyor, Otis, Taryon, Pynes, Keigbeh, Deedo, Kabada, and Wlonwonken.

Further speaking on the HCV issues, Mr. Wright highlighted on the six listed HCV and informed the audience that HCV 1-3 were not found in the areas studied. However, listed from 4-6 were within these areas, so the company needs to consider management plans so that her activities should not interfere with any of the area listed as high conservation value category 4-6.

After informing the audience about the HCV issue, Mr. Vickie of GVL to explain some of the activities of GVL in the district and other plans which GVL will implement during her life-span in the area.

In subsequent time, Mr. Wright allows the affected communities to ask questions that they would like to know about their land and the issues regarding the HCV.

Before the closure of the meeting, Mr. T. Romeo Quioh, Development Superintendent of Sinoe County, asked the district Commissioner, Mr. Taylor Sagbaklor with collaborations from the chiefs, elders and various group leaders to draft a Social Agreement within two weeks' time to be review by him for presentation to GVL.

Comments from the meeting are as follow:

N <sup>o</sup>	Stakeholder	Comments	Recommendation
1	Hon. Romeo Quioh	We appreciate GVL in our area as partner in development.	I would like to see GVL and the communities work together
2	Fredrick C. Kunn	We from Deedo town are highly in support of the operations of GVL	Our town must not be regarded as anti-development due to some doubts we may have.

#### Issues from the meeting

Issue by stakeholder	GVL answer	Assessor response
GVL is operating within various communities called Feifin of which Nyenpan Town happens to be the mother town, how it is that GVL is saying that her operations will not affect Nyenpan town.	Our development parcels cover all villages and towns in the project area and even beyond but it is important to know that there are some towns which are very far from our planting area.	Your town does not fall in the current planting area but your town is definitely part of the community of feifin.
GVL is now operating in the Nimapoh district area why she has not considered building an oil palm factory in the district	Our factories have the capacity to deal with fifteen thousand hectare so we would like to deal with the one which we intend to build at Ceedor before deciding where to build another.	Palm oil mill has lot to do with environmental issues, so a study has to be conducted to find a suitable area for the mill factory establishment.
We welcome the company in our area but I would like to know the company intention about adult literacy programs	The issue regarding education was one of the first things on our mind as we decided to come to do business in	It is important that the company trains her staff even for those that have no formal schooling to be able to meet

to help some of the adults who have been left behind due to the long years of crisis in the country.	Liberia. In fact our adult literacy program has already started.	up with the prevailing realities.
Now that the company will be caring on a massive clear of land for the planting process, will she leave areas for those who are not going to be in her employed for farming purposes	The company has thought about the farmland issues ever since but to do this requires that the communities located farmland that the company will secure and help in the management process. This management process will ensure that the old method of shifting cultivation involving slash and burn will be changed whereby the company will provide fertilizer to farmers to maintain the richness of the land every year.	It is an international responsibility of the company to allocate area where people from the communities can use as farmland. I have talked with the company to do this for every community in the area.
Is it true that the company give the Liberian Agriculture Ministry 100,000 used every year? If true, does the company have any means to monitor the expenditure of this money so that citizens from Sinoe can benefit from this money?	Well it is our own way of contributing to the education of this government. What I can say here is to urge citizens from Sinoe to venture in the agriculture sector because this sector has a promising future for your country.	To add to that, it is very important to know that the government is under obligation to educate its citizen. So, she is going to request for assistance from everywhere to make this work.
Has GVL bought all of the people's land from government	The company has not bought any land from government but rather entered into an agreement with government to lease land for the production of oil palm.	The constitution of Liberia does not permit the purchase of land by for such purpose there the company can only lease land and later return said to the communities after the lease agreement is over.
What will be the benefit of the older people who are not able to work for the company	Any specific assistance cannot be promised but we have already started to identify older people who need assistance and are providing work for their children so that these older people can be help by their children.	It must not be viewed as a matter of obligation of the company to compensate older people who are found in the area rather things can be negotiated between the community and company on the assistance for older people.
What will happen to old town lands that were once inhabited but there are nobody there at	The company does not intend to plant on any town land neither will she evict any town	As I have explained to you, old town lands are considered as community land there the

present.	for the purpose of her plantation.	company is not allowed to do any planting in such areas.
We appreciate the coming of GVL in our area but before GVL came here we had a rubber company that promised a lot but did very little for the people.	You must understand that the laws of Liberia have changed since 1952 when that rubber company operated here. What we are not able to do we won't promise.	You can ask your leaders regularly about any issues which you don't understand about the operations of the company so that they can refer to the company for answers.

## PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

PHOTO ID	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO
0001	Partial view of Kilo town in the project area.	
0002	The team from Green Consultancy in a brief meeting with chief and elders from Kilo Town before the town consultation meeting doing a brief acquaintance in the town.	
0003	Representatives from Kilo town at the Numopoh District consultative meeting organized by Green Consultancy INC. held at Kilo town community palaver hut.	

<p>0004</p>	<p>Mr. R. Samuel B. Badio (wearing the hat), associate magistrate of kilo town asking a question during the meeting.</p>	
<p>0005</p>	<p>Mr. Flomo Environmental coordinator for GVL making remarks at the meeting.</p>	
<p>0006</p>	<p>Chief Emmanuel Wesseh, Greenville city chairman for traditional heads.</p>	

007	Representatives from Kilo town raised their hands to show that they welcome GVL to go on with her planting after understanding the process leading to the planting.	
008	Mr. Solomon P. Wright of Green Consultancy making presentation at the Numopoh District selected towns' consultation meeting.	
009	GVL operation manager making remarks through an interpreter at the Numopoh District selected towns' consultation meeting.	
010	Woman leaders and elders from Kabala and Pynes towns present at the Numopoh District selected towns' consultation meeting.	

011	Sinoe County Development Superintendent, Mr. Romeo T. Quioh making remarks at the Numopoh District selected towns' consultation meeting.	
012	The youth chairman of the district making a comment during the consultation meeting.	
013	Youths of the district welcoming the development superintendent before the start of the consultation meeting.	
014	Representatives from Nyepan's town raised their hands in approval that GVL continues her planting after understanding the processes and requirements leading to the planting	

015	Representatives from Seigbeh, Bah, and Charlie towns raised their hands in approval that GVL carry on her planting after understanding the processes and requirements leading to the planting.	
016	The district commissioner wearing the African suit in the right present at the consultation meeting.	
017	A representative from Dejela making a comment during the consultation meeting	
018	A woman leader from Kabala making remarks during the consultation meeting.	

019	Representatives from Dejela raised their hand as a sign of approval for GVL to carry on her planting after understanding the processes and requirements leading to the planting.	 A photograph showing a group of people, likely community representatives, gathered under a traditional thatched roof structure. They are seated on the ground, and several individuals in the center and foreground have their hands raised, indicating approval or agreement. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor or semi-outdoor setting.
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**Kilo town meeting attendance**

Kilo Town Meeting Attendance		12:00 p.m Saturday Sept. 29, 2017	
Name	Town	Position	Signature
1. Peter T. Nabor	Kilo	Elder	[Signature]
2. Harris Kovmo	Kilo	Elder	[Signature]
3. Brown N. Klesch	- GVL	HR	[Signature]
4. EDISON TALLE	Johanytown	Sumner	[Signature]
5. George Abu Teh	Greenville	Driver	[Signature]
6. Flomo P. Molubah		Manager	Emmanuel
7. Taylor Sangbaklah	Nyenpan	Commissioner	[Signature]
8. P. Vignaneswara		SR	[Signature]
9. G.T. Manbhyanam Pillai		R.C.	[Signature]
10. Jackson T. Quiah	Bah Town	paramount chief	[Signature]
11. Chief Emmanuel Klesch	Greenville	Chairman	Traditional Council
12. Mike S. Naklen	Greenville	Sec. Traditional	Quiah
13. Jerry K. Simpson	- GVL	Public relations officer	[Signature]
14. Chason Weah	Nyenpan	C/C	[Signature]
15. Boye Tenteh	Nyenpan	youth	BT
16. Kurmah whenyan	Nyenpan	youth	[Signature]
17. S. Jerry Zeogar	Nyenpan	youth	[Signature]
18. Kennedy whenyan	Nyenpan	youth	Chairman
19. Lucy Kansimen		Nyenpan	Chairlady
20. Roger Kumorteh		Nyenpan	Sch. principal
21. Mark Quiah	Bah Town		[Signature]
22. Olanda	Jak		O Jak
23. ZACK menjay	Bah town		[Signature]
24. Nyamerh	Kayec		[Signature]
25. Jackson K. Tiaklan	Bah Town	Town chief	[Signature]

