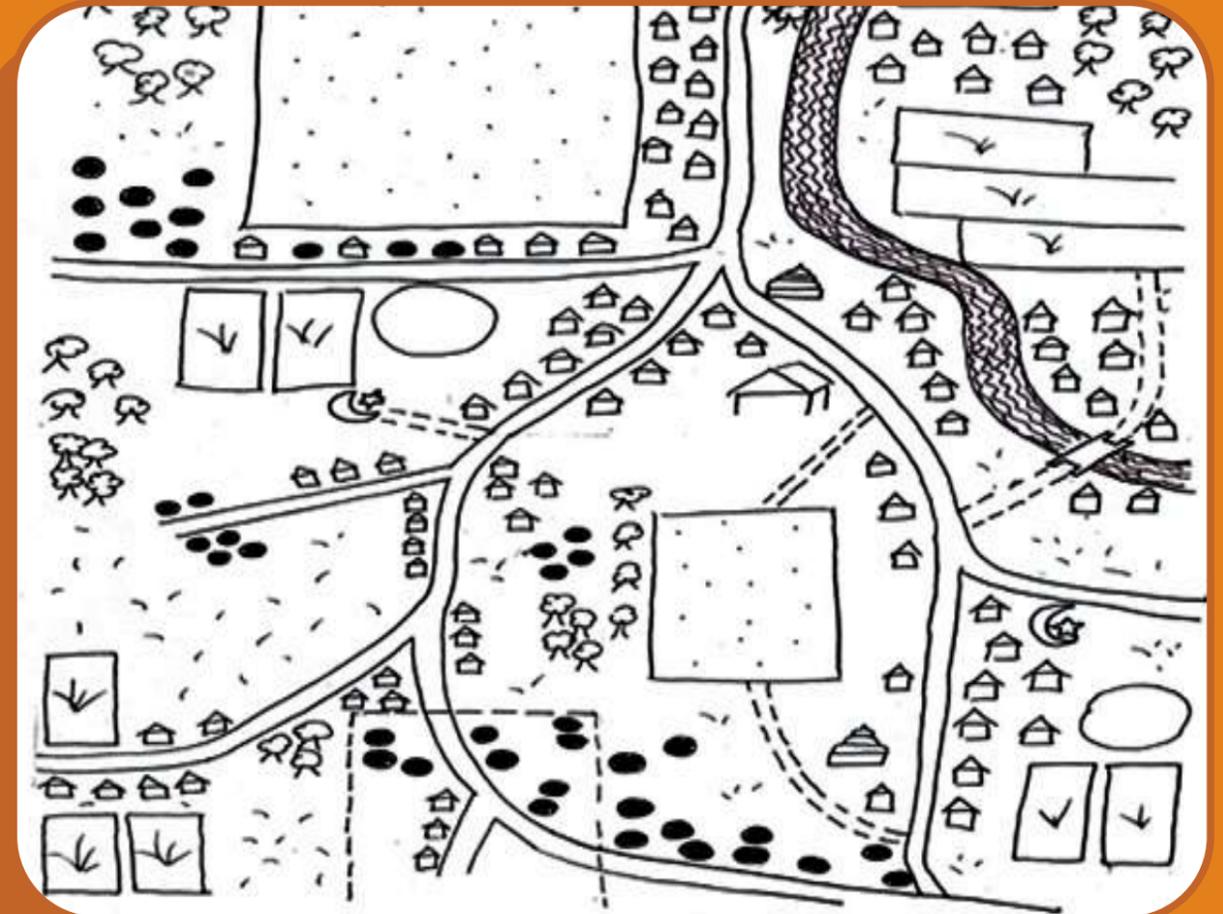


# PARTICIPATORY SKETCH MAP MAKING STEPS



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*This "How to Guide" for Community Sketch Mapping was published through the financial support of the European Union's Land Rights for Liberia project. The project is being implemented by SDI, WHH, CAFOD and their respective partners. The contents of the guide are the sole responsibility of the SDI and its partners and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.*

