

## **Title**

### **Supplementary Material 1: Survey Questionnaire Used in the Study**

#### **Appendix 1: Research questionnaire**

Dear respondents,

I am PRINCE FOBAY, a master student at University of Lay Adventists of Kigali (UNILAK), at Kigali Campus, in International Development Studies. As part of the requirements for the Masters award, this thesis is about, “*Impact of Community-Based Approaches on Natural Resource Management. A case of Sapo National Park Sinoe County, Liberia (2020-2024)*”. I am now on my field part of collecting information for this thesis, and you are kindly requested to respond to the various questions in the questionnaire attached. Your responses Will be treated with great confidentiality. I would be grateful for your cooperation in this regard.

Thank You.

**PRINCE FOBAY**

## **SECTION A: PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION**

### **1. Gender**

Male ☐

Female ☐

### **2. Age group**

Less than 25 years ☐

Between 26 and 35 years old ☐

Between 36 and 45 years old ☐

Between 46 and 55 years ☐

56 years and above ☐

### **3. Marital status**

Single ☐

Married ☐

Divorced ☐

Widowed ☐

### **4. Education level of respondents**

Secondary ☐

Bachelors ☐

Masters ☐

## 5. Working experience

Less than 2years

Between 3-10 years

11 years and above

## SECTION B. Examine the community-based approaches applied in and around Sapo National Park.

What is your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the **the community-based approaches applied in and around Sapo National Park**? Indicate your response by choosing between: 5-Strongly Agree, 4-Agree, 3-Neutral, 2-Disagree, 1-Strongly Disagree

| <b>Community Participation</b>                                                                                   | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Community members in this area are regularly consulted in decisions about managing natural resources.            |          |          |          |          |          |
| Local people actively participate in activities like forest patrols, wildlife monitoring, or clean-up campaigns. |          |          |          |          |          |
| Women and youth are equally included in community meetings and decisions about natural resources.                |          |          |          |          |          |
| Our suggestions and complaints regarding resource management are taken seriously by leaders and authorities.     |          |          |          |          |          |
| I feel that I have a real say in how the resources around Sapo National Park are used and protected.             |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Resource Tenure Security</b>                                                                                  | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
| Our community's rights to access and use forest resources are clear and recognized.                              |          |          |          |          |          |
| I feel secure that our community will continue to have access to these resources in the future.                  |          |          |          |          |          |

|                                                                                                              |          |          |          |          |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Conflicts over land or resource boundaries between communities are resolved fairly and peacefully.           |          |          |          |          |          |
| The rules about what resources we can use and where are clear to everyone.                                   |          |          |          |          |          |
| Our traditional land and resource rights are respected by the park authorities and the government.           |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Benefit-Sharing Mechanisms</b>                                                                            | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
| The benefits from Sapo National Park are shared fairly among community members.                              |          |          |          |          |          |
| I or my household have directly from conservation or development projects linked to the park.                |          |          |          |          |          |
| The process for deciding how benefits are shared is transparent and understood by the community.             |          |          |          |          |          |
| The benefits received motivate people in this community to support conservation efforts.                     |          |          |          |          |          |
| Benefits from the park have helped improve our overall living standards.                                     |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Capacity Building &amp; Support</b>                                                                       | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
| Our community has received adequate training on sustainable farming, forestry, or wildlife protection.       |          |          |          |          |          |
| We have the necessary tools and equipment to participate effectively in resource management.                 |          |          |          |          |          |
| Park authorities and NGOs provide ongoing support and advice when we face challenges in managing resources.  |          |          |          |          |          |
| Our community has the knowledge and skills to manage conflicts related to natural resources.                 |          |          |          |          |          |
| Training and support programs have increased our confidence in managing our natural resources independently. |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Local Governance Structures</b>                                                                           | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |

|                                                                                                                        |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| The community committee or group responsible for resource management is effective and represents everyone's interests. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leaders of these committees are accountable to the community and can be replaced if they do not perform well.          |  |  |  |  |  |
| Decisions made by our local resource management committee are implemented and followed by community members.           |  |  |  |  |  |
| There is good cooperation between our community leaders, traditional authorities, and the park management.             |  |  |  |  |  |
| Our local governance system can adapt rules based on new challenges or information.                                    |  |  |  |  |  |

**SECTION C. Evaluate the natural resource management strategies practiced in and around Sapo National Park during the period of 2020-2024.**

Stakeholders are requested to rate their level of agreement with the following statements using: 5 = Strongly Agree, 4 = Agree, 3 = Neutral, 2 = Disagree, 1 = Strongly Disagree

| <b>Biodiversity Conservation</b>                                                                      | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| I have noticed an increase in wildlife in the forests around our community in the past few years.     |          |          |          |          |          |
| The populations of key protected species are stable or growing.                                       |          |          |          |          |          |
| Forest cover and the health of the forest near our community have improved or remained stable.        |          |          |          |          |          |
| Our community actively protects endangered species and their habitats from harm.                      |          |          |          |          |          |
| The overall richness of plant and animal life in our area is being maintained for future generations. |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Sustainable Resource Use</b>                                                                       | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |

|                                                                                                                       |          |          |          |          |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Our community uses forest resources (like wood, medicinal plants) in a way that does not deplete them for the future. |          |          |          |          |          |
| There are clear, followed rules about how much, when, and where to harvest resources like fish, bush meat, or timber. |          |          |          |          |          |
| We practice farming techniques that protect the soil and prevent forest clearing.                                     |          |          |          |          |          |
| I am confident that my children will have the same access to natural resources as we do today.                        |          |          |          |          |          |
| Our community has adopted alternative livelihoods that reduce pressure on the forest.                                 |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Reduction in Illegal Exploitation</b>                                                                              | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
| Incidents of illegal hunting (poaching) in and around Sapo National Park have decreased in the last 4 years.          |          |          |          |          |          |
| Illegal mining (galamsey) activities inside or near the park have reduced significantly.                              |          |          |          |          |          |
| Illegal logging or charcoal production in the park's buffer zone has become less common.                              |          |          |          |          |          |
| People who break resource use rules are consistently reported and face sanctions.                                     |          |          |          |          |          |
| Our community members actively discourage outsiders from coming to exploit resources illegally.                       |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Improved Ecosystem Services</b>                                                                                    | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
| The quality of water in our rivers and streams has improved (is cleaner) in recent years.                             |          |          |          |          |          |
| Our forests and soils are better at preventing severe floods and erosion.                                             |          |          |          |          |          |
| The climate around our community feels more stable due to forest protection.                                          |          |          |          |          |          |
| We have seen an improvement in crop yields due to healthier soils and pollination from nearby forests.                |          |          |          |          |          |

|                                                                                                                         |          |          |          |          |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Protecting the forest provides us with consistent, clean air and a healthy environment.                                 |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Resilience of Local Communities</b>                                                                                  | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
| Our community is better able to cope with economic shocks because of diverse livelihood options linked to conservation. |          |          |          |          |          |
| We are better prepared to deal with climate-related challenges due to our natural resource management practices.        |          |          |          |          |          |
| Our social unity and cooperation have strengthened because of working together on resource management.                  |          |          |          |          |          |
| Our overall well-being and food security have improved because of sustainable resource management.                      |          |          |          |          |          |
| I believe our community has a stronger future because we are managing our natural resources wisely.                     |          |          |          |          |          |

**Thank you!**