

## Annex 6: Report for 2021 RWLRC

Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RWLRC - November 23 – 24, 2021 - Ganta, Nimba County



**THEME: “SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM TO SECURE RURAL WOMEN LAND RIGHTS”**



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AU:	African Union
CEDAW:	Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO:	Civil Society Organization
CSW:	Commission on the Status of Women
EPA:	Environment Protection Agency
FAO:	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FDA:	Forest Development Agency
GoL:	Government of Liberia
LLA:	Liberia Land Authority
NEWS:	Liberia National Rural Women Structure
LRA:	Land Rights Act
MAP:	Multi Actor Platform
MGCSP:	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MIA:	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MOA:	Ministry of Agriculture
NCSCCL:	National Civil Society Council of Liberia
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
RWLRC:	Rural Women Land Rights Conference
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA:	Swedish International Development Agency
ToT:	Trainers of Trainers
UN:	United Nations

**Acknowledgment:**

The Management and Staff of ForumCiv Liberia acknowledge all who contributed to the successful hosting of the second Rural Women Conference in Liberia. Our appreciation goes to the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) who's funding to ForumCiv in Liberia resulted in the hosting of this Second Edition of the Rural Women Conference. Equal appreciation goes to our ForumCiv colleagues in Stockholm. This conference would not have been a success without your technical support and guidance. A tap on the back to all ForumCiv Staff for the hard work and support. Your participation and support proved that teamwork is key to success.

Many thanks to the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) for not only supporting the conference but also gracing the occasion with the presence of its Chairperson Atty. J. Adams Manobah Sr. Special recognition to staff members of the LLA for their expertise and technical support. Your contributions added value to the conference.

Special thank you to the Liberian National Rural Women Structure for mobilizing women from the 15 counties of Liberia. There could not have been a rural women conference without equal representation and participation of rural women from all 15 counties of Liberia.

Special recognition to the National Traditional Council who was represented both at the national and county levels. Your presence and participation added the needed spice to the conference, and it was an eye opener regarding the traditional dynamics of ensuring land rights for rural women. Equal appreciation also goes to the Interreligious Council, our dynamic guest speaker, panelists, speakers, and all who contributed to the success of the conference.

Lastly, we want to shout a big 'Bravo' to the entire Conference Secretariat for the Compilation and submission of this report

Mrs. Martha B. Summerville – LLA  
Mr. Henry P. Sumoiwuo --- ForumCiv  
Mrs. Bendu Johnson --- WOCI  
Mr. Anthony Warlo --- ForumCiv

**Disclaimer**

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### About us

ForumCiv is a Swedish civil society member-based organization that works with local partners in Sweden and around the world. ForumCiv is a Swedish, politically, and religiously unaffiliated non-governmental member organization. Our work is to strengthen marginalized people around the world who organize to claim their rights. We also advocate for changes that contribute to a just and sustainable world.

Our members are Swedish civil society organizations working towards a just and sustainable world. The members are of great value for ForumCiv as they are the supreme decision-making body through the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting elects the board, chairperson, election committee, and auditors, and decides on the plan of operations and budget frame for the coming year.

Our vision is to see 'a just and sustainable world where all people have the power to effect change', and we exist to 'strengthen marginalized people around the world who organize to claim their rights advocate for changes that contribute to a just and sustainable world'.

ForumCiv is implementing thirty-six (36) months and 51 million SEK programs to support the development of civil society in rural counties of Liberia. In 2017 ForumCiv conducted a pre-study which amongst other things revealed that civil society in Rural Liberia was fragmented, donor-driven, and lacked the capacities to be considered donor-worthy.

This preprogrammed Sustainable Ownership Programme aims to strengthen rights-holders with the knowledge and the skills to hold duty bearers accountable and ensure a response to the needs of marginalized communities. And it focuses on Gender Equality, Democracy and Human Rights, Environment and Climate, and Land rights with emphasis on the Human Rights-Based Approach and Right(s) Way Forward (RWF) Methodology.

The RWF is a set of tools designed to bring together diverse community members to jointly determine and implement the changes they would like to see to create a just and sustainable community. RWF includes two stages: (1) Community Mobilization, which results in a Community Action Plan; and (2) Dialogue for Change, which involves capacity development and results in community members being ready to implement the plan. Each stage is designed around community participation and engagement, departing from local knowledge, and further developing skills, to create meaningful and sustainable change.