February 4, 2020



Siahn Community in River Cess, SDI/CLPP

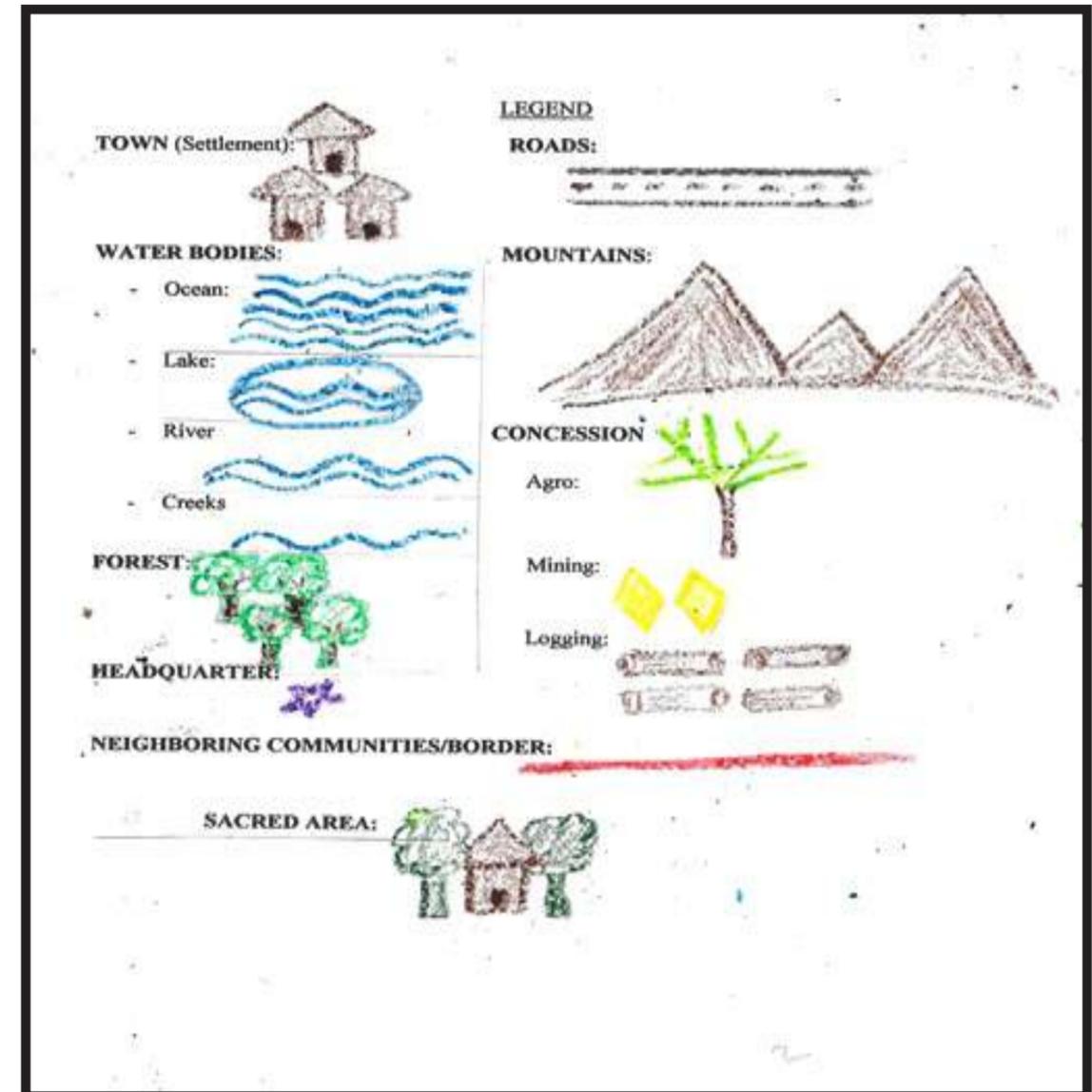
### Acknowledgement

Acknowledgment: SDI and its partners are grateful to our partners and colleagues – the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), the National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NCSCCL), Rachael Knight, FPP, SESDev, Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Civil Society Organizations Working Group on Land Rights (CSO-WG), Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD), Rights and Rice Foundation (RRF), the NGO Coalition of Liberia, Foundation for Community Initiative (FCI), NAMATI – who provided valuable comments and expertise to the development of the Guide.

