



FCPF Readiness Fund: Liberia REDD+ Project Completion Report

January 2020

SECTION A: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

This report is the completion report of the Additional REDD+ Readiness support and presents the overall progress made toward achievement of the project objectives as well as achievements, challenges, lessons and recommendations from implementation of the project activities.

Liberia's REDD+ Readiness activities were led by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and co-led by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As part of key project objectives achieved during the period, a National REDD+ Strategy was developed with options for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in key sectors validated by stakeholders and approved by the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC). The National Forest Inventory (NFI) was completed and informed the completion of the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) which was validated and formally submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

All of the planned activities and targeted deliverables of the grant were completed. A Safeguard Information System (SIS) was developed and rolled out. A Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) was developed and operational with Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs) set up and supported. The MRV institutional framework was completed and validated. A Forest Monitoring System is now in place with the data collection for the first post-NFI forest monitoring completed.

In terms of coordination, the REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) was repositioned and strengthened to provide the coordination support needed as the REDD+ process in Liberia transitioned from Readiness to Implementation. The National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) along with the National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS) was supported and is providing the leadership coordination role for climate change management in Liberia.

There was extensive stakeholders' consultation and participation in the development of the REDD+ Strategy and throughout the grant implementation.

Key lessons were documented including high expectations among stakeholders in terms of potential cash benefits from future REDD+ implementation and the need to strengthen interagency coordination among institutions such as the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Liberia Land Authority (LLA), Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), and so on, to ensure effective implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy.

Among the highlights of recommendation made are the need for more intensive awareness among rural (county) stakeholders and among policy makers to strengthen national ownership and leadership of the implementation of REDD+ in Liberia going forward.

1. Introduction and Background

The Government of Liberia (GoL) through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) received an original grant of US\$ 3.6 million in 2012 from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to finance implementation of activities needed to enable the country REDD+ Readiness activities. Some activities were completed but with some key activities required for readiness remaining. The FCPF granted Additional Funds in an amount of US\$5.0 million to the GOL in 2015 for the Additional REDD+ Readiness Preparation Activities that Liberia needed to carry out. This has supported the Government of

Liberia achieve REDD+ readiness. Liberia successfully completed the preparation of the roadmap for REDD+ Readiness that was endorsed by the governing body of the FCPF. The additional funding for REDD+ Readiness built on the ongoing REDD+ readiness activities. It consolidated and strengthened achievements and completed aspects of REDD+ Readiness that have not yet been completed.

This report is the project completion report and presents overall progress in achieving the Additional REDD+ Readiness objectives as well as the progress in implementation of project activities, lessons learned from implementation and recommendations going forward.

2. Overall Progress with Regard to Achieving Grant Objectives

The project achieved the Grant Objective of developing Liberia's National REDD+ Strategy in 2016 through a consultative and quantitative analysis of the different land use options identifying drivers of deforestation and degradation as well as measures for addressing them. It was approved by the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) in 2016 also. The strategy builds on the current three-prong approach for forest sector management in Liberia called the 3-Cs, Commercial, Conservation and Community Forestry. The other two pillars of forest management in Liberia are "Fair and sustainable benefits from REDD" and "Protection of High Carbon Stock (HCS) / High Conservation Value (HCV) forest in agricultural and mining concessions.

Beginning 2013 and running up to 2016, FDA and partners held a wide range of inclusive and participatory consultations across Liberia with stakeholders including communities, government actors, civil society organization (CSOs), development partners, private sector. These yielded several sub-outputs which led to and fed into the strategy. Some of these included the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), the Reference Emission Level and the Land and Forest Cover Map. These extensive stakeholder engagements around key elements of the National REDD+ Strategy have continued with support of Additional Funding from FCPF.

Considering the above, Liberia's REDD+ Strategy is socially and environmentally sound.

3 Overall Progress with Regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities

All of the project activities were fully completed. A review of the annual work plans shows that all project financed activities were implemented to their logical conclusion as at January 2020.

