

**CI-GEF PROJECT AGENCY**

# **GEF Project Document**

## **Reducing Deforestation from Palm Oil and Cocoa Value Chains**

**Liberia**

**June, 2021**

PROJECT INFORMATION			
<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>	Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains		
<b>PROJECT OBJECTIVE:</b>	To promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems for enhanced livelihood opportunities in NW Liberia Landscape through land use planning, restoration of degraded lands, and strengthening governance, policies, and market incentives for nationally replicable models of deforestation-free cocoa and palm oil value chains.		
<b>PROJECT OUTCOMES:</b>	1.1: Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use 1.2: Improved land allocation and use by communities (men and women), government, private sector, and civil society in NW Liberia landscape 1.3: Governance of NW Liberia Landscape strengthened 2.1: Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape 2.2: Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production 2.3: Resources for sustainable production secured 3.1: Degraded areas in NW Liberia landscape restored 3.2: Improved gender sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia 3.3: Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities 4.1: Improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation 4.2: Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project		
<b>COUNTRY(IES):</b>	Liberia	<b>GEF ID:</b>	10232
<b>GEF AGENCY(IES):</b>	Conservation International	<b>CI CONTRACT ID:</b>	XXX
<b>OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:</b>	Executing Agency: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Executing Partner: Conservation International Liberia	<b>DURATION IN MONTHS:</b>	60
<b>GEF FOCAL AREA(S):</b>	BD-1-1 Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors BD 2-7 Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate LD-1-1 Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM) LD-2-3 Maintain or improve flows of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) IP FOLUR	<b>START DATE (mm/yyyy):</b>	08/2021

<b>INTEGRATED APPROACH PILOT:</b>	N/A	<b>END DATE (mm/yyyy):</b>	08/2026
<b>NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM:</b>	Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program	<b>PRODoc SUBMISSION DATE:</b>	05/30/2021
<b>RE-SUBMISSION DATE(s):</b>	06/17/2021		

<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>AMOUNT (USD)</b>
<b>GEF PROJECT FUNDING:</b>	7,139,450
<b>PPG FUNDING:</b>	200,000
<b>TOTAL GEF GRANT:</b>	7,339,450
<b>CO-FINANCING 1: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)</b>	5,000,000
<b>CO-FINANCING 2: FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA)</b>	10,000,000
<b>CO-FINANCING 3: LIBERIAN INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SERVICES (LISGIS)</b>	5,000,000
<b>CO-FINANCING 4: LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY (LLA)</b>	2,000,000
<b>CO-FINANCING 5: MANO MANUFACTURING COMPANY (MANCO)</b>	30,000,000
<b>CO-FINANCING 6: THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS (RSPB)</b>	270,016
<b>CO-FINANCING 7: SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE IN LIBERIA (SCNL)</b>	2,443,049
<b>CO-FINANCING 8: FAUNA AND FLORA INTERNATIONAL (FFI)</b>	2,000,000
<b>CO-FINANCING 9: THE SUSTAINABLE TRADE INITIATIVE (IDH)</b>	250,000
<b>CO-FINANCING 10: CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL LIBERIA</b>	\$36,000
<b>CO-FINANCING 11: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MoA)</b>	10,000,000
<b>TOTAL CO-FINANCING:</b>	<b>66,999,065</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST:</b>	<b>74,338,515</b>

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## ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AFR100</b>	<i>African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative</i>
<b>°C</b>	<i>Degrees Celsius</i>
<b>ABC</b>	<i>African Bird Club</i>
<b>APOI</b>	<i>African Palm Oil Initiative</i>
<b>CA</b>	<i>Conservation Agreement</i>
<b>CBD</b>	<i>Convention on Biological Diversity</i>
<b>CEPF</b>	<i>Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund</i>
<b>CI</b>	<i>Conservation International</i>
<b>CI-GEF PA</b>	<i>CI-GEF Project Agency</i>
<b>CO2e</b>	<i>Carbon dioxide equivalent</i>
<b>CoP</b>	<i>Community of Practice</i>
<b>CSO</b>	<i>Civil Society Organization</i>
<b>EA</b>	<i>Executing Agency</i>
<b>EBA</b>	<i>Endemic Bird Area</i>
<b>EPA</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Agency</i>
<b>ESMF</b>	<i>Environmental and Social Management Framework</i>
<b>ESS</b>	<i>Environmental and Social Safeguard</i>
<b>EU</b>	<i>European Union</i>
<b>FAO</b>	<i>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</i>
<b>FCPF</b>	<i>Forest Carbon Partnership Facility</i>
<b>FDA</b>	<i>Forestry Development Authority</i>
<b>FFI</b>	<i>Fauna and Flora International</i>
<b>FOLUR (IP)</b>	<i>Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (Impact Program)</i>
<b>FPIC</b>	<i>Free, Prior and Informed Consent</i>
<b>FTI</b>	<i>Forestry Training Institute</i>
<b>GACSA</b>	<i>Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture</i>
<b>GBV</b>	<i>Gender-based Violence</i>
<b>GCP</b>	<i>Green Commodities Program</i>
<b>GDSA</b>	<i>Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa</i>
<b>GEF</b>	<i>Global Environment Facility</i>
<b>GGP</b>	<i>Good Growth Partnership</i>
<b>GHG</b>	<i>Greenhouse gas</i>
<b>GIS</b>	<i>Geographical Information System</i>

<b>GLF</b>	<i>Global Landscapes Forum</i>
<b>GOL</b>	<i>Government of Liberia</i>
<b>GPFLR</b>	<i>Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration</i>
<b>ha</b>	<i>Hectares</i>
<b>HCS</b>	<i>High Carbon Stock</i>
<b>HCSA</b>	<i>High Carbon Stock Approach</i>
<b>HCV</b>	<i>High Conservation Value</i>
<b>IBA</b>	<i>Important Bird Area</i>
<b>IDH</b>	<i>Sustainable Trade Initiative</i>
<b>IFAD</b>	<i>International Fund for Agricultural Development</i>
<b>IUCN</b>	<i>International Union for the Conservation of Nature</i>
<b>KBA</b>	<i>Key Biodiversity Area</i>
<b>LAADCO</b>	<i>Liberia Agriculture and Asset Development Company</i>
<b>LACRA</b>	<i>Liberia Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority</i>
<b>LASIP</b>	<i>Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Plan</i>
<b>LATA</b>	<i>Liberia Agricultural Transformation Agenda</i>
<b>LCF</b>	<i>Liberia Conservation Fund</i>
<b>LCRP</b>	<i>Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection</i>
<b>LDN</b>	<i>Land Degradation Neutrality Fund</i>
<b>LDNTR</b>	<i>Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Report</i>
<b>LFSP</b>	<i>Liberia Forest Sector Project</i>
<b>LISGIS</b>	<i>Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services</i>
<b>LLA</b>	<i>Liberia Land Authority</i>
<b>LUP</b>	<i>Land use plan</i>
<b>M&amp;E</b>	<i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i>
<b>MANCO</b>	<i>Mano Manufacturing Company</i>
<b>MIA</b>	<i>Ministry of Internal Affairs</i>
<b>mm</b>	<i>Millimeters</i>
<b>MME</b>	<i>Ministry of Mines and Energy</i>
<b>MOA</b>	<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>
<b>MoGCSP</b>	<i>Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection</i>
<b>MPOI</b>	<i>Mano Palm Oil Industries</i>
<b>MPOP</b>	<i>Mano Palm Oil Plantation</i>
<b>MRV</b>	<i>Measurement, reporting and verification</i>
<b>Mt</b>	<i>Megaton</i>

<b>NAP</b>	<i>National Action Programme</i>
<b>NAPA</b>	<i>National Adaptation Program of Action</i>
<b>NBC</b>	<i>National Bureau of Concessions</i>
<b>NBSAP</b>	<i>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</i>
<b>NGO</b>	<i>Non-government organization</i>
<b>NTFP</b>	<i>Non-timber forest product</i>
<b>NW</b>	<i>Northwest</i>
<b>PAP</b>	<i>Project-affected Person</i>
<b>PAPD</b>	<i>Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development</i>
<b>PES</b>	<i>Payments for Ecosystem Services</i>
<b>PIR</b>	<i>Project Implementation Report</i>
<b>PMU</b>	<i>Project Management Unit</i>
<b>PPA</b>	<i>Proposed Protected Area</i>
<b>PPG</b>	<i>Project Preparation Grant</i>
<b>PSC</b>	<i>Project Steering Committee</i>
<b>REDD+</b>	<i>Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks)</i>
<b>RSPB</b>	<i>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds</i>
<b>RSPO</b>	<i>Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil</i>
<b>SADS</b>	<i>Skills and Agricultural Development Services</i>
<b>SCNL</b>	<i>Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia</i>
<b>SDG</b>	<i>Sustainable Development Goal</i>
<b>SDI</b>	<i>Sustainable Development Institute</i>
<b>SFSP</b>	<i>Sustainable Food Systems Programme</i>
<b>SGP</b>	<i>Small Grants Program</i>
<b>TEEB</b>	<i>The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity</i>
<b>TFA</b>	<i>Tropical Forest Alliance</i>
<b>TSA</b>	<i>Targeted Scenario Analysis</i>
<b>UL</b>	<i>University of Liberia</i>
<b>UNCCD</b>	<i>United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification</i>
<b>UNDP</b>	<i>United Nations Development Programme</i>
<b>UNEP</b>	<i>United Nations Environment Programme</i>
<b>USAID</b>	<i>United States Agency for International Development</i>
<b>USD</b>	<i>United States Dollars</i>
<b>WA-BICC</b>	<i>West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change</i>

<b>WACSAA</b>	<i>West Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance</i>
<b>WCF</b>	<i>World Cocoa Foundation</i>
<b>WRI</b>	<i>World Resources Institute</i>
<b>WWF</b>	<i>World Wide Fund for Nature</i>
<b>VADEMCO</b>	<i>Vainga Agriculture Development and Management Consultancy</i>

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

<b><i>Conservation Agreement</i></b>	Communities commit to implementing conservation actions, such as patrolling activities, forgo logging and hunting and to carry out more sustainable resource extraction practices. In exchange communities receive a benefits package defined through participatory processes to address local development needs and priorities.
<b><i>Free, Prior, and informed Consent</i></b>	<p>A framework for ensuring that the rights of indigenous peoples are guaranteed in any decision that may affect their lands, territories, or livelihoods. Composed of four separate components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free—Without coercion, intimidation, manipulation, threat, or bribery.</li> <li>• Prior—Indicates that consent has been sought sufficiently in advance, before any project activities have been authorized or commenced, and that the time requirements of the indigenous community's consultation/consensus processes have been respected.</li> <li>• Informed—Information is provided in a language and form that are easily understood by the community, covering the nature, scope, purpose, duration and locality of the project or activity as well as information about areas that will be affected; economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts, all involved actors, and the procedures that the project or activity may entail.</li> <li>• Consent—The right of indigenous peoples to give or withhold their consent to any decision that will impact their lands, territories, resources, and livelihoods.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Greenhouse gas</i></b>	A greenhouse gas is a gas that absorbs and emits radiant energy within the thermal infrared range. Increasing greenhouse gas emissions cause the greenhouse effect. The primary greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.
<b><i>Key Biodiversity Area</i></b>	'Sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity', in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and, irreplaceability. The KBA criteria can be applied to species and ecosystems in terrestrial, inland water and marine environments. Although not all KBA criteria may be relevant to all elements of biodiversity, the thresholds associated with each of the criteria may be applied across all taxonomic groups (other than micro-organisms) and ecosystems.
<b><i>Payment for Ecosystem Services</i></b>	Payments to farmers or landowners who have agreed to take certain actions to manage their land or watersheds to provide an ecological service.
<b><i>Rights-based Approach</i></b>	An approach to conservation that promotes and integrates human rights into conservation policy and practice by emphasizing the positive connections between conservation and the rights of people to secure their livelihoods, enjoy healthy and productive environments, and live with dignity.

**CI-GEF PROJECT AGENCY**  
**Reducing Deforestation from Palm Oil and Cocoa Value Chains**  
**PROJECT DOCUMENT**

**SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY**

1. Liberia is at a crossroads as government, business, and civil society seek to balance the urgent need for jobs, food and economic development with conservation and sustainable use of the country's natural resources. This is particularly evident in Northwest Liberia. The forests that span Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Bong counties have been identified as a conservation priority for carbon and biodiversity, as well as for key ecosystem services including freshwater provision for more than a million Liberians, sediment regulation for planned hydropower, and water provision for agricultural development. Throughout this landscape and much of Liberia, the urgent need for development and job creation is the driving priority for the government and local communities. New integrated development models are needed to meet these economic objectives while maintaining essential ecosystem services and conserving critical forest areas.
2. This project will work with local and national governments, communities and smallholder farmers, and commercial agroforestry plantation operators to advance land use planning, sustainable commodity production, restoration of degraded lands, and forest conservation. The work with smallholder farmers will facilitate adoption of sustainable agroforestry methods for cocoa and palm oil production, as well as the formation of cooperatives or associations to strengthen their participation in supply chains. Private sector engagement is a key element of the project, as the work with commercial plantation operator Mano Palm Oil Industries and the Mano Palm Oil Plantation (MPOI/MPOP) will focus on applying sustainability standards and pursuing socially equitable and mutually beneficial relationships with smallholder producers.

**Background**

3. Liberia is a least developed, low-income, food-deficient, but forest-rich country. According to the Human Development Index, Liberia is ranked 181 out of 188 countries (UNDP 2018) and has 54% of the population living below the global poverty line, a third of which live in extreme poverty. An estimated 18% of Liberians are food-insecure and 2% are severely food-insecure; there is a 32% national prevalence rate of stunting, which the World Health Organization classifies as “serious”.
4. The Government of Liberia (GOL) has formulated Vision 2030 to transform Liberia to middle-income status by 2030, and adopted the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) with a strong emphasis on agriculture and natural resource sectors. Liberia also has endorsed the Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative, is a member of the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) 2020, and participates in the TFA 2020 African Palm Oil Initiative (APOI), having adopted principles of no net forest loss to secure national Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification. Liberia is engaged in the Accountability Framework initiative to help fulfil commitments for responsible agriculture and forestry supply chains. Liberia is also a voluntary partner in the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme and currently is developing the relevant targets (SDG 15.3). Finally, the GOL's REDD+ Strategy seeks to balance commercial, community and conservation needs with the forest sector.
5. Agriculture has been central to GOL development policy through successive administrations, as set out in the 2008 Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and the current Pro-Poor Agenda for Development

and Prosperity (PAPD). The sector accounts for nearly 40% of GDP and up to 80% of employment, mainly through subsistence farming, and women constitute the majority of the agricultural labor force; however, the sector receives only 2% of GOL's annual national budget (IFAD 2019).

6. Oil palm, cocoa and rubber are the leading export crops. Rice is the main staple food crop, but average yields are the lowest in the West African region while annual per capita consumption is among the highest in Africa. As summarized in IFAD (2019): "Generally, the agriculture sector is characterized by low productivity due to factors ranging from limited application of modern technology, lack of quality farm inputs including quality seeds, limited awareness on the use of improved agricultural inputs, small farm size, aging agricultural work force, limited access to extension services, damaged infrastructure, high post-harvest losses, limited processing facilities for value addition, limited market access, and limited access to finance." These conditions constrain household incomes and undermine food security.
7. Palm oil in particular features prominently in GOL policy and the National Export Strategy as a driver of economic growth and development, and interest from global companies confirms palm oil as a significant economic opportunity for the country; indeed, they have invested on the order of US\$500 million since 2008. One estimate suggests that 500,000 ha under oil palm could provide an estimated 90,000 direct and indirect jobs and support 30,000 outgrower or small-holder families, with significant multiplier effects (Fricke 2010: 14-15). Liberia's oil palm sector is constrained by ill-defined requirements for community involvement and benefit-sharing, ambiguity of environmental requirements, and limited budgets for government support, oversight, and monitoring, complicated by overlapping institutional mandates. The onus rests on an Inter-Ministerial Concession Commission (IMCC) to steer decision-making and coordinate roles and activities pertaining to oil palm development by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), National Bureau of Concessions (NBC), National Investment Commission (NIC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Liberia Land Authority (LLA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The now-lapsed National Oil Palm Export Strategy (2014-2018) positioned oil palm as a leading contributor to the national economic transformation agenda with emphasis on the smallholder segment and the importance of working towards sustainability certification. Commercial concession agreements include government commitments to provide technical extension services and funding to support outgrowers, but the lack of financial resources and technical capacity has precluded GOL from meeting this obligation.
8. The Liberia National Export Strategy (2014-2018) also highlighted the cocoa sector. Analysis conducted by USAID for the GOL comparing priority sectors for export-oriented development found cocoa to be potentially the most profitable by volume of 10 leading sectors. In terms of profit potential per hectare, cocoa follows aquaculture and palm oil; national employment potential for cocoa may be on the order of 135,000 jobs (currently there are nearly 40,000 smallholder cocoa farmers, mainly in Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties). USAID concluded that cocoa offers the most promising sector for smallholder diversification and linkage to global markets, subject to the following requirements: formation of farmer cooperatives; use of improved cocoa varieties (available from Cote d'Ivoire); technical support for agricultural diversification in the cocoa plot establishment phase; shade for the cocoa trees; and smallholder access to credit for acquisition of inputs. The supply chain for cocoa export from Liberia already is established, including for example the Wienceo Liberia company, an input supplier that provides credit to producers and takes payment in cocoa (USAID/EAT 2015). However, the fact that average yields in Liberia stand at about one third of the regional average indicates the continued need for technical support.

9. Rice, cassava, and vegetables are priority food crops. Rice offers significant potential yield improvement, with a national average of 1.18 MT/ha less than half the national average in Côte d'Ivoire (2.5 MT/ha). More than 60% of Liberia's population grows cassava, the second most important food crop; cassava offers opportunities for value added processing and expanded range of uses. Analyses by IFAD, USAID and the Ministry of Agriculture indicate that vegetable production offers the most significant income potential for small farmers, with robust year-round demand and seasonal price spikes. Investment in productivity and particularly in handling and storage methods offer substantial potential returns for both income and food security.
10. Liberia is already participating in the Good Growth Partnership and is working to minimize deforestation driven by palm oil expansion in the country. Building on this work, the proposed project will concentrate on palm oil and cocoa, which already are the focus of market-driven sustainability initiatives (RSPO, High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA), World Cocoa Foundation, Cocoa & Forest Initiative) and offer opportunities for investment by the private sector to improve market access and ensure sustainable production.

### **Conservation Context and Project Sites**

11. Liberia is located in the Upper Guinean part of the Guinean Forest biodiversity hotspot, one of the most threatened and least-protected forest ecosystems in the world, and houses 40% of the Western Guinean Lowland forest ecoregion, featuring some of the highest biological diversity in all of Africa. Liberia's natural ecosystems are under pressure from logging, mining and agriculture, and these threats are exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Land-use change has contributed to 650,000 hectares of forest loss, an overall loss of 15% since 1975; 43.3 % of Liberia's land remains forested. The dearth of land-use planning in Liberia contributes to ongoing forest loss and fragmentation, threatening ecosystems that support livelihoods and serve as a critical safety net for Liberia's rural populations. The proposed project will be implemented in the Northwest (NW) Liberia Landscape, and facilitate development of a national land-use plan. The NW Liberia landscape comprises about 2.5 million ha in Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Bong counties, and is home to about 570,000 people. The landscape includes several of Liberia's 25 key biodiversity areas, in ecosystems that include seasonal dense moist evergreen and semi-deciduous and deciduous forests, rainforest and mangroves. Birdlife International lists Liberia as an Endemic Bird Area (EBA), and the project landscape also includes Important Bird Areas (e.g. Lake Piso, Gola Forest).

### **Project Objective, Components and Outcomes**

12. Project Objective: The objective of this project is to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems for enhanced livelihood opportunities in NW Liberia Landscape through land use planning, restoration of degraded lands, and strengthening governance, policies, and market incentives for nationally replicable models of deforestation-free cocoa and palm oil value chains.

#### ***Component 1: Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans***

13. The first component of the project will entail preparing land-use plans (LUPs) as the basis for investments in sustainable, climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry and restoration. Participatory, multi-stakeholder land-use planning will take place at the landscape level and at the community level with nine clans. At the same time the project will support a national land-use planning process to extend project impacts beyond the Northwest Liberia Landscape; the three levels of planning will take place concurrently and inform each other.

#### ***Outcomes under Component 1:***

14. Outcome 1.1: Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use by men and women
15. Outcome 1.2: Improved land allocation by communities (men and women), government, private sector and civil society in NW Liberia landscape
16. Outcome 1.3: Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by men and women strengthened

*Component 2: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains*

17. Component 2 will involve the implementation of LUPs by expanding sustainable food and commercial crop production in areas zoned for this use within the landscape. The current spatial distribution of agriculture and agroforestry production is not governed by any holistic or integrated landscape planning process. Moreover, people continue to rely on traditional and conventional practices, which contribute to deforestation, forest fragmentation, and forest and soil degradation. In addition to undermining long-term productivity of the resource base, these practices result in carbon emissions that contribute to global climate change. The project will demonstrate sustainable production alternatives and empower people to adopt improved practices and forms of commercial organization.

*Outcomes under Component 2:*

18. Outcome 2.1: Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape
19. Outcome 2.2: Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production by men and women
20. Outcome 2.3: Resources for sustainable production by men and women secured

*Component 3: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats*

21. Adoption of sustainable agriculture by local communities, subject to a landscape LUP and community-level LUPs, will attenuate the threat to biodiversity posed by uncontrolled expansion of irresponsible agriculture. However, integrated landscape management also must consider areas impacted by past activities. Logging, shifting cultivation, and mining have degraded parcels throughout the landscape, contributing to forest degradation and fragmentation. The landscape management plan will include identification and prioritization of these areas for restoration efforts.

*Outcomes under Component 3:*

22. Outcome 3.1: Degraded areas that are crucial for ensuring ecosystem connectivity and integrity restored in NW Liberia
23. Outcome 3.2: Improved gender-sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia
24. Outcome 3.3: Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities by men and women

*Component 4: Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation*

25. This project is large and complex, involving a wide range of stakeholders, with an ambitious objective that will be transformative. It will require dedicated management and coordination, and consistent effort to sustain forward progress. Therefore, the EPA and its partners have devoted particular

attention to ensuring an effective structure for project management, governance, and coordination, based on past experience with analogous projects and programs. Linkages to the FOLUR Global Platform will be essential in this Component, to align program management and ensure consistency of M&E systems.

#### *Outcomes under Component 4:*

- 26. Outcome 4.1: Improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation
- 27. Outcome 4.2: Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project by men and women

#### **Project Safeguards Policies**

- 28. In compliance with CI-GEF project safeguards policies and recommendations, a Process Framework, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Mainstreaming Plan, and Accountability and Grievance Mechanism have been developed.

#### **Implementation and Execution Arrangements**

- 29. The CI-GEF Project Agency is the Implementing Agency and will provide strategic oversight and monitoring of the project. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia will execute the project with support from Conservation International (CI) Liberia. CI has a strong track record of delivering conservation outcomes around the world and is a leader in biodiversity conservation in Liberia through activities ranging from community-based resource management to capacity-building for local organizations to national policy engagement. The EPA has been deeply involved during the preparatory phase of this project, and together the EPA and CI have engaged a wide range of partner agencies and organizations who will continue to be involved during execution.
- 30. The project has established a Project Steering Committee (PSC) composed of representatives from several ministries and government agencies. The EPA chairs the PSC with CI-Liberia serving as the secretariat. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) will be the alternate should the EPA be unavailable to chair a given session. The principal function of the PSC is to provide guidance on project delivery to ensure alignment with national policies and laws, best practice, and new initiatives. This body will ensure collaboration with other programs and avoid duplication of efforts.

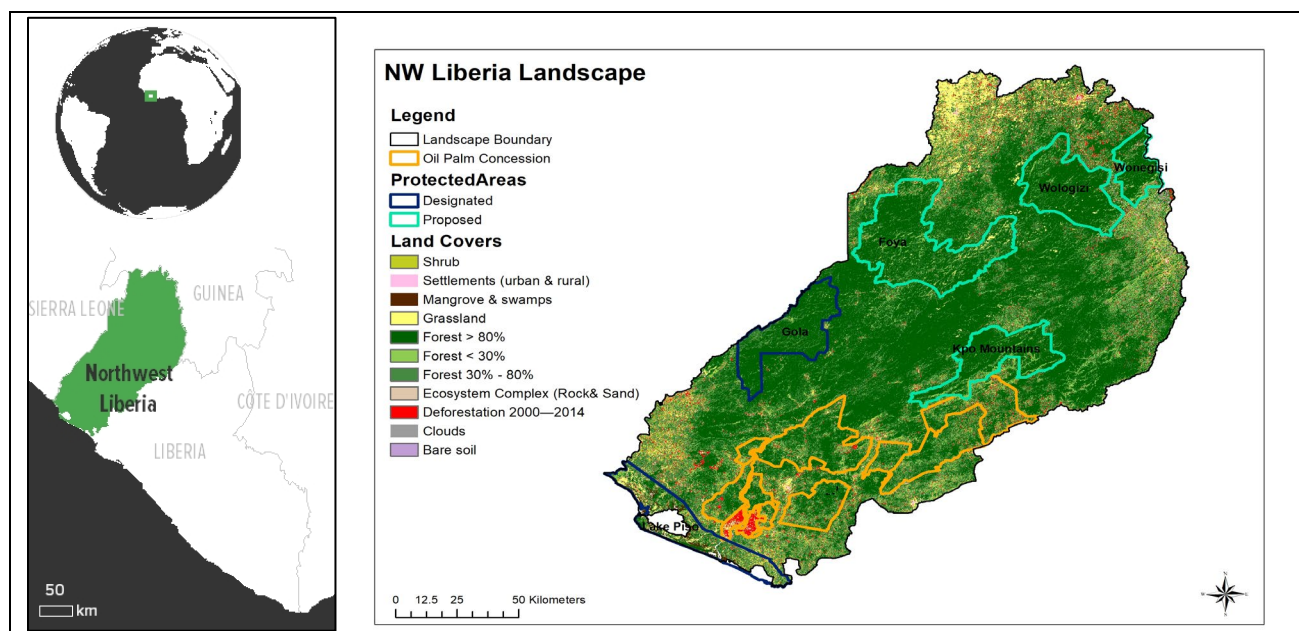
## **SECTION 2: PROJECT CONTEXT**

### **A. Geographic Scope**

- 31. The Northwest Liberia Landscape (Figure 1) falls between 11.5° 0' 0''W 9.8° 0' 0''W and 9° 0' 0''N 6° 0' 0''N. It comprises about 2.7 million hectares (ha) in Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Bong counties, which have a total population of 900,000 people (GOL 2008), of which 570,000 live in the project area. Its forests contain High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV) forest sites and extensive habitat and natural resources essential for an assemblage of species as well as livelihoods for local communities. Limited economic development leaves the local population heavily reliant on natural resources for subsistence and livelihoods. The area has also attracted logging, mining, and commercial agroforestry interests.
- 32. The landscape comprises existing and proposed protected areas as well as some of Liberia's largest emerging production activities such as palm oil and other commodities; it therefore presents an enormous opportunity to demonstrate sustainable development that relies on positive links between human wellbeing and natural capital. The existing protected areas are Gola Forest National Park and Lake Piso Multiple Use Protected Area, totaling 198,000 ha. In addition, several proposed protected

areas are currently under development, including Kpo Mountains, Bong Mountain, Wonegizi, Wologizi and Foya, totaling 395,950 ha.

