



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 Normon 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 11, 2019** in Kongba 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 Normon 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 Kumgbor 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 Normon Forest Community and the Forestry Development Authority to discuss the SESRR and to validate the preliminary map of the Normon Community Forest.

The following individuals from the community were present at this meeting: Hon. McGill Wulleh, Paramount Chief; Mr. Larne Swary, General Town Chief; Blama Swary, Mendi Governor, Momon Swary, Youth Chairman, Miatta Fatuma, Chairlady, chiefs and elders of the Normon Applicant Community Forest. 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 Ten (10) towns/villages which comprised the Normoh Forest Community were represented at the program. They included BombohunTown, Fallah Village, Fayama, Gaylahun, Jawajeh, Lain, Normon, Smith Village, ULC and Wango 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 Normon Forest was step six of the nine step

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

Community members are opposed to the statement in the Normon's SESRR that says the Gola people migrated from Gbar Town in Bomi County and settled in the Normon Community. According to the citizens of Normon, during the Socio-Economic and Resource Reconnaissance Survey, they told the research team of FDA that past-parents migrated from Gbar-Demu which is located in Gbarpolu County. They are asking to make the correction in the SESRR.

Mr. Mentor Sarvah, Inventory Officer from the GIS Department of the FDA, took the floor to discuss the preliminary map (demarcations) of the Normon 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.

Closing Remarks

At the end of the exercises, Hon. McGill Wulleh, Paramount Chief; extended thanks and appreciation to the FDA and SCNL Team for the job well done and the education provided for the Normoh Applicant Community Forest. Hon. Wulleh hopes that FDA Management will respond to them immediately after the thirty (30) days ends in order to complete their nine step process before the end of 2019. This activity was adjourned followed 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
- ✓ The long gap in the nine step process reduces the community people's interest to some extent.

Recommendations

- ✓ Adequate mobilization of community members for a day or two before SESRR & Validation results are taken to them for posting.
- ✓ Based on 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.

