

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.:70962

Project Name	Liberia - FCPF Readiness Grant
Region	AFR
Country	LIBERIA
Sector	FORESTRY
Lending Instrument	TF Grant
Project ID	P124073
<i>{If Add. Fin.}</i> Parent Project ID	N/A
Recipient	REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
Implementing Agency	FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Environmental Screening Category	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI <input type="checkbox"/> TBD (to be determined)
Date PID Prepared/ updated	May 30, 2011
Estimated Date of Appraisal Completion	N/A
Estimated Date of Board Approval	N/A
Concept Review Decision	[Following the review of the concept, the decision was taken to proceed with the preparation of the operation.]

I. Introduction and Context

A. Country Context

1. Despite abundant natural resources, governance issues and social inequality have perennially engendered poverty, conflicts, and low human development in Liberia. The country emerged from a long conflict period in 2003, when a global peace agreement was signed. The civil war badly crippled much of Liberia's economy, damaged its physical infrastructure, and undermined its institutional capacity at the national and local levels. Social, political, economic, and governance systems were destroyed. Between 1980 and 2006, GDP fell by over 90 percent.

2. After a transition period, first democratic elections were held in 2006, and the Government of Liberia (GoL) embarked on an ambitious social and economic recovery program. Liberia's second democratic elections were held in October/November 2011 and the re-elected Government of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf took office in January 2012. Despite important progress made in recent years (including an average growth rate of 7.3 percent between 2006 and 2009), poverty remains a challenge in the country. It is estimated that about 64 percent of Liberia's 3.5 million live below the poverty line, with 48 percent living in extreme poverty. In 2009, Liberia ranked 169th out of 182 countries in the world with reference to the UN human development index. Limited access to modern health services (41 percent) and high illiteracy rate (58 percent; 62 percent for women and 29 percent for men) remain important social limitations. Other structural constraints to long-term development are the substantial infrastructure gap,

especially in transportation and electricity as well as unclear land property rights.¹ Liberia still faces many challenges in laying the foundation to transition from post-conflict recovery to long-term development.

3. Liberia contains approximately 4.3 million hectares (Mha)² of lowland tropical forest that comprises 43 percent of the remaining Upper Guinea forests of West Africa, which extend from neighboring Guinea to Togo. While the overall extent of the Upper Guinea Forest has dwindled to an estimated 14.3 percent of its original extent, Liberia still hosts two massifs of forest including evergreen lowland forests in the southeast and the semi-deciduous mountain forests in the northwest. The forest of Liberia is extremely rich in biodiversity,³ being a recognized global hotspot and priority for conservation. The forests' biological diversity encompasses the last long-term viable populations of several endemic species, ecosystem service provisioning, and potential to contribute to the country's development goals.

4. Liberia's forest cover provides direct benefits that include wildlife habitat, ecotourism industry, soil conservation and sustainable agriculture, protection of water resources, and availability of non-timber forest products to local communities. Most of Liberia's rural population (roughly one-third of the national population) is dependent on forests and their various products and ecosystem services for their livelihoods. Forests play an important role as safety net for vulnerable and marginalized people, especially those living around forest areas, and for the broader community during times of stress.

5. In addition to Liberia's unique biodiversity, the direct social and economic benefits of forests are under threat due to the continued clearance and degradation of the country's remaining forest blocks. Deforestation and forest degradation remained low during the last decades due to the civil conflict. Currently, as peace has been restored, pressure on the forest and its natural resources is escalating.

¹ Land is a highly contested subject in Liberia. Land laws and policies have been made based on a western understanding of land as a resource, whereas most native Liberians see land as an inheritance— as something to be used but not owned. Less than 20 percent of total land in Liberia is privately deeded or registered. The small share of private ownership and legal ambiguities over the non-privately held land has given rise to poor land use management. Rights of rural communities remain poorly defined with many rural lands having overlapping and unresolved ownership rights. Land conflict is one of the major sources of violent conflict in the country.

² The figure of 4.3Mha is contained in the FAO GFRA tables for 2010 and is consistent with the estimate of 4.5Mha in 2004 (Bayol et al, 2004), adjusted by an annual deforestation rate of 0.7 percent. However, it is acknowledged that different estimates have arisen owing to the treatment of areas obscured by cloud, assessment of the forest element in shifting cultivation, and discrepancy in estimates of Liberia's surface area.

³ Liberia is home to approximately 240 tree species, 2,000 flowering plants, 125 mammal species, 590 bird species, 74 reptiles and amphibians and over 1,000 insect species.