33. Gola Forest National Park is part of a transboundary conservation complex extending westward into Sierra Leone's Gola Rainforest National Park, and Wonegizi is part of a transboundary forest complex with the Guinean Ziama Biosphere Reserve. These transboundary links show how the landscape benefits from the wider conservation geography. To the south/southwest, the Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve serves as a boundary for the landscape. To the east of the landscape lies Liberia's principal agricultural corridor, with a major road and train line linking the coastal capital of Monrovia to the border with Guinea through Nimba County in the central-northern portion of the country. Map-based analysis of accessibility shows a buffer between this populated corridor and the intact forests of the NW Liberia Landscape, attributable to natural features (topography and rivers) and limited road development westwards (CI 2017).
34. The thematic scope of the project will be land-use planning and governance to guide agroforestry development (oil palm and cocoa) as well as forest conservation and restoration at the local and landscape levels. The activities focused on Northwest Liberia landscape will also inform and be informed by work in parallel on a national level land use plan. At the national level, this project will be informed by FDA work towards a national land use planning policy/strategy under the Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP), while at the local level, it will be informed by clan-level land use planning work by IDH in Foya District and similar work planned in Vahun and Kolahun districts. Administratively, Liberia is divided into fifteen counties, which are subdivided into 90 districts; districts are further subdivided into clans, which are the smallest unit of governance. The fifteen counties are administered by superintendents appointed by the President of Liberia. Site level activities also will be informed by local land use planning to be undertaken in Lofa by FFI and in Gola by RSPB and SCNL. Details of project geography are provided below. Anticipated impacts of climate change form a backdrop for these processes and motivates an emphasis on climate smart agriculture. Finally, as this work is being initiated in a context where limited planning has taken place, it offers an opportunity to incorporate gender-sensitive considerations from the outset.



*Fig 1: Map of Northwest Liberia Landscape (Project Area )*

35. Project sites were selected based on spatial analysis and the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM). The analysis covered geographic, economic, and social aspects of the NW Liberia landscape, to help prioritize target areas for the project and optimize the impacts of interventions for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation using four main criteria: (a) value for conservation, (b) vulnerability to forest degradation, (c) vulnerability to deforestation, and (d) viability for intervention. Spatial data layers were created for the first three criteria, and for the fourth criterion, a qualitative assessment of the conditions for implementing project interventions was used and included assessing the strength of the governance and regulatory mechanisms that are associated with the dominant land uses in NW Liberia and the capacity of the decision-making institutions associated with those land use. By combining spatial layers into a single score, the places with the highest conservation value forest and the greatest vulnerability were identified. Table 1 below details the criteria used. A stakeholder workshop that convened 32 partners from government, private sector, civil society, and NGOs was held to validate the proposed project sites. In addition, project sites for improved agriculture were selected based on desktop research on crop, soil and climate suitability analyses. The main sources cited included:
- i. CAAS. 2007. Tree Crops Sub-sector Report. Comprehensive Assessment of the Agricultural Sector in Liberia. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Bank, Monrovia, pp 69–139.
  - ii. LISGIS (Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services). 2012. Agriculture and Crop Survey 2012. Monrovia.
  - iii. Republic of Liberia. 2012. National Export Strategy - Cocoa Export Strategy 2014–2018. Republic of Liberia and International Trade Centre, Monrovia and Geneva.
  - iv. Schroth G, Läderach P, Martínez-Valle AI, Bunn C. 2015. Climate vulnerability and adaptation of the smallholder cocoa and coffee value chains in Liberia. Working Paper No. 134. CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Copenhagen, Denmark. Available online at: [www.ccafs.cgiar.org](http://www.ccafs.cgiar.org)

**Table 1: Criteria used for selection of project sites**

Conservation value	Vulnerability to deforestation	Vulnerability to degradation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of high carbon value (based on level of forest cover)</li> <li>• High biodiversity values based on existing and proposed protected areas and on conservation priority areas and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of agricultural concessions</li> <li>• Areas of logging concessions</li> <li>• Areas of mining concessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threats from current levels of shifting cultivation and associated activities such as hunting, collection of NTFPs</li> <li>• Threats from existing and proposed logging concessions</li> <li>• Threats from accessibility provided by roads and tracks</li> <li>• Threats from increased use of forests in and around concessions where employment and incomes are expected to increase</li> </ul>

36. The key areas to prioritize for conservation in the land-use planning process will be existing protected areas, the proposed protected areas of Foya, Wologizi, Wonegizi and Kpo mountains, and communities neighboring these areas. The project will contribute to development of a gazettelement

package for the establishment of the Wologizi Protected Area (about 99,538 ha), and catalyze community restoration and conservation management, including a focus on conservation areas within designated Community Forests. Field interventions under Components 1 and 2 of the project will focus on 9 communities (clans) in the Northwest Liberia landscape (see Fig. 2 below). Within the framework of negotiated Conservation Agreements with each of these clans, the project will work with these communities on participatory land use planning, restoration, and participation in palm oil and cocoa commodity supply chains. Project activities with the nine clans will be as follows: four CAs focused on direct restoration (in Lofa County, Lower Guma clan in Vahun District; in Grand Cape Mount County, Seimavula clan in Porkpa District and Passawe and Fahnbulleh clans in Tewor District); two CAs for direct restoration and conservation through development and implementation of community land use plans (in Lofa County, Zeyeama clan in ZorZor District and Bondi clan in Voinjama District); and three CAs focused on conservation through development of community land use plans (in Gbarpolu County, Jawajeh and Zuie clans in Kongba District; in Grand Cape Mount County, Sokpo clan in Porkpa District). The land areas of these communities average just under 30,000 ha, for a total of 268,605 ha. The land use planning processes to be conducted with each clan will seek to identify a total target of 15,000 ha for restoration efforts. In addition to the field interventions, the project will support multi-stakeholder land use planning at the Northwest Liberia regional level (in which community-level land use planning results will be important inputs).

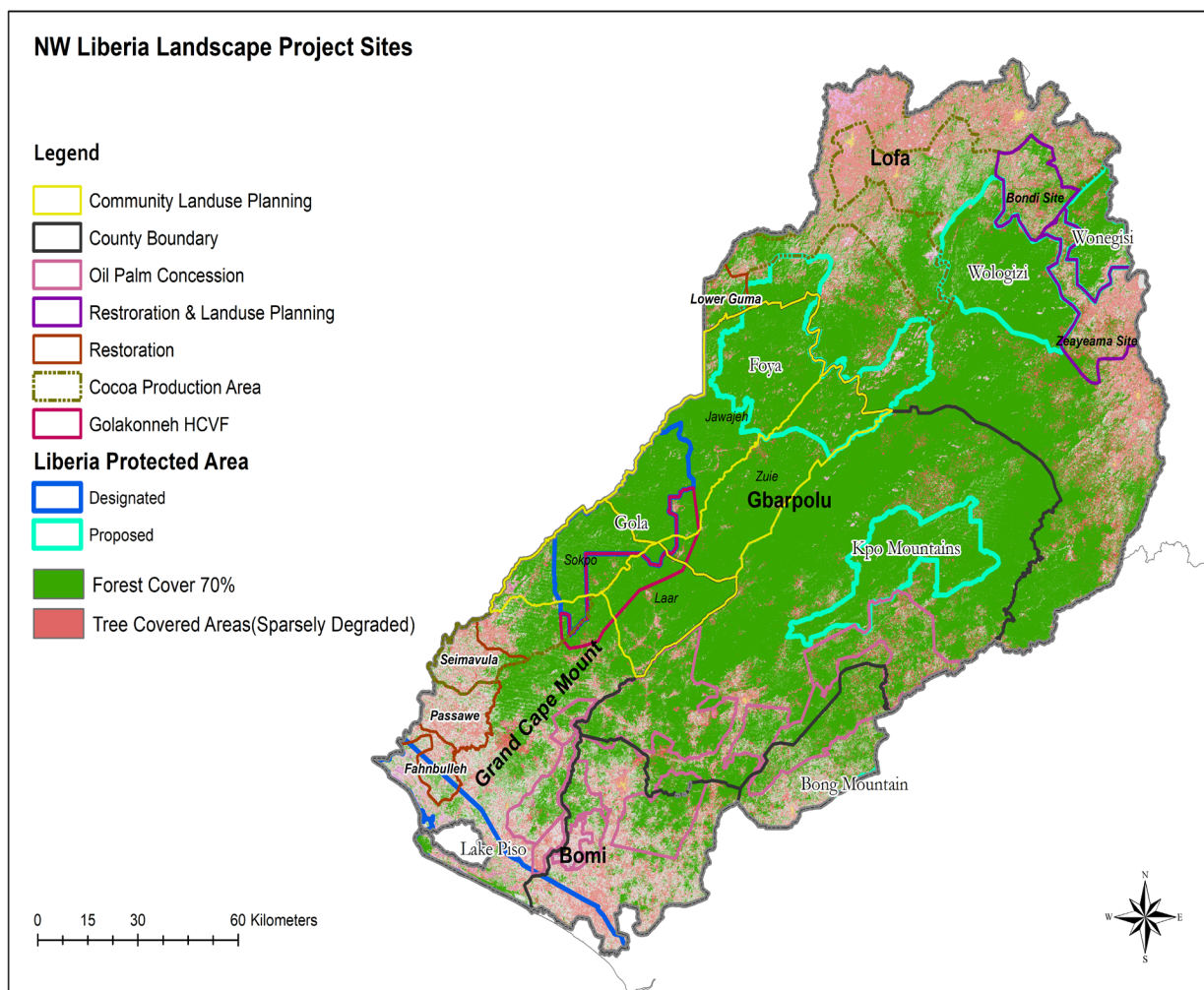


Fig 2: Map of Northwest Liberia Landscape showing proposed project sites

Table 2: Proposed Conservation Agreement Clans in the Northwest Liberia Landscape

Activity	County	District	Clan	Population	Male	Female	Households	Hectares
Restoration only	Lofa	Vahun	Lower Guma	3,709	1,806	1,903	424	15,238
	Grand Cape Mount	Porkpa	Seimavula	21,920	11,301	10,619	2,723	26,147
		Tewor	Fahnbulleh	7,188	3,516	3,672	1,543	17,333
			Passawe	16,557	8,064	8,493	3,615	29,821
Community land use planning only	Gbarpolu	Kongba	Zuie	5,844	3,352	2,492	1,015	39,962
			Jawajeh	7,432	4,248	3,400	1,180	29,422

	Grand Cape Mount	Porkpa	Sokpo	9,795	5,515	4,280	1,349	49,149
Both restoration and land use planning	Lofa	Zorzor	Bondi	8,921	4,208	4,713	1,948	57,230
		Voinjama	Zeyeama	19,895	9,408	10,487	4,129	30,449
Total				101,261	51,418	50,059	17,926	268,605

NB. The project implementers will select 15,000 ha of direct restoration sites from the listed areas together with the communities and other partners, informed by land-use planning processes.

**Table 3: Coordinates for NW Liberia Landscape project sites**

Site Name	Project Intervention	GPS Coordinates	Land size in Hectares	Forested area (ha)
Fahnbulleh	Restoration	11°10' 0''W 11°25' 0''W; 6°45' 0''N 7°05' 0''N	17332.78109	16144.19879
Lower Guma	Restoration	10°30' 10''W 10°37' 10''W; 7°50' 20''N 8°80' 20''N	15237.80059	15176.52388
Passawe	Restoration	11°05' 0''W 11°25' 0''W; 6°50' 20''N 7°70' 0''N	29821.38109	29405.60047
Seimavula	Restoration	11°07' 0''W 11°24' 0''W; 7°05' 10''N 7°70' 0''N	26146.88767	25779.53111
Jawajeh	Community Land use Planning	10°60' 0''W 10°90' 0''W; 7°25' 0''N 8°0' 10''N	183710.5561	183118.5139
Laar	Community Land use Planning	10°60' 0''W 10°90' 0''W; 6°90' 0''N 7°25' 0''N	69826.79831	69560.52452
Sokpo	Community Land use Planning	10°80' 0''W 11°10' 0''W; 7°15' 10''N 7°30' 10''N	65768.88813	64543.00184
Zuie	Community Land use Planning	10°60' 0''W 10°90' 0''W; 7°20' 0''N 7°50' 10''N	117291.0596	116704.5507
Zeayeama	Restoration & Land use Planning	9°25' 0''W 9°38' 0''W; 7°48' 0''N 8°10' 10''N	56625.92101	54024.31355
Bondi	Restoration & Land use Planning	9°30' 0''W 9°48' 0''W; 8°05' 0''N 8°25' 0''N	37599.38258	36797.58364
	Cocoa production areas	9°70' 0''W 11°70' 0''W; 7°90' 0''N 8°30' 10''N	217886.1387	200239.2325
Mano Palm oil concession	Palm oil concession area	9°90' 0''W 11°10' 0''W; 6°40' 0''N 7°20' 0''N	330,000.0672	306506.6267
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,167,247.66</b>	<b>1118000.202</b>

## B. Environmental Context and Global Significance

37. The Northwest Liberia Landscape houses one of the largest remaining forest blocks in the Guinean Forests of West Africa global biodiversity hotspot, which features some of the highest biological diversity in all of Africa (CEPF 2015). It contains some of the last remnants of the Western Guinean Lowland forest ecoregion, recognized as one of the “Global 200” most outstanding and representative areas of biodiversity (WWF 2018). The landscape is also an Endemic Bird Area and a Center of Plant Diversity (Stattersfield et al. 1998; WWF and IUCN 1994).
38. The forests of Northwest Liberia are characterized by deciduous forests in the more mountainous areas and rainforest in the inland hills and plains, extending down to evergreen coastal regions with areas of mangrove. This landscape hosts one of two remaining intact forest blocks in Liberia, which together comprise around 40% of what remains of the Guinean Forests of West Africa (FAO 2014). The tropical climate gives high temperatures all-year round (roughly 27 °C), relative humidity of 65-80%, and heavy rainfall, especially in coastal regions with 3,500-4,600 mm. The rainy season lasts from May to October and leaves the region in water surplus for 5-8 months.
39. The landscape contains several Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), which are sites contributing significantly to the persistence of global biodiversity (CEPF 2015); these are Lake Piso, the Lofa-Mano-Gola Complex, Kpelle Forest, Wologizi Mountains, and Wonegizi Mountains. They include sites prioritized for their importance as habitat for endangered endemic genera and species such as the rare pygmy hippopotamus (*Hexaprotodon liberiensis*), forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*), Liberian mongoose (*Liberiictis kuhni*) and western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*). 92% of the region’s 30 primate species are endemic. Additional threatened and vulnerable species include Jentik’s duiker (*Cephalophus jentinki*), Diana monkey (*Cercopithecus Diana*), West African red colobus (*Procolobus badius*) and West African Linsang (*Poiana leightoni*).
40. The Northwest Liberia Landscape also houses four of Liberia’s nine Important Bird Areas (IBAs), including Lake Piso and Wonegizi (ABC 2013). Vulnerable bird species include the Nimba flycatcher (*Melaenornis annamarulae*), white-necked rock fowl (*Picathartes gymnocephalus*), green-tailed bristlebill (*Bleda eximia*) and yellow-bearded greenbull (*Criniger olivaceus*); other bird species of significance include the migratory cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), African fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*), palm-nut vulture (*Gypohierax angolensis*), yellow-throated tinker bird (*Pogoniulus subsulphureus*), yellow-spotted barbet (*Buccanodon duchaillui*) and Vieillot’s barbet (*Lybius vieilloti*). Flora in the area is closely related to flora of central Africa, but also with high levels of local species-level endemism. In terms of plants, approximately 9,000 species of vascular plant are believed to occur in the hotspot, including 1,800 endemic species (Mittermeier et al. 1998, 2004).
41. As one of the three largest remaining forest blocks of the Upper Guinea Forest biodiversity hotspot, a high degree of intactness endows the Northwest Liberia Landscape with outstanding global conservation value. Within the landscape, several large, forested areas have been prioritized as candidate areas for Liberia’s proposed protected area network based on intactness, low population density, and distance from roads. Although some areas in the southernmost and extreme northwest portions of the landscape have been degraded by shifting cultivation, past conversion to commercial agroforestry and ongoing pressure through fuelwood collection and bushmeat hunting, the majority is characterized by high levels of connectivity and limited disturbance, featuring forest cover of 80% or more (CI 2017). For example, Wonegizi, the northeastern extremity of the landscape, is sufficiently intact to serve as the site for a Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) initiative by Fauna and Flora International (FFI & SADS 2013). Indeed, global estimates suggest that the forests of Northwest Liberia have among the highest densities of biomass carbon in the world, even higher than in the Amazon basin on a per-hectare basis (Avitabile et al. 2016).

42. Another indication of intactness and importance for climate change mitigation is the finding by the palm oil sector that much of the region qualifies as HCS forest. RSPO sustainability requirements preclude conversion of intact natural forest, as indicated by HCS, to plantations. As a result, the major concession within the landscape formerly held by Sime Darby and now by MPOI/MPOP, a subsidiary of Mano Manufacturing Company - MANCO) has been able to plant only on about 10,000 ha of degraded land since 2009, out of a total target of about 220,000 ha. As the majority of the concession area is too intact for conversion to commercial oil palm, concession holders, government and civil society together are seeking ways to develop oil palm in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, offering a significant opportunity to maintain forest intactness and advance community-centered sustainable agricultural development. Private sector engagement with the concessionaire will be essential to reinforce sustainability commitments, facilitate their application, and thereby maintain intactness (private sector engagement is captured within the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy prepared for the project; a Private Sector Engagement Strategy will be elaborated during the first year of implementation).

### **C. Socio-Economic and Cultural Context**

43. Liberia faces severe development challenges. Liberia is a Least Developed Country that has recently emerged from extended conflict in two civil wars, from 1989-1996 and from 1999-2003. The war had a devastating impact on the country's health and education systems and a large portion of the population is illiterate. According to the PAPD, about 3 million Liberians (70.1 percent) were multi-dimensionally poor (deprived of development), and another 924 thousand are near multidimensional poverty (GOL 2018). The Human Development Index ranks Liberia 181 out of 188 countries (UNDP 2018) with 54% of the population living below the global poverty line, a third of who live in extreme poverty. An estimated 18% of Liberians are food-insecure and 2% are severely food-insecure; there is a 32% national prevalence rate of stunting, which the World Health Organization classifies as "serious".
44. The project area is home to about 570,000 people. They rely on the forests of Northwest Liberia for ecosystem services such as climate regulation and soil maintenance, fresh water, food and medicine. Mapping of Liberia's freshwater ecosystem services indicates that Northwest Liberia is the country's most important region for this vital resource (CI 2017). Links between natural capital and human wellbeing are especially relevant for food security, water resources and mitigation of climate change impacts (USAID 2012). At least 75% of the population in Liberia relies on agriculture for their livelihoods (USAID 2012), yet most rural households are food insecure due to low agricultural productivity, meaning that they lack access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs.
45. Liberia's economy is not yet generating large-scale employment opportunities needed to absorb the high number of unemployed and underemployed men and women. The majority of the population directly depends on natural resources and subsists on well under US\$2 per day. Charcoal remains the dominant source of cooking and heating energy for over 95% of Liberia's population (Jones 2015), further contributing to forest degradation. Most people in the northwest continue to rely on subsistence agriculture using low productivity shifting cultivation that results in forest loss. The principal crops across Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Bong, and Gbarpolu counties are natural rubber, rice, cassava, bananas, and palm oil. Commercial agriculture, palm oil and also cocoa, is still at a nascent stage.
46. Men and women in Liberia use forest resources differently and have distinct perspectives on the importance of ecosystems and options for improved management. For example, for palm oil production most on-farm activities are performed by men, while marketing networks are dominated

by women. The different roles of women and men in forest use, agriculture and agroforestry have important implications for intervention strategies.

47. Oil palm promises to expand substantially within the currently existing concession, and elsewhere in the landscape through smallholder participation in the sector. The concession was granted over land assumed to be unencumbered public land but that features an intense mix of forest-dependent communities, high biodiversity value forest and competing natural resource interests such as logging, mining, and rubber. There is a significant risk that current land use trends will lead to a fragmented and degrading natural landscape that fails to maintain ecosystem services and is also sub-optimal for commercial and smallholder producers. Communities own much of the land and are highly dependent for subsistence on the land and resources that commercial palm oil development could consume. Conflicts between communities and palm oil companies already have occurred over land rights and resource use. Therefore, the social implications of potential large-scale land clearance for palm oil are a pressing concern. Sustainably integrating palm oil and other agriculture investment (e.g. cocoa) into forested landscapes in Liberia poses a number of challenges, but the Northwest Liberia Landscape offers a proving ground for piloting innovative, integrative approaches that will deliver model progress towards sustainable development.

#### **D. Global Environmental Problems and Root Causes**

48. Expanding agriculture drives about 80% of deforestation worldwide and is estimated to have already cleared or converted 27% of tropical forests, with particularly severe impacts on biodiversity because tropical forests support about 70% of terrestrial plant and animal species. According to FAO (2015), tropical countries lost 7 million hectares per year between 2000 and 2010, with conversion of forest land to agriculture comprising 73% of the land use change. Moreover, following conversion the vast majority of agricultural lands are not sustainably managed.
49. Expanding agriculture is driven by growing global population and demand. With world population set to increase to nine billion by 2050, and incomes expected to rise, food consumption is predicted to double. Global demand for palm oil in particular is growing precipitously as a key ingredient for food as well as biofuels and a host of other consumer products and meeting this burgeoning demand with conventional practices will continue to drive deforestation and degrade lands.
50. Additional threats include commercial logging (and at a smaller scale, informal logging by rural community members) and mining. Immediate stresses on natural forested ecosystems from development activity such as logging, mining and conversion to agroforestry are exacerbated by climate change impacts. Additionally, as climate change impacts agricultural production, there is increasing pressure on forest land for new farms. Agriculture itself contributes nearly a quarter of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (19-29% of total anthropogenic GHG, Vermeulen et al., 2012), and land use change another 11% (some estimates go to 15% or higher). Emissions from agriculture (including forestry) have nearly doubled over the past fifty years and may increase 30 percent more by 2050 (Tubiello et al. 2014).
51. Regarding the focal sectors of the proposed project, both cocoa and oil palm represent potential sources of environmental problems in the NW Liberia Landscape. The cocoa sector in Liberia fell dormant during years of civil conflict, and only recently and slowly has begun to re-emerge. Although cocoa cultivation has not yet become a significant driver of deforestation in the country, experience with cocoa elsewhere in the region provides a strong rationale for intervening before it does. As emphasized in Ingram et al. (2018), development of the cocoa sector in major producer countries such as Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana has been accompanied by negative environmental impacts such as deforestation, soil degradation, and soil and water pollution, as well as social challenges such as

persistently poor labor conditions and the use of child and forced labor. Insufficient attention to sustainability issues result in a sector characterized by old trees, pests and diseases, which lower tree productivity and stimulate further forest clearing (Nielsen et al. 2004). These trends are exacerbated in weak governance contexts, leaving both ecosystems and communities vulnerable to negative impacts of unplanned land use and development.

52. Humid tropical regions like the NW Liberia Landscape that are ideal for oil palm are also home to the world's tropical rainforests. Conversion of complex forest ecosystems to monoculture oil palm plantations reduces diversity in tree species by 99 percent, eliminating habitat for a wide range of animal species, with reductions in mammal diversity as high as 90 percent (IUCN 2018). IUCN (2018) notes that "Over the last four decades, species have slid towards extinction twice as fast in Indonesia as in any other country ... at least in part as a result of forest conversion for oil palm production." About half of oil palm expansion worldwide since the early 1970s has involved forest clearing; the rest replaced cropland, pastureland and other land uses. Oil palm plantation establishment typically is followed by pollution, with runoff of fertilizers and pesticides fouling freshwater systems in and around the plantations. The negative social impacts of large-scale development of commercial oil palm plantations are similarly well-documented (Brad et al. 2018; Greenpeace 2018; Meijaard and Sheil 2019). These impacts include land-grabbing and displacement of communities to make way for cultivation; manipulation of local people through bribery and false promises; and a cynical disconnect between stated government policies and enforcement of these policies on the ground (Lustgarten 2018). In NW Liberia, conflicts over land rights, community benefits and employment conditions have stymied concession development and blunted potential positive contributions of palm oil to socioeconomic development, and the sector remains vulnerable to social risks that accompany resource-based economic development in areas with weak governance (UNDP 2020).
53. With respect to root causes, a primary driver behind these threats in developing countries in the tropics is the pursuit of economic development at national and local levels. Combined with limited governance capacity and an absence of land use planning, the pressing need for livelihoods and food security are driving unplanned and destructive land conversion, responding to short-term needs at the expense of long-term sustainability. A dearth of land-use planning leads to uncoordinated development activities, and consequently partner interventions are not yielding as much impact as they could be due to missed synergies and limited sharing of lessons between localities.
54. Absence of land-use planning is one symptom of a more general governance deficit. Others include regulation, monitoring and enforcement, and participation and inclusion of stakeholders needed for integrated landscape scale solutions. Without land-use planning at the landscape level in rural areas, there is no mechanism to manage competing land uses, incorporate the needs and priorities of different stakeholders, or optimize investments and minimize inefficiencies and conflicts. Inadequate or unenforced regulation also contributes to uncertainty, conflict, and poor decision-making. Effective land-use planning requires community participation, as local stakeholders will have the greatest influence on actual outcomes on the ground. This includes a strong role in decision-making. Absent such participation, the prevailing context will continue to be characterized by conflict and uncertainty, inhibiting investment, socio-economic development, and sustainable resource management.

