

REDD + ANNUAL COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORTING (with semi-annual update)

COUNTRY: LIBERIA

PERIOD: OCTOBER 2014 – AUGUST 2015

Background: Liberia reporting framework has been developed following the structure of the FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, its logical framework and Performance Measurement Framework (PMF), so as to facilitate and systematize the data analysis. This annual country report provides the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) with indications of Liberia's REDD+ progress towards achieving its readiness activities and the implementation of its Emission Reductions programs overtime. In this manner, data are easily consolidated and provide indications on the level of achievement of the FCPF output, outcome and impact indicators as defined in the FCPF M&E Framework.

Report preparation: This submitted report is drawn upon Liberia's M&E system for REDD + (component 6 of R-PP) and is prepared in consultation with members of REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) and the SESA Working Group, with inputs from other stakeholders including CSOs and local communities.

Reporting schedule: This annual progress country report covers the period August 2014 to August 2015. The report is based on a self-assessment of progress.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This section provides a short description of activities financed by the FCPF. The below information summarizes progress, key achievements with a focus on higher level results and important issues/problems that arose during the reporting period.

SUMMARY

- I. Revamping / revitalization of the National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS) that is currently housed at the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia**
 - a. Furnishing of office**
 - b. Support to the lunching of the NCCS – Provided funding for the lunch of the NCCS in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County March 6-7, 2015**
 - i. Number of participants – 29** (Participants were drawn from various government ministries and agencies, CSOs, youth, women group, media, local communities and academia)
 - ii. Purpose / Overview** - To enhance coordination and public leadership in the climate change sector.
 - iii. Achievements/Outcomes** – Reviewed and revised the TORs of the NCCSC and NCCS to reflect Liberia current needs. Reviewed the draft NCCS workplan and budget. Developed a roadmap for NCCS communication and Resource mobilization strategies
- II. PCI Media Impact - Fauna & Flora International hired to develop Liberia's REDD+ Communication Strategy**
 - a. REDD+ Communication Strategy Validation Workshop held on March 30-31, 2015**
 - i. Number of participants – 37** (Participants were drawn from FDA, EPA, CSOs, youth, media, local communities and academia)
 - ii. Purpose / Overview** – Validation of the REDD+ Communication Strategy with an

introduction to the current situation and vision for REDD+ in Liberia

- iii. Achievements/Outcomes** – Basic REDD+ concepts understood, REDD+ concept and implementation aligned, Understanding of potential benefits, translating REDD+ into language that is easily accessed by locals,
- iv.** The firms along with the REDD Implementation Unit designed Liberia's REDD+ Logo and slogan
- v.** Currently the firms are enhancing the FDA and EPA websites to ensure that information regarding REDD+ activities will be prominently featured. The sites are meant to be a first tier clearing house of information on the program, providing resources and in-depth knowledge for a diversity of audiences and a springboard towards services within the national, regional and local contexts.
- vi.** Production of quarterly newsletters for stakeholders and decision makers
- vii.** Production of REDD+ InfoGraphic Brochure
 - b.** issues/problems

III. LTS Niras hired to develop Liberia REDD+ Strategy

- a.** Stakeholder inputs solicited and Inception report submitted

IV. Winrock International and CI hired to develop Liberia Reference Emission Level (REL) / Reference Level (RL)

- a.** Draft Inception report circulated for stakeholder inputs

V. Tetra Tech ARD was hired to conduct Liberia Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and develop the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

- a.** Six SESA case studies to research and document community level perspectives on key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in order to understand community perspectives on the opportunity costs of forest conservation

VI. Consultation and Participation

- a.** 2 weeks nationwide awareness campaign on REDD+ in January 2015
- b.** REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) meetings

<i>Meeting description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
<i>End of the 2014 general membership meeting</i>	<i>December 18, 2014</i>	<i>22 participants</i>
<i>Jointed RTWG and SESA Working Groups meeting</i>	<i>February 5 2015</i>	<i>25 participants</i>
<i>Jointed RTWG and SESA Working Groups meeting with Norwegian and IDH delegation</i>	<i>April 29, 2015</i>	<i>26 participants</i>
<i>Jointed RTWG and SESA Working Groups meeting with World Bank Mission Team</i>	<i>June 24, 2015</i>	<i>30 participants</i>