# Kilo Town Meeting

12:00pm Sept 28  
Saturday 2012

Name	Town	Position	Signature
Charlie D. Torplue	Which Doe Town		
Tosah	Whonyan	Nyenpan Town	J W
Urias B. Hanson	Deedo Town		
Matthew Bl/ee	Nyenpan Town		M Bl/ee
AMilton Tolchee	Charlie Town	Youth Leader	
Matthew Kelgbah	Kelgbah Town	Chairman	M-K
Tuseh	Kelgbah	Kelgbah Town youth	T. E
Bonah Toloh	Kelgbah	elder	B. E
A. P. Kogala	"	NCK	K -
Alfred K. Mah	Kilo Town	City Mayor	Del Kilo city ALK
OThella Kohn	Deedo Town	youth	O. K
Simon Koyea	Kilo Town	youth	SK
Bradford T. Kieah	Kilo Town	Citizen	BT
Thomas Pearson	Kilo Town	Electrician	T. P
Harriet Baylee	Kilo Town	Nurse	HS
R. Samuel B. Radio	Kilo lower	Assocal	
Roland W. Wah	Kilo Town	youth chairman	W
Trene Gmee	Kilo Town	Chair Lady	T. G
Theresa Dorbov	Kilo Town	citizen	T. D
Emon	Doupan Kabada	Elder	E
Saturday Whenyu	Nyenpan		
Daniel Wajloh	Nyenpan Town	Evk Security	
Stanley Toloh	Kilo Town	youth	
Helena quiah	Bah Town	citizen	L
McDonald	Swen	Kilo Town	
T. Sylvester	Mah	Kilo Town	

Kilo Town Meeting  
Attendance

Sept 29, 2012  
Saturday

Name	Town	Position	Signature
52 Edward Wleagbah	Kilo	Teacher	<del>EW</del>
53 Matthew Charlie	Kilo	Farmer	<del>MC</del>
54 Bill Sayon	Kilo	Power operator	<del>BS</del>
55 Bill Barduro	Kilo	youth	<del>BB</del>
56 Joseph Wleagbah	Kilo	Elder	J.W
57 Kelvin I. Ranswen	Gbedeh Pyne		<del>KIR</del>
58 Junior Fartleg	Kilo		<del>JF</del>
59 bannis Saybae	Kilo		<del>BS</del>
60 princess quiah	Kilo	youth	<del>PQ</del> p. 9
61 David Klah	Kilo	Elder	D.K
62 Joseph B. Bayee	Kilo	Comm. Chairman	<del>JB</del>
63 D. Lawrence Bolo Jr		Citizen	<del>DL</del>
64 Orlando Dombon		teacher	<del>OD</del>
65 Daniel Chatter	Kilo	Dispenser	<del>DC</del>
66 Garpaton Dennis	Kilo	youth	<del>GD</del>
67 Nathaniel Sayon	Dasela	youth	N.S.
68 Vukolor Blah	Kilo	Elder	V.B
69 Philip M Doe	Kilo	Elder	P.D
70 Karpah Teye	Kilo	Elder	K.T
71 Abraham Tangba	Kabada	clan chief	
72 Peter Toudee	pyone	p/c	P. Toudee
73 Gimee Wleah	Kilo	chief elder	
74 Moses Wleah	Kilo	clan chief	
75 Philip D. Dweh	Kilo	Elder	
76 Jackson Saydee	Johnny	clan chief	
77 Jerome Walker	Johnny	Sec. clerk	<del>JW</del>

