National Forest Program Makes Headway
As Two-day Planning Workshop Ends Today

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(Environmental Columnist)

Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has been having series of workshops with international partners, over of the Liberia Forest Initiative (LFI) by the U.S. Government to the World Bank at the same venue yesterday. The Liberian Government, through the improved dialogues and consultations between all stakeholders, in connection with the sustainable management of Liberia’s forest; equitable sharing of the benefits; responsibilities from the forest; and efficient conflict resolution during forest management and utilization.

According to Edward Kamara, the Focal Point of NFP at the FDA, a request had been made to National Forest Program Facility based on a Concept Note which, according to him, explains the situation of the forestry sector in Liberia and key actions to be implemented with the Facility support when the agreement become operational.

In February 5-6, 2009, it was agreed that a Concept Note should be adequate for the agreement because several activities could be undertaken with the international cooperation to the NFP and civil society organizations from across the country.

Mr. Jerker Thunberg, Manager of National Forest Program Facility (NFP), stressed that the program was currently ongoing in West Africa and working well. Therefore, he wants to believe that it is also going to work in Liberia as well.

"Stakeholders have dialogue to get out of confrontation," Jerker Thunberg explained. He also said that the organization is based in Rome. Participants at the workshop include representatives of the FDA and other governmental bodies, key forestry stakeholders who are potential beneficiaries of the Facility support, and other governmental stakeholders.

Mr. Koderick F. Johnson, Acting Managing Director of FDA

Participants at the Liberia Forest Program workshop