



Community Forest Management Agreement

Between The
Forestry Development
Authority

&

*The People of Gbi Chiefdom,
Gbi & Doru and Doedain Districts,
Nimba & River Cess Counties*

F.D.A

P.O. Box 10-3010

Whein Town, Mt. Barclay
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia

July, 2011



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA)
MONTERRADO COUNTY)

COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE PEOPLE OF GBI
CHIEFDOM/COMMUNITY, LOCATED IN NIMBA AND RIVERCESS
COUNTIES FOR THE HARVESTING OF 31,155 HECTARES OF COMMUNITY
FORESTLAND

THIS CONTRACT made and entered into this 18th day of July
A.D. 2011, by and between the Government of Liberia, through the Forestry
Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as the **Authority**, represented by its
Managing Director, Moses D. Wogbeh Sr., and the People of Gbi Chiefdom, spanning
through Nimba and Rivercess Counties, hereinafter referred to as **GBI represented** by its
Forest Management Committee by and thru its Chairman, Joseph C. Zanmie, Alfred J.
Barcom, Co-Chairman and Betty Isaac, Treasurer hereinafter collectively called the
"Parties", hereby;

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, the Authority is statutorily responsible for the sustainable management and
use of all categories of forest resources;

WHEREAS, Chapter 10 of the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006 provides for
community participation within the forestry sector; which process is to be sanctioned by
A Community Rights Law and the attending regulation thereto;

WHEREAS, the Community comprising the People of Gbi District, have petitioned the
Authority for permission to harvest merchantable species of trees on their forestland; the
petitioned is hereto attached and marked Exhibit "A" to form an integral part of this
Agreement;

WHEREAS, validation of the area in keeping with Section 5.6 (d) (ii) of the NFRL and
Section 61 of FDA Regulation 102-07 shows that the said tract of land is suitable for
commercial forestry. Said validation report is hereto attached and marked Exhibit "B" to
form also an integral part of this contract;

WHEREAS, GBI is desirous of commercializing harvestable tree species on the said
tract of 31,155 hectares of land;

WHEREAS, the Authority having examined GBI'S petition and the requirements of
Section 5.6 of the NFRL having been met, declares GBI qualified for issuance of a
Community Forest Permit that will allow it enter into contractual agreement with a
company or corporation to carry out said commercial activities;

J.C.B. A.J.B.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual promises and agreements herein contained, the parties do hereby agree as follows:

1. Definitions

PART "A"

- a. Authority: The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) created by an Act of the Legislature on November 1, 1976.
- b. Annual Operations Plan: the plan that guides the annual operations of the Holder
- c. Chain of Custody: the path of custodianship followed by logs, Timber and wood products through harvesting, transport, interim storage, processing, distribution and export from source of origin in the forest to end use.
- d. Code of Forest Harvesting Practices: a set of standards for environmentally sound forest use prepared by the Authority
- e. Conservation: the sustainable management and protection of forest resources to achieve maximum environmental, social, economic and scientific benefits for present and future generations
- f. Forestry: the science, art and practice of conservation of forest resources
- g. Forest Resources License: any legal instrument pursuant to which the Authority allows a person, subject to specified conditions, to extract forest resources or make other productive and sustainable use of forest land. This includes Forest management Contracts, Timber Sale Contracts, Forest Use Permit and Private Use Permit.
- h. Forestland: a tract of land, including its flora and fauna capable of producing forest resources, or land set aside for the purpose of forestry, but not including land in permanent settlements and land that has been in long term use for non-shifting cultivation of crops or raising livestock.
- i. Forest Product: any material or item derived from forest resources.
- j. Forest Management Contract: forestry contract which covers a land area of 50,000 – 400,000 hectares.
- k. Holder: a person who holds a valid forest resources license
- l. Land Owner: a person who owns land by legal title

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m. Operator: a person harvesting or making commercial use of forest resources under a forest resources license, including a person working as an employee, contractor or other agent for a Holder.