### Background

The Land Rights Law of 2018 provides for the recognition, protection, and registration of community land rights. One of the requirements to registering community land is for communities to agree on and identify the community land space, resources, and boundaries to determine the scope of the community's customary land (see a sample map below in figure 1). For this reason, there is an urgent need to build the most affordable and accessible systems for mapping community lands and natural resources.

### EXAMPLE OF A SKETCH MAP LEGEND





**Basic points and features on the map: In a community wide meeting, discuss these resources.**

Key Human Settlements (Towns)	Number of Settled Villages	Cultural Shrines and Important Landmarks	Common Resources				Major Land Use Activities (e.g. concession and large land claims)	Neighbors and Hot Spots
			Forest	Water	Mountains/Major Hills	Non-Timber Forest Products		
Town A								
Town B								
Town C								

**What is Community Sketch Mapping?**

Community sketch mapping is a participatory exercise used to identify and describe the social and physical topography of a community land, identifying settlements, shrines, roads, and important natural resources. It can help rural communities to develop land use plans. This "How to Guide" is an effective approach to supporting rural communities map their land and identify important features and natural resources. It is based on best practices from our work with communities and CBOs in over one hundred communities across Liberia

**Why the "How to Guide: for Community Sketch Mapping"**

The "How to Guide" was designed for field practitioners – NGOs, CBOs, facilitators, community representatives, and local officials – who have some familiarity with customary land formalization but want to learn more about their implementation. It supports communities to identify and map their customary land and natural resources. The Guide provides simple instructions on how to produce a sketch map on: 1) the physical land space and land owning units (towns, villages, and other important settlements) and 2) valuable resources and important landmarks like shrines, forests, large scale (land based) commercial activities, water bodies and roads. Community sketch maps can also be used to support the following efforts:

- I. Create a space for various stakeholders (elders, women, and youth) to share and document knowledge about their community lands and natural resources
- II. Support stakeholders/community members to view the community as a whole
- III. Help identify common boundary towns, key points (i.e. "hot spots"), and support boundary harmonization efforts
- IV. Begin discussions on simple land use plans to support the management of community land and natural resources

Basic Principles: This "How to Guide" is an instructive tool designed to help communities document their land space and social and natural resources. A facilitator's role is to guide the community, making sure the community takes lead in the process, steps, pace, and outcomes.



## Who should be involved in Community Sketch Mapping?

The sketch map making exercise is a participatory process that must solicit the views of diverse members of a community, including women, youth, elders, traditional leaders, spiritual leaders, hunters, teachers, farmers and artisanal miners. Sketch map making requires minimum training and supporting community members to use local knowledge to define features on the map.

## Conducting Participatory Sketch Mapping:

Conducting participatory sketch mapping effectively requires careful attention to team roles and responsibilities of the community, the map making tools, and the map making exercise. The facilitator(s) must support the community to set up a mapping team, identify and secure mapping tools, and discuss the roles and responsibilities of the community during the mapping exercise.

There are three key phases to the participatory sketch mapping exercise: 1) pre-mapping; 2) map making; and 3) map use and management. (Table-I below briefly explains the steps, activities and timeline for sketch map making).

