

BIANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



Green Scenery Sierra Leone



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Introduction

The report focuses on the various project interventions that have been implemented by Green Scenery and its partner organizations on the main themes of its work encompassing the environment, peace, advocacy and research. Summaries of key project intervention are presented as formatted in this report. Essentially, the report on projects will take the following form: project title, key objectives, key expected outcomes, key activities within the project period, successes and challenges. Moreover, the report will also factor research work, capacity building within the institution, administrative matters, in-country and international partnerships. The report covers the period of engagement 2018-2020.

The following projects were implemented during the period 2018 to 2020.

1. Advocating for Pro-poor Land Governance in Sierra Leone
2. Protecting women's customary land rights in Sierra Leone
3. Creating Peaceful Societies through improved management of Natural Resources, Women's Land tenure rights and Economic Empowerment in Sierra Leone
4. Freetown the Treetown
5. National Tree planting; Reforestation of Kasewe

In addition to the implemented projects were three research activities, one of which was an outcome of an implemented project. These researches comprise;

1. "How do the provisions for gender equality and women's land rights of the new National Land Policy relate to the reality of Sierra Leonean women affected by large-scale investments?" Case Study of Pujehun and Port-Loko Districts
2. "How effective is the promotion of Women's Customary Land Rights in improving women's land tenure security in Sierra Leone?"
3. "Contribution of the UN Peace Building Fund to Women's Economic Empowerment and Peace. A Participatory Rural Poverty Assessment of the Project: creating peaceful societies through improved access to women's management of natural resources, land tenure right and economic empowerment in Sierra Leone"

Further to these, Green Scenery also undertook various other activities at national and international levels that are related to its mandate. These activities will be further elaborated in the coming pages. The report will also look at administrative matters of which will be staff matters, management matters such as annual audit reports, safeguarding policy, fund raising and Green Scenery status.

Interventions 2018 - 2020

1. Advocating for Pro-poor Land Governance in Sierra Leone

This project is implemented by Green Scenery and supported by Irish Aid through Christian Aid in Sierra Leone. It is a five years programme, started in 2017, it will end in 2021. The project is geared towards promoting land governance, human rights and accountability of large-scale land investments. The broad objective of the project is to contribute to the reduction of poverty by improving food and livelihood security, through respect and protection of tenure rights of land owners and users (especially women) in rural Sierra Leone.

The project context

Sierra Leone is still struggling to rebuild after a civil war lasting 11 years, fueled by many factors rooted mainly in corruption, inequitable distribution and irrational exploitation of natural resources. Even after many years of restoration of peace, the country still ranks at the bottom of the United Nation's Human Development Index, with high level of poverty, corruption and food insecurity. The country has experienced acute social and economic turmoil in spite of rapid growth of foreign direct investments in the mining sector. A significant increase in FDIs in agriculture were realized. Many foreign direct investors have become interested in the agricultural sector, given the impression that there is enough land for large scale investments. The rapid growth of large-scale land acquisition is happening in a country where the majorities of the population are smallholder farmers, and where much of its territory have also been leased out for mining. Both of these investments; large-scale agricultural investments, and mining are started and executed with little consultation and compensation, often leading to poverty and hunger. It has been established that communities that are affected by large-scale land acquisitions for monoculture plantations often face severe difficulties. Communities lose their natural resources on which they solely depend for food security, livelihood and culture. This has created negative impact on the overall security of rural communities, putting them in precarious situations that leads to tensions and often to proximate conflict.

Research has shown that these large-scale land deals most often are exploitative in nature and undermine food and livelihood security as well as the stability of the rural communities, depriving land owners of their rights to land.

Women's tenure rights continue to be marginalized in rural areas. In customary practice, land rights of women are minimally respected, a condition leading to lack of empowerment and contributing to poverty. Giving women and vulnerable people security of tenure and equitable rights to access land and other natural resources is a key condition in the fight against hunger and poverty in Sierra Leone.

High levels of corruption practices in land deal processes in most parts of the country catalyzed by foreign direct investors has been largely reported. It has often been described as "land grabbing", a process that undermines local land rights affecting individuals and communities' rights to self-actualization and development as they bear the bulk of the externalities of the investments.

Key Activities

During the period under reporting many activities were implemented key among which are as follows:

MY LAND MY VOTE campaign

The nation-wide campaign was made during the Presidential and Parliamentary elections. Green Scenery provided support to local partner organizations Malen Affected Land Owners and Users Association (MALOA), Rural Agency for Community Action Programme (RACAP), United for the Protection of Human Rights (UPHR) and the Sierra Leone Network on the Right to Food (SILNORF) to engage with the campaign. Green Scenery itself was active in the campaign implementation which took number of innovative forms such as meetings with the leadership of political parties and having them commit their parties to respect land rights and make it part of the manifestos; meeting with communities and holding discussion points on how to engage politicians and make them commit to land rights issues, Radio discussion on sensitive land rights issues,

public education and sensitizations using MY LAND MY VOTE campaign nationwide, and media training on land rights. Special support was given to MALOA woman's group in Pujehun and other operational areas to enable them to hold duty bearers to account in the election period. Radio discussions and jingles in different community radios were aired in four different languages calling political parties, flag bears and aspirants to commit themselves on land issues and act on it. Letters were also written to political parties, drawing their attention to the challenges in the land sector and requesting their commitment to address the challenges when in power.

The result of this campaign was that major political parties included land issues in their manifestos and made campaign promises on it.

Capacity building

Several capacity building trainings were given to project beneficiaries on the following topics:

- Women's leadership training
- Negotiation and peace building
- Advocacy trainings
- National Land policy
- Voluntary Guidelines
- Media training

These trainings have led to advancement of land rights awareness of land owners and land users in the target communities. They have improved the abilities of the target beneficiaries to advocate for themselves on their issues. For instance, women's leadership training has emboldened women beneficiaries of the project to advocate for women's issues and hold duty bearers to account. Indicators are well documented in Port-Loko, Pujehun and Bombali.