- c.** Regular SESA Working Group
 - i.** meetings

<i>Meeting description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
<i>Development of an annual workplan and budget</i>	<i>January 28, 2015</i>	<i>16 participants</i>

	<i>Jointed RTWG and SESA Working Groups meeting</i>	<i>February 5 2015</i>	<i>25 participants</i>
	<i>Jointed RTWG and SESA Working Groups meeting with Norwegian and IDH delegation</i>	<i>April 29, 2015</i>	<i>26 participants</i>
	<i>Jointed RTWG and SESA Working Groups meeting with World Bank Mission Team</i>	<i>June 18, 2015</i>	<i>25 participants</i>
	<i>Jointed RTWG and SESA Working Groups debriefing with World Bank Mission Team</i>	<i>June 24, 2015</i>	<i>30 participants</i>

ii. Capacity Building workshop held for SESA Working Group Members in Buchanan Grand Bassa County

a. Participants – 33 participants of the SESA Working Group

b. Purpose / Overview –

- To improve SESA Working Group Coordination*
- To create the platform for capacity enhancement in REDD+ and climate change for members of the SESA Working Group*
- To understand the ToRs roles and responsibilities of the SESA Working Group in an effort to improve its function*
- To understand and form synergy with various approaches for REDD+ and sustainable natural resource management practices aiming to improve forest governance in Liberia*
- To develop ways in which the SESA can enhance its performs to meet REDD+ objectives*
- To share lessons learned and agreed on a way forward to sustain capacity enhancement in Liberia*

c. Achievements/Outcomes

- Improved SESA Working Group Coordination*
- Established platform for capacity enhancement in REDD+ and climate change for members of the SESA Working Group*
- SESA ToR understood, roles and responsibilities of the SESA Working Group clarified to improve its function,*

VII. Dialogue and information sharing with CSOs – Two CSOs dialogue on information sharing on REDD+ activities and the Liberian – Norwegian Partnership

VIII. Quarterly briefing of the Forestry Sector Working Group – The Forestry Sector Working Group is a platform comprising of Donors, INGOS, GoL, UNMIL and relevant partners working in the forestry sector. The objective of the quarterly briefings is to update and inform members on developments and initiatives unfolding in the sector and how to synergize various interventions.

IX. South – South Exchange

a. 2 Persons participated in a Regional workshop on Jurisdiction Landscape Program organized by the FCPF and the Government of Mozambique

Important issues/problems that arose during the reporting period

- I. Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)*** – Due to the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia most of the project field activities were suspended. The suspensions of activities, especially in local communities, were as a result of travel restriction imposed by Government through the declaration a State of Emergency. Additionally, consultancy contracts awarded could not deliver on schedule due to force majeure.

2. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS DURING THE PERIOD

The section below should provide qualitative and quantitative data on the progress towards expected results along the following subsections. Information is to be provided cumulatively. If the information requested is not available or not relevant at the time of the reporting, mention “does not apply – n/a”.

- I. National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS) revamped and revitalized - housed at the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia***
 - a. NCCS office furnished***
 - b. Supported the launching of the NCCS*** – Provided funding for the launch of the NCCS in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County March 6-7, 2015
 - 1. Number of participants*** – 29 (Participants were drawn from various government ministries and agencies, CSOs, youth, women group, media, local communities and academia)
 - 2. Achievements/Outcomes*** –NCCS TOR reviewed and revised to reflect Liberia current needs. NCCS workplan and budget reviewed. NCCS communication and Resource mobilization strategies roadmap developed. Increased active participation and recognition of NCCS by Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Office of the President.
- II. PCI Media Impact - Fauna & Flora International hired to develop Liberia's REDD+ Communication Strategy***
 - a. REDD+ Communication Strategy Validation Workshop held on March 30-31, 2015***
 - 1. Number of participants*** – 37 (Participants were drawn from FDA, EPA, CSOs, youth, media, local communities and academia)
 - 2. Purpose / Overview*** – Validation of the REDD+ Communication Strategy with an introduction to the current situation and vision for REDD+ in Liberia
 - 3. Achievements/Outcomes*** – Basic REDD+ concepts understood, REDD+ concept and implementation aligned, Understanding of potential benefits, translating REDD+ into language that is easily accessed by locals,
 - a. Designed REDD+ Logo and slogan in consultation with the REDD Implementation Unit Liberia's***
 - b. Enhanced the FDA and EPA websites to ensure that information regarding REDD+ activities will be prominently featured. The sites are meant to be a first tier clearing house of information on the program, providing resources and in-depth knowledge for***

a diversity of audiences and a springboard towards services within the national, regional and local contexts.