**Table-I: Sketch Map Making Steps, Activities and Timetable**

Components	Stakeholders	Activities	Timeline	Expected Results
Pre-mapping	Community leaders, elders, youth and women reps, and the "town crier"	Conduct a focus group discussion with community leaders, identify key settlements and stakeholders, select location for the mapping exercise, identify mapping tools and plan the mapping exercise	2 – 3 days	Mapping location and tools are identified; community members are aware of the mapping exercise, a mapping plan is developed and a date selected
Map Making	Representative stakeholders from all units/towns: Community members, inclusive of youth, women, elders, and sub-groups (hunters, traditional healers, spiritual/religious leaders, etc)	In a participatory process, hold workshop(s) to develop community maps: a women's group map, a youth group map, elder's and men's group map, and combined group map.	1 – 2 days	A combined sketch map and group maps with location of towns, major villages, roads, mountains, shrines, key natural resources (forestry, thatch bush, etc.) neighboring communities
Map Management	Community members, inclusive of youth, women, elders, and sub-groups (hunters, traditional healers, spiritual leaders, and local leaders, etc.)	Select a location to store the maps, identify a team to manage, and develop rules about use, storing and accessing the map	1 day	A map management team is selected, map access and land use rights rules are developed, and a storage facility is identified

## Items that MUST be on the map:

1. Name of Community
2. North Arrow
3. Date
4. County
5. District
6. Chiefdom
7. Legend
  - o Units (town and/or major settlements,)
  - o Major landmarks (major roads, hospitals, schools, etc.)
  - o Boundary crossings and location of neighbors
  - o Sacred areas (if available)
  - o Resources: forest, water bodies, minerals, thatch, hunting bush, farmland, etc.



## Annexes

### Useful Sketch Map Making Benefits, Tips, Challenges, & Strategies

#### Building social cohesion

- Involvement of traditional/respected leaders helps to add legitimacy to the sketched maps
- Involvement and acknowledgement of knowledge from across the community builds social cohesion
- Women often have different resources to men including resources that may otherwise be overlooked – such as water sources, medicines and wild fruits and nuts
- Mapping can strengthen participation of traditional authorities and other 'knowledge-holders' who carry information about important sites and resources in the community

#### Conflicts over land claims

- Identify land conflict zones or “hot spots”
- Discuss together clear criteria for resolving conflicts
- Be prepared to use conflict mediation strategies, identify trusted and respected leaders and emphasize the benefits of mapping and the need for unity
- Explain that mapping does not determine the boundaries or an individual claim as negotiations between all parties are still needed to finalize boundaries and claims

#### Suspicion/concern about sharing information

- Do not force mapping. Take time to build trust, to explain and discuss mapping and its uses/benefits and only proceed if the community has provided their consent
- Clarify privacy of map information, especially for sensitive locations such as valuable resources/sacred areas
- Conduct all mapping and boundary marking activities in large community meetings – do NOT do this in private with a few leaders, as it may breed suspicion

### Phase 1: Pre-Mapping Exercise:

The pre-mapping step allows the facilitator(s) to conduct outreach meetings and raise awareness on the mapping exercise, contact key stakeholders and sub-groups from relevant settlements, identify map making tools, and plan the map making exercise (workshop). Before the facilitator begins the mapping exercise, s/he must work with the community to establish a dedicated team of community members who will work together to identify key stakeholders, develop plans, and monitor progress. Typically, the team may include representatives of relevant stakeholder groups, women, youth, elders, and community leaders, depending on the need of the community. The Pre-Mapping Phase has three key features:

- I. Laying the Groundwork – the sketch mapping exercise usually starts with the following efforts:
  - Engage and prepare community leaders: through a community entry process, hold community sketch map making discussions with chiefs, community leaders, religious leaders, elders, women and youth leaders
  - Identify major settlements: identify relevant units (i.e. towns and villages) within the community
  - Inform the larger community: Conduct community outreach and awareness meetings in all major settlements, making sure town level stakeholders are informed about the exercise
  - Identify key stakeholders (hunters, traditional healers, land-lords, local leaders, teachers, health workers, artisanal miners, etc.) needed to produce community sketch maps
  - Discuss together clear conflict mediation strategies, emphasizing the benefits of mapping and the need for unity
- II. Developing a Community Sketch Map Making Plan – working with community leaders and relevant stakeholders, facilitator(s) must:
  - Set up a community map making team to plan, coordinate, and help facilitate the map making exercise (see Table-II below)
  - Identify a central location for the map making workshop
  - Select the map making workshop date
  - Identify and invite stakeholders for the workshop
- III. Secure Community Sketch Map Making Tools – working with the community level mapping team, the facilitator(s) must secure the following tools:
  - Flipchart, poster sheet or white sheets of paper
  - Pencil/markers of different colors
  - Chalk or charcoal
  - Notebooks to take notes of the discussions
  - A smart phone or camera to take pictures for the sketch map