n. Pre-Felling Operations: legal requirements of the Holder before felling of logs. They include posting of required performance bond; preparation of initial annual operations plan and preparation of environmental impact assessment.

o. Private Use Permit: a forest resource license issued by the Government to allow commercial use of the forest resources on private land.

p. Public Use Permit: a forest resource license issued to extract forest resource from an area less than 1000 hectares.

q. Reforestation: the establishment of a tree plantation in a previously forested area that has been affected by cutting, fire, or some other act of tree removal.

r. Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS): the institution/company responsible to manage the Chain of Custody System.

s. Timber Sale Contract: a short term forest resources license issued by the Government for a period of three (3) years that allows a person to harvest timber from a specified tract of forest land.

ART "B"

bid: The difference between the area fee and the land rent bid fee written in a successful bidder.

A set of regulations, including internal rules, procedures and guidelines, by a body recognized under this law for the purpose of administering said body and the functions for which it is created and established.

community: A self-identified and publicly or widely-recognized coherent social group who share common customs and traditions, irrespective of administrative and divisions, residing in a particular area of land over which members exercise authority, communally by agreement, custom, or law. A community may thus be a village or town, or a group of villages or towns, or a clan.

Commercial Use: Any use of forest products or forest resources, other than direct use for household purposes or household infrastructure development. Commercial use includes selling trade or any other disposition of forest products or forest resources for direct financial gains.

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Community Assembly: the collectivity of resident adult members of a community aged 18 years and above, representative of gender and all social groupings within the community, organized into a body that meets at least twice a year to consult and take decisions on community forestry matters.

Community-based Forest Management: Forest Management activities that are carried out by a community with respect to forest resources for which the community has customary tenure or other forms of proprietorship or guardianship.

Community Forestry: The governance and management of community forests by a community for commercial and non-commercial purposes to further the development of the community and enhance the livelihoods of community members.

Community Forest Contract: Contract co-entered into by a community and the Authority with another party or parties for large and small-scale commercial activities relative to community forest resources.

Community Forest Fund: A fund established by a Community Forest Management Body, with community knowledge and consent, to finance the management of community forest resources, or other agreed activities supporting community development.

Community Forest Land: Forested or partially-forested land traditionally owned or used by communities for socio-cultural, economic and developmental purposes. This term is inter-changeable with the term "community forest".

Community Forest Management Body: A body appointed by the Community Assembly to manage community forest resources.

Community Forest Resources: Anything practical, commercial, social, religious, recreational, educational, scientific, subsistence or other potential uses to humans that exists in a community forest, including but not limited to flora, fauna, and micro-organisms.

Community Land Area: An area over which a community traditionally extends its proprietorship and jurisdiction, and is recognized as such by neighboring communities.

Concession: For the purpose of this law, a contractual right granted by the Community and Authority to a private commercial enterprise, whether by negotiation, bidding or other legal means, to harvest and market forest resources for commercial gains. Concessions are ratified by the National Legislature or approve by the Community Forest Management body.

Customary Land: Land, including forest land, owned by individuals, groups, families, or communities through longstanding rules recognized by the community. To be

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recognized as customary land, it is not necessary for the land to have been registered under statutory entitlements.

Executive Committee of the Assembly: Elected officials of the Assembly authorized to supervise the Community Forestry Management Body between sittings of the Assembly.

Forest Land: A tract of land, including its flora and fauna, producing or capable of producing forest resources, or land set aside for the purpose of forestry, but not including land in permanent settlements and land that has been in long-term use for non-shifting cultivation of crops or raising livestock.

Large-scale commercial use: Commercial activities of forest resources which are predominantly export oriented in their market for the sales and delivery of forest products, and which generate total revenue in excess of that specified by regulation as determined by the Authority in consultations with communities.

Non-timber Forest Products: Resources or products that may be extracted from forest lands and are utilized within the household or are marketed or have social, cultural or religious significance. These include plants and plant materials used for food, fuel, fiber, storage and fodder, medicine, bio-chemicals, as well as mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes and invertebrates.