## APPENDIX 2: FAUNA SURVEY DATA

<b>Mammals</b>			
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Conservation Status</b>	<b>Location</b>
<i>Colobus polykomos</i>	Olive colobus	LR/nt	Kpanyan
<i>Funisciuruspyrropus</i>	Fire-footed Rope Squirrel	LC	
<i>Hybomysplanifrons</i>	Bunting's Thicket Rat	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Cephalophus zebra</i>	Zebra Duiker	VU	Kpanyan, Butaw II
<i>Nandiniabinotata</i>	African Palm Civet	LR/lc	Kpanyan
<i>Epixerusebii</i>	Western Palm Squirrel	DD	Kpanyan
<i>Galagov senegalensis</i>	Senegal Bushbaby	LR/lc	Kpanyan, Butaw II
<i>Manis gigantea</i>	Giant Pangolin	LR/lc	Kpanyan
<i>Neotragus pygmaeus</i>	Royal Antelope	LR/nt	Kpanyan
<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>	Giant forest hog	LR/lc	Kpanyan
<i>Crossarchus obscurus</i>	Common Kusimanse	LR/lc	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	African Brush-tailed Porcupine	LC	Kpanyan
<i>Manis tricuspis</i>	Tree Pangolin	LR/lc	Kpanyan
<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	Greater Spot-nosed Monkey	LR/lc	Kpanyan
<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	Ants bear	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Cephalopus dorsalis</i>	Bay Duiker	LR/nt	Kpanyan
<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	Greater Cane Rat	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Malacomys scansdalei</i>	Cansdale's Swamp Rat	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Epixerus erythropus</i>	Ground Squirrel	LC	Kpanyan
<i>Neotragus pygmaeus</i>	Royal Antelope	LR/nt	Kpanyan
<i>Tragelaphusscriptus</i>	Bush Buck	LR/lc	Kpanyan, Butaw II
<i>Cephalophocus niger</i>	Black Duiker	LR/nt	Kpanyan, Butaw II
<i>Paraxerus poensis</i>	Green Bush Squirrel	LC	Kpanyan
<i>Lophuromys sikapusi</i>	Rusty-bellied Brush-furred Rat	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Manis tricuspis</i>	Tree Pangolin	LR/lc	Kpanyan, Butaw II

**Method: Observed dead or alive, tracks, faeces seen, reported by villagers**

<b>FISHES</b>			
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Conservation Status</b>	<b>Location</b>
Brycinus nurse	Nurse tetra	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Chrysichthys nigrodigitatus	Bagrid catfish	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Sarotherodon melanotheron melanotheron	Blackchin tilapia		Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Tilapia zillii	Redbelly tilapia	NA	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Awaous lateristriga	West African freshwater goby	NA	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Clarias laeviceps laeviceps	Catfish	NA	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Distichodus rostratus	Grass-eater	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Chromidotilapia guentheri guentheri	Guenther's Mouthbrooder	NA	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Malapterurus electricus	Electric catfish	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Monopterus boueti	Liberian swamp eel	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Lutjanus dentatus	African brown snapper	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Parachanna obscura	Snake-head	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Sarotherodon melanotheron melanotheron	Blackchin tilapia	NA	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Schilbe mystus	African butter catfish	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II

**Method: Observed or reported by villagers**

<b>Reptiles</b>			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	Location
<i>Atheris chlorechis</i>	West African Bush Viper	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw II
<i>Python sebae</i>	Rock python		Kpanyan
<i>Ranagalamensis</i>	Common Frog	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Causus rhombeatus</i>	Common or Rhombic Night Adder	NA	Kpanyan
<i>Dendroaspis polylepis</i>	Black Mamba		Kpanyan
<i>Dendroaspisviridis</i>	Green Mamba	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Bitis gabonica</i>	Gaboon Viper		Kpanyan
<i>Bitis arietans</i>	Puff Adder	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Naja nigricollis</i>	Black Spitting Cobra	NA	Kpanyan
<i>Naja melanoleuca</i>	Black Cobra	NA	Kpanyan
<i>Pseudohaje nigra</i>	Black Tree Cobra		Kpanyan
<i>Bufo regulari</i>	Common Toad		Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Bitis nasicornis</i>	Rhinoceros viper (cassava snake)		Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II