To date, ForumCiv has disbursed thirty-two (32) grants valued at an estimated 7 million SEK to civil society organizations across Bomi, Bong, and Grand Gedeh Counties to implement projects which align with the goals of the Sustainable Ownership Programme and enhance the development of the target organizations.

Our support to rural-based CSOs is increasing the viability of these organizations, making them donor-worthy and contributing to increased citizen participation (especially women) in the governance process thus promoting transparency and accountability.

In the new Programme titled 'My Land' ForumCiv will continue its capacity development actions and support public information campaigns and advocacy engagements that would contribute to increased land tenure security for rural women's rights. ForumCiv will position itself as a lead land rights actor and focus on the implementation of the new program in such a way as to enhance rural women's access to land.



### Our Positioning in Liberia

ForumCiv has field offices in Tubmanburg, Bomi County, and Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County. Our country office is based in Gbarnga, Bong County and we are running a satellite office in Monrovia for coordination purposes.



### **Solidarity Message from the LLA Boss, Atty. J Adams Manobah**

Our being here today is to continue the work of the 2020 conference we had which borders on women's land rights in Liberia. In most meetings or conferences, we go to; we hear people saying thanks to institutions for making us know our rights to land. But we should be appreciating ourselves. The law that gives these institutions the power to call you here and tell you about your rights, that law itself was made by you people. For example, during the days of the Land Commission, the role you played, what you put in the law is just what we have come back to tell you. ForumCiv is telling you this' what you put in the law. So, we came around to remind you again that women should have equal rights to our land.

Remember, all rights have responsibilities. Sometimes you might have 100% rights, but you need to ask for it because not many people will come and tell you about your rights against someone. You don't expect me to do that. That's why we have civil society partners coming around to tell you about your rights.

In any country where land issues are not settled, that country will not develop. In any country where you don't know who owns the land, it is not certain what value and what you need to do with the land, that country will not develop. This is the reason why we make laws.

Our policy had it that the traditional people don't own the land but only use the land. And we know when the Government was coming, they did not come with land on the ship. We all agree that our government has not been fair to us on land matters. Because of this, Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf decided to implement the recommendation of the TRC. Sunny Okusu says, "who owns the Land". Papa's land, mama's land. You own if that's what the law says. Our tradition says that men control the land, but as time is going, we need to change this law other that those women will not be left behind.

Our new law says women and men should control the land equally. Therefore, the law requires that the CLDMC should have an equal number of women and men. We are all here today to support women. The law says you and I have equal rights. This means decision-making. With us at LLA, we are thankful to the president, thankful to the lawmakers, minister, etc. you need to talk to your lawmakers to put money in the budget for the LLA to enable us at the LLA to resolve the land boundary issues/conflicts. It is you that can demand your rights.

### **Solidarity Message from Chief Zanzan Karwar delivered by a proxy:**

The chief is unable to be here due to a tight schedule but says he supports all that is going on here. He extends his greetings to the institution that organized this occasion. He says that everything we do women hand must be inside it, he is with you.

### **Solidarity Message from Mr. Yarsiah:**

Our fight is to ensure that our rural women understand and claim right over land. It brings improvements in human rights. About 40% of the foods, we eat are produced by women, so we will ensure that equal rights to property/land are enhanced between women and men. We must move side-by-side. We anticipate that women take part in decision-making. By now, there should be a measure between women and men land rights starting from 2018 – 2021 to understand how many women have gained rights over land in their respective communities, and or counties. Thanks, and have a good conference.

## Message from the Secretary-General - ForumCiv International

Dear all participants at the second Rural Women Land Rights Conference in Liberia.

ForumCiv is extremely proud to be associated with this event taking place in your country and that all of you are present.

Access to land is a source of economic empowerment which promotes food security and women's participation in decision-making at all levels. That you have access to land is of great importance to be able to achieve SDG 5 on gender equality.

Globally, women represent 43% of the agriculture labor force. However, in most cases the land they are farming does not belong to them, they do not have title or control over it. Liberia has a Land Rights Law stating that women not only should have access to land but to own and manage it. ForumCiv has decided to partner with you to help you to get the needed information to enable you to access and own land.

