



# Consultation Report

## Technical Annex G

### Final Report

Consulting Services Contract For the Development of A National REDD+ Strategy for Liberia

November 2016

Technical Annex A – Draft REDD+ Strategy

Technical Annex B – REDD+ Roadmap

Technical Annex C – Forest cover and land use analysis

Technical Annex D – REDD+ Strategy Options

Technical Annex E – Cost-benefit analysis

Technical Annex F – Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework

**Technical Annex G – Consultation Report**

This Technical Annex is part of a set of reports produced by LTS & NIRAS as part of the 'Consulting Services Contract For the Development of A National REDD+ Strategy for Liberia' commissioned by the Forestry Development Authority as part of its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) Implementation Grant from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

The complete set of reports can be found here:

<http://www.ltsi.co.uk/projects/liberia-national-redd-strategy-consultation/>



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# 1. Background

There has already been substantial awareness raising and the national REDD+ communications strategy component aims to broadcast information to the general public as well as to a wide variety of interests. The REDD+ strategy, SESA and feedback/grievance mechanism contracts all have a consultation and communication component. This is a result of the importance given to stakeholder participation in the REDD+ process, and it requires that the consultants, the FDA and EPA coordinate their communications activities as far as possible, to make them efficient and to avoid confusion amongst the target audience.

Initial consultations by the REDD+ strategy team and others confirmed that the purpose of REDD+ and its benefits and costs are not well understood by stakeholders, other than those who are directly involved in the preparation of REDD+. In particular, the requirements for Liberia's REDD+ readiness process are not always well understood.

## 2. Consultation events

Fieldwork by members of the REDD+ Strategy Team has been treated as consultation events, with one-to-one and group meetings held with Liberian organizations, in order to gather information or test findings.

The main consultation events below have been held with civil society, government, private sector and a range of donors and donor-led projects/programs.

Date	Team Members	Topic
<b>29 June - 3 July</b>	Benoît Rivard David Rothe	Re-start of project post-Ebola and adjustment of inception and workplan
<b>5 - 17 October</b>	Grit Techel	Information gathering and consultation for cost-benefit analysis, including site visits and consultation with farmers and other land users.
<b>5 - 21 October</b>	Jan Fehse	Data collection and consultation for Feasibility/Barrier Analysis, including visits to local sites and consultation with land users.
<b>23 - 27 November</b>	Benoît Rivard David Rothe	Consultation on preliminary REDD+ strategy options and development of evidence base for priorities.
<b>Nov-Dec</b>	REDD+ Strategy	Circulation of summary of preliminary strategy options for consultation and feedback.
<b>22 - 29 January</b>	David Rothe	Consultation and presentation of preliminary strategy options at gathering of REDD+ interests for FDA Forest Definition workshop
<b>10 - 15 April</b>	Rachel Shibalira Jessica Troell	Information gathering and consultation for legal and policy framework analysis.
<b>10 - 15 April</b>	Benoît Rivard David Rothe	Consultation with FDA, EPA, RTWG and key partners of draft REDD+ Strategy Options and preparations for Roadmap
<b>11-15 July</b>	David Rothe	Consultation with a wide range of REDD+ stakeholders (75 participants, 18 of which were women) at a final strategy workshop.

## 3. Stakeholders

Stakeholder analysis has been done in earlier stages of the REDD+ readiness process and this will be updated as part of the REDD+ strategy component on communications and consultation. A variety of stakeholders were consulted in the preparation of all three Draft Reports – Land Use Analysis (DR-2a), REDD+ Strategy Options (DR-2b) and Policy, Legal and Institutional framework (DR-2c) (see Table 1).

Table 1 – Organizations and individuals consulted during the LTS-NIRAS team's in-country missions.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Government</b>		
Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), Suakoko	Monica Honore, Bong County Agricultural Coordinator	CARI is a semi-autonomous research agency of the Ministry of Agriculture.
FDA	Saah David, REDD+ coordinator Borwen Sayon, REDD+ Implementation Unit Blamah Goll, Conservation Department Samuel Weeks, Strategic Planning Unit Ephraim Swen, Procurement Edward Kamara, Commercial Department Philip Joekolo, Commercial Department Gertrude Nyaley, Community Development Joe Ndowero, Finance Unit Mark Gontor, Finance Unit FDA East Nimba Park Warden Ruth Varney, FDA Region 1 (Tubmanburg)	Joint-led government agency for REDD+ coordination and implementation (with EPA)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>EPA</b>	Zinnah Mulbah (SESA Coordinator) Anyaa Voihiri (Exec. Director) Ben Karmorh (National Climate Change coordinator) Jeremiah Sockan (NCCCS Coordinator) Senior Managers: Jerry Tito, Jonathan Davis, Thomson, Francis, Yelega	Joint-led government agency for REDD+ with FDA and provider of secretariat to the National Climate Change Committee. EPA is also the lead body for Liberia's National Adaptation Plan of Action and National Communications.
<b>Ministry of Agriculture</b>	Assistant Minister Hon. Chea Garley Deputy Minister Hon. Patrick Worzie Roland Lepol (Climate Change Adaptation project manager)	Hon. Garley led climate change representation for MoA.  Hon. Worzie leads team responsible for the 'Agenda for Agriculture' policy under development in 2016.
<b>Ministry of Land, Mines &amp; Energy</b>	Assistant Minister Samuel Sommerville Deputy Minister Stephen Dorbor	Government agency for mining concessions and energy, including renewable energy and biomass energy.
<b>Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection</b>	Deputy Minister Hon. Sienna Abdul-Baki	Ministry responsible with gender policy and engaged on gender aspects of national climate change policies and programs.
<b>Ministry of Finance and Development Planning</b>	Sidiki A. Quisia, Director of Regional and Sectoral Planning	Government agency responsible for financial aspects of forestry concessions, FDA funding, with interest in benefit sharing and in strategic land use planning and national development plan process.
<b>Bureau of Concessions</b>	Ciatta Bishop, Head of Bureau of Concessions	Government agency responsible for policy and monitoring of concessions and governance in relation to these.



