

# REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

# FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA)

Office of the Managing Director

Whein Town, Mt. Barclay P. O. Box 3010 Montserrado County Monrovia, Liberia West Africa

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MD/002/2022/-4

January 4, 2022

Hon. William Kamba Tamba Superintendent Lofa County Republic of Liberia

Dear Hon. Tamba:

The Management of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) presents Compliments and seizes this opportunity to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated November 22, 2021, in which you expressed your communities' readiness for election of its Governance Structure.

Now that the results of the Socio-Economic Survey and Resource Reconnaissance, the Demarcation and Mapping have been posted in and around your proposed community forest, and no objection has yet been raised, your community is authorized to form the necessary Community Forest governance institutions, which are mandated under the Regulations to the Community Rights Law of 2009 with respect to forest lands (CRL Regulations).

These consist of Community Assembly (CA) the highest oversight and decision-making body of the forest community with its Executive Committee (EC) and Community Forest Management Body (CFMB), which will be responsible for the day to day management and oversight of the community forest.

The FDA will work to assist you in this process so that you can form your community Assembly and CFMB as quickly as possible and in conformity with the legal requirements established in the CRL Regulations. Once this has been achieved, the FDA will work with you to develop, review and sign a Community Forest Management Agreement, and begin to daft a community forest management plan to manage your forest resources.

Accordingly, a technical team from the FDA headed by John Kermue Acting Regional Extension Officer, alongside McDonald Kamara, assigned in Lofa will be conducting these elections in Luyeama Community, Lofa County from January 12-15, 2022.

Your presence during these exercises will be highly appreciated.

With sentiments of our higher esteem, we remain.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. C. Mike Doryen MANAGING DIRECTOR

CMD/JIT/BSG/WE



# COMMUNITY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Region-2 Office, Voiniama

Region-2 Office, Voinjama Lofa County, Liberia

TO

Madam. Weedor H. Gray

**Acting Technical Manager** 

Community Forestry Department

Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

FROM

John Kernue

Regional Extension Officer

Community Forestry Department

Forestry Development Authority (FDA

**SUBJ** 

Field report from community forest elections for CA's & EC in

Soblima Applicant Community, Lofa County.

Date

January 24, 2022

This report entail activities marking the setting up of the Community Assembly and elections of the Executive Committee of **the Soblima** applicant community forest in fulfillment of step eight(8) of the CRL and its Regulations. The Election was conducted on January 15, 2022 in Boi Town, Zorzor District, Lofa County. Herein is an attachment of the report to be perused.



# **Background/Introduction**

As enshrined in the Community Rights Law Regulation of 2017 (Chapter 3 Section 1, 3, 4 and 7), powers to lead and govern an Authorized Forest Community shall be through the establishment of a Community Assembly (CA). The Community Assembly shall be the highest decision- making body of the community with respect to community forestry. The Community Assembly members shall be elected by their various constituencies through a secret ballot. The Authority which is the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) shall supervise the election of representatives to the Assembly and its leaders. Representatives of at least two civil society organizations shall be invited to witness the elections and validate that they have been undertaken in a free, fair and transparent manner.

After successfully completing step 7, the Soblima Applicant Community Forest wrote the FDA to inform the Authority of their readiness for step 8(Governance). Due to budgetary and other constraints, the FDA provided them the necessary awareness about the election process in December 8, 2021 and gave them the go-ahead to conduct elections at the town level and elect at least two delegates from each of the nine (9) towns for representation at the Community Assembly. They completed this process and officially informed the Authority about their preparedness for the setting up of their governance structures.

To this effect, the Management of FDA authorized her region two (2) field staff to proceed with these elections with Team supervised by Mr. John Kernue, Regional Extension Officer, Region 2, Civil Society representative, Mr. Shek M. Selma, Co-Chair, NCSCL-Lofa, and Region 2 field staffs to move over to the Soblima Applicant Community Forest on January 15, 2022 to conduct elections for the Community Assembly and the Executive Committee of the Assembly, and to create adequate awareness for setting up of the Community Forestry Management Body (CFMB). The team met at the regional office of Region #2 in Voinjama, Lofa County on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January and handed Management letter to Hon. William Kamba Tamba, Superintendent of Lofa County and was received by Mr. Johnson S.T. Ndupellar, County Information Office of the Superintendent. The team returned to the Konia FDA office on January 14 and held a joint meeting with Mr. Samuel K. Freeman, Chief Park Wordern and staff was brief on the team's mission. They expected the CFD team and assured them of their readiness to work alongside for the conduct of the elections.

The elections were held on January 15, 2022 at the Boi community Town hall.

#### **Elections Conduct and Procedure**

The Elections commenced at 12:00 p.m. after all representatives from the nine (9) towns, members of the local authority, National Union of Community Forest Management Body (NUCFMB), CSO, FDA Regers and observers were seated. The meeting began with general prayer after which **Hon. Henry K. Zaza**, Palamouth Chief, Zorzor District. welcomed everyone to the occasion. Civil Society representative, Mr. Shek M. Selma, Co-Chair, NCSCL-Lofa, was asked to conduct the CA's validation. Each Community was represented by one or two persons

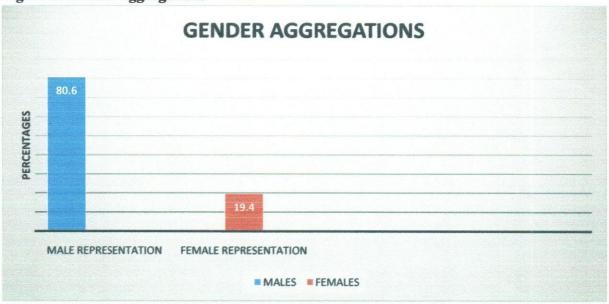
who automatically qualified them to represent on the Community Assembly. During the roll call to verify the presence of the delegates, each community correctly answered yes to their name. Confirmation statements that they responded to with a "yes" The statements ascertained the full implementation of election guidelines as enshrined in the CRL Regulations in the election of the delegates from their respective towns. He called the names of all the CA delegates as per town and asked the town chief and a prominent citizen of that town to testify that the town is aware of their representation as CA delegates by signing a document as evidence. There were 18 delegates in all, two representing each of the nine (9) affected towns. They were immediately confirmed by Mr. Bana Quaqua & Mr. McDonald M. Kamara in the presence of the FDA and witnessed by Mr. Shek M. Selma on behalf of the Civil Society.

The new Community Assembly convened immediately at their first plenary to elect their leadership - the Executive Committee. The overview of the occasion was done by Mr. Bana Quaqua(CFEO). He started by asking brainstorming questions such as what the occasion is about? In response, Mr. Anthony O. Korboi said the occasion is about the setting up of Soblima Community forest leadership. The entire CA delegates summarized the nine Steps. In addition, Mr. Quaqua explained the purpose of the occasion in details. He further explained the roles and responsibilities of CA's and CFMB with reference to section 3.1 and Section 4.7 of CRL Regulation. Mr. Fombah M. Konneh also highlighted the roles and responsibilities of EC with reference to Section 3.11. Nomination was opened and the CA members nominated candidates for the four (4) positions provided for in the CRL Regulations: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Finance Officer. Apart from the Chairman who won by white ballots the three other officials of the EC won with vote's difference. Out of the total votes of 18, Sekou B. Sheriff rise to nominate Mr. Anthony O. Korboi as Co - Chair and Mr. James Harris nominated himself for the position also. Mr. Anthony O. Korboi (16votes) ahead of Mr. James Harris (2votes). While for the position of Secretary, Garmai Morris nominated Mr. David M. Kamara and Mr. Johnny Grant Zubah nominated Mr. James Harris. Mr. David M. Kamara (12 votes) ahead of Mr. James Harris (6 votes. For the position of finance Officer, Madam. Malay Kesselee nominated Madam. Youngor Saylee and Mr. James Harris nominated Madam. Voting process resulted to votes tied (9/9), in the process of run-off election, Madam. Garmai Morris said Youngor is her mother as such she cannot keep fighting her for position and decided to turn her votes over to her which was willingly accepted by Youngor Saylee.

# Gender aggregation of representatives from participating communities

The electoral process was able to record the total of sixty-two (62) participants, with the total of 50 and 12 males and females respectively as illustrated in the graph below:

Figure 1: Gender aggregations



Source (Field election, 2022)

After a very transparent process, those elected were:

No.	Name	Position	Town	Results
1.	Peter F. Zazaboi	EC-Chair	Luyeama	White ballot
2.	Anthony O. Korboi	EC- Co-Chair	Soblima	16 votes
3.	David M. Kamara	Secretary	Wanleyma	12 votes
4.	Youngor Saylee	Finance Officer	Voneyeasu	18 votes



Executive Committee Officials: R-L:Mr. Peter F. Zazaboi (Chairman),Mr. Anthony O. Korboi (Vice Chairman),Madam. Youngor Saylee (Finance Officer). Mr. David M. Kamara (Sec.),

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Peter F. Zazaboi, the Community Assembly convened its first session to develop the criteria for selection and appointment of the Community Forestry Management Body (CFMB). The Assembly deliberated for 45 minutes and agreed to the following criteria:

## Criteria for the selection of members of the CFMB:

- All applicants should be 30 years old and above
- A resident of either of the nine (9) towns within Soblima and have lived with the people for the last two(2) years
- Of good and responsible character
- · Applicant must have valuable properties such as: house, life crops, and etc
- Applicant must be alias high school graduate

Following the election of the officials of the Executive Committee, Mr. Tarnue F. Momolu on behalf of FDA inducted them into office.

Following the induction, Mr. Flomo Kesselee of the FDA used the occasion to caution the inductees to work with their colleagues at the assembly for the common goal of the community.

## Closing REMARKS/COMMENTS

Mr. Peter F. Zazaboi, newly elected Chairman of the Executive Committee congratulated the FDA and Civil Society for their role in ensuring their elections were free, fair, peaceful and transparent. He admonished his colleagues at the assembly to give the Executive Committee the needed support to make their work effective. He further said this is not the end but the beginning to another step, thank you.

Civil Society Organization representative Mr.Shek M. Selma, -a representative of National Civil Society Organization of Liberia termed the elections as free and fair and asked the leadership to practice justice as they serve their people.

**NUCFMB Mr. Bonathan G. Walaka National Facilitator** extended thanks to FDA and the citizens of the Soblima Community Forest for recognizing their organization (National Union for Community Forest management body. He also placed emphasis that their organization encourages proper and sustainable management of forest and will always be willing to provides them training and supports. He further stated that their doors will always be opened to the Soblima Community Forest for guidance.

Mr. Nathan V. Kpehe - Conservation Officer of FDA commended the citizens for their timely response to call of FDA for the conduct of election.

Clan ChiefOn behalf of the local authority Hon. FredHoward warmed the CA members to do good works or else the local authority will recommend the removal of anyone who will underperform.

Mr. John Kernue –REO of region # 2 extended thanks to the all who participated in the occasion and advised the CA's and all the community people to practice sustainable management of the forest for the benefit of present and future generations.

#### CONSTRAINTS

· Team members strived for lodging and feeling

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

- · Mobilization was done by both community people and FDA awareness teams
- The community people had sufficient understanding of the election process
- The meeting was dominated by males with few females making their impact.

**Recommendations:** That FDA management and the community work more closely to finalized their process in obtaining their Authorized Community Forest Management Agreement and provide them with more training on their roles and responsibilities

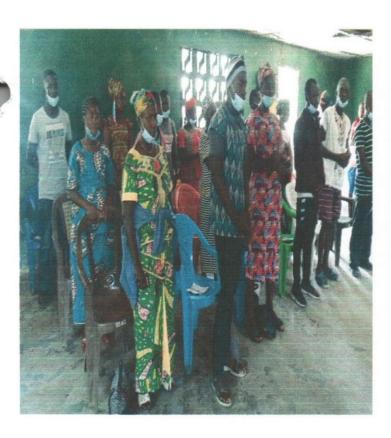
## Listing of Community Assembly Members of Soblima CF

NO	NAME	TOWN	SEX
1.	1. Peter F. Zazabo	Luyeama	M
	2. Steven B. Momo		M
2.	3. J. Grant Zubah	Konia	M
	4. Malay Kesselee		F
3.	5. Jerry G. Weegie	Boi	M
	6. Yankoi Supuson		M
4.	7. Sekou Sheriff	Bardezu	M
	8. Krubo Mulbah		F
5.	9. James Harris	Labiliba	M

	10. Garmai Morris		F
6.	11. Garmai Akoi	Bodah	F
	12. James G. Mulbah		M
7.	13. Korpo Mamai	Soblima	F
	14. Anthony O. Korboi		M
8.	15. Krubo Forkpa	Wanlema	F
	16. David M. Kamara		M
9.	17. Youngor Saylee	Voneyeazu	F
	18. Roland Kesselee		M

# **Soblima Community Forest elections officiating team:**

NO	NAME	POSITION	DEPARTMENT
1.	John Kernue	REO 2	Community Dept
2.	McDonald M. Kamara	NRMO	Community Dept
3.	Bana Quaqua	CFEO	Community Dept
4.	Fomba M. Konneh	CFEO	Community Dept
5.	Tarnue F. Momolu	CFEO	Community Dept
6,	Shek M. Selma	CSO	NCSCL- Lofa
7.	Samuel K. Freeman	CPW	Conservation Dept
8.	Nathan V. Kpehe	JCO	Conservation Dept
9.	Yamah K. Boahadao	JCO	Conservation Dept
10.	Flomo Kesselee	NRMO	Community Dept
11.	Samuel Dolo	Driver	Community Dept





# REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA)

Whein Town, Mt. Barclay POX 3010 Montserrado County, Liberia



Attendance Sheet for the Conduct of CA's & EC elections in Sobilima Community Forest

Venue/Community B01

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Signed John KAMB



# COMMUNITY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Region-2 Office, Voinjama Lofa County, Liberia

TO

Madam. Weedor H. Gray

**Acting Technical Manager** 

Community Forestry Department

Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

FROM

John Kernue

Regional Extension Officer

Community Forestry Department

Forestry Development Authority (FDA

**SUBJ** 

Field report for CFMB Elections in

Soblima Applicant Community Forest, Lofa County.

Date

January 24, 2022

This report entail activities marking the setting up of the Community Forest Management Body (CFMB) elections of **the Soblima** applicant community forest in fulfillment of step eight(8) of the CRL and its Regulations. The Election was conducted on January 17, 2022 in Boi Town, Zorzor District, Lofa County. Herein is an attachment of the report to be perused.



# **Background/Introduction**

According to the Community Rights Law and it Regulation of 2017 (Chapter 3 and 4 Section), powers to lead and govern an Authorized Forest Community shall be through the establishment of a Community Assembly (CA) which shall be the highest decision- making body of the community with respect to community forestry and shall be elected by their various constituencies through a secret ballot. This CA shall elect its Executive Committee which shall in turn recruit, select and appoint the five-member Community Forestry Management Body based on pre-determined criteria. The selection and appointment of the CFMB members shall be fair and transparent and be supervised by the Authority in the presence of Civil Society representatives.

After the successful setting up of the Community Assembly and its Executive Committee, the CA of Soblima Applicant Community Forest was left to recruit and select five-members of the CFMB. After soliciting applications, screening and selecting the five members, the CA through its EC informed the FDA that it was ready to present the results of the recruitment to the Assembly and FDA and to proceed therefrom with election of the Chief Officer, Secretary and Treasurer of the CFMB.

To this effect, the Management of FDA authorized her region two (2) field staff to proceed with these elections with Team supervised by Mr. John Kernue, Regional Extension Officer, Region 2, Civil Society representative, Mr. Shek M. Selma, Co-Chair, NCSCL-Lofa, and Region 2 field staff to move over toSoblima Applicant Community Forest on January 17, 2022 to witness elections of the officials of the five-member Community Forestry Management Body of Soblima Applicant Community.

The team met at the regional office of Region #2 inVoinjama, Lofa County and handed Management letter to Hon. William KambaTamba, Superintendent of Lofa County and was received by Mr. Johnson S.T. Ndupellar, County Information Office of the Superintendent. The team returned to the Konia FDA office and held a joint meeting with Mr. Samuel K. Freeman, Chief Park Wordern and staff was brief on the team's mission. They accepted the CFD team and assured them of their readiness to work alongside for the conduct of the elections.

The elections were held on January 17, 2022 at the Boi community Town hall.

## **Elections Conduct and Procedure**

The Elections commenced at 10:00 a.m. after all representatives from the nine (9) towns, members of the local authority, National Union of Community Forest Management Body (NUCFMB), CSO, FDA, and observers were seated. The meeting began with general prayer after which **Hon. Fred Howard,** Clan Chief, Zorzor District. Welcomed everyone to the program. The Chairman of the committee, Mr. Peter F. Zazaboi, welcomed everyone to the occasion and pleaded with his fellow citizens to give their undivided attention and conduct themselves properly for the Election. Chairman Peter F. Zazaboi took the floor to conduct a roll call of Assembly members. From the roll call it was observed that representatives from nine (9) towns were present during the meeting. Chairman Zazaboi then presented to the Authority the

five members that were selected from the screening they conducted. The five members included four men and one woman. The five members were asked by the Assembly to state which posts on the CFMB they were interested in and they stated specific positions they wanted. For the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer they won on white ballots and the other two are member automatically.

