



“From Trash to Treasure-reducing plastic waste by adding value to plastic project, LIBERIA

NARRATIVE REPORT

Launch of an onboarding and training session for Communities, Stakeholders and Volunteers in Paynesville



Support from: UNDP-GEF
Implemented by: Champions for Nature Conservation Liberia (CNCL)
Implementing Partner: iCAMPUS and Unipod

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BACKGROUND OF THE TRAINING

Plastic pollution is not just a global crisis—it is a Liberian crisis. From the clogged drains of Monrovia to the plastic-choked wetlands of SKD Boulevard, the evidence is clear: our environment is under siege. The consequences are dire—polluted water sources, degraded ecosystems, and increased vulnerability to climate change. But there is hope. And that hope lies in collective action.¹

In Monrovia alone, plastic waste accounts for 14% of all waste, with over 1.3 million kilograms generated daily. Shockingly, 84% of this waste is not properly managed. Our wetlands—from Lake Piso to Mesurado—are choking under the weight of plastic debris. These ecosystems are not just beautiful; they are vital for flood control, water purification, and biodiversity. Against this background, this project offers a high-impact pathway to environmental conservation and inclusive economic solution. Through this project, the JV (CNCL and ICAMPUS) seeks to reduce environmental pollution, stimulate youth-led green entrepreneurship, and establish a replicable model of sustainable plastic waste management in Liberia. The solution aligns with both national environmental policies and global sustainable development goals, particularly those related to climate action, decent work, and responsible consumption and production. By combining youth capacity building, advanced technology, and circular economy growth.

To address this issue, CNCL in collaboration with iCAMPUS, Unipod and support from UNDP Liberia embarked on the “From Trash to Treasure-reducing plastic waste by adding value to plastic project,” to work with community dwellers to help mitigate plastic from communities. The project aims to revolutionize waste management by introducing community-based segregation and incentivized plastic collection. It also seeks to build capacity and sensitized community members through awareness raising to address issues of plastic waste in the various project targeted 8 communities (1. Police Academy 2. ELWA 3. Duport Road 4) AB. Tolbert Road 5) VOA 6) Fendell 7) Jacob Town and 8) GSA Road). In addition, the project has introduced a financial incentive for plastic collection to ensure that community dwellers be compensated with the amount of \$0.35 USD or its equivalent of \$65 LD for every kilogram of plastic gathered and taken to the hub. The financial strategy serves as a way of encouraging the community members to fully participate in the project and in keeping to promote a cleaner environment.

¹ <https://www.undp.org/liberia/blog/ending-plastic-pollution-liberias-call-action-world-environment-day-2025>

LAUNCH OF THE ONBOARDING TRAINING WORKSHOP OF THE COMMUNITIES, STAKEHOLDER AND VOLUNTEERS

To enhance the community members' capacities in tackling the many issues and challenges outlined within the communities regarding plastic waste pollution in Paynesville City and as part of the implementation of the Community-Based Plastic Waste Management project in Liberia, CNCL and its partners, iCAMPUS and Unipod, undertook a one-day joint onboarding training of the Communities, Stakeholders and Volunteers to enhance their capacity on plastic management, waste segregation, and recycling with in the 8 communities.

The joint training was held on April 22, 2026, at the Liberian Learning Center in Paynesville, Montserrado County. The training brought together a combined total of 37 participants including the United Nation Development Programme Liberia, Paynesville City Cooperation (PCC), Unipod, iCAMPUS, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), The GSA Road Community, VOA Community, Fendell Community, Police Academy Wetland and road side AB.Tolbert Road Community, Duport Road Community, Jacob Town Community and ELWA community The table below depicts category of participants at the training according to set.

	Institution	Participant			Facilitator		
No	Description	Male	Female	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
1	UNDP Liberia	1	1	2	0	1	1
2	Paynesville City Cooperation (PCC)	1	1	2		0	0
3	iCAMPUS	1		1	0	1	1
4	Unipod Liberia	1		1			
5	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	1	0	1	0	0	0
6	GSA Road Community	3	1	4	1	0	0
7	Duport Road Community	2	1	3	0	0	0
8	VOA Community	1	2	3	3	0	0
9	AB. Tolbert Road Community	2	1	3	1	1	0
10	Fendell Community	1	2	3			0
11	Police Academy	2	1	3			
12	ELWA Community	1	1	2			
13	Jacob Town Community	2	1	3			
14	Champions for Nature Conservation Liberia (CNCL)	2	3	5	2		2
	Total			37			4

The onboarding training workshop provided these stakeholders, Communities and Volunteers the platform to dialogue relevant issues relating to plastic waste pollution in Paynesville as well as the

roles of the communities on the project. It also deepened Community members capacity on effective cooperative plastic management in the project 8 communities.

FACILITATION APPROACH

The launch of the onboarding training was facilitated through a participatory manner commencing with self-introduction of participants followed by the project overview which was done by the Executive Director, Mr. Moses A. Massah of Champions for Nature Conservation Liberia. Statement on behalf of CNCL and its partners was taken from iCAMPUS Executive Director, Luther D. Jeke followed by setting up of the training ground rules. The participants further outlined their expectations for the training and shared experiences regarding existing Plastic waste pollution within Paynesville City. The facilitators during the training adopted and used appropriate adult learning methods including, PowerPoint presentations, lectures, visual aids, and questions and answers with launch break between training session for participants.