Monitoring field visit by Christian Aid

In January 2020, Christian Aid (C.A.) Ireland visited Sierra Leone as part of their monitoring programme. C.A. Ireland and Sierra Leone were to pay a visit to MALEN Chiefdom where a segment of beneficiaries of the IAPG project live in ten communities of Malen. In Pujehun, the visit was however cut short by the District Officer who claimed that the Chiefdom was not secure even though the corporate entity, which is being monitored by Green Scenery for human rights violations as well as for inappropriate land deals where operating without threat or disturbances. The visit of Christian Aid team to Bassaleh where women gathered jubilating was aborted by the district officer on the grounds of insecurity. The women dispersed with strong trepidation after knowledge of the action of the District Officer who may have frustrated development from reaching them.

Green Scenery's collaborative meeting with its partners

A strong partnership exists between the Sierra Leone Network on the Right to Food (SiLNoRF), Rural Agency and Community Action Programme (RACAP) and United for the Protection of Human Rights (UPHR) and Green Scenery in the implementation of our mutual initiatives. In February, 2020, Green Scenery paid a visit to these ALLAT members doubling as implementing partners of the IAPG. The essence of the meeting was to discuss how to reorganize ALLAT and how to improve on our mutual collaboration in the field. It was agreed that we could engage in mutual research work in our interest and operational areas. It was also agreed that a good strategy

be worked out as to the process of reorganization of ALLAT. The process of reactivating ALLAT was stalled by the COVID-19, but it is still on course.

Green Scenery's continuous court monitoring of MALOA trial

Since 2019 when MALOA was taken to court, Green Scenery constantly monitored court hearings. From January to March, before the COVID-19 pandemic, Green Scenery monitored all court sittings of MALOA. They were supported in different ways from 2019 up to the time when the matter was discharged from court in December 2020. Green Scenery served as psychosocial source for the 18 defendants until they were released.



18 accused MALOA members were discharged by the court, 9th December, 2020

Assessment of Planting Natural, Sierra Organic Palm (SOP)

In late March 2020, Green Scenery undertook an assessment of a new company; Planting Natural (Sierra Organic Palm) that was vying to take over the oil palm plantation in Port-Loko, a region covered by Green Scenery in its operation. Planting Natural is known to have started its activities in February 2020. Thanks to the wealth of knowledge the communities have acquired on land lease processes through the IAPG project, they have however requested transparency in the land acquisition process.

COVID-19 Pandemic impact the IAPG intervention

In March 2020, Sierra Leone recorded the first case of Corona virus (COVID-19). The pandemic has had adverse effects on the social and economic wellbeing of Sierra Leoneans. This introduced effects on the IAPG project implementation. Due to threats of food insecurity, Green Scenery through the IAPG Funds provided humanitarian support in the form of food and other COVID-19 preparedness and prevention items to over two thousand five hundred landowners and users. This group of beneficiaries were already adversely affected by the activities of the foreign agricultural business and the COVID-19 pandemic just made matters worse. This timely intervention of humanitarian and other COVID-19 support increased the resilience of our target communities.

Key Outcomes of the project activities

1. In February 2020, the High Court Judge ruled that, the contempt of court against Green Scenery be set aside.
2. Sunbird Bio Energy Company in Bombali district allowed communities to do small scale farming in the company's concession areas.
3. In March 2020, planting Sierra Organic Palm Company (SOP) undertook family land mapping of land owners as a process towards a lease agreement.
4. Increased resilient built-in communities from the humanitarian and COVID-19 support.

5. MALOA accused persons in court continued to be strong in the face of the adversary as they regularly appeared in court.
6. Green Scenery's relationship with its partners improved based on the regular interactions between GS and them.

2. United Nations Food and Agriculture Projects

Project context

Two interventions supported by UNFAO were implemented in quick successions in Port-Loko. The first, "Promoting women's customary land rights in Sierra Leone" (Irish Aid Funded) was carried out in two months starting September 2018 in the following communities: Rosint, Rokupr Worsie and Matete in the Bureh chiefdom. The other, "Training and sensitization of township/sub township and village and community about the need to secure customary land rights in accordance with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) and the VGGT compliant National Land Policy and familiarization with the process of recording tenure rights" (BMZ funded) was implemented in one month, starting March 2020. The target of this intervention was Kalangba.

Both of the interventions were intended to take onboard the North-western region since the other regions had benefited from the projects' implementation and leaving this region out may not have had a desired outcome.

They both carried basically the same objectives and specific objectives:

Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. And capitalize on the achievement of the ongoing VGGT implementation in Sierra Leone while developing capacity building strategies and pilot the SOLA open tenure tools to map the lands of land-owning families.

key activities

Awareness raising of communities on the gender laws, customary land right, and natural resource governance as embedded in the VGGT and National Land Policy (NLP)

In all of the seven villages in which the UNFAO supported intervention, women were the primary target of the activities, even though men were strongly encouraged to be part of the process, ensuring that they too understood the contents of the programme as a way of yielding insightful gains from their perspectives. This was intended to help influence men's attitude towards their wives and women in general.

Raising awareness on gender laws, customary land rights and the contents of the VGGT and the NLP provided not only information, or their sources, but also in concrete terms what can be achieved with their application as well as the benefits both women and men can realise.



Awareness trainings in Matatie, Port-Loko district

Building capacities of women to understand their customary land rights

Women were largely the beneficiary of this activity, although some men also participated. It was important for the women to understand the nature of customary practice and how it could be misused by some men, particularly men in authority in the communities like chiefs, members of the chieftom councils, local courts, etc. Men were made to understand that their daughters and sisters stand the risk of being victims to such misuse of customary law and practice.

Data collection to build up baseline

Several baseline information was collected. These were:

- The demography of the communities
- Household information for project beneficiaries
- Information on the direct beneficiaries of the project
- Information on landowning families.

