



COUNTRY: LIBERIA

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

PERIOD: August 2015 – AUGUST 2016

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 2015 to August 2016. 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

- 1. REDD+ National Stakeholders Consultation:** Consistent with the consultant deliverables to ensure nation-wide stakeholders buy-in into the REDD+ National Strategy development, the RIU in collaboration with LTS-NIRAS supported the organization and facilitation of a one-day National Stakeholder Consultation workshop in Monrovia on July 14th, 2016.
 - **Number of participants** – The REDD+ National Stakeholders Consultation brought together over Seventy-five (75) participants representing government institutions, private sector institutions, local and international organizations, CSOs, youth, women group, media, local communities and academia)
 - **Purpose / Overview** – The REDD+ National Consultation Workshop aimed to achieve the following objectives:
 - To present the draft REDD+ Strategy text to national stakeholders and solicit technical inputs to the documents;
 - To present the REDD+ policy, legal and institutional framework for implementation;
 - To identify gaps related to benefit sharing, sectorial coordination, and additional measures to mainstream REDD+ implementation into wider national developmental goals
 - **Achievements/Outcomes:** By the end of the national consultation,

- FDA-RIU and LTS-NIRAS had obtained substantial technical inputs from stakeholders through a highly interactive process.
- Stakeholders agreed that the REDD+ Strategy and its annexes were at an appreciable level and a **“working document”** pending validation in September 2016.

2. TFA 2020 Africa Oil Palm Initiative -2nd Liberia Country Workshop and Capacity Strengthening for Stakeholders: In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and national stakeholders, the REDD+ Implementation Unit with funding from Proforest and FCPF organized and facilitated the 2nd National Oil Palm Initiative and provide Capacity Strengthening for national stakeholders.

- **Number of participants** – Over 120 participants representing various relevant government ministries, agencies and commissions, private sector, donors local and international organizations, Civil Society Organizations, media, academia, youth, women groups and local communities,
- **Purpose / Overview** – The initiative was organized around the following objectives:
 - To enhance stakeholders’ knowledge on national roadmap for achieving **“Zero-Net-Deforestation”** in the Forestry and Agriculture sectors;
 - To develop a national framework for implementation of the TFA 2020 in Liberia;
 - To introduce new tools such as High Carbon Stock (HCS), High Conservation Value (HCV) and Free, Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) and start exploring their meaning in the Liberia context;
 - To establish a roadmap in the lead to the signing of a Regional Accord at the Conference Of Parties (COP22) in Marrakesh aimed at curbing deforestation and promoting sustainable supply chain;
 - To identify partners and resources necessary for implementation of actions under Liberia’s nine (9) guiding principles for sustainable oil palm production.
- **Achievements/Outcomes:** At the end of the initiative:
 - Stakeholders agreed on a viable framework for implementing sustainable oil palm production through a **“zero-net-deforestation”** mechanism in Liberia.
 - Stakeholders agreed on the development of a Standard-Operating-Procedure (SOP) template for applying FPIC in Liberia.
 - Stakeholders agreed on a draft- template for the drafting of the Regional Accord and a regional conference to take in Cote d’ Ivoire in October 2016.
 - Resources were identified through stakeholders with funding to support specific actions to achieve the nine (9) guiding principles

3. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) Regional and National Validation Workshop: During the period in review, the FDA-RIU and EPA in collaboration TetraTech, organized and facilitated six (6) regional consultations (*from November 3 - December 4, 2015*) on the findings from the case studies and the outcomes from the community consultations. This process was followed by a two-day national validation workshop from February 9-10, 2016 in Monrovia.

- **Numbers of participants** – The estimated total number of participants at the SESA regional consultations was two-hundred forty (240) persons representing diverse interest groups across various sectors. The SESA National Validation exercise succeeded in creating a platform for participation of over Seventy (70) stakeholders representing national and subnational government institutions and private sector, local and international organizations, CSOs, youth, women group, media, local communities and academia.
- **Purpose / Overview** – The SESA national validation exercise was organized around the following objectives:
 - To present the SESA case studies findings and outcomes from the community consultations;
 - To agree on SESA priorities with stakeholders;
 - To review and validate the SESA priorities;
- **Achievements/Outcomes:** By the end of the regional consultations and national validation exercises,
 - Government of Liberia obtained substantial feedback and technical inputs from stakeholders on

environmental and social issues relative to sustainable forest management;