<i>Organization</i>	<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Description</i>
LISGIS	Dr. T.E. Liberty, Director-General Thomas Davis, Head of GIS Mariah Gilayeneh, Head of Economic Statistics	National statistics and GIS center, including census, household survey and agricultural survey data.
Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve	Warden Two community members and farmers	
Land Commission	Stanley Toe, Senior Program Officer Mr. Sherman, Senior Program Officer: land use	Government commission charged with the development of land reform policy and legislation, and with resolving land disputes.
Nimba County Agricultural Office	Samual Kehleay, County Agricultural Coordinator George, District Agriculture Officer	
Suakoko District, Bong County	District Commissioner Two lead farmers	
	Augustine Jarrett, Principal Economic Advisor to the President	
<b>Civil society</b>		
ACDI/VOCA	David Parker, Chief of Party Letla Mosenene, Biodiversity Advisor	ACDI/VOCA is a private, non-profit organization that promotes broad-based economic growth and the development of civil society in emerging democracies and developing countries.
Camp 4	Farmers and project beneficiaries	Situated near East Nimba Nature Reserve
Charcoal Union	Richard Dorbor	Group of charcoal producers in Liberia.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Description</i>
Community Forestry Association Nimba & Gba	Say Thompson Austin Kai Eugene Suah	
Conservation International	Jessica Donovan-Allen, Country Director Liam Walsh, Technical Director Peter Mulbah, Policy Director	Lead INGO on palm oil and other concession-related conservation efforts. Experienced with Community based conservation agreements.  Consortium partner with Winrock International to prepare the Reference Level (R-PP implementation grant)
Farmers Union Network of Liberia	Mr Julius M. Bass, National Coordinator	
Fauna & Flora International	Janet Kerkulah, REDD+ Communications Project Manager  Josh Kempinski, REDD+ Project Advisor  Dr Mary Molokwu-Odozi, Country & Operations Manager  Shadrach Kerwillain, Project Manager	Lead INGO on REDD pilots, with extensive experience in and around Protected Areas.  Consortium partner with PCI Media Global to prepare the national REDD+ communications strategy (R-PP implementation grant).
Food and Enterprise Development (FED) Program	Agnes Luz, Chief of Party	FED is a USAID-funded project that promotes a move away from subsistence and increasing food security by working with public and private bodies, including the Government of Liberia, the private sector, local non-governmental groups, and other key stakeholders.
Forestry Training Institute, Tubmanburg	Director	
University of Liberia, Forestry Faculty	Prof. John T Woods	Head of Forestry faculty. Also representative on National Benefit Sharing Trust Board and former MD of FDA.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Description</i>
Green Advocates	Alfred Brownell, Director	The Association of Environmental Lawyers of Liberia (Green Advocates) is a not-for-profit public interest environmental law organization.
GROW	Kelvin Doesieh, Portfolio Manager	GROW is an innovative market development initiative with a mission to make agricultural markets work better to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Liberia.
Liberian Chainsaw and Timber Dealers Union (LICSATDUN)	Julius Kamara Arthur T. Karnbeye	The LICSATDUN is a Non-Governmental Organization established in 2008 to help coordinate the activities of chain sawyers in harvesting timbers for domestic and commercial purposes while observing practices on sustainable forest management as provided for in the forest law of Liberia.
NGO Coalition	Joseph D. Kennedy, Team Leader	Civil society independent forest monitoring for VPA.
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Anne Gardner, Project Manager GolaMa. Nicolas Tubs, Program Manager, West Africa	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds works to promote conservation and protection of birds and the wider environment through public awareness campaigns, petitions and through the operation of nature reserves throughout the United Kingdom and around the world.
Sherman Farm	Manager  Community members  Pit sawyers  Farmers	
Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia	Michael Garbo, Executive Director	The Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) is Liberia's oldest conservation organization. They promote the conservation and wise use of Liberia's natural resources to ensure a healthy environment and good quality life for all people.
Sustainable Development Institute	Jonathan Yiah Silas Kpanan'Ayoung Siakor	Community rights and environmental sustainability advocates. SDI are sub-contractors on SESA project.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Description</i>
Timber Association	Rudolph Merab and representatives from EJ&J (Mrs Eliza Koryanh)  Mandra Forestry (Augustine Johson)  Tutex (John Deah)	Local trade association for the timber industry.
Wild Chimp Foundation	Dervla Dowd, Country Director	WCF is the lead INGO working on the Tai-Grebo-Sapo biodiversity corridor.
World Resources Institute	Joel Gamys, Global Forest Watch National Coordinator for Liberia	Data identification for WRI forest change mapping/monitoring
<b>Private sector</b>		
ArcelorMittal Liberia	Wing Crawley, Biodiversity Coordinator	ArcelorMittal Liberia was launched in 2006, when a 25-year Mineral Development Agreement to mine iron ore was signed between the Government of Liberia and ArcelorMittal.
Atlantic Logging	John Baxter, General Manager	Logging concession holder in Sinoe/SE and participant in VPA field-trials.
Carpentry firm in Monrovia	Fatu Addy, Owner	
	James Smyle, Forestry policy consultant	
SGS	Clinton Bambridge, LiberTrace Project Manager	SGS is a multinational company which provides inspection, verification, testing and certification services, and is a VPA Implementing Support Partner.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>TetraTech</b>	Paul Meadows, Chief of Party Eugene Cole, Deputy Chief of Party Peter Aldinger, Community Forestry Adviser. Ian Deshmukh, former SESA Team Leader Vaneska Litz, current SESA Team Leader Ruth Golombok, Consultant	TetraTech is provider of consulting, engineering, program management, construction management and technical services worldwide. They are the contract holder for the PROSPER community forestry projects and the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) under the R-PP implementation grant.
<b>PCI Media Global</b>		
<b>Wienco Liberia</b>	Wouter van Koppen	Wienco Liberia is engaged in the import and distribution of high quality fertilizers and crop protection products for cocoa trees in Liberia, as well as the purchase and export of dry cocoa beans from smallholder farmers. The Company is located at Monrovia with offices in Bong, Nimba and Lofa counties.
<b>Winrock</b>	Katie Goslee, Forest Carbon Specialist	
<b>Donors and International NGOs</b>		
<b>Food and Agriculture Organisation</b>	Kolly Soko Allison, Forest Farm Facility Facilitator	The Forest and Farm Facility funds partnership agreements and small grants with smallholder, women, community and Indigenous Peoples' producer organizations and governments at local, national, regional and international levels.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>FLEGT-VPA Support Unit</b>	Abraham Guillen, Team Leader Tim Richards, GIS Expert Wolfgang Thoma Oone Burke Johnson (FLEGT Facilitator)	The VPA Support Unit works with the Forestry Development Authority, the Liberian Implementation Committee, and relevant private sector and civil society organizations.
<b>Norway</b>	Arild Skedsmo, Senior Adviser for NICFI	Project Lead on LFSP and Norway-Liberia letter of intent.
<b>USAID</b>	Jennifer Talbot, Head Natural Resources and Economic Development	USAID is a major funder and influence in the forestry sector, agriculture and economic development.
	Eugene Cole, Deputy Chief of Party (PROSPER) Paul Meadows, Chief of Party (PROSPER)	People, Rules, and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources (PROSPER) is a 5-year \$9 million USAID-funded project that introduces, operationalizes and refines appropriate models for community management of forest resources for local self-governance and enterprise development.
<b>United States Forest Service (International Program)</b>	Jerry Garteh, USFS Advisor	Project to collate and review evidence of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
<b>World Bank</b>	Gerardo Segura Warnholtz, Senior Rural Development Specialist Neeta Hooda, Senior Carbon Finance Specialist Catherine Anderson, Liberia Lead on LFSP	Members of World Bank team for design of Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP).