The information was necessary to help in project planning and implementation and also presented data against impact/effect levels.

Undertake geo-spatial intervention, which included training of youth in SOLA technique, boundary demarcation, establishing coordinates along boundaries lines of land belonging to landowning families. and production of land surveyed maps

Youths were at the center of these activities. They took part in the brushing of the boundary lines for the process of boundary harmonization. After the process of harmonization, they were again part of the use of the SOLA software that established the boundary coordinates that eventually were used to produce the community, cluster and individual family maps. The boundaries were demarked with the participation of all stakeholders, including the land-owning family heads, the village chiefs, and neighboring communities where necessary. Dormant boundary conflicts were thus awakened, which needed to be addressed carefully. The maps were produced through the FAO support which were later distributed to all landowning families.



*Boundary demarcation
in Koya, Port Loko
district*

Creating Peaceful Societies through improved management of Natural Resources, Women's Land tenure rights and Economic Empowerment in Sierra Leone (UN PEACEBUILDING FUND supported)

The project was implemented in seven villages; Kalangba, Matete, Rokurr Wose, Rosint (Bureh chieftom), Faidugu, Mabain and Koya (Maconteh Chieftom). The last three villages: Faidugu, Mabain and Koya were the added to the previous FAO project. The project had components of the first set;

1. Awareness raising of communities on the gender laws, customary land right, and natural resource governance as embedded in the VGGT and the NLP
2. Building capacities of women to understand their customary land rights
3. Data collection to build up baseline studies
4. Undertake geo-spatial intervention, which included training of youth in SOLA technique, boundary demarcation, establishing coordinates along boundaries lines of land belonging to landowning families. and production of land surveyed maps.

However, one extra component, economic empowerment of women, was applied to four villages in Bureh Chiefdom. Meaning the activities 1 to 4 was applied a second time in Bureh as a way to reinforce concept and knowledge and the fifth one was intended to increase women's income in the home to contribute to domestic peace. It was also a way to embolden women to claim their rights to land.

Maconteh chiefdom, with the three villages was subject to activities 1 to 4 above with the intention of replicating the scenario for Bureh chiefdom once funds are available and adding on the component of the economic empowerment.

The economic empowerment comprised the following:

- Ensuring that women had access to land to undertake farming of their choice
- Women households targeted as beneficiaries and grouped into clusters
- Basic farm tools supplied to the women beneficiaries
- Farming cultivars acquired and distributed
- Training in agricultural practices including climate smart agriculture
- Training in Village Saving and Loan Association and its actualization.

At the end of projects, the following outcomes were achieved:

- Women and men were able to relate with and understand key aspects of the National Land Policy and the Voluntary Guidelines
- Women and men became aware of the existence of the three Gender Acts
- Women and men became knowledgeable in human rights and women's rights to land
- Young people in the communities had their capacities built in the use and technics of SOLA
- Community and clan lands were harmonized, coordinates established, and maps created, validated, printed and distributed.
- Women had access to land and demanded for more to increase their farmland
- Some women had control of their land
- Village area Land Committees were established with 52% women representation and 48% male representation.
- The VSLA groups where established and the schemes started.
- Over 60 farms owned by women were established and had first and second cropping with yields that showed they made savings based on an assessment carried out.

The immediate impacts (effects) achieved:

- Provision of maps has led to less land boundary conflicts in the communities
- Relative peace over food and domestic income was realized by the target beneficiaries
- Respect for women by men in the communities increased
- Women become more active in community activities especially in the VALC and the VSLA
- Women's access to land has increased with less preconditions
- A participatory rural poverty assessment of women's economic empowerment and peace revealed that the project scored some level of financial savings for women in all of the 60 homes targeted.

3. Tree Planting

#Freetownthetreetownproject, in cooperation with the Freetown City Council

Implementing a project for the Freetown City Council and the Environmental Foundation for Africa, Green Scenery led groups of a total of 36 youths in a campaign to plant about 35,000 trees on the Freetown Peninsula. Planting the trees was a notable work for the environment, for the people and for human security nexus as they enhanced the environment with trees, improved water catchment protection for the people and provide in the future for the communities various fruits and non-timber tree products and will enhance human security by reducing natural disaster impact or occurrences.

The hilly areas of Angola Town and Mambo Waterfall were targeted by Green Scenery. Mambo Waterfall, a beautiful but sadly partly deforested area which has become an attraction for tourists and locals at the end of the rainy season. Many people took on the stewardship attributes in the project design and implementation.

To ensure community ownership, several meetings including an entry point meeting were held with various stakeholders (political leaders, gendered youth, and key individuals), community engagement consultations and community awareness as well as community tree planting in which community youths were engaged.

This wasn't just a mere tree planting exercise, the initiative integrated stewardship of the trees, i.e. those planting the trees offers protection for the trees in the field. It further offered tracking of the trees, where they are geographically located (their coordinates) and pictures of the trees in these positions. This meant that one can trace a particular tree by its coordinate using a GPS. This entire process was made possible by the tree tracker application, through which the trees can be counted and their locations and stewards determined.



Youths of Mambo, planting trees, November 2020

#Freetownthetreetown project did not only present the opportunity of rejuvenating the degraded land and protecting the water source in the Mambo and Angola town axis, it also offered short term job opportunity for youth. The youth were offered the role of stewards and tree trackers for which they received stipends for the exercise until the end of the project. The project therefore offered; some work, some fun and some money.

There were challenges with the project. There were serious delays with initialization of the activities due to late availability of resources to start the project. The result was that the tree planting activities started very late and almost at the edge of the rainy season into the dry season. The delay caused a frantic rush to put into the earth the trees. It caused the suppliers of the tree seedlings to rush to supply trees at sites at a rate that could not be readily absorbed by the growers and stewards and making tree stocking difficult at storage sites.