4. *Produced quarterly newsletters for stakeholders and decision makers*

5. *Produced of REDD+ InfoGraphic Brochure*

III. LTS Niras hired to develop Liberia REDD+ Strategy

a. *Stakeholder inputs solicited and Inception report submitted*

IV. Windrock International and CI hired to develop Liberia Reference Emission Level (REL) / Reference Level (RL)

a. *Draft Inception report circulated for stakeholder inputs*

V. Tetra Tech ARD

a. *Conducted six SESA case studies in six counties to research and document community level perspectives on key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in order to understand community perspectives on the opportunity costs of forest conservation*

Amount of non-FCPF investments received under R-PP process (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.2.B.i.):	
<u>Source:</u> N/A	<u>Amount provided:</u> N/A
<u>Source:</u> N/A	<u>Amount provided:</u> N/A
<u>Source:</u> N/A	<u>Amount provided:</u> N/A
Amount of non-FCPF investments received for implementation of activities relevant to ER Programs (e.g. FIP, bilateral donors, private sector), if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.2.B.i.):	
<u>Source:</u> N/A	<u>Amount provided:</u> N/A
<u>Source:</u> N/A	<u>Amount provided:</u> N/A
<u>Source:</u> N/A	<u>Amount provided:</u> N/A

Describe how stakeholders are participating and engaging in REDD+ decision making processes (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.3.A):

Provide examples of how IPs and CSOs are represented in institutional arrangements for REDD at the national level.

CSOs, academia, INGOs and key stakeholders are all represented on the REDD Technical Working Group and the SESA Working Group. These Groups meet quarterly and when necessary to discuss REDD+ related activities. In the event of an emergency a meeting is called before the regular quarterly meeting. For example, the National Charcoal Union of Liberia, Green Advocate, Liberia Girl's Guide Association, University of Liberia, Press Union of Liberia, etc are members of the RTWG and provide advisory role to the overall implementation of REDD+ in Liberia.

Examples of stakeholder engagement platforms in country which meet regularly to discuss and provide inputs to the REDD+ readiness process (FCPF M&E Framework 3.2.a.):

Frequency: Quarterly

The REDD+ Technical Working Group and the SESA Working Group have separate quarterly meetings to discuss and provide guidance to the REDD Implementation Unit (RIU).

The REDD+ Technical Working Group – REDD+ activities at the consultative, policy and advisory level are managed by the REDD Technical Working Group – RTWG Coordinator

All inception and progress reports from consultants are reviewed and approved by the RTWG and SESA Working Group.

Examples of resources made available to enable active participation of IPs , CSOs and local communities in national REDD+ readiness.

The REDD Implementation Unit provides regular briefings and updates to CSOs and key stakeholders. Costs including (transportation reimbursement, refreshment and stationeries) are covered by the RIU for various meetings and workshops.

Number and type of policy reforms initiated, completed or underway complying to REDD+ standards, if any (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.3.B.):

Number of policy reforms during the reporting period that are:

Underway:

- ✓ National Climate Change Policy
- ✓ Draft National Wildlife Law pending enactment
- ✓ Act to establish the Gola Forest National Park
- ✓ Land Rights Law pending enactment
- ✓ Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation Concerns into Agriculture Sector Policies –A Policy Review (Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP), Food And Agriculture Policy (FAP) & Agenda For Transformation (AFT))
- ✓ Mining Act (2014 draft) – Section 6 of the draft Mining Act deals with the reconciliation of competing land uses, and states that the “Minister must engage in consultation with other relevant Ministers and Government agencies to design and implement an integrated system of land use planning to evaluate competing land use options to address and resolve existing conflicting land uses involving mining operations and mining titles and potential future conflicting land uses.
- ✓ Section 144 (Protected Areas) states that certain areas, such as a sacred ground or wildlife sanctuary, may be protected from mining. The section dealing with environmental protection (163) states that “In deciding whether or not to grant a mineral title, the Minister must take into account the need to conserve the natural resources in or on land over which the mineral title is sought, or in or on neighbouring land.”