### Component 3: Map Use and Management:

Sketch maps are an important tool for community based land use and management systems and may include important information that a community may want to keep private. After finalizing the community sketch map, it is important to establish rules for the use, management, and storage of the maps. With guidance and support from the facilitator(s), the community can reflect on the following questions and issues.

- I. Usage of the Maps (what to do with the maps)
  - Develop simple land use and management plan
  - Develop simple zoning plans
  - Identify common boundaries with neighbors and land conflict areas
  - Discuss the need to map at sub-unit level (e.g. towns)
  - Identify large scale statutory land use claims: townships, government facilities, large private estates, tribal certificates, and commercial contracts (mining, agriculture, and logging)
- II. Management of the Map
  - Agree on the rules of using the map
  - Decide how often to update the map
- III. Storage of the map:
  - Discuss and agree on where to store the map. For example, the final (official) maps can be stored in a central or the most accessible location in the community as well as in the district and chiefdom offices.

**Important note:**

The facilitator(s) can help the community to think through these questions.

### Component 2: Participatory Sketch Map Making Exercise:

The participatory map making exercise is a process that must include the views of diverse members of the community, including women, youth, elders, traditional leaders, spiritual leaders, and artisans. With the support of one or two community facilitators (someone with experience in facilitating community sketch map development), the community conducts a one or two day participatory map making workshop. The workshop has three key features: 1) laying the ground rules and objectives, 2) produce group maps, and 3) consolidate the three maps into one map.

- I. Laying the Ground Rule and Objectives – at the beginning of the mapping exercise, participants should:
  - Discuss the importance of participatory map making, method and steps
  - Discuss the benefits and challenges of community sketch maps (see annex section for potential challenges to sketch mapping)
  - Discuss the map making rules, roles, method, and products (maps)
  - Discuss together clear conflict mediation strategies, emphasizing benefits of mapping and need for unity
  - Discuss the use, storage, and management of the final map(s)
- II. Making of Maps – With guidance and support from the facilitator(s), participants are divided into groups of women, youth, and men/elders. The facilitator(s) will support each group to identify and document the physical and social space of their community, identifying important landmarks and key natural resources in the community. This process includes two steps:
  - Step I: Group Maps: Support each group (women, youth and elders) to produce a Sketch Map of their Community. The group should discuss and document their land area (physical geography and relevant settlements) and natural resources, including sacred areas, major roads, agriculture zones, reserve forest areas, bodies of water, neighboring communities, large private and commercial holdings, and conflict zones or “hot spots.” (see Figure 1 for an example of a Sketch Map Making Exercise)
  - Step II: Group Presentations – Each of the three groups presents their map to the participants, allowing participants to review and vet the presenting group's map

**Important note:**

The facilitator can support the group to illustrate a sketch map on the floor, on blank piece of paper, a blackboard or on a poster sheet.

**Figure 1: A Community in River Cess drawing a first map on the floor. The sketch on the floor will be transferred onto a poster or large sheet of paper.**



- III. Consolidate the three maps into one – Based on the vetted maps, work with participants to:
- Consolidate the three maps into one community sketch map – working as a combined group, merge different features from the three maps into one map
  - Finalize the Community Maps – The merged community map is presented in a community forum to be reviewed and validated by the larger community (see Figure 2 and Figure 3 for an example of Sketch Maps)

**Important note:**

At the end of the exercise, make sure participants take ownership of the map

**Figure 2: Sample Community Participatory Sketch Map, Maryland County**