- Government of Liberia now has Final SESA priority report;

4. Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF) Consultations: As part of additional activities under SESA, the FDA, EPA and Tetra Tech organized and held six (6) regional cluster consultations in *Fish Town*, River Gee for (Grand Kru, River Gee and Maryland Counties); *Zwedru*, Grand Gedeh for (Sinoe and Grand Gedeh Counties); *Gbarnga*, Bong for (Nimba, Margibi and Bong Counties); *Robertsport*, Grand Cape Mount for (Bomi, Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount Counties); *Buchanan*, Grand Bassa for (Rivercess, and Grand Bassa counties) and finally *Voinjama*, Lofa County, on the draft ESMF report. The number of participants for these regional consultations was approximately two-hundred-forty (240) persons. Following regional consultations, a two-day national consultation which brought together eighty-nine (89) participants was held in Monrovia to validate the draft ESMF.

- **Purpose / Overview** – The consultations was:

- To present the impacts for validation and to solicit feedback on the issues that would affect the propose framework to mitigate these impacts.
- To provide critical opportunities for communities and county level stakeholders to review the REDD+ strategy options being considered and to make inputs that would be taken into account during revisions.

- **Achievements/Outcomes:** By the end of the regional consultations and national validation exercises, Government of Liberia obtained substantial feedback and technical inputs from stakeholders on the draft ESMF.

5. Smallholder Productivity and Forest Protection Program Launch: To facilitate initiatives aimed at reducing deforestation and degradation in the forest and agriculture sector; and foster Liberia’s goal of pursuing “zero-net-deforestation”, the FDA in collaboration with IDH Sustainable Trade and relevant stakeholders organized a smallholder productivity and forest production symposium and program launch.

- **Number of participants**– *Sixty (60) Participants was drawn from various government ministries and agencies, private sector, local and international organizations, CSOs, youth, women group, media, local communities and academia.*

- **Purpose / Overview** – *To launch the Smallholder Productivity and Forest Protection Program to help Liberia counter the negative impacts of deforestation and forest degradation.*

- **Achievements/Outcomes:** *Stakeholders agreed on the urgency and processes that should lead to smallholder Productivity and Forest Protection Program. Roadmap for the process was developed.*

6. National Capacity Strengthening Initiative for Forest and Land Cover Mapping: To fulfill commitments under the capacity strengthening aspect of the contract, the FDA-RIU in collaboration with Metria-GeoVille conducted a five-day national capacity strengthening exercise from May 16-20, 2016.

- **Number of participants** – *Forty-five (45) Participants was drawn from various government ministries and agencies, local and international organizations, CSOs and academia.*

- **Purpose / Overview** – *To conduct training for the staff of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), LISGIS, Environmental Protection Agency and other relevant stakeholders on digital mapping of forest and land cover and its changes using satellite images and GIS.*

- **Achievements/Outcomes:** *By the end of the training,*

- *Stakeholders understood the usage and application of Quantum GIS (QGIS) in forest monitoring.*
- *Stakeholders performed hand-on practical exercises on how to perform validation of forest and land cover map data, including accuracy in reporting in QGIS.*

7. National Capacity Strengthening initiative for Liberia’s Reference Emission Levels and QGIS: To fulfill commitments under the capacity strengthening aspect of the contract, the FDA-RIU in collaboration with Winrock International-Conservation International conducted a three-day national capacity strengthening training from April 16-18, 2016.

- **Number of participants** – Forty (40) Participants was drawn from various government ministries and agencies, local and international organizations, CSOs and academia.
- **Purpose / Overview** –To strengthen the capacity within Liberia to establish and maintain a REDD+ Reference Level.
- **Achievements/Outcomes:** By the end of the training,
 - Participants gained an understanding of the components of Reference Level (RL) creation
 - Participants understood technical steps required to create RL
 - Participants understood the types of data that must be developed to create activity data and emission factors
 - Participants gained understanding on the implications of using global, regional, and country-specific data.

8. National Public Disclosure: Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF), Process Framework (PF) and Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet (ISDS) (June 2016): To ensure the dissemination of these safeguard report for the LFSP, the FDA-RIU conducted a regional tour across three landscapes to distribute the final ESMF, PF and ISDS.

- **Purpose / Overview** –To facilitate the full disclosure of the LFSP final ESMF, PF and ISDS within the targeted landscapes.
- **Achievements/Outcomes:** By the end of the disclosure,
 - All counties within the targeted landscapes were fully aware of the REDD+ process and the environmental and social implications of the LFSP.