Completed:

- ✓ Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation Concerns into Agriculture Sector Policies –A Policy Review (Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP), Food And Agriculture Policy (FAP) & Agenda For Transformation (AFT))

Please describe these policy reforms:

- ✓ National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Plan – The policy is being developed under the guidance of the Environmental Protection Agency. It will enable better coordination of climate change work in Liberia and provide opportunity for cooperation and collaboration between the Government and people of Liberia as well as with development partners, international and regional institution, and inter-governmental organization.
- ✓ Wildlife Law – deals with the sustainable management of wildlife and efficient management

of Protected Areas

- ✓ The Act to establish the Gola Forest National Park will be an addition to the Protected Area Network of Liberia. This will be a sufficient contribution to Liberia's vision of putting 30% (1.5 million hectares) of our remaining forest estate under conservation.
- ✓ Land Rights Law will in effect turn over the land to local communities.

Design of national REDD+ Strategies addresses indicators for enhancement of livelihoods of local communities and for biodiversity conservation (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 3.B.):

Provide examples of how national REDD Strategies address livelihoods of local communities and biodiversity conservation.

Liberia is in the process of developing its National REDD Strategy. However, the Community Forestry Department at the Forestry Development Authority has assisted local and forest depended communities through the CHYAO Project in developing income generating enterprises while sustainably managing the forest which the local communities utilize.

This is being done through the facilitation of small scale and community based natural resource based (including forest and non-forest products) enterprises that have production or process element that gainfully employs youth in particular to reduce their reliance on unsustainable forest resource use.

In addition to the CHYAO Project, Conservation International in partnership with Arcelor Mittal Biodiversity Conservation Program and FDA have started to implement phases for piloting Conservation Agreement (feasible assessments, community engagements and negotiation, design and delivery of benefit packages) in six communities around the East Nimba Nature Reserve to ensure its protection and livelihood development for local communities. The Conservation Agreement initiative is expected to impact 225 farmers and 53 hunters directly in Nimba County around the East Nimba Nature Reserve.

A National Biodiversity Offset Scheme: A Road Map for Liberia's Mining Sector was published in March 2015. This study took a look at proposed approaches in establishing National Biodiversity Offset Scheme whilst at the same time addressing the Rights and Interest of landowners and local communities who are heavily dependent on forests for their livelihoods and ecosystem service

3. PROGRESS AT R-PP sub component level

3.1. REDD Readiness Progress

As a synthesis of the following output level assessments, please briefly describe here the progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 1.A.): up to 300 words, if applicable
















Progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package:

As regards the Readiness Package, little progress was made in relation to the FCPF M& E Framework due to the EVD outbreak in Liberia during the period under review. However, significant milestones were met as it relates to the Readiness Package:

- ✓ 2 major consultancies were tendered (Reference Emissions Level & Communication Strategy)
- ✓ The Forest and Land cover maps will be produced by late September 2015
- ✓ The SESA process is gradually proceeding
- ✓ The development of Liberia National REDD+ Strategy is on course
- ✓ Nationwide consultation and participation is ongoing

Please indicate which of your country R-PP components and sub-components have received support from FCPF through the Readiness Preparation Grant (>3.4 million USD)

Components	Sub-components	Support from FCPF (Yes/No)
1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Yes
	1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	Yes
2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Yes
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Yes
	2c. Implementation Framework	Yes
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	No
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		
4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	No
	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	No