METHOD: Observed or reported by villagers

<b>Birds</b>			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	Location
<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>	White-backed night heron	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Pogoniulus subsulphureus</i>	Yellow throated Tinkerbird	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw II
<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>	African Harrier hawk	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Campethera nivosa</i>	Buff-spotted Woodpecker	LC	Kpanyan
<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	Senegal coucal	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Francolinus bicalcaratus</i>	Double-spurred Francolin		Kpanyan, Butaw II
<i>Treron calvus</i>	African Green Pigeon	LC	Kpanyan
<i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i>	Yellow-Spotted Barbet	LC	Kpanyan
<i>Cypohierax angolensis</i>	Palm nut vulture	LC	Kpanyan
<i>Turtur afer</i>	Red-bellied wood Dove		Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Apus barbatus</i>	African black swift	LC	Kpanyan
<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>	Blue breasted Kingfisher	LC	Kpanyan
<i>Amaurornis flavirostris</i>	Black crane	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>	mottled spinetail	LC	Kpanyan
<i>Merops gularis</i>	Black Bee eater	LC	Kpanyan
<i>Terpsiphone rufiventris</i>	Red bellied paradise Flycatcher	LC	Kpanyan

Bycanistesfistulator	Piping hornbill	LC	Kpanyan
Streptopelia decipiens	Mourning Dove	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Turturbrehmeri	Blue-Headed Wood Dove	LC	Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Camaroptera brachyuran bravicaudata	Grey-backed Camaroptera		Kpanyan, Butaw I, Butaw II
Anthreptes collaris	collard sunbird	LC	Kpanyan

Method: Observed or reported by villagers

The following tags are used to highlight each species' conservation status as assessed by the IUCN:

<b>EX Extinct</b>	No reasonable doubt that the last individual has died.
<b>EW Extinct in the wild</b>	Known only to survive in captivity or as naturalized populations well outside its previous range.
<b>CR Critically Endangered</b>	The species is in imminent risk of extinction in the wild.
<b>EN Endangered</b>	The species is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
<b>VU Vulnerable</b>	The species is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
<b>NT Near Threatened</b>	The species does not meet any of the criteria that would categorize it as risking extinction but it is likely to do so in the future.
<b>LC Least Concern</b>	There are no current identifiable risks to the species.
<b>DD Data Deficient</b>	There is inadequate information to make an assessment of the risks to this species.
<b>LR Lower Risk</b>	

## APPENDIX 3: FLORA SURVEY DATA

### Kpanyan 8,000ha

Scientific Name (s)	Common Name	IUCN Status
<i>Afzelia bella</i>	Doussie	
<i>Albizzia zygia</i>	Zygia	
<i>Anthonotha fragans</i>	kibokoko	
<i>Anthocleista nobilis</i>	Cabbage Tree	
<i>Bridelia grandis</i>	Doandoh	
<i>Calpocalyx aubrevilei</i>	Badio	
<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	Fromager	
<i>Chrysophyllum spp</i>	Akatio	
<i>Cynometra anata</i>	Apome	
<i>Daniella thurifera</i>	Faro	
<i>Erythrophleum ivorensis</i>	Tali	
<i>Futunia elastica</i>	Mutundu	
<i>Hallea ciliata</i>	Abura	
<i>Klainedoxa gabonensis</i>	Eveuss	
<i>Lophira alata</i>	Ekki	vu
<i>Loesenera kalantha</i>		vu
<i>Newtonia aubrevillei</i>	Pellegrin	
<i>Pentadesma butyracea</i>	Timber lace wood	
<i>Piptadeniastrum africanum</i>	Dahoma	
<i>Heritiera utilis</i>	Niangnon	vu
<i>Terminilia ivorensis</i>	Framarie	
<i>Uapaca guinensis</i>	Uapaca	
<i>Pycnanthus africanus</i>	Ilomba	
<i>Harungana madagascarensis</i>	n/a	

VU **Vulnerable** The species is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