4. Status of Outcomes

See in table in annex

5. Output and implementation by component (see original component description in annex 1):

Component 1 Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and consultations

No	Planned Output	Actual Output
1	Feedback & Grievance Redress Mechanism	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) developed and validated
2	Communications/Engagement Specialist	Communications/Engagement Specialist hired and supported project implementation
3	REDD+ Policy Coordinator	REDD+ Policy Coordinator hired and supported project implementation
4	RTWG Quarterly Meetings	RTWG Quarterly Meetings and retreats supported

5	NCCS Workshops/ Meetings	NCCS workshops/meetings held, supported operationally
6	NCCSC Approval of REDD Strategy	NCCSC approved REDD+ Strategy NCCSC approved National Forest Definition September 2018
7	REDD+ Workshops for Academia and Journalists	Two regional REDD+ communication and knowledge-sharing workshops for newspapers and radio broadcast journalists (including reporters from Monrovia and rural community radio stations) and communication officers of relevant ministries and agencies were held; learning materials distributed, and follow-ups made on REDD+ reporting – April 2018
8	Retreats for Decision Makers	One policy roundtable was held with senators and representatives as well as deputy, the Executive Directors of EPA and LISGIS, the Managing Director of FDA, Ministers of Agriculture and Mines and Energy to enhance their understanding of REDD+, update them on the status of REDD+ in Liberia, the next steps and to get their buy in for championing advocacy for REDD+; several other meetings and engagements with heads of institutions (Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Agriculture, Land Authority, EPA, etc) were held- November 2019
9	South-South Exchange	The project supported participation of the Liberia delegation in the Oslo Exchange where countries (including developing countries) shared knowledge and lessons from REDD+ Readiness implementation as well as the Expert Workshop and field Visit in Porto Velho, Brazil on the future of forest concessions and alternative allocation models for managing public forest (June 2016 and June 2018)
10	Project Meetings, Retreats & Consultations	Project inception meetings, coordination and consultation meetings with stakeholders were held; also, the travel of Liberia delegates to FCPF/PC/ UNFCCC meetings were supported as needed

At the national level, the project was successful in supporting coordination bodies for REDD+ and as a result the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) is fully operational after being dormant for some time prior to support from the project. The NCCSC did approve the National REDD+ Strategy and other important documents, including the national forest definition for REDD+. The REDD+ Implementation Unit (RIU) was also supported and strengthened and is now fully functional and supporting implementation of other REDD+ initiatives.

The project also strengthened the functioning of the REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) which is now led by civil society at the national and county levels. The Additional Readiness grant supported regular meetings of RTWG and supported the repositioning of the RTGW for the transition from REDD+ Readiness (preparation of REDD+ Strategy) to implementation of REDD+. This involved expanding the structure and role of the RTWG to ensure it is appropriate and relevant as a REDD+ policy coordination mechanism.

Through the project support, a Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist was hired, placed in the RIU/FDA, and set up an M&E system including results tracking and reporting procedures and tools for REDD+ interventions. The specialist worked with and strengthened the M&E systems of FDA and five other line ministries and agencies (EPA, Liberia Land Authority, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture Liberia and Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services).

Component 2 Contribute to the design of the national REDD+ strategy (including design of Emission Reduction Program).

At the end of the project, detailed strategic options for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in key sectors had been developed based on the drivers as part of the SESA and during stakeholders' consultations for preparation of the strategy. Also, during the strategy preparation, legislations relevant to REDD+ were reviewed to include the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006, the Community Rights Law of 2009, the Act creating the Ministry of Lands Mines and Energy, the Lands Rights Policy of 2013, the Poverty Reduction Strategy 2 (Agenda for Transformation) and other relevant sector policies and laws.

