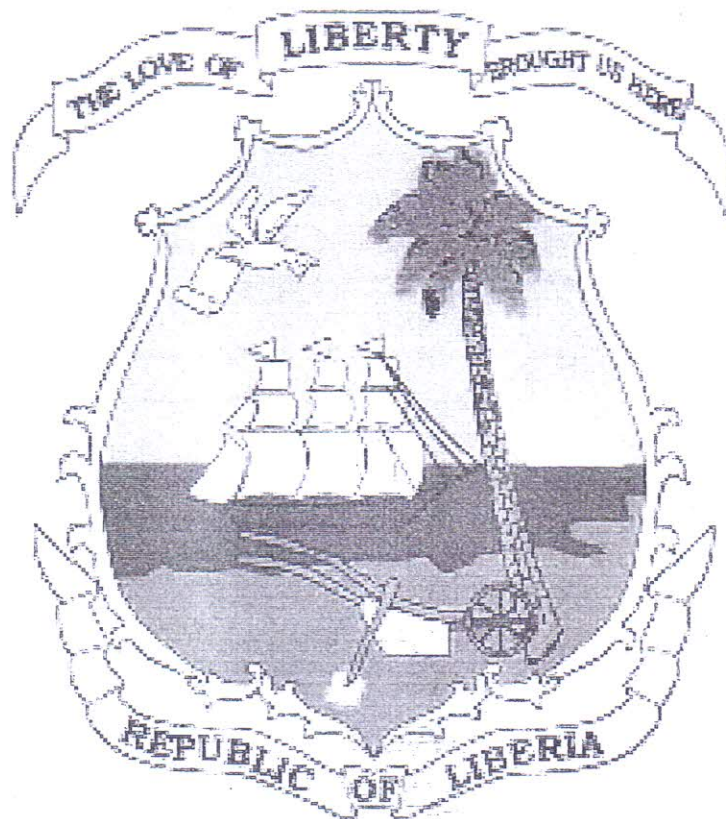


**"AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOLA FOREST
NATIONAL PARK"**

APPROVED: DECEMBER 27, 2016

**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

PUBLISHED: JANUARY 26, 2017



**AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GOLA FOREST NATIONAL
PARK**

2016

AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOLA FOREST NATIONAL PARK

Preamble

WHEREAS, all nations and international organizations including the United Nations are extremely concerned about the negative impact of climate change and its devastating consequences which threatens the existence of humankind, and have adopted numerous protocols and other international instruments to address this global issue;

WHEREAS, human activities, such as the current alarming rate of deforestation around the world, are depriving the earth of its natural capacity to effectively absorb greenhouse gases that have the potential of destroying the ozone layer thereby exposing the earth and its inhabitants to an unprecedented and dangerous level of radiation;

WHEREAS, despite the relatively small size of territory, Liberia contains a significant amount of biodiversity, of over 2,900 different vascular plants including 225 tree species; 600 bird species; 150 mammal species and 75 reptile species, over 1000 insect species and accounts for the largest remaining forests that constitute 42% of the Upper Guinea forest of West Africa;

WHEREAS, surveys of the biodiversity of the Gola Forest have revealed its unique place among the world's biodiversity hotspots as evidenced by the fact that apart from the presence of charismatic species like elephants, chimpanzees, and pygmy hippos, research has so far discovered 3 plants species, 13 dragonflies and butterfly species, 1 frog and possibly 1 mammal species, all new to science;

WHEREAS, conservation of the Gola Forest as a National Park will guarantee long term benefits for the people of Liberia particularly the local forest edge communities by assisting them in developing alternative income generating activities while at the same time preserving the forest; and

WHEREAS, the "Across the River" Project was launched on May 15, 2009 by the governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone in Lalehun town in Kenema District to conserve the Gola Forest for its biodiversity and global carbon storage for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia, in Legislature assembled:

PART 1: PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

§ 1. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the "Gola Forest National Park Act of 2016."

§ 2. Definitions

In this Act:-

"Authority" means the Forestry Development Authority (FDA).

"Buffer Zone" means a transitional zone (such as Communal Forest, Game Reserve, or Multiple Sustainable Used Reserve) surrounding a more strictly protected zone, intended for low-impact sustained human use to reduce the impact of outside human disturbance, to protect the boundaries from encroachment, and to preserve the natural state of the more strictly protected zone it surrounds.