The areas of Mambo and Angola have very difficult terrains. It took manual means to transport the seedlings from the storage sites to the field planting sites. Therefore, transporting thousands of trees manually slowed down the process. The growers/stewards improvised methods to keep levels of moisture around the roots of the seedlings to be able to survive the dry spell. At the end of the project Green Scenery and its stewards were able to plant 35,000 of various varieties of trees (fruits, medicinal, ornamental trees and forest trees) in both Mambo waterfall, its environ and Angola town. A mortality rate due to transportation and transfer amounted to 3,000 trees. This project triggered a phase of rethinking arboriculture and civil society participation in sustainable urban forest management. An urban forest engineering and planning can be seen as a novel area that needs to be developed, deepened and cascaded to allow for Freetown and other cities have protected areas or to say the least one urban botanical garden for recreation and education.

National Tree planting: Kasewe tree planting project

The government committed itself to plant 5 million trees in a period of 5 years. Green Scenery planted 4000 trees in 2020 in support of this commitment. The trees were planted in Kasewe Forest Reserve. Only two species of trees were planted; 500 cashew and 3500 Gmelina trees. The trees were planted on 27 acres of land with each specie located in a different location.

Kasewe enclave is about 100 miles away from the capital city, Freetown, located on coordinates 8.314722, -12.261944. UTM: 28P 801606 9201944 and encompasses the following communities Moyambawo, Fakunya Chiefdom, Moyambao, Kori Chiefdom, and Bongababeh of Moyamba and Tonkolili districts. The region of this action was Kasewe reserve, hills and the environ.

There is a designated forest reserve comprising moist semi-deciduous and evergreen forests that



Cashew Planting field in Kasewe, November 2020

covers an area of 1,224 km². The region also consists of hills of volcanic rock nature standing as high as 500m above the interior plains of the country. Series of foot slope benches are observed and field observations and chemical analyses of samples indicate that each bench has a characteristic geochemistry controlled by its own topography, hydrological environment and leaching history (Bowden, D.J, 1997). The benches are related, each inheriting material from above and providing material for the bench below. The material is transported both mechanically and in solution.

The hills have numerous caves in which various bat species could be sighted. The region also consists of many wet lands or swamps. Streams are also prevalent. Kasewe has an aesthetic value the hills can serve good purposes for observatory, climbing and research.

Much deforestation targeting native species has taken place in recent years, both from commercial loggers and wood and charcoal harvesters. No reforestation in an effort to restore the lost vegetation has been done except the old Gmelina trees lining the highway to Bo.

The tree seedlings were delivered very late for planting. However, using our experience and engaging community people under stipend and short-term employment, the team was able to plant all 4000 trees in record time to take advantage of the moisture content in the soil for the trees to survive. A fire belt around the planted area was established to protect the trees, watering, using water from a nearby stream was done regularly. Losses due to heat from fire sources and other biological causes were encountered of up to 10% of the total trees.

An official tree planting depicting symbolic planting was done on November 11, 2020 within the reserve. The event was attended by the Ministry of Environment, local authorities from the three villages, the councilor of the area and other stakeholders.

The project was able to establish visibility by putting a sign board on the road side showing not only the direction of the project location but also the project information.

4. Celebrating 30 years of service to Sierra Leone

On two separate days, Friday the 18th and Sunday the 20th of October, 2019 Green Scenery marked their establishment day, a journey and story starting on the 20th of October 1989, which was thirty years ago in 2019. The two days celebrations were marked by two separate events. An exhibition was put together to show case 30 years of Green Scenery's work in Sierra Leone. The exhibition comprised of a rich collection of publications, project reports, manuals, modules, teaching materials, research reports, audio and video tapes and CD plates, as well as IEC materials.

Each of these were displayed according to date and programme. It was open to the public for viewing and many of our partners, sister organizations and other invited institutions like the Judiciary, the Ministry of Agriculture, the German AGEH, Christian Aid, CARL SL and a host of others came around to see for themselves the work of Green Scenery spanning 30 years.

Entering the exhibition in the Green Scenery meeting room, one palpably lived the history to a great extent upon seeing project titles and reports dating back to 1996 with funding from the first donor partner the International Union for Nature Conversation (NC-IUCN).

The Director at one moment said that the first grant received by Green Scenery was as a direct influence of the then Director of Forests Mr. Palmer of blessed memory.



30 Years Green Scenery Celebration, 20th October 2019

The second day was dedicated to a small gathering of close friends of Green Scenery and key invited partners and board members. The gathering did not exceed 20 people. The day was meant on reflection on the journey of Green Scenery from its humble beginning to the moment of celebration.

Reflecting on the past on Sunday, 20th October, the Executive Director exclaimed “I never imagined that Project Green Scenery (PGS) would transform into Green Scenery and come this far.” He then mentioned colleagues like Abayomi Charles Roberts, Sylvester Samba, Maybelle Gamanga, Donald Lawson and Vandy Rogers (both of blessed memory), Ahmed Turay, all of Government Model Secondary School. We also had Augustine Allieu, the first secretary of PGS at Albert Academy School and some more in Government Rokel Secondary School and Muslim Brotherhood Secondary School as the pioneers of the initiative after he raised and discussed the concept with them. Rahall mentioned the odd jobs they did, like beautification of domestic gardens, art work and adverts for private businesses to raise funds for the PGS activities.

He briefly truncated the Green Scenery history into three phases: first phase 1989 to 2002, second phase 2003 to 2009 and third phase 2010 to 2019. Referring to the first stage as the formative stages, the second was the consolidation stage and the third is the networking and expansion stage.

Madam Martyna Foday, a long serving Board member who served as chairperson of PGS in the early days in her recount further pieced the jigsaw puzzle together as she narrated accounts of the past, particularly on how she was made to become a PGS member. She narrated fond memories of her “recruiter” Vandy Rogers also of blessed memory. She thanked all that were present at the occasion especially the development partners, appealing to them to continue their support to the good cause of Green Scenery.