Person: Any natural person, private entity, non-governmental organization, civil society organization, agency of the Government of Liberia, or any public body, including a community forest management body.

Small-scale commercial use: Commercial activities of forest resources which are predominately local in their markets for the sale and delivery of forest products, and which do not generate total revenue and/or occupy a land area greater than that specified by regulation as determined by the Authority in consultation with communities.

Timber: Industrial round wood and derived sawn lumber, wood chips, wood based panels and pulp for household use or commercial purposes.

PART "C"

- **Compliance:** To be in agreement with.
- **Community Forest Agreement:** a written agreement between a forestry community and the Forestry Development Authority that grants and protects a forest community's rights within a specified area to access, use, manage, protect and benefit from forest resources in a sustainable manner.
- **Authority regulatory rights:** rights of the Forestry Development Authority to regulate all forest resources in Liberia, except those located on communal lands.

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- **Community Forest:** is the natural forest and/or forest plantation where rights are granted by the Authority to a community living in or near it to access, use, and manage in a sustainable manner in compliance with a Community Forest Agreement.
- **Community consent rights:** community rights of "prior, free, informed consent" for any decision, agreement, or activity affecting the use of community forest resources as provided for by the CRL of 2009.
- **Forest community:** is a community authorized by the Authority under the Community Forest Agreement to access, use, manage, and benefit from forest resources within a specified area in an agreeable sustainable manner.
- **Forest Management Committee/Body:** is a five-member body elected or selected by the Community Assembly to manage the day-to-day affairs of the community forestry program.
- **Application Fee:** a specified amount of money paid to the Authority by communities applying for a forest community status.
- **Socio-economic surveys:** survey of a land to determine its social and economic characteristics and profile to be used in determination of the needs of the community and in management planning.
- **Community Assembly:** is a group of persons elected or selected by community members to direct the community forestry program. This body shall be the highest decision-making body of the community relative to the community forestry program.
- **Executive Committee:** is the body that comprises the elected officials of the Community Assembly. This small group of officers shall perform the role of the Assembly when the Assembly is on recess (when the Assembly is not in session).
- **Community Assembly Constitution:** is the organic law adopted by the community through its Community Assembly which sets out the broad purpose, objectives, and principles of the community forestry program and the rights and obligations of community members relative to the program.
- **Community Assembly By-Laws:** are the rules and processes established by the Community Assembly on the internal operations of the Assembly relative to such things as notices, quorum for meetings, decision-making methods, and processes for electing, removing and replacing officers, etc.
- **Community Forest Management Rules:** are specific rules and/or guidelines issued by the Community Forest Management Committee/Body relative to the sustainable use of community forest resources.