9. Liberia Forest Sector Project: National Stakeholder Workshop (Dec. 9th, 2015): To conclude the consultation processes on the LFSP, the FDA along with the World Bank convened a national workshop in Monrovia to enable stakeholders review and validate their feedback.

- **Number of participants** – Eighty (80) Participants was drawn from various government ministries and agencies, local and international organizations, CSOs and academia.
- **Purpose / Overview** –To facilitate the review and validation of stakeholders' feedback into the LFSP Project Appraisal Document.
- **Achievements/Outcomes:** By the end of the national consultation workshop, the FDA produced the LFSP Project Appraisal Document.

10. Developing a Roadmap for Liberia's National REDD+ Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Framework: In order to plan activities for developing a roadmap to establish a national MRV system for REDD+ in Liberia, the FDA in collaboration with Wageningen University organized a one-day workshop on October 26, 2015.

- **Number of participants** – Ninety-four (94) Participants was drawn from various government ministries and agencies, local and international organizations, CSOs and academia.
- **Purpose / Overview** –To produce a participatory and achievable roadmap outlining how an MRV system for REDD+ can be developed in Liberia; a roadmap that will serve both as a basis for capacity development when implementing Liberia's R-PP and as an example of MRV systems for other sectors within Liberia's land management strategy.
- **Achievements/Outcomes:** By the end of the workshop, a participatory and implementable MRV Roadmap was produced.

11. National Stakeholder Consultation to Update EXPAN's ESMF and PF for implementation of Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP): The FDA and EPA in collaboration with Samuel Kwabena Nketiah (SAL Consult) conducted a one-day national workshop in Kakata, Margibi County on September 3, 2015.

- **Number of participants** – Fifty (50) Participants was drawn from various government ministries and agencies, local and international organizations, CSOs, women group, youth group and academia.
- **Purpose / Overview** –To update the EXPAN's ESMF and PF for implementation by the LFSP

- **Achievements/Outcomes:** By the end of the workshop,
 - The consultant obtained feedback and inputs from stakeholders;
 - The consultant produced an updated ESMF and PF for the LFSP

12. National Preparatory Workshop (Sept 16, 2015) and Regional Validation workshop for the Liberia Forest Sector Project (October 21, 2015): The FDA organized a national preparatory workshop and three regional workshops in the targeted landscapes for the implementation of the LFSP.

- **Numbers of participants** – Seventy-five (75) and One hundred and fifty-five (155) participants respectively were drawn from various government ministries and agencies, local and international organizations, CSOs, women group, youth group and academia.
- **Purpose / Overview** –To raise the profile and sensitize the general public about the LFSP and key issues surrounding sustainable forest management in Liberia.
- **Achievements/Outcomes:** By the end of the workshops, participants became aware of the key components, main issues and expected results of the project.

13. National Forest Definition Workshop: In the quest to improve management regimes of forests in Liberia and foster the national REDD+ Agenda. The FDA led national and international partners in the development of national definition of its forest estate. This initiative was held in Voinjama City, Lofa County from January 25th - 29th 2016.

- **Number of participants** – More than one-hundred twenty-five (125) participants representing government institutions, private sector, local and international organizations, Civil Society and Community Based Organizations, media, local communities and academia gathered to provide inputs to the national definition for forest.
- **Purpose / Overview** – Define forest in the Liberian context considering the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) definition.
- **Achievements/Outcomes:** Stakeholders agreed on the perimeters for defining forest in Liberia to include the following:

30% Minimum Forest Cover
5 meter minimum height
1ha minimum area

14. Revamping / revitalization of the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) is currently on-going

- National Climate Change Steering Committee Policy briefing note for members of the NCCSC prepared and distributed
- **Purpose / Overview** - To present the NCCSC as the highest nationally recognized platform for coordinating all adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change in Liberia. The NCCSC serves to ensure that the Government of Liberia (GoL) mainstreams climate change resilience planning into all sectors as part of its economic development strategy- the Agenda for Transformation (AfT) and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. With Climate change planning being crucial to national development, it is essential that all Ministries, Agencies and State-Owned-Enterprises, the private sector and civil society understand and take into account their different roles in harnessing institutional responses to address climate change at both the national and sub-national levels
- **Achievements/Outcomes** – The President of the Republic is in the process of designating a nominee to serve as chairperson of the NCCSC who will coordinate national responses to climate change in the following sectors: Health, Forestry, Environment, Agriculture, Energy, Public Works, and Mining, etc.
- Reviewed and revised the TOR of the NCCSC awaiting the approval of the reconstitute NCCSC. Budget for the effective functioning of the NCCSC secured under the FCPF additional funding.