A National REDD+ Strategy for Liberia was developed, validated by stakeholders and approved by the NCCSC. The REDD+ Strategy builds around five pillars including 1. Community, 2. Completing the Protected Area Network of Liberia, 3. protecting HCVs and HCS, 4. ensuring fair and equitable benefit-sharing and sustainable of commercial forest. The strategy prioritized strategy options for key sectors. Key private sector partnerships were initiated with several private institutions including IDH, Golden Veroleum Liberia, Sime Darby and others under on the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA 2020).

Scoping study was completed for a REDD+ registry to be established and the REDD+ strategy will be finalized and validated through a national workshop. it assessed the type of registry system that would be the most suitable in the case of Liberia, identified the legal and administrative arrangements that need to be put in place and identified the costs and resources required for implementation and operation. In addition, two Emissions Reduction Programs were designed based on another scoping study in the Northwest and Southeast of Liberia- the key forest blocks.

No	Planned Output	Actual Output at End of Project
1	Complete the work of developing detailed strategic options for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in key sectors.	Detailed strategic options for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in key sectors developed
2	Review of legislation relevant to REDD+.	Relevant policies and laws were reviewed to inform development of the national REDD+ Strategy; these included the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006, the Community Rights Law of 2009, the Act creating the Ministry of Lands Mines and Energy, the Lands Rights Policy of 2013.
3	REDD+ strategy options for key sectors be prioritized and partnerships with private actors launched in priority areas.	REDD+ strategy options for key sectors were identified, prioritized developed in a framework as part of the national REDD+ Strategy; partnership with private actors, including IDH, was initiated
4	A REDD+ registry established and the REDD+ strategy finalized and validated through a national workshop.	Scoping Study for the establishment of a REDD+ Registry was completed; it needs-assessed the type of registry system that would be the most

		<p>suitable in the case of Liberia, identified the legal and administrative arrangements that need to be put in place and identified the costs and resources required for implementation and operation</p> <p>The REDD+ strategy had been developed and validated prior to this</p>
5	The design of an Emissions Reduction Program will be an important indication that Liberia is prepared to apply the capacities of REDD+ readiness to the implementation REDD+ in a targeted program	On the basis of a scoping study, Emissions Reduction Program was developed for the two main forest landscapes in Liberia (Northwest and Southeast), finalized and validated through a national workshop.

Component 3 Development of Reference Level or Reference Emissions Level

Liberia's first fully standard National Forest Inventory (NFI) was completed between May 2018 and March 2019. The country was divided into 285 cluster over which the inventory was conducted. The exercise of data collection and analysis involved at least 108 persons (89 males, 19 females) including field technicians, data analysts and quality assurance staff from the FDA, LISGIS, University of Liberia and the Forestry Training Institute (FTI). The report was widely review including a technical review in Rome facilitated by FAO. The final report will be submitted by the end of April 2020.

With support from the Liberia Forest Sector Project and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (the World Bank investment project in support of REDD+ objectives), Liberia's Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) was produced building on the NFI and reviewed as well as validated in country. The FREL was presented at a Side Event at the UNFCCC's 25th Conference of Parties (CoP25) and formally submitted to the UNFCCC in December 2019 for a technical assessment (with an official confirmation of receipt by UNFCCC provided January 2020).

The FREL geographical Scope include the Northwest (2673140 ha) and Southeast (2826760 ha) landscapes of Liberia with total area coverage of 2,955,800 ha while the FREL activities cover deforestation and forest degradation

Also, with support from the Liberia Forest Sector Project, an MRV roadmap was prepared and the MRV Institutional Framework developed and validated by stakeholders as the proposed roles of institutions in the institutional framework were consistent with the statutory mandate. MRV capacity was also built within LISGIS and FDA through the development of the FREL, training and the deployment of two MRV Officers who are in place building institutional capacity.

The EPA led the development of a Safeguards Information System (SIS) under the FCPF Additional Readiness Grant with various trainings provided on use of the system. Liberia REDD+ SIS composed of the website of which information can be accessed on the webpage and the SIS database where data are inputted into the system. The SIS is disseminating information on how the seven (7) adopted UNFCCC Cancun safeguards for REDD+ are being addressed and respected in Liberia. Now that Liberia is still at the Readiness phase of REDD+, the system provides visibility on the implementation of some Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP) activities which are similar to what REDD+ implementation in Liberia could do.