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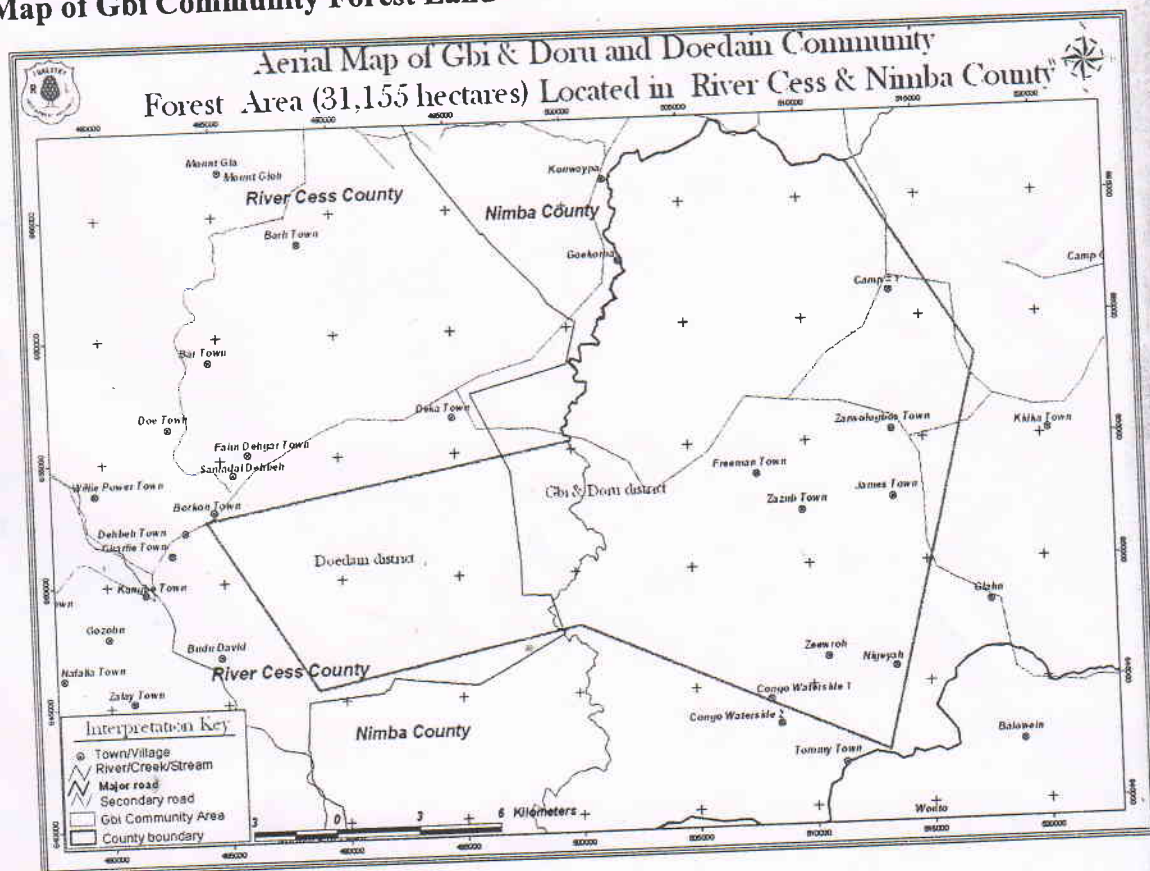
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- **Primary Users:** Individuals who are a party to a Community Forest Agreement.
- **Secondary Users:** Individuals who are not a party to a Community Forest Agreement, but can access and use community resources consistent with the Community Forest Management Plan and the Community Forestry Rules.
- **Template:** a model; a sample; a format; a frame.

2. Metes and Bounds/Technical Description of Gbi Community Forest Land

The boundary line of Gbi & Doru and Doedain Community Forest commences at a point near the Town of Borkon ($6^{\circ} 17' 24.10''$ N - $9^{\circ} 11' 27.24''$ W); thence a line runs S 33° E for 7,294 meters to a point; thence a line runs N 78° E for 9,870 meters to a point; thence a line runs S 67° E for 12,059 meters to a point; thence a line runs N 15° E for 14,321 meters to a point; thence a line runs N 33° W for 8,191 meters to a point on the Gwen Creek; thence a line runs along the Gwen Creek in the southern direction for 22,311 meters to a point; thence a line runs S 82° W for 13,583 meters to the point of COMMENCEMENT, embracing 31,155 hectares of forest land and NO MORE.

Map of Gbi Community Forest Land



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3. Contract Objective

- a. To harvest merchantable tree species from 31,155 hectares of tract of land otherwise called the GBI Community Forest Land
- b. To engage in reforestation of the area involving indigenous species
- c. To create alternative uses of the tract of land after harvesting of trees
- d. To create employment for about 300 locals of the contract area and surrounding towns and villages.

4. Contract Duration

The contract shall be for fifteen (15) years.

5. Chain of Custody System

In keeping with Section 13.5 of the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006 and sections (1-35) of FDA Regulation 108-07, the Chain of Custody System will apply during the life and implementation of this contract. The system so established for the tracking of logs, timber and wood products from forest to processing and then to domestic or foreign market shall be managed by Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS) using SGS/Helveta equipment and software as provided for by section 3.2 (3) of the Chain of Custody System Management Contract of 2007.