15. PCI Media Impact - Fauna & Flora International hired to develop Liberia's REDD+ Communication Strategy:

- In order to inform the communication strategy six (6) counties forums were held by the communication

team.

- *The consultant is currently preparing progress report 3 (three). Upon the acceptance of the third progress report the consultant will now prepare the final national REDD+ communication strategy for Liberia.*
 - *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.*
 - *Production of quarterly newsletters for stakeholders and decision makers*
 - *Production of REDD+ Info-Graphic Brochure*
 - *A REDD+ video and song were also produced by the team*
 - *Production of jingles and dramas*
 - *Bill boards and stickers*

16. LTS Niras hired to develop Liberia REDD+ Strategy

- *The REDD+ National Stakeholders Consultation brought together over Seventy-five (75) participants representing government institutions, private sector institutions, local and international organizations, CSOs, youth, women group, media, local communities and academia)*
- *The final report on the development of Liberia's National REDD+ Strategy is expected by October 10, 2016.*

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

- **Purpose / Overview** - *To fulfill commitments under the capacity strengthening aspect of the contract, the FDA-RIU in collaboration with Winrock International-Conservation International conducted a three-day national capacity strengthening training from April 16-18, 2016.*
- **Number of participants** – *Forty (40) Participants was drawn from various government ministries and agencies, local and international organizations, CSOs and academia.*
- *The final report from this consultant is expected by the September 30, 2016.*

18. Tetra Tech ARD was hired to conduct Liberia Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and develop the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF): *Final Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is currently being finalized. SESA report is also being finalized. It is expected that both final reports will be deliver to the Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency by September 15, 2016.*

19. TFA 2020 Africa Oil Palm Initiative -2nd Liberia Country Workshop and Capacity Strengthening for Stakeholders: *In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and national stakeholders, the REDD+ Implementation Unit with funding from Proforest and FCPF organized and facilitated the 2nd National Oil Palm Initiative and provide Capacity Strengthening for national stakeholders.*

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- **Purpose / Overview** – *The initiative was organized around the following objectives:*
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 - *To identify partners and resources necessary for implementation of actions under Liberia's nine (9) guiding principles for sustainable oil palm production.*

- **Achievements/Outcomes:** At the end of the initiative:
 - Stakeholders agreed on a viable framework for implementing sustainable oil palm production through a “zero-net-deforestation” mechanism in Liberia.
 - Stakeholders agreed on the development of a Standard-Operating-Procedure (SOP) template for applying FPIC in Liberia.
 - Stakeholders agreed on a draft- template for the drafting of the Regional Accord and a regional conference to take in Cote d’ Ivoire in October 2016.
 - Resources were identified through stakeholders with funding to support specific actions to achieve the nine (9) guiding principles

20. National Capacity Strengthening Initiative for Forest and Land Cover Mapping: *To fulfill commitments under the capacity strengthening aspect of the contract, the FDA-RIU in collaboration with Metria-GeoVille conducted a five-day national capacity strengthening exercise from May 16-20, 2016.*

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22. Forestry Sector Working Group (Quarterly) – *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.*

South – South Exchange

1. Two (2) Persons participated in a Regional workshop in Accra, Ghana on zero net deforestation in the supply chain organized by TFA 2020 and the Government of Ghana
2. Two (2) staff from the RIU participated in a Regional workshop in Kumasi, Ghana on Forest Biomass Assessment and Data Analysis from February 15-19, 2016.
3. One (1) staff participated in the Regional South-South Exchange Africa annual meeting of REDD+ National Coordinators held in Naivasha, Kenya
4. Two (2) staff of the RIU participated in the Africa Regional Training Course of the REDD+ Academy in Calabar, Nigeria from 28th October to 5th November 2015.