Level of overall achievement of planned milestones according to approved FCPF-financed Readiness Fund Grant (>3.4 million USD) (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.b.):																	
<u>Planned Milestones:</u> Liberia enter into REDD+ funding modality	<u>Level of Achievement</u> ¹ : Significant progress	<u>Tracking</u> ² : <table><tr><td></td><td>X</td><td>Significant progress</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Progressing well, further development required</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Further development required</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Not yet demonstrating progress</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Non Applicable</td></tr></table> <p>Please explain why: The FCPF Grant was used to facilitate and coordinate all activities leading to the signing of the Liberia Forest Investment Program.</p>		X	Significant progress			Progressing well, further development required			Further development required			Not yet demonstrating progress			Non Applicable
	X	Significant progress															
		Progressing well, further development required															
		Further development required															
		Not yet demonstrating progress															
		Non Applicable															






¹ Countries are expected to provide data on the overall level of achievement of planned milestones as defined in their Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement, and, if applicable, on their Supplementary Grant Agreement for an additional grant of up to \$5 million. For instance, under their Preparation Readiness Grant Agreement (>3.4 million USD), Countries should provide data on (i) the support to the Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-Stakeholder Consultations; (ii) the contribution to the Design of a National REDD+ Strategy; and (iii) the preparation of a National Reference Scenario for REDD+

² The level of achievement of planned milestones according to approved RF grant will be summarized through progress scores related to the synthesis of an overall achievement, qualitatively expressed on a four-color 'traffic light' scale and then explained. In case the assessment is not applicable, a fifth color scale "Non Applicable" can be selected.






This 'traffic light' scale is based on the system contained in the R-Package Assessment Framework






Degree of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component and sub-component (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.c.).
















Countries are expected to rate progress toward the implementation of R-PP sub-component only once a year, as part of the reporting submitted by August 15th each year






	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
R-PP Component 1 – Readiness Organization and Consultation	Sub-Component 1a – National REDD+ Management Arrangements <i>Purpose: setting-up national readiness management arrangements to manage and coordinate the REDD-plus readiness activities whilst mainstreaming REDD-plus into broader strategies</i> <i>Country Self-Assessment Criteria: (i) accountability and transparency; (ii) operating mandate and budget; (iii) multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration; (iv) technical supervision capacity; (v) funds management capacity; (vi) feedback and grievance redress mechanism</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Adequate capacity at national, county and local levels to manage and engage in REDD+ implementation ✓ REDD+ Implementation Unit (RIU) established within FDA and operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular meeting of RTWG ✓ 1 - NCCS coordinator recruited ✓ NCCS TOR revised ✓ NCCS office furnished and equipped ✓ NCCSC TOR developed ✓ 1 - REDD+ Policy Coordinator recruitment in progress ✓ 1 - Project Accountant recruited ✓ Office equipment procured 		X	Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				Please explain why: Despite the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak we have continued to have met most of the milestones in this session.		





³ The level of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component should be self-assessed and reported, as well as summarized through progress scores related to the synthesis of this overall achievement, qualitatively expressed on a four-color 'traffic light' scale and then briefly explained. In case the assessment is not applicable, a fifth color scale 'Non Applicable' can be selected. This 'traffic light' scale is based on the system contained in the R-Package Assessment Framework, The R-Package assessment criteria are included to assist countries identify, plan and track their readiness preparations progress with the core aspects and desired outcomes of readiness preparation activities as contained in R-Package Assessment Framework.






	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
FCPF M&E Framework	Sub-Component 1b – Consultation, Participation, and Outreach <i>Purpose: broad consultation with and participation of key stakeholders for future REDD+ programs, to ensure participation of different social groups, transparency and accountability of decision-making</i> <u>Country Self- Assessment Criteria:</u> (i) participation and engagement of key stakeholders; (ii) consultation processes; (iii) information sharing and accessibility of information; (iv) implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	1.b.1 REDD+ Communication Strategy implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ REDD+ Communication Strategy firm hired ✓ Monthly updates on the REDD+ process in Liberia produced for key stakeholders ✓ Quarterly newsletters for the wider REDD+ stakeholder community produced ✓ 2 Liberian experts attended the Regional Workshop on Jurisdictional Landscape Program ✓ In collaboration with Climate Change Adaptation Agriculture Project Team (CCAAP) the REDD Implementation Unit (RIU) has started establishing Climate Change Clubs in high schools ✓ RIU continues to engage Universities and colleges in disseminating REDD+ information 	<div>  </div> <div>  </div> <div>  </div> <div>  </div> <div>  </div>	<div> X </div>	<div>Significant progress</div> <div>Progressing well, further development required</div> <div>Further development required</div> <div>Not yet demonstrating progress</div> <div>Non Applicable</div>
		24 Feb 2015	12	Please explain why: The REDD+ Communication Strategy was approved by the RTWG and the roll out of the strategy has commenced; to include EPA and FDA website enhancement, capacity building for management of the websites, production of REDD+ monthly updates and quarterly newsletters.		