The SIS is now producing summary report mostly on LFSP activities with trained staff (as system administrators, operators, and data entry clerk) and the Environmental Safeguards Coordinator now collecting and uploading data and information into the system. End users have begun to fully access the

SIS and provide feedback information on its strength and limitations. The SIS team has trained about 11 institutions including FDA, EPA, LLA, LISGIS, MME, Local Government, and CSOs such as Liberia NGO Coalition, Skills and Agriculture Development Services (SADS), Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE), etc, that 'would' implement REDD+ activities in Liberia. The purpose of the training was help them understand the functions, the Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCIs) and reporting obligations of the system

No	Planned Output	Actual Output
1	Specialized Equipment (Geo Data Infrastructure for REDD+ Monitoring); GIS/RS Software, GPS, and other specialized equipment (various); Office and Field Equipment (Technical Units for REDD+ NFMS/MRV) assorted	Equipment procured and used; including server, tablets, compasses, GPSs, office equipment for LISGIS, FDA and EPA, and some for use by FAO and other specialized forest monitoring equipment which supported the National Forest Inventory (NFI)
4	Update of Land Cover and Forest Map (Plantations and Forest Definition)	The 2015 map was updated; Updated Land Cover and Forest Map produced by Metria-Geoville
5	Institutional Arrangements for MRV system and Capacity Development Design and Implementation Plan	The MRV institutional framework was developed, reviewed and validated by stakeholders
6	National Forest Inventory	National Forest Inventory (NFI) conducted, involving FDA and LISGIS staff, University of Liberia interns and interns from the Forestry Training Institute (FTI); draft report widely reviewed by stakeholders and technicians in Rome, Italy. Final report will be finalized and distributed by May 2020.
7	Refinement, validation and peer Review of Reference Level	FREL produced, reviewed, validated and peer review conducted as well as presented at UNFCCC CoP25 and officially submitted to the UNFCCC for the technical assessment; acknowledgement of receipt by UNFCCC provided
8	MRV Officer Supported	With support from the FCPF Additional Funding one MRV Officer was hired for LISGIS providing the necessary capacity support for forest monitoring, REDD+ results (carbon sequestration) monitoring/measurement, reporting and verification.
9	GIS Training	GIS training was conducted for staff of FDA, LISGIS, LLA, interns of the University of Liberia and interns of FTI

Component 4 Project Management

The project supported the RIU and ensured successful coordination including supervision, monitoring and evaluation, activity management, financial management and audits of the project. Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP) Project Implementation Manual (PIM) prepared.

No	Planned Output	Actual Output
1	Procurement of Vehicles (x 3)	Three (3) vehicles procured and used by project
2	Laptop Computers x 15, Pico Projector x 1, Paper shredder x 1, Binding Machine x 1, Paper cutter x 1, Digital Camera x 3	15 laptops, Pico Projector x 1, Paper shredder x 1, Binding Machine x 1, Paper cutter x 1, Digital Camera x 3
3	Office furniture, field Equipment and Supplies (RIU) assorted	Office furniture, assorted field equipment and supplies procured and delivered
4	PIM Preparation (LFSP)	LFSP PIM Preparation completed
6	M & E Specialist (full time, 26 months)	ME& Specialist supported for 19 months
7	Project Coordinator (RIU-FDA) (full time 31 months)	31-month support for Project Coordinator completed
8	Procurement Specialist (RIU-FDA) (full time 31 months)	Procurement Specialist supported for 31 months
9	Audit (financial audit of Readiness Preparation Activities) x 2	Two audits conducted
10	Audit (3 years financial audit of Readiness Preparation Activities-AF)	Three audits conducted
11	Team Assistant (RIU)	Team Assistant supported for 13 months
12	Project Accountant (full time 31 months)	Project Accountant supported for 31 months
13	Procurement Officer x 1 (full time 27 months)	One Procurement Officer supported for 12 months and second Procurement Officer supported 11 months
14	Senior Project Accountant (full time 27 months)	This position was deemed not needed.
15	Financial Management (PFMU) 1% x 5	PFMU fees for financial management paid for five years
16	Stationery, other supplies and service	Assorted stationery and supplies and service provided FDA, EPA and LISGIS

