

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET

APPRAISAL STAGE

Report No.: ISDSA13429

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 23-Jul-2015

I. BASIC INFORMATION

1. Basic Project Data

Country:	Liberia	Project ID:	P124073
Project Name:	ADDITIONAL REDD+ READINESS PREPARATION SUPPORT (P124073)		
Task Team Leader(s):	Paola Agostini, Neeta Hooda		
Estimated Board Date:			
Managing Unit:	GENDR		
Sector(s):	Forestry (100%)		
Theme(s):	Environmental policies and institutions (30%), Other environment and natural resources management (30%), Climate change (20%), Biodiversity (20%)		
Is this project processed under OP 8.50 (Emergency Recovery) or OP 8.00 (Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies)?			No
Project Financing Data (in USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	5.00	Total Bank Financing:	5.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.00
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)			5.00
Total			5.00
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		
Is this a Transferred project?	No		

2. Project Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective is unchanged from the parent grant: 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.

3. Project Description

The structure of components are similar under the additional funding as under the US\$3.6 million grant. Nevertheless, there are a few proposed changes to more accurately reflect the focus of REDD+ readiness activities being supported under additional funding notably in the amount of funding per component and sub-component. The progress of under the components are described below along with a brief description of what is proposed for additional funding.

Component 1 Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and consultations. This component will finance technical assistance, goods, workshops, training, services and operational costs under the sub-components.

Progress under US\$3.6 million grant:

- Generalized outreach and awareness, and the development and adoption of a comprehensive Consultation and Participation Plan (C&P Plan) was achieved.
- A communication firm was hired to support the process, and an outreach campaign to increase awareness has been achieved.
- The REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG)—a multi-sector stakeholder platform and advisory and decision-making body for REDD+ activities and the Implementation Unit (RIU) is operational and coordinating the REDD+ process.

Proposed under additional funding:

- At the national level support will be provided to operationalizing the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) as a high level decision making body for REDD+.
- Support will be provided to continue strengthening civil society platforms at the national and county level, and county level institutional capacity will be strengthened within Liberia's Forest Development Authority (FDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Capacity for monitoring and evaluation (M+E) of REDD+ programs will be strengthened, in RIU, RTWG, line ministries, land rights commission, civil society platforms and regional offices.
- Options for channeling climate finance will be analyzed and proposed in order to be consistent with the complex and evolving policy environment, and taking into consideration the national legislation on land and natural resource rights and efforts from across the political spectrum to improve transparency and governance.
- Financial management capacity will be built in relevant institutions.

Component 2 Contribute to the design of the national REDD+ strategy (including design of Emission Reduction Program). This component will finance technical assistance, goods, workshops, training, services and operational costs under the sub-components.

Progress under US\$3.6 million grant:

- The process for developing a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) is well developed in Liberia and a robust consultation process is underway.

- A SESA roadmap was developed through a highly participatory process, a consulting firm has been hired to develop the SESA, and a draft is expected in early 2016 based on a broad consultation process.
- A preliminary assessment of land use, forest policy and governance, capacity building and multi-stakeholder policy dialogue, land policy under development as well as a forest sector diagnostic.

Proposed under additional funding:

- To complete the work of developing detailed strategic options for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in key sectors.
- Review of legislation relevant to REDD+.
- REDD+ strategy options for key sectors will be prioritized and partnerships with private actors launched in priority areas.
- A REDD+ registry will be established and the REDD+ strategy will be finalized and validated through a national workshop.
- 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.

Component 3 Development of Reference Level or Reference Emissions Level¹. This component will finance technical assistance, goods, workshops, training, services and operational costs under the sub-components.

Progress under US\$3.6 million grant:

- The development of a comprehensive forest cover map has been launched as an initial step in of a Reference Level for Liberia.
- Initial analyses of an appropriate measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) system are launched and consulting firm hired to identify the appropriate next steps for designing and developing an MRV system in Liberia.

Proposed under additional funding:

- Analyses combining recent historical data on emissions from deforestation and/or forest degradation and other relevant land uses, and estimation of future emissions and removals to produce a national REL.
- Development, peer review and validation of an REL, peer reviewed and validated.
- Further refinement of REL that includes assessment of significance of emissions from degradation in Liberian context will be undertaken.
- An MRV roadmap will prepared, and an MRV system designed and operationalized.
- The MRV system will be piloted in preparation for results-based REDD+ initiatives.
- Assessment of the linkages between the MRV system with existing, sub-national monitoring systems, FLEGT and the information system for safeguards.
- Capacity building for FDA and LISGIS staff as well as regional offices for MRV will also be supported.

¹ In the US\$3.6 million grant component 3 was titled “Development of Reference Level or Scenario”, the use of “reference level” or “reference emissions level” is now the accepted terminology.

- Liberia-specific indicators for an information system on safeguards and co-benefits based on the framework of principles and criteria of the REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards.

Activity 4 Project Management. This component will finance technical assistance, goods, workshops, training, services and operational costs.

Progress under US\$3.6 million grant: project coordination of the FCPF grant is ensured by the REDD+ Implementation Unit (RIU) that is hosted in the FDA.

Proposed under additional funding: project coordination will continue to include supervision, monitoring and evaluation, management of activities, financial management and audits.

4. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

At this phase there are no specific project locations, since the activities are mostly capacity building.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Demba Balde (GSURR)

George Campos Ledec (GENDR)

Gloria Malia Mahama (GSURR)

Robert A. Robelus (GENDR)

6. Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>In line with the nature of the REDD+ Readiness preparation activities, the Government of Liberia will use a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) as the applicable safeguards approach. The strength of the SESA for REDD+ is that it will combine analytical work and consultation in an iterative fashion to inform the preparation of the REDD+ strategy. The SESA will help ensure compliance with the Bank's safeguard policies by integrating key environmental and social considerations relevant to REDD+ including all those covered by the safeguard policies.</p> <p>The SESA will help the Government of Liberia formulate its REDD+ strategy in a way that reflects inputs from key stakeholder groups and addresses the main environmental and social issues</p>

		<p>identified. The SESA includes an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) as a distinct output, which provides a framework for managing and mitigating the environmental and social risk related to investments and carbon finance transactions in the context of the future implementation of REDD+. Certain future REDD+ investments will still require specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), but these will benefit from the SESA, which will include standard methods and procedures, along with appropriate institutional arrangements for screening, preparing, reviewing, implementing and monitoring specific ESMPs to prevent adverse impacts as well as cumulative impacts.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	<p>This policy seeks to ensure that all options proposed in the National REDD+ Strategy should take into account the conservation of biodiversity, as well as the numerous environmental services and products that natural habitats provide to human society. Overall, REDD+ activities are expected to have significant positive impacts on natural habitats, as the country puts in place an effective strategy to reduce loss of natural forests. The SESA will address issues related to natural habitats and potential impacts of the National REDD+ Strategy.</p>
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	<p>Overall, REDD+ activities are expected to have significant positive impacts on forests, in that the main goal of the program is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, while contributing to the well-being of forest-dependent communities. Potential impact of the National REDD+ Strategy on natural forests will be assessed through the SESA and included in the ESMF. The SESA and associated ESMF will reflect the requirements of the Bank's Operational Policy regarding forest management, in particular as these relate</p>

		to the establishment of plantations.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	This project, which essentially involves planning and technical assistance, will not involve any pest management activities. However, the ESMF and SESA will address potential pest management needs in subsequent (post-project) REDD+ follow-up activities involving forestry plantations or agricultural intensification.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	This project does not include civil works and therefore will not affect physical cultural resources. However, the ESMF and SESA will provide criteria and procedures for properly addressing physical cultural resources (including sacred forests, trees, and shrubs) in future REDD+ implementation activities.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	There are no communities in Liberia who meet the specific Indigenous Peoples criteria of OP 4.10.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	This project does not plan to undertake on-the-ground investments that would involve involuntary land acquisition and/or new restrictions of access to protected forest areas. However, all project-supported land use and forest conservation planning activities will take measures to avoid involuntary resettlement or adverse social impacts upon forest-based livelihoods to the extent feasible, consistent with the guidance provided by OP 4.12 during up REDD+ implementation. The SESA will recommend procedures to address adverse social risks associated potential land acquisition or restriction of access to natural resources in future investments.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The REDD+ activities do not involve the construction of new or use of existing dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The REDD+ activities do not involve international waterways.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The REDD+ activities under this project do not involve disputed areas between countries, as defined in OP 7.60.

II. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:
The REDD+ Program which this technical assistance project will help to design is intended to be highly positive overall from an environmental and social standpoint, by promoting reduced deforestation and forest degradation in Liberia. The project-supported SESA will provide environmental and social safeguards criteria and procedures for likely future REDD+ activities to follow.
2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:
The intended long-term impacts from this project and the ensuing REDD+ Program include better-managed wooded landscapes and more remaining forest cover than would otherwise be the case.
3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.
The SESA will examine REDD+ Program design alternatives that will seek to minimize any adverse impacts, as well as maximizing the intended positive impacts.
4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.
<p>The World Bank has been engaged with the forest sector in Liberia for the past 10 years. Over this</p> <p>Period, there has been progressive capacity building for the implementation of Bank Safeguard Policies as well as national environmental standards. The managers and some staff of Liberia's Forest Development Authority (FDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are broadly familiar with the Bank's environmental and social safeguards requirements. The SESA will provide recommendations for additional safeguards-related capacity building for FDA, EPA, and other relevant national- and local-level Liberian institutions, as appropriate.</p>
5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.
The SESA preparation process involves the identification of--and extensive consultations with--a broad range of stakeholders, including forest-based and other local communities, conservation-oriented and other NGOs, private firms, national and local government agencies, and traditional chiefs.

B. Disclosure Requirements

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other: <u>Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)</u>	
Date of receipt by the Bank	Expected mid-2016.
Date of submission to InfoShop	Expected mid-2016.
For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors	
"In country" Disclosure: Expected mid-2016.	
Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process	
Date of receipt by the Bank	Not Applicable
Date of submission to InfoShop	Not Applicable
"In country" Disclosure: Not Applicable	
If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.	
If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:	

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment			
Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?	Yes []	No [X]	NA []
OP/BP 4.04 - Natural Habitats			
Would the project result in any significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats?	Yes []	No [X]	NA []
If the project would result in significant conversion or degradation of other (non-critical) natural habitats, does the project include mitigation measures acceptable to the Bank?	Yes []	No []	NA [X]
OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources			
Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?	Yes [X]	No []	NA []
Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?	Yes [X]	No []	NA []
OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement			
Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?	Yes []	No []	NA [X]
If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?	Yes []	No []	NA [X]
OP/BP 4.36 - Forests			
Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and	Yes [X]	No []	NA []

constraints been carried out?	
Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?	Yes [X] No [] NA []
Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?	Yes [] No [X] NA []
The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information	
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop?	Yes [] No [] NA [X]
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?	Yes [] No [] NA [X]
All Safeguard Policies	
Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [X] No [] NA []
Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?	Yes [X] No [] NA []
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [X] No [] NA []
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	Yes [X] No [] NA []

III. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Paola Agostini/Neeta Hooda	
Approved By:		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Glenn S. Morgan	Date: 8/26/15
Practice Manager/Manager:	Name: Magda Lovei	Date: 9/1/15