The first National Rural Women Land Rights conference that was held in 2020 produced a declaration and resolution which you were able to present to the President of Liberia, His Excellency George Manneh Weah – congratulation! You also took further actions and developed advocacy plans to engage duty bearers on your rights to own and manage land. Well done all of you – this is an important step for women's economic empowerment.

During these two days, you will look back at what was achieved at the first conference and what challenges and lessons learned you have. Please share, speak out and discuss! Your stories are important and unique. My colleagues are there to listen to you and guide you on how to advocate for your land rights. And I do look forward to hearing all about the result of your discussions.

As you participate in this conference, keep in mind that your access to land is your right. Make the best use of this opportunity to engage with stakeholders that are present. Your access to land will help defeat hunger, poverty and increase your participation in decision-making.

I now wish you the best of luck with the conference!

ForumCiv is standing with you.

Thank you very much.



Ann Stenvinkel



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is a summary of activities captured during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rural Women Land Rights Conference organized by ForumCiv with funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), held in Ganta, Nimba County from November 23 - 24, 2021 under the theme **“Sustaining the Momentum to Secure Rural Women Land Rights”**

The objective of the conference is to assess the progress made since the last land rights conference and actions taken by duty bearers including the Liberia Land Authority to increase women and youth access, management, and administration of land under customary laws.

The conference was initially planned for 170 participants but brought together over 250 participants consisting of women from rural communities, civil society organizations, women-led institutions, Africa Subregional Structure including International Non-for-Profit Organizations, local NGOs, and the media. Government line ministries and agencies were represented by the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA).

The conference was well attended by a series of dignitaries with solidarity messages on the subject. Atty. J Adams Manobah Chairman; Liberia Land Authority (LLA), Vera Kellen, Programme Manager, European Union Delegation to Liberia (virtually), Mr. James Yarsiah, Executive Director Rice and Rights Foundation/Multi Actor Platform, Chief Zanzan Karwah, (by proxy), Head of Traditional Council, Republic of Liberia, Cllr. Ruth Jappah. A staunch female land rights advocate, Siatta Scott-Johnson President, Female Journalist Association of Liberia, all contributed impactfully to the success of the Conference by their messages.

The Keynote speaker at this Conference was Dr. Meima Sirleaf-Karneh, Liberia’s Representative for ECOWAS Peace and Security Network. A few highlights in her presentation included: The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security adopted on 31 October 2000. The role of women during the 14yrs of Liberia civil war which ended in 2003 with the signing of the Accra Peace agreement in Accra, Ghana. Liberia’s effort towards Women’s Rights regarding inclusion, equal participation, and access to land ownership is provided by the 2018 Land Rights Law of Liberia.

## **Introduction and Background**

On September 19, 2018, the President of Liberia, HE. Dr. George M. Weah signed the New Land Rights Law which gives women the right to equal participation, inclusion, and access to land ownership.

According to the constitution, women and men share the same rights of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property. However, women's access to and decision-making power over land and resources is being continually limited and largely challenged especially in rural communities based on traditional barriers as evidence from lessons learned from a male dominated society. This limitation on women access to land throughout the country

Both statutory and customary marriages by inheritance rights are protected by various laws, such as the Domestic Relations Law of 1973, the Descendants Estate Law of 1973, and the new Land Rights Act. According to the Equal Rights of Customary Marriage Law of 1998, women in customary and statutory marriages shall share the same rights. The Land Right law provides stronger protection for women's land rights, such as provisions for female participation on local land management committees and considers both spouses equal access to land ownership.

Despite the existing legal framework, inconsistencies and local norms, customs and traditions make these laws difficult to apply and women's including spouses' access to justice is limited, especially in rural areas. For example, in civil law, a widow is entitled to 50 % of her husband's property for a lifetime, while in customary marriages widows only receive one-third until they remarry. By this law, married women can acquire, use, dispose of, and make contracts about a property including land. In a customary marriage, she must get consent from her spouse. Until today, women in Liberia access land primarily through marriage. Moreover, the management of joint property remains problematic in a patriarchal society. For example, in most communities, women still access land through their male relatives

## **OBJECTIVE**

The conference is to assess the progress made since the last land rights conference and actions taken by duty bearers including the Liberia Land Authority to increase women and youth access, management, and administration of land under customary laws.