#### **E. Barriers to Addressing the Environmental Problems and Root Causes**

55. The lack of land use planning, zoning and enforcement of designated land use is a central barrier to addressing forest loss in Liberia. Efforts to expand production have outpaced clear analysis and careful planning, and inadequate environmental and social protections pose significant

environmental, development and business risks. These risks are exacerbated by conflicting legislations and regulations in the target landscapes that ignore or even incentivize accelerated deforestation and forest loss. Farmer support and outreach programs are weak and underfunded, hindering the spread of knowledge, techniques, and tools for implementing sustainable agricultural practices. Specifically, the Project will address the following barriers in the Northwest Liberia Landscape:

56. *Lack of data about the value of Liberia's natural capital.* Data on the quantity and quality of natural resources in Liberia such as land, water, fish, soils, forests, minerals and energy, and changes in these stocks over time, is scarce. Liberian government institutions face shortages of scientific information pertaining to environmental management. The Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) houses the nation's statistical spatial and non-spatial data and produces the System of National Accounts, but despite some progress in capacity building LISGIS and other national statistical systems remain weak. Data that does exist tends to be scattered across different institutions with unclear ownership and is typically in an analog or paper format which limits external investigator access. This poses an obstacle to effective land-use planning.
57. *Lack of awareness and knowledge among decision makers about the value of Liberia's natural capital.* The value of ecosystem services is not yet fully recognized by decision makers. They are unaware of the direct and indirect services that ecosystems provide to people and that these indirect services can now be quantified. Awareness amongst forest communities and other stakeholders in Liberia of the important role of ecosystem services is also limited, and there is virtually no awareness of the value of or prospects for climate smart agriculture that seeks to maintain ecosystem services.
58. *Inadequate legislation and gaps in national policy.* Liberia lacks the policy, regulatory and informational frameworks necessary to integrate ecosystem and biodiversity protection into land-use planning and management. Regulatory authorities such as the EPA do not have adequate human and financial resources to execute enforcement responsibilities. Gaps in legislation and its application complicate sustainable land-use management, particularly in terms of how the mandates of sectoral and regulatory agencies relate to each other. Specific lacunae in the policy context for land-use planning include climate considerations, attention to gender-related aspects of land-use, and restoration.
59. *Limited institutional capacity and coordination in government ministries.* Institutional and individual capacity at both national and local levels in Liberia is limited. There is limited capacity in the Liberian government to assess, plan, and monitor use of land and natural resources and to determine how these resources contribute to the economy. There is also lack of integrated inter-sectoral planning between different government ministries and agencies, leading to duplication of efforts, gaps in project and program design, and poor delivery.
60. *Poverty.* Liberia is one of the poorest countries in the world with a gross national income (GNI) per capita in 2017 of USD 620, using the World Bank's methodology. Liberia ranks 175th out of 189 countries on UNDP's Human Development Index (UNDP, 2018). More than half of the population (50.9%) lives below the national poverty line, with large geographical disparities in poverty; 85% of young people, who make up two-thirds of Liberia's population, are unemployed (World Bank, 2018). Limited employment opportunities and pervasive poverty result in heavy local community dependence on natural resources for subsistence and local commerce (shifting cultivation for subsistence agriculture, non-timber forest product (NTFP) collection, wood for energy and housing materials, bushmeat for food consumption and sale, etc.). The combination of these economic pressures and limited awareness of ecosystem function and value result in unsustainable extraction methods and levels, undermining the viability of forests in Northwest Liberia. As men and women in

Liberia interact with their environment in different ways, this barrier manifests in different way with respect to resource use, needs and priorities depending on gender. In addition to driving unsustainable resource use, poverty contributes to wider social concerns in the country. Rural poverty in particular aggravates land and resource disputes, which can escalate to violent conflict. Within households, poverty contributes to domestic violence, and poverty in Liberia also makes people vulnerable to other risks such as human rights abuses, abusive labor practices, and violation of prohibitions against child labor. These factors present a challenging context for the pursuit of sustainable production models that adhere to environmental, social and governance safeguards.<sup>1</sup>

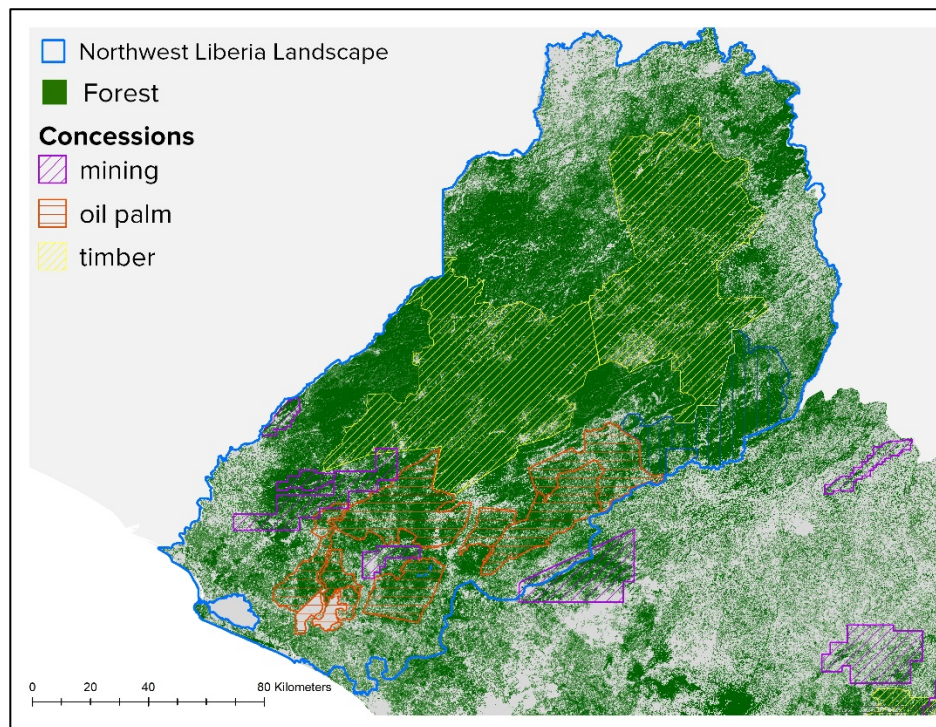
61. *Limited financing for integration of smallholders into commercial productive sectors.* Although the Government of Liberia as well as the donor community emphasize the importance of integrating Liberia's small farmers into commercial agriculture and agroforestry, financing to do so at scale remains limited. Investments in smallholder agriculture predominantly take the form of ad hoc interventions that achieve neither scale nor sustainability, often relying on short term grants provided by private foundations and government aid agencies that cannot be sustained in the long term. Organization of smallholders into larger production entities of potentially viable size (e.g. cooperatives) is limited, as is the formation of commercial relationships between smallholders and larger commercial enterprises (e.g. oil palm outgrower programs).
62. In the Northwest Liberia Landscape, the immediate threats are expansion of commercial palm oil plantations into intact forest ecosystems, continued uncontrolled agricultural expansion by communities relying on shifting cultivation, and related extractive livelihoods such as charcoal production and bushmeat hunting. The Government of Liberia has identified the northwest region as a key agricultural production zone under the Liberia Agricultural Transformation Agenda (LATA) for a range of crops, with an emphasis on oil palm. The potential for conflict between pending oil palm development and closed canopy natural forest is significant. At least 50% of the total concession area of about 290,000 hectares is covered by dense forests with more than 40% tree canopy density.
63. Its status as a highly forested country presents Liberia with a challenge in terms of national land use planning and agricultural development policy that contributes to economic growth while avoiding loss of valuable forest ecosystems. Investors have shown an appetite for developing commercial agroforestry, but much of Liberia's available land is high conservation value (HCV) and high carbon stock (HCS) forest, and/or is claimed by local communities as their traditional land. This makes the granting of commercial concessions a fraught process in which concessionaires are allocated a large 'area of interest,' within which they must identify viable conversion areas in terms of economically practical spatial configuration, compliance with restrictions on natural forest conversion (e.g. under RSPO standards and principles), and respect for local community rights to land and resources. For example, this combination of challenges, combined with a decline in global prices for palm oil, led Sime Darby to relinquish its oil palm concession in Northwest Liberia at the end of 2019. Although the Government of Liberia continues to express commitment to environmental standards and protection of primary forest, there is a risk that this commitment may erode over time if these standards continue to stymie agroforestry development in the absence of workable models.

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<sup>1</sup> UNDP (2018), "Human Development Reports - human development indicators - Liberia" (database), <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/LBR> (accessed Feb. 20, 2021).

World Bank (2018), Country Partnership Framework for the Republic of Liberia for the Period FY19-FY24, World Bank, Washington, DC, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/374031541438293964/pdf/liberia-cpf-11012018-636768792698663889.pdf>.

64. Current oil palm development is restrained by ambiguities surrounding the application of RSPO standards in Liberia. Should the company and/or government lose patience, these standards may well fall by the wayside giving way to uncontrolled expansion. Local communities are also growing impatient given the urgent need for socioeconomic development. Rural populations struggle to meet food needs through subsistence shifting cultivation, and, as populations grow, fallow periods are becoming shorter and soils more impoverished, driving a push deeper into intact forests in search of new land to cultivate. Subsistence farming is accompanied by efforts to generate cash through lucrative but destructive practices such as bushmeat hunting and wood collection for charcoal production and sale—about 75% of animal protein consumed in Liberia consists of bushmeat and over 95% of Liberia’s urban population uses charcoal (Hoyt 2004; USAID 2009).
65. There is considerable overlap between forest areas and timber and mining concessions throughout Liberia, including the Northwest Landscape (CI 2017; see Figure 3 below). Although development of these concessions has been slowed by regulatory ambiguities and economic hurdles, they are a latent threat that can rapidly intensify in the absence of land-use planning, improved alternatives for communities, and stronger governance.



*Fig. 3: Map of Northwest Liberia Landscape & Concessions*

#### **F. Current Baseline (Business-as-Usual Scenario) / Future Scenarios without the Project**

66. Liberia’s population is growing rapidly at over 2.5% per year, and along with it the demand for land, food, fuelwood and charcoal, and building materials. Subsistence and development needs of an expanding population are placing ever-increasing pressure on natural resources and ecosystems. In forest areas this is evidenced by continued land conversion and shortening fallow periods in shifting cultivation cycles. Without this project, and GEF support, the Liberian Government is not likely to develop or apply integrated land-use planning capacity; agricultural development planning and

policies will continue to ignore critical ecological factors; commercial agroforestry and other extractive sectors will expand at the expense of forest ecosystems; and forest communities will continue to rely on unsustainable resource use with significant negative long-term ramifications. These business-as-usual trends place Liberia on a trajectory to degrade a significant portion of its natural capital, including extensive tracts of primary forest and their associated biodiversity and ecosystem services, which ultimately will have negative ramifications for agricultural productivity and food security.

67. Liberia has rich biodiversity and immense natural capital that has not yet been systematically assessed, measured, or valued. As the value of ecosystems is not fully recognized by decision makers, they continue to be lost and degraded. National planning and development agencies, which influence many of the decisions that impact natural resources in Liberia, are focused on the immediate need to improve the well-being of people; the notion that conserving natural resources is a critical element of human well-being in Liberia is not recognized by decision makers. The true costs of exploiting Liberia's natural resources are not being accounted for in development decision making and this is likely to result in a continuation of the current trend of unsustainable exploitation.
68. Although Liberia's environmental protection policies have proposed that key ecosystems be gazetted as protected areas (30% of the country's land area), limited actions have been implemented to date to ensure this gazettelement moves forward. Of seven proposed protected areas in Northwest Liberia, only two have been established (Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve and Gola Forest National Park). Without land-use planning that incorporates the additional proposed protected areas, continued deforestation and forest degradation will undermine the ecological integrity of these areas. Continued forest loss in Northwest Liberia will have significant negative impacts on biodiversity. As one of the largest remaining forest blocks in West Africa, the region is vital for endangered species that require large areas of habitat, such as the chimpanzee, pygmy hippopotamus, and forest elephants. Continued forest loss and fragmentation will erode some of the last remaining large tracts of intact habitat for these species, which also serve as indicators of overall ecosystem health.
69. In terms of food security, without interventions the most severe effects of climate change on agricultural production in Liberia are anticipated in Bong and Lofa counties (USAID 2013), which comprise a significant portion of the Northwest Liberia Landscape. These counties were the primary agricultural areas before Liberia's civil war destroyed the nation's agricultural production system. Successful interventions therefore need to focus on adapting agriculture to anticipated changes, but this will not happen in the absence of integrated land-use planning that incorporates climate considerations and their implications for ecosystem services. Among the most problematic climate change implications that will be exacerbated by forest loss are hydrological impacts; in addition to undermining food security due to impacts on quantity, quality and timing of available water for agriculture, these impacts will affect watershed services pertaining to planned hydroelectric development as well as urban water supplies.
70. The current baseline scenario involves ongoing efforts of a broad array of stakeholders. Key actors relevant to the institutional and regulatory framework in the NW Liberia Landscape, relating in particular to land rights, conservation and food production, include:

*Land rights*

1. Government – LLA: develop policies on a continuous basis, undertake actions and implement programs in support of land governance, including land administration and management in Liberia
2. NGO – IDH: piloting land use planning in Lofa and conducting community awareness and sensitization the Liberian Land Rights Law particularly on land ownership in general and specifically on Customary Land and key questions related to Customary Land Right

3. NGO – Landesa: identifying and addressing key land-related challenges with the aim of enhancing the tenure security of poor rural women and men in Liberia.
4. CBO – FCI: Promoting Land rights, natural resource management and benefit sharing
5. CSO – SDI: Promoting SDI's community rights and food security with good governance in forest and climate policy of Liberia.

#### *Conservation*

1. Government – EPA, FDA, MoA
2. NGOs – CI, FFI, RSPB, IDH, SCNL, Solidaridad,
3. CSOs – SDI
4. Academia – FTI

#### *Food production*

1. Local communities in project sites
  2. Private sector – Mano, Theobroma
  3. Cooperatives who produce and buy food and cash crops
    - Gbahlay Farmers Cooperative
    - Nanorni oil palm cooperatives
    - Nanorni oil palm cooperatives
    - N'torfawor cooperatives
    - Manni rice farmers cooperative
    - Foya rural women cooperative
71. Various ongoing interventions seek to address aspects of the threats and barriers facing sustainable agricultural development in the Northwest Liberia Landscape. The most prominent examples include:
- The Liberia component of the GEF-funded Reducing Deforestation from Commodity Production project (Good Growth Partnership - GGP), which aims to facilitate sustainable oil palm development with a focus on the former Sime Darby concession;
  - A REDD+ demonstration in the northeastern portion of the project area, by FFI;
  - Forest monitoring and data management by the World Resources Institute (WRI);
  - Community-level alternative livelihood and livelihood support projects by various local and international NGOs (in fisheries, subsistence food crops and agroforestry, NTFPs)
72. The IDH program of work in Liberia constitutes an important part of the baseline that informs the FOLUR project design, specifically on the development of stakeholder engagement plans, business plans and landscape management plans in cocoa and palm oil production areas. This includes lessons learned from IDH's work on formulating investment plans for community oil palm and other livelihood and conservation opportunities to unlock financing and facilitate scaling up of sustainable cocoa and palm oil production. In Lofa County, IDH worked with cocoa company Theobroma (ECOM) from 2018-2020 to pilot transformation of grassland to cocoa agroforestry, including forest protection and restoration with the local community. The FOLUR project also builds on IDH work with palm oil company Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) on community oil palm and green growth plans through mobilizing investment in community outgrowers. IDH worked with GVL outgrower communities and the FDA to set aside forests for conservation, and build community capacity in governance, land use planning, food security and income diversification, and forest management.

73. Of the baseline activities, the GGP initiative is the most ambitious in scope and scale, including facilitation of national definition of RSPO standards and designing a smallholder oil palm development model, with support from IDH and CI. However, these interventions are unlikely to achieve scale or catalytic influence if decision makers do not adopt an integrated landscape management approach for development planning. Current work is taking place without systematic, holistic land-use plans, resulting in duplication, inefficiencies, and conflicting agendas. To address these deficiencies, the proposed project will work with stakeholders to produce landscape and national land-use plans that incorporate production, maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and restoration of degraded areas. The proposed project will facilitate harmonization of ongoing efforts into a coherent landscape-level program of work embedded within national strategies and approaches.

74. GGP key achievements include:

- Functional coordination mechanisms at the landscape (NWOPLF) and national level (NOPPOL) platforms. However, these platforms still have some capacity gaps including inadequate human and financial resources to run these platforms to push the RSPO NI process. Through FOLUR, NWOPLF will be expanded to cover all the five counties in the NW Liberia landscape and capacity of NWOPLF management team built on organizational management, conflict resolution, fundraising and proposal writing etc.
- Draft national oil palm strategy and action plan developed. However, the GGP is coming to an end. Hence, FOLUR project will implement this strategy at the landscape level.
- Successfully piloted CAs in three communities for conservation of 5,000 ha of HCS/HCV forest, hence, FOLUR will scale this up to 15,000 ha of HCS/HCV forest loss avoided in nine clans based on lessons learned from the pilot
- CI and UNDP supported the development of a regulation for Conservation Agreements with the FDA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Partners envisage that the LCF will serve as a mechanism for channeling funds from a range of conservation finance sources, including biodiversity offsets from Liberia's growing mining and energy sectors, payments for ecosystem services such as prevention of deforestation (REDD+) transactions, foreign sources, and earmarked government revenues such as conservation fees levied on the timber sector. However, the regulations have not yet been ratified. So, through the policy work under FOLUR project, these regulations will be pushed forward for ratification.
- Various analysis tools developed under GGP project such as the Landscape Causality tool (LCAT), Participatory Landscape Forest Analysis Tool (PALFAT), Landscape Analysis Tool (LAT) will be used in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the FOLUR project

While on policy, there are several on-going policies being developed under the GGP that the FOLUR project will build on including:

*Land use policy* being currently developed under the GGP project will contribute to the development of integrated land use plan for NW Liberia Landscape under FOLUR. This will substantially improve land use planning framework at the national level, supporting landscape approaches for land use planning and allowing for a more appropriate demarcation of forest land and protection of land that still has forest cover, and an improved monitoring of land use. This policy if successfully passed will allow better land use planning and enforcement in the GGP landscape and a stronger legal framework to protect HCS/HCV forest areas.

*Conservation Agreement legalization* being done by GGP Project where an analysis existing legislative gaps and linkages in relation to Conservation Agreements (CAs) as well as the

identification of international best practices in CAs within production landscapes was produced, to inform the development of legal instruments related to CAs within production landscapes. A draft regulation was developed in consultation with the FDA and the EPA and finalization and gazettelement is envisioned for Q1-Q2 2021. Once legalized, this will give a legal basis for the use of CAs in FOLUR project, and facilitate land use planning, conservation and community benefits in production landscapes. This will provide a stronger legal framework as well as sustainability to CA tool, ensuring protection of HCVF and supporting local development.

*Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA)* completed to inform policy and strategy with respect to commercial and smallholder oil palm plantation development, on the basis of economic modeling combined with geospatial analysis of land suitability. The GGP does not include next steps to implement this strategy; the FOLUR project investment will use TSA results to ground the strategy for approaching potential sources of financing for development of sustainable smallholder palm oil production.

## **G. Alternatives to the Business-as-Usual Scenario**

75. Under the Business-as-Usual scenario, the forest ecosystems in the Northwest Liberia Landscape are highly threatened. Approaches that might be considered for improving land use management within the landscape include efforts that focus on formal protected areas, community forestry, livelihoods and economic development, or local land-use planning.
76. Protected area establishment is an important element of Liberia's overall biodiversity strategy. A focus to advance establishment of the pending proposed protected areas in Northwest Liberia would be an important contribution but would not be sufficient on its own. First, important areas fall outside the proposed protected areas in the landscape, especially with respect to habitat connectivity between high conservation value forest blocks. Creating protected areas as forest islands within an otherwise deteriorating landscape will not be ecologically, socially, or politically sustainable in the long term. As degradation leads to productivity decline elsewhere, communities, government and concessionaires will see these islands as obstacles to development rather than natural capital assets to be conserved.
77. A focus on livelihoods and economic development (e.g. through investment in community agriculture and community forestry) may be expected to reduce dependence on unsustainable resource use. Given that farmers in Northwest Liberia need alternatives to low-productivity shifting cultivation, there is a window of opportunity to both reduce forest loss and degradation and promote climate smart agriculture, including oil palm and alternatives such as sustainable cocoa. However, remote rural communities in Northwest Liberia will continue to rely on the natural resource base, auguring a significant risk of increased pressure on resources as market links improve, household incomes rise, and better prospects attract migrants to the area. These forces could overwhelm incentives for sustainable resource management at the local level in the absence of more holistic planning, coordination, monitoring and management.
78. Land-use planning is critical to help rationalize resource use, zoning, and land management. Comprehensive land use plans could specify, for example, conservation zones within Community Forests, parcels available for agriculture, and other areas that are available for extractive activities subject to sustainable harvesting plans. However, if not embedded in a broader policy framework and supported by a broad-based multi-stakeholder process, local level land-use planning on its own is unlikely to secure sufficient buy-in or impact to be maintained as an ongoing process. Thus, it is not likely to produce enduring behavior change that includes conservation and sustainable management.

79. Each of the approaches noted above offers valuable contributions, but they share several challenges. First, there is a dearth of information as well as processes to systematically incorporate information in decision-making. This relates to ecosystem functions, conditions, and trends, as well as ecosystem service values and the value of natural capital. This makes it difficult to make the case for protected areas or particular livelihood investments, and also poses an obstacle to land use planning. Second, each of these approaches requires sustained funding over a meaningful period of time, which is difficult to justify given low probability of success and long-term impact of individual actions. Third, they do not address important ecological and economic linkages across the larger landscape, or the array of mandates and policy frameworks that shape the priorities and activities of the many implicated stakeholders.
80. The selected scenario for this project adopts an integrated landscape approach that combines land-use planning at multiple levels with targeted support for community/smallholder participation in high-potential agroforestry sectors. The focus on oil palm and cocoa will leverage existing private sector interest in these commodities as prospects for the project area. Land use planning will also be used to guide investment in restoration activities that enhance ecosystem services and optimize spatial configuration of productive activities. Doing so will strengthen the wider enabling environment for livelihood investment, embedded in a national land-use planning process. This integrated approach will establish the framework for a fundamental shift in Liberia's approach to commercial agroforestry development, thus advancing conservation and sustainable use of Liberia's natural capital. Building the requisite capacity and demonstrating the ability of integrated landscape management to attract efficacious development investment will secure multi-stakeholder buy-in and is more likely to be sustained at an institutional level in the long term.
81. Specific actions to improve production practices of palm oil and cocoa to make them more sustainable can include:
- Improving access of smallholder cocoa and palm oil farmers to high quality cocoa and palm oil seeds by linking them to seed suppliers and private sector such as MANO for palm oil and Theobroma for cocoa.
  - Establish VSLAs and cooperatives to improve farmers' access to credit
  - Training of farmers on good agronomic and agroforestry practices.
  - Demonstration and promotion of climate smart agricultural practices
  - Crop suitability analysis for cocoa and palm oil will be conducted
  - Promote alternative livelihoods such as vegetable production, rice, cassava, NTFPs etc.
  - Development of credible certification programme for NW Liberia Landscape cocoa and palm oil
  - Strengthening existing cooperatives for activities such as extension, training, seeds and nursery, pre- and post- harvest technologies, and other agricultural products processing and marketing

This entails working with actors at various points in the supply chain, most notably farmer cooperatives and farmers themselves (e.g., building on IDH work with farmers and communities on land rights and sustainable cocoa and palm production, and CI work on community-based land use planning and conservation incentives), finance for smallholder development (e.g., the &green Fund, Althelia, and the LDN Fund), and the region's large-scale commercial plantation and mill operator (Mano Palm Oil Industries).

82. A number of key policies exist that could potentially incentivize and promote enterprise and investments in sustainable cocoa and palm oil production including the Liberia Agricultural Transformation Agenda—LATA, The Cocoa and Oil palm export strategies by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the International Trade Centre (2014), and the Investment Promotion

Strategy by the National Investment Commission (2013). Thus, the alternative scenario includes a review of legal context and policy incentive options on land use and promotion of climate-smart agriculture and responsibly produced palm oil and cocoa, to generate policy recommendations to support sustainable cocoa and palm oil production. For these recommendations to have an impact, the alternative scenario must include strengthening institutional capacities of key government agencies and ministries to effectively carry out their respective mandates, and coordination. Key entities to target include:

- The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), for it to provide climate smart agricultural extension and advisory services to farmers
- Liberia Agricultural Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA), enacted by national law to improve the regulatory environment for trade
- The Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) established with the mandate of training and certifying cooperatives
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with the mandate of guiding Liberia towards compliance with national and international environmental laws
- Forestry Development Authority as a custodian of the protected areas network and other forested lands in Liberia

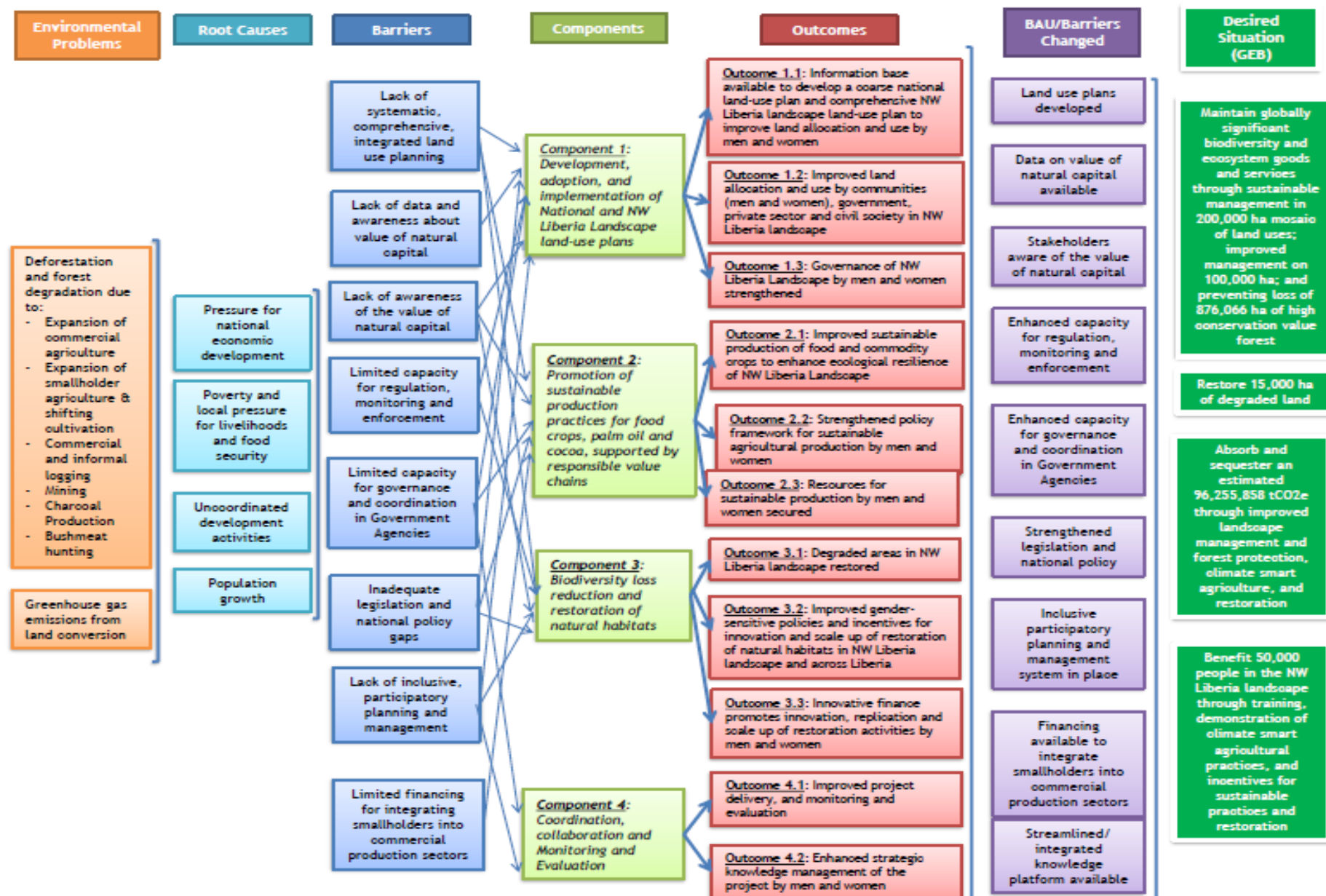
#### **H. Cost Effectiveness Analysis of Chosen Alternative**

83. The three primary components of this project entail development of land-use plans; promotion of sustainable food, palm oil and cocoa production; and reduction of biodiversity loss principally through restoration. Each of these components pursues long-term outcomes that do not lend themselves to meaningful short-term indicators, so the cost effectiveness analysis takes the form of qualitative assessment that examines the alternatives that were considered.
84. As described above, the alternatives to the selected approach may be valuable activities to undertake, and therefore are not necessarily to be ruled out on the basis of cost, but on their own and in the absence of requisite enabling conditions they offer a low probability of success. For example, protected areas established without regard to wider landscape management are unlikely to be robust. Livelihood investment in the absence of a land-use planning framework will not result in optimal resource use. Land-use planning at the local level is unlikely to endure without the foundation of multi-stakeholder, landscape-level planning, and management, supported by an appropriate policy framework. Therefore, premature investment in these alternatives, particularly as stand-alone initiatives, would be a poor use of scarce conservation and development funds.
85. The selected scenario is thus more cost-effective because it will involve collaboration between communities, civil society organizations, the private sector, and a broad range of government agencies to put in place the enabling conditions for enduring sustainable management through a landscape-level land-use planning process. Landscape-level results will guide local land-use planning, livelihood investment, and restoration efforts, which together increase the likelihood of enduring stakeholder buy-in that will sustain positive ecosystem impacts. In so doing, the project will also enhance the probability of success for future deployment of other approaches.
86. In addition to the on-ground activities of the Project, a landscape land-use plan that informs a national land-use plan will enhance the cost-effectiveness of a broad range of future investments. Protected area planning will benefit from a land-use plan that reflects community input on priority areas for resource access. Investment in commercial agroforestry will benefit from mapping of suitability based on soil, hydrology, climate, and other factors. Community forestry initiatives will benefit from baseline information on spatial distribution of resources. Government infrastructure

investments will benefit from mapping of current and potential land use including settlements, agroforestry, and other activities. Absent an integrated landscape management framework with the associated planning tools, work in any of these and other domains would require costly *de novo* investment in data gathering, stakeholder engagement and consultations, and policy analysis.