	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
R-PP Component 2 – REDD+ Strategy Preparation	Subcomponent 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance <i>Purpose:</i> identification of key drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation, as well as activities concerning conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks <u>Country Self- Assessment Criteria:</u> (i) assessment and analysis; (ii) prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest enhancement; (iii) links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities; (iv) actions plans to address natural resource right, land tenure, governance; (v) implications for forest law and policy	✓ key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, are identified	4 regional studies dealing with all aspects of shifting cultivation in Liberia conducted			Significant progress
		✓ By Dec2015, Results/recommendations from different studies included into REDD+ Strategy are integrated into the REDD+ strategy				Progressing well, further development required
					X	Further development required
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
Please explain why: Due to the EVD, the following activities could not done: <div><div>1. Updated Wood Energy Market Survey</div><div>2. National Land use suitability maps</div><div>3. Forest Resources Assessment</div></div>						






	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)															
		Planned milestones	Achievements																
FCPF M&E Framework	<p>Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options</p> <p><i>Purpose: Develop a set of policies and programs for addressing the drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation</i></p> <p><i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options; (ii) feasibility assessment; (iii) implications for strategy options on existing sectoral policies.</i></p>	<p>✓ REDD+ strategy options identified in 2009 economic analysis are assessed and prioritized</p> <p>✓ By end of project, REDD+ strategy options identified in 2009 economic analysis are tested</p>	<p>1. Suitable sites for reforestation and afforestation, as well as forest restoration identified</p> <p>2. Shifting cultivation into permanent or semi-permanent agriculture to reduce land use and forest degradation is recognised as good practice by the MoA and farmer’s organisations</p>	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Significant progress</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Progressing well, further development required</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>X</td><td>Further development</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Not yet demonstrating progress</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Non Applicable</td></tr></table> <p><i>Please explain why:</i> Due to the EVD, the following activities could not be done:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Technical capacity of all actors in the commercial forestry sector improved through outreach and training2. Technical capacity of all actors in chainsaw logging improved through outreach and training3. Role of Conservation and Protected Areas (PAs) and carbon sinks in REDD+ clarified4. Implications of capping commercial forestry analyzed and considered in FDA policy decision making process5. Support to the MoA, FDA and agricultural concession holders ensures that tree crop plantation and permanent agriculture development is located on degraded forest lands			Significant progress			Progressing well, further development required		X	Further development			Not yet demonstrating progress			Non Applicable
		Significant progress																	
		Progressing well, further development required																	
	X	Further development																	
		Not yet demonstrating progress																	
		Non Applicable																	
		24 Feb 2015	15																






	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
	Subcomponent 2c: Implementation Framework <i>Purpose: Set out credible and transparent institutional, economic, legal and governance arrangements necessary to implement REDD+ strategy options</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations; (ii) guidelines for implementation; (iii) benefit sharing mechanism; (iv) national REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities</i>	✓ By mid-term, a report on benefit sharing arrangements is published for further validation by stakeholders ✓ By end of project, Regulation is fully adapted to REDD+ implementation	1. Enabling legislative context for REDD+ and issues relating to law enforcement assessed 2. Arrangements for revenue transparency, including through LEITI, validated			Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
					X	Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				<p><i>Please explain why:</i> Under the initial grant, funding was not allocated for the implementation of these activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equitable benefit sharing arrangements for carbon revenues based on recognized land right is established 2. Current monitoring processes reviewed and monitoring needs and costs assessed 3. Arrangements for independent verifiable monitoring of carbon benefit sharing validated 		

	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
	Subcomponent 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts <i>Purpose: Ensure compliance with the Common Approach and prepare a country specific Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues; (ii) REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts; (iii) Environmental and Social Management Framework</i>	✓ SESA is fully completed ✓ By end of project, SESA (incl. ESMF) is fully integrated into REDD+ strategy	1. Studies to assess baseline and potential impacts are ongoing 2. Environmental management plan (EMP) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) development ongoing 3. Socio-economic analyses ongoing 4. Capacity Strengthening and related Technical Assistance sub-activities performed			Significant progress
					X	Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				Please explain why: Activities were progressing as planned until the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).		