## 4. Implications for the REDD+ strategy

### 4.1 Influencing the draft reports

Consultation with the REDD Implementation Unit at FDA, EPA and a wide range of stakeholders influenced the development of the REDD+ strategy draft report and supporting studies in a number of ways:

1. The strategy should take a broad and flexible approach to drivers and hence strategy options, recognizing the uncertainty that surrounds present and future land use and recognizing that different problems and solutions will apply in different areas.
2. The strategy should support a 'learning by doing approach', encouraging practical projects and including a strong feedback loop with implementation, monitoring and verification, so that the strategic options can be refined in the light of real-life experience of effective interventions.
3. The strategy should engage other sectors beyond forestry and the arrangements for its ownership and management should reflect this cross-government approach.
4. The financial case for REDD+, relative to conventional land uses options, is particularly important and should be emphasized in the strategy preparation and subsequent approach.
5. The strategy and accompanying road map should give a strong guide to the process of REDD+; defining the destination, the route to get there and the milestones along the way.
6. The road map should be a practical tool for coordination, setting out who is doing what and the remaining gaps.

The development of the World Bank's Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP) at the same time as the REDD+ strategy created the opportunity for information sharing with the World Bank team developing the LFSP, as well as Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI). The LFSP will form a major part of the implementation of the REDD+ strategy and

has therefore been an important source of information on interventions and institutional arrangements. The LFSP focuses on Protected Areas, community livelihoods in targeted landscapes and sustainable agriculture for smallholders, as well as on capacity for forest governance in the FDA. The adoption of a landscape or 'jurisdictional' approach in the LFSP is in keeping with the practical, 'learning by doing' emphasis in the REDD+ strategy. It also requires that the strategy integrates sub-national actions with national REDD+ objectives.

Regular communication with the other R-PP Implementation Grant contracts and the generous sharing of data, references, initial findings and draft reports amongst the consultants has helped to ensure that the Strategy has been informed by these other teams. The various contracts, with the LFSP preparation, has significantly strengthened the evidence base for a national REDD+ Strategy, through the gathering, cleaning and analysis of available data. It has also clarified the substantial gaps that remain in the data required, which can be addressed in the Road Map that will accompany the REDD+ strategy.

The 'Forest Definitions' event run by FDA in January 2016 was a valuable occasion for sharing information with REDD+ stakeholders and for validating the rationale behind the emerging REDD+ strategy priorities. This led to a stronger baseline for the strategy, with a clearer definition of what is to be regarded as forest and hence deforestation. The event also led to more attention being given to the forest enhancement, which is not an obvious national priority because Liberia is still heavily forested. However, in relatively deforested areas such as Lofa, reforestation appears to be an opportunity that the Strategy should support through a pilot demonstration approach.

Consultations at County level with land users and civil society organizations provided valuable insight for the cost-benefit analysis and feasibility analysis of the REDD+ strategy options. The risks to food security and incomes of people are denied access to the forest resources on which they depend were highlighted; an issue that was also highlighted in the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and reflected in the REDD+ strategy options report (DR-2b) through the emphasis that is placed in "fairness and sustainability" as a fifth pillar or strategic priority.

The SESA team made a comprehensive assessment of the draft REDD+ Strategy Options based on the issues documented in their extensive consultations with stakeholders at all levels across the country. Annex 1 provides the detailed revisions and rationale for them.



## 4.2 Influencing the draft strategy

A national REDD+ strategy consultation was held on 14 July 2016 with a range of REDD+ stakeholders from civil society, government, academia and private sector. The purpose of the consultation was twofold:

- i) To allow participants to focus on the priorities and comment on some of the key topics like incentives for land use change, contribution to wider development goals and short and long term priorities
- ii) To raise the understanding of the interventions for implementing the REDD+ Strategy. To invite comments on interventions and on two key components of implementation; benefit sharing and coordination.

The following sub-sections are notes from the consultations that have been taken into consideration when finalizing the Final Report (with draft national REDD+ strategy and roadmap).

### 4.2.1 Priorities

- The short term and long term priorities table was challenged by participants. It was not seen as helpful because the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation vary in different parts of the country. If REDD+ implementation is sub-national then national priorities are less relevant. However, it was suggested that we keep the diagnosis of which land uses are likely to result in the quickest losses. For example, palm oil plantations are likely to be the greatest short term loss of forest in the LFSP landscapes.

### 4.2.2 Community benefits

- Needs clearer account of how communities will benefit, what communities, in what ways. Try to identify 'quick wins' for communities.
- Include text on Gender, as subset of community, possible referring to gender provision in LFSP and SESA. What is the provision in the implementation arrangements for equity (link to pillar 5)?