6. Land Rental / Bid Premium & Stumpage Tax

Consistent with Section 6.5 of the Community Rights Law of 2008, the community or any company charged with the responsibility of managing the community forest shall pay land rental as specified in Regulation 107-07 Section 33 (a) and (b). The Community shall receive bid premium as specified in Section 33 (e) of the self-same Regulation herein referred.

Stumpage shall be paid consistent with Section 5.7 (c) of the National Forestry Reform Law and also consistent with Section 22(b) of Regulation 107-07.

7. Other Fees & GOL Taxes

All other fees and GOL Taxes levied on the Concession shall be consistent with the Revenue Law of Liberia and FDA Regulation.

8. Pre-felling Activities and Requirement

In keeping with the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006 and Section 6.4 of the Community Rights Law of 2008, without the following requirements, "no commercial activities shall occur on community forestlands":

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- a. The community has organized its Community Assembly
 - i. Only a community pre-qualified by the Authority shall be eligible to establish a Community Assembly
 - ii. Liberians at least 18 years of age and residing within the specified community shall qualify to be member of the Community Assembly
 - iii. Representation on the Assembly shall be broad based including men women and youth.
 - iv. Two members of the County Legislative Caucus shall be selected by members of the Caucus to represent it on the Community Assembly
 - v. An Executive Committee shall be elected by the Community Assembly to manage the affairs of the Assembly
 - vi. None of the two (2) representatives of the National Legislature shall hold a leadership position of the Community Assembly.
- b. A five (5) member Community Management Body must be appointed by the Community Assembly
 - i. The five member committee shall comprise Chief Officer, Secretary, Treasurer and another two persons
 - ii. The Community Forest Management Body shall have a term staggered between two (2) to five (5) years.
 - iii. No member of the Legislature shall be a member of the Community Forest Management Body
- c. Also the following activities must be carried out before commercialization of community forest
 - i. Community Forest Agreement
 - ii. Community Forest Management Plan
 - iii. Posting performance bond
 - iv. Environmental Impact Assessment
 - iv. Social Contract

9.

Employment

Recruitment and employment by the Company shall be consistent with Labor Law of Liberia and International Labor Organization.

Termination

This contract shall be terminated if the company upon notice of breach of any term of this Contract fails to remedy said breach within a period of (60) sixty days.

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Force Majeure

In the event of force majeure, which causes either party from meeting its obligations herein stated, the Contract shall be suspended as long as the force majeure continues.

10.

Duty of Care

The Authority shall ensure that the Company maintains environmental quality of the cutting area and comply with all other conditions consistent with the Liberia Code of Harvesting Practices to include:

- a. Water course protection
- b. Erosion prevention
- c. Prevention of pollution to rivers, streams and other waterways by disposal of wastes
- d. Prevention of fire disaster

The operation shall also be in conformity with international conventions to which Liberia is a party. They include: the Convention on Biodiversity, the International Tropical Timber Agreement, the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species and the RAMSAR Convention on Wetland Management

11.

Governing Laws

In effecting this Contract between the Corporation and the Authority, the relevant Laws of Liberia including but not limited to the National Forestry Reform Law and regulation governing Chain of Custody will prevail.

12.

Binding Effect

This Agreement is binding on the parties, their successors-in-office as if they were physically present at execution of this instrument.

In witness whereof, we have affixed our signatures on the day and date first mentioned above.

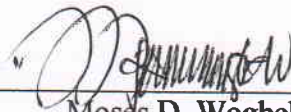
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FOR THE AUTHORITY



Moses D. Wogbeh, Sr.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

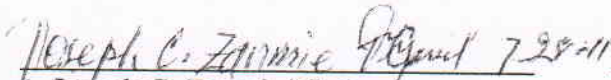


Witness-Technical Manager
Community Forestry



National Authorizing Officer

FOR THE GBI COMMUNITY


Joseph C. Zanmie/Chairman


Alfred J. Barcom/Co-Chairman


Betty Isaac/Treasurer

Approved.