Important issues/problems that arose during the reporting period

1. **National Recovery-Post Ebola:** Consultancies awarded under the current phase of the project have been slow in meeting schedule delivery of products and services post Ebola. Time required for replacing key staff that moved on due to the Ebola epidemic significantly affected key deadlines.
2. **Rebuilding National Momentum for Sustainable forest Management:** Post Ebola resulted in the readjustment of sectorial priorities both at the subnational and national levels. Early Post Ebola, stakeholder consultations in the forest sector were significantly affected due to health advice on large gathering.
3. **Continual National Technical Expertise deficits:** Liberia still lacks full technical expertise in key areas within the forest sector. Post Ebola has seen mass exodus of technicians for better paying jobs, thus resulting into deficits within the sector. The remaining stakeholders, while available, lack a rounded approach and input on key issues. This has impeded the level of stakeholders' inputs to technical documents and issues in the forest and natural resource management sector.
4. **Information and data management:** Liberia's forest sector lacks comprehensive and viable infrastructure and human capacity for data storage and management. Efforts to manage and store data within the sector have been in an ad-hoc manner. Overtime, this has resulted to several reports and data being lost due to the absence of a viable platform for data management infrastructure.
5. **Balancing stakeholders' immediate expectation against project scope:** REDD+ is still a very new concept to sustainable forest management in Liberia. It is a radical shift from 'business-as-usual' to a more transparent and participatory approach to forest governance and equitable benefit sharing of natural resources. REDD+ is expected to facilitate community and stakeholders stewardship. However, interpreting the concepts of 'benefits' and the processes for reaching "equitable-benefit-distribution" under the current REDD+ Readiness Phase has been a challenge. FDA and its partners are sustaining initiatives to inform communities and stakeholders appropriately in an effort to provide understanding of responsibilities, development and testing of viable and equitable mechanisms for benefit distribution, conflict management and grievance redress processes.

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".

Amount of non-FCPF investments received under R-PP process (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.2.B.i.):	
Source: N/A	Amount provided: N/A
Source: N/A	Amount provided: N/A
Source: N/A	Amount provided: 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.):	
Source: N/A	Amount provided: N/A
Source: N/A	Amount provided: N/A
Source: N/A	Amount provided: 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.

According to national institutional arrangements within Liberia's R-PP, several platforms have been created to ensure stakeholders participation in the processes leading to decision making in REDD+ and natural resource management. These are consistent with the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006 and other national policy and legal instruments.

Liberia's REDD+ decision making platforms and decision making processes include:

- 1. REDD+ Technical Working Group:** Stakeholders in this platform are consulted periodically and function in providing technical oversight and performing advisory role to all national REDD+ processes. Its composition includes but not limited to:
 - a. Civil Society Organizations
 - b. Local Non-Governmental Organizations
 - c. International Non-Governmental Organizations
 - d. Academia
 - e. Media
 - f. Donors/ Development partners
 - g. Private Sector Actors
 - h. Government Institutions
 - i. Representatives of Communities and Community Based Organizations
- 2. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment Working Group:** This platform, organized around the objectives of integrating social and environmental issues, risks and considerations into policy – making processes, leading to more sustainable REDD+ policies and programs, comprise of:
 - a. Civil Society Organizations
 - b. Local Non-Governmental Organizations
 - c. International Non-Governmental Organizations
 - d. Academia
 - e. Media
 - f. Donors/ Development partners
 - g. Private Sector Actors
 - h. Government Institutions / National Traditional Council
 - i. Representatives of Communities and Community Based Organizations
- 3. Forest Sector Donor Working Group:** This high level platform comprising of development partners, donors, international organizations and the Forestry Development Authority is organized around the objective of coordinating and synergizing investments and providing technical support to the FDA for the advancement of the forestry sector and national REDD+ objectives.
- 4. Oil Palm Sector Technical Working:** In an effort to coordinate “zero-net-deforestation” and sustainable tree crop production in the agriculture sector, this platform functions in providing

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.):

<p><u>Frequency:</u> Quarterly</p>	<p>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). Emergency meetings are held to discuss urgent issues arising prior to the schedule quarterly meetings.</p> <p>The REDD+ Technical Working Group – REDD+ activities at the consultative, policy and advisory level are managed by the REDD Technical Working Group – REDD+ Policy Coordinator</p> <p>Meetings are held as needed to review and approve reports from consultants in accordance with the consultants’ term of reference and required deliveries.</p> <p>All reports from the consultants are reviewed and approved by the RTWG and SESA Working Groups.</p>
<p>Examples of resources made available to enable active participation of IPs , CSOs and local communities in national REDD+ readiness.</p>	
<p>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, workshops and activities related to the ongoing REDD+ process in Liberia.</p>	

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:

- ✓ Development of a National Climate Change Policy is ongoing
- ✓ Draft National Wildlife Law enactment is pending before the National Legislature
- ✓ Act to establish the Gola Forest National Park is pending before the National Legislature
- ✓ Land Rights Law pending enactment by the National Legislature
- ✓ 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)) has been completed
- ✓ 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))
- ✓ 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.