### 4.2.3 Voluntary Partnership Agreement

- Strategy should encourage at least one model of a successful logging concession to be established and observed; in other words, a logging concession that is a REDD+ pilot. This pilot would/should include:

- Full application of Chain of Custody (CoC) and Legality Assurance System (LAS) to uphold current logging standards;
- Forest inventory and 25 year management plan;
- Monitoring of economic effects;
- Measurement of impact on forest;
- Effective Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM), including social agreements, with "closed loop" system for funds for affected communities, bypassing Ministry of Finance control and with speeded up system of National Benefit Sharing Trust Board (NBSTB).
- Commitment to fund additional investment to an amount equivalent to the expected value of reduced emissions.
- Need a clear mechanism for VPA to connect REDD+, perhaps in the form of a joint project between the REDD+ Implementation Unit (RIU) and Legality Verification Department (LVD).
- Additional minor notes include:
  - Forest that should be set aside within FMC is being harvested; e.g. on slopes >30%.
  - Logging tends to be within allowable cut ( $30 \text{ m}^3/\text{ha} = 6\text{-}10 \text{ trees/ha}$ ), mainly because there are not enough value logs.
  - Two checks on companies going outside of permitted cut areas; Chain of Custody and communities looking to benefit from social agreement of 3 km boundary moves towards them.
  - Charcoal study not going ahead. Rests with FDA.
  - Building markets component of pit sawing study is 2 months in. Finds that Monrovia market is driving industry. Margibi particularly affected.
  - Principal "incentive" desired by companies end to costs of corruption. E.g. ICC have \$1 million held in port by requirements for additional payments.

#### 4.2.4 Agriculture

- Strategic context section should include reference to the agenda for agriculture (comment from Deputy Min. Worzie who is leading team)
- Emphasize the importance of accompanying the agricultural component of REDD+ (\$4m in LFSP) with large agricultural projects in Liberia; e.g. SAPEC \$52M, WAPP \$21M, STC \$5m, LADA, FED was \$80M). Recognize that mainstream agriculture projects tend to be focused geographical on the less forested central belt. The approach under REDD will tend to prioritize shifting agriculture, conservation agriculture and small tree crops; e.g LFSP emphasizes small tree crops and conservation agriculture (STC and WAPP method)

- The strategy should also include the decentralization agenda and policy, including an explanation of how the jurisdictional (or nested) approach to REDD+ fits in with this. How does a decentralized approach help communities (compared to 'top-down' REDD)?

#### 4.2.5 Geography

- The strategy needs a sharper description of the geography, in terms of the nested approach, the targeting of interventions, the MRV and BSM all being organized for these areas. What does this mean for the interventions and for community benefits? More clarity is needed on what the essential 'national' components of REDD+ are.
- The priority of the strategy should be to try different approaches in different places and see what works. Organizations need space to experiment, which may lead to failure or successes. The core of the strategy is to encourage and support pilot demonstration projects, while the role of REDD/RIU is to coordinate initiatives, document their experiences (lessons, successes, etc.) and share with other initiatives to ensure that best practices are established and refined over time.
- It was suggested that we check the description of how different strategic priorities and strategy options support one another. For example, Priority 1 measures are applicable everywhere within the accessible forest zone created by settlements and roads and are necessary for the success of set-aside and sustainable logging in priorities 3 and 4. Priorities 2 and 4 lead to forest areas being set-aside in logging and agricultural concessions. A strategy for bringing this set-aside forest under protection needs to be part of priority 3 - Protected Areas.

#### 4.2.6 Institutional arrangements

- There was a healthy discussion about the status of RIU, as well as the role and procedures of the REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG). The RIU as a separate entity shared with EPA is not recognized in LFSP diagram.
- Another question that arose was whether the RTWG advise the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) or the RIU? This was less of an issue for the REDD+ strategy itself, which should stay at level of working with that adopted for LFSP, which may evolve.

#### 4.2.7 Research/Academia

- The University of Liberia remarked that the research and academia communities are 'marginalized'. FDA requested a response to this comment, and so we will be sure to include some text in the strategy to stress the importance and role of research, training and consultants in landscapes, as well as curriculum development, skills development, graduate scholarships and service delivery agreements with learning Institutions.

## 4.2.8 Benefit Sharing Mechanism

- NBSTB have considered a total of nine project applications, all of which were relatively small for a \$1 million fund. All project applications have gone back to the applicants for further revisions.
- Project approval criteria is based on procurement rules. VPA have produced guidelines. There is currently no sustainability rules in the project-approval criteria. But such criteria, and potentially REDD+ criteria, could be applied to allow NBST to be used for REDD funds. For example, it is thought that the existing BSM for forestry is a feasible starting place for a REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism, although it has substantial problems. These are particularly to do with the difficulty of releasing funds from Ministry of Finance and then the slowness of the project funding process. Experience in Wonegizi and opinion of those at consultation event is that communities prefer a localized BSM, and one that supports projects (such as sustainable agriculture) rather than disbursing money directly (because of the high risk of conflict and mis-use of cash benefits).

## 5. REDD+ Strategy and Roadmap Validation Process

After an ongoing interaction between LTS-Niras and the SESA team throughout the course of these respective contracts, a final set of recommendations was provided to LTS-Niras that would make the REDD+ Strategy Options reflective of the social and environmental risks identified through SESA's consultations. Similarly, a last set of comments were received from civil society organizations before the REDD+ Strategy Validation Event.

On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the FDA organized a REDD+ Strategy Validation Event where previous participants from the REDD+ Strategy Consultation Workshop (July 2016) were invited to assess whether their contributions were incorporated into the revised REDD+ Strategy and Roadmap documents. These revisions were presented to the participants, and following discussion on some key issues – benefit sharing mechanisms, strategy review process, actions-based roadmap, to name a few – representatives from key stakeholder groups validated the Strategy and Roadmap on the condition that these key issues were better incorporated into the documents.

FDA then commissioned a working group comprised of these representatives to validate these final revisions to the Strategy and Roadmap. The World Bank then revised the final versions of the Strategy and Roadmap to give its 'no objection'.

Annex 2 summarizes the comments from the July 2016 stakeholder consultation workshop, the final SESA adjustments to the REDD+ Strategy Options, comments from civil society and from the final validation event.