5. Research

One of Green Scenery’s strength is conducting research. This can be in the form of surveys, investigations, qualitative and quantitative research, assessments, fact finding etc. As an advocacy organisation, one important reason to undertake research is for the purpose of evidenced based advocacy. Green Scenery uses the evidence in our research findings to mount advocacy for change in policy, practice, legal frameworks etc. Research help the organisation to formulate and design projects for targeted beneficiaries. Research also helps the organisation to introspectively assess its work and impact and formulate programmes to reshape or redirect its programmes. In this period under review, two research undertakings were done.

Women’s Customary Land Rights.

This research paper titled “How effective is the promotion of Women’s Customary Land Rights in improving women’s land tenure security in Sierra Leone? The impact of an FAO project in Sierra Leone”, was carried out with funding and technical support of the Research Consortium on Women’s Land Rights, an initiative of Resource Equity.

The Research Consortium on Women’s Land Rights is a community of learning and practice that works to increase the quantity and strengthen the quality of research on interventions to advance women’s land and resource rights. Among other things, the Consortium commissions new research that promotes innovations in practice and addresses gaps in evidence on what works to improve women’s land rights. Learn more about the Research Consortium on Women’s Land Rights by visiting <https://consortium.resourceequity.org/>

The research utilized a qualitative case-study approach. In order to assess the impact of the above mentioned FAO interventions, interviews were conducted in two villages, which benefited from



Interview with Town Chief of Matatie, Port Loko

of land by strengthening their capacity to understand their rights and to self-advocate for the protection of their customary land rights, as well as eliminate discriminatory barriers through improved reforms in land rights governance.

We found out that woman in the two villages analysed have indeed slightly gained access to lands by receiving household plots for individual management or community plots for management as a women’s cooperative. On the other hand, we argued that women did not significantly gain on the rights included in the bundle of rights to tenure. Gendered work tasks not only continue to keep women away from management rights, but also diminishes their legitimate claims to the lands they access. Tasks such as clearing forest, cutting trees, planting cash crops, or building a dwelling – which represent development, that is, an increase of value of a land plot and which make a claim to a family plot more legitimate - are still clearly reserved to men.

Participatory Rural Poverty Assessment

Implementing the above mentioned project titled “Creating Peaceful Societies through Improved Access to Women’s Management of Natural Resources, Land Tenure Rights and Economic Empowerment in Sierra Leone”, Green Scenery conducted a research named “Contribution of the UN Peace Building Fund to Women’s Economic Empowerment and Peace. A Participatory Rural Poverty Assessment of the Project: creating peaceful societies through improved access to women’s management of natural resources, land tenure right and economic empowerment in Sierra Leone”.



Launch of the FAO project "Creating Peaceful Societies through Improved Access to Women's Management of Natural Resource, Land Tenure Rights and Economic Empowerment"

This study was to interrogate the second outcome of the intervention which states: Sustained peace in the household due to increased income and domestic food and nutrition security through women’s livelihood activities and village saving scheme.

We wanted to find out whether the PBF support added value to the empowerment of women by improving women's income, and to what extent in the home. What is or would be the degree of peace that would exist in the home if there is improvement in income and food? We used a combination of methods to elicit data and information as seen in the methodology. We emphasized participatory approach to determine the outcome of the study.

The study had a fixed pre-determined sample size of 60 participants who are the beneficiaries of the above listed project. These participants are equally spread among the four villages of Kalangba, Matete, Rosint and Rokupr Wosie, implying 15 beneficiaries per village.

The analysis of findings of each village related exclusively to the 15 beneficiaries. We used the sustainable livelihood frame work to determine the status of the beneficiaries in terms of indebtedness or savings by simply calculating income against expenditure of their normal livelihood strategies.

We further explored the income derived from the additional farming support from the UNPBF. We quantified the derivatives of the farming outputs and monetized it to arrive at the income generated from farming activity supported by PBF. We then undertook a simple gap analysis by simple difference between income versus expenditure of what obtained before the PBF project support and income derived from PBF support.

The key research finds were as follows:

1. The study shows that the UNPBF-supported project contributed to generating wealth for the beneficiaries by improving on their savings rather than re-enforcing indebtedness. It means therefore that their poverty level was positively impacted
2. It is also implied that domestic conflict especially over feeding for the home would be significantly reduced since food and levels of money would at hand for use in the home. The supply of farm inputs at about the crucial time of the planting season may have contributed to the good harvests of crops as data shows.
3. The farming inputs also triggered women's demand for land to carry out their farming, which they got according to data, showing that their tenure rights are being recognized.
4. The investigation shows that wealth generation depend on other factors and not necessarily livelihood strategy alone. If the other factors (capitals) are unfavourable, income generation may be limited or very poor.
5. Some communities had very high expenditure lines, while others had low expenditures. Rokupr Wosie is a typical example of a low expenditure village. This low expenditure presented the opportunity to make more gains in the savings. It will be useful if the other villages learn from this village.

6. International Staff Support and Exchange

AGIAMONDO/Green Scenery Project

Project background

Since October 2019, The Civil Peace Service (CPS) Worker Yannick Wild joined the team of Green Scenery. The integrated worker supports Green Scenery in its project interventions through

a project tailored by the necessity of the organization. A planning workshop was conducted in January 2020 together with Green Scenery Staff and partner organizations to define the activities to be conducted for the next three years.



Green Scenery Director Joseph Rahall & CPS-worker Yannick Wild

Key Project Objectives

Goals and outcomes of the strategic planning program revolved around supporting Green Scenery in conducting research on land issues, diversified advocacy activities, and peace building initiatives. Green Scenery's partner organizations UPHR, RACAP and MALOA, also participated in the planning event and a resolution to support them in monitoring Large Scale Land Acquisitions (LSLA) in their respective districts was adopted. Setting up a coalition platform to publish reports on the LSLA was drawn as an objective either to revive ALLAT or come up with a new initiative, and the need for mediatory role in land related conflicts.