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 reminding 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 finalizing its National REDD Strategy. 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 was 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 eight (8) 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.

FFI with funding from Norad have launched the first REDD+ pilot project in Wonegizi, Lofa county. It is expected that this pilot site will address livelihood, benefit sharing, capacity building of forest dependent people. The project is also supporting institutional policy and legal framework, governance and natural resource management at the jurisdictional level with the intent to inform the national process.

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:

Liberia made substantial progress regarding the Readiness Package of the (FCPF M& E Framework). Some milestones were met as it relates to the Readiness Package:

- ✓ The SESA draft final report has been developed, consulted on and nationally validated. The report incorporating stakeholders' feedback is currently being finalized by Tetra Tech ARD. The Government of Liberia expects to receive the final SESA report by September 15, 2016.
- ✓ The draft final ESMF report has being developed, consulted on and nationally validated. The report incorporating stakeholders' feedback is currently being finalized by Tetra Tech ARD. The Government of Liberia expects to receive the final SESA report by September 15, 2016.
- ✓ The Forestry Development Authority (FDA), after consultation and inputs from stakeholders, has received from Metria GeoVille, the Forest and Land Cover Maps of Liberia. In addition, FDA in collaboration with Metria GeoVille conducted a national capacity strengthening initiative in GIS and forest mapping and monitoring.
- ✓ Liberia National REDD+ Strategy currently being developed by LTS Niras is near final completion. During the period in review, progress made under this task has been consistent with inputs from SESA and all the other components of the Readiness Preparation Package as set forth by the FCPF. The final strategy has been nationally consulted on and LTS Niras is currently incorporating stakeholders' inputs thereafter which a national validation will be held on September 15, 2016.
- ✓ WINROCK International and Conservation International have submitted to the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), the first final draft report on Liberia's Reference Emissions Level. Based on national stakeholders' feedback and inputs, WINROCK International and Conservation International are currently revising the draft final report for submission to the FDA on September 30, 2016. WINROCK have assisted the FDA and LISGIS in national capacity strengthening initiatives related to GIS, remote sensing and reference emissions tracking.
- ✓ PCI Media and Fauna and Flora International have worked closely with stakeholders to develop a REDD+ Communication Strategy for Liberia. Additionally, to inform the REDD+ Communication Strategy, PCI and FFI facilitated subnational fora in six counties to create awareness, sensitization and obtain inputs on REDD+ and sustainable forest management. To date, PCI Media and FFI are currently facilitating the rollout of products (billboards, stickers, jingles, songs, dramas and videos) across Liberia.

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.):																	
Planned Milestones: Liberia enter into REDD+ funding modality	Level of Achievement¹: Significant progress	Tracking²: <table border="1"> <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"> ✓ Revamping of NCCSC currently in progress ✓ New Presidential designate currently being identified ✓ Regular meeting of RTWGs ✓ Policy briefing notes developed for NCCSC ✓ 1 - REDD+ Policy Coordinator hired ✓ 1 – Sr. Project Accountant currently being recruited ✓ 1- M&E Specialist currently being recruited ✓ 1- Team Assistant currently being recruited ✓ 1- Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist ✓ Office equipment procured 	<div>  </div> <div> X </div> <div> Significant progress </div>
				<div>  </div> <div> </div> <div> Progressing well, further development required </div>
				<div>  </div> <div> </div> <div> Further development required </div>
				<div>  </div> <div> </div> <div> Not yet demonstrating progress </div>
				<div>  </div> <div> </div> <div> Non Applicable </div>
				Please explain why: New system of engagement with requisite stakeholders developed and currently being implemented