## Annex 1 – Results from SESA revisions

### Priority 1

Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options	Revision	Rationale for revision
<i>Priority 1. Support the sustainable use of forests by communities; to prevent expansion of shifting agriculture and other small-scale activities degrading and clearing areas of highest value forest.</i>	<i>Priority 1. Reduce forest loss from pit sawing, charcoal production and shifting agriculture.</i>	<p>Reduce implication that communities are the problem. Recognize that that activities are often carried out by outsiders, with or without consent of community.</p> <p>Specify the drivers to be addressed – pit sawing, charcoal and shifting agriculture. Focus on small scale commercial activities, not subsistence.</p> <p>Focus on reducing the expansion of these activities, not on reducing historic levels of use which were largely sustainable.</p>

Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options	Revision	Rationale for revision
1.1 Locate services and new infrastructure development in low carbon/less-dense forest areas.	Moved to become number 1.4. 1.4 Locate services and new infrastructure development in non-forest and less-dense forest areas <sup>1</sup> .	<p>This is 'demoted' as it addresses an indirect driver and there is no direct evidence to suggest that centralizing services would reduce forest loss. However, degradation is strongly associated with settlements and roads and is it valuable to engage mainstream economic development sectors and plans with REDD+, is why it is retained as a strategy option.</p> <p><b>SESA</b></p> <p>The SESA recommends possible adjustment to reduce risk that location of services/infrastructure outside of dense forest areas will restrict possibilities for alternative livelihoods for forest-using communities.</p> <p>SESA also highlights need to define forest and evidence the link between development location and reduction of forest use.</p>
1.2 Restrict road-building in densely forested areas, particularly >80% forest cover areas.	Deleted	<p>An indirect driver which opens up forest to pit sawing etc. Can include as an aspect of former 1.1 (now 1.4)</p> <p>Unnecessary in protected areas where road building would in any case be restricted.</p> <p>Antagonistic to communities as presented.</p> <p>Most road building in sensitive areas (in short-medium term) is likely to be by loggers and agric. concessions Cannot impose higher standards than in contract so can only do by consent. Public road building is covered by 1.1.</p>

<sup>1</sup> "Less dense" forest is forest <80% canopy cover. "Non-forest" is <30% canopy cover. Dense forest is defined as >80% canopy cover, following the Liberia Forest Definition.

Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options	Revision	Rationale for revision
1.3 Increase the area and productivity of non-forest land under permanent food and cash crops, to reduce the expansion of shifting agriculture.	Same	<p><b>SESA</b></p> <p>Emphasizes need to prove effectiveness of such interventions and need to focus on a limited geography to demonstrate impact.</p> <p>Suggests that this is at best a complementary measure to other livelihood measures for those who are displaced from concessions, PAs, or for population growth.</p>
1.4 Manage small-scale logging (pit sawing) to minimize impact on high carbon stock forest.	Becomes 1.1 Manage pit sawing (chain saw logging) to reduce impact on forest.	<p>This is 'promoted' because pit sawing appears to be a major consumer of forest. Reference to HCS is removed as this is not specifically catered for in planned MRV for REDD.</p> <p><b>Adjustments from SESA</b></p> <p>Measures to include improvement to efficiency of pit sawing.</p> <p>Include in strategy aim/policy of avoiding indirect impacts from displaced/restricted activities. E.g. if people lose charcoal or pit sawing income, what do they do instead?</p>
1.5 Manage charcoal production to reduce impact on high carbon stock forest and establish sustainable sources and levels of production.	Becomes 1.2 Reduce impact of charcoal industry on forest through better regulation, improved efficiency and the development of alternatives energy sources.	<p>Include measures to strictly control export.</p> <p><b>Adjustments from SESA</b></p> <p>Focus on urban demand. Include in implementation plan measures to develop alternative energy sources, so that demand for charcoal is reduced.</p> <p>SESA suggests that target group for alternative livelihood interventions should be low-skilled and marginal people who have to use the forest as a free resource.</p>



Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options	Revision	Rationale for revision
1.6 Enforce existing hunting laws.	Becomes 1.5 Integrate hunting, artisanal mining and forest restoration into community-led livelihood and sustainable forest management practices.	<p>Impact of this forest cover and activity data will not be measurable.</p> <p>No evidence of link between hunting and forest.</p> <p>Better covered by specific biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>Main argument for is that it would contribute to creating general climate of law enforcement in forests. Also, REDD interventions require a package of PES income streams. Biodiversity is an important one and so maintenance of biodiversity in forests is important as a complementary measure. To be recognized in strategy but implemented through biodiversity programs.</p> <p>Policies for PAs already covers hunting so additionality would only be in non-PAs, but monitoring enforcement cost of this is likely to be excessive relative to REDD benefits.</p> <p><b>SESA</b></p> <p>Warns of potential emissions from livestock rearing as alternative to hunting. i.e. possibility to add to rather than reduce emissions.</p>

Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options	Revision	Rationale for revision
1.7 Manage artisanal and small-scale mining to avoid areas of highest conservation value forest and to minimize impact on other forest areas.	Replaced by 1.5 (above)	<p>As with hunting, the main benefit of this would be to contribute to better forest governance generally.</p> <p>No evidence of significant impact on forest cover.</p> <p>But reason for keeping this is to engage sector in forest management and to encourage research/demonstration projects for a potentially important direct driver.</p> <p>The purpose of the new SO 1.5 is to integrate these activities into community-based livelihood and sustainable forest management arrangements, so that they can continue as livelihoods but are managed in terms of environmental impact. The purposes is to establish integrated forest management and to demonstrate/test actions.</p>
1.8 Develop pilot reforestation and afforestation projects in degraded or deforested areas surrounding settlements and roads, to provide forest resources for communities and to relieve pressure on dense forest and Protected Areas.	Replaced by 1.5	<p><b>SESA</b></p> <p>Keep small-scale, because of limited evidence of viability.</p> <p>Include FPIC to ensure customary rights of individuals and communities are protected.</p> <p>Relate to planning of services/infrastructure and other concessions so as to earmark sites for reforestation.</p>

