



Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

TAP Review: Liberia's Readiness Package

Meeting of the Participants Committee (PC24)
Luang Prabang, Laos

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Milestones towards REDD+ Readiness

- Liberia started its engagement in REDD+ from 2008, and by 2012 it produced an R-PP
- Signed an agreement in 2014 with Norway - REDD+, sector support and future performance based payments
- Produced a National REDD+ Strategy Document in December 2016 and an R-Package in August 2017

Liberia's Vision on Strategic Priorities for REDD+ Interventions

- Strategic priority 1: Reduce forest loss from pit sawing, charcoal production and shifting agriculture
- Strategic priority 2: Reduce adverse impacts of commercial logging
- Strategic Priority 3: Complete plans to manage a network of Protected Areas
- Strategic Priority 4: Prevent or offset clearance of high carbon stock and high conservation value forests in agricultural and mining concessions.

Summary of the self-assessment results of Liberia

REDD READINESS COMPONENT AND SUB-COMPONENT	PROGRESS INDICATOR
Component 1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	
Sub-component 1a National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Yellow
Sub-component 1b Consultation, participation and outreach	Green
	Green
Component 2 REDD+ Strategy Preparation	
Sub-component 2a Assessment of land use, Land use changers, Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Green
Sub-component 2b REDD+ Strategy Options	Green
Sub-component 2c Implementation Framework	Yellow
Sub-component 2d Social and Environmental Impacts	Green
Component 3 Reference Emissions Level/ Reference Levels	Yellow
Component 4 Monitoring systems for Forests and Safeguards	
Sub-component 4a National Forest Monitoring System	Red
Sub-component 4b Information System for Multiple Benefits, other Impacts, Governance and Safeguards	Yellow

Key gaps identified from the self-assessment

- Provide more support for existing projects and improve the links between activities and clear outputs and outcomes;
- To complete work to produce a FGRM to guide the implementation of REDD+ in Liberia;
- To generate activity data to upgrade REL, and in the process comply with UNFCCC requirements, since data and information is a key challenge;
- Develop and operationalize a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) – key to carbon accounting and forest sector reporting,
- Design and establish national REDD+ registry;
- Establish a safeguard information system (SIS) and operationalize an (ESMF) in line with Cancun and Warsaw agreements under UNFCCC;
- Clarify the legal basis for carbon rights and benefit sharing within the context of REDD+;
- Further strengthen management capacity in lead agencies

Main Observations by the TAP (1)

- R-Package is clear and well articulated, conforms with the guidance of R-Package Assessment Framework;
- Progress and challenges against each of the 34 assessment criteria, are explained;
- Involved participation of the key stakeholders – despite the fact that the self-assessment took place over a relatively short period time; 4 weeks;
- Mitigation measures against identified challenges have been explained.

Main Observations by the TAP (2)

- Owing to its recent history dominated by civil strife, Liberia has a weak tradition of forest monitoring - the impending national forest inventory should set a new standard for organizational arrangements for a new monitoring approach;
- Despite many years in readiness preparation, the private sector and industry remain sceptical of the importance of REDD+;
- A proposal to convert the SESA Working Group into a safeguards monitoring unit has been made – commendable
- Liberia's reference period in the R-Package is 2005-2014, which is reasonable. However, it should include possibility of review, in view of the fact that data will be generated through the support of FAO and FCPE

Summary assessment and recommendations to Liberia (I)

Recognizing Liberia's progress towards REDD Readiness a few recommendations for consideration:

- While it is impressive that there are several MOUs with EPA, MOA, LISGIS, MLME, LLA and MoFDP – the R-Package is rather weak or silent on their practical implications or expectations. A plan to operationalize and sustain the cross sectoral collaboration and potential impacts is needed;
- A concerted effort on the part of the PIU, RTWG and the NCCSC to engage with the private sector is strongly advised given the large commercial interests in agriculture that the REDD+ will have to contend with in any future ER Program.
- The concept of deforestation offsets (Strategic Priority 2) requires practical interpretation and in this regard Liberia could benefit from countries such as Vietnam that have operationalized such off-sets.

Summary assessment and recommendations to Liberia (2)

- Liberia could consider using the National Climate Change Steering Committee to identify those likely policy and technological options that would transform its forest sector and enable it to increase ER without compromising development goals – this weakness is not limited to Liberia;
- Liberia should consider using proxy data or data that will be generated from the planned national inventory to estimate the emission reduction potentials of each of the four strategic priority options. This could help it set ER targets, in addition to being a tool to seek and influence funding decisions for an ER program;
- More clarity is needed on institutional roles as part of the preparation of National Forest Monitoring System;
- The TAP reinforces the recommendation in the self-assessment for the immediate development of a capacity development plan linked to the outcomes of the 4 strategic priorities described in the National REDD+ Strategy of 2017 .

Thank You!