Chairman-FDA Board of Directors





PETITION

FROM

THE ELDERS, CHIEFS, ZONES, YOUTH, WOMEN ORGANIZATION AND
CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT OF GBI AND DORU DISTRICT, TAPPITA STATUTRY
DISTRICT, NIMBA COUNTY REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

TO

THE LIBERIA TREE AND TRADING COMPANY, INC. (LTTC) "CONTRACT HOLDER"
OF THE FMC AREA "C", RIVER CESS COUNTY

WE, the undersigned citizens of the District of Gbi and Doru, do hereby petition the Liberia Tree and Trading Company, Inc. of the City of Paynesville, County of Montserrado, Republic of Liberia, to operate and carryout logging activities in our community forests situated and lying in our two (2) Chiefdoms that is Gbi and Doru.

It is further herein expressed that the community forest in Gbi Chiefdom comprises of 31,155 hectares while Doru Chiefdom comprises 35,000 hectares thereby totaling 66,155 hectares of forest land within the two (2) Districts.

THAT FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION of the operation and extraction of round logs therefrom, the Liberia Tree and Trading Company, Inc. is hereby petitioned to perform as follows:

THAT, Liberia Tree and Trading Company, Inc. reconditions major of roads within the communities and such roads shall be designated by the communities in our subsequent agreement. These roads are intended of making life easy for the many citizens who depend on the roads for bringing their goods from their farms to market. Also, LTTC shall construct bridges either of iron or concrete within areas to be identified by the citizens.

THAT, LTTC constructs one High School in a town to be designated by the Chiefdoms with the view of making our children receive the requisite education in their native towns without having to travel to Montserrado County in search of education. Moreover, let the company construct clinics in our towns so as to provide healthcare for the citizens of the two Chiefdoms.

THAT, LTTC provides Pit Latrines in our communities with the view of preventing the spread of diseases among out people; also LTTC should provide bow holes for the purpose of providing safe drinking water for the various communities. Also, that LTTC assist pastors within the Chiefdoms to construct churches and give them some incentives while they serve their people spiritually.

THAT, the company creates equal job facilitate opportunities for our young people on a gender balanced basis.

THAT, LTTC provide scholarships for at least (10) persons living within our communities on a gender balance basis in any of the below listed areas of learning:

- Forestry
- General Construction
- Nursing
- Engineering
- Agriculture

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THAT, LTTC for the benefit of the communities shall carryout Agro forestry projects within the communities while the logging activities are progressing.

THAT, LTTC provides stipend for our teachers and elders within the District to enable them focus on their jobs and also improve their economic and social living conditions.

Reason being, these teachers are deprived of many social and economic activities and only cater to our children's moral needs thus contributing national growth.

Therefore, we, the citizen of Gbi and Doru District, of Tappita Statutory District, Nimba County -

Resolved; that on the 15th day of October, A. D. 2010; the areas properly described and mentioned below be given to the LIBERIA TREE AND TRADING COMPANY, INC. (LTTC) as Community Forests.

- > The Gbi Forest area commencing from Konwaypa near Gwen Creek running down to Camp #1, coming down to Kidka Town. Therefrom the line runs down to Tommy Town coming up to Congo Waterside #s 1 and 2 and runs Gwen Creek along the eastern side back to Konwaypa the Town of COMMENCEMENT embracing 31,155 hectares of primary forest and NO MORE.
- > The Doru Forest commences at the confluence of the Gwen Creek and the Cestos River; thence a line runs along the Cestos River in the Northeastern direction for 61,757 meters to the point on International Consultant Capital (ICC) Southern boundary line; thence a line runs S 88 degrees W for 15,980 meters to the point on the Gwen Creek; thence a line runs along Gwen Creek in the Southern direction for 30,114 meters to the point of COMMENCEMENT, embracing 35,000 hectares of primary forest and NO MORE.

