

PRESS Release  
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Sustainable Development Institute Liberia (SDI)/  
Friends of the Earth – Liberia  
[www.sdiliberia.org](http://www.sdiliberia.org)

### **Liberian NGO present first ever Forest Sector Report Card for Liberia as a citizen assessment of transparency and accountability of the forest sector**

Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) on March 24, 2010, held a National Workshop to present the first Annual Report Card of the Liberian forest sector established under the project **Making the Forest Sector Transparent (MFST)**. The **Liberia Forest Sector Transparency Report Card** is a component of a global Forest Sector Report Card that is currently being developed by [SDI](#) (Liberia), [Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organisational Development](#) (Ghana), [Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement](#) (Cameroon) and [Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales](#) (Perú). [Global Witness](#) (UK) is the coordinating partner for this project, and civil society organisations in other countries are invited to adopt the tool. The full results of the 2009 Report Card in all initially participating four countries can be downloaded from [www.foresttransparency.info](http://www.foresttransparency.info), including the Liberia specific section at [www.foresttransparency.info/liberia/](http://www.foresttransparency.info/liberia/). Under the coordination of the Sustainable Development Institute, the report cards will be reviewed and updated annually by Liberia's civil society, which then allows to assess any improvements achieved in transparency and good governance in the forest sector.

*“This assessment of the forest sector is an effort to make the sector more transparent and accountable as stated in the Forestry Law of 2006 (18.15)”* said Jonathan Yiah, the Project Leader of MFST. *“We, civil society, can assist the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) to be more transparent and accountable if we utilize the existing legal provisions and other supporting legal framework to ensure the entity's activities contribute to sustainability and equity in benefit sharing”* he concluded.

The Report Card assesses three critical questions related to forest governance: *Do you believe the information [related to the forest sector] exists? Have you requested it? and Did you get it?* The Report Card presents an analysis based on responses from civil society organisations, communities and CFDCs, and contrasts those responses with the actual situation.

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Notes:

The Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), a member of the international campaign group Friends of the Earth, is one of Liberia's leading environmental and social justice campaign groups. SDI works with other members of the NGO Coalition for Liberia to expose violations of the forestry law and to advocate for increase benefits from forest for local people.

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