Expected Outcomes

- Green Scenery conducts research on the impact of LSLA in Sierra Leone based on identified gaps. It publishes new and outstanding research results and uses them for communication and advocacy activities to influence decision makers as well as raise awareness of international organization to the lack of due-diligence by agribusinesses.
- Green Scenery designs and implements a communication and advocacy strategy aimed at achieving the organization's goals. It uses this strategy to advocate for the enactment of new land laws guided by the NLP and improve the livelihood securities of large scale agribusiness affected communities.
- Green scenery establishes effective communication structures with development partners, CSOs and CBOs
- Green Scenery develops a unit that can deal with conflicts related to natural resource management. Conflict sensitive approaches, such as Do no Harm, are used prior to and during activities.

Key Activities & successes

In order to reach the first set of outcomes of supporting Green Scenery's activities, the AGIAMONDO project has set up a research team. Meeting regularly, the research team gathered knowledge and capacities in regard to different topics such as, how to conduct research (quantitative and qualitative), desk research and fact-finding exercise, the state of specific LSLAs in Sierra Leone, the situation of women's tenure rights. After redacting a project proposal, the research team acquired a small grant to conduct a research on women tenure security in Port-Loko. Since then, further desk-research, literature review, and methodology design was undertaken to conduct the data-gathering and write a paper. The research team was continuously mentored and capacitated on how to conduct research by the integrated AGIAMONDO worker, while he himself, was capacitated by the team in Sierra Leonean on land tenure issues.

A second small team was set up to discuss advocacy related issues. Meeting regularly, the advocacy team discussed goals and objectives of Green Scenery's advocacy work and set itself activities to undertake in order to reach those objectives. Different documents have been redacted or are still under redaction such as an investigation on the new Port-Loko investor planting natural, a position paper on the land bills, an analysis of the MALOA conflict.

On the other hand, the integrated worker has been working closely with Green Scenery's executive director in order to challenge the defamation of local newspapers against Green Scenery at the IMC. Furthermore, to support Green Scenery and MALOA in the face of criminalization, the integrated worker and the ED acquired a small grant by Front Line Defender for lawyer and transport costs. The CPS worker has since then reported to Front Line Defender on the development of both court cases.

In cooperation with the Christian Aid project, consultations on the two draft land bills, the customary land rights bill and the national land commission bill, were carried out in three districts of the country. The outcome has still to be compiled into a comprehensive report.

In the midst of defamations against MALOA, an awareness campaign was sponsored to address the membership and let the members make their point of view public. Furthermore, in November, three members were invited to Freetown to advocate on regard to the questionable RSPO certification process of SOCFIN. Four radio discussions and five publications in local newspapers were organized.

The CPS-worker independently updated and slightly redesigned [Green Scenery's website](#). Mentoring was given to some staff to update content on the website.

In order to foster peace building and to capacitate Green Scenery Staff in project design and project proposal writing, theoretical and practical trainings were given to the staff, using the issue plantain island, whereby an inhabitant of the island requested Green Scenery to help his people evacuate the island.

[Global Mission Fellow Programme](#)

Green Scenery works with many partners, even as we continue to press to get more partners to work with. Global Missions Fellow is a United Methodist Church programme which was started with Green Scenery in 2017. After establishing all the formal protocols the programme then started in 2018 when we received our first fellow in Sierra Leone from Uganda. Our second fellow is Godknows Maremera from Zimbabwe, he worked with us for 18 months.

The program is for young adults 20-30 years graduates who have passion to serve as representatives of the United Methodist Church in various mission fields.

The core objectives is to engage with local communities, connect with local communities and grow in personal and social holiness. The main objectives is to collaborate and transform generations through alleviating human suffering especially poverty, advocate for justice freedom and peace amongst others. This program presents a platform where youths are nurtured to be leaders in various walks of life to serve in communities they live in and learn



Godknows Maremera (right) and Daniel Koroma (left)

from other regions of the world encompassing global citizenship principles. Main focus is to be in the problem context together with the people, see differently and serve differently.

Key program objectives

- Crafting annual learning goals
- Join the advocacy team in the designing, planning, implementation and monitoring of advocacy project activities.
- To participate and represent the organization in various networks and meetings.
- Assisting in organizing seminars, workshops and special lectures.
- Assist in recording meetings
- Collecting reliable data and information related to large land scale information for agriculture.

Expected Outcomes

- Meeting the targets set in annual learning goals
- Good team work with other workmates
- Ability to work in diverse team set ups
- Connect with others internally and externally on work platforms
- Good planning and organization for meetings, workshops and seminars
- Good meeting minutes presentation
- Help in reliable geodata collection for Large Scale land acquisitions for agribusinesses
- Help in any other job related task assigned to me
- Have a better understanding of Sierra Leone and various communities Green Scenery is working with
- Active participation in various advocacy campaigns

Key activities within the period

- Orientation to the workplace community, workmates and organizational structure
- Community Mapping visiting various parts of Freetown to know the city

- Strategic planning meeting with CPS worker, Green Scenery staff and partner organizations
- Ministry with the local communities in advocacy domains by attending court proceedings of MALOA court case.
- Representing the organization in various meetings. This has been a pleasure to collaborate and partner in the delivering the sustainable development. The monthly FAO food security meetings were a good platform to present the organization's work in advocating for women's rights to own and access land in communal areas as they are the backbone of household food security, analysis of food security and access/ownership of land nexus and the plight of food security situations in areas affected by large scale land acquisitions for agribusinesses
- Record and write minutes with the secretary on every meeting to use for the next sitting
- Helped in crafting a report on Protecting Women's customary land rights in Sierra Leone project supported by UNFAO and Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Attended the defamation court case against Green Scenery in context of attacks on human rights defenders or advocates
- In the area of collecting reliable data and information related to large land scale information for agriculture. I did my desk research from organizational databases, publications and online stuff.
- Managed to be part of a research team
- Crafted 4 project proposals writing for funding in the areas that Green Scenery operates.
- Managed to visit Sahn Malen Chiefdom the hotspot of conflict in large scale in land acquisition and had a hands-on experience on barriers to advocacy activities in the hands of who is benefitting from the conflict
- Managed to be part of the public consultation meeting on repealing the old land laws of Sierra Leone and the pathway for enacting a new land bill such that voices of the poor are heard
- Area supervisory duties in Korgbo under Freetownthetreetown project