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 developed and currently being implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Monthly stakeholders bulletin update on the REDD+ process circulated ✓ Quarterly newsletters on the REDD+ produced and circulated ✓ Nationwide County level stakeholder forum in six (6) counties held ✓ 10 REDD+ drama episodes produced and aired. ✓ 2000 pieces of REDD+ awareness stickers produced ✓ 1 REDD+ video produced ✓ 1 jingle for REDD+ Awareness produced ✓ 1 REDD+ Info-graphic produced. ✓ 2 Billboards produced 		X	Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development required
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				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			
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.2 Platform for continuous dialogue with key stakeholders established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consultation and Participation master plan updated and validated ➤ 1 Forestry Sector Working Group meetings held ➤ 3 REDD Technical Working Group meetings ➤ 5 SESA Working Group meetings held 		X	Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development required
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
		1.b.3 Capacity strengthened within institutions involved into REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National capacity strengthening initiatives related to GIS, remote sensing and reference emissions tracking. ➤ National Capacity Strengthening Initiative for Forest and Land Cover Mapping 	Please explain why: RIU has ensured that broad base key stakeholder groups have been engaged and continues to participate in the REDD+ process.		











	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: 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</i> <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	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			X	Progressing well, further development required
						Further development required
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
		✓ By end of project, action plans to address natural resource right, land tenure, governance are clearly established		Please explain why: Post EVD have seen lot of improvement in activities and studies on: <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	Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options <i>Purpose: Develop a set of policies and programs for addressing the drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation</i> <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>	<div>✓ REDD+ strategy options identified in 2009 economic analysis are assessed and prioritized</div> <div>✓ By end of project, REDD+ strategy options identified in 2009 economic analysis are tested</div>	<div>1. Suitable sites for reforestation and afforestation, as well as forest restoration identified</div> <div>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</div>	<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> The following activities are ongoing but need further studies:</p> <div><div>1. Technical capacity of all actors in the commercial forestry sector improved through outreach and training</div><div>2. Technical capacity of all actors in chainsaw logging improved through outreach and training</div><div>3. Role of Conservation and Protected Areas (PAs) and carbon sinks in REDD+ clarified</div><div>4. Implications of capping commercial forestry analyzed and considered in FDA policy decision making process</div><div>5. Support to the MoA, FDA and agricultural concession holders ensures that tree crop plantation and permanent agriculture development is located on degraded forest lands</div></div>			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																	






	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
				Please explain why: Under the initial grant, funding was not allocated for the implementation of these activities 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. Validation and prioritization of environmental and social issues to produce the SESA Priority Report 2. Assessment of the environmental and social performance of the proposed REDD+ Strategy 3. Consultations on the draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) 4. Development of draft final Environmental and Social Management Report 5. Development of the draft final Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment Report		X	Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				Please explain why: The final Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment Report and the final Environmental and Social Assessment Report will be delivered on September 16, 2016.		

	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>	✓ Reference scenario and emissions estimates ongoing	1. FDA, LISGIS and Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy capacitated relative to GIS, remote sensing and reference emissions tracking.				Significant progress
		✓ By end of project, FDA, LISGIS, and the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy are fully capacitated on forest monitoring systems	2. FDA, LISGIS and Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy capacitated relative to <i>Forest and Land Cover Mapping</i>		X		Progressing well, further development required
		✓ baseline report on deforestation and degradation rates and trends in Liberia is available	3. Studies ongoing to determine the rates and trends for deforestation and degradation				Further development
		✓ biomass and carbon stocks baseline data is available					Not yet demonstrating progress
							Non Applicable
				And explain why: The first final draft report on Liberia's Reference Emissions Level. Based on national stakeholders' feedback and inputs, WINROCK International and Conservation International are currently revising the draft final report for submission to the FDA on September 30, 2016.			






	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>	✓ 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
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
					X	Non Applicable
				And explain why: Activities not funded under FCPF grant		
	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>	By mid-term, a monitoring system for social, environmental and governance impacts of increased forest cover is proposed for validation By end of project, participatory monitoring involving all key stakeholder groups occurs By end of project, first M&E reports generated				Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
					X	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 75%	<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)	75%	<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:
1. Deliverables review meetings	✓ CSOs and local community usually partake in reviews and validation of reports from consultants responsible for specific components of the FCPF program.
2. SESA draft final report review	✓ Local communities were engaged to obtain their perspectives on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
3. REDD+ National final draft strategy review	✓ CSOs and local communities took part in a capacity building workshop.
4. REDD+ Communication	✓ 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