B. Sectoral and Institutional Context

Forestry sector reform

6. In 2003, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) imposed sanctions on Liberia to prohibit trade in roundwood and timber products, as revenues from timber exports were being used to finance ongoing civil war. The sanctions were to remain in place until the GoL established its full authority and control over timber production areas and ensured that the revenues will be used to benefit the Liberian people. In the same year, after the Accra Peace Agreement was signed, ending Liberia's civil war, the new National Transitional Government (NTGL) established a road map for reforms in the forest sector.

7. Within the reform process the Liberia Forestry Initiative (LFI) was established in early 2004 as a partnership to assist the country in reaching sufficient standards of forest governance, accountability, and management to enable the lifting of the UN Timber Sanctions. The LFI, which was led by the US Government, included UN agencies, bilateral partners, funding institutions, international NGOs, research institutions and local NGOs. The LFI provided a platform for the engagement of key stakeholders in the forest sector reform process. The LFI work followed what came to be referred to as the "Three C's" approach that aims to balance and integrate community, commercial, and conservation uses of the country's forests. In 2004, the NTLG also created a Forest Concessions Review Committee (FCRC) to review the forestry sector, its role in the conflict, and to evaluate the legal status of all timber concessions. The Committee, made several recommendations such as the cancellation of all forest concessions and a series of key reforms to the 2000 National Forestry Law in order to improve transparency, accountability and public participation in the sector. In 2006, the newly elected president, Johnson-Sirleaf, started to put in place the recommendations and in the same year the UNSC voted to lift the timber sanctions.

8. Progressive forest policies and laws were developed and approved by the new government. The Forest Development Authority (FDA) was reformed and restructured according to the new policies and laws. The GoL also established the National Forest Reform Law (NFRL) of 2006 and the Ten Core Regulations (2007) that provided the framework for the sector's legal, participatory, and transparent operation. The law established sustainable forest management as a national goal and advocated for greater engagement of civil society and communities in the forest sector. In addition, LiberFor, the chain of custody (CoC) system⁴ for forest resources, was established as part of the reform process. The government also became part of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to provide an oversight mechanism of company payments and government revenues and became the first country to include forestry in the initiative.

⁴ Called "Liberfor," the CoC stump-to-ship system, which is currently being implemented under a contract with Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS), promotes transparency of payments, independent monitoring of approvals for payments and shipping permits, as well as monitoring of all log movements (the World Bank supported financing of the CoC through the FLEG and PROFOR TF).

9. Liberia's ambitious forestry reform process has become an example for other countries. However, as the government progressed in the implementation of the sector reforms, limited capacity arose as a significant obstacle. Institutional and governance mechanisms were new and there was a lack of trained and experienced people to put in place the needed reforms. Weak governance and oversight mechanisms also became an obstacle for satisfactory compliance of the new laws, regulations, and procedures. In addition, no mechanisms were implemented to promote participation and transparency in sector decision-making. The scarce capacity was also geared towards the export-oriented commercial forestry, marginalizing conservation and community aspects of forest use.⁵ Overall, in the now almost six-year period since United Nations Security Council-imposed timber sanctions were lifted, the realization of the promise of the sector reforms has been slow in coming.

10. In late 2009 the Community Rights Law (CRL) with Respect to Forest Lands was signed into law, aiming at resolving the lack of legal clarity over forest ownership and use rights. The CRL revealed the contradictions between GOL's emerging policies on land and community rights and the forest sector's historic policies and laws that asserted state ownership of natural forest resources⁶. More recently the issuance of Private Use Permits (PUPs) and large-scale Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs) has emerged as a concern as: it has conflicted with the Government's established processes and procedures for land reform; it has lacked transparency and due process; it has failed to guarantee meeting social, environmental and economic objectives.

11. Emerging policies and opportunities that will continue reshaping the forest sector reform are: (i) the clear trend towards the recognition of customary land rights and forest tenure that will lead to the development of a significant community forestry subsector; (ii) GoL's National Policy on Decentralization which provides for political, administrative, and fiscal decentralization to be implemented by 2020; (iii) the growing recognition of the importance of the domestic forest sector; (iv) the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union (EU), signed in May 2011 to prevent illegal timber exports as part of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) program; and (v) Liberia's participation in REDD+, whose Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) was formally submitted in May 2011 and which will introduce a range of new priorities and instruments for forest conservation and management, as discussed in more detail below.

⁵ Even though the reform was geared more towards Commercial use, there is still little economic benefit accruing to the country. In addition, hopes for direct benefits to communities – —primarily employment, a share of revenues from industrial logging concessions and other benefits negotiated between communities and loggers (social agreements) – have yet to materialize in any significant fashion.

⁶ Between the establishment of the NFRL and the CRL, seven Forest Management Contracts (FMCs) (concessions) —on more than 1 million ha—were approved under the NFRL provisions. No additional FMC has since been awarded. Contradictions with the CRL regulations could become obstacles for the implementation of the National Decentralization policy within the context of the forest sector and the REDD+ Strategy

12. The World Bank is part of the history described above as it has been providing direct support to the reforms and development of the Liberian Forest Sector since 2004. This support has been coordinated with other development partners and strategically aligned with government priorities for the forest sector. The WB participated in the LFI and helped establish a Special Planning Unit (SPU) in the FDA to reach a consensus vision for sustainable forest management, and engage people living in protected areas in improving their livelihoods. The WB also supported the development of the Forest Concession Review, forest inventory, review of draft laws, fiscal/tax reform, the implementation of the “Chain of Custody” system, a Land Tenure study, and the establishment and expansion of the Protected Areas Network and Community Forestry. Also, the Bank has assisted the GoL in developing the L-EITI and the inclusion of timber and agriculture in the Initiative.

13. For the GoL to successfully further the reforms, confront current and emerging issues and capitalize upon the opportunities that are unfolding for the development of the forest sector and the benefit of the Liberian people, a shared sense of priorities and a consensus on the way forward in land use planning is needed among a representative and critical mass of sector stakeholders. Currently, a consensus vision for land use planning is lacking. Among stakeholders there are increasingly divergent views on policy, institutional, regulatory and governance issues that require discussion and resolution. Efforts are required to seek the establishment of a broad consensus vision on land use planning around which stakeholders can come together to further the reforms and development of the sectors.

REDD+ Readiness in Liberia and the FCPF grant:

14. The establishment of an international mechanism to compensate countries for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+)⁷ offers an opportunity for Liberia to serve the common interest in managing its forests in a balanced way for long-term sustainable economic growth; to support the livelihood of local and rural communities; and to ensure that its important national and global heritage is conserved.

15. The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), a multi-donor initiative became operational in 2008 to assist countries in establishing the key pillars of REDD+ readiness; i.e. 1) developing their national reference scenarios for emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; 2) adopting and complementing national strategies for stopping deforestation and forest degradation; and 3) designing national monitoring, reporting, and verification systems for REDD+. These activities are referred to as ‘REDD+ Readiness’. The country is committed to follow the FCPF framework and processes for REDD+ readiness. Liberia has developed a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in close consultation with key stakeholders, which was approved by the FCPF Participant Committee in June, 2011.

16. The FCPF grant will provide the opportunity to the Government of Liberia and the Liberian people to have strategic discussions—based on updated quantitative analyses—about land use

⁷ Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks are a set of activities collectively referred to as “REDD+”.

options for its forested and mixed agricultural lands,⁸ considering multiple criteria such as revenue for the government, benefits for the communities, livelihoods for communities, environmental and social sustainability, and potential carbon benefits. The discussions regarding land use options will not only consider the commercial—domestic and export—use of the land but also, following the 3-C approach, the Community and Conservation uses. The GoL and the people of Liberia will be able to make informed decisions about the best land use option for the country looking at the different trade-offs and the best possible balanced solution.

Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Strategic Options:

17. Deforestation rates have remained relatively low in Liberia during the past two decades as a result of the civil conflict that forced many to leave the countryside and immigrate to the capital city and urban centers. This was also a period of relatively low international timber and agricultural exports. Now that peace has been restored, there is a general return of the population to rural areas, assisted by extensive infrastructure rehabilitation of road and bridges. These domestic factors, coupled with expanding global markets for tropical agricultural products, bio-fuels and timber are exerting considerable pressure on land use conversion from forests. Recent clearing activity is mostly concentrated in ten or so sectors of the country. Almost all clearing is in the form of numerous small (<10 hectare) clearings around towns and roads near in Liberia’s forest regions. Deforestation and Forest Degradation arise from driving forces within the forest, agricultural, mining and energy sectors.

18. Based on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation identified, the R-PP includes the following preliminary Strategic Options for REDD+, which are summarized by sector in the following table:

FORESTRY SECTOR	AGRICULTURE SECTOR	ENERGY SECTOR	MINING SECTOR
1) Raising commercial logging standards;	6) Transforming the shift from cultivation into permanent or semi-permanent agriculture (moving to a more efficient agricultural system in order to reduce land use and forest degradation)	9) Regulating and managing wood fuel energy	11) Mainstreaming of environmental and social concerns in the mining sector
2) Reducing logging area footprint;	7) Ensuring that plantation and permanent agriculture development is located on degraded forest lands with lower carbon content	10) Introducing more efficient kilns and cooking stoves	12) Promoting certification for sustainable mining
3) Regulating and managing chainsaw logging (with a new regulatory structure for chainsaw logging about to be set in place)	8) Carbon stock enrichment of		
4) Integrating Conservation and Protected Areas into REDD and acceleration of the timeline (whilst Liberia has committed through policy and legislation to allocate 30% of forest area to protected			

⁸ The grant proposal will consider the 4.3 million hectares of forest, plus an additional 1.3 million ha of “Class 2.3 Mixed agricultural and forest lands.”

FORESTRY SECTOR	AGRICULTURE SECTOR	ENERGY SECTOR	MINING SECTOR
<p>areas, there is a shortfall of 894,000 ha. A plan is needed to fill this gap).</p> <p>5) Enhancement of carbon loading in degraded forest areas, focusing on indigenous species / forest rehabilitation</p>	<p>barren land through timber crop planting (tree crops instead of other agricultural products), including commercial tree species (linked to forest sector)</p>		

19. In addition to the strategic options in each sector as per above table, it is becoming clearer that the government needs assistance to define the land allocation for agriculture, forest, protected areas, and mining. The FCPF grant will contribute to the establishment of a broad consensus vision on land use planning around which stakeholders can come together to further the reforms and development of the sectors.

C. Relationship to World Bank engagement in Natural Resources Sector and Country Assistance Strategy (CAS)

20. The FCPF grant will assist Liberia in making better-informed decisions regarding land use options for the country. It will also allow the country to prepare itself for a future REDD+ mechanism, which should ultimately contribute to the country's sustainable development through improved management of its forest resources. In its particular area of intervention, the grant aligns with the strategic pillars included in the 2008 Joint Country Assistance Strategy (WB/African Development Bank): (i) Rebuilding core state functions and institutions; and (ii) Jump-starting and facilitating pro-poor growth. Particularly the second pillar encompasses several aspects including improved agricultural and natural resource management in a way that generates pro-poor growth. The draft completion report⁹ of the 2008 CAS highlights that the outcome related to enhancing forestry governance was achieved as progress was made in forestry governance and institutional capacity building. However, the report states that governance issues in the forestry sector, including addressing broader community-based forestry concerns, will continue to be a challenge. The alignment with the current CAS will extend to the Joint WBG/AfDB Country Partnership Strategy FY 13-17, that is under preparation and aims at helping Liberia meet its current and long-term development priorities.

21. The goals for the FCPF grant are also in synergy with: (a) the low carbon development strategy; (b) Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) I, specifically Pillar II that aims to revitalize the economy; (c) the ongoing development of the forest sector strategy for the PRS II which has defined as the sector goal: *Integrate community, conservation, and commercial aspects of forestry to sustainably contribute to reducing poverty, improving livelihoods and the quality of rural life, and increasing the ecological services provided by forests;*¹⁰ and (d) "Liberia Rising

⁹ Draft report.

¹⁰ The final version of the PRS2, called the "Agenda for Transformation," will be the basis for the design of the joint WBG-AfDB Country Partnership Strategy for FY 13-17. The new Pillar II aims to *transform the economy to meet the demands of Liberians by developing the domestic private sector, including with resources leveraged from the FDI in mining and plantations; providing employment for a youthful population; investing in infrastructure for*

2030,” that serves as a road map for addressing the social, political, and economic challenges that confront Liberia on its path towards economic growth and wealth creation.¹¹

22. The grant will contribute to strengthening Liberia’s governance structures, institutions and capacity building processes for sustainable land use planning (forest, mining, agriculture and protected areas) while promoting the participation and generating benefits to the local communities. By doing so, the country will receive compensation for protecting the global ecosystem services that its forests provide. The FCPF grant is consistent with the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Governance. By supporting and strengthening local governance structures for land use management, the REDD+ Strategy will be consistent with the purpose of devolving some of the central government powers and authority to local officials.