FOR: GBI CHIEFDOM

Sam Tree
PARAMOUNT CHIEF

Henry Chappy
CLAIN CHIEF

pp Julia V. Freeman
CLAIN CHIEF

Williams Karkoe
ZONE CHIEF

Macki Zannie
ZONE CHIEF

FOR: DORU CHIEFDOM

Saturday Thomas
PARAMOUNT CHIEF

E. Edward Farlay II
CLAIN CHIEF

Joseph Lora
CLAIN CHIEF

Jessie Gbarohea
ZONE CHIEF

Paster Shyboza
ZONE CHIEF



B. Wilson
YOUTH / CHAIRMAN

YOUTH / SPEAKER

James M. G. Hays
CHAIRMAN/YOUTH LEADER

Edward S. Smith
MEMBER / YOUTH

Paul Davis
MEMBER / YOUTH

Mark G. Zaryou
MEMBER / YOUTH

Catherine Toe
CHAIRLADY/GBI

Martha Faj
MEMBER / WOMEN GROUP

FSS: 1502714
MEMBER / WOMEN GROUP

Victoria Wheat
MEMBER / WOMEN GROUP

Tom Brown
ELDERS CHIEF

19. Daniel A. Joseph
YOUTH / SECRETARY

Dacan Chuboe
YOUTH ADVISOR

Emmanuel James
MEMBER / YOUTH

Low v. Zeinhe
MEMBER / YOUTH

S. Olgante Vah
MEMBER / YOUTH

Cecelia Dargbor
MEMBER / YOUTH

Roris Zannie
CHAIRLADY/DORU

Koovoh Floris
MEMBER / WOMEN GROUP

Naarah Kolbe
MEMBER / WOMEN GROUP

Marie Willie
MEMBER / WOMEN GROUP

Forgible Zarkpago
ELDER

16. C. J.
A.T. 10

M. M.

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Jerry Nyon
ELDERS

Liberia Zammie
ELDER

Voke T. DUO
ELDER

Arthur Kari
ELDER

Robert Sagee
ELDER

Beah Saygniah
ELDER

peter Korsiah
ELDER

Michael Zanyon
PASTOR

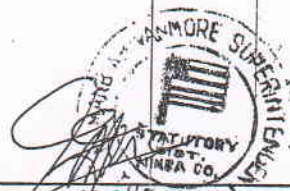
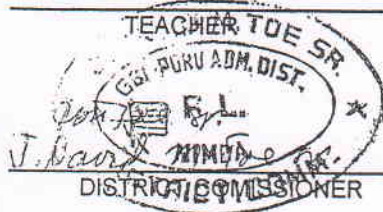
John T. Henry Kofa
PASTOR

BUSINESS COMMUNITY

J.W.B. JAFES
BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Dupe
TEACHER

Abraham Jarmie
TEACHER



Approved:

M. Mambika Vamore
Statutory District Superintendent
Tappita Statutory District, Nimba County

J.C.F.
A.J.B.

M.M.
A.R.

Gbi Chiefdom
Tappita Statutory District
Nimba County
Republic of Liberia

December 11, 2010

REF: LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Hon. Moses Wogbeh
Managing Director
Forestry Development Authority
Congo Town
Monrovia, Liberia

Dear Hon. Wogbeh:

We, the citizens of Gbi Chiefdom, do hereby write to introduce to you Liberia Tree and Trading Company, Inc.

Liberia Tree and Trading Company, Inc. has approached us for the purpose of operating and managing our Community Forest situated and lying Gbi Chiefdom. The surface area of our forest is approximately Thirty One Thousand One Hundred Fifty Five (31,155) hectares.

The citizens of Gbi have negotiated, concluded and signed an Agreement with LTTC and have resolved to grant LTTC, Inc. the exclusive rights to operate and manage of Community Forests in a sustainable manner for mutual benefits of our people.

Hence, this Letter of Introduction.

Please find attached all relevant Agreement for perusal and timely consideration.

With sentiments of our high esteem.