"Communal Forest" means an area set aside by statute or regulations for the sustainable use of Forest products by local communities or tribes on a non-commercial basis.

"Game Reserve" means an area set aside pursuant to Chapter 9 of the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006 to protect an important feature of wildlife or to allow the recovery or growth of indigenous species.

"Government" means the Government of the Republic of Liberia.

"Government Land" means the land owned by the Government and used for the buildings, projects, or activities of the Government, including, but not limited to, protected areas, lands on which are located; the offices of ministries, agencies, and parastatal bodies, military bases, roads, public schools and public universities, public hospitals and public clinics, public libraries and public museums, utilities, and airports.

"National Park" means an area of sufficient size to form a complete ecological unit, legally set aside for the preservation and enjoyment of features that have outstanding natural beauty, cultural or biological significance

PART II. GOLA FOREST NATIONAL PARK ESTABLISHMENT

§ 3. Establishment

There is hereby established within the Executive Branch of Government the Gola Forest National Park which shall be supervised and managed by the Forestry Development Authority.

§ 4. Location, Metes and Bounds, and Description

1. The Gola Forest National Park lies within latitude (07° 42'35.1"-010° 42'42.0") North of the equator and longitude (07° 12'58.9"-011° 00'51.9") West of the Greenwich meridian and it is located in Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount Counties (Northwestern-Liberia).
2. The metes and bounds of the Gola Forest National Park shall be as follows:

Commencing at a point marked (Latitude 287417 – Longitude 819011) on the surface of the earth; thence a line runs Due East for 16,680 meters to a point (Latitude 304251 – longitude 818979); thence a line runs along the tributary of the Mano River for 14,730 meters to a point (Latitude 314658 – Longitude 820622); thence a line runs Due North for 8,050 meters to a point (Latitude 314625 – Longitude 828672); thence a line runs N22 degree W for 1,490 meters to a point (Latitude 313216 – Longitude 8299261); thence a line runs along the tributary of the Mano River for 1,900 meters to a point (Latitude 312650 – Longitude 830195); thence a line runs Due North 3,330 meters to a point (Latitude 312650 – Longitude 830161); thence a line runs Due East for 2,840 meters to a point (Latitude 312547 – Longitude 833485); thence a line runs along the tributary of the Mano River for 5850 meters to a point (Latitude 319731 – Longitude 835760); thence a line runs Due North 2,220 meters to a point (Latitude 319731 – Longitude 837951); thence to a line runs N 31 degree W for 1,720 meters to a point (Latitude 318357 – Longitude 838964); thence a line runs Due North for 4,280 meters to a point (Latitude 318116 – Longitude 843260); thence a line runs N 64 degree W for 550 meters to a point (Latitude 318725 – Longitude 843650); thence a line runs along the Wuelula Creek for 2,380 meters to a point (Latitude 319013 – Longitude 845786); thence a line runs N 59 degree W for 670 meters to a point (Latitude 318357- Longitude 847527); thence a line runs along the tributary of the Morro River for 7,090 meters to a point (Latitude 315941 – Longitude 852437); thence a line runs S 68 degree W for 3,730 meters to a point (Latitude 315948 – Longitude 852443); thence a line runs Due South for 8,400 meters to a point (Latitude 279270 – Longitude 814929); thence a line runs along the tributary of the Mano River for 5,690 meters to a point (Latitude 278145- Longitude 809130); thence a line runs S 56 degree E for 3,220 meters to a point (Latitude – Longitude 806515); thence a line runs Due South for 2,980 meters to a point (Latitude 279896 – Longitude 803580); thence a line runs along the Kuinja Creek eastward for 2,770 meters to a point (Latitude 282512 – Longitude 803006); thence a line runs Due South for 4,920 meters to a point (Latitude 282611 – Longitude 798091); thence a line runs along the Mafa River for 7,130 meters to a point (Latitude 288022 – Longitude 802281); thence a line runs Due North for 16,700 meters to a point of commencement, embracing a total of 88,873 hectares/219,605 acres of forest land AND NO MORE.

