Proposed Project Land Identification and Rapid Appraisal

Background:

Approximate area and county where EHSA agriculture project will be located in Liberia

The proposed project area is located in Garwula District, Grand Cape Mount County, Republic of Liberia, and West Africa. The proposed project land is under community land ownership title that was donated to Episcopal Mission in Robertsport City for agriculture and philanthropic purposes through the intervention and appeal of the late president Barclay on behalf of the mission. The deed which was later probated and assigned in 1952 by the late president William V.S. Tubman. During the Land Identification team and rapid appraisal mission, the deed of the said land was prevailed/displaced to the members of the team including Simon R. Karbah, Vice Present, EHS Alumni Association (local Chapter), Ernest Bruce- Executive member EHSAA, Alfred T. Konuwa-Member EHSAA , Clement kimber-Chairman, Diocesan Board of Education/Episcopal Diocese of Liberia, and Suliman V. kamara , project consultant by Clement Kimber, Member EHSAA and Chairman, diocesan Board of education/Episcopal Diocese of Liberia.

At the time of acquiring this land, the only accessible means to this land was through Kobolia Town, in Tewor District (The High Way was not constructed then), the only major town in the community at the time and as the result of which it was proclaimed that the land belong to Kobolia town but later found to be on the contrary instead the land belong to Kpeneji Town community. This was revealed to the team during the appraisal mission. However, under traditional and communal land ownership, the land belongs to the entire clan.

Project Land:

The project land area is located on the bank of Mafah River bounded in the North by the Mafah River running North-East of the Mafah River, on the South by Swampy land (hydromopic) and West by feeder/unpaved road connecting Kpeneji to Kobolia town. The land is located between Kpeneji and Kobolia; From Kpeneji to Kobolia, the land is located on the left hand side of the road. The distance by inland travel from Monrovia to the land site is 54.5 miles including 53.1 miles of paved road (Bambagida HWY) to Kpeneji and 1.4 miles unpaved/feeder road (from Kpeneji to site). The easy access to the land site makes it attractive and valuable land for multipurpose agribusiness initiatives.

Climate:

Rainfall and water Defect: The annual rainfall in the area is evenly distributed through rainy season and is adequate for rainfall crop production (no irrigation) and the annual water deficit is about 60 mm during dry season (November- March) which is no threat to dry season crop production since in fact the

land is running parallel to the Mafah River which is ideal for any major irrigation. The accessibility of major body of water that can be used for Irrigation has added great value to this land.

Relief, Topography and Drainage:

Relief and Topography: The relief of the land area consists of a series of "physiographic Units" of eroded hills and undulating plateaus separated by tributaries of the Mafah River. Geologically, the area is very old and has undergone a very long process of erosion which was visually observed on the bank of the Mafah River by the land appraisal team. It has a gentle rolling topography running toward the Mafah River. The large sections of the flat lands (gradient less than 5%) were observed during the appraisal which makes this land ideal for multipurpose agribusiness development. Soil- the portion the upland soil cover 95% of the total 500 acres and only 5% is swampy areas which can be fully utilized for agriculture purposes such as lowland rice production (staple food crop in Liberia) during the rainy season and assorted vegetable production during the dry season. The texture of the soil ranges from sandy loam to sandy clay and light clay which is ideal for agriculture purposes.

Vegetation:

Cross checking was done in the field during the team appraisal. As the land area has been inhabited for a long time, the original tropical rain forests have almost totally been cleared. It has now been replaced by fallow lands light forests including fallow land which are covered with regrowth of various ages up to 10 years and light forests which cover several patches of land within the regrowth. The appraisal team also observed the cultivation of annual crops on the land which include upland rice, cassava and scattered patches of sugar cane. However, they are planted on a very small scale with areas rarely exceeding 1 acre. Some cocoa trees, bananas, and fruit trees were found on the river bank of the land areas.

Conclusion Remarks:

- Generally, the characteristic of the proposed project land area is ideal for multi-purpose agricultural development including fertile soil, ideal topography, gentle slopes and accessible to major source of water for irrigation purposes.
- The proposed project land (500 acres) must be reclaimed as sooner as possible by the Episcopal mission or else the community might re-possess their land since the land has been abandon for over 54 consecutive years since it was donated to the mission without carry any meaningful development on it.(most of the youth were not aware of this transaction)

► The Way Forward or next step:

- Re-survey the 500 acres as soon as possible
- Initiate as soon as possible some level of development initiative on the land site

I, Suliman V. Kamara, consultant, project concept developer wish to acknowledge the efforts and the sacrifices being made by Mr. Feweh Sherman, President, EHSA Alumina, and USA. He has been the driving force behind the reclamation and development of this viable mission land. It will be unjust on my part without mentioning the names of Messrs Simon Karbah, Ernest Bruce, and Clement V. Kimber who are working collaboratively and tirelessly with Mr. Sherman in reclaiming this land.

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