	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)			
		Planned milestones	Achievements				
R-PP Component 3 – Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	R-PP Component 3 - Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels <i>Purpose: Development of the general approach to establish a REL/RL</i> <i>Country Self-Assessment Criteria: (i) demonstration of methodology; (ii) use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances; (iii) technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reference scenario and emissions estimates ongoing ✓ By end of project, FDA, LISGIS, and the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy are fully capacitated on forest monitoring systems ✓ baseline report on deforestation and degradation rates and trends in Liberia is available ✓ biomass and carbon stocks baseline data is available 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Methodology to stratify and estimate carbon stocks validation and IPCC Reporting Tier selection ongoing 2. Key carbon pools to include in the historic estimate of emissions/removals identification ongoing 3. Reference emission levels and estimation of emissions using spatial analysis software ongoing 4. Capacity building needs on forest monitoring systems assessment ongoing 5. Capacity building and training sessions ongoing 				Significant progress
					X		Progressing well, further development required
							Further development
							Not yet demonstrating progress
							Non Applicable
				And explain why: The draft inception report of Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels detailing the methodology, approach and workplan of the responsible consultant has been reviewed and feedback submitted for consideration.			






	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking ³ (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	Subcomponent 4a: National Forest Monitoring System <i>Purpose: Design and develop an operational forest monitoring system and describe the approach to enhance the system over time</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) documentation of monitoring approach; (ii) demonstration of early implementation; (iii) institutional arrangements and capacities- Forests</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An operational Forest Monitoring Unit (FMU) ensures forest cover monitoring and reporting ✓ By end of Project, a solid MRV system for REDD+ is in place and validated in Liberia 				Significant progress
	Subcomponent 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards <i>Purpose: Specify the non-carbon aspects prioritized for monitoring by the country</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues; (ii) monitoring, reporting and information sharing; (iii) Institutional arrangements and capacities – Safeguards</i>	<p>By mid-term, a monitoring system for social, environmental and governance impacts of increased forest cover is proposed for validation</p> <p>By end of project, participatory monitoring involving all key stakeholder groups occurs</p> <p>By end of project, first M&E reports generated</p>				Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
					X	Non Applicable
				And explain why: Activities not funded under FCPF grant		
						Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				And explain why: Activities not funded under FCPF grant		

Disbursement rate of FCPF-financed Readiness Fund Grant (>3.4 million USD), in percentage (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.d.):		
	Rate	Tracking
RF Grant - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements	Estimated 35%	<i>Please select your rating:</i>
		 <input type="checkbox"/> Up to 10% variance with plans
		 <input type="checkbox"/> Between 10-25% variance with plans
		 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Between 25-40% variance with plans
		 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 40% variance
		 <input type="checkbox"/> Non Applicable

Disbursement rate of Total R-PP Budget in percentage (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.d.):		
	Rate	Tracking
Total Budget in R-PP - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements (including other funding sources and FCPF Readiness Grant)	tbd	<i>Please select your rating:</i>
		 <input type="checkbox"/> Up to 10% variance with plans
		 <input type="checkbox"/> Between 10-25% variance with plans
		 <input type="checkbox"/> Between 25-40% variance with plans
		 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X More than 40% variance
		 <input type="checkbox"/> Non Applicable