## SECTION 3: PROJECT STRATEGY

### Theory of Change



## **A. Objective, Components, Expected Outcomes, Targets, and Outputs**

### **Objective**

87. The objective of this project is to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems for improved livelihoods in NW Liberia Landscape through land use planning, restoration of degraded lands, and strengthening governance, policies, and market incentives for nationally replicable models of deforestation-free cocoa and palm oil value chains. The project will do so by supporting community adoption of sustainable agriculture and agroforestry methods in Northwest Liberia, in areas identified through land-use planning at community and landscape levels. This includes work with communities whose lands overlap with commercial oil palm concessionaire MPOI/MPOP, such that the concessionaire is a key participant in land-use planning processes. Land-use planning outputs will also inform development of a coarse national land-use plan. Community participation in markets will be enhanced through farmer cooperatives and private-sector partnerships. To reinforce sustainable production, the project will also pilot land restoration activities with communities and introduce draft regulations that support sustainable land-use management, agriculture, and restoration.

### **Component 1: Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans**

88. The first component of the project will entail preparing land-use plans as the basis for investments in sustainable, climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry and restoration. Participatory, multi-stakeholder land-use planning will take place at community and landscape levels. At the same time the project will support a national land-use planning process to extend project impacts beyond the Northwest Liberia Landscape; the three levels of planning will take place concurrently and inform each other. At the national level, a coarse national land use plan will be developed, relying on secondary/desktop research; at the landscape level, detailed land use plans will be developed based on secondary data as well as primary data to be collected under the project.
89. Integrated landscape management refers to long-term collaboration among different groups of land managers and stakeholders to achieve the multiple objectives required from the landscape. Stakeholders seek to solve shared problems or capitalize on new opportunities that reduce trade-offs and strengthen synergies among different landscape objectives. Although there are many different approaches to integrated landscape management, with different entry points, processes and institutional arrangements, common features include broad stakeholder participation, negotiation around objectives and strategies, and adaptive management based on shared learning. To these ends, the project will work through a coalition of partners, government authorities and other stakeholders, through an existing land use planning working group that already is in place; a first step in the process will be to jointly develop a vision for the landscape. Land use planning will identify areas for protection, conservation, and production, which will be delineated in an inclusive and participatory manner; a landscape management body will be established with responsibility for ensuring implementation of the land use plans; and this body will supported by regulations on integrated land use planning and management to be developed by the project. Lessons learned from the land use planning process will be documented and shared for adaptive management.

**Outcome 1.1:** Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use by men and women

**Target 1.1:** *One comprehensive information and data set available to stakeholders and decision-makers*

90. Robust land-use planning requires reliable data and information on which to evaluate trade-offs and make decisions. At present, available data for the Northwest Landscape is incomplete and of varying quality. Although information on legal, regulatory and policy context has been compiled for various projects, these efforts were not conducted with the specific lens of land-use planning needs at the landscape level. Similarly, although various projects have involved gathering of field data on socioeconomic conditions, community resource use, market factors and ecology and natural capital values, these collection exercises also were not designed – in terms of content or geographical scope – with land-use planning needs in mind. Therefore, critical first steps will be to assess the data available and address critical data and information gaps.

**Output 1.1.1:** *Information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan from secondary/desktop research*

91. While the critical scale for land-use planning and sustainable land use management is at the local level, the wider national context shapes opportunities and constraints and dictates norms and standards for relevant processes and products. Therefore, the planning process must be grounded in a comprehensive review of relevant policies, laws, strategies, and initiatives. This output will also help the wide range of diverse stakeholders involved in the land-use planning process converge on shared expectations for how the process will unfold, and the factors that shape and constrain options for decision-makers. This output will include an inventory of available data sets with national coverage of essential layers for a coarse national land use map (e.g. population distribution; current land use/land cover; transportation infrastructure; agricultural potential; mineral potential; critical ecosystems).

**Output 1.1.2:** *Biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape to inform land-use planning for food-security and for sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa by men and women*

92. To provide the reliable, spatially explicit data layers needed for the landscape-level planning process, the project will undertake a set of assessments to address data and information gaps. Biophysical assessments will include current land use, agricultural potential, forest cover (disaggregated by types including primary, secondary, and degraded), carbon content (including identification of HCS area), and biodiversity/key ecosystem services (including identification of HCV areas). Forest resources will be captured in a way that contributes to development of the forest component of the emerging Natural Capital Accounting system for Liberia. Social assessments will update key demographic information (the last census was conducted in 2008), noting the potential for synergy with the next census planned for 2021, and seek to clarify community tenure claims. Economic assessments will develop a landscape-level mapping of key value chains, with a focus on palm oil and cocoa.

**Outcome 1.2:** Improved land allocation by communities (men and women), government, private sector, and civil society in NW Liberia landscape

**Target 1.2.a:** *Nine clan land use plans developed and adopted*

**Target 1.2.b:** *15,000 ha of HCS/HCV forest loss avoided*

**Target 1.2.c:** *Gazettement package developed for one Proposed Protected Area*

93. The information and data collected under Outcome 1.1 will be used to inform participatory multi-stakeholder, multi-criteria land-use planning processes at two levels, the landscape, and communities. A coarse national land-use map will provide the starting point for a comprehensive Northwest Liberia Landscape land-use plan, with input from government (national agencies and local government at district and county levels), the private sector and civil society. Thus the project will

develop land-use plans (LUPs) for the Northwest Liberia Landscape as a whole, and with 9 clans (Gola Konneh, Maima, Normon, Sokpo, Tonglay, Zue, Wengolu, Zeayamai, and Bondi) to avoid 15,000 ha of HCS/HCV forest loss. These clans were selected through a participatory multi-stakeholder process during the partners' strategic alignment workshop, based on (a) their proximity to either Protected Areas or Proposed Protected Areas; (b) the presence of one or more implementing partners; and (c) on-going initiatives including stakeholder engagement by partners. These land use plans will seek to achieve a stakeholder-informed balance between production and natural capital maintenance needed to make production sustainable in the long term. The project will further improve land allocation and use by preparing the gazettelement package for the Wologizi Proposed Protected Area.

**Output 1.2.1:** *Coarse National and comprehensive NW Liberia land-use plans/maps, identifying target areas for production, protection and restoration developed in a participatory and inclusive manner*

94. The coarse national land use map will highlight key planning criteria such as population distribution; current land use/land cover; transportation infrastructure; agricultural potential; mineral potential; and natural capital values and critical ecosystems (including proposed protected areas). With more comprehensive and spatially explicit data, the landscape-level planning process will result in proposed zoning that balances the various policy priorities and commitments of the Government of Liberia, including employment, economic development, and environmental sustainability. This initial landscape LUP will be fine-tuned based on Clan LUP results.

**Output 1.2.2:** *NW Liberia landscape land-use plan adopted and jointly implemented by communities (men and women), government, the private sector and civil society*

95. To ensure adoption of the NW Liberia land use plan at the local level, the land use planning process will emphasize sustainable livelihoods and strengthened participation in growing commercial opportunities in palm oil and cocoa, and also will prioritize food security and the potential for community-based conservation (e.g. set-aside and management of primary forest on their lands and within Community Forests). Through Conservation agreements, LUPs will be developed for nine clans that will inform investment to support adoption of sustainable agriculture/agroforestry options and restoration activities to avoid the loss of 15,000 ha of HCS/HCV forests, and serve as pilot/demonstration exercises for future replication throughout the Northwest Liberia Landscape and elsewhere in Liberia. The planning process itself will draw on participatory tools that already have been developed and adapted to the Liberia context for instance by IDH in Foya District in Lofa County.

**Output 1.2.3:** *Land-Use Planning results inform the development of a gazettelement package for Wologizi Proposed Protected Area*

96. Protected Areas are anchors for landscape resilience in the NW Liberia Landscape, vital for ecosystem services through maintenance of forest cover, watersheds, and biodiversity habitat. The LUP process will generate key data and information, including stakeholder consultations and planning inputs, which converge with the requirements of PA gazettelement packages. Thus, the Project will help consolidate the PA network by supporting development of the gazettelement package for the Wologizi Proposed Protected Area (99,538 ha). This activity will be led by FFI and entails aligning LUP results with steps defined by the FDA in preparation for PA declaration, including documentation of ecological values; threat assessments; socioeconomic assessments; community consultations and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes; multi-stakeholder consultations with local and national government; and detailed mapping and delineation of PA metes and bounds. Using these LUP results, FFI will work with the FDA on preparation of a draft legislative act to establish the

Wologizi Protected Area. Upon completion of this output, the FDA will be ready to submit the gazette package for consideration by Cabinet and recommendation to the legislature.

**Outcome 1.3:** Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by men and women strengthened

**Target 1.3a:** *One governance mechanism in place*

**Target 1.3b:** *Two new regulations supporting sustainable land-use planning and management considered by cabinet*

97. The purpose of investing in land-use planning processes is to facilitate improved governance of the Northwest Liberia Landscape, positing that improved governance will lead to better outcomes with respect to sustainable economic development. A land-use plan will serve as a mechanism for coordinating and aligning the activities of the various agencies and stakeholders that relate to governance. Improved governance requires the formation of a suitable mechanism to convene stakeholders and supporting regulations that empower the governance structure to fulfill its function. Thus, whereas much of the project area currently exhibits a governance vacuum, at the end of the project there will be a functioning structure for governance focused on sustainable land use.
98. A landscape forum - North West Oil Palm Landscape Forum (NWOPLF) - was established under the GGP, covering the Counties of Bomi and Grand Cape Mount. Under this project, NWOPLF will be extended to other Counties (Lofa, Bong, and Gbarpolu) in the NW Liberia landscape to ensure stakeholder participation, dialogue and approval, and to facilitate inter-agency and multi-sectoral coordination. NWOPLF will meet quarterly to review and discuss local developments and project activities. The scope of NWOPLF will be broadened to not only cover oil palm but also the cocoa value chain, thus promoting long-term sustainable palm oil and cocoa production by providing a mechanism for convening and coordinating between public and private sectors to define sustainability priorities and policies. The FOLUR project will support and strengthen NWOPLF members on management, conflict resolution, and resource mobilization and in developing a long-term venue in which public and private sectors can align and develop joint actions to mitigate negative impacts of palm oil and cocoa production and maximize productivity. This will strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable production in Liberia. Further reinforcing national impact, there will be frequent interactions and cross-representation/coordination between NWOPLF and the National Oil Palm Platform of Liberia (NOPPOL) and National Cocoa Sector Platform.

**Output 1.3.1:** *Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Governance Structure for NW Liberia Landscape established*

99. As the Northwest Liberia Landscape spans several counties and is relevant to multiple sectors, governance at the landscape level necessarily requires a multi-stakeholder framework. The principal functions of this governance structure will be to monitor adherence to and implementation of the land-use plan; periodically revisit and update land-use plans in light of changing circumstances, opportunities or needs; and address land-use conflicts that may emerge. The mandates of the EPA and County Administrations are most closely aligned with the role of convening this governance structure, with other key participants including sectoral ministries and agencies as well as representation from the private sector, civil society, and the local populace. While executing the land-use planning process, the project will develop the Terms of Reference for the governance structure as a whole and its participating members.
100. Under the GGP project, a multi-stakeholder landscape forum - North West Oil Palm Landscape Forum (NWOPLF) was established covering two counties of Bomi and Grand Cape Mount. NWOPLF was composed of several stakeholders including Government (MoA, FDA, MiA, and NBC), NGOs (CI Liberia), the Private sector (Sime Darby Plantation Liberia) and CSOs in both Counties. Based on the

successes and lessons learned from NWOPLF, this project will strengthen the NWOPLF to cover all five Counties in the NW Liberia Landscape (Lofa, Bong, Bomi, Gbarpolu, and Grand Cape Mount). The composition of the NWOPLF will also be increased to include additional stakeholders as below:

- Government: MoA, LLA, FDA, MiA, NBC, MoGCSP, Ministry of Mines and Energy, LACRA, CDA
- NGOs: CI Liberia, SCNL, FFI, RSPB, IDH and Solidaridad
- Private sector: MPOI, Theobroma, Liberation Chocolate, Greentech, Intofawar Cooperative, Trade Link, Gbahlay Farmers Cooperative, Wienco, Liberia Agriculture and Asset Development Company (LAADCO), Nanorni oil palm cooperatives, Maliando cocoa cooperative, N'torfawor cooperatives, Foya rural women cooperative, Vainga Agriculture Development and Management Consultancy (VADEMCO) etc.
- CSOs: Foundation for Community Initiative (FCI), SDI, SADS, Forest cry, FACE, Grand Cape Mount Civil Society Organizations, SAMFU etc.
- Academia: University of Liberia, Forestry Training Institute

101. The updated Terms of Reference to be developed for the expanded NWOPLF will define roles and responsibilities for the members with respect to land use planning processes and landscape governance for sustainability. At a minimum, it is anticipated that a NWOPLF Executive Committee will hold quarterly coordination meetings to guide land use planning processes and provide input into deployment of project field activities. It is envisioned that a set of technical working groups will provide specific substantive inputs for various aspects of project processes, such as mapping and spatial prioritization; policy alignment; landscape-level investment coordination; and communications/dissemination.

**Output 1.3.2:** *A gender-sensitive system for management, monitoring and evaluation developed to ensure compliance with NW Liberia Landscape land-use plan*

102. Application of a land-use plan will require compliance monitoring, overseen by the governance structure developed under Output 1.3.1. A monitoring system will be designed that seeks to leverage existing monitoring roles and responsibilities of the relevant agencies. The MRV framework developed under the aegis of the FDA in furtherance of Liberia's participation in REDD+ will provide a basis for tracking land-use change; thus, the main design activity under Output 1.3.2 will be to identify the means by which land-use change trends are assessed against land-use plans. As this function requires GIS capacity, LISGIS will be considered as a first option.

**Output 1.3.3:** *Two gender sensitive regulations to improve integrated land-use planning and management in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia developed*

103. To reinforce the installation of the governance mechanism, the project will seek ways to strengthen its mandate by way of new regulations. Currently, the regulatory framework in Liberia does not explicitly require or support integrated land-use planning and management. Although the most feasible and impactful focus for new regulations will be determined during analysis to be conducted during project execution, anticipated possibilities include requiring that concession allocation processes take existing land-use plans into account, and that County development planning be integrated with landscape-level land-use planning processes. To ensure these regulations are enforced, the project will partner with and build the capacity of key stakeholders including government ministries and agencies with enforcement mandates such as FDA, EPA, MIA, and MoGCSP. In addition, the landscape governance structure will be strengthened to enforce these regulations at the sub-national level in collaboration with the line government ministries and agencies

***Component 2: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains***

104. Component 2 will involve the implementation of LUPs by expanding sustainable food and commercial crop production in areas zoned for this use within the landscape. The current spatial distribution of agricultural and agroforestry production is not governed by any holistic or integrated landscape planning process. Moreover, people continue to rely on traditional and conventional practices, which contribute to deforestation, forest fragmentation, and forest and soil degradation. In addition to undermining long-term productivity of the resource base, these practices result in carbon emissions that contribute to global climate change. The project will demonstrate sustainable production alternatives and empower people to adopt improved practices and forms of commercial organization.

**Outcome 2.1:** Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape

**Target 2.1a:** 200,000 hectares under sustainable land management

**Target 2.1b:** 100,000 ha under improved management to benefit biodiversity

105. Resilience in the Northwest Liberia Landscape is threatened by pressure on ecosystems from traditional and conventional resource use. Commercial oil palm development may convert a large parcel of forest to monoculture; forests are threatened by timber concessions without planning, monitoring and enforcement; potential mining in the landscape can lead to intense concentrations of negative impact on ecosystems. Meanwhile, farmers rely on shifting cultivation and conventional practices that threaten further deforestation and degradation. These pressures threaten continual impoverishment of the resource base and loss of ecosystem services, and thus a general decline in resilience. By introducing climate smart agriculture and sustainable management practices, supported by strengthened participation in value chains that reward sustainable choices, the project will facilitate the transition toward a more resilient development trajectory based on deforestation-free commercial agroforestry.

106. Building on land-use planning and capacity-building with respect to climate-smart agriculture through training and demonstrations, the project will extend sustainable practices to 100,000 ha of land under production of food and commodity crops, through direct work with project beneficiaries. Achieving this level of adoption will require incentive mechanisms and institutional development, to motivate and make possible behavior change at scale. The spatial configuration of this behavior change will depend on outcomes of land-use planning processes, but a substantial focus may be anticipated in and around the existing commercial oil palm concession; analysis conducted for UNDP suggests that on the order of 120,000 ha of the concession may be suitable for sustainable smallholder oil palm development. Further areas are anticipated to come under improved sustainable production as an indirect impact of the project, through replication by non-beneficiaries facilitated by partners in the landscape.

**Output 2.1.1:** Capacity of male and female farmers, small-medium enterprise service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff built on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices with a focus on palm oil and cocoa value chains

107. The project will conduct a wide-reaching awareness and training program to expose stakeholders throughout the landscape to climate-smart agricultural alternatives, prioritizing palm oil and cocoa value chains and, in response to community priorities, also addressing NTFP opportunities. This package of practices will emphasize livelihood options that do not rely on continual forest

conversion, but instead benefit from the presence of healthy forest ecosystems. (In addition to livelihood diversification, emphasis on NTFPs helps strengthen the case for forest conservation and restoration activities). This campaign will reach at least 10,000 beneficiaries; recognizing that exposure does not result in 100% of beneficiaries immediately changing behavior, this size audience will ensure an initial critical mass of early adopters. Producers will be trained on farming as a business, post-harvest handling, and market information systems. The content of this capacity-building program will be developed by contracted subject-matter experts working with FDA, the Ministry of Agriculture, EPA and civil society organizations to also generate institutional capacity growth.

**Output 2.1.2:** *Climate-smart agricultural practices demonstrated by men and women*

108. The most effective way to convince farmers to adopting new methods is through practical demonstration. The project will include 20 demonstration sites where farmers will receive direct assistance in applying climate-smart practices. These sites will provide the basis for developing learning and dissemination materials (e.g. videos), and also be available for learning-visits for farmer-representatives from other communities. The sites will be selected as an output of the landscape-level land-use planning process, with the intent to achieve geographical diversity within the landscape as well as inclusion of different products (i.e. oil palm, cocoa, food crops).

**Output 2.1.3:** *Incentives for responsible palm oil and cocoa, and food crops provided for men and women*

109. The principal incentives for responsible production will consist of access to initial financing for agroforestry development, and market access and/or price premiums linked to global markets for sustainable palm oil and cocoa. The project will work to incorporate small farmers into these value chains through partnerships with larger private sector operators. One form of such links will be private sector engagement with commercial aggregators, who can combine supplies purchased from smallholders for onward sale to international buyers. Another is linking smallholder oil palm cultivation to the Mano Palm Oil Plantation as purchaser of output to feed the Mano mill. Access to initial financing will be linked to commitments to zoning and regulations developed under land-use plans, which thereby also forms an incentive for conservation-compatible food crop production. Other bespoke incentives will be defined using participatory processes during the design of conservation agreements with communities. These incentives will reach at least 20,000 beneficiaries by the end of the project, most of whom will be smallholders entering either the palm oil or cocoa sectors.

110. In addition to encouraging initial adoption of sustainable practices, the following measures will seek to provide market access and/or price premiums to ensure that sustainable practices endure after initial financing:

- Improving access of smallholder cocoa and palm oil farmers to high quality cocoa and palm oil seeds by linking them to seed suppliers and private sector such as MANO for palm oil and Theobroma for cocoa.
- Establishing VSLAs and cooperatives to improve farmers' access to credit.
- Development of credible certification programme for NW Liberia Landscape cocoa and palm oil
- Strengthening existing cooperatives for activities such as extension, training, seeds and nursery, pre- and post- harvest technologies, and other agricultural products processing and marketing

**Output 2.1.4:** *Community producers (men and women) of key commodities empowered and organized in a locally appropriate manner (cooperatives and other associations)*

111. Individuals face challenges with respect to value chain participation, for example in qualifying for investment finance, securing agricultural inputs, or negotiating prices for outputs. To demonstrate a means of overcoming these challenges, the project will work with sets of producers to establish formal bodies to serve their collective interests. The nature of these bodies will be determined through a participatory process that responds to the needs and concerns of participating producers, but in essence will seek to capture the strengths of agricultural cooperative models. To demonstrate the potential benefits of such arrangements, the project will help producers organize through the establishment and/or strengthening of at least one cooperative or association in each of the four Counties in the project geography.

**Outcome 2.2:** Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production by men and women

**Target 2.2:** *Two new regulations supporting sustainable agriculture by men and women considered by cabinet*

112. The Government of Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development emphasizes the role of agriculture in economic development, and the Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (LASIP) stresses the importance of sustainable agriculture. However, while policies are broadly supportive of sustainable agriculture, there is a regulatory void with respect to concrete measures to enable or require sustainable approaches.

**Output 2.2.1:** *Policy recommendations to support sustainable agriculture by men and women developed and provided to government*

113. Building on lessons derived from demonstrations of practices and facilitation of incentives for sustainable agricultural production, the project will develop at least two policy recommendations for new regulations that support such production. Feasible and impactful areas for such regulatory recommendations will be identified over the course of execution but may be expected to include reinforcement of the linkages between sustainable agriculture and land-use planning, and between sustainable agriculture and maintenance of natural capital. Current policies on agriculture will be reviewed to ensure that sustainable production issues faced by women in NW Liberia landscape are addressed and incorporated in the five County Development plans, and/or National development plans and policies. All policy work will be conducted in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders including those in Government charged with the implementation and monitoring of these policies.

114. Priorities for policy work will be determined together with other stakeholders, through the NWOPLF. Building on GGP work, priorities for consideration include:

- Passage of land use policy developed under the GGP project to improve the land use planning framework at the national level, support landscape approaches for land use planning and allow more appropriate demarcation of forest land and protection of land that still has forest cover, and improve monitoring of land use.
- Build on Conservation Agreement legislation drafted under the GGP project, to reinforce the legal basis for use of CAs to facilitate land use planning, conservation and community benefits in production landscapes, and strengthen the legal basis for dedicating national sustainable financing mechanisms to CA maintenance.
- Build on policy recommendations informed by the GGP's Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) with respect to commercial and smallholder oil palm plantation development, notably on financing for development of sustainable smallholder palm oil production.

115. To enhance the likelihood that policy work will have concrete impact, the project will include strengthening institutional capacities of key government agencies and ministries to effectively carry out their respective mandates, and coordination. Key entities to target include:

- The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), for it to provide climate smart agricultural extension and advisory services to farmers
- Liberia Agricultural Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA), enacted by national law to improve the regulatory environment for trade
- The Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) established with the mandate of training and certifying cooperatives
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with the mandate of guiding Liberia towards compliance with national and international environmental laws
- Forestry Development Authority as a custodian of the protected areas network and other forested lands in Liberia

**Outcome 2.3:** Resources for sustainable production by men and women secured

**Target 2.3:** *US\$ 10 million directed to sustainable production*

116. Widespread adoption of sustainable production practices in the Northwest Liberia Landscape will require substantial amounts of catalytic financing. One constraint to adoption is the lack of access to affordable credit for initial changes in practices or development of plots; another is resources for training, capacity-building and dissemination; a third is the technical support required to facilitate the organization of producers into collective bodies such as cooperatives. Securing community commitments to conservation within a wider deforestation-free production landscape will also require financing for conservation incentives, and finally the complete land-use plan will also result in costs of establishing and managing new protected areas within the landscape. Thus, securing financial resources for sustainable production will be a critical outcome of the project.

**Output 2.3.1:** *Long-term gender-sensitive financial plan*

117. Currently there are a number of initiatives in the Northwest Liberia Landscape with bearing on financing solutions, but these initiatives are not coordinated or aligned. This suggests that there may be missed opportunities for synergies, either in fundraising and financing solutions or in cost-sharing and implementation efficiencies. Therefore a holistic, integrative Financial Plan will be developed during project implementation. The Northwest Liberia land-use plan will provide the basis for identifying synergies and developing a financial plan for integrated land-use management across the landscape. A critical element of this financial plan will be alignment and coordination of government resources, such that these resources collectively are rationalized within the framework of the land-use plan. The Financial Plan will build on the TSA prepared under the GGP to include an investment prospectus for impact investors, non-grant instruments from development institutions, and conventional investment sources. TSA results indicate that the economics of investment in smallholder oil palm development benefit government, communities and the private sector, while maintaining valuable natural capital, suggesting good prospects for securing investment over the project period. In the event that the target amount is not secured within the project period, key stakeholders (CI, FFI, IDH) are committed to continued work with the Government of Liberia on efforts to secure investors, while direct project impacts are sustained through market relationships built between smallholders in the landscape and other supply chain participants.

**Output 2.3.2:** *Innovative and blended financing for sustainable production by men and women leveraged including supply chain systems, Liberia Conservation Fund, and REDD+*

118. The financial plan will take a long-term perspective, but the project target of US\$ 10 million will be secured within the 5-year project timeframe. A substantial anticipated source of financing will be in the form of impact investment, as the prospect of sustainable agriculture that yields triple-bottom line benefits (financial return, socio-economic impacts, and conservation impacts) lends itself well to this financing option. The de-risking effect of a significant medium-term GEF commitment, reinforced by leveraged co-funding from MPOI, further enhances the prospect of impact investment. For example, discussions focused on smallholder producers in and around the Mano concession have advanced with IDH on a possible investment from the &Green Fund, and CI has initiated discussions with Althelia Funds. Another potential impact investor that may offer a good fit is the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Fund. In addition, ongoing work by the Government of Liberia, Conservation International, and others to capitalize the Liberia Conservation Fund (LCF, a national endowed trust fund to support protected area management and community-based conservation in neighboring areas) will also support protected areas and stakeholder communities in Northwest Liberia. Currently, the LCF supports the East Nimba Nature Reserve, where a substantial share of community investment takes the form of technical support for sustainable agriculture, provided as incentives in Conservation Agreements. This precedent signals that LCF is a prospective source of similar financial support to sustain adoption of improved practices in Northwest Liberia. Finally, as one of Liberia's two major forest blocks, Northwest Liberia is the focus of ongoing work to secure REDD+ financing for forest conservation, with investment in sustainable agriculture as a leading strategy to avert deforestation and forest degradation.