3. The land described in §4.2 constituting the Gola Forest National Park above shall be Government land.

§ 5. Boundary Demarcation

In accordance with Chapter 9 section 9.6 of the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006, within one year of the establishment of the Gola Forest National Park, the Authority shall clearly mark the boundary between the established Gola Forest National Park and the surrounding lands.

§ 6. Management of the Gola Forest National Park

1. The Authority shall, as soon as practicable after the establishment of the Gola Forest National Park, prepare and publish, and thereafter review and republish every five years, a comprehensive management plan for the Gola Forest National Park in accordance with internationally accepted standards taking into consideration biodiversity, socio-economic, cultural and traditional issues related to the multiplicity of stakeholders depending on the natural resources of the park.
2. The Authority shall, in consultation with local communities, counties and other local authorities issue regulations governing activities in the Gola Forest National Park.

§ 7. Mineral Resources Assessment in the Park

The Government of Liberia shall have, as provided in the Constitution of the Republic, the right at all times to prospect for minerals and conduct scientific research in the park with the collaboration of the park authority.

§ 8. Settlements in the Gola Forest National Park

If any land over which the Gola Forest National park is established is private property and deeded, the Government shall provide prompt payment and just compensation to the property owners.

Where there are towns and villages within areas designated as the park, these towns and villages shall be set aside and their residents shall be allowed to carry out their normal activities without interference.

§ 9. Conflict between Laws

The implementation of this Act is subject to relevant provisions of the Protected Area Establishment Act of 2003 and the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006 and as revised or amended.

§ 10. Effective Date

This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication into handbills.

ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING

**"ADDENDUM TO THE AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE GOLA FOREST NATIONAL PARK"**

MINERAL RESOURCES ASSESMENT IN THE PARK

- That Government of Liberia shall have, as provided in the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, the right at all times to protect for minerals and conduct scientific research in the park with the collaboration of the park authority

SETTLEMENTS IN THE GOLA FOREST NATIONAL PARK

- If any land over which the Gola Forest National Park is established is private property and deeded, the Government shall provide prompt payment and just compensation to the property owners.

-2015-

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

HOUSE'S ENGROSSED BILL NO 17 ENTITLED:

"AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOLLA
FOREST NATIONAL PARK"

On motion, Bill read. On motion, the Bill was adopted on
its first reading and sent to Committee Room on Thursday,
March 3, 2015 @ 13:35 G.M.T.

On motion, the Bill was taken from Committee Room for
its second reading. On motion, under the suspension of the
rule, the second reading of the Bill constituted its third and
final reading, and the Bill was adopted, passed into the full
force of the law, and ordered engrossed today, Tuesday,
September 8, 2015 @ 13:00 G.M.T.


CHIEF CLERK, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, R.L.

-2016-

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

SENATE'S ENDORSEMENT TO HOUSE'S ENGROSSED BILL NO. 17
ENTITLED:

"AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOLLA
FOREST NATIONAL PARK"

On motion, Bill read. On motion, the Bill was adopted on
its first reading and sent to Committee room on Thursday,
September 10, 2015 @ 14: 40 G.M.T.

On motion, the Bill was taken from Committee Room for
its second reading. On motion, under the suspension of the
rule, the second reading of the Bill constituted its third and
final reading, and the Bill was adopted, passed into the full
force of the law, and ordered engrossed today, Thursday,
September 22, 2016 @ 14:02 G.M.T.


SECRETARY, LIBERIAN SENATE, R.L.

-2016-

ATTESTATION TO:

"AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOLA FOREST
NATIONAL PARK"

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA/
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SECRETARY, LIBERIAN SENATE

SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, R.L.

CHIEF CLERK, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, R.L.



THE HONORABLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Capitol Building
P.O. Box 9005
Monrovia, Liberia
Website www.legislature.gov.lr



Office of the Chief Clerk

-2016-

**FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LIBERIA**

SCHEDULE OF HOUSE'S ENROLLED BILL NO. 56 ENTITLED:

**"AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOLA FOREST NATIONAL
PARK"**

**PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA FOR EXECUTIVE
APPROVAL.**

APPROVED THIS: 27th DAY OF DECEMBER A.D. 2016

AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA