



SAMFU Newsletter

VOL 7 — DEC. 2016

SAVE MY FUTURE (SAMFU) FOUNDATION

SEASON GREETINGS .



On behalf of the Staff, Management Team and Board of Directors of SAMFU, we like to say Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year. We like to thank all of our Donors, Friends and Well wishers for the moral and financial support given us through the year. As we reach another year end, we could like to say thanks for your support and if it hadn't been your support, SAMFU couldn't have done what was done. During these

COMING UP NEXT:

Sports Festival for Liberian Youth for Peace building and Environment (LYPE) in Zwedru and Fishtown.

Trainings for Zodia Land Management Committee (ZLMC) and others.

holidays we pray that we will all remain law abiding and caring for one another. Be our brother keeper and share with the needy.

With the confidence placed in us and our works, we therefore want to assured you all, of our corporation and willingness to even work harder next year. Special thanks goes to the Board of Directors for their guidance and interventions that had helped us along the way.

We pray and hope that the Almighty Creator and Overseer may guard us all, as we work to assist humanity. Long live humanitarians and peace be unto the world.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE SAMFU FAMILY.

SAMFU'S Office needs support to complete

Some time back, during a 5 year strategic planning process, SAMFU identified a permanent office space as one of four strategic issues which needed to be addressed urgently to cope with the ever-increasing rentals being charged in Monrovia and its environs.

Estimated cost of this project is 58, 167.78 USD. To date total amount raised and fully applied to the project is 20, 752.7 USD with the following activities completed: 1. One (1) acre of land purchased,

surveyed, and deed probated, 2) Foundation of building erected, and 3) Walls constructed up to windows level.

Total amount needed to complete this project is about 38, 167.78 USD.

Hats off to American Jewish World Service (AJWS) and Trocaire for contributions of 10, 000 and 2000 USD respectively made to this project.

Any Embassy or meaningful Liberian, contributions in cash and kind will be greatly ap-

preciated. It will help create a better working atmosphere and reduce our overhead cost. Thanks for your decision to help.



SAMFU benefits from trainings.

Two program Managers of SAMFU, Mrs. Andrew Tokpa and Samuel Kwennah, recently benefited from separate capacity building trainings in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County. Mr. Tokpa participated in capacity building training for Civil Society Organizations in Liberia was held in Grand Bassa County from November 30-Dec 3 .

The workshop was aimed at supporting Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Liberia, and seeks to increase the ability of CSOs, communities, and women's groups to be able to interpret and act on forest information, and become more influential participants in forest management policy and decision making. It

was also intended to provide training on data and information gathering for improved forest monitoring and documentation.

The workshop was funded and facilitated by The World Resources Institute (WRI) and the voluntary partnership agreement in partnership with the Sustainable Development Institute with following objectives:

Two staffs of the institution participated in the practical aspect of the training on the usage of the geographical positioning system (GPS) and a demonstration of tools and platform for accessing and managing data.

.Identification of the types of data and information needed by civil society to accurately and efficiently moni-

tor and manage community forests.

.Candid discussion on the strategies, practices, challenges and solutions to address gaps in information flows between civil society, government, and the private sector.

.Development of initial strategies to address these information gaps.

.Increased capacity of civil society to access, generate, manage, use and publish data related to community forest monitoring.

.Increase women's participation in land use decision making.



AJWS Payal Patel visits SAMFU.



Madam Payal Patel, Senior Program Officer for Natural Resources Rights of Anglo-phone Africa, American Jewish World Service (AJWS), based in the USA, visited SAMFU's Head Office on 7th December 2016.

Madam Payal Patel was accompanied by Mr. Dayugar Johnson, AJWS Country Representative for Liberia. This visit provided another opportunity for Payal to interact with members of SAMFU Management team on the overall operation of SAMFU and to get more insights into SAMFU's work with target groups (5 Community Forestry Development Committees and 2 Community based organizations) in Grand Gedeh and River Gee Counties.

Over the last couple of years, SAMFU has used AJWS funding to provide various trainings including in forest laws and policies, monitoring of illegal forestry activities, and advocacy strategies which they are currently using to

engage logging companies, the Forestry Development Authorities and other stakeholders to advocate for their rights and benefits provided for under the law.

As a result of joint advocacies carried out by civil society organizations, logging affected communities and their allies, the Government of Liberia has already released USD 1.2 Million representing little over 50 percent of communities' share of Land Rental Fees paid by logging companies to the Government of Liberia.

Currently, SAMFU is monitoring implementation of the following project supported by the Land Rental Fees in Grand Gedeh and River Gee Counties:

Community Forestry Development Committee - P of River Gee Co. that is based around Forest Management Contract (FMC-P) has embarked on a road rehabilitation project from Kanweaken to Noh River and it is estimated at \$18,382.50usd and duration of project is six months.

Community Forestry Development Committee - F2 from River Gee County based around FMC-F2 and Operated by Euro Logging finds itself around Freetown, Glarro and community people have de-

ecided to construct a clinic that is estimated at \$56,723.69 usd and duration of project is six months.

Community Forestry Development Committee - I operating from FMC- I is constructing a Guest House over a period of six months, which will cost \$63,099usd in Putu Jarwodee.

Community Forestry Development Committee -F1 of Grand Gedeh County operating from FMC-F over six months will construct a Guest House in Ziah town that will cost \$86.013usd.

Community Forestry Development Committee - K of Grand Gedeh County from FMC-K will rehabilitate road from Gbabarzon to Gbloe and the cost is put at \$79,429.50usd.



Save My Future Foundation
Jangaba Avenue
ELWA, Paynesville
Phone: 231 886 531661
E-mail: samfu1987@gmail.com

Working for Nature Conservation

Vision: SAMFU plays a major role in the sustainable management of Liberia's natural resources. SAMFU works in a strong network to ensure that the management processes are participatory, transparent, accountable, and peaceful. All our involvements are unique and committed driven.

Mission: SAMFU promotes partnerships with environmental organizations, the Liberian government and communities to ensure a sustainable management of Liberia's natural resources.

For more information, please visit our website or contact us directly via phone or in our office.



Community Election Developments

In Kangar, Garwula District of Grand Cape Mount County, a series of positions were contested for on December 9, 2016. As one of the communities SAMFU is working on the issue of Oil Palm plantation expansion and mitigating or preventing side effects on local people, we were interested in that community election and its result. The basic positions contested for were General Town Chief previously held by Mr. Boima N. Sembeh, Women Chair Leader by Madam Tenneh K. Zoduah and Youth Leader by Mr. Dennis D. Zoduah.

With a lot of issues ongoing in many of those communities like (*Crop payment by Sime Darby, boundary harmonization and Carbon stock taking*), people are eager to know some of the results of these activities. So many feel a change in leadership will help in solving the problem. A new code of officers and also with more proactive women groups, the predominant Muslim community got its first lady town chief. Madam Sando Fahnbulah is the General Town Chief, while Women Chair Leader is now Massah Zoduah and Mr. Varnie King

now becomes Youth Leader. The official date set for the inauguration is January 15, 2017 in Kangar and the duration or turn of services for the officers elected is two years.

This community and many others that SAMFU had worked with and others that we will continue to work with. We like to say complements of the season. Merry Christmas and a prosperous happy new year to them. We wish to congratulate the new leadership and wish them the best of luck as they lead their people to newer directions.