### ***Component 3: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats***

119. Adoption of sustainable agriculture by local communities, subject to a landscape LUP and community-level LUPs, will attenuate the threat to biodiversity posed by uncontrolled expansion of irresponsible agriculture. However, integrated landscape management also must consider areas impacted by past activities. Logging, shifting cultivation, and mining have degraded parcels throughout the landscape, contributing to forest degradation and fragmentation. The landscape management plan will include identification and prioritization of these areas for restoration efforts.

**Outcome 3.1:** Degraded areas that are crucial for ensuring ecosystem connectivity and integrity restored in NW Liberia

**Target 3.1:** 15,000 ha restored directly by project

120. The landscape land-use planning process will identify areas for restoration and prioritize at least 15,000 ha for these efforts. The results of this prioritization will be validated through land-use planning steps at the community level. Restoration plans will be developed in response to specific needs at the site level but are anticipated to involve a combination of passive and active restoration measures depending on the level and type of degradation at a particular restoration site. At a minimum, restoration sites will be subject to monitoring and vigilance to prevent further disturbance and permit natural recovery. In extreme cases, active reforestation may be required. Restoration plans will be developed with technical guidance from EPA and the FDA, with input from other agencies as appropriate.

**Output 3.1.1:** NW Liberia Landscape Restoration Plan developed by men and women

121. A Restoration Plan will be one of the outputs of the landscape-level land use planning process. The plan will reflect planning objectives relating to habitat quality and connectivity, as well as productivity for agriculture (e.g. through watershed and pollination services) and NTFP provisioning services. Thus, the plan will build on the process used to define the target of 15,000 ha, based on spatial analysis and ROAM methodology as described above. A further planning objective will relate to

integrity and functioning of protected areas, which may benefit from restoration efforts both inside and outside their boundaries. To the degree possible, the Restoration Plan will indicate whether a site is suitable for active or passive restoration, subject to validation at the community level. Community-level land-use planning will include ground-truthing of landscape level restoration priorities, and verification of community needs and priorities with respect to restoration.

**Output 3.1.2:** *Enhanced restoration capacity of communities (men and women), land-users and local county authorities*

122. Restoration is a new concept to virtually all stakeholders in the Northwest Liberia Landscape. Therefore, restoration will be included as an element of the training and capacity-building program to be deployed under the project. This program will emphasize the contribution of restoration to sustainable agriculture and conservation, and position restoration as a commitment under landscape and community-level land-use plans. Approaches to passive restoration will be included throughout this program; targeted technical training with respect to active restoration will be provided at sites where this is relevant.

**Output 3.1.3:** *Restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management and natural regeneration*

123. To initiate implementation of the Restoration Plan, the project will conduct restoration initiatives in four pilot sites in the landscape. Site selection will depend on land-use planning processes and the resulting Restoration Plan but will seek to demonstrate different restoration approaches in different parts of the landscape. An important form of restoration will be establishing mixed agroforestry plots on formerly degraded land, demonstrating how commercial tree crops can contribute to improved forest condition and connectivity.

**Outcome 3.2:** Improved gender-sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia

**Target 3.2:** *One draft policy document supporting restoration by men and women considered by cabinet*

124. The Government of Liberia recognizes degradation as a growing problem, as indicated in the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Report (LDNTR) prepared under the auspices of the EPA. However, there are no concrete policy or regulatory provisions that explicitly support restoration. Building on lessons that will be learned from inclusion of restoration in land-use planning, training, and demonstration activities, the project will propose relevant policy for consideration by the Government of Liberia.

**Output 3.2.1:** *Gender-sensitive policies on performance payments and Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes developed and/or adopted by men and women for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape*

125. Performance payments, including Payments for Ecosystem Services, have received considerable attention in Liberia. Efforts to advance REDD+ in Liberia are a prominent example, including FFI's Wonegizi initiative in Northwest Liberia. Conservation International's community incentives linked to conservation performance are a second example. To date, these kinds of interventions have concentrated on protection and management of standing intact habitat. The project will develop the basis for a policy proposal to explicitly recognize the role of restoration in reducing net carbon emissions and advancing conservation objectives, and thus position restoration efforts to be eligible for this type of funding and compensation. To do so, the project will implement performance-based payments linked to restoration efforts, demonstrating how PES can be deployed for habitat restoration to enhance protection of HCS/HCV areas (i.e. to reinforce REDD+ interventions); this will provide the basis for explicit recognition of restoration as an eligible activity in relevant government policy (e.g., in updated NDCs and other climate change policy instruments).

**Outcome 3.3:** Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities by men and women

**Target 3.3:** US\$ 5 million directed to support restoration

126. Incentives to induce restoration at scale will require financing, particularly for active restoration efforts that require significant land-use management interventions. On their own, growing policy recognition of the issue of degradation in Liberia and recognition of restoration as an important element of integrated landscape management will not result in tangible improvements. Incentives to motivate restoration efforts and funding to cover the costs of these efforts will be essential. Rather than a distinct, stand-alone financing need, the costs of restoration need to be included as a core element of financial planning for integrated landscape management. Possible financing approaches include Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) by larger corporate actors in the landscape; bundling of restoration in REDD+ arrangements; and designation of restoration as an eligible activity under incentive-based community efforts catalyzed through conservation agreements. Recognizing that financing for restoration is a global challenge, this area of work is especially suitable for coordination with and support from the FOLUR Global Platform, and will generate learnings to capture in documentation for dissemination through the Platform's communications efforts.

**Output 3.3.1:** Innovative and blended financing for NW Liberia restoration leveraged, based on promising approaches from within Liberia and elsewhere to provide incentives to individuals (men and women) and communities for restoration

127. The argument for policy recognition of restoration as integral to landscape sustainability will also serve as an argument for financing restoration. Thus, funding for restoration will be included in the overall financing plan for sustainable management of the Northwest Liberia Landscape. The target of US\$ 5 million will be achieved by including restoration as part of agroforestry development on degraded lands, as an activity for community-based conservation, and as an element of REDD+ interventions.

#### **Component 4: Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation**

128. This project is large and complex, involving a wide range of stakeholders, with an ambitious objective that will be transformative. It will require dedicated management and coordination, and consistent effort to sustain forward progress. Therefore, the EPA and its partners have devoted particular attention to ensuring an effective structure for project management, governance, and coordination, based on past experience with analogous projects and programs. Moreover, linkages to the FOLUR Global Platform will be essential in this Component, to align program management and ensure consistency of M&E systems.

129. The project will engage with global, regional, and national networks, platforms and initiatives on cocoa and palm oil commodities to share experiences and allow for cooperation and networking among peers, awareness raising and ultimately upscaling. For palm oil, the project will engage using existing multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms at the national and landscape levels established under the Good Growth Partnership (GGP) including the National Oil Palm Platform of Liberia and Northwest Liberia landscape Oil Palm Forum; for cocoa, the project will engage with the Liberia Cocoa Sector Working Group. These platforms will act as the main knowledge hubs to share lessons and to maximize engagement of all stakeholders on the ground.

130. The project will also engage with regional platforms and initiatives focusing on cocoa and palm oil value chains (e.g., African Palm Oil Initiative, African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)),

and West Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (WACSAA) through South-South cooperation and exchange visits with other FOLUR beneficiary countries in West Africa (Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Guinea). At the Global level, the project will engage with various bodies such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), Global Landscape Forum (GLF), the One Planet network (10YFP) Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme, World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), UNDP Green Commodities Programme, and FOLUR-specific collaboration mechanisms that will be established.

**Outcome 4.1:** High quality project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation

**Target 4.1:** 15 satisfactory quarterly Project progress reports produced

131. Timely, high-quality Project reporting is critical for adaptive management, and the ambitious scope and scale of the proposed project will undoubtedly require adaptive management over the course of execution. This highlights the importance of both designing appropriate systems and processes, and staffing project management with appropriate skills and capacity. The reporting framework will be designed to meet the M&E needs of the Global Platform with respect to impact measurement as well as aggregation; the reporting system will be designed to facilitate bi-directional exchange between the Project and the Global Platform so as to maximize opportunities to benefit from FOLUR technical support.

**Output 4.1.1:** A gender-sensitive M&E system developed to collect, analyze, and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation

132. As land-use planning is the basis of the project, and effective land-use planning relies on robust data and information, the Monitoring and Evaluation system is vital for both project governance and for substantive project delivery. The M&E system must serve as an accessible depository for data and information, as well as the products developed using that data and information, while reliably tracking and documenting the evolution and execution of product development processes. These functions combine the needs of project delivery and project oversight and will also generate the material that will inform knowledge-sharing among stakeholders and with interested parties outside of Liberia. The M&E system will incorporate (among other considerations) the specific gender-related indicators tracked in the FOLUR Global Platform M&E framework.

**Outcome 4.2:** Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project by men and women

**Target 4.2a:** Five community resource centers equipped and one online knowledge management system established

**Target 4.2b:** 15 knowledge sharing events attended by men and women

133. The long-term success of the project hinges on stakeholder ability to access knowledge resources and information, both to inform their own activities and decision-making, and to facilitate coordination and alignment with other stakeholders. Improved stakeholder access to knowledge and information is among the primary motivations for the project. Five community resource centers at strategic locations throughout the landscape will serve as conduits for such information sharing, and as focal sites for ongoing stakeholder interactions. To extend knowledge sharing beyond the set of directly involved stakeholders, the project will include national, regional, and international engagements to pursue cross-project learning. Knowledge sharing activities will benefit from coordination with FOLUR Global Platform, to: contribute to and learn from other Child Projects and to contribute to the Global Platform's wider learning and dissemination efforts; ensure consistency with the Global Platform communications and outreach strategy; and actively participate in its Communities of Practice.

***Output 4.2.1: An integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system developed***

134. The integrated knowledge management system will provide a model for multi-stakeholder data and information sharing. For this system, the EPA will host an online portal that provides access to knowledge products and serves as a technical resource to facilitate replication of the integrated landscape management approach elsewhere. The five community resource centers will also be established under this output, as the means by which knowledge products and other resources will be made available to local information users. Recognizing limited internet access as well as low literacy levels, key resources need to be tailored appropriately to the intended users (e.g. short video formats viewable on phones rather than text-heavy brochures). The locations of these centers will be decided together with principal government agencies and county administrations, informed by the locations of the project's demonstration sites; choice of location will also consider potential use of centers as bases for outreach/extension efforts of EPA, FDA, Ministry of Agriculture and partners.

***Output 4.2.2: Men and women participate in various engagement forums/platforms at national, regional, and international levels to share knowledge generated in the Project***

135. The project will generate demonstrations and lessons that can inform analogous efforts elsewhere in Liberia, the wider region, and the world. From the outset, the project implementers will systematically capture learnings to facilitate dissemination. To enable knowledge sharing, the project will include national engagement activities as well as participation in regional and international events that provide opportunities to disseminate lessons learned. A focus of these knowledge sharing activities will be the community of FOLUR-related projects, but opportunities outside this community will also be pursued to maximize global impact.

**B. Associated Baseline Projects**

Existing and planned investments for related work include:

136. ***Biodiversity conservation project in Gola and Foya, 2020 – 2022 (USD 6.8 million)***. The European Union is funding this project, implemented by RSPB and SCNL with additional local partners, to support biodiversity conservation in protected areas in the Northwest Liberia Landscape (the existing Gola Forest National Park and the proposed Foya protected area) and neighboring community-managed forests. The initiative includes a land-use planning component which complements the proposed project; the proposed landscape-level planning process will align planning tools and processes, and aggregate local land-use planning outputs to achieve integrated landscape management.
137. ***Community Forestry project in the Gola Landscape, 2020 – 2021 (USD 519,000)***. The Rainforest Trust is supporting SCNL efforts to consolidate work carried out in 5 community forests near Gola Forest National Park and extending this model to other communities. The focus is on sustainable management of Community Forests, a legal designation intended to enable communities to pursue commercial timber and NTFP extraction, subject to sustainable management and land-use planning that also considers conservation and agriculture. SCNL is also in discussion with Rainforest Trust to secure an additional US\$ 500,000 to support establishment of the Foya protected area. The proposed project will reinforce these efforts through a landscape level land-use plan that prioritizes ecological connectivity between Gola and Foya community forests and the larger Northwest Liberia Landscape. These community lands may also provide suitable demonstration sites for restoration work.

138. ***Communities as Environmental Stewards of the Largest Guinea Rainforest Block, 2017-2020 (USD 330,000)***. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is supporting SCNL work with 15 communities around Gola Forest to engage in rainforest-friendly and climate-smart income-generating activities in and around their community forests. This initiative also includes work to strengthen community capacity with respect to governance and sustainable financing. The proposed project will complement this initiative by linking it to wider planning processes and incorporating additional communities in the Northwest Liberia Landscape.
139. ***Gola Cocoa: Protecting Forests and Empowering People project, 2020-2023 (USD 1 million)***. RSPB and SCNL are finalizing discussions with Partnerships for Forests to secure support for the development of a market value chain for premium "green" cocoa, focused on communities around the Gola and Foya protected areas. The proposed project will align with this work and add critical enabling elements, including a land-use planning lens that considers strategic optimization of cocoa investments across the landscape, and support for development of producer associations to strengthen their positioning for participation in value chains.
140. ***Microfinance for Gola Communities (USD 500,000)***. RSPB and SCNL are pursuing a Darwin Initiative investment in a financing mechanism for communities around Gola Forest National Park. The mechanism would provide small loans for small businesses and other income-generating activities; interest on loans is used to support Community Forest management activities. The proposed project will complement this potential project by pursuing other sources of impact investment for direct investment in the development of sustainable, deforestation free agroforestry (palm oil and cocoa).
141. ***Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP), 2016-2020 (USD 37.5 million)***. The LFSP is implemented by the FDA with funding from the Kingdom of Norway channeled through the World Bank. With the overarching goal of reducing deforestation to achieve carbon emissions reductions (REDD+), this project seeks to: expand the protected area network; improve government capacity to manage the nation's forest estate; promote sustainable community forestry; and develop sustainable financing for protected areas and community conservation. The proposed project will support LFSP by advancing land-use planning with an emphasis on deforestation-free development. The proposed project also will build on the LFSP with respect to financing strategy for conservation and forest management, including restoration. SCNL is negotiating a sub-grant for USD 500,000 under LFSP to pursue community forest-sector livelihood projects with communities around Gola Forest.
142. ***West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA-BiCC), 2015-2020 (USD 48.9 million)/ Community Landscape Management to Reduce Deforestation and Biodiversity Loss in the Gola Transboundary Forest Landscape 2017-2020 (USD 1.9 million)***. The USAID-funded regional WA-BiCC program seeks to address direct and indirect drivers of natural resource degradation to improve livelihoods and natural ecosystems across the region. WA-BiCC focuses on efforts to strengthen policies and systems that will improve natural resource management and the health and resilience of coastal and upland forest ecosystems. The Community Landscape Management project under WA-BiCC has supported collaborative management of key corridors within the Greater Gola Forest Landscape (and area spanning the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia) to protect biodiversity, support livelihoods and combat climate change. In Liberia, the project focuses on Porkpa District in Grand Cape Mount County. The proposed project will build on this initiative by linking community-level management to

integrated landscape management across the Northwest Liberia Landscape, and replicating successful components of the intervention with other communities.

143. **Wonegizi REDD+ Pilot Project, 2016-2020 (USD 4.6 million).** The Norad-funded Wonegizi REDD+ Pilot Project pursues three main outcomes: 1) Liberian stakeholders empowered to support development of international policy and global learning on REDD+; 2) National REDD+ policies enable the flow of climate finance to stakeholder communities at project and landscape scales, and align with frameworks for green growth and sustainable land use planning; 3) Operational REDD+ pilot protects forests and supports rural livelihoods in Wonegizi PPA and the wider landscape. The project works with national actors and local communities to establish the Wonegizi protected area and REDD+ pilot and promote sustainable forest management and improve rural livelihoods. This project sets the stage for the proposed project by providing baseline socio-economic, cultural, and ecological information required for relevant interventions. The proposed project will build on and strengthen livelihood activities around Wonegizi, particularly building on successful agricultural demonstrations and ensuring that they are taken to scale. The proposed project will also take learnings from the REDD+ pilot and incorporate them into the landscape financing strategy.
144. **The Liberia Conservation Fund (LCF):** An important component of the proposed project will advance sustainable financing for conservation management in Liberia. The FDA and CI worked together to create the LCF, launched in May 2018, with initial capitalization contribution of USD 1 million from CI's Global Conservation Fund and a commitment of USD 1 million from the Government of Liberia through the FDA. The above-mentioned LFSP may include a further contribution to this mechanism. The proposed project will examine the possibility of reinforcing the LCF as a national financing mechanism for community-based conservation and resource management, including REDD+ opportunities as well as restoration.
145. In addition to the currently ongoing and planned associated baseline projects, the proposed project will build on recently concluded activities including *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study in Liberia 2014-2016 (USD 120,000, UNEP/European Commission)* and *Mapping Essential Natural Capital 2016 (USD 300,000, EPA and CI)*.

### C. Incremental Cost Reasoning

146. The currently ongoing associated baseline projects described above are taking place without an integrated landscape management plan or any other holistic planning framework. This carries a significant risk of duplication of effort, missed opportunities for synergies, mixed messages to stakeholders, and incompatible intentions under different projects operating in the same areas. The proposed GEF investment in land-use planning will address this deficiency, thereby constituting clear coverage of an incremental cost above and beyond current efforts. Moreover, most of these baseline projects will conclude in 2020 or soon thereafter; the proposed project will be critical to consolidate and build on their outcomes and sustain progress toward integrated landscape management.
147. The Government of Liberia has emphasized palm oil as a leading driver of economic growth in its development planning. The smallholder segment of this sector offers significant potential for employment and pro-poor development, but to date Government and others have struggled to secure catalytic investment to scale up smallholder participation in Northwest Liberia, with attention concentrated on unlocking large commercial investment. One aspect of strengthening smallholder participation in value chains for both palm oil and cocoa is organizing farmers for collective benefits

(e.g. through cooperatives), which is an area of significant under-investment. This element of the proposed Project reflects another clear incremental cost.

148. Land-use planning under the project will identify areas suitable for restoration and undertake pilot restoration activities for demonstration purposes and to also inform policy engagement. This will offer a direct contribution to ecosystem health, reduce pressure on primary forests, and increase land productivity. Although restoration of degraded lands has been identified as a priority under policies of the EPA and other agencies, it has yet to receive meaningful investment and therefore constitutes a critical incremental cost.

149. As indicated previously, several aspects of the GGP are key elements of the baseline upon which the project will build. These constitute incremental costs which, if not undertaken, would limit the long-term impact of the GGP. Specific elements include:

- Functional coordination mechanisms at the landscape (NWOPLF) and national level (NOPPOL) platforms. However, these platforms still have some capacity gaps including inadequate human and financial resources to run these platforms to push the RSPO NI process. Through FOLUR, NWOPLF will be expanded to cover all five counties in the NW Liberia landscape and capacity of NWOPLF management team built on organizational management, conflict resolution, fundraising and proposal writing etc.
- Draft national oil palm strategy and action plan developed. However, the GGP is coming to an end, without provisions for implementation of the strategy. Hence, FOLUR project will implement this strategy at the landscape level, and generate momentum for national implementation.
- Successfully piloted CAs in three communities for conservation of 5,000 ha of HCS/HCV forest. This GGP achievement represents an important demonstration of using CAs in a productive landscape, but does not have provisions for replication and scale up. The FOLUR project will scale this up to 15,000 ha of HCS/HCV forest loss avoided in nine clans, based on lessons learned from the GGP pilot.
- CI and UNDP supported the development of a regulation for Conservation Agreements with the FDA and EPA. Partners envisage that the LCF will serve as a mechanism for channeling funds from a range of conservation finance sources, including biodiversity offsets from Liberia's growing mining and energy sectors, payments for ecosystem services such as REDD+ transactions, foreign sources, and earmarked government revenues such as conservation fees levied on the timber sector. However, the regulations have not yet been ratified. Through policy work under the FOLUR project, these regulations will be pushed forward for ratification.
- Various analysis tools developed under GGP project such as the Landscape Causality tool (LCAT), Participatory Landscape Forest Analysis Tool (PALFAT), Landscape Analysis Tool (LAT) will be used in the implementation of the FOLUR project. This incremental cost will support application of these tools to a significantly larger landscape, thereby catalyzing replication, scale-up and mainstreaming among government and other stakeholders.
- Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) completed to inform policy and strategy with respect to commercial and smallholder oil palm plantation development, on the basis of economic modeling combined with geospatial analysis of land suitability. The GGP does not include next steps to implement this strategy; the FOLUR project investment will use TSA results to ground the strategy for approaching potential sources of financing for development of sustainable smallholder palm oil production.

150. On co-financing, about US\$ 67 million was provided by Government of Liberia, NGOs, CSOs and private sector to strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of the project. US\$ 32 million was generated from government agencies and ministries (EPA, MoA, LLA, LISGIS, and FDA) in form of human, operations, administrative and equipment costs to support: (i) the development and implementation of NW Liberia landscape land use plans; (ii) strengthening NW Liberia landscape governance; and (iii) development and implementation of policies and regulations, and incentives for biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land and forest management, and sustainable cocoa and palm oil value chains. About US\$ 5 million (about US\$ 1 million in cash and US\$4 million in-kind) was realized from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) to support: participatory land use planning, promotion of sustainable production practices; strengthening governance and institutional capacity and supporting policies and incentives at the national level for wider replication and scale up; sustainable value cocoa and palm oil value chains, including certification systems and production standards for NW Liberia landscape; and develop and implement policies and regulations, and incentives for scale up of restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands in NW Liberia Landscape. Also, Private sector co-financing of US\$ 30 million was obtained from Mano (Mano Manufacturing Company, Mano Palm Oil Industries, and Mano Palm Oil Plantation), reflecting strong partnership and corporate commitment to working with smallholders to promote sustainable production practices and responsible value chains. The commitment of USD 30 million demonstrates a conviction that the processes and models that will be introduced through incremental funding from GEF, offer a sustainable solution that is compatible with private sector needs and priorities.

#### **D. Global Environmental Benefits**

151. This project will deliver Global Environmental Benefits relating to biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and land degradation. As Liberia hosts the bulk of remaining forests in the Upper Guinea Forest Biodiversity Hotspot, improved land and resource management through integrated landscape management offers enormous benefits. Direct benefits generated from the project intervention are as follows:

##### *Biodiversity conservation*

152. This project will contribute to maintaining globally significant biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services by improving land use practices over 350,000 ha as below:

- Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity: 100,000 ha
- Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems: 200,000 ha
- Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided: 15,000 ha

Improved management and production will include restricting agricultural activities to designated areas and avoiding encroachment on habitat, adopting climate-smart agricultural practices (with a focus on sustainable oil palm and cocoa cultivation), and designating HCVF forest areas for monitoring and protection. Northwest Liberia encompasses several internationally recognized Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). Specific fauna species that will benefit from the project include but are not limited to: rare pygmy hippopotamus (*Hexaprotodon liberiensis*), forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*), Liberian mongoose (*Liberiictis kuhni*) and western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*). 92% of the region's 30 primate species are endemic. Additional threatened and vulnerable species include Jentik's duiker (*Cephalophus jentinki*), Diana monkey (*Cercopithecus Diana*), West

African red colobus (*Procolobus badius*) and West African Linsang (*Poiana leightoni*). To maximize biodiversity benefits, targets and sites were selected based on the following:

- i. Only those areas crucial in ensuring ecosystem integrity and connectivity were selected using spatial analysis (GIS) and the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM). The analysis covered geographic, economic, and social aspects of the NW Liberia landscape, to help prioritize target areas for the project and optimize the impacts of interventions for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation using four main criteria: (a) value for conservation, (b) vulnerability to forest degradation, (c) vulnerability to deforestation, and (d) viability for intervention. Spatial data layers were created for the first three criteria, and for the fourth criterion, a qualitative assessment of the conditions for implementing project interventions was used and included assessing the strength of the governance and regulatory mechanisms that are associated with the dominant land uses in NW Liberia and the capacity of the decision-making institutions associated with those land use. By combining spatial layers into a single score, the sites with the highest conservation value forest and the greatest vulnerability were identified.
- ii. The total HCVF area that is outside of the formal protected areas is 246,007 ha. So, through the project, conservation agreements will be signed with communities to with nine clans to conserve 15,000 ha of HCVF areas outside formal protection. This 15,000 ha was determined using GIS as the area of land under the jurisdictions of the nine selected clans
- iii. Costs per hectare. A study done in 2011 by FDA and UNDP that showed that the cost per hectare for Sustainable forest management is US\$ 2.50., and the cost per hectare for Afforestation and Reforestation is USD\$150.00 (Kantor and UNDP. 2011. *Assessment of Investment and Financial Flows for mitigation in the forestry sector in Liberia*).
- iv. A stakeholder workshop was conducted where the results of this analysis were validated.

#### *Climate change mitigation*

153. The forests of the Northwest Liberia Landscape offer significant opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Net emissions reductions will be achieved through the outcomes of the land-use planning processes to be conducted under the Project. Based on anticipated land-use planning results, the Project will absorb and sequester an estimated total of 36,134,316 tCO<sub>2</sub>e through improved landscape management and forest protection, climate smart agriculture, and restoration as calculated with the EX-ACT tool.

#### *Land degradation*

154. One of the primary objectives of improved land-use planning and management is to combat land degradation. Moreover, the project also will introduce restoration to Liberia to reverse degradation of agricultural land. The project will work with communities to restore 15,000 ha of degraded land and build on site-based demonstration and support for policy/regulatory improvement to catalyze other restoration efforts. For example, additional restoration is expected as a result of formation and strengthening of cooperatives that will have an impact beyond the areas of direct restoration. For instance, training and knowledge received through site-based demonstrations are expected to be applied in other surrounding areas, especially with respect to restoration through agro-forestry and sustainable cocoa and palm oil production.

155. Collectively, the environmental benefits described above will directly benefit 50,000 people in the landscape. This figure comprises 20,000 people trained under Outputs 2.1.1 and 3.1.2 (10,200 men and 9,800 women); 10,000 people involved in demonstration of climate smart agricultural practices

under Output 2.1.2 (5,100 men and 4,900 women); and 20,000 beneficiaries of incentives under Output 2.2.1 (10,200 men and 9,800 women).

#### **E. Socio-Economic Benefits**

156. Improved management of forest and lands under agriculture and agroforestry in Liberia will generate a range of socio-economic benefits including contributions to enhanced food security, livelihoods, and water availability and quality. Forest conservation achieved through community commitments under Conservation Agreements will also contribute to maintenance of key environmental provisioning services for a range of NTFPs. With respect to climate security, this project will help reduce GHG emissions and enhance carbon stocks through forest conservation, restoration, and climate-smart agriculture. Protection of forest ecosystems will provide climate mitigation benefits and enhance carbon stocks through natural regeneration.
157. At the national level, a 2013 report estimated that 49% of Liberians faced some level of food insecurity, and 34% had inadequate food consumption patterns characterized by high intake of cereals and low intake of protein-rich foods (World Food Program 2013). Forest protection and landscape management for habitat connectivity will maintain critical reservoirs of bushmeat supply that represents 75% of protein consumption in Liberia; climate-smart agriculture will provide more dependable supplies of food crops; and improved agriculture and sustainable agroforestry will increase household incomes that further contribute to improved food security.
158. To generate direct socio-economic benefits on the ground, the project will implement pilot activities to demonstrate climate-smart agriculture using the Conservation Agreement (CA) methodology with 9 clans throughout the Northwest Liberia Landscape. These agreements will improve the livelihoods of an estimated 6,000 people (half of whom are female). In return for community conservation commitments, the project will offer compensatory benefit packages such as alternative livelihood training, support for agroforestry establishment, and other benefits determined through participatory processes, and thereby catalyze behavioral change and reduce dependence on unsustainable resource use. Details of community commitments and benefits provided under the CAs will be determined in negotiation and design phases, but we anticipate that investments in local livelihoods and socioeconomic development will contribute to household incomes and enhance food security, improve access to education and health services, and provide direct income through conservation jobs (e.g. monitoring, surveillance, planting, etc.).
159. Building on these demonstration projects, the training and capacity building program to be deployed under the proposed project will reach 40,000 beneficiaries (30,000 through training programs, and 10,000 through field demonstration work). Enhanced awareness of climate-smart agricultural practices will position these producers to take advantage of new opportunities for participation in sustainable commodity value chains. Incentive programs to be developed under the proposed project will facilitate such participation, reaching at least 10,000 beneficiaries, including household participation in CAs, improved agroforestry prospects through development of producer associations and partnerships with commercial operators, links to impact investors with an interest in positive social, environmental and economic outcomes, and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) (principally REDD+) for reduced carbon emissions linked to land use change and restoration.
160. Some socio-economic benefits will differ by gender based on different gender roles in food production and income generating practices. In general, by intervening in ecosystem degradation trends through the application of integrated landscape management and land-use planning, the project will preserve the ability to continue activities essential for household food security as well as

livelihoods. This will be achieved through training and support for sustainable cultivation practices as well as habitat restoration and maintenance.

161. The project will contribute to rural development and natural resource governance through participatory land- and resource-use planning. By engaging nine clans and other relevant stakeholders in planning processes, the project will ensure that they have a voice in the design of sustainable resource extraction frameworks and benefit-sharing arrangements. Doing so will generate dual benefits of enhanced capacity and ownership at the local level. Through this process, communities will be empowered to negotiate future land and resource uses and help reduce power asymmetries between local people and other stakeholders.

## F. Risk Assessment and Mitigation

**Table 4: Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning**

Project Outcome	Risks	Rating (Low, Medium, High)	Risk Mitigation Measures
General: climate change	Climate change may negatively impact agricultural productivity, particularly through changes in local rainfall patterns (see detail below)	M	Explicitly include climate change considerations in land-use planning processes, and deploy climate smart agriculture practices designed to enhance resilience against climate change
General: COVID-19	The trajectory of COVID-19 in Liberia remains to be seen; a significant increase in and spread of cases could lead to additional restrictions on movements, causing delays in project field activities and other engagement work (see additional analysis below).	M	Regularly revisit workplan to apply adaptive management, including anticipation of different COVID-19 scenarios and appropriate sequencing of activities to permit continued progress.  Comply with Ministry of Health and World Health Organization guidelines
General: social conflict	Pressing needs and high expectations result in social conflict that undermines collaborative, participatory approaches	L	Rights-based Approach and best practices in community engagement, building on wealth of experience of local and international NGO partners active in the project area
<u>Outcome 1.1:</u> Information base available to develop a	Agencies and other organizations reluctant	L	Multi-stakeholder, collaborative approach to

coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use	to share data and information  Available data is of inadequate quality for land use planning	L	project planning and execution  Invest in critical data collection, and prioritize planning techniques that are robust against data deficiencies
<u>Outcome 1.2:</u> Improved land allocation by communities (men and women), government, private sector and civil society in NW Liberia landscape	Key stakeholders uninterested in participating in land-use planning  Stakeholders do not abide by land-use management plan	L  M	Stakeholder engagement to emphasize benefits from voluntary participation  Policy work to mandate land-use planning and formalize status of land use plans; link livelihood investments and incentives to LUP compliance
<u>Outcome 1.3:</u> Governance of NW Liberia Landscape strengthened	Key agencies do not participate in governance structure  Governance structure languishes after project concludes	L  M	Policy work to mandate land-use planning and formalize status of land use plans  Incorporate landscape governance into EPA and county administration responsibilities
<u>Outcome 2.1:</u> Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape	Farmers do not adopt sustainable practices	L	Project activities relating to training and awareness, and to incentives for sustainable production
<u>Outcome 2.2:</u> Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production	GOL does not take up proposed regulations	M	Stakeholder engagement to include key decision-makers, dissemination of positive project impacts
<u>Outcome 2.3:</u> Resources for sustainable production secured	Limited donor / investor appetite  No or insufficient price premium for sustainable production	L  L	Develop strong business case for sustainable production in NW Liberia Landscape  Bundle sustainability premium with other performance-based incentives (i.e. PES)

<u>Outcome 3.1:</u> Degraded areas that are crucial for ensuring ecosystem connectivity and integrity restored in NW Liberia	Communities do not see restoration as a priority	M	Training, awareness, and incentives built into project design
<u>Outcome 3.2:</u> Improved gender sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia	GOL does not take up proposed regulations	M	Stakeholder engagement to include key decision-makers, dissemination of positive project impacts
<u>Outcome 3.3:</u> Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities	Limited donor / investor appetite	L	Develop strong business case for restoration in NW Liberia Landscape (value of ecosystem services in support of sustainable production)
<u>Outcome 4.1:</u> Improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation	<p>Implementation capacity is inadequate</p> <p>The project requires a range of skills and capacities on the part of government and other implementing partners, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical expertise</li> <li>- Data collection</li> <li>- Sustainable finance design</li> <li>- Community engagement</li> </ul> <p>Potential capacity gaps plus project budget constraints result in a medium level of risk with respect to project delivery.</p>	M	<p>Build in extensive training opportunities</p> <p>Design implementation processes such that they contribute to capacity-building</p> <p>Rely on local partners to ensure cost-effectiveness</p> <p>Align with complementary programs to design mutually reinforcing investments (e.g. LFSP, WA-BiCC)</p>
<u>Outcome 4.2:</u> Enhanced strategic knowledge	Demands of field implementation prevent consistent documentation of	M	Assign clear roles and responsibilities within a documentation plan

management of the project	lessons learned for dissemination		
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162. With respect to climate risk, future anticipated climate change impacts in the NW Liberia landscape include average annual temperature increases of 0.9 – 2.6°C by the 2060s and 1.4 – 4.7°C by the 2090s, and an increase in average annual rainfall and the frequency of heavy rainfall events (USAID, 2012). The main climate change impacts in NW Liberia landscape are associated with increased frequency of natural hazards such as: coastal erosion; terrestrial flooding; loss of plant and animal biodiversity; increased disease burden; loss of human lives; destruction and or shorter life span of use of infrastructure and public facilities caused by flooding, sea level rise and overflow of wetlands. The people of NW Liberia are highly vulnerable to climate change due to its low economic base, dependence on rain-fed agriculture, reliance on biomass energy, and exposure to epidemics, in addition to limited capacity at community and national levels. Climate change poses a significant threat to key economic sectors in the project area, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry and energy. Production systems in each of these sectors already have experienced reduced productivity with probable links to changing climatic patterns. For example, increasingly erratic rainfall affects farming communities in particular, who have witnessed the main rainy season shift by more than a month as well as flooding from frequent short-duration high-intensity rainfall, negatively impacting agricultural production and food security. The socio-economic consequences fall particularly on rural populations whose livelihoods depend on natural resources and live below the poverty line. The project identified and incorporated the following mitigation measures to reduce vulnerability and limit the consequences of climate risk:

- i. Protection of 15,000 ha of HCVF through conservation agreements
- ii. Restoration of 15,000 ha of degraded lands
- iii. Directing US\$ 10 million to sustainable production and US\$ 5 million to support restoration.
- iv. Putting in place two new regulations supporting sustainable agriculture
- v. Putting 200,000 hectares directly under sustainable land management
- vi. Development of land use plans for nine clans
- vii. Development of a gazettelement package for Wologizi Proposed Protected Area (99,538 ha)

Also, the project has included adaptation activities focused on:

- i. Promotion and adoption of Climate-friendly, low-carbon cocoa production on existing farm land, and discouraging cocoa and palm oil expansion in forested areas of NW Liberia landscape
- ii. Support the introduction and selection productive, drought and pest resistant and adaptable cocoa and palm oil germplasm and its adoption by farmers.
- iii. Development and adoption of regulations on integrated land use planning and management in NW Liberia landscape
- iv. Diversification of cocoa and coffee farms with useful trees and crops that also provide microclimatic protection, reducing heat stress during the dry season; emphasize food species such as plantains, bananas, vegetables, etc. that increase food security, can be sold on local markets and are managed in part by women
- v. Provision of incentives to 20,000 beneficiaries (10,200 men and 9,800 women for responsible palm oil and cocoa, and food crops
- vi. Building the capacity of 10,000 beneficiaries (5,100 men and 4,900 women) farmers, small-medium enterprise service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff on climate-smart agricultural practices

### **Other Potential environmental and social benefits and impacts**

163. The project has *potential environmental benefits*. For instance, the promotion of tree and canopy crops, like cocoa in already degraded lands and rehabilitation of abandoned plantations is expected to significantly improve the canopy agro-ecosystems with positive climate and environmental benefits. More climate and environmental provisioning services (including food and freshwater), regulating services (including carbon sequestration, flood and erosion prevention, land degradation prevention and restoration, water purification, soil remediation, and pollination), supporting services (including soil formation and nutrient cycling), and cultural services (including recreation and aesthetics), if done well, can bring environmental benefits. Such services will also enrich the biodiversity by creating new habitats and corridors for bird and animal populations. The mitigation monitoring strategy will ensure the preservation of virgin forests and wetlands. Adopting agroforestry (retaining trees in farmlands) and mixed cropping (with cover crops and anchor crops) will increase soil fertility, prevent erosion and reduce the use of pesticides and agrochemicals, resulting in an overall cleaner and safer environment.

164. However, the project has *potential negative environmental impacts* as expanding tree crop plantations could result in direct deforestation through tree crop farms expanding into forest land, or indirect deforestation where new tree crops displace other vegetable crops in the same farm, which in turn cause deforestation. To address this, the project will develop land use plans to ensure that activities will not cause direct or indirect deforestation.

165. *Climate change issues*: Projected climatic changes suggest that Liberia will suffer increasingly reduced climatic suitability for cocoa crops over the next 30 years. Maximum temperatures will increase and while overall precipitation is not projected to change significantly, the annual rainfall pattern and intensity will. This could result in increased risk of droughts during the wet season and rain during the dry season. Increased intensity when coupled with land clearing means a greater risk of surface runoff and topsoil erosion, increased risk of river damage to road infrastructure and increased risks of landslides.

Changing patterns in rainy seasons can affect the farmers' ability to anticipate the best time to infield their cocoa seeds. In addition, even though cocoa trees are generally resistant to high temperatures, farmers will be supported to adopt coping mechanisms making their farms more productive (limited de-shading on their farms). The project also advocates for the adoption of cocoa varieties more resilient to higher temperatures; this will require cooperation with Universities and research centre such as the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI).

166. **Potential social benefits**: The project will target about 50,000 direct local beneficiaries hence contributing to: reduction in unemployment especially among the youth; improved food security situation; and improved access to social services.

### ***Potential negative social impacts include:***

167. *Land Access issues and restriction to resources* due to tenure insecurity by women and youth in NW Liberia landscape. Without secure ownership or at least guaranteed access to land for women and youth, the production of sustainable palm oil and cocoa will be difficult, and this could negatively affect the project. The risk of being pushed out of the land leading to loss of investments after improvements have been made or even cash crops planted is high if the land is not appropriately secured or authorized by the relevant community and government institution. The project will address this issue by working with the relevant institutions such as LLA to create awareness about the 2019 Land Rights Act that recognizes the customary land tenure.

Also, land use planning activities by the project may restrict community access to land and forest resources for local populations who depend on these assets for domestic and commercial purposes which may cause tension and potential conflict. This impact is largely predictable, low in magnitude and expected to be temporary and reversible. The project proposes to ensure that stakeholders are consulted and alternatives provided for loss of access.

168. *Unsafe and Non-Healthy Working Conditions*: Working conditions across cocoa and palm oil sectors are generally poor in the rural areas of NW Liberia landscape because of general poverty, and poor production methods. In the agricultural sector, most farmers do back-breaking work. Due to high poverty and limited social services, there is also risk of child labour being used in the production of cocoa and palm oil.

169. *Gender Based Violence (GBV)*: In NW Liberia landscape GBV is common, although cases are heavily underreported due to social and structural factors, including but not limited to unequal power relations, deeply rooted gender norms, poor legislation, and a weak justice system. The project risks exacerbating GBV if (a) women participants are not given permission by their spouses or if their participation takes them away from other responsibilities; (b) women's increases and associated financial independence could cause jealousy or power differences in households leading to increased GBV incidents; and (c) women are elected to leadership positions which may be seen as "taking away" those places where men traditionally rule.

170. *Social Exclusion and Gender inequality* is high in NW Liberia landscape because of patrilineal system. Women and youth are often not sufficiently represented even in making decision that affect them. Thus, women and youth not only risk being marginalized in land access, but also when opportunities or slots are allocated for economic activities in the community.

171. The scope and scale of the anticipated risks are expected to be site-specific, limited, localized, temporary and largely reversible. To mitigate against these risks. To address the above social and environmental risks, the project developed safeguards plans for stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, process framework, accountability and grievance mechanism, cultural heritage management, and Gender Based Violence. (For details see appendices VI - XI)

172. These risks and impacts are largely predictable, low in magnitude and are expected to be temporary and reversible. The impacts can easily be prevented and/or mitigated in a predictable manner. The legal and institutional framework for managing environmental risks and impacts exist and are adequate and the executing agencies have adequate capacity to prevent and/or mitigate environmental impacts.

## **COVID-19 Risk Analysis**

### *Pandemic context in Liberia*

173. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, President George Weah on April 8 2020 declared a national State of Emergency, including curfews and a ban on travel between Counties. Activities relating to the production, marketing and distribution of food were exempted from these restrictions, as were leading private sector operations, but they have nevertheless disrupted agricultural supply chains. For example, border closures and travel restrictions have impacted availability of agricultural inputs, with the price of fertilizer increasing by on the order of 70% (Grow Liberia 2020).

174. Disruption in transportation systems present challenges to getting perishable products to market. Transportation issues include gasoline shortages, reduced availability as operators choose to suspend services, and longer transport times due to the proliferation of checkpoints; combined with capacity limits to enforce social distancing, transport prices for some routes have doubled and tripled. During

the Ebola crisis in 2014-15, the spike in transportation costs from comparable restrictions on movements made trade in some agricultural products financially unviable. For smallholder palm oil producers, these are particularly pertinent challenges given the importance of getting FFB to a mill before spoilage.

175. The wider anticipated economic consequences of COVID-19 in Liberia are still being analyzed. For reference, annual GDP growth during the Ebola crisis fell to 0.7% in 2014, down from a projected 5.9% (Beevers & Shannon-Cooper 2020). However, the Liberian economy already was in a more precarious state prior to the pandemic with an estimated contraction of 2.3% in 2019. Taking into account the impact of COVID-19, the World Bank projected continued contraction in 2020 at a rate of 2.2% (World Bank 2020); given the intensification of pandemic impacts in Liberia after these projections were made (April of 2020), the ultimate contraction may be even more severe.
176. MPOI operations correspondingly have been constrained. Due to difficulties of movement the company limited their community outreach, though they also report distributing COVID-19 response material to communities. However, they are confident that the situation will continue to normalize, such that in the course of 2021 they will be able to resume their original operational development plan. As a reflection of this confidence, they are proceeding with investment in a refinery.

*Impact: Availability of Technical Expertise and Capacity and Changes in Timelines*

177. With respect to availability of technical expertise and capacity, the CI-Liberia Country Program is committed to supporting the EPA and other project partners on several fronts to ensure continued delivery during Project implementation. The Country Program has technical staff in country and benefits from support from regional and global CI expertise. CI and its Country Programs have developed COVID-19 response strategies and protocols to protect staff as well as partners and project beneficiaries. They are well adjusted to remote work and online interactions, and in facilitating access for others to interactions requiring connectivity.
178. The project is unlikely to suffer from redirection of government capacity, as the pertinent capacity is quite limited to begin with. Indeed, building relevant capacity (e.g. relating to planning, community consultations, and incorporating sustainability requirements into policy) is central to the project. Given the focus of field interventions on local stakeholders and the private sector, the principal concern with respect to redirection of capacity and resources due to COVID-19 is that private sector actors in the landscape may find their activities curtailed by either corporate policies or government restrictions. However, as noted, when the government imposed such restrictions earlier in 2020, movements of agricultural products were exempt. The larger concern is that throughout 2020 MPOI felt forced to suspend many (though not all) community outreach activities; if this situation endures, it would complicate their involvement in participatory planning, training etc. efforts. Part of the response to this challenge is that CI-Liberia and partners will share best practices with respect to safety planning and protocols.
179. Nevertheless, economic shocks caused by the pandemic are likely to affect the project in various ways. Impacts can include increased costs of inputs; possible disruptions due to government-imposed healthy and safety restrictions on commerce and movement of people; and disruption in operations if employees contract the illness. Moreover, these various types of business disruptions may make potential investment sources reluctant to engage in the near term, delaying the development and execution of financing solutions to enable smallholder agroforestry development.

*Mitigation and Response*

180. CI has employed a full time risk and safety officer, who has developed an institutional COVID-19 response plan. This plan includes weekly country updates on the status of COVID-19 cases, and how the Country Program is impacted; office protocols for both staff and visitors (currently no visitors are permitted in any office, but this will be adjusted on a case by case basis pending local conditions); and detailed protocols for work with communities. Each project site is rated monthly in terms of the types of risk (e.g. meetings in the field, meetings in an office, other field activities where staff or partners are involved in outdoor actions like tree planting, farming, fishing, etc.), and mitigation approaches and guidelines for each type. An internal team at CI HQ reviews all protocols and is able to deploy flexible resources to support safety equipment for partners and communities (CI is also developing an emergency fund to help communities and people at risk where they work). CI will work with EPA and other partners to share and apply these practices throughout project activities.

#### *Opportunity for Green Recovery*

181. Liberia is starting from a rather dire baseline, in which economic conditions already were dire and deteriorating before the pandemic. Thus, the prevailing discourse in Liberia is less one of green recovery and more about the opportunity to jumpstart economic development on a green trajectory. This project offers a significant contribution to shaping this opportunity, by demonstrating the viability of deforestation-free commodity production. An important theme in this narrative is that maintaining Liberia's forests and the biodiversity that they house will contribute to resilience, and provide a foundation for adaptive capacity, especially for Liberia's rural populations. This converges with global conversations about the importance of maintaining natural systems with an eye to controlling zoonotic diseases like COVID-19. If and when this results in additional resources being made available to support economic development in poor, highly forested countries, this project will serve as a model for how to bring such resources to bear in a socially equitable and environmentally compatible way.

#### **G. Sustainability**

182. The proposed project will achieve sustainability through market linkages, new policy and regulations, and financing solutions that embed integrated landscape management and sustainable production into the Northwest Liberia economy and governance structures. This project will introduce innovations with respect to technology and production practices, finance and business structures, and multi-stakeholder governance structure to address poor practices, governance and incentives; these innovations will be designed to increase government as well as local community ownership and commitment to integrated landscape management.

183. Institutional sustainability of the governance structure to maintain integrated landscape management will be pursued by embedding such management in policies and agency mandates, including those of the EPA and County Administrations. Securing a meaningful voice for all stakeholders in the land-use planning process, and thus a channel by which their needs and priorities are incorporated into landscape management on an ongoing basis, will encourage long-term participation in and commitment to governance processes. Continued work to ensure recognition of the social, economic and environmental benefits of such participation and commitment will further reinforce institutional sustainability.

184. The proposed project will result in enhanced capacity on the part of stakeholders with respect to land-use planning and integrated landscape management. This capacity will be sustained by replicating the approach in other parts of Liberia, such that newly developed skills and capacity remain in active use and receive ongoing financial and institutional support. Subsequently, landscape management will require regular revisiting and updating of land-use management plans, stakeholder

coordination, and conflict management. These activities will warrant continued investment in sustaining and deploying the requisite capacity built in the project, as core functions of the agencies involved.

185. Sustainability of project benefits will be supported by wider economic development policy of the Government of Liberia. For the foreseeable future, agriculture and agroforestry will be the leading sectors for achieving broad-based rural development and poverty reduction. Therefore, an emphasis on palm oil and cocoa will remain a policy priority for the government, and a focal area for bilateral and other development assistance. The continued central role of these sectors in Liberia's development planning will contribute to sustained interest in and support for the activities needed to sustain project benefits.
186. Sustainability in the form of enduring change in production practices will be secured through demonstration of the productivity advantages of sustainable, climate smart practices; the collateral ecosystem service benefits provided by these practices; and market advantages (access and price premiums) available to producers as a result of these practices. Thus, behavior change in favor of sustainable land-use will be self-reinforcing as a result of gains derived from new production and business models. This aspect of sustainability prioritizes smallholder organization into more effective business units, linkages between smallholders and the private sector, and links to global markets for sustainably produced deforestation-free commodities.
187. A core element of financial sustainability will be efficiency gains and price premiums made available through promotion of sustainable production practices. Another element of the sustainable financing strategy is the incorporation of climate-smart agriculture and restoration as eligible activities for REDD+ carbon credits, as well as implementation of conventional REDD+ projects. Finally, a program of performance payments for community-based conservation, particularly in and around protected areas, will inform an activity line to build up the Liberia Conservation Fund (LCF). The LCF was launched in May of 2018. The LCF serves as a mechanism for channeling funds from a range of conservation finance sources, including biodiversity offsets from Liberia's growing mining and energy sector, payments for ecosystem services such as REDD+ transactions (as well as blue carbon), and earmarked government revenues such as conservation fees levied on the timber sector.

## **H. Innovativeness**

188. The project will introduce integrated landscape land-use planning and management to Liberia. This will involve new ways of collecting, managing, analyzing, and utilizing economic and environmental data in Liberia. To do so the project will draw on CI's global experiences with landscape planning as well as the in-country experience of several government agencies and other partners with more localized land-use planning. For example, CI-South Africa and its partners have produced a set of best practices in participatory land use planning which will be introduced through this project. Grounding the landscape-level land-use planning process in an emphasis on sustainable agroforestry production and conservation of priority habitat, against the backdrop of anticipated impacts of climate change, represents a new planning and management framework for Liberia, but one that is strongly aligned with Government policy as expressed in the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.
189. Novel applications of the Conservation Agreement approach will be introduced to Northwest Liberia through the proposed project. This will draw upon CI's experiences globally but will be adapted to the specific context in the project area. CI has worked with local partners to adapt the Conservation Agreement approach in more than 60 communities around the world (including multiple sites in Liberia). This tool will be used throughout the project to promote adoption of sustainable food and

commodity production, restoration, and conservation management of high conservation-value forest sites.

190. The project will offer a key contribution to rural development in Liberia by demonstrating means for investing in smallholder agroforestry. Efforts to develop commercial plantations in the oil palm sector have stalled due to the challenge of designing and financing locally appropriate outgrower models that allow smallholders to participate in economic development. The project will pilot solutions to this bottleneck, through a combination of training and extension services, producer organization, and incentives that represent valuable innovations in the country. An important innovation in the Liberian context will be the pursuit of impact investment financing from sources such as &Green and Althelia, reflecting the conviction that the project will successfully demonstrate models for palm oil and cocoa production that conforms to high social and environmental standards while generating sufficient returns to repay this type of investor. Securing such financing at scale would be a first in Liberia, and represent a breakthrough in promoting smallholder development and value chain participation.
191. A core element of the project is to position restoration as an investment in sustainable production and/or conservation and build the case for such restoration as a legitimate way to generate carbon credits. This is an innovative approach to financing restoration while contributing to global efforts to mitigate climate change. The project will allow Liberia to join the forefront of global work to refine market-based approaches to reducing global carbon emissions.

#### **I. Replicability and Potential for Scaling Up**

192. The combination of multi-stakeholder, multi-level land-use planning, investment in sustainable agriculture and agroforestry, and conservation of natural capital offers great potential for replicability and scaling up. The project will develop the foundation for integrated landscape management in Liberia; the coarse national land-use map that will be developed will provide the basis for replicating the overall project in other landscapes in the country. The suite of investments in sustainable smallholder production likewise will be replicable elsewhere in the country, while offering a solution for commercial agroforestry concessionaires. The planning processes and governance mechanisms to be designed and applied in Northwest Liberia will provide models for improved planning and decision-making in other landscapes and thus for an ever-greater portion of the country's natural capital.
193. The main form of scale up will be the involvement of growing numbers of smallholders in sustainable supply chains for palm oil and cocoa. Initially, this will be achieved through replication in Northwest Liberia, and then other parts of the country, as NGOs, civil society and relevant government agencies gain experience with the model, processes, and production techniques. Importantly, proof of concept and demonstration of ability to repay will open the door to additional financing. Replication and scale-up of links between smallholders in Liberia and global markets for sustainably produced, deforestation-free commodities will benefit from economies of scale; these economies of scale relate to increasing returns to investment in monitoring and certification systems, chain of custody systems, and marketing and transaction infrastructure as more producers participate throughout Liberia.
194. Successes of Conservation Agreements to date and the additional Conservation Agreements to be implemented in Northwest Liberia under this project will inform continued efforts to formulate a national stewardship model and deployment strategy. The goal is to establish a national program that offers economic incentives to owners of land with critical natural assets such as forest to guarantee protection over the medium to long-term. Linked to the LCF and associated financing mechanisms developed through the project, this national program will help channel financial resources that empower rural communities to manage natural resources while improving human

well-being. The program will act as a catalyst for replicating the Conservation Agreement model throughout the country to achieve community-based conservation and natural resource management at scale.

195. Finally, the project's effective demonstrations of integrated landscape management and land-use planning linked to sustainable commodity production will also serve as models for replication elsewhere in West Africa and beyond. This potential for wider replication motivates the project's substantial commitment to national, regional, and global knowledge sharing. For example, CI Liberia already is in contact with the FAO-led process to develop a FOLUR project focused on palm oil in Guinea. Participation in learning exchange and dissemination through the FOLUR Global Platform will be part of a conscious effort to facilitate regional and wider replication. The model and implementation processes in Liberia may be of most immediate relevance to comparable regional smallholder contexts (such as Guinea), but the FOLUR Global Platform combined with CI's global presence and expertise also will allow the project partners to contribute to adaptation of learnings to other contexts.