6. Progress in how the grant activities are being coordinated with other REDD+ related initiatives, including those funded by others.

During the course of implementation, the project achieved significantly in collaborating other projects and institutions for improved coordination and synergy. The following is a set of highlights of the project activities being coordinated with other REDD+ initiatives:

Coordination with Fauna and Flora International (FFI) on the FGRM at Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area (PPA): FFI is implementing a REDD+ pilot at Wonegizi as well as undertaking the pre-gazettement of the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area (PPA). FDA worked closely with FFI throughout the FGRM design process.

Joint Support on Raising Awareness with Policy/Decision Makers by FDA, EPA and UNDP: As part of the project activities to engage and sensitize policy/decision makers to champion and mainstream REDD+ into national development planning and investments, the project jointly support several engagements with legislators, cabinet members and local leaders. The key one was collaboration with UNDP and EPA's Cross-cutting Capacity Development Project on a two-day meeting with Senators and Representatives of the Liberian Legislature with an objective to increase awareness among them on REDD+ and sustainable environment management. This included presentation and sharing of a full documentation of the concepts, current status and benefits of REDD+ in Liberia.

Collaborating with FAO for Leveraging Green Climate Fund (GFF) Support for REDD+ Implementation in Liberia: in 2019, FDA collaborated with FAO to share, along with other African countries at the GCF meeting in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Liberia's REDD+ activities and status as well as identify opportunities and process of accessing GCF funding for REDD+ implementation in Liberia. As a result of the meeting, FDA and FAO jointly drafted, got EPA's clearance and submitted a concept note to the GCF for support to a pilot REDD+ project working mainly with CFMAs under the Simplified Application Process (SAP) of the GCF.

Collaboration with IDH on Development of a Framework for Sustainable Oil Palm Development in Liberia: As part of initiative for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, the project collaborated with IDH to develop a framework for sustainable oil palm in Liberia in 2017. Also related to that, under the project, FDA collaborated with the African Oil Palm Initiative and IDH to develop the roadmap for the Marrakesh Accord.

Mainstreaming Gender into REDD+ in Collaboration with Foundation for Community Initiative (FCI): A key aspect of the implementation of REDD+ is the gender consideration. The RIU coordinated implementation of its REDD+ Gender awareness and sensitization through the FCI, a local civil society organization/non-governmental organization (CSO/NGO) to carry out capacity building regionally across Liberia on both empowering women and addressing gender issues through REDD+ from August to December 2017.

7. Progress in addressing key capacity issues (implementation, technical, financial management, procurement) related to this grant

Progress made in addressing key capacity issues include:

- Capacity for Forest Inventory and Monitoring- through the project, a full NFI was conducted for the first time in Liberia. As part of this, relevant staff within FDA, LISGIS and University of Liberia were trained and appropriate equipment for inventory and forest monitoring were procured and installed at FDA and LISGIS including server, computers, specialized tablets, GIS equipment and so on. These have addressed the key capacity gap of effective forest monitoring in Liberia. As a result of the capacity support provided, in January 2020, as part of the MRV, FDA and LISGIS staff led an inventory of 10% of the forest (mainly in the Southeast). This annual inventory (MRV) of 10% of the forest will be done annually for 10 years up to 2030. It will be conducted across the two main landscapes which will be decided during the planning of each annual inventory by FDA and partners.