### **Specific Objectives**

- 2021 RWLRC to create a platform where women and youth from the 15 Counties of Liberia can share their experiences, discuss their challenges in the land sector and proffer solutions to address some of the many challenges they encounter.
- Launch the Land Rights Short Code to be used by all land rights actors and rural women in Liberia to report land rights issues from their communities and seek redress from policymakers and land stakeholders.

### **Conference Results/outcome**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> RWLRC served as an opportunity to assess the progress made since the last land rights conference and actions taken by duty bearers including the Liberia Land Authority to increase women and youth access, management, and administration of land under customary laws.

## BENEFICIARIES

The conference was attended by women from rural communities, traditional leaders, county authorities, and Government line ministries and agencies. The conference brought together participants from fourteen Counties including (Bong, Grand Gedeh, Mary Land, River Gee, Grand Kru, Sinoe, River Cess, Gparpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Nimba, Lofa, Margibi, and Monsterrado). The participants were also drawn from across women-led organizations and selected ForumCiv project communities.

**Table:1** Attendance Breakdown

Participants	Day-1	Day-2
Male	58	48
Female	195	189
Total	253	237

## Conference Activities

The format of the conference incorporated space for experience sharing, group presentation, and sessions for questions and answers. Some of these were captured and indicated below:

After the solitary message from the Chairman of the Liberia Land Authority, there was a session of question and answer. Below are some questions and the Chairman's response.

Question	Answer
<b>Madam Paramount Chief from Zota</b> <b>1.</b> Bong County: Mr. Chairman, something is going on in the County and not going well with us. Is it true that the tribal certificate is not valid again? People are going around telling us that no tribal certificate business again. And survey fees these days are plenty, and we hear that tribal certificate is no longer valid, why?	<b>LLA Chairman Manobah responds:</b> Whether the tribal certificate is valid or not depends on how it was obtained. If you got the tribal certificate before the passage of the Land Rights Act of 2018, then it is valid, but any tribal certificate obtained after the passage of the Land Rights Act is surely not valid. It was announced that no issuance of tribal certificates beyond this time.
<b>2. Concern/Statement from Konah Harris,</b> Bomi County: Mr. Chairman, the oil company (SAM DYBE) came and took over all our land, downsized our children, and left. They did not give us money for our land and when we talk, they say we are not an affected community, so nothing there for us. So, this land rights thing, we cannot get it? So, we the women from Bomi from this conference are going to gather ourselves and call on our lawmakers to give our money.  Secondly, I have landed without a	<b>Chairman Manobah Responds:</b> We are in the process of reviewing those papers (concession agreements). But you need to talk to your lawmakers. They are the ones approving and signing the concession agreements. You need to talk to them to seek your interest. The land business is a big issue in this country. In your county, Varney Jallah is our representative, speak to him and he will get to us. I can respond to a few of your questions here but not all. We need to sit and discuss some of the arising questions. Some have legal backgrounds which I can't say yes or no to.

<p>deed, I am a countrywoman. Can I get it when someone with plenty of money is fighting me? They want to take my land because they have plenty of money.</p>	
<p><b>3. Rural Woman, Grand Kru County:</b> in 2008, we benefited from the UNMIL Quick Impact by constructing a palaver hut for us. The land was given to us by the community. We even offered a portion to Cellcom to erect their tower. After a while, a man broke our palaver hut to build their political theatre. We are rural women without money. How can we get back our land? We have all documents to this land.</p> <p><b>4. Question/concern from Madam Rebecca on customary land, Grand Gedeh County:</b> If you don't have money and the other family has a lot of money is a problem. They will come saying that they want to share boundaries with you, after some time, they will start taking the land on their side and because you don't have money to fight your case, they will take that whole side of the land. They will present a certificate that is consigned by either the youth, town chief, or paramount chief. So, what can I do?</p>	<p><b>Chairman Manobah Responds:</b>          In such a situation, you should get in touch with the LLA Office in Grand Kru County and they will guide you through the process to get back your land. This should not a problem with all your title documents available to substantiate your claim.</p> <p><b>Chairman Manobah Responds:</b>          Always make sure to have your land registered and have all your title documents to legally defend your claims in case of any trespassing. The means and bounds are indicated in every title document.</p>
<p><b>5. Question on Boundary for LLA Boss by Chief Kofi:</b> Each of these towns - Town A, Town A, and Town B always brush their farm-to-market roads. Each has a stopping point considered as the boundary with the next town.</p> <p>Why should Town A claim ownership over the land of Town C?</p>	<p>Every land has a history. So, if Town A is claiming Town C, it means two things. It could be that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Town A created Town C in the past,</li> <li>2. When women were married in those days, in-laws were given a portion of land for use by their sons-in-law. So, if Town A who offered this portion of land to Town C sees mineral resources in that portion of land offered, these are the types of conflicts that are expected to happen. But is solvable. But it could be wrong if the history is not in either way.</li> </ol>

### Statement from Chief Kofi Zah, River Cess

Greetings and thanks to the organizers of this conference. Thanks to the LLA for being here for us to ask and understand how the land business is going on in this country.