# The final list of the CFMB members included:

No	Name	Position	Contac Numbers	Town	Sex
1.	Mr. Wolokoi V. Korboi	CFMB Chief Officer	0775227135	Bodah	M
2.	MR. Oliver M. Zayzay	CFMB Secretary	0777898162/0880170350	Boi	M
3.	Madam. Sonnie G. Akoiwalah	CFMB Treasurer	0777142935	Badesu	F
4.	Mr. Richard Z. Harris	CFMB Member	0779121020	Libeliba	M
5.	Mr. Samuel Forkpa	CFMB Member	0776338536/0886872899	Konia	M



CFMB Officials: R-L:Mr. Wolokoi V. Korboi(Chief Officer), MR. Oliver M. Zayzay(Secretary), Madam. . Sonnie G. Akoiwalah (Treasurer). Mr. Mr. Richard Z. Harris (Member), Mr. Samuel Forkpa (Member)

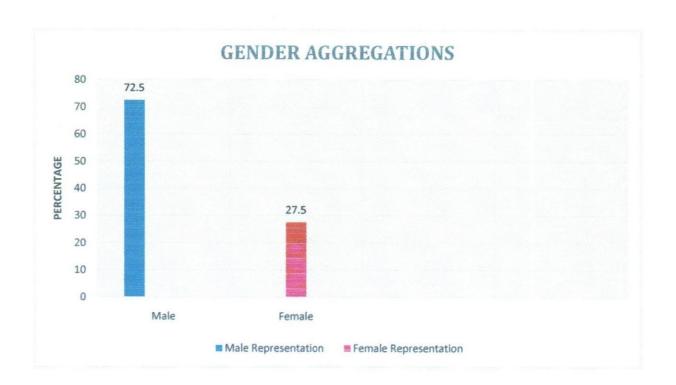
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After the induction of elected CFMB members, Mr. Bana Quaqua of the FDA used the occasion to caution the inductees to work with their colleagues at the assembly for the common goal of the community. In addition, Mr. Quaqua explained the purpose of the CFMB election in details. He further explained the roles and responsibilities of CA's, EC, and CFMB with reference to section 3.1 and Section 4.7 of CRL Regulation. Mr. Fombah M. Konneh, McDonald M. Kamara, and

Mr. Tarnue F. Momolu also highlighted the roles and responsibilities of EC with reference to Section 3.11

# Gender aggregation of representatives from participating communities

The electoral process was able to record the total of forty (40) participants, with the total of 29 and 11 males and females respectively as illustrated in the graph below:



#### **GENDER AGGREGATIONS**

Source (Field elections, 2022)

# **Closing REMARKS/COMMENTS**

Mr. Wolokoi V. Korboi newly elected Chief Officer of the Community Forest Management Body (CFMB) congratulated the FDA and Civil Society for their role in ensuring their elections were free, fair, peaceful and transparent. He admonished his colleagues at the assembly to give the Executive Committee the needed support to make their work effective. He further said this is not the end but the beginning to another step, thank you.

Civil Society Organization representative Mr.Shek M. Selma, —a representative of National Civil Society Organization of Liberia termed the elections as free and fair and asked the leadership to practice justice as they serve their people.

**NUCFMB Mr. Alexander M. Songu** extended thanks to FDA and the citizens of the Soblima Community Forest for recognizing their organization (National Union for Community Forest management body. He also placed emphasis that their organization encourages proper and sustainable management of forest and will always be willing to provides them training and supports. He further stated that their doors will always be opened to the Soblima Community Forest for guidance.

Clan ChiefOn behalf of the local authority Hon. FredHoward warmed the CFMB members to do good works or else the local authority will recommend the removal of anyone who will underperform.

Mr. John Kernue –REO of region # 2 extended thanks to the all who participated in the occasion and advised the CFMB and all the community people to practice sustainable management of the forest for the benefit of present and future generations.

#### CONSTRAINTS

Team members strived for lodging and feeling

# **OBSERVATIONS**

- Mobilization was done by both community people and FDA awareness teams
- The community people had sufficient understanding of the election process
- The meeting was dominated by males with few females making their impact.

**Recommendations:** That FDA Management and the community work more closely to finalized their process in obtaining their Authorized Community Forest Management Agreement and provide them with more training on their roles and responsibilities

# Soblima Community Forest elections officiating team members:

NO	NAME	POSITION	DEPARTMENT
1.	John Kernue	REO 2	Community Dept
2.	McDonald M. Kamara	NRMO	Community Dept
3.	Bana Quaqua	CFEO	Community Dept
4.	Fomba M. Konneh	CFEO	Community Dept
5.	Tarnue F. Momolu	CFEO	Community Dept
6,	Shek M. Selma	CSO	NCSCL- Lofa
7.	Yamah K. Boahadao	JCO	Conservation Dept
8.	FlomoKesselee	NRMO	Community Dept
9.	Samuel Dolo	Driver	Community Dept





# FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA) REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Whein Town, Mt. Barclay POX 3010 Montserrado County, Liberia

Attendance Sheet for the Conduct of Community Forest Management Body (CFMB) elections in Sobilima Community



Forest

Venue/ Community Box Town

\_county LOFA \_ Date January 17, Teld

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