



## **Embassy of the United States of America Public Affairs Office**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Freetown

Contact: Charge' d'affaires Douglas Sun

Tel: 022-515-000 or 076-515-000

### **United States Embassy Starts Tree Planting Project**

As part of a continuing initiative to reforest the land surrounding the embassy compound, the U.S. Embassy community gathered on July 15 for a tree planting ceremony. Both locally engaged staff and American employees donated the funds needed to pay for a variety of trees, including palm, citrus, cashew, and ornamental trees. Sierra Leone's Ministry of Agriculture also generously donated a large number of acacia trees to the effort. The embassy's gardeners will continue planting until all 1,000 trees have been planted on the property.

This initiative is an important effort in reversing the extreme deforestation that Sierra Leone is presently undergoing. "Deforestation is a grave problem in much of the world; it is one of the causes of global warming, erosion, flooding and landslides. It also hurts biodiversity. By replanting trees at Hill Station, the embassy is doing its part in what is hoped will become a larger effort in all of Sierra Leone," said Charge d'affaires Douglas Sun. All citizens bear responsibility for protecting the environment and preventing deforestation by replanting trees on their property after a house has been built.

#END

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