7. Working in Networks and With Other CBO Partners

Green Scenery believes in working with other organisations, either in partnership or in networks. They must have similar aspirations, or beliefs as our organisation. In other networks with less compatible beliefs, we would play lesser roles. In this regard we have continued to forge partnerships with Rural Agency for Community Action Programme (RACAP) in Pujehun, the Sierra Leone Network for the Right to Food (SiLNoRF) in Bombali, and United for the Protection of Human Rights (UPHR) in Port-Loko. Green Scenery also belongs to coalitions/networks such as Action for Largescale Land Acquisition Transparency (ALLAT), National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives (NACE), Natural Resource Governance and Environmental Justice (NaRGEJ). We relate with Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance Sierra Leone (PACJA-SL)

8. Solidarity

Apart from main key project intervention programs, Green Scenery was committed to serve Sierra Leone with other provisions of standing in solidarity with partner institutions, stakeholders that invite or call for a hand in their programs, meetings, radio discussions on various environmental and natural resource governance issues, writing articles and press release stories, being partners to

governmental ministries in search for common good especially bills consultations relating to land reform or development of sound environmental management practices. The main theme has been “we are in this together”. We can do it together so our community, local and international partnerships and relationships remain steadfast. Though the COVID-19 situation had some negative impact on our work, we have also learnt some good lessons from it in our project intervention areas as livelihoods put people in a precarious situation that was never thought of through lockdown and salary cuts. Whilst no one was infected we were also affected so we have been in this together and we will be in this together and together we pull out of it.

9. Our Relationship with Government

Since our existence and in 30 years of work, we have dedicated our service to Sierra Leoneans, especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged, but as we do, we are not oblivious of the fact that our work complements government efforts and therefore we cooperate with government through line MDAs to ensure that government’s outreach programmes reach targeted beneficiaries and feedbacks from beneficiaries reaches the government. We further support government by contributing to policy and other legal frameworks development as well as providing technical expertise where necessary to the MDAs.

At the national level we work with but not limited to the following:

- Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Local government
- Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources

At Sub-regional level we work with

- Freetown City Council
- Pujehun District Council
- Bombali District Council
- Port-Loko District Council



Inter-ministerial Taskforce meeting on the VGGT implementation

10. International Partners

Our work is not complete without building relationship with international development partners. We strive to build international relationships with funding partners and like-minded partners working on similar issues such as the environment, human rights, peace building, land governance, research, livelihoods. In this regards Green Scenery have cordial relationship with the following donor and development partners:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Christian Aid | 2013 to date |
| AGEH/AGIAMONDO | 2013 to date |
| FIAN Belgium | 2014 to date |
| Oakland Institute | 2014 to date |
| UNFAO | 2018 to date |
| Welthungerhilfe | 2013 - 2017 |
| Finn Church Aid | 2010 - 2014 |

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Lund University | 2015 |
| US-Aid | 2014 |
| IUCN-Netherlands | 2008 - 2010 |

11. Administration

Green Scenery is managed by a secretariat that is headed by the Executive Director and senior management staff. The secretariat is supervised by a board of directors. Through mutuality both structures have been able to manage the affairs of the organization. The organization has developed teams that are under different management supervisors to conduct specific internal work schedules and team work, which has yielded great results. Executive professional and personal development is advocated for and promoted amongst staff through internal trainings, partnership workshops, free online courses participation and project specific capacity building. It has been a mandate that capacity building is at the core of our project proposals so that the organization will continue to grow and empower staff for greater challenges.

The organization's key activities are guided by our five-year strategic plan and the monitoring and evaluation document of the company is there for continuous improvement. Organisational policies provide guide to managerial and programme practices. For instance, we have a Safeguarding and Code of Practice policy, Financial policy and Communication practice have ushered better environment for our staff and clients. We have made great strides to ensure that annual financial report/Audit are available.

Consolidated annual audit report 2019

| Green Scenery Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Appendices | | | | | | | |
| Statement of receipt and payments for the various projects | | | | | | | |
| For the year ending 31 December 2019 | | | | | | | |
| | SFCG | ISVARA/FAO | Christian Aid Funding | FCA Funding | Trocaire Funding | Misereor Funding | Total |
| | Le'000' | Le'000' | Le'000' | Le'000' | Le'000' | Le'000' | Le'000' |
| Balance brought forward | 45 | 402 | 1,014 | 118 | 972 | 917 | 3,468 |
| Received during the period | - | 1,115,046 | 677,298 | - | - | - | 1,792,344 |
| Total income | 45 | 1,115,448 | 678,312 | 118 | 972 | 917 | 1,795,812 |
| Programme cost | - | (740,315) | (240,517) | - | - | - | (980,832) |
| Administrative cost | - | (249,708) | (272,917) | - | - | - | (522,625) |
| Balance carried forward | 45 | 125,425 | 164,878 | 118 | 972 | 917 | 292,355 |

12. Staff/Management/Board meetings

The organisation runs regular staff meetings ensuring reports from activities run by project or programme staff are reported and discussed. Staff issues are also normally raised in these meetings. Most of the outcomes of staff meetings are taken up at management meetings and discussed. Problematic ones are normally assigned to Board meetings.

The team is varied and diversified as presented on our website www.greenscenery.org/ourteam

Executive Director

Joseph Rahall – B.Sc. in Agriculture, M.A. Environmental Security and Peace, Fellow Transitional Justice

Joseph Rahall is the pioneer in the establishment of Green Scenery in 1989, when he was still a high school teacher. He has also played a key role in establishing organizations such as the National Forum for Human Rights and the National League for Human Rights. Joseph Rahall has worked as a journalist and as an editor of a newspaper and has served in various voluntary capacities in organizations like the Sierra Leone Adult Education Association and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists. He has travelled extensively and is nationally and internationally well-known.