#### **J. Consistency with National Priorities, Plans, Policies and Legal Frameworks**

196. The following table describes project consistency with Liberia's priorities, plans, policies, and legal frameworks:

**Table 5: Consistency with National Priorities, Plans, and Policies**

National Priorities	Project Consistency
<b>Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</b>	The Government of Liberia ratified the CBD on November 8, 2000. This project is of particular relevance to articles 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17 of this convention.
<b>Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), 2018 – 2023</b>	The PAPD includes efforts to enhance inter-sectoral coordination on the environment, implementation of the new NBSAP, and advancing TEEB analyses, each of which relates to planning, sustainable production, and natural capital management advanced by the proposed project. The PAPD also signals the intention to advance on a national conservation financing mechanism. The Development Outcome under Pillar Four (Governance and Transparency) of the PAPD is "Reduction in degradation of farming land, coastal wetlands, and deforestation while increasing returns on natural capital"; the project clearly offers a direct contribution to this national priority.
<b>Liberia's Protected Areas Network Strategy, 2006</b>	The proposed protected area (PPA) network of Liberia includes four areas in Northwest Liberia: the Wologizi, Wonegizi, Kpo Mountains and Foya PPAs (and a fifth, Bong Mountain, borders the landscape to the east). Landscape-level land-use planning under this project will take into consideration plans for future protected area gazettement and emphasize conservation-compatible land uses as well as restoration in their vicinity. The project will support preparation of a gazettement package to establish the Wologizi protected area. Land-use planning processes that will identify sites identified for community-based conservation will likely include high conservation value sites within and neighboring the abovementioned PPAs.

<b>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), 2017 - 2025</b>	<p>Liberia's NBSAP includes national targets and indicators with consideration being given to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. The mission of the new NBSAP is to promote biodiversity mainstreaming in sectoral, cross-sectoral planning, and national accounting systems, through development policies, plans and programmes. This project will address threats identified within the NBSAP and will align with specific national goals and targets as indicated below:</p>
<p><b>Relevant NBSAP Goals and Targets:</b></p> <p><b>GOAL ONE:</b> Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</p> <p><b>Target: 1.2</b> By 2020, biodiversity values and prioritized ecosystem services are quantified, monitored, and mainstreamed to support national and sectoral policymaking, planning, budgeting and decision-making frameworks</p> <p><b>Target 1.3:</b> By 2020, selected incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use are in place and applied, and the most harmful subsidies are identified, and their phase out initiated.</p> <p><b>Target 1.4:</b> : By 2020, mobilization of financial resources from all sources will be increased compared to the period 2008-2012 to allow for the effective implementation of this strategy and action plan.</p> <p><b>GOAL TWO: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.</b></p> <p><b>Target 2.1:</b> By 2024, the rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats outside protected areas serving ecological corridors or containing key biodiversity areas or providing important ecosystem services is minimized by 3% through integrated land use planning.</p> <p><b>GOAL THREE: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity</b></p> <p><b>Target 3.1:</b> By 2020, at least 4% of existing terrestrial protected areas (national parks, nature reserves, conservation areas set aside in community forests, etc.) are conserved, effectively and equitably managed, within an ecologically representative and well-connected system...</p> <p><b>GOAL FOUR: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</b></p> <p><b>Target 4.1</b> By 2022, ecosystems that provide essential services and contribute to health, livelihoods, and well-being, are safeguarded, and restoration programmes have been initiated for degraded ecosystems covering at least 15 per cent of the priority areas.</p> <p><b>GOAL FIVE: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building</b></p> <p><b>Target 5.3:</b> By 2025, knowledge, science base and technologies relating to biodiversity and ecosystem management are improved and made relevant to political decision makers.</p> <p><b>Target 5.4:</b> By 2022, mobilization of financial resources from all sources will be increased compared to the period 2008-2012 to allow for the effective implementation of this strategy and action plan.</p>	
<b>Liberian National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Desertification (2011-2018)</b>	<p>Liberia's National Action Programme outlines strategic objectives for Liberia to achieve Sustainable Land Management within eight (8) years, starting in 2011. This project is directly aligned with Strategic Objective 1 which aims to improve the standard of living of people in areas affected by land degradation and its associated negative impacts. The project is also aligned with Strategic</p>

	Objective 2 which seeks to improve the condition of affected biodiversity within habitats and affected ecosystems in Liberia.
<b>National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), 2008</b>	This project addresses key issues highlighted within Liberia's NAPA. In particular it will address socioeconomic challenges of groups identified as most vulnerable, support adaptation strategy in the agriculture and forestry sectors, and support the NAPA priority of enhancing resilience through diversification.
<b>National Land Reform Programs and Strategies</b>	Ongoing programs being completed or supported by the Land Commission, USAID and other partners address land reform issues. Land-use planning for integrated landscape management must align with these initiatives for policy consistency and regulatory coherence.
<b>National laws, policies, and regulations</b>	This project both supports and is developed within Liberian national laws, especially the Environment Protection and Management Law of 2003 and the New Forestry Law of 2006, and subsequent environmental and forestry management policies.
<b>National Climate Change Policy and Strategy</b>	The EPA currently has prepared a national Climate Change Policy for Liberia. The proposed project directly will address several aspects of this policy, particularly: modalities for community participation in and benefits from national climate action, including carbon markets; emphasis on landscape approaches in forestry and protected area planning and management; advancing REDD+; and mainstreaming gender considerations with respect to land use and climate change.
<b>Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (GDSA)</b>	Liberia is a signatory of the GDSA which includes commitments to sustainable development and specifically work with the private sector and innovative conservation finance. The proposed project directly responds to these themes.
<b>Community Rights Law Land Rights Act</b>	This project, through Conservation Agreements, will demonstrate practical ways to resolve issues surrounding community exercise of land rights. FPIC, RBA, etc. and will align closely with Liberia's Land Rights Policy which empowers communities.
<b>Environmental Policy of Liberia</b>	The proposed project is closely aligned with the National Environmental Policy of Liberia, which provides for: Integration of environmental considerations in sectoral, structural, regional, and socioeconomic planning at all levels; Sound management of the environment and natural resources; Protection and maintenance of human habitats, the ecosystems, and ecological processes essential for the functions of the biosphere; Guidance for national action plan and for healthy environmental practices on the national development effort; Sustainable development; and Common approach to environmental issues. The Policy states that appropriate incentives and mechanism will be put in place to ensure compliance with the provisions of the policy. The primary aims of the policy will be pursued and achieved through

	harmonization and enforcement of relevant laws on environment protection.
<b>Liberia National Export Strategy, Palm Oil Export Strategy, and Cocoa Export Strategy</b>	Liberia's national export strategy emphasizes the importance of agroforestry commodities, particularly palm oil, rubber, and cocoa. These strategies note the significance for these sectors for increasing rural employment and householder incomes and reducing poverty; the potential for certified sustainable production; and the importance of focusing on smallholder participation. The proposed project directly supports these government priorities.

#### K. Consistency with GEF Focal Area and/or Fund(s) Strategies

197. This project is aligned with the GEF-7 Programming Directions and Focal Areas and Aichi Targets as described in Table 6. It directly relates to the expected outcomes under the FOLUR IP, stated as: sustainable food systems promoted; negative externalities in value chain reduced; deforestation free commodity supply chains promoted; landscape-scale restoration promoted for production and ecosystem services.

**Table 6: Mapping of Project Components to GEF Focal Area and Aichi Targets**

<b>Project Components</b>	<b>GEF 7 Focal Area Programs</b>	<b>Aichi Targets and Indicators</b>
<b>Component 1:</b> Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans	<b>BD 1-1:</b> Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors  <b>BD 2-7:</b> Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate	<b>Target 2:</b> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
<b>Component 2:</b> Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains	<b>LD 1-1:</b> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)	<b>Target 3:</b> By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions. <b>Target 4:</b> By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken

		<p>steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p> <p><b>Target 7:</b> By 2020, areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>
<b>Component 3:</b> Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats	<b>LD 2-3:</b> Maintain or improve flows of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)	<b>Target 5:</b> By 2020, the rate of loss of all-natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

#### L. Linkages with other GEF Projects and Relevant Initiatives

**Table 7: Project Links to Other Initiatives**

<b>Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Description and Linkages</b>
<b>Good Growth Partnership 2018-2021, USD 2 million</b>	This global UNDP/GEF project seeks to remove deforestation from supply chains for beef, soy and palm oil. In partnership with CI, it includes funding to initiate a pilot in Liberia working with the concession formerly held by Sime Darby and now by MANCO; and also, to advance a national palm oil platform for multi-stakeholder sectoral coordination. The proposed project will build on this effort by including the concession and impacted communities in land-use planning processes, supporting smallholder oil palm development, and linking other smallholders in Northwest Liberia to the commercial palm oil value chain.
<b>CI/GEF project: Conservation and Sustainable use of Liberia's Coastal Natural Capital 2020-2024, USD 3.9 million</b>	In this project EPA and CI Liberia seek to improve conservation and sustainable use of Liberia's coastal natural capital by mainstreaming the value of nature into Liberia's development trajectory. The project includes building a Natural Capital Accounting system for Liberia; once operational, inclusion of a forest satellite account will be highly relevant to integrated landscape management and land-use planning.
<b>UNDP/GEF project: Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations within the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities Approved 2017, USD 1.5 million</b>	This project intends to strengthen a targeted set of national capacities to deliver and sustain global environmental outcomes within the framework of sustainable development priorities. The proposed project will build on these investments, as integrated landscape management through land-use planning, investment in sustainable agricultural production, and restoration each support both environmental obligations and sustainable development.
<b>UNDP/GEF project: Strengthening Liberia's capability to provide climate information and services to</b>	This project aims to strengthen Liberia's capability to provide climate and hydrological information and services that enable climate resilient sustainable development. The proposed project will build on this UNDP/GEF project by applying climate information in the land-use

<b>enhance climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change—October 2013-2017, USD 6.7 million</b>	planning process to achieve climate-resilient integrated landscape management.
<b>UNDP/GEF Small Grants Program</b>	<p>The proposed project will build on work supported by the UNDP Small Grants Program (SGP). Examples of recent SGP projects relevant to this project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reforestation of Foya grasslands</li> <li>• Biodiversity conservation and rural livelihoods improvements</li> <li>• Promoting climate-change resilience through livelihoods activities</li> <li>• Strengthening community capacity to effectively conserve the remaining Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve</li> <li>• Introducing Conservation Farming in Zeyeama clan, Zorzor District, Lofa County</li> <li>• Building farmers' capacity to increase rice production through improved lowland farming methods that promote forest preservation and reduce their vulnerability to effects of climate change</li> <li>• Improving livelihoods and biodiversity conservation around Wonegizi through conservation education and inland farming.</li> <li>• Promoting community driven sustainable land use and conservation of biodiversity through the strengthening of women's economic empowerment.</li> <li>• Protection for forest land through sustainable land management</li> </ul>
<b>Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP)</b>	The proposed project will continually share lessons and collaborate with the LFSP as it is implemented. Project management will work closely with FDA as a key implementing partner to ensure the two projects build on each other's successes in institutional capacity building and livelihood development for local communities. Further areas for coordination include land-use planning, forest restoration, policy development, continued development of the Liberia Conservation Fund, and participation in global carbon markets.
<b>WB/ Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) – REDD Readiness Plan</b>	The FCPF has approved a REDD Readiness grant of USD 3.6 million to Liberia to develop and build capacity for its national REDD Readiness Plan. The proposed project will coordinate through the REDD Focal Point and the REDD Technical Working Group to include restoration in the Liberia REDD+ strategy.
<b>UNDP/ GEF Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change by Mainstreaming Adaption Concerns into Agricultural Sector Development in Liberia 2012 – March 2016, USD 2.4 million</b>	The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) led this project to enhance community-level resilience to climate change. Coordination with the MOA will be critical in ensuring that the approach used in the proposed projects reinforces previous efforts especially as it pertains to agricultural development. CI and EPA participation on the Steering Committee for the MOA project makes them well placed to facilitate coordination.

## **M. Consistency and Alignment with CI Institutional Priorities**

198. This project embodies CI's institutional priorities in several ways. The emphasis on integrated landscape management aligns directly with a long-standing concentration on landscape approaches to conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services that combines natural capital maintenance with sustainable production. For over two decades CI has maintained a strong focus on conservation landscapes and seascapes as the appropriate geographical unit for interventions to maintain habitat connectivity and other ecosystem service linkages. With examples ranging from Peru to Indonesia to South Africa, CI has championed inclusive multi-stakeholder processes to advance sustainable landscape management.
199. Consistent with the landscape approach, CI also has a long-standing focus on land-use planning. Its work in this arena includes sophisticated GIS-based mapping and analyses to inform multi-criteria land-use zoning across complex landscapes, and effective participatory stakeholder processes that ensure representation and legitimacy of planning outputs. In addition, CI's land-use planning efforts in numerous countries around the world have been paired with training and skills transfer to build national technical capacity in mapping and GIS analysis, in partnerships with local universities as well as relevant government agencies. In Liberia, such collaborative capacity development has taken place with LISGIS as well as FDA and EPA.
200. The project's proposed work on sustainable commodity value chains also is closely aligned with CI institutional priorities in Liberia and globally. For example, CI's palm oil program seeks transformational change in the sector through work with large commercial operators as well as community producers, and Liberia is a high priority country within CI's global program of palm oil work. CI's work with small farmers and cooperatives on sustainable cocoa production also goes back over two decades, including early involvement in Ghana. Facilitating relationships between government, communities, and the private sector to advance certified sustainable production within a larger framework of sustainable landscapes is among the guiding pillars of CI's global institutional strategy.
201. CI applies a Rights-based Approach to all of its work, and is a leader among conservation organizations in developing institutional policies, tools and training that support a Rights-based Approach to conservation, including CI's Indigenous Peoples Policy, Research Ethics Policy, guidelines for applying Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and guidelines for integrating gender into projects and programs. These policies and tools align with the Conservation Agreement model that CI is advancing at numerous sites around the world. CI Liberia is an integral part of CI's Sub-Saharan Africa Strategy and this project is closely aligned with the regional priorities.

## **N. Communications and Knowledge Management**

202. The proposed project will place substantial emphasis on lesson learning, dissemination, and uptake. Knowledge-sharing is a priority for the implementing partners and government agencies. These processes will unfold at multiple levels, beginning at the landscape and working upwards through sub-national and national, regional platforms and, finally, to participation in the Global Landscapes Forum Community of Practice (CoP). At the regional level, since Liberia is a leading member of the Africa Palm Oil Initiative, sharing of experiences and lessons learned in Liberia will be done with other frontier palm oil and countries in Africa. Similarly, coordination and sharing of lessons and experience with other cocoa growing countries in West Africa e.g. Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire will be undertaken. The project will engage with regional platforms and initiatives focusing on cocoa and palm oil value chains (e.g., African Palm Oil Initiative, African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), and West Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (WACSAA) through South-South cooperation and

exchange visits with other FOLUR beneficiary countries in West Africa (Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Guinea). Thus, learning, exchange and co-operation will take place both within and outside countries via project-supported exchange fora, which will enable and guide much of the project's support to enhance south-south learning, cooperation, technology transfer, and networking among a broad array of practitioners.

203. In addition, there will be numerous opportunities for sharing lessons learned within the landscape, at the national level and among FOLUR IP Child Projects that face similar challenges, particularly at the regional and global levels. This will create significant opportunities for South-South cooperation. Success stories will figure prominently among the lessons being shared, with the goal of ensuring extensive within- and between-Child Projects uptake and replication. Regular documentation of success stories and lessons will facilitate sharing with the Global Platform, for onward communication to other Child Projects and wider audiences. Together with the FOLUR Global Platform, opportunities will also be identified and pursued for exchanges with other Child Projects and other GCP and GEF commodity projects in order to maximize institutional learning and dissemination in key technical areas related to the cocoa and palm oil production-deforestation nexus.
204. The proposed project team, in close co-operation with the adaptive management and learning team, will engage regularly with external partners, and participate at key events to disseminate information through media coverage, publications and presentations, all of which will facilitate South-South learning. Working with the FOLUR Global Platform, the Project will organize South-South exchanges in co-operation with other Child Projects to enable practitioners to learn from each other's experiences, thereby facilitating learning especially through the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF), Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) and the Global Restoration Council that support the Bonn Challenge. Work with the GLF – a Core Partner within the FOLUR Global Platform – will be particularly helpful to the Project given the Forum's expertise and role with respect to communications, outreach and events; for example, intended GLF-organized annual regional gatherings focused on cocoa on West Africa are especially pertinent to the Project.
205. The proposed project will leverage and strengthen the current multi-stakeholder forums at the landscape level established under the Good Growth Partnership (GGP), another Core Partner of FOLUR. As noted, for palm oil, the project will engage using existing multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms at the national and landscape levels established under the Good Growth Partnership (GGP) including National Oil Palm Platform of Liberia and the Northwest Liberia landscape Oil Palm Forum; for cocoa, the project will engage with the Liberia Cocoa Sector Working Group. As the GGP-initiated platform continues to grow and achieve success in the palm oil sector, it could also be used to integrate other key agricultural crops such as cocoa, cassava and rice especially in an agroforestry setting. At the global level, in addition to the aforementioned GPFLR and GLF, the project will engage with various bodies such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA), the One Planet network (10YFP), Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme, World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), and the UNDP Green Commodities Programme.
206. There will also be significant stakeholder engagement with leaders from e.g. industry, civil society and government, to secure buy-in for the Project. The proposed project will work with industry initiatives, such as the High Carbon Stock Approach Group, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and the World Cocoa Foundation, and environmental and social organizations to ensure alignment and support. Importantly, the Project will coordinate engagement efforts with commodity platforms and roundtables with the FOLUR Global Platform, to streamline efforts and ensure a consistent global approach. Working with the Platform, the Project will seek to position Liberia as a model of

sustainability for heavily forested countries globally. We can leverage the growing experience of organizations across Liberia that are piloting innovative approaches, as well as build on private sector partnerships with companies interested in shaping their investments to promote sustainable development.

#### **O. Lessons Learned During the PPG Phase and from other Relevant GEF Projects**

207. The PPG phase and other projects have generated a wide range of lessons learned. Particularly pertinent lessons include the following:
208. Engaging stakeholders and partners, and negotiating trade-offs, although time consuming, are key to securing consensus among stakeholders. Bringing together diverse stakeholders to develop a common understanding of the landscape is a necessary starting point in project design. This also is crucial to establishing a collaborative foundation for multi-stakeholder land-use planning and governance.
209. Project Steering Committee leadership is a crucial determinant of the effectiveness of project design and oversight and facilitates both coordination among the institutions involved as well as the provision of policy and strategic guidance. The participation of PSC members and the effectiveness of the PSC itself are greatly improved if the PSC is chaired by people in positions of authority, such as the Heads of Agencies and other senior government officials.
210. Institutional and organizational analyses should be of sufficient quality and depth to adequately survey the institutional and organizational landscape and its receptiveness to project design and implementation processes at the landscape level. Good analyses are critical to identifying ways in which partners can influence processes of change and can guide important decisions such as the selection of sites.
211. Implementation of market-based interventions requires rigorous and thorough analysis of market conditions and feasibility. Too many livelihood, enterprise and production initiatives operate based on assumptions and theories of change that prove to be unrealistic; consequently, interventions struggle to achieve self-sufficiency and sustainability. This leads to unmet expectations, and loss of trust and confidence on the part of local communities, government, and investors. Therefore, the proposed project will prioritize robust feasibility and market analyses, value chain assessments, and economic modeling. These steps, planned for the first year of implementation, will benefit from technical input from expertise offered by the FOLUR Global Platform team.
212. Experience in the GGP project has illustrated a crucial lesson with respect to private sector partnerships. Although there are private sector partners who are committed to sustainability and constructive approaches to managing relationships with local community stakeholders, ultimately their primary motivation is to develop a viable business model. If this proves impossible, they will pursue an exit strategy to minimize further losses, as shown in Sime Darby's relinquishing of its oil palm concession (the Sime Darby departure could provide the basis for an early lessons learned product for the Global Platform). This underscores the importance of understanding and incorporating private sector interests in project design and strategy.
213. A number of lessons relate to the conservation agreements approach. First, local communities are responsive to incentives and alternatives, being well aware of the need for sustainable use of natural resources in general. However, limited awareness of specific ecosystem services and functions indicates the need for awareness-building and environmental education to buttress incentive-based interventions. Second, traditional leadership is strong in rural communities. Therefore, community engagement processes need to explicitly incorporate the role of traditional leadership, while also

meeting standards for broad-based representation and participation, including gender considerations.

#### **SECTION 4: COMPLIANCE WITH CI-GEF PROJECT AGENCY'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (ESMF)**

##### **A. Safeguards Screening Results and Categorization**

214. All GEF-supported projects must apply measures to avoid, minimize, abate, and, where appropriate, offset any adverse impacts to people and the environment. The safeguard screening process was conducted by the CI-GEF Agency in September 2019, based on the PIF and supplementary information provided by CI Liberia. The table below notes results of the safeguard screening process as well as measures to be taken during the project to address relevant safeguard policy issues.

**Table 8: Safeguard Screening Results**

<b>Policy/Best Practice</b>	<b>Triggered (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
<b><i>Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Policy</i></b>	No	No significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented is anticipated
<b><i>Protection of Natural Habitats Policy</i></b>	No	The project is not proposing activities that would have adverse impacts on natural or critical natural habitats, contravene applicable international environmental treaties or agreements or introduce or use potentially invasive, non-indigenous species.
<b><i>Involuntary Resettlement Policy</i></b>	Yes	The project will not engage in the resettlement of people, but the implementation of conservation agreements may affect access to natural resources.
<b><i>Indigenous Peoples Policy</i></b>	Yes	Although, there are no indigenous people in Liberia, the project will work in lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by local communities.
<b><i>Pest Management Policy</i></b>	No	There are no proposed activities related to the use of banned, restricted or prohibited substances, chemicals, or hazardous materials.
<b><i>Physical Cultural Resources Policy</i></b>	Yes	Sacred sites are found in all the four counties of NW Liberia landscape in the form of shrines and sacred groves, etc. The sacred groves are of ritual and religious importance as these sites are both ritually and symbolically associated with ancestors through graves and certain trees.
<b><i>Stakeholder Engagement</i></b>	Yes	To ensure that the project complies with the GEF's Stakeholders' Engagement Policy, the EA is required to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
<b><i>Gender mainstreaming</i></b>	Yes	To ensure that the project complies with the GEF's Gender Policy, the EA is required to prepare a Gender Mainstreaming Plan.

215. By advancing integrated landscape management and supporting restoration of degraded lands the project will yield positive environmental impacts; by strengthening community participation in markets for sustainable commodities the project will yield positive social impacts. Planning processes will be multi-stakeholder and participatory, and site-based interventions will be community-driven, involving best-practice engagement processes and Free, Prior and Informed Consent, with specific attention to gender considerations. However, the interventions will not involve resettlement, pesticides, or alterations to physical cultural property. Thus, the safeguard screening process indicates that the proposed project will have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.

**Table 9: Safeguard Categorization**

PROJECT CATEGORY	Category A	Category B	Category C
			X
<i>Justification: The proposed project activities are likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.</i>			

## B. Compliance with Safeguard Recommendations

216. The safeguard screening process found that the proposed approach of the project is expected to avoid or minimize adverse impacts, and that therefore no better alternative can be conceived at this time. Moreover, no indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities are foreseen. However, in addition to standard requirements, the process triggered five safeguard requirements, namely those pertaining to:

- i. Stakeholder Engagement
- ii. Gender Mainstreaming
- iii. Cultural Resources
- iv. Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement
- v. Grievance Mechanism

217. During the PPG phase, stakeholder engagement and gender mainstreaming activities were conducted in addition to initial identification of cultural/sacred sites in NW Liberia Landscape.

### *Stakeholder Engagement*

218. During the PPG phase, key project stakeholders were mapped and identified including local communities, government, civil society, private sector, and non-governmental organizations as indicated below:

- i. NGOs – CI, FFI, WCF, WRI, SCNL, RSPB, IDH, SADS, LCRP
- ii. CSOs – Civil Society Organizations (SDI)
- iii. Government Agencies and ministries – EPA, FDA, MoA, LACRA, LLA, LISGIS, MME, MIA, MoGCSP, NBC
- iv. Academic institutions – FTI, UL
- v. Bilateral and multilateral bodies – GEF, EU, USAID, IFAD
- vi. UN agencies – FAO, UNDP GGP
- vii. Private sector – Mining, agriculture, and forestry concessionaires

219. A PPG kick-off workshop was held to raise awareness of the project where a total of 32 participants representing each of the above stakeholder groups attended. In addition, monthly stakeholder meetings were held during the PPG phase not only to co-develop the project, but also provide

updates on the progress of project document development. Finally, a strategic alignment workshop was held to: (a) develop a common and shared vision for NW Liberia landscape; (b) identify and delineate the roles of the different partners and stakeholders in the project; (c) refine the project results framework by identifying key activities to be implemented; and (d) garner political will and support for the project. The World Bank team also conducted two in-country field supervision missions to ramp up support and provide guidance on the development of the project document.

220. To ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Stakeholders' Engagement Policy #9", the Executing Agency and Executing partner developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. In addition, the project monitoring plan includes tracking of and reporting on the following minimum indicators relating to stakeholder engagement:

- Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples, and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis
- Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)
- Number of engagements (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)

221. Stakeholder engagement is central to this project in at least two prominent ways: to secure multi-stakeholder buy-in from the full range of relevant government agencies at all levels for adoption and mainstreaming of integrated landscape management and land-use planning, and voluntary participation at the community level in local land-use planning and subsequent management activities. CI is a leader in development and application of best practices in stakeholder engagement and will work with partners to apply these in this project, as reflected in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Appendix IX) and monitoring framework (Appendix III) provided.

#### *Gender mainstreaming*

222. During the PPG phase, a gender analysis was conducted in NW Liberia to assess gender dynamics in household and community livelihoods levels and identify existing gender inequalities in NW Liberia landscape focusing on the following five core areas of inquiry:

- i. Gender roles, responsibilities, and time use
- ii. Household patterns of power and decision-making
- iii. Access to and control over assets and resources
- iv. Meaningful participation in public decision-making; and
- v. Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

223. The gender analysis revealed that in NW Liberia Landscape, men and women have clearly distinct gender roles with respect to natural resource use at the household and community levels based on traditional, customary, and religious practices that promote gender inequality in form of denying women to inherit land, restricting women participation in decision making and limiting women to hold leadership positions.

224. Further, the gender analysis revealed that in the landscape, gender inequalities are widespread, based on patriarchal values and manifested in cultural practices. Women and girls are in a disadvantaged position in practically all spheres of society, whether it is about economic power, political voice, intra-household decision making power or role in the hierarchy of violence. Also, the study revealed that Gender-based violence (GBV), especially that perpetrated by men and boys

against women and girls, is at elevated levels in Liberia. GBV cases are heavily underreported due to social and structural factors, including but not limited to unequal power relations, deeply rooted gender norms, poor legislation, and a weak justice system. Poor reporting structures at community, district, and county level, further contributes to an unclear picture of the prevalence of SGBV in Liberia.

225. Furthermore, the gender analysis also revealed that the capacities of the partners to mainstream gender are limited.