About the chiefs, please give the chiefs the chance to perform. Because it is the paramount Chiefs that have information about the land. They know the boundaries and who shares with who. They know the land.

**Statement from Madam Cathrine Malley**, Disabled community: I should be thankful to ForumCiv for always making our (disabled) presence felt on all occasions. But I have one request to make to our Rural Women President. Though I'm the president for the disabled but need some disabled rural women to join me in these kinds of gatherings. They will help spread the news faster than when I am alone. All counties should be represented.

**Statement from Madam Rose N. Goll**, Gender Coordinator, Bomi County: We command ForumCiv for this conference. We are moving somewhere every time we meet. We promise to be on one side with our women and ready to provide all required support to them in their quest for land rights. The Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection will always be with you.

**Statement from Fatu Tossor of Bomi County**

Women also have rights to own farm land. If a woman marries a man from a community apart from the one where she was born and live with her husband in his community, her husband's community should be considered her community. She should have access to land in her husband's community because that is where she has been living for a long time. The woman should be able to enjoy all the rights and privileges of that community. This is not the case with most of our rural women. We do not have rights to land in our husbands' community although we live there over half of our lives and make a lot of contributions to these communities.

**Statement from Paramount Chief Lorpu Kollie**

ForumCiv made our community to know about women entitlement to land. Even if your father gets land and your brothers say you don't have any share, say no. You have right in your father's property. ForumCiv has now made us to know about that law. Even if your husband gets land you have share in that land. Even when your husband has property, you have share in that property. They can't just tell you that you were here doing no work besides cooking for him. And on your father property, your brothers should not deny you of it. So, for this community, we went to Shankpallah Town to agree for our land to be surveyed which is the Kpaiquellie clan and every one of us sat down and we agreed. ForumCiv people went from Village to Village and from Towns to Towns to make that awareness and we all made that awareness for our people to come to one conclusion. We say ForumCiv thank you that you give us this awareness and all the communities that were in Kpaiquellie Clan agreed that we must survey this land to be used by the Kpaiquellie clan.

**Statement from Dedeh Karmoh – Secretary General, National Rural Women**

The Rural woman Land Rights Conference was held in Gbarnga Bong County in 2020 at the Administration Building with funding from ForumCiv. At the Conference, issues arising as to how the rural women can access land to enable them own property from land. It was against this background that the delegates from the fifteen counties came out with this draft resolution which was decided by the participants to be presented His Excellency President George Manneh Weah. Again, with support from our partner ForumCiv, the resolution was presented to the President of the Republic of Liberia. The honorable Minister of Gender, Children and Social protection County Minister Hon. Williametta Saydee-Tarr supported the process and the resolution was presented by our president, Madam Kebbeh Monger. With the resolution of the 2020 in the hands of the president, we are sure that issues relating to land that affect the rural women have been drawn to the president's attention.



### Panel Discussion

The panel was constituted, and discussion began amongst LLA, RWS, Religious Leader, and MAP represented by Mr. Yarsiah. It was moderated by two ForumCiv Staff. The discussion was bordered around the role of the indicated institutions toward women's land rights in Liberia.

These different institutions spoke on one term; that is, creating awareness and standing by the women of Liberia to ensure that their land rights are enhanced. On the other hand, the religious community is offering their spiritual and physical counselling to victims on land matters. They are in the form of providing alternative dispute resolution and this work.

### Success Stories from Rural Women

**Success Story from Madam Fatu H. Torque, Bomi County:** During the first conference in October 2020 in Gbarnga, I narrated my challenge with my family regarding our family land. I was nine (9) years when our parents died. The head of the family denied me of the land. But immediately after the 2020 conference, I succeeded in getting a share of the family land through ForumCiv awareness and lessons taught us on this land matter. I have planted cash crops and erected my project office on the same land. So, I stand here to say thanks for the knowledge, and I am very proud of ForumCiv for their support.