23. The implementation of the FCPF grant will align with several policies and regulations that involve or are relevant to the forest sector, including the National Forestry Reform Law (NFRL) of 2006, the Food and Agricultural Policy and Strategy (FAPS) adopted in 2008, and the National Energy Policy (NEP). The grant will also be aligned to the Community Rights Law on Forest Lands of 2009, which set the framework for sustainable and equitable forest management, and clarifies that “all forest resources on community forest lands are owned by local communities.”

24. The preparation process for the FCPF grant has taken into consideration the above current and emerging contexts plus other inputs from: (a) prior analytical work and consultations, especially the Forest Sector Strategic Environmental Assessment, the Poverty and Social Analysis (PSIA), the Rapid Social Assessment (RSA), the initial results of the study developed by the European Space Agency—Forest Cover and Land Use Mapping with overlaps and trade-offs, the identification of the new forestry project, and Liberia Forest Sector diagnostic; and (b) lessons learned and emerging issues in the sector. The “Sanctions Lifting +6” sector-wide dialogue¹²— to be carried out during the second quarter of CY 2012—is also expected to provide significant inputs for the implementation of the proposed grant as it will aim to build consensus on the medium-term priorities for the sector. In addition, the grant will benefit from the results of the third Forest Governance Forum conference that will be held in May 2012 in Monrovia. This will be a space of discussion and exchange of ideas, experience, and research regarding forest governance and trade.¹³

economic growth; addressing fiscal and monetary issues for macroeconomic stability; and improving agriculture and forestry to expand the economy for rural participation and food security.

¹¹ The GoL is currently organizing a massive national consultation process during which they will discuss the historical drivers of conflict and fragility and what needs to be changed in order to promote more inclusive growth and development by the year 2030. These themes are presented in a national visioning document, “Liberia Rising 2030,” which also provided the basis of the first draft of Liberia’s second five-year Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS2), whose discussion is also part of the consultation process.

¹² The objectives of which are to carry out a stock-taking of the reform process and, with sector stakeholders, seek a consensus on the medium-term priorities and a roadmap forward for the sector.

¹³ Blending regional and global speakers and participants from Government, Civil Society, Trade & Industry, the NGO Community, and the Academic World, the objective is to bring debates surrounding Forest Governance to Ghana, Liberia, DRC, and Cameroon in order to widen participation, to facilitate more national voices in the conversation, and to situate issues within a local and international context.

II. Proposed Development Objective(s)

A. Proposed PDO

25. The Project Development Objective is 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.

26. The options analysis will look at the tradeoffs and complementarities of various land uses, based on different criteria such as: revenues for GoL, livelihoods for the communities, benefits for the communities, environmental and social sustainability, and only as a last criterion and additional benefit, the possibility of carbon credit. The options analysis will be fully consulted and will provide the basis for the development of a socially and environmentally sound national strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

B. Key Results

- Consultations on land-use options with GoL and stakeholders (4 county level) (participation as defined by SESA national first validation workshop)
- Consultations on REDD+ Strategy (4 county level)(participation as defined by SESA national validation workshop)
- Quantitative analysis of land use in forested and mixed agricultural lands prepared and validated by the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) (yes/no)
- Quantified reference scenario prepared and validated by the REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) (yes/no)
- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) drafted and validated by relevant stakeholders (yes/no)
- National REDD+ strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) is prepared and validated by national stakeholders (yes/no).

III. Preliminary Description

Concept

1. Description

27. The FCPF grant will provide funding to support Liberia in carrying out selected key activities outlined in the R-PP for the REDD+. The overall REDD+ Readiness needs in Liberia as presented in its R-PP add up to US\$ \$7.73 million. The country has requested US\$ 3.6 million

from the FCPF to contribute towards the implementation of the priority activities identified in the R-PP.¹⁴ This amount will fund a portion of the identified R-PP activities, and will help the Country towards achieving REDD+ Readiness.

2. *Project Components*

28. FCPF will finance major components of the R-PP that have been prioritized by the REDD Technical Working Group in the country. This support is limited to technical assistance, analytical studies, capacity building, goods, operating costs, and consultation processes and does not include the implementation of site-specific REDD+ programs (carbon deals) on the ground. The following is a table with RPP project sub-components to be financed by the FCPF and the government agencies in charge of their technical oversight. Overall responsibility will remain with the REDD Implementation Unit (RIU) to be housed in the Strategic Planning Unit of FDA.

