

Project Update: April 2014

The Farmers Associated to conserve the Environment (FACE) brought together a group of about thirty six (36) fishermen including males and females within the Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve (MUR) to train them about sustainable fishing practices and methods to help them protect their marine environment which was supported by the West African Regional Fisheries Project in Liberia as a good initiative. This training program was design to mitigate marine resource depletion and promote marine ecosystem in the Lake Piso MUR. The trainees were taking through various good fishing practices which include types of specified fishing gears / nets, destructive fishing, protected marine species, breeding site of fish and fisheries management. The training program was held in three separate strategic locations in the Lake Piso Multiple sustainable Use Reserve (LMUR) in Grand Cape Mount County in the North Western Liberia. The training program was intended to build the capacity of the local communities to sustainably manage their marine and forest resources.



Trainee group picture

Eco stove Refresher Course

The Eco stove Refresher Course is also a continuation of the propagation of fuel efficient stove by a group of selected community members who were trained in the production of the Eco stove to help tackle climate change. The refresher course was design to ascertain whether those selected community members trained have grab the concept and practically can produce the stoves themselves to reduce the pressure on the mangrove and the forest as well. The result yielded positive as the trainees were able to produce the eco stove themselves and were able to train other youths from the various selected communities to produce the stoves. This program is intended to reduce the pressure on the marine and forest resources.



Eco-stove after being moulded

Aims and Objectives of the two training

1. To build the community members capacity to sustainably use their marine and forest resources through knowledge / information sharing and to reduce their poverty level by creating job opportunities
2. To build the capacity of local community people in awareness , sensitization and monitoring methods and procedures



Eco-stove refresher course

Outcome of the Sustainable fishing training program

Dangerous fishing in the Lake Piso and the other rivers joining the Lake after the post war in Liberia has threatened the population of Manatees and other marine species. However with the support of Rufford small grant Farmers Associated to conserve the Environment (FACE) brought together a group of fishermen including males and females to train them about sustainable fishing practices and methods to help protect our marine environment. The trainees were taking through various good fishing practices which include types of specified fishing gears / nets, Destructive fishing, protected marine species and breeding site of fish.

The training program was held in three separate strategic locations in the Lake Piso Multiple sustainable Use reserve (LMUR) in Grand Cape Mount County in the North Western Liberia.

In all over thirty six participants attended the training program. Below are the details of topics treated during the training program.

Specified fishing gears / nets

1 1/2 inch net up is government specification in Liberia. This type of net is good for sustainable fishing since it will avoid the catching of juvenile fish.

Destructive fishing

The use of this method in fishing pollutes the rivers, creeks, ocean and the Lake which will decrease the population of marine species and destroys the marine Eco – system. Trainees were therefore advice to desist from such unsustainable fishing practices.

1. Harvest of juvenile fish
2. The use of dynamite and chemicals in fishing
3. The use of unspecified gear / nets in fishing

Breeding site of fish

Mangroves serve as a very important place for the breeding of fish. Trainees were lectured on the importance of Mangrove and the need to conserve biodiversity. Manatees also feed on mangrove roots therefore trainees were mandated to play a leading role to create awareness and sensitize their community members about the need to protect and conserve it.

Management of the fisheries

- Management of the fisheries starts from the grass root level (i.e.) the community. The community has to be fully involved in decision making as well as the implementation process in marine laws of the country.
- All stakeholders also have to be involved during monitoring and implementation process.



Improper fishing net (sieve less than 1.5 inch)

Problems to Address

The sustainable fishing harvesting program was intended to tackle the following issues.

- To improve knowledge in the various communities about marine environment through awareness creation and sensitization
- To involve community members in decision making
- Regulate the type of fishing gear use by fishermen
- Prevent the use of dynamite in fishing through sensitization and awareness creation
- Prevent the catching of juvenile fish
- Control the rapid reduction of marine species
- Acquaint community members with marine laws of Liberia
- Prevent the harvesting of protected marine species such as Manatee, Dolphin, Sea Turtle, Sharks etc.

Outcome of the Eco – Stove refresher course

Out of the ten (10) trainees, five participated in the refresher course training program. The trainees stayed at the training grounds for a period of two weeks to demonstrate their skills and techniques acquired during the first training program. During the two weeks period they were able to produce a total number of sixteen (16) domestic Eco – stoves

Monitoring of the Eco – stove refresher course

Monitoring of the refresher course training program was done by FACE field staff to ensure that right skills, procedures and steps in the production of the stove. The students having acquired the skills were able to train additional youth from the training centre to also produce the stove.

Problems to Address

Climate change has been a phenomenon in the world as a result of increasing pressure on our forest estate and the release of more carbon into the atmosphere by our industries due to population growth and the expansion of our industries. This refresher course by students who were train earlier in the production of fuel efficient stove is to ensure that they have acquire the needed knowledge and skills to produce the stove themselves. The production of fuel efficient stove was intended to address the following problems

- Control climate change by reducing the usage of wood and charcoal
- Prevent the destruction of mangrove stands
- Prevent habitat destruction both aquatic and terrestrial
- Reduce poverty alleviation by creating job for the youth through capacity building and sustainable alternative livelihood programs

Observation

Sustainable fishing training program

Most of the participants have little knowledge about sustainable fishing practices.

Eco – Stove refresher course

The trainees demonstrated the skills and knowledge acquired during the first training program by producing the fuel efficient stoves without any interference

Conclusion and Recommendation

The two programs have been acknowledge by the various community members trained in the two areas and they are supposed to play a leading role in their respective communities but there is still the need to extend the awareness creation and capacity building to other fishing communities surrounding the Lake Piso and the other rivers joining the Lake. There is also the need to further strengthening the alternative livelihood programs in the communities.

Way forward

1. To continue to improve knowledge in the communities
2. To involve communities in decision making
3. To develop better policies and strategies

Lessons learnt during sustainable fishing training program

- a) There should be a clear define boundaries when it comes to fishing
- b) The management of the fisheries are the community people