- To ensure FDA efficiently coordinated and managed implementation of the project, there was need to enhance the procurement capacity of the RIU/FDA. Accordingly, a four-week training at Ghana Institute of Public Administration (GIMPA) in World Bank Procurement Procedures was funded for the RIU Procurement Specialist in 2016. As a result of the training, the Procurement Specialist was able to strengthen the capacity of FDA, EPA and other institutions through subsequent trainings and direct procurement support.

Through the project, WRI strengthened the capacity of the FDA's departments to maintain and regularly update the National Forest Atlas and Dashboard. This supports overall forest monitoring in terms of availability of data on ongoing forest management under the Three-Cs.

9. Progress in stakeholder consultation, participation, disclosure of information, and the FGRM related to this grant

Stakeholders consultation and participation was prioritized throughout implementation of the project. Stakeholders were consulted and they participate during inception, implementation of activities including of review of reports and processes. These stakeholders included government actors such as FDA, EPA, LISGIS, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), Liberia Land Authority (LLA), civil society organizations such as the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Coalition, Sustainable Development Initiatives (SDI), Partners in Development (PADEV), community-based organizations (CBOs) such as the National Union of Community Forest Management Bodies (NUCFMBs), development partners such as FFI, Conservation International, Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), WRI, FAO, traditional leaders, county authorities including district and clan authorities and community leaders as well as youth and women groups.

A national FGRM for REDD+ served as a basis for developing the FGRM for the Liberia Forest Sector Project, which is now operational in the two main forest landscapes.

Project information was shared publicly through the various websites (FDA, EPA, E-Mansion, World Bank) and via emails as well as other electronic means (radio). Relevant key outputs were also posted on the FCPF website.

10. Main lessons learnt

- Communities' expectations are high in terms of benefits from REDD+ implementation going forward, especially financial benefits as the perception often is that preference for forest use for commercial logging is the most economically viable
- There is need for strengthening coordination and collaboration with the Ministry of Mines and Energy so that Liberia finds a way of dealing with competing preferences of using heavily forested land for either carbon sequestration or minerals extractions (especially in areas where MME claims to have huge mineral deposits)
- While it is true that the current forest sector management framework has an existing benefit-sharing arrangement, there is no clear benefit sharing mechanism yet determined for implementation of REDD+ in Liberia. It would be a good idea to build on what currently exists.
- It has become increasingly clear that implementing a REDD+ pilot for learning lessons as soon as possible is crucial to inform full REDD+ implementation in Liberia
- There is a need for continuous engagement with policy/decision makers for the success of REDD+ implementation nationally; this is because success of most programs nationally in Liberia crucially depends on top-level drive.

10. Overall Assessment on a Scale of 1-5 (1=lowest; 5=highest):

- Development / strengthening of institutions (4)
- Mobilization of other resources (4)
- Knowledge exchange (4)
- Policy / program implementation (4)
- Efficiency (4)
- Replicability (4)

11. Main Recommendations to Stakeholders

Based on the achievements and lessons learned from implementation of this project, the following are recommended to stakeholders:

1. That awareness and sensitization for communities and policy makers is continued so as to consolidate gains made in nationally owning and championing of REDD+ implementation.
2. That FDA and partners strengthen coordination with the MME to reduce potential conflict during implementation of the REDD+ strategy in terms of comparative immediate economic benefits of carbon sequestration and mineral exploitation
3. That stakeholders finalized an economically and socially appropriate benefit-sharing mechanism for REDD+ in Liberia building on what is currently used for forest management in Liberia.
4. That stakeholders support the implementation of a REDD+ pilot, document and learn lessons prior to doing a full national REDD+ program