MODULES COVERED

During the launch of the onboarding Trainings of the Community-Based Waste Management project in Paynesville City, Montserrado County, the following topics were covered by separate professional and well experienced facilitators during the one day of the training:

- ❖ ***Overview “From Trash to Treasure-reducing plastic pollution by adding value to plastic waste***
- ❖ **Activities- what are the activities and timeline for implementation *Understanding***
- ❖ **Results-Based Narrative Reporting**
- ❖ **Trash collection, awareness and payment modality**
- ❖ **Innovative Training for Youth**

The participants raised several questions as each module was covered by the facilitators. These facilitations were well coordinated by the CNCL’s Training Director. The facilitators adequately provided clarities to all questions raised by participants as each one was presenting in their field of professional work. Some of those questions raised during the training are as follows:

- ✓ How Liberian can get out of plastic waste??
- ✓ How is the plastic segregation going to be done?
- ✓ Will there be an award given to community who put in more plastic at the end of the project?
- ✓ What are the strategies in running and managing an effective plastic waste management?

FACILITATORS OF THE WORKSHOP

The training was organized by CNCL in collaboration with iCAMPUS and facilitated by four (4) well qualified and experience facilitators drawn from the iCAMPUS, UNDP Liberia, and Champions for Nature Conservation Liberia. These facilitators were genders sensitive. Those

facilitators included Mr. Luther Jeke, Executive Director, iCAMPUS, Stephine, iCAMPUS, Program Director, Mr. Moses A. Massah, Executive Director, CNCL, Richard Hoff, Program Development Manager, CNCL and Abigail M. Zean, Community Engagement and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, CNCL.

Community Members Fears

Fear pointed out by the communities during the Training	
1	The institution will not come back in the Communities to implement the project after the project has been launched.
2.	After the project implementation, there will be huge plastic waste in communities.
3.	Untimely pickup of the plastic waste from Community
4.	There will be a huge demand created for plastic
5.	Plastic waste will be mix with other domestic waste

Participants Expectations

Expectation during the training	
1	Serious awareness should be raised about plastic waste in each of the community.
2.	Young people should take ownership of their community
3.	Development of new ideas to take back to the community that will help to mitigate plastic

ACHIEVEMENTS

At the end of the training workshop, the following were achieved.

- 1. The participants identified existing challenges about plastic pollution which affect the community.*
- 2. The community understood the project and their roles and responsibilities on the project.*
- 3. The participant's capacity was further enhanced on Trash collection, awareness and payment modality and Innovative Training for Youth*

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED BY PROJECT TEAM

During the implementation of these activities, the following challenges were experienced by the project team. Time management, and communication with project team and communities due to Poor network on that day. In addition, there was influx of community dwellers from various

locations than the actual targeted participants at the training venues. This was due to the significance of the training as many community dwellers wanted to attend for the knowledge. To this effect, the organizing teams managed to clearly explain to those community members that CNCL allotted provisions for only sixty (37) participants from targeted areas.

CONCLUSION

The Champions for Nature Conservation Liberia (CNCL), in collaboration with iCampus and UNIPOD Liberia with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Global Environment Facility Small Grant Program, has officially launched an onboarding and training session for community stakeholders and volunteers in Paynesville City. The project, titled “From Trash to Treasure: Reducing Plastic Waste Pollution by Adding Value to Plastic,” was formally introduced on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, during a one-day inception and training workshop held at the Liberian Learning Center. The initiative is designed to revolutionize urban waste management by introducing community-based waste segregation and incentivized collection.

According to CNCL Executive Director Moses A. Massah, the project targets eight specific communities—many of which are situated near critical wetlands that have historically served as “food baskets” for the region. The eight benefiting communities include: Duport Road, ELWA, VOA (RIA Highway), GSA Road, A.B. Tolbert Road, Jacob Town, Fendell and Police Academy. “Our wetlands and water bodies are suffering,” Massah lamented during the opening. “For those who have lived in Monrovia for a long time, we remember when these swamps provided us with food—crabs, crawfish, and fish. Today, they are spoiled by plastic. Our hope is that by working with these 65 participants, we can begin to restore these vital ecosystems.” To ensure the project’s sustainability, CNCL has introduced a financial incentive model. Community members will be compensated \$0.35 USD (approximately 65 LRD) for every kilogram of plastic gathered.

Massah explained that the core logic is to move waste segregation into individual homes. By separating organic waste from plastics, residents can earn a livelihood from recyclables while potentially using organic remains as natural fertilizer for “kitchen gardens.”

However, Massah issued a stern call for accountability: “It is a small project for now, but if we do it well, we will attract more donors. If we don’t perform, we risk being placed on a ‘blackbook’ by international partners. We must do what we say we are going to do.”

The Paynesville City Corporation (PCC), represented by the Director of Commercial Solid Waste, Romeo T. Coker, welcomed the initiative with open arms. Coker revealed that plastic currently accounts for approximately 14% of the city’s total waste. “When you go to the market with \$10, you come back with 10 to 15 plastic bags,” Coker observed. “We have been overwhelmed in the past. This project’s approach of community-by-community segregation is the right way to go.”

Representing the UNDP, Programme Analyst T. Michael Vamah described the launch as “timely and necessary,” noting that plastic pollution remains a significant barrier to Liberia’s sustainable development goals.

"This project reflects UNDP's commitment to innovative, community-driven solutions," Vamah said. "We are turning plastic into an opportunity for inclusive growth, especially for women and young people." The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), represented by Madison Dahn, also expressed strong support for the initiative, noting that the collaboration between CSOs, the government, and international partners is critical for long-term environmental impact. Speaking on behalf of the selected communities, Jacob Town Community chairperson, Samukai Kamara, lauded CNCL and partners for the initiative gear towards mitigating waste in Liberia.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Participants at the training recommended the followings:

- More of similar training should be facilitated in detail for Plastic waste management for communities.

APPENDIXES

Photos from Training

