

Step-3

FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
SOCIAL ECONOMIC & RECONASSAINSE SURVEY  
GRAND CAPE MOUNT COUNTY

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GOLA KONNEH & MARBON COMMUNITY FOREST

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## 1.0 Introduction

On June 24, 2016 a team of five (6) comprising Madam Gertrude Focko, Planning Officer, Ms Gertrude B. Wilson Extension officer, Ms. Latoyo Johnson Field Officer, and Sam Myers, Driver including Civil society representative Mr. Emmanuel Kollie departed Monrovia for Grand Cape MT. County to facilitate the conduct of Social, Economic and Reconnaissance Survey to Establish Authorized Forest Community and the Posting of thirty days Demarcation notice in the County.

While on the journey to the Gola Konneh & Marbon Clan, the team makes a stop in Robert spot City where the County Superintendent's Office is located, for a Radio announcement and presentation of letter from the Managing Director of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), informing them about the activities in the County for ten (10) days. The Administrative Assistance to the Superintendent Welcomes the team and the letter was received. The announcement was also taken to Radio Cape Mount and we continue to the Gola Konneh Clan where the team spend four days; June 25 to 28, 2016 to carry on the Social, Economic and Reconnaissance Survey activities within the applicants Community Forest. We arrived by 9:30 night hrs in Tahn Town for the meeting.

Participant and the District Commissioner Hon. Amos Musa subsequently suggested that the SER Survey be conducted in Gonder Town where the population is high, moreover, due to the far distance from Tahn to Gonder, community people are unable to attend the SER Survey in the designated town (Than); we than move to Gonder the following day where we spend four days for the excises.

While in Marbon, the team spends four days as well, June 29 to July 2016. Phase 1 highlighted on the conduct of SER, while phase two (2) was the official Lunching and Posting of the thirty days notice for demarcation which is step four (4) of the nine steps of the CRL.

## 2.0 Objective

The objective of the exercises are in accordance with Chapter 2, Section 6, of the Community Rights Law (CRL) and its Regulations, which provides that a thirty days notice be given to the Community and adjacent Communities prior to the conduct of the Socio-Economic and Reconnaissance survey. The next objective is the Launching and posting of the demarcation notice in all of the applicants communities of Grand Cape mount of County.

## 3.0 Methodology

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

These include;

- Met with County and Local authorities
- Delivered letters to County and Local authorities
- Informed County and Local authorities about the Mission.
- Held town hall meetings (conduct of SER Survey for the establishment of an authorized community forest status)
- Entertained Questions and Answers for clarity
- Launching and Posting 30 day Notice for demarcation
- One month local radio announcement for designated communities

## 4.0 Proceedings

Upon arrival in the County, the team visited the Office of the County Superintendents and also the local authorities and delivered the letters from the Managing Director of FDA, informing them about the SER Survey and Posting of thirty days' notice for demarcation. The County Authorities welcome the team and supported the exercise.

On June 25 to July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016, the team visited two (2) applicant communities; Gola Konneh and Marbon Communities for the conduct of Social Economic and Reconnaissance survey and posting of demarcation notice.

During the exercises in the respective communities, we launched the posting of thirty days' notice for the demarcation of the designated forest in the presence of the local authorities and the concerned community members. The community members were instructed to continue the posting of notices at key points in adjacent communities where those who were not present during the exercise, will be able to see the notices. The team also did Radio announcement at the local radio station on the SER survey and Notices for thirty days of the designated community forests.

At the end of the exercises, the community members and the local authority's knowledge the FDA team for the education on the various steps of the CRL which give raise to the Social Economic Survey for applicant communities forest. According to local leaders, they hope to see FDA for the next step (Demarcation) as soon as possible. We departed for Monrovia upon completion of the work the following day.

#### 5.0 Observations

During the exercise, it was observed that participants from Gola Konneh and Marbon where in full attendance to the meeting and their interest in the exercise where at the higher level which is an indication that they are willing to go through the nine (9) steps involved in the acquisition of community forest status.

#### 6.0 Constraints

The following were constraints faced during the conduct of the exercises;

- Bad roads condition
- Mobilizing community for a day or two before SER is conducted
- Transportation

#### 7.0 Recommendations

- Due to the bad road condition in the Country during raining season, we recommend that such exercise be executed during the dry season.
- Mobilization team should firstly go ahead and inform the community before the SER team arrived.
- Vehicle should be prepared for the SER survey before departure to the communities