		Project Development Objective (PDO): To carry out a consultative and quantitative analysis of the different land use options for development of the national REDD+ Strategy for Liberia, to be approved by the National Climate Change Steering Committee.						
Activity Indicators	Results	UOM	Baseline Original Project Start (2012)	EOP target (2018)	Status (Actual achievement January 2020)	Data Source/ Methodology	Responsibility for Data Collection	Status/Comments
1. National REDD+ strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) is prepared and validated by national stakeholders		Yes/ No	No	Yes	Liberia's National REDD+ Strategy was prepared, validated and approved by the National Climate Change Steering Committee in 2016	Review of REDD+ Strategy Validation workshop(s)	FDA M&E function	The strategy preparation was participatory, inclusive and consultative manner and builds on existing forest management pillars with the inclusion of pillars for benefit sharing and HCS/HCV protection.
2. Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is finalized and validated by relevant stakeholders		Yes/ No	No	Yes	On the basis of the SESA, an ESMF was prepared and validated by all relevant stakeholders	Review of ESMF document(s) and validation workshop(s) reports	FDA M&E function	The ESMF is now fully in use and informed the setup of other safeguards systems for REDD+ in Liberia such as FGRM, SIS, etc. .
3. Quantitative analysis of land use in forested and mixed agricultural lands prepared and		Yes/ No	No	Yes	A quantitative analysis of land uses in forested and mixed agriculture lands was prepared	Review of quantitative analysis document(s) and validation	FDA M&E function	This study was done as part of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and part of

validated by the national stakeholders				and validated by national stakeholders in 2016	workshop(s) reports		process of development the REDD+ Strategy
4. Consultations on REDD+ strategy conducted (at county level)	Number	0	8	Consultations on Liberia's National REDD+ Strategy at county levels were completed by 2015	Review of workshop documents	FDA M&E function	The 15 counties of Liberia were clustered into ... regions and ...regional consultations were held
5. Consultations on land-use options with GoL and stakeholders (at county level)	Number	0	4	Consultations on land use options (including drivers of deforestation) were held at county level and completed by late 2015	Review of workshop documents	FDA M&E function	The consultations on land use options were part of SESA and the process of preparing the REDD+ Strategy
6. Quantified reference Emissions Level (REL) prepared and validated by the REDD+ Technical Working Group	Yes/ No	No	Yes	Liberia's FREL/REL was prepared and validated by the REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) as well as presented at the COP25 in 2019 and submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2020	Review of REL technical Review	FDA M&E function	The preparation of the FREL was informed by the National Forest Inventory (NFI)
7. Emission Reduction Program designed for a targeted forest landscape to pilot	Yes/ No	No	Yes	A scoping study was done, and an Emission Reduction Program designed in 2019 for the	Review of ER program	FDA M&E function	The process of conducting the scoping study and designing the pilot ER

REDD+ strategy and key aspects of readiness implementation framework				Northwest and Southeast landscapes of Liberia to pilot REDD+ Strategy			program was also highly participatory
8. Measurement Reporting and Verification system for REDD+ is designed	Yes/ No	No	Yes	The MRV System for REDD+ in Liberia was finally completed and includes the NFI/FREL, the MRV Institutional Framework, which was validated in 2019, the Update of the Land and Forest Cover Map of Liberia, the SIS which was also completed 2019	MRV assessment report independent party	FDA M&E function	MRV designed
9. Information system for co-benefit/safeguards established	Yes/ No	No	Yes	The set-up of Liberia's Safeguards Information System for REDD+ was completed in 2019 and is now operational with relevant stakeholders' trainings, uploading of projects.	Assessment report independent party	FDA M&E function	The SIS was presented at COP 25 in Madrid in December 2019

10. Readiness Package prepared and finalized	Yes/ No	No	Yes	Liberia's REDD+ Readiness Package was prepared and finalized and presented and submitted at the FCPF PC in Laos 2017	Completeness Check conducted by FCPF	FDA M&E function	The R-Package was reviewed and cleared by the FCPF
11. Government institutions provided with capacity building support to improve management of forest resources	Number	0	6	Five (5) government institutions supported	Review of capacity building activities included in annual reports	FDA M&E function	Institutional capacity building support provided for five main government institutions (FDA, EPA, LISGIS, MOA, LLA)