Email: josephrahall@gmail.com

Project Coordinator

Mohamed E.J. Kargbo – B.Sc. in Public Sector Management, M.A. in development Management
Mohamed E.J. Kargbo joined Green Scenery in 2017. After studying social work, public management and development management, he worked for different NGOs in Sierra Leone, among others, for eight years with Don Bosco Fambul. Today he coordinated Green Scenery's project "Advocating for Rights Based Approach to Pro-poor Land Governance in Sierra Leone" in cooperation with our development partner Christian Aid.

Email: mejkgargbo@gmail.com

Advocacy Officer

Fatmata Salisu – Diploma in Social work and Psychological care, BSc. Financial Services.

Fatmata Salisu works with Green Scenery since 2003. She trained successfully Peacebuilders in schools all over Sierra Leone and implemented the Bike Riders project. Currently she is advocating for communities affected by large-scale land investments in agriculture. Coordination, implementation and monitoring of project activities form part of her responsibilities

Email: fatmatasalisu@gmail.com

Finance Officer

Abu Amara – T.C., H.T.C. secondary, Diploma and B.Sc. in Financial Services

Abu Amara is responsible for the preparation of payment vouchers, payroll and salary slips, bank reconciliation statements and requisitions. He prepares documents for internal and external audit processes and assists programs staff in the preparation of project budgets.

Email: abumarah281@yahoo.com

Administrative Officer

Francess Mawendeh – H.T.C secondary, B Ed. Business Studies

Francess Mawendeh is responsible for administrative and human resources aspects at Green Scenery. She plans, directs and coordinates the administrative functions of the organization.

Email: francesmawendeh@gmail.com

Secretary

Fudia Swaray – Certificate and Diploma in Business Administration

Fudia Swaray started as an intern with Green Scenery in 2008. She became Field Officer and later strengthened environmental education within the Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve Project.

As Secretary, Fudia is today responsible for all incoming and outgoing documentations and also assists in other activities, like workshops and trainings and updating the organisation's Facebook page.

Email: swarray_fudia81@yahoo.com

Land Use Planning Officer

Joseph Kallon – B.Sc. of Arts in Conflict Studies

Joseph works with Green Scenery for 4 years. He is responsible for spatial research and boundary mapping of rural communities.

Email: josephkallon115@gmail.com

Research and Information Officer

Danie Santigie Koroma – B.Sc. of Arts with Honors in Library, Archive and Information Science
Daniel is our research officer. He is a professional in data gathering and archive management. Since 2019 with Green Scenery, he provides reliable information related to the monitoring of our project as well as baseline studies in land tenure, livelihood and agriculture.

Email: danielkoroma33@gmail.com

Logistic Officer

Claudius Williams

Claudius Williams is helping to manage the office. He assures that the infrastructure is well maintained. Since 2001 he is working with Green Scenery in Freetown.

Driver

Mamaduh J. Bah

Mamaduh is Green Scenery's driver. He makes sure that everybody arrives safe and sound wherever our workshops, research trips or meetings.

Development Advisor

Yannick Wild – B.Sc. of Arts in Political Sciences and Sociology

Yannick has experience working with small CSOs and NGOs in Europe, Latin America and Africa in communication, security management, advocacy, project design, and fundraising. He started working with Green Scenery in 2019 through the Civil Peace Service program. He supports the organization in various tasks, ranging from project design, over advocacy to activity implementation.

Email: wildyannick@hotmail.com

Global Mission Fellow Intern as Environment Program Officer

Godknows Maremera – BSc Honours in Geography and Environmental Studies

Godknows works closely with the Advocacy Team in organizing advocacy activities, including seminars, conferences, and some specific campaigns. He Assists in designing, planning, implementing and monitoring advocacy project activities, and in organizing seminars, workshops and special lectures. Godknows Participates and represent the organization in various networks and meetings. Finally, he assists in recording minutes of the meetings (where required), and

preparing reports and collecting reliable data and information related to large-scale land investments in agriculture.

Email: maremerag@gmail.com / gmaremera@umcmission.org

13. Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

The vision of the organization is “an empowered and nationalistic Sierra Leonean people, working towards peace and development, with equitable access to the country’s resources, equal access to facilities and opportunities, and upholding respect for human dignity”

Mission

Green Scenery’s mission is: “to build capacities for positive attitude and behavior change towards human rights, peace and development in and across communities in Sierra Leone through a process that empowers people and adds value to their lives by:

1. Working in collaborative partnership with the relevant stakeholders;
2. Advocating for policy change;
3. Training and community empowerment initiatives;
4. Promoting the rights and interests of disadvantage people”

Organizational Values

GSSL sees these values as critical and very integral to the work we do:

Collaborative Partnership- Green Scenery works respectfully in collaboration with Sierra Leone government, communities, the private sector, donors and development partners, bringing together the unique resources of all to achieve common objectives. We realize the power of collaboration as a building block drawing inspiration from the African Proverb: “**If you want to go Fast, Go alone; if you want to go FAR go together**”

Learning and Training - We believe in learning and training as a driver for change and growth of our communities, staff and partners

Community - At GSSL, the community is the centre of our work. Without them, we do not exist. Our community at the highest level is the school and the village. The partners and us work including the church and mosque as stimulus while government, development partners and donors are the catalyst to our work with the communities.

Rights - We believe in the inherent rights of the people we work with, we believe that nature (the land, water, air and biodiversity) must be treated humanely and put together they are inalienable to our vision.

Participation - We hold a firm understanding that poverty and inequality cannot be reduced unless all groups of people, men and women, young, old, and physically challenged are given opportunity to participate in creating development benefits. We invest in our communities to secure ownership of and decision-making within the development process and monitoring of progress brought about by an intervention.

Contacts

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