

THE FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA)



**COMMUNITY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Whein Town, Mount Barclay
Montserrado County, Liberia**

To: Weedor H. Gray
Manager, Extension Services & Mobilization
Community Forestry Department

Submitted by: Jennifer O. Bellepea **JOB**
Assist. Planning Officer
Community Forestry Department

Subject: Field Report from the Posting of SER & Validation results for **Tonglay Applicant**
Community Forest, Gbarpolu County.

Date: **October 18, 2019**

This report under review covers activities marking the posting of results of Soci-economic Survey and Resource Reconnaissance and Validation of Tonglay Applicant Community Forests in fulfillment of step six (6) of the CRL and its Regulations. The Posting was conducted on **October 10, 2019** in **Kumghor Town Hall**, in **Gbarpolu County**. Herein is an attached report to be perused.

Introduction

On October 8, 2019 a team of two (2) comprising Mrs. Jennifer O. Bellepea, **Asst. Planning Officer**, and Mr. Mentor Y. Sarwah, **Inventory Officer** departed Monrovia for Gbarpolu and joined three (3) **Community Forest Extension Officer (CFEO)** from Region #1, namely: Mr. Marvin S.B. Korvanyan, Joseph N. Kamara and Daniel K. Martins to facilitate the posting of **Validation and Social Economic Survey & Resource Reconnaissance Results** to Establish an Authorized Forest Community in Tonglay applicant community forest.

The team delivered a written communication from the Managing Director of FDA to the County Superintendent Hon. J. Keyah Saah and other local members of the local country and local Authority.

Information from the FDA Team was passed over to all of the affected communities to gathered in Kumbor Town Hall for the Posting of the Validation of SESRR result. These results were posted for thirty (30) days which is step six (6) of the nine steps of the CRL.

Objective

The objective of the exercises is in accordance with Chapter 2, Section 9, of the Amended Regulations to the Community Rights Law of 2009, with Respect to Forest Lands. Which provides that both SESRR & Validation results must be posted for thirty (30) days in the given Community and adjacent Communities prior to the dispute resolution.

Methodology

The methods used by the team during the exercises were the Community entry methods and the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools.

These include:

- ✓ Delivered letters from the Managing Director of FDA to local County Authority
- ✓ Met with local Authorities and informed them about the process
- ✓ Held town hall meetings (for posting SESRR & Validation results for the establishment of an authorized community forest status
- ✓ Entertained questions and answers for clarity
- ✓ Posting SESRR & Validation results to be reviewed for 30 days

Proceedings



Before the posting, a meeting took place between the people of Tonglay Forest Community and the Forestry Development Authority to discuss the SESRR and to validate the preliminary map of the Tonglay Community Forest.

The following individuals from the community were present at this meeting: Hon. Boakai S. Kiawouh, Clan Chief; Elijah S. Myunkor, General Town Chief; Alhiji Tejanie, CFOC Chairman; Julia Joe, Clan Chairlady; and Philip B. Lawson, Magistrate. The FDA team was headed by Mrs. Jennifer Okai Bellepea. Other members of the team included Mentor Sarvah, Joseph N. Kamara, Marvin S.B. Korvayan and Daniel K. Martins. Also in attendance were representatives from the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL); this team was headed by Mr. Emmanuel G. Smith, Project Coordinator.

The five (5) towns/villages which comprised the Tonglay Forest Community were represented at the program. They included Kumbbor Town, Camp Alpha, Daniel Camp, SLC Camp, Tonglay Town and Kotee Village

Mrs. Jennifer Okai Bellepea informed the gathering about the Nine Step process and indicated that the Posting of the SESRR and the Validation of the Tonglay Forest was step six of the nine step

process. She read through the SESRR summary with comments, questions and objection coming from community members.

According to community members, the Gola people are the original owners of the land, but Gola was not mentioned in the SESRR. They therefore demanded the correction to be made in the SESRR. Another concern of the people was that, contrary to the SESRR that the Gola migrated from Bomi County to Kungba, the Gola actually migrated from Kungba to Bomi County; they also want this to be corrected in the SESRR. On the question of whom or where to direct their written complaints, the community was told to direct their complaints to FDA through the regional office.

Mr. Mentor Sarvah, Inventory Officer from the GIS Department of the FDA, took the floor to discuss the preliminary map (demarcations) of the Tonglay Community Forest with the Community. He said that the map was not a final copy but the final one will be produced after the validation. He said the preliminary will be posted for 30 days and during this period community members and outsiders have the rights to come up with any complaints associated with the map. According to Mr. Sarvah, such complaints must be settled first before the final map can be made. He said that in the absence of any complaints against the posted demarcations within the 30 days of posting, the same demarcations will be used to produce the final map of the Tonglay Community Forest.

Camp Alpha, one of the five (5) communities which make up the Tonglay Forest Community, has decided staying away from the Nine Step process because, according to them, Camp Alpha is not found on the preliminary map of the Tonglay Forest Community and that was clarified.

Closing Remarks

At the end of the exercises, Hon. Boakai S. Kiawouh, Clan Chief extended thanks and appreciation to the FDA and SCNL Team for the job well done and the education provided for the Tonglay Applicant Community Forest. Hon. Kiawouh hopes that FDA Management will responds to them immediately after the thirty (30) days ends in other to complete their nine step process before the end of 2019. This activity was adjoined follow by closing prayer.

Constraints:

1. Bad road condition
2. Arrogant and intolerant behaviors of the SCNL's Driver-Prince
3. No network connectivity

Observations

- ✓ Community representatives complained about transportation and feeding
- ✓ Inadequate mobilization of community for the meeting

step-by-step process reduces the time needed to get work done.

Recommendations

1. Increase the list of community members for hire, or two before the SSR & take care to be taken to them for posting

2. Due to the bad road conditions during the rainy season, the team wish to recommend to Management that future trips in such places be planned in the dry season