**Success Story from Madam Elizabeth Chellah-Executive Director, SEWODA:** This success story is about my late father property that caused misunderstanding between my stepmother and I. On May 27, 2021 she and I went to court for this property issue. The case dragged from May 21, - July 1, 2021. With the education I got from ForumCiv regarding how to claim my rights regarding land cases, I apply that method and I won the case. As I speak now, I am the Administrator of my late father property.

### Breakout Session

To have a deeper dive into the issues affecting women land rights, the conference was split into breakout sessions. The session was intended to identify issues relating to the specific topic that was assign to each group. The below session gives a summary of the breakout sessions.

The breakout session had three groups discussing three thematic issues. These sessions were moderated by three different personalities.

1. **Group 1:** Strengthening women's land rights and tenure security in customary communities. This was focused on strategies. 44 participants or 14 men and 31 women participated.
2. **Group 2:** Safeguarding women tenure security: a call to duty. This was focused on resources. 98 participants (27 male and 71) female participants
3. **Group 3:** Strengthening coordination and collaborations between stakeholders and land rights actors for the attainment of women's land rights. This was focused on actions taken by stakeholders. 42 participants (14 male and 28 female)

At the end of the group discussions, each group made a presentation in plenary. Below are highlights from each presentation.

## Group Presentation

### Group 1 : Strengthening women's land rights and tenure security in customary communities

- The passage of a gender sensitive law in 2018 was inclusive of women, youth and men.
- The establishment of the Land Rights Taskforce: Based on subsequent meetings by this group, the Women Land Rights Taskforce was established through which the gender unit at the Liberia Land Authority - LLA was established. This gender unit is responsible to look into women specific needs when it comes to land. With the establishment of this unit, the LLA in closed collaboration with donors. All projects being developed considers gender mainstreaming. This means women, youth and men are taken into consideration in these projects.
- **The Development of the Gender Integration Strategy:** The LLA has developed this strategy which speaks to how we can ensure that women own land in the community. It is a framework along with an implementation plan. The Gender integration Strategy takes into consideration land governance, control, ownership access to land and women participation in land governance (CLDMC.)
- **Engendering the Land Rights Regulations:** There are whole lots coming out of the Land Rights Act that is been review presently at the LLA and was sponsored by the World Bank and the LLA is ensuring that it is gender sensitive. For instance, doing boundary harmonization, women will be informed of the process and will also participate.
- **Best practices for Community Negotiation Over Concessions:** When we shall have gotten the deed for our customary land, it is we the community now that will negotiate with concessionaires. And best practice will be ensured that women, youth and men participation.
- **Dispute Resolution:** Ensure that women are involved with dispute resolution.

### Other guidelines the LLA is making sure that women will be part of:

- **The vetting of tribal certificate:** This process will be inclusive of women participation
- **Strong collaboration with partners:** Development partners are helping the LLA to implement her statutory mandate due to limited support from government. They are also helping local CSOs to implement these roles.

## Group B

### Topic: : Safeguarding women tenure security: a call to duty. This was focused on resources

Current status, Capacity, Resources	Situation limitation of the Resolution	Resources needed to Satisfy future needs
<b>Resources Available</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structures existing across the country. Meaning (LLA officers situated across the 15 Counties)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited logistical support</li> <li>• Low budgetary support</li> <li>• Limited females' representation at the LLA county level offices</li> <li>• Lack of LLA representation at district levels in counties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land is available</li> <li>• Registered structures available</li> <li>• Trained management team available</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited funding opportunity for grassroots organizations to get involved in land rights interventions</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Networks being established among women such as the National Rural Women Structure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited capacity knowledge of the Land Right Act.</li> <li>More training needed</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The passage of the 2018 Land Rights Law</li> </ul>	Limited awareness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing awareness nationwide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local leaders' interference</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Women Recognition across the 15 Counties of Liberia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited Knowledge of the LRA.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSOs and CBOs are also being funded and are caring out the implementation of the Land Rights projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited capacity building for CSOs. More training needed</li> </ul>	

### Group C

**Topic: Strengthening coordination and collaborations between stakeholders and land rights actors for the attainment of women's land rights. This was focused on actions taken by stakeholders**

This is broken-down into Activity, Progress and Status

Activity	Progress	Status	Challenges
Training	Not enough	Needs to be extended to villages clans and districts	Limited Resources
Advocacy	Not sufficient	Needs to be extended to villages clans and districts	Rural women were not empowered to carried out their roles in the implementation of the Resolution
Awareness	Not enough	Needs a simplified version of the Resolution to reach the understanding of the local levels	Support to produce the simplified version of the Resolution
Networking	Not enough	Needs to be extended to villages clans and districts	Limited Resources
<b>Strategies needed</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop jingles and dramas on Land Rights</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducts live Radio talk shows</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold town hall meetings</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce sound language version of the Resolution</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend networks to other land rights actors</li> </ul>			

## Annex 1: Declaration from the 2<sup>nd</sup> RWLRC

On this day, we the Rural Women representing the fifteen counties of Liberia would like to appreciate the Liberia Government through His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah for signing the Land Rights Law that protects the rights of women to land ownership and governance.

Today, we have come to say thank you Mr. President, and to also present this resolution to you. Though the Land Rights Law has been passed, the implementation of the Law is still a challenge. Therefore, Rural Women in Liberia are still being denied their Rights to own land. This is not because the Law is weak. NO! What it is, is that more people in the rural areas are not aware of the Law, and interpretation of the Law is still limited.

Mr. President, our Father, we, the Rural Women of Liberia as represented here from the fifteen Counties are here to ask you to please help speedily support the implementation of the Land Rights Law. Rural Women are extremely affected by land conflicts, disputes, and other land issues, including, loss of land, denial of claims, lack of land for farming, and other agricultural purposes. Rural Women play active and meaningful roles as key agents of change in developing innovative solutions to maintain peace in their communities and promoting sustainable and inclusive production and consumption of food.

Reaffirming the principles of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls reflected in the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW 1979), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 2016), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs – Goal 1, 2, 5 and 15).

Affirming the importance of respecting, protecting, and fulfilling human rights obligations, including women's rights, when implementing the Land Rights Act of 2018 and other laws and policies relative to land, including the context of security and ensure customary tenure and private property rights, as well as in promoting policy coherence with customary norms and traditions,

Acknowledging that identifying and addressing both women's and men's needs, as well as promoting women as decision-makers, are critical to ensuring the sustainability of land policy, planning, and programming,

Acknowledging that women's knowledge and collective action have a huge potential to improve resource productivity, enhance ecosystem conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and create more sustainable, low-carbon food, energy, water, and health systems if they have access to land,

We, the delegates, and participants at the 2021 Rural Women Land Rights Conference call on the Government of Liberia, her development partners and friends, the National Civil Society Council of Liberia, and all civil society organizations:

1. To Increase community engagements through the National Rural Women Structure on progress made by government and stakeholders to promote rural women land rights
2. To prioritize the development and implementation of gender policies and action plans by the Land Rights Act of 2018.
3. To support training and capacity-building efforts for women, men, youth, and people living with disabilities on gender mainstreaming in land governance, administration, and enhancing all women's active and meaningful participation in the national and local processes, as a contribution to realizing the goal of gender balance.
4. To enhance collaborations with the government line ministries and agencies, donor community, civil society organizations, and rural communities, to mainstream gender equality and empowerment of women and girls' perspectives in developing innovative



solutions to land issues and accelerating the shift towards sustainable development through the proper use of land.

5. Agriculture equipment is provided to rural women to increase food production and be linked to the market for income generation.
6. More public awareness of the land rights laws.
7. There should be gender officers in the LLA County Offices.
8. To provide communities with a simple version of the land rights laws and to transform it into Braille for the visually impaired.
9. There should be a speedy establishment of a gender-sensitive County Land Board

## Annex 2: Photo Gallery



**Cllr. Ruth Jappah, Executive Director, JSGB**





**Mr. James Yarsiah, Executive Director, Rice and Rights Foundation and**



***Atty. J Adams Manobah, Chairperson, Liberia Land Authority***





**Cross section of participants at the 2<sup>nd</sup> RWLRC Conference**

## Annex-2 Participants Presentations



Strengthening  
Coordination and C



Strengthening  
Women's Land Righ



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Presentation.pptx



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2nd RWLRC  
Resolution updated



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