## Butaw 5,000ha Area

Scientific name	Common /trade name	IUCN status
<i>Albizzia Zygia</i>	Zygia	
<i>Afzelia bella</i>	Doussie	
<i>Anthocleista nobilis</i>	Cabbage tree	
<i>Harungana madagascarensis</i>		
<i>Ceiba Pentandra</i>	Ceiba(fromager)	
<i>Anopy xis klainenea</i>	kokoti	
<i>Calypocalyx spp</i>		
<i>Erythrophyllum ivorensis</i>	Tali(sassawood)	
<i>Klainedoxa gabonensis</i>	Klainndoxa(Eveuss)	
<i>Futumia elastica,</i>	Futumia(Mutudu)	
<i>Pentadesma butyracea</i>	Timber-lacewood	
<i>Uapaca guinensis</i>	Uapaca(Rikio)	
<i>Terminilia ivorensis</i>	Framire(Baji emire)	
<i>Piptadeniastrum- africanum</i>	Dahoma	
<i>Heritiera utilis</i>	Niangon(whismore)	vu
<i>Newtonia aubrevillei</i>	Pellegrin	
<i>Musanga cecropioides</i>	African corkwood	
<i>Lophira alata</i>	Ekki(Azobe)	vu
<i>Parkia bicolor</i>	Parkia(Lo)	
<i>Parinari- excelsa</i>	Parinari(Songue)	

VU **Vulnerable** The species is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

### Butaw 7,000ha

Scientific name	Common/trade name	IUCN status
<i>Ceiba Pentandra</i>	Ceiba(fromager	
<i>Anthonotha fragans</i>	Kibokoko	
<i>Uapaca guinensis</i>	Uapaca	
<i>Afzelia bella</i>	Doussie	
<i>Albizzia Zygia</i>	Zygia	
<i>Harungana madagascarensis</i>		
<i>Calypocalyz aubrevillei</i>	Badio(calpocalz)	
<i>Newtonia aubrevillei</i>	Pellegrin	
<i>Pycnanthus angolensis</i>	Llomba	
<i>Lophira alata</i>	Ekki(Azobe)	vu
<i>Piptadeniastrum africanum</i>	Dahoma	
<i>Milicia exelsa/regia</i>		
<i>Herietera utilis</i>	Niangon	vu
<i>Loesenera kalantha</i>		vu

**VU Vulnerable** The species is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

## APPENDIX 4: APPROVAL LETTER FROM CITIZEN

Republic of Liberia  
Butaw Administrative District  
Binoe County

October 23, 2010.

Management  
Environmental Protection  
Agency (EPA) Liberia.

Dear Management :

We the signatories of this document, Butaw Officials, Elders and  
Citizens have agreed to give a parcel of land to Golden veroleum  
Liberia for investment based upon the request of said company.  
we have more over agreed to accord our fullest support to the  
company for the improvement of our living condition, and given  
employment to our local citizens.

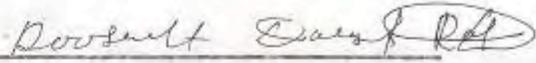
May God bless Liberia and the company.

Best regards

1. Signed:   
Hon. Harrison Glewion, P/C S/S Chiefdom
2. signed: Bestman Weagba  
Hon. Bestman Weagba, Town Ship Commissioner
3. Signed: Dadiah Toteh  
Hon. Dadiah Toteh, Town Ship Commissioner- Ceedor.
4. Signed: Frances Mmundubue  
Hon. Frances Mmundubue, P/C Chu-Chu chiefdom.
5. Signed: David T. Pajibo  
Hon. David T. Pajibo, P/C Bekkoh Chiefdom
6. signed: Jacob B. Teah  
Mr. Jacob B. Teah, Chairman - B W D A.
7. Signed: Martha Klah  
Mrs. Martha Klah, Women Leader.
8. signed: William B. Clay  
Hon. William Clay, P/C Karbah Chiefdom.
9. Signed: Gary Doegeah  
Mr. Gary Doegeah Youth president - Butaw District.
10. Signed: Togba E. Beabean  
Hon. Togba E. Beabean - Elder Butaw District.
11. Signed: William Swan  
Mr. William Swan Elder Butaw District.
12. signed: George Alyedfan  
Mr. George Alyedfan Elder Butaw District.
13. Signed: Henry Jaryeah  
Mr. Henry Jaryeah - Elder Butaw District.
14. signed: Susannah Wealeh  
Hon. Susannah Wealeh, C/C Nanyah Clan

16. Signed:   
Mr. Matthew N. Nyenswah, DDC Chairman.

15. signed:   
Mr. Duncan Koon, Elder Butaw District.

16. signed:   
Mr. Roosevelt Doeumah - ~~City Mayor~~ City Mayor

17. signed / attested:   
Hon. N. Togba Bestman, Acting Commissioner,  
Butaw District.

- CC: County Supt.
- CC: Development Supt.
- CC: File