## Priority 2

Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options	Revision	Rationale for revision
<i>Priority 2. Reduce impact of logging in Forest Management Contract and Community Forest Management Agreement areas.</i>	<i>Priority 2. Reduce impact of commercial logging.</i>	Revised to include all concessions; FMC, CFMA, PUP and TSC.
2.1 Ensure that all industrial logging is practiced to high conservation standards in keeping with national regulations and international standards such as Forest Stewardship Council, so that impact on carbon stock and biodiversity is minimized.	2.1 Ensure that all industrial logging is practiced to high conservation standards, so that loss of forest and biodiversity is minimized.	<p>Must assume that standards other than national regulations cannot be imposed on existing contracts, although standards could be raised for future concessions. Reference to FSC standard is dropped because further work needs to be done to assess the suitability of this and other standards for Liberia.</p> <p><b>SESA</b></p> <p>Warned that there may be no legal basis for imposing additional conditions on existing concession contracts.</p>
2.2 Conserve areas of highest conservation value within commercial forestry concessions, such as important wildlife corridors, from all timber operations and road-building.	2.2 Conserve and maintain areas of high conservation value within commercial forestry concessions, such as important wildlife corridors.	<p>This may be achieved through 2.1. E.g. Principle 9 of FSC requires HCV to be defined and protected.</p> <p><b>Adjustments from SESA</b></p> <p>Recommended change of wording from "conserve" to "manage and maintain", to allow sustainable logging in these areas. This recommendation is rejected because the intention is that the conserved areas are of highest conservation value and should therefore be protected from all timber operations.</p> <p>Include in implementation plan complementary measure to conserve set-aside forest (using priority 1 measures).</p>

Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options	Revision	Rationale for revision
		<p>Include in implementation plan the aim of integrating plans across landscape scale so that plans/actions are not fragmented by site.</p> <p>Needs focus on CFMA and specific measures.</p>
	<p>SO added:</p> <p>2.3 Review Timber Sales Contracts that have not been cleared to ensure compliance with forestry law and EIA standards and establish a strong presumption against further TSC contracts on dense forest and within 5km of Protected Areas.</p>	<p>TSC were previously covered under strategic priority 4, on the basis that they were a cause of deforestation, like palm oil and mining. Comments from SESA prompted shift to section 2 on commercial forestry, to avoid confusion by placing all measures regarding forestry concessions together.</p>
	<p>SO Added:</p> <p>2.4 Prevent unregulated pit sawing and charcoal production within forestry concessions.</p>	<p>Response to information suggesting that this was a significant problem in concession areas and to feedback that strategy should recognize the overlap between community and commercial forest uses.</p>
	<p>SO added:</p> <p>2.5 Manage commercial forestry in community forests larger than 1,000 ha.<sup>2</sup> to achieve sustainable logging standards as apply to FMCs.</p>	<p>Added to give explicit focus on community forests, in response to comments from RTWG and from SESA.</p>

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<sup>2</sup> The area of 1,000 ha is proposed on the grounds that it is a significant and measurable area. It is the area intended as the upper limit for private forests that are not subject to the full range of forestry regulations, although current law and regulations are not fully clear on this.

## Priority 3

Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options	Revision	Rationale for revision
<i>Priority 3. Complete and protect a network of Protected Areas, including existing and Proposed Protected Areas and proposed conservation priority areas.</i>		
3.1 Complete the Protected Areas Network and strengthen management to prevent forest degradation	same	<p>SESA</p> <p>Emphasize co-management approach with communities, private sector, NGOs.</p>
3.2 Expand the Protected Areas Network by adding conservation priority areas, to achieve the 30% conservation commitment.	3.2 Expand the Protected Areas Network to conserve 30% of forest land.	Remove reference to conservation Priority Areas (as proposed by Junkers et al), to allow wider range of potential conservation status; e.g. KBAs, HCS/HCV set aside in concessions)
3.3 Reduce pressure on PAs from surrounding communities (using priority 1 measures).	same	<p>SESA</p> <p>Identify need for and specify complementary measures to assist communities who lose land or livelihood by expansion of PAs.</p>
	<p>SO Added</p> <p>3.4 Develop and implement land use plans at landscape scale, to integrate production and conservation in a way that maximizes economic, social and environmental benefits.</p>	<p>Added in response to comments, including from SESA, that SO for protected areas needed to be integrated better with the other priorities, to reduce the risk that conservation and livelihood/commercial policies and measures would operate in isolation. Thus the use of landscape level planning should be a cross-cutting theme or approach that covers commercial, community and conservation activities.</p>

## Priority 4

Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options	Revision	Rationale for revision
<i>Priority 4. Prevent or offset clearance of high carbon stock and high conservation value forest in agricultural and mining concession.</i>		
4.1 Conserve HCV/HCS forest within agricultural concession areas (e.g. uphold RSPO and equivalent standards). This includes developing and implementing a policy for the sustainable management of these conserved areas (using priority 1 measures)	4.1 Conserve HCS-HCV forest within agricultural concession areas, including developing and implementing a policy for the sustainable management of these conserved areas (using priority 1 measures)	<p><b>SESA</b></p> <p>Suggest specifying which RSPO standards for HCV/HCS are to be applied.</p> <p>Response to this is that it is premature to define the standard in this strategy. Work on this is ongoing and further work is required (and planned) to assess the suitability of different first classifications and management standards.</p>
4.2 Apply same conservation standards to all concessions involving forest clearance, including Timber Sale Contracts, and mineral development concessions, including out growers and private plantations with holdings larger than 10 hectares.	4.2 Apply policy of conserving HCS-HCV forest to all agricultural concessions, including private farms larger than 1,000 hectares.	<p>TSC deleted as fits better with priority 2 - Forestry (original logic of including it in this category was to treat all deforestation activities together).</p> <p><b>SESA</b></p> <p>Commented that 10ha farm size was impractically small. Size of private farms therefore increased to 1000 ha as this is a more practical/cost-effective size for EIA and for monitoring. It is also in keeping with the size associated with private use forests in the existing forestry regulations.</p> <p>Remove mining and treat separately, to avoid confusion between agricultural and mining international standards and expectations of zero-deforestation versus zero net deforestation with offsetting</p>

Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options	Revision	Rationale for revision
4.3 Ensure that mining and other deforesting land uses result in zero-net deforestation, through mechanisms such as biodiversity offsets.	4.3 Ensure that mining result in zero-net deforestation, through mechanisms such as biodiversity offsets.	Remove "other deforesting land uses" as not specific and agriculture and mining are the two identified as principal drivers.
4.4 Allocate future mining and other concessions resulting in forest clearance to low carbon/less dense forest areas.	4.4 Locate future large-scale agriculture and mining concessions in less dense and non-forest areas.	Minor change or wording. The terms less dense and non-forest are defined according to forest definition: 30-80% canopy cover = less dense and <30% canopy cover = non-forest.

## Priority 5

Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options	Revision	Rationale for revision
<i>Priority 5. Fair and sustainable benefits from REDD+</i>		
5.1 Define carbon rights and develop policies and regulations for upholding these.	Same	
5.2 Establish benefit sharing mechanisms for REDD+, in harmony with those operating in the forestry, mining, agriculture and other relevant sectors.	Same	
5.3 Operate a robust monitoring, reporting and verification system for demonstrating reductions in emissions achieved through REDD+ policies.	Same	
5.4 Invest national REDD income in activities that are economically sustainable as well as socially and environmentally responsible.	Deleted	Deleted as not possible to specify at this stage what policies and measures would be needed to meet this strategy.
5.6 Research and test longer-term REDD+ solutions, including forest enhancement.	Deleted	This was a generic 'catch all' SO to promote activities such as restoration which have an unknown potential impact on REDD at this stage. Deleted because it was not specific enough. Instead, activities for artisanal mining, hunting and forest enhancement have been included in SO 1.5, as livelihood options that should be tested and demonstrated in the context of community-level forest management.



## Annex 2 – Summary of final revisions

Up to and following Validation Event  
on 15 September 2016

Comment	Response
<b>July consultations</b>	
Priorities: Re-do short/long term priorities to avoid appearance that long term are less important.	Short\long term priorities table and text in <b>Strategy</b> (2.2.2) replaced by graphic of the likely trajectory of the main drivers. This shows that Planned forest conversion for oil palm and Timber Sales Contracts is likely to result in a significant increase in emissions from forest in the next 5-15 years. Unplanned activities such as pit sawing, charcoal and shifting agriculture are likely to increase emissions more gradually but exponentially.
Community benefits: Clarify how communities will benefit and importance of effective, locally-designed benefit sharing mechanisms.	Additional section on contribution to local communities added to <b>Strategy</b> text (4.3). Text on SO option 5 amended to stress importance of benefit sharing and benefits to those most affected by interventions.
VPA: Strategy should encourage at least one model of a logging concession (FMC) that is practicing Reduced Impact Logging and is assessing REDD+ potential.	Identified as a gap in <b>Roadmap</b> , with a recommendation to establish at least one pilot/demonstration scheme (2.2.1). Requirements for this pilot are described.

Comment	Response
Agriculture: Strengthen links to new Agenda for Agriculture and large agric. projects that can contribute to REDD+.	Text on relevance of REDD+ to agriculture sector/strategies in <b>Strategy</b> (4.1). In <b>Roadmap</b> , additional measures to map and plan REDD+ potential in large agricultural estates and to develop approach to conserving forest set-aside for conservation (2.4.1)
Research/Academia: Needs more emphasis.	Section added to <b>Roadmap</b> (2.5.6) on role of research institutions: Emphasizes the importance of research and training, as well as noting the provision within LFSP for curriculum development, skills development, graduate scholarships and service delivery agreements with learning Institutions.
SESA Adjustments	
<p>Strategy Option 1: More specific guidance on research and types of interventions required, and inclusion of other drivers such as firewood and use of mangroves.</p> <p>Clarify how lessons from projects and pilots etc. will be used to refine strategy; e.g. on what types of interventions are effective in supporting sustainable forest use by communities.</p>	<p>Text added to section 3.2.1. of <b>Strategy</b> emphasizing the importance of research. <b>Roadmap</b> (section 2.1.1) identifies planned research on charcoal/firewood within workplans for LFSP, jointly with VPA. Text added to <b>Roadmap</b> to include need to "Identify forest types and areas particularly vulnerable to loss from charcoal, firewood or timber production, including coastal mangrove forests" (2.1.2).</p> <p>New section in Roadmap to outline review/updating timing and procedures, linked to MRV, ESMF, LFSP etc.(4.5)</p>

Comment	Response
<p>SO2: Be more specific about the standards that are to be applied to ensure sustainable commercial logging and to safeguard some forest for conservation.</p> <p>Reduce size threshold for EIA screening down to any commercial forestry larger than 50ha. not 1,000 ha as proposed.</p>	<p>Revisions to text in <b>Strategy</b> and <b>Roadmap</b> to emphasize that the Norway-Liberia Letter of Intent calls for work to develop standards for Reduced Impact Logging. We do not want to pre-empt this review by specifying standards in Strategy.</p> <p>Text in <b>Strategy</b> amended to clarify that EIA screening will be done on any commercial forestry over 50ha. This identifies which then require full control under forestry regulations as applies to large FMCs, TSCs etc.</p>
<p>SO3: Adopt biodiversity landscape approach.</p> <p>Explain more how communities affected by expansion of PAN and restriction on forest use will be affected and helped to develop livelihoods.</p>	<p>Text describing the location and scale of the various project-level interventions is described more clearly in <b>Roadmap</b>.</p> <p>The Strategy Options are at a high level (e.g. expand the network to 30%) so do not define whether a Biodiversity Landscape Approach or other approach should be taken. The <b>Roadmap</b> identifies the need for a strategy for reviewing/expanding the PA network and proposes an additional measure to address this (2.3.1). This would be the place to consider and potentially adopt a biodiversity landscape approach.</p> <p>Managing the impact on communities needs to be addressed through the implementation of the projects that contribute to the strategy (guided by application of the ESMF). This would include the proposed general review/strategy for PAs recommended in the Roadmap and the PA measures contained in the LFSP.</p>

Comment	Response
<p>SO4: Clarify RSPO, HCV and HCS standards to be applied to palm oil and other agricultural concessions.</p> <p>Reduce size limit for EIA screening and potential application of 'zero-deforestation' policy down to agric. concessions above 50ha, not 1,000 ha</p> <p>Define more clearly the approach to be taken to achieving forest conservation in mining sector.</p>	<p><b>Roadmap</b> text revised to refer to zero deforestation commitment in Letter of Intent, rather than RSPO (section 2.4), and national TFA 2020 process for interpretation of oil palm standard of zero net deforestation.</p> <p>The <b>Roadmap</b> includes recommendations for mapping and policy development for Strategy options on mining (4.2, 4.3 and 4.4.) and refers to the need to act on the existing study/proposal for a national offsetting policy. Until this policy development work is done it is premature to define how offsetting, avoidance of critical habitat etc. should be done (2.4.1)</p>
<p>SO5: Benefit sharing systems should recognize the particular needs of those who are displaced from their livelihoods by forest conservation measures in any sector.</p>	<p>Text in <b>Strategy</b> added to emphasize that mechanisms should always explicitly consider ways to provide benefits to those that are disadvantaged (3.2.5)</p>
Civil society comments	

*[NB: the comments were based on early versions of preliminary strategy objectives and without sight of the Roadmap].*

Insufficient attention paid to land rights issues and pending Land Rights Act.