Strategy draft final review	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>	<u>Duration (# of days)</u>	# of participants # of men / # of women			<i>Targets in terms of number of men and women to be trained by country to be defined</i>
✓ National capacity strengthening initiatives related to GIS, remote sensing and reference emissions tracking	3 days	30 - men 10 - women			
				X	
✓ National capacity strengthening initiative for Land and Forest Cover Mapping.	3 days	30 - men 10 - women			
					<i>Non Applicable</i>

3.3. Knowledge sharing

Has your country developed and published REDD+ knowledge products with FCPF support:	
Yes:	<u>Please provide the list of published REDD+ knowledge products, if any during reporting period :</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Briefing notes for the office of the President of the Republic of Liberia and members of the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) ✓ Production of quarterly newsletters for stakeholders and decision makers ✓ Production of REDD+ Info-Graphic and Brochures ✓ Production of REDD+ jungles and dramas ✓ Production of a REDD+ video and song ✓ Briefing papers on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Agriculture and REDD+ in Liberia ✓ Summary of possible Benefit Sharing Mechanism in Liberia ✓ Summary of REDD+ Institutional and Coordination Arrangements in Liberia ✓ Production of Bill boards and Stickers

How many people have been reached by these knowledge products, if any: N/A
<u>Overall number by product:</u> 450
<u># of Men:</u> 200
<u># of Women:</u> 250

Have some experts of your country participated in any South-south learning activities? If yes, how many (men and women)?
--

<u>Yes/No:</u>	<u>List the South-South learning activities:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Two (2) Persons participated in a Regional workshop in Accra, Ghana on zero net deforestation in the supply chain organized by TFA 2020 and the Government of Ghana</i> 2. <i>Two (2) staff from the RIU participated in a Regional workshop in Kumasi, Ghana on Forest Biomass Assessment and Data Analysis from February 15-19, 2016.</i> 3. <i>One (1) staff participated in the Regional South-South Exchange Africa annual meeting of REDD+ National Coordinators held in Naivasha, Kenya</i> 4. <i>Two (2) staff of the RIU participated in the Africa Regional Training Course of the REDD+ Academy in Calabar, Nigeria from 28th October to 5th November 2015</i> 	<u># of men:</u> (IP/CSO representatives, private sector representatives) None <u># of women:</u> (IP/CSO representatives, private sector representatives) None
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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.

1. **National Recovery-Post Ebola:** Consultancies awarded under the current phase of the project have been slow in meeting schedule delivery of products and services post Ebola. Time required for replacing key staff that moved on due to the Ebola epidemic significantly affected key deadlines.
2. **Rebuilding National Momentum for Sustainable forest Management:** Post Ebola resulted in the readjustment of sectorial priorities both at the subnational and national levels. Early Post Ebola, stakeholder consultations in the forest sector were significantly affected due to health advice on large gathering.
3. **Continual National Technical Expertise deficits:** Liberia still lacks full technical expertise in key areas within the forest sector. Post Ebola has seen mass exodus of technicians for better paying jobs, thus resulting into deficits within the sector. The remaining stakeholders, while available, lack a rounded approach and input on key issues. This has impeded the level of stakeholders' inputs to technical documents and issues in the forest and natural resource management sector.
4. **Information and data management:** Liberia's forest sector lacks comprehensive and viable infrastructure and human capacity for data storage and management. Efforts to manage and store data within the sector have been in an ad-hoc manner. Overtime, this has resulted to several reports and data being lost due to the absence of a viable platform for data management infrastructure.
5. **Balancing stakeholders' immediate expectation against project scope:** REDD+ is still a very new concept to sustainable forest management in Liberia. It is a radical shift from 'business-as-usual' to a more transparent and participatory approach to forest governance and equitable benefit sharing of natural resources. REDD+ is expected to facilitate community and stakeholders stewardship. However, interpreting the concepts of 'benefits' and the processes for reaching "equitable-benefit-distribution" under the current REDD+ Readiness Phase has been a challenge. FDA and its partners are sustaining initiatives to inform communities and stakeholders appropriately in an effort to provide understanding of responsibilities, development and testing of viable and equitable mechanisms for benefit distribution, conflict management and grievance redress processes.

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

- ✓ Continuities stakeholder engagement is fundamental to the success of REDD+
- ✓ A key cornerstone for the success of REDD+ is effective coordination among government ministries, agencies, CSOs and other key stakeholders is essential to the successful implementation of the REDD+
- ✓ Political buy in is also a major condition for the success of REDD+
- ✓ Managing expectation at an appreciable level

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.”