

## Open Letter from Goldman Prize Laureates

June 30, 2016

Hon. Harrison Karnwea  
Managing Director  
Forestry Development Authority  
Republic of Liberia

Dear Hon. Karnwea:

We are pleased that the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) of the Republic of Liberia denied Golden Veroleum Liberia's request for a permit to allow logging for export in its Concession Area. We congratulate the FDA for this decision and encourage the authority to continue its efforts to manage Liberia's forest in a sustainable manner.

We are, however, deeply concerned that the FDA plans to develop a regulation to allow for forest destruction or conversion for oil palm and/or rubber plantations. We note that this does not only contradict the government's pledge to work with the international community to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, and the restoration of degraded landscapes, it places the future of one of the most viable tract of rainforest in West Africa in danger.

With this letter, we express support for the Sustainable Development Institute's (SDI) call on the government of Liberia to abandon its plan to legalize forest destruction by removing the current restriction on the export of timber from forest conversion.

We note the Government of Liberia's endorsement of the New York Declaration on Forest in 2014; Liberia's Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the European Union; and its partnership with the Kingdom of Norway, and we encourage the government to follow through on its commitments under these initiatives.

Sincerely yours,

1. Leng Ouch, Cambodia, Asia 2016
2. Luis Jorge Rivera-Herrera, Puerto Rico, South & Central America 2016
3. Howard Wood, Scotland, Europe 2015
4. Jean Wiener, Haiti, Island & Island Nations 2015
5. Ramesh Agrawal, India, Asia 2014
6. Desmond Mathew D'Sa, South Africa, Africa 2014
7. Rudi Putra, Indonesia, Islands & Island Nations 2014
8. Azzam Alwash, Iraq, Asia 2013
9. Evgeniya Chirikova, Russia, Europe 2012
10. Ika Ang'elei, Kenya, Africa 2012
11. Dmitry Lisitsyn, Russia, 2011
12. Randall Arauz, Costa Rica, South & Central America, 2010
13. Lynn Henning, USA, North America 2010
14. Thuli B Makama, Swaziland, Africa 2010
15. Tuy Sereivathana, Cambodia, Asia 2010

16. Marc Ona, Gabon, Africa 2009
17. Maria Gunnoe, USA, North America 2009
18. Olga Speranskaya, Russia, Europe 2009
19. YuyunIsmawati, Indonesia, Islands & Island Nations 2009
20. Feliciano dos Santos, Mozambique, Africa 2008
21. IgnaceSchops, Belgium, Europe 2008
22. OrriVigfússon, Iceland, Islands & Island Nations 2007
23. Sophia Rabliauskas, Canada, North America 2007
24. HammarskjoeldSimwinga, Zambia, Africa 2007
25. Craig Williams, USA, North America 2006
26. Silas Kpanan Ayoung Siakor, Liberia, Africa 2006
27. TarcísioFeitosa, Brazil, South & Central America 2006
28. Yu Xiaogang, China, Asia 2006
29. PisitCharnsnoh, Thailand, Asia 2002
30. Steve Wilson, USA, North America 2001
31. Bruno Van Peteghem, New Caledonia, Islands & Island Nations 2001
32. MyrsiniMalakou, Greece, Europe 2001
33. GiorgosCatsadorakis, Greece, Europe 2001
34. Nat Quansah, Madascar, Island & Island Nations 2000
35. Alexander L. Peal, Liberia, Africa 2000
36. Michal Kravčík, Slovakia, Europe 1999
37. Dr. Bobby Peek, South Africa, Africa 1998
38. Atherton Martin, Dominica Republic, Islands & Island Nations 1998
39. Anna Giordano, Italy, Europe 1998
40. Paul Cox, Samoa, Islands & Island Nations 1997
41. Juan Pablo Orrego S., Chile, South & Central America 1997
42. AlbenaSimeonova, Bulgaria, Europe 1996
43. Ricardo Navarro, El Salvador, South & Central America 1995
44. LailaIskandar, Egypt, Africa 1994
45. HeffaSchuecking, Germany, Europe 1994
46. Andrew Simmons, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Islands & Island Nations 1994
47. SviatoslavZabelin, Russia, Europe 1993
48. Christine Jean, France, Europe 1992
49. Dr. Mathieu Wadja EGNANKOU, Ivory Coast, Africa 1992
50. Cath Wallace, New Zealand, Islands & Island Nations 1991