- As a barrier to livelihoods and communities participating in REDD

- And as an issue that needs resolving before carbon trading and REDD+ initiatives can go ahead.

**Strategy** section 3.2.1 on theory of change highlights community management of forest resources as the key to reducing forest loss.

**Roadmap** section 2.5.1 emphasizes importance of land rights in defining carbon rights, and the UNFCCC guidance that land tenure issues are addressed in national REDD+ Strategies.

Section 4.1 on strengthening the legal & policy framework highlights the Community Rights Law amongst legislation that needs to be enacted & harmonized with other policy/regulations. Text added to increase emphasis on importance of land rights. Notes gaps in existing legislation regarding land rights and hence importance of pending Land Rights Act.

Roadmap (table 6) includes action to support ongoing legal reform, including land rights.

Text will be taken from the Legal and Policy review to improve the wording in the strategy on the importance on tenure and the surrounding legislation.

The topic of land rights as it affects REDD+ is examined in depth in the legal and policy review (Annex

Approach adopted in Strategy and planned project (e.g. Wonegizi REDD pilot project) is to enable carbon trading to go ahead in

Comment	Response
	specific sites as long as social and environmental safeguards are in place.
Insufficient recognition of gender issues.	<p>Section 4.3 in Strategy highlights the role of women and importance of gender issues. Encourages ongoing effort on this from M.of Gender and others. Refers to Climate Change Gender Action Plan.</p> <p>In Roadmap Ministry of Gender is added to priorities for coordination (section 4.3).</p>
Validation Event comments	
<p><b>Benefit Sharing:</b> Participants emphasized the need for as much clarity as possible over the nature of the benefits from REDD+ and how they would reach communities. The Strategy should provide a clearer description of this in one place. Make reference to international conventions or standards regarding BSM. Co-benefits from forest conservation (additional to REDD+) are important to note. Recognize that existing BSM are not working adequately.</p>	<p>Text added to section 4.3 in <b>Strategy</b>, to strengthen description of who will benefit and how. Also includes reference to "Fair and Sustainable benefits" as one of the 5 strategic priorities in the Strategy, with a specific Strategy Option to establish a benefit sharing mechanism for REDD+. The 'theory of change' for achieving this is described in section 3.2.5.</p> <p>Strategy also now refers to <b>Roadmap</b> (section 2.5.2) where specific actions and an approach to developing a REDD+ BSM is set out.</p> <p><b>Strategy</b> section 4.3 had added text to emphasize the importance of "co-benefits" from REDD+.</p> <p><b>Strategy</b> section 5.3 is dedicated to REDD+ financing and benefit sharing.</p> <p>Roadmap section 2.5.2 is dedicated to Benefit Sharing and includes the planned actions in the LFSP. It proposes extra measures to develop a BSM for REDD+.</p>

Comment	Response
<p><b>Review:</b> Uncertainty of the future trajectory of drivers such as charcoal, pit sawing, palm oil etc. needs to be highlighted. Impact of new developments such as hydropower etc. are unknown. In relation to this, participants stressed the need for research, monitoring, learning lessons from the implementation of projects and subsequent review of the REDD+ Strategy.</p>	<p>Uncertainty in the future trends and relative importance of drivers is described in <b>Strategy</b> section 2.1, 2.2. and 2.2.2.</p> <p>Importance of further research given additional emphasis in Strategy, e.g. section 2.2.</p> <p>New section in <b>Roadmap</b> to outline review/updating timing and procedures, linked to MRV, ESMF, LFSP etc.(4.5)</p>
<p><b>Policy:</b> Make reference to pending EPA-led national climate change policy. The Zero-Deforestation policy contained in the Letter of Intent is being interpreted as Zero NET Deforestation in the principles emerging from the Liberia TFA 2020 process.</p>	<p>Roadmap section 2.4 text added to include TFA 2020 palm oil principles.</p>
<p><b>FGRM:</b> Reference to the grievance and redress mechanism should be included.</p>	<p>Text added to <b>Strategy</b> section 1.2 to explicitly refer to FGRM as a requirement of the UN-REDD+ process. New section 2.5.4 added to <b>Roadmap</b> to describe FGRM and contribution to Strategy/implementation.</p>
<p><b>Actions:</b> In Roadmap, the presentation of Goal-Objectives and actions should be adjusted so that all actions (existing and additional) can be seen in a single table, with timelines, and linked to the Goals/Objectives.</p>	
<p><b>Coordination:</b> Include Ministry of Education in the coordination section.</p>	<p>Included in Roadmap (section 4.3)</p>
<p><b>RTWG:</b> Revise ToR for RTWG and draft section to define roles on process and review of the Strategy.</p>	

Comment	Response
<b>RIU Comments post-validation</b>	
What is the Theory of Change we'd like to see with the REDD+ Strategy?	Strategy contains a theory of change for each of the 5 strategic priorities (3.2.1.onwards).
RS alignment with UNFCCC guidelines and key Warsaw Framework elements and national strategies including the "Climate Change Policy", Agenda for Transformation and the SDGs	Strategy (sections 4.1. and 4.2) relate REDD+ o national development goals and climate change policy/INDC. Introductory chapter explains origins of REDD from UN-process.
M&E framework and baselines for goals, objectives, indicators, outcomes, outputs and annual targets- please remember that chainsaw logging and charcoal productions are crucial elements –Also the scenario of the 2017-2030 Hydro and access to energy needs some brushing up.	
Integration of Gender and more clarity on benefit sharing arrangements.	(See response above to earlier gender comment.)
Feedback, Grievance and Redress Mechanisms across Liberia and the implementation of REDD+ strategy is still unclear. How will the Road Map improve "Jurisdictional sustainability" in forest management, benefit sharing, for REDD+?	(See response above to comment on FGRM)
Alignment with all the components- please utilize the REL, and Landcover Maps	Text on FGRM now added to Strategy and Roadmap. Text through strategy draws on each component of REDD, describes its contribution and includes references to reports.