FCPF grant Component	FCPF grant Subcomponents (Lead GoL Agency to provide technical oversight-all contracts managed by RIU)	R-PP Components to be financed by FPCF	US\$ million
1. Support to the coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and consultations (\$1.61 M)	1.1. National Readiness Management Arrangements and activities (FDA)	1(a) National Readiness Management Arrangements	0.56
	1.2. Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups (FDA)	1(b) Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups	0.25
	1.3 Consultations & participation in REDD strategy development (FDA -implementation- and MPEA -coordination-)	1(c) Consultation and participation process	0.20
	1.4. Consultation and Participation Process SESA (EPA)	1(c) Consultation and Participation Process	0.40
	1.5. Strengthening national feedback and grievance redress mechanisms (FDA)	Included in 1(c) Consultation and Participation Process	0.20
2 Contribute to the design of the national REDD+ strategy (\$0.8 M)	2.1. Social and Environmental Impacts Assessments during Readiness Preparation (SESA) (EPA)	2(d) Social and Environmental Impacts (SESA)	0.40
	2.2 Finalization of the REDD+ Strategy (FDA -implementation- and MPEA -coordination-)	2(e) Finalisation of National REDD Strategy document (including	0.40

¹⁴ The Government is currently active in raising the remaining funds necessary to implement its overall REDD Readiness Process. The gap between the total amount requested for the R-PP (\$7,730,000) and the FCPF contribution will be financed by additional funds (other donors, new IDA, or additional FCPF funds). One possibility is to request \$5 million more to the FCPF at mid-term review. This is possible if: (i) the Participants Committee sees significant progress; (ii) the country has committed 50 percent or more of existing grant; (iii) the activities proposed are consistent with the R-PP; and (iv) there are sufficient resources in the Readiness Fund.

		partially financing of 2(b) REDD+ Strategy Options)	
3. Reference level or Scenario (\$0.6M)	3. Development of a Reference Level or Scenario (including Forest Cover Mapping and forest inventory in priority areas) (FDA)	3) Development Reference Level or Scenario	0.60
4. Project management (\$0.59)	4. Project Management (FDA)		0.59
TOTAL			3.60

IV. Safeguard Policies that might apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered (<i>please explain why</i>)	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01)	X		
<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. The SESA will help the Government of Liberia formulate their REDD+ strategy in a way that reflects inputs from key stakeholder groups and addresses the main environmental and social issues 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+. The future investments and carbon finance transactions will still require specific environmental and social assessments, but these will benefit from the strategy context created by the SESA and ESMF. The ESMF will include standing methods and procedures, along with appropriate institutional arrangements for screening, reviewing, implementing and monitoring specific ESMPs to prevent adverse impacts as well as cumulative impacts.</p>			
Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04)	X		
<p>This policy seeks to ensure that all options proposed in the National REDD+ Strategy 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, which will later be included in the ESMF.</p>			
Forests (OP/BP 4.36)	X		
<p>Overall, REDD+ activities are expected to have significant positive impacts on forest, in that the main goal of the program is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, while contributing to the well-being</p>			

Safeguard Policies Triggered (please explain why)	Yes	No	TBD
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.			
Pest Management (OP 4.09)			X
This policy could be triggered depending on the final scope of the National REDD+ Strategy. Agricultural intensification and reforestation activities, for instance, could trigger this policy, depending on the methods employed by concrete activities on the ground to manage pests. The SESA will address critical issues related to pest management, as necessary.			
Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11)			X
Some of the future project activities may affect physical cultural resources. Further investigation is being undertaken to determine if this policy would be triggered or not.			
Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10)		X	
This policy does not apply as there are no Indigenous Peoples in Liberia			
Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)	X		
REDD+ activities might trigger Involuntary Resettlement in situations involving involuntary restrictions of access to legally designated parks, protected areas, or forest management / reforestation areas. The policy aims to avoid involuntary resettlement to the extent feasible, or to minimize and mitigate its adverse social and economic impacts in cases where resettlement or other involuntary restrictions cannot be avoided. Through the SESA process, any issues related to land acquisition or involuntary resettlement will be identified, and a Resettlement Policy Framework and/or Process Framework will be prepared in addition to the ESMF.			
Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37)		X	
The REDD+ activities do not involve the construction of new or use of existing dams.			
Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50)		X	
The REDD+ activities do not involve international waterways.			
Projects in Disputed Areas (OP/BP 7.60)		X	
N/A			
Piloting the Use of Borrower Systems to Address Environmental and Social Safeguard Issues in Bank-Supported Projects (OP/BP 4.00)		X	
N/A			

V. Tentative financing

(\$m.)

Source:

Borrower/Recipient

N/A

IBRD

N/A

N/A IDA

N/A

Others (FCPF)

3.6

Total

3.6

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