3.2. Engagement of stakeholders within the approach to REDD +

Examples of actions/activities where IPs, CSOs, and local communities participate actively, if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.a.):	
Action/activity:	Describe IP, CSO, and local community participation:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliverables review meetings 2. SESA scoping exercise 3. SESA capacity building workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ CSOs and local community usually partake in reviews and validation of reports from consultants responsible for specific components of the FCPF program. ✓ Local communities were engaged to obtain their perspectives on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. ✓ CSOs and local communities took part in a capacity building workshop. ✓ CSO and local communities are actively participating in Liberia's FCPF program. Participation in the REDD+ process is through the REDD Technical Working Group, SESA Working Group, workshops

	and community awareness programs.				
Number of IP and REDD country CSO representatives (men/women) having been successfully trained by FCPF training programs (FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.b.):					
<u>Please list the training conducted:</u> ✓ SESA Capacity Enhancement and Training	<u>Duration</u> <u>(# of days)</u> 3 days	# of participants # of men / # of women 30 - men 3 - women			<i>Targets in terms of number of men and women to be trained by country to be defined</i>
					
					
					
				X	Non Applicable

3.3. Knowledge sharing

Has your country developed and published REDD+ knowledge products with FCPF support:	
Yes/ No :	Please provide the list of published REDD+ knowledge products, if any during reporting period :

How many people have been reached by these knowledge products, if any: N/A	
<u>Overall number by product:</u>	
<u># of Men:</u>	
<u># of Women:</u>	

Have some experts of your country participated in any South-south learning activities? If yes, how many (men and women)?		
Yes / No :	<u>List the South-South learning activities:</u>	<u># of men:</u> (IP/CSO representatives, private sector representatives) None
	Regional Workshop on Jurisdictional Landscape Program	<u># of women:</u> (IP/CSO representatives, private sector representatives) None

4. ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RISKS

This section should present any problems, difficulties or constraints faced by the country in making progress towards the intended REDD+ results (outputs, outcomes and possible impacts), the main causes and their expected effect on the work plan. Actions that have been taken to overcome or manage these constraints/flaws/problems identified should be stated. Each problem/constraint should be stated as a separate point, along with associated proposed changes in work planning for the next six month/year to address it, as relevant.

It is expected that the country monitors any changes in the assumptions that underpin the logic of intervention of FCPF at the national level and other significant risks that may arise. This section should explain through a narrative any changes in the level of risk associated with the different assumptions, or describe new risks that may have emerged and have a significant bearing on the national work-planning with respect to FCPF support for the next year and beyond, along with the associated measures required to address this change.

- ✓ Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Outbreak: *Due to the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia most of the project field activities were suspended. The suspensions of activities, especially in local communities, were as a result of travel restriction imposed by Government through the declaration a State of Emergency. Additionally, consultancy contracts awarded could not deliver on schedule due to force majeure.*

Budget constraints: Actual contracts signed exceeded the estimated cost allocated for respective activities. As a result some of the planned activities could not be delivered.

5. MAIN LESSONS LEARNED

This section should be used to provide information on important lessons learned since the beginning of the readiness process. It is expected that this section will be fairly substantial, making reference to different lessons learned, analysis documents developed, and/or experiences made in dealing with issues of particular interest to REDD+.

DIFFERENT LESSONS LEARNED

- ✓ Managing expectation
- ✓ Stakeholder engagement is fundamental to the success of REDD+
- ✓ Effective coordination among government ministries, agencies, CSOs and other key stakeholders is essential to the successful implementation of the REDD+

- ✓ Political buy in is the cornerstone to the success of REDD+

ANALYSIS of DOCUMENTS DEVELOPED

- ✓ *Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation Concerns into Agriculture Sector Policies* –A Policy Review (Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP), Food And Agriculture Policy (FAP) & Agenda For Transformation (AFT))
- ✓ *Mining Act (2014 draft)* – Section 6 of the draft Mining Act deals with the reconciliation of competing land uses, and states that the “Minister must engage in consultation with other relevant Ministers and Government agencies to design and implement an integrated system of land use planning to evaluate competing land use options to address and resolve existing conflicting land uses involving mining operations and mining titles and potential future conflicting land uses.
- ✓ *Mining Act (2014) Section 144 (Protected Areas)* - states that certain areas, such as a sacred ground or wildlife sanctuary, may be protected from mining. The section dealing with environmental protection (163) states that “In deciding whether or not to grant a mineral title, the Minister must take into account the need to conserve the natural resources in or on land over which the mineral title is sought, or in or on neighbouring land.”