Respectfully yours,

**FOR: THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES FOR GBI CHIEFDOM
(OWNERS)**

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

Arthur W. Sanyee
PARAMOUNT CHIEF

Mark V. Zanne

Hon. Anthony Chappy William Yarmo

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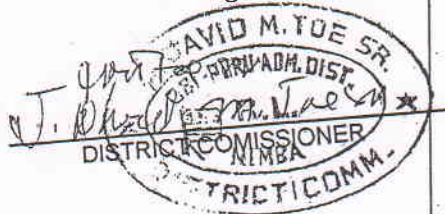
Charlie Gladia
Elder

Joseph Mendes

Isaac Kunwan
Elder

Alfred Toloweh

Edward David
Toucheif



Farkalo Zor Zor
Elder

Johnson Zano
Citizen Rep

Albert G. Cobah
Elder

James Obah
Elder

George Harris
Elder



Approved: _____

M. Mambiah Vamore
Statutory District Superintendent
Tappita Statutory District, Nimba County

J.C.B.





Forestry Development Authority
P.O. Box 10-3010

Whein Town, Mt. Barclay
Montserrado County
Monrovia, Liberia



MEMORANDUM

TO: Moses D. Wogbeh
Managing Director,
Forestry Development Authority

FROM: John D. Kantor, Sr. 
Technical Manager, R&D/FDA
&
Torwon T. Yantay 
Acting Manager-GIS & RS/FDA

Subject: *Validation Report of Proposed Gbi Community Forest Area*
Located in Nimba and River Cess Counties

DATE: March 6, 2011

Background

Predicated on a communication under the signature of Mr. Ricks Y. Toweh, President/CEO-Liberia Tree and Trading Company, INC. (LTTC), requesting the Forestry Development Authority to authenticate, verify and issue necessary Permit for a Community forest area situated and lying in Gbi & Doru and Doedain districts, Nimba & River Cess Counties. A team of technicians from the FDA was mandated to visit Gbi & Doru and Doedain community forest for detail ground truthing, capturing of Tribal Land marks and sight seeing of the area for management's reaction.

In light of the above, two surveyors and three Global Positioning System (GPS) operators, traveled to the land under consideration to conduct a joint ground truthing exercise of the area along with the tribal people and company representative.

Field Patrol

During the period February 13-21, the joint team patrolled a significant portion of the area and gathered detail information relating to on going multiple uses of the area, types of vegetation, topology, and livelihood of communities dwellers within the parameters of the forest.

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Findings

Following an intensive tour by the technicians, we observed and authenticated that:

- ❖ Indeed the Community forest area does not overlapped with any of FDA allocated areas;
- ❖ Greater portion of the area is suitable for harvesting (commercial logging);
- ❖ Topographically, the entire land mass of Tribal land area submitted to FDA is relatively flat with few major water ways;
- ❖ The area is truly located in Gbi & Doru and Doedain Districts, Nimba and River Cess Counties;
- ❖ The size of the area requested by the citizens of Gbi & Doru and Doedain districts for harvesting was plotted on the field using Precision gadget.
- ❖ The actual size of the area requested is correct (31,155 hectares/76,984 acres);
- ❖ The commencement or starting point of the Community forest is Northing 0478885 and Eastern 0695269 (Universal Traverse Mercator) on the surface of the earth.

Recommendation

In view of the verification and confirmation of these documents by the Forestry Development Authority, coupled with our ground truthing (February 13-21, 2011), we herein recommend that:

- ✱ The actual area of Doru Chiefdom plotted be given with the Metes and Bounds on behalf of the people of Gbi & Doru and Doedain Districts;
- ✱ As per Community Rights Law (CRL) of 2009 provision in chapter two sections 1-8, we therefore recommend that FDA Management issue a Community Use Permit for Land totaling 76,984 acres /31,155 hectares to the people of Gbi & Doru districts in Nimba and River Cess Counties, compliance with all relevant requirements of this section.

Cc:

AMDA

Law Office

TM Research & Development

TM Commercial Department

File

J.C.B.
A.J.B.



M.D.

J.B.