



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA AUTHORITY (NPAA)
55 SIR SAMUEL LEWIS ROAD, ABERDEEN



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

REPORT ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY OFFSET PAYMENT BY THE NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA AUTHORITY AND CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

This report shares the findings from an enforcement visit aimed at ensuring compliance with the Biodiversity Offset Payment requirement outlined in the NPAA/CTF Act of 2022. The purpose of the visit was to verify that project developers and companies operating in protected areas are meeting their legal responsibilities to support biodiversity conservation through offset payment.

Objectives of the visit

To connect with project operators and remind them of their legal duties under the biodiversity offset framework.

To check on the status of payment that are due and any outstanding biodiversity offset fees.

To evaluate compliance levels and pinpoint any challenges that might be preventing payment.

To offer technical guidance on the payment process and explain the legal repercussions of non-compliance.

To record commitments and outline the next steps agreed upon with the operator.

Activities Undertaken

During the visit the enforcement team conduct;

A brief sessions with management of the following businesses/companies;

Sea Bird water Transportation

Law Restaurant

Sea Coach Water Transportation

Sole Cooperation

KAF Properties

TAF Properties

Roxana SL Ltd

Fabulous Resort

- The team checked the records of any payment made so far.
- Discussed timelines methods and penalties for delays.
- Issued formal reminders or letters regarding any outstanding obligations.
- Carried out a site inspection to evaluate ongoing operations and potential biodiversity Impacts.

Key Findings

Compliance Status- Most of the entities were seen as defaulters and made commitments to come to the office and set up a payment plan.

Awareness- Some of the entities demonstrated high level of biodiversity offset regulations and its enforcement requirement, while some required further clarifications.

Challenges

Delayed or non-payment of required biodiversity offset fees.

Limited knowledge among operators/developers about the offset mechanisms.

Potential risk of biodiversity loss if payment are not enforced.

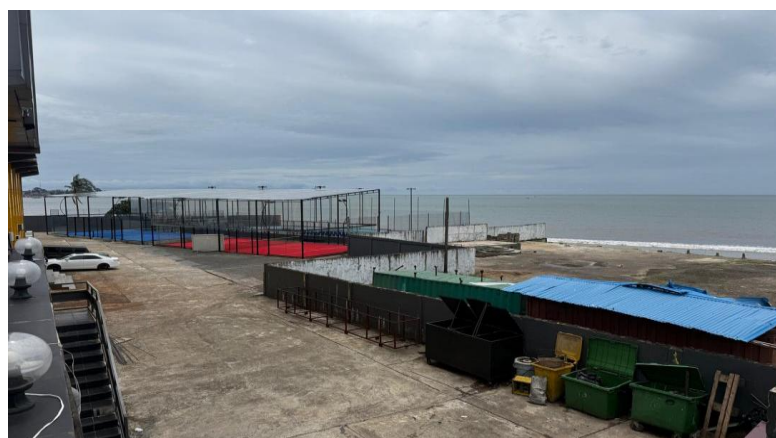
Need for stronger monitoring and follow-up mechanisms.

Recommendations

1. Immediate Settlements- The operators should settle all outstanding biodiversity offset payments within a stipulated timeframe.
 2. Enforcement actions- In case of defaulters, the NPAA/CTF should initiate legal or regulatory sanctions in line with the NPAA/CTF Act.
 3. Capacity Building- Organize regular and awareness sessions for project developers on the importance of biodiversity offsets.
- Monitoring- Establish a strict monitoring and reporting systems for tracking payments and compliance.



LOR Restaurant front view



LOR Restaurant back view



Cooperation Jetty construction Sole



Sole cooperation operation site



Rozana SL Limited Tokeh



KAF Properties building site



Engagement meeting with TAF Properties Site Supervisor, John-obey



Cross session of the NPAA/CTF Enforcement team

Conclusion

The enforcement visit provided an opportunity to engage directly with operators and reaffirm the importance of biodiversity offset payment safeguarding Sierra Leone's natural resources. The findings underscore the need for continuous monitoring. Strong collaborative engagements to ensure full compliance with the NPAA/CTF Act of 2022.

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