226. The following recommendations were made that have informed project design including:

- Build and strengthen the capacities of the FOLUR partners on gender mainstreaming.
- Develop a gender sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System to capture and monitor gender equality and women empowerment Indicators; continuous male engagement should be conducted during implementation of FOLUR project activities so that they appreciate and share responsibilities with their partners including childcare and other reproductive roles
- Use traditional and religious leaders as entry points as community members take leaders as role models; conduct awareness-raising on the provisions of laws and policies on gender equality and women empowerment to enable men and women to know their rights; and be better able to promote and protect them.
- Build alliances and networks since issues of women's exclusion and marginalization are both relational and structural.
- Ensure that women's representation on project management decision-making bodies in this project is not limited to nominal positions; and establish separate project decision-making bodies for both men and women.
- Provide adequate access to information for both women and men and conduct gender sensitive communication activities in the project by ensuring that both men and women have access to the same information and that this information is presented in a manner that can be understood by both men and women at the community level.

227. During stakeholder engagement meetings and workshops, female and male participation was encouraged, and sex-disaggregated data was collected. For instance, during the kick-off workshop, a total of 32 (24 male and 8 female) people participated; while during the partners' strategic alignment workshop, a total of 32 (26 male and 6 female) people actively participated. The composition of the PSC has also taken into consideration gender issues where out of a total of 8 members, 2 are female.

228. To ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Gender Mainstreaming Policy #8", the Executing Agency and Executing partner prepared a Gender Mainstreaming Plan (Appendix X). In addition, the project monitoring plan includes tracking of and reporting on the following minimum indicators relating to gender mainstreaming:

- Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations)
- Number of men and women that received benefits (e.g. employment, income generating activities, training, access to natural resources, land tenure or resource rights, equipment, leadership roles) from the project
- Number of strategies, plans (e.g. management plans and land use plans) and policies derived from the project that include gender considerations (where relevant)

### *Cultural Resources*

229. During the PPG phase, initial identification of sacred sites in the landscape was conducted. This mapping step will be completed during project implementation. Following the mapping, the Executing Agency and Executing Partner will inform the CI-GEF Project Agency whether the sacred sites fall within the project area or not. For any sites that fall within the project area, the Executing Agency and Executing Partner developed a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (Appendix VIII) that appropriately protects these sites throughout the project cycle. This will be a core component of participatory community land-use mapping, planning and management. In addition, the monitoring framework includes the following indicators:

- Number of cultural heritage related complaints from local communities
- Number of cases of reported non-compliance with the requirements of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan

#### *Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement*

230. To ensure that the project complies with the GEF's Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement Standard, the Executing Agency and Executing Partner developed a Process Framework for the Restriction of Access and Use of Natural Resources. The Executing Agency and Executing Partner will monitor and report on the following minimum accountability and grievance indicators:

- Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been voluntarily restricted
- Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been involuntary restricted
- Percentage of persons who gave their consent for voluntary restrictions
- Percentage of persons who have received compensation for voluntary restrictions
- Percentage of persons who have received compensation for involuntary restrictions

231. The Process Framework describes the nature of the potential restrictions and the participatory process by which restrictions will be formulated and compensatory measures to protect and enhance livelihoods will be designed. The Framework draws on CI's existing Rights-based Approach to conservation and Conservation Agreement methodology. The Process Framework provides a set of actions that will be implemented by the Project Manager and the Project Management Unit (PMU) to ensure that communities have been provided the space to give or withhold their consent to a project. The Process Framework for Restriction of Access to and Use of Natural Resources is presented in Appendix VII.

#### *Grievance Mechanism*

232. To ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Accountability and Grievance Mechanism Policy #7", the Executing Agency and Executing Partner developed an Accountability and Grievance Mechanism (Appendix VI) that will ensure people affected by the project are able to bring their grievances to the Executing Agency and Executing partner for consideration and redress. The mechanism will be in place before the start of project activities, and disclosed to all stakeholders in a language, manner and means that best suits the local context. In addition, the project monitoring plan includes tracking of and reporting on the following minimum indicators relating to accountability and grievance indicators:

- Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism
- Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been addressed

233. The grievance redress mechanism was developed to provide credible and accessible means for Project-affected Persons (PAPs) to report grievances and allow the Project to address genuine issues in a timely manner. All partners and stakeholders have received copies on how to lodge a complaint or grievance. During the PPG phase, no grievance has been lodged to date.

## **SECTION 5: IMPLEMENTATION AND EXECUTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

### **A. Execution Arrangements and Partners**

234. The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) as the Project's Executing Agency will play the lead role in monitoring the project, providing oversight, and maintaining its strategic focus, with Conservation International Liberia as the Project's Executing Partner. The EPA has been deeply involved during the preparatory phase and will continue to play a strong role during the execution of the project. EPA will collaborate and work closely with other relevant government agencies and ministries including Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Liberia Land Authority (LLA), Liberia Agricultural Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA), The Cooperative Development Agency (CDA), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), National Bureau of Concessions (NBC), Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), and Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS). Also, the EPA will coordinate and collaborate on ad-hoc basis and through the established coordination mechanisms such as (a) the quarterly Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings chaired by EPA and co-chaired by MoA and attended by the Heads of the above-mentioned government agencies and ministries; (b) involving the relevant government agencies and ministries in joint monitoring of project activities; and (c) sector coordination meetings held to promote close collaboration between the project and relevant ongoing and planned government initiatives and ensure project outputs and outcomes are mainstreamed into government policies, laws, and regulations.

235. Field execution of activities will be undertaken by CI Liberia, partners and sub-grantees with the requisite expertise and field experience. (Sub-grantees are actors contracted to provide a service on behalf of the executing agency, paid using GEF funds; partners are not for services). CI Liberia will lead field execution of project activities because it has the requisite systems and mechanisms as well as demonstrated (prior) experience in: managing GEF funded projects including the GGP project focused on sustainable oil palm production; biodiversity conservation in NW Liberia landscape using landscape wide approach; convening, facilitating and engaging in multi-stakeholder processes; engagement with commodity platforms and industry bodies at the landscape, national, regional, and international levels; and brokering partnerships with the private sector

236. Because of the sheer size of the landscape, sub-grantees including FFI, SCNL, and RSPB were selected because of their active presence and prior experience in the project sites in line with the GEF-7 guidelines of multi-partners and multi-stakeholder collaboration. For instance, SCNL and RSPB have presence and on-going community engagement and conservation planning initiatives around the Gola Forest National Park areas, while FFI are present and have on-going conservation management initiatives in Wonegizi and Wologizi Proposed Protected Areas.

237. Key partner government agencies identified during the partners strategic alignment workshop as critical in the achievement of project objective and outcomes include:

- Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
- Forestry Development Authority
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Liberia Land Authority

- Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services

Additional details on the roles of these partners are provided in the stakeholder engagement plan (Appendix IX).

238. In addition to the government agencies listed above, the project will engage several organizations as subgrantees and partners to build on their expertise, reduce duplication of effort, and ensure that the project is able to accomplish the desired outcomes. A list of these organizations, their anticipated roles, and the rationale for their selection are outlined in the table below. These organizations have a key comparative advantage in the region and were part of the design process together with the Government of Liberia. Full due diligence of sub-grantees and partners will be conducted during the first year of the project given COVID-19 challenges to meet the GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards.

**Table 10: Project Executing Agency, Executing Partner, Subgrantees and Partner Roles and Rationale for their Inclusion**

<b>Grantee/ Subgrantee/Partner</b>	<b>Specific Role</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
<b>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Executing Agency</b>	The EPA will lead implementation and monitoring of the project and ensure adherence to strategic focus. The EPA will bear primary responsibility for aligning the participation and contributions of other government agencies listed above.	The EPA is the government agency mandated to ensure adherence to environmental regulations in Liberia. Therefore, it is tasked with leading large, multi-stakeholder, inter-agency initiatives to advance sustainability and ecosystem protection.
<b>Conservation International Liberia (CI) – Executing Partner</b>	CI-Liberia will provide administrative and technical support to the EPA, for all aspects of the project.	CI-Liberia has a longstanding relationship with the EPA built through joint implementation of ambitious GEF-funded initiatives. This partnership has been effective and efficient, and contributed to an ongoing capacity-building of the EPA.
<b>Flora &amp; Fauna International (FFI) - Subgrantee</b>	FFI will participate in community and landscape level planning processes and contribute to efforts relating to promotion of sustainable production practices. FFI will also lead activities related to Output 1.2.3: <i>Land-Use Planning results inform the development of a gazettelement package for Wologizi Proposed Protected Area</i>	FFI is active in the project area and has established a valuable knowledge base as well as relationships with local communities. They have developed experience in community land use planning in Lofa. They already have done initial work to advance the Wologizi proposed protected area.
<b>Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL) - Subgrantee</b>	SCNL will participate in community and landscape level planning processes. They will also be responsible for direct engagement with farmers to promote and demonstrate improved practices, and to help advance farmer associations.	SCNL has extensive experience in the project area with respect to alternative livelihoods, community-based conservation, and community engagement. They have developed experience in community land use planning in Gola.
<b>Royal Society for the Protection of</b>	RSPB will support land use planning processes and technical development	RSPB, working with SCNL, has experience and relationships in the project area relating to

<b>Birds (RSPB) - Subgrantee</b>	of sustainable and climate smart agriculture models.	sustainable agroforestry and community-based conservation.
<b>Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) - Partner</b>	IDH will contribute technical input into identification and design of sustainable financing options and help link the project to potential sustainable financing sources.	IDH is a key participant in efforts to advance sustainable palm oil in Liberia, including development of smallholder/outgrower models and financing solutions through impact investment.
<b>UNDP Global Commodities Programme - Partner</b>	The UN Development Programme Global Commodities Programme, through its Good Growth Partnership (GGP), will help align the efforts of Government of Liberia agencies and other partners with respect to advancing sustainable agroforestry production in the Northwest Liberia Landscape.	GGP is a key global partner in FOLUR, as the two programs are closely aligned with respect to objectives. In Liberia the GGP is particularly relevant with respect to supporting government policy processes, which are an important factor in the overall enabling environment for the FOLUR project.
<b>Mano Palm Oil Industry (MPOI)/Mano Palm Oil Plantation (MPOP) – Partner</b>	MPOI will participate in outreach and technical support to communities in and around their oil palm concession, and incorporate sustainability considerations into their operation. They will also contribute a critical private sector voice to multi-stakeholder planning processes.	<p>As the largest (by area) private sector actor in the landscape, MPOI serves as a crucial anchor for sustainable economic activities – as a producer, a purchaser of smallholder supplies, and a conduit to input purchases and technical assistance.</p> <p>The relationship with Mano will be central to the success of the project. The MPOI concession is the single-largest land holding in Northwest Liberia, and thus occupies an outsized role in land use planning processes. As a potential purchaser of large volumes of oil palm fruit, it is also one of the largest economic actors in the landscape (MPOI has indicated that they intend to prioritize purchases from smallholders over expansion of its own managed commercial plantation area). Although the full strategy for engagement with Mano will be developed within the overall Private Sector Engagement Strategy in year one of the project, we can anticipate several key elements:</p> <p>i. The EPA will engage MPOI to facilitate compliance with all Liberian environmental regulatory requirements. The transition of the concession from Sime Darby to MPOI left a small number of regulatory issues unresolved; these will be addressed as a precondition for further work (at the time of this submission, the EPA and MPOI have formally agreed on all the required steps).</p>

		<p>ii. CI will work with MPOI specifically on the further refinement of corporate policies with respect to environmental sustainability and community engagement. (CI already has secured co-financing to support this work). When it took over the concession, MPOI adopted general Sime Darby policies and principles, which conform to RSPO requirements; MPOI itself is in the process of securing RSPO membership. CI's work will involve not only helping MPOI refine its policies and processes, but also support training of management and technical staff so as to embed sustainability principles and practices in the company's corporate culture and identity.</p> <p>iii. In Land-use Planning processes with communities in and around the MPOI concession, MPOI will be engaged to participate so as to inform consideration of prospects and options for community-based smallholder oil palm development. This includes technical input as well as discussion of market opportunities, with an emphasis on logistical requirements for getting smallholder produce to the mill within the 24-hour window before spoilage.</p> <p>iv. The project will work closely with MPOI to develop an investment prospectus for approaching potential impact investment sources, including &amp;Green and Althelia. Company input into formulation of the business case will be valuable, as will corporate commitments including technical assistance and preferential purchasing, based on smallholder and community conformity with environmental and social standards.</p>
<b>Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) and Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection (LCRP) – Partner</b>	WCF and LCRP will contribute expertise specific to chimpanzee conservation and broader biodiversity conservation to landscape level planning, as well as technical input into conservation management planning for the proposed protected area. They will also participate in development of innovative financing solutions.	Large portions of the project geography have been identified as critical chimpanzee habitat. Moreover, WCF and LCRP have extensive experience and technical expertise relating to on-the-ground conservation planning and management; protected area design; and conservation finance.
<b>Sustainable Development</b>	SDI will support representation of community interests in project	SDI is the leading advocate for community rights and representation in Liberia, including work in

<b>Initiative (SDI) – Partner</b>	planning, management, and consultation processes to ensure that multi-stakeholder processes appropriately incorporate community rights, needs and perspectives.	arenas ranging from granting of agroforestry concessions to new protected area design and establishment to promotion of sustainable community forestry. Thus, SDI represents an invaluable voice with respect to social safeguards.
<b>Skills and Agriculture Development Services (SADS) - Partner</b>	SADS will support community engagement, technical assistance for climate smart agriculture, and strengthening of farmer associations.	SADS is a leading Liberian local NGO working on community-level agricultural development. They already are active in the project area and have prior experience with CI approaches and execution standards.

239. The CI-GEF Project Agency will provide project assurance, including supporting project implementation by maintaining oversight of all technical and financial management aspects, and providing other assistance upon request of the Executing Agency and Executing Partner. The CI-GEF Project Agency will also monitor the project's implementation and achievement of the project outputs, ensure the proper use of GEF funds, and review and approve any changes in budgets or workplans. The CI-GEF Project Agency will arbitrate and ensure resolution of any execution conflicts.

#### *Project Management Unit*

240. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for operational planning and day-to-day implementation of all project activities under the three project components, as well as for monitoring and reporting on project outputs and outcomes. The PMU will prepare and support Project Steering Committee (PSC, see below) meetings and manage the project budget. The PMU be based in the CI-Liberia Office in Monrovia and will be led by a full time Technical Lead, with support from Operations Officer, Gender and Safeguards Officer, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Manager, and others who will specifically be hired for this project. The Technical Lead will maintain ultimate responsibility for this project, with input from senior EPA staff as well as the CI Technical Director, Operations Director, and Country Director. In addition, the PMU will receive important technical, administrative, and institutional support from technical advisers at the EPA, FDA and LISGIS, as well as consultants.

241. With respect to site-based interventions under Components 2 and 3 of the proposed projects, the PMU will pursue a bottom up approach giving time to communities to take ownership of the proposed projects and adapt them to their own vision and needs. The Technical Lead and other staff will travel frequently to project sites to maintain close and continuous contact with the project implementing partners, communities, and other stakeholders.

242. PMU Members (to be hired):

- Technical Lead
- Operations Officer
- Technical Advisor
- Finance lead
- Innovative Finance Advisor
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Manager
- Gender and Safeguards Officer
- Grants Manager
- National Policy and Government Relations Expert

### *Project Steering Committee*

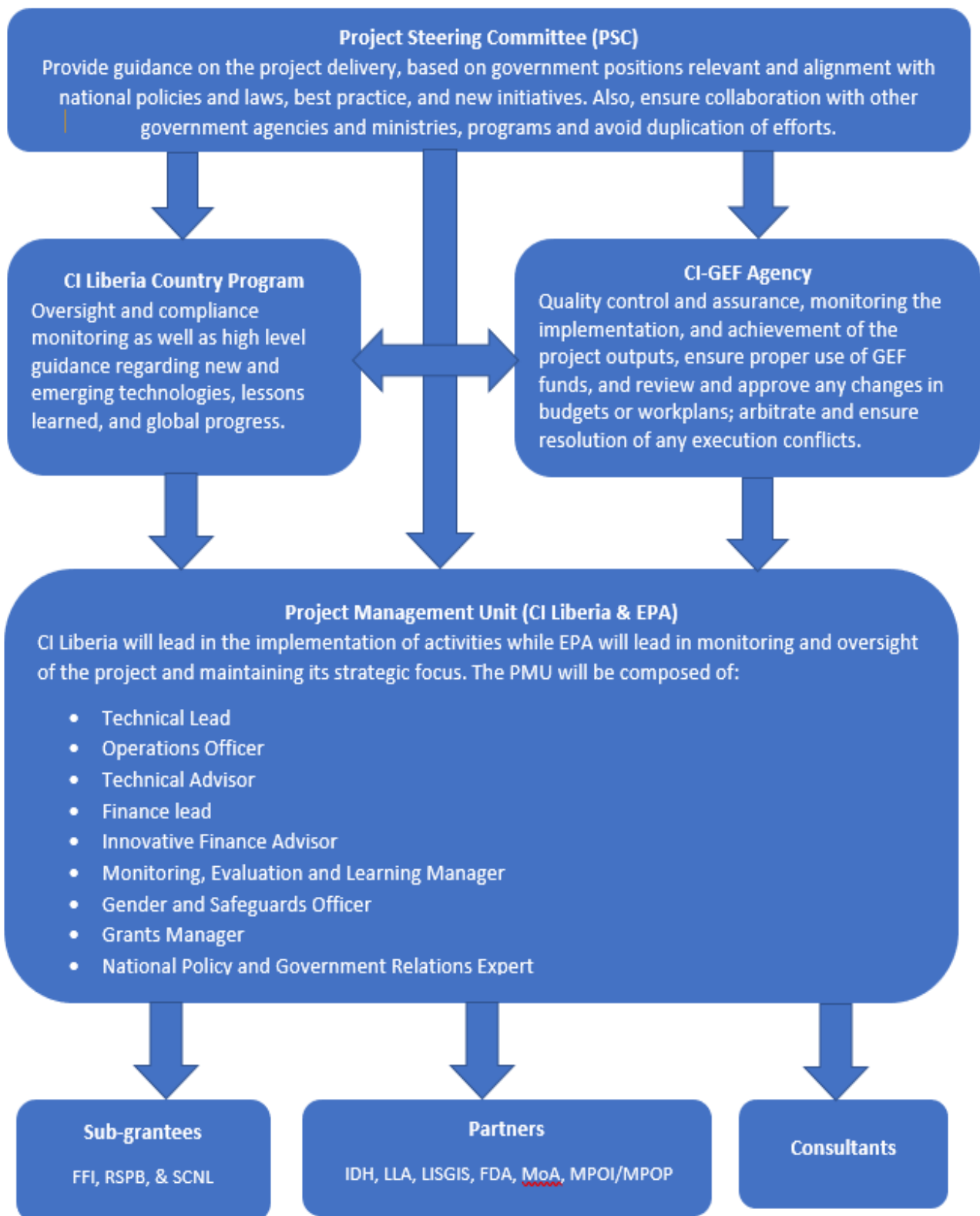
243. The project has established a Project Steering Committee (PSC) composed of representatives from a range of different ministries and government agencies. CI-Liberia acts as the secretariat of the Steering Committee. The EPA will chair the group and the FDA will act as Co-Chair. LLA will be the alternative should one of the chairs be unavailable. The principal function of the PSC is to provide guidance on the project delivery, based on government positions relevant to project alignment with national policies and laws, best practice, and new initiatives. This body will ensure collaboration with other programs and avoid duplication of efforts. The PSC will maintain continuous exchange of information among its members by electronic means, and additional *ad hoc* steering committee meetings can be convened via telephone conference or other means, if necessary.

#### 244. Project Steering Committee members

- Randall, M. Dobayou (Environmental Protection Agency)
- Hon. Joseph J. Tally (Forestry Development Authority)
- Robert, K. Fagans, Sr. (Ministry of Agriculture)
- Roosevelt, S. Kla-Feh (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection)
- Tom Wesley Korkpor (Liberia Land Authority)
- Daniel Tarr (Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services)
- Losine, N. Sanyon (Ministry of Internal Affairs)
- Hon. Benedict Kolubah (Ministry of Finance and Development Planning)
- James, G. Otto (Sustainable Development Institute)
- Mr. Rafael S. Ngumba (University of Liberia)

245. The PSC will meet quarterly to review project progress. Minutes of PSC meetings will be submitted to the CI-GEF Agency and other relevant stakeholders.

## B. Project Execution Organizational Chart



## SECTION 6: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

246. Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established Conservation International and GEF procedures by the project team and the CI-GEF Project Agency. The project's M&E plan will be presented and finalized at the project inception workshop, including a review of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

### A. Monitoring and Evaluation Roles and Responsibilities

247. The Project Management Unit on the ground will be responsible for initiating and organizing key monitoring and evaluation tasks. This includes the project inception workshop and report, quarterly progress reporting, annual progress and implementation reporting, documentation of lessons learned, and support for and cooperation with the independent external evaluation exercises.

248. The project Executing Agency is responsible for ensuring the monitoring and evaluation activities are carried out in a timely and comprehensive manner, and for initiating key monitoring and evaluation activities, such as the independent evaluation exercises.

249. Key project executing partners are responsible for providing all required information and data necessary for timely and comprehensive project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary and appropriate.

250. The Project Steering Committee plays a key oversight role for the project, with regular meetings to receive updates on project implementation progress and approve annual workplans. The Project Steering Committee also provides continuous ad-hoc oversight and feedback on project activities, responding to inquiries or requests for approval from the Project Management Unit or Executing Agency and Executing Partner.

251. The CI-GEF Project Agency plays an overall assurance, backstopping, and oversight role with respect to monitoring and evaluation activities.

252. The CI Risk and Compliance function is responsible for contracting and oversight of the planned independent external evaluation exercises at the mid-point and end of the project.

### B. Monitoring and Evaluation Components and Activities

253. The Project M&E Plan should include the following components (see M&E Table below for details):

#### a. Inception workshop

Project inception workshop will be held within the first three months of project start with the project stakeholders. An overarching objective of the inception workshop is to assist the project team in understanding and taking ownership of the project's objectives and outcomes. The inception workshop will be used to detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of the CI-GEF Project Agency and the Executing Agency and Executing Partner.

#### b. Inception workshop Report

The Executing Agency and Executing Partner should produce an inception report documenting all changes and decisions made during the inception workshop to the project planned activities, budget, results framework, and any other key aspects of the project. The inception report should be produced within one month of the inception workshop, as it will serve as a key input to the timely planning and execution of project start-up and activities.

#### c. Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes, and Outputs)

A Project Results Monitoring Plan will be developed by the Project Agency, which will include

objective, outcome and output indicators, metrics to be collected for each indicator, methodology for data collection and analysis, baseline information, location of data gathering, frequency of data collection, responsible parties, and indicative resources needed to complete the plan. Appendix III provides the Project Results Monitoring Plan table that will help complete this M&E component.

In addition to the objective, outcome, and output indicators, the Project Results Monitoring Plan table will also include all indicators identified in the Safeguard Plans prepared for the project, thus they will be consistently and timely monitored.

The monitoring of these indicators throughout the life of the project will be necessary to assess if the project has successfully achieved its expected results.

**Baseline Establishment:** in the case that all necessary baseline data has not been collected during the PPG phase, it will be collected and documented by the relevant project partners ***within the first year*** of project implementation.

d. **GEF Core Indicators**

The GEF Core Indicators will be completed i) prior to project start-up (see Appendix IV), ii) prior to mid-term review, and iii) at the time of the terminal evaluation.

e. **Project Steering Committee Meetings**

Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings will be held annually, semi-annually, or quarterly, as appropriate. Meetings shall be held to review and approve project annual budget and work plans, discuss implementation issues and identify solutions, and to increase coordination and communication between key project partners. The meetings held by the PSC will be monitored and results adequately reported.

f. **CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions**

The CI-GEF PA will conduct annual visits to the project country and potentially to project field sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Oversight visits will most likely be conducted to coincide with the timing of PSC meetings. Other members of the PSC may also join field visits. A Field Visit Report will be prepared by the CI-GEF PA staff participating in the oversight mission and will be circulated to the project team and PSC members within one month of the visit.

g. **Quarterly Progress Reporting**

The Executing Agency and Executing Partner will submit quarterly progress reports to the CI-GEF Project Agency, including a budget follow-up and requests for disbursement to cover expected quarterly expenditures.

h. **Annual Project Implementation Report** (PIR)

The Executing Agency and Executing Partner will prepare an annual PIR to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the reporting period (July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>). The PIR will summarize the annual project result and progress. A summary of the report will be shared with the Project Steering Committee.

i. **Final Project Report**

The Executing Agency and Executing Partner will draft a final report at the end of the project.

j. **Independent External Mid-term Review**

The project will undergo an independent Mid-term Review within 30 days of the mid-point of the grant term. The Mid-term Review will determine progress being made toward the

achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. The Mid-term Review will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions, and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation, and management. Findings and recommendations of the Mid-term Review will be incorporated to secure maximum project results and sustainability during the second half of project implementation.

k. **Independent Terminal Evaluation**

An independent Terminal Evaluation will take place within six months after project completion and will be undertaken in accordance with CI and GEF guidance. The terminal evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term evaluation, if any such correction took place). The Executing Agency and Executing Partner in collaboration with the PSC will provide a formal management answer to the findings and recommendations of the terminal evaluation.

l. **Lessons Learned and Knowledge Generation**

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention area through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation through lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. There will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus.

m. **Financial Statements Audit**

Annual Financial reports submitted by the Executing Partner will be audited annually by external auditors. This is included in the PMC budget.

254. The Terms of References for the evaluations will be drafted by the CI-GEF PA in accordance with GEF requirements. The procurement and contracting for the independent evaluations will be handled by CI's General Counsel's Office. The funding for the evaluations will come from the project budget, as indicated at project approval.

**Table 11: M&E Plan Summary**

Type of M&E	Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Budget from GEF (USD)
<b><i>a. Inception workshop and Report</i></b>	Within three months of signing of CI Grant Agreement for GEF Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Team</li> <li>• Executing Agency</li> <li>• CI-GEF PA</li> </ul>	6,664
<b><i>b. Inception workshop Report</i></b>	Within one month of inception workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Team</li> <li>• CI-GEF PA</li> </ul>	9,354
<b><i>c. Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes and Outputs)</i></b>	Annually (data on indicators will be gathered according to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Team</li> <li>• CI-GEF PA</li> </ul>	15,779

	monitoring plan schedule shown on Appendix III)		
<b>d. Track GEF-7 Core Indicators</b>	i) Project development phase; ii) prior to project mid-term evaluation; and iii) project completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Team</li> <li>• Executing Agency</li> <li>• CI-GEF PA</li> </ul>	15,779
<b>e. CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions</b>	Approximately annual visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CI-GEF PA</li> </ul>	19,909
<b>f. Quarterly Progress Reporting</b>	Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Team</li> <li>• Executing Agency</li> </ul>	30,544
<b>g. Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)</b>	Annually for year ending June 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Team</li> <li>• Executing Agency</li> <li>• CI-GEF PA</li> </ul>	15,779
<b>h. Project Completion Report</b>	Upon project operational closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Team</li> <li>• Executing Agency</li> </ul>	15,779
<b>i. Independent External Mid-term Review</b>	CI Evaluation Office Project Team CI-GEF PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximate mid-point of project implementation period</li> </ul>	25,000
<b>j. Independent Terminal Evaluation</b>	CI Evaluation Office Project Team CI-GEF PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation field mission within three months prior to project completion.</li> </ul>	25,000
<b>k. Lessons Learned and Knowledge Generation</b>	Project Team Executing Agency CI-GEF PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least annually</li> </ul>	24,201
<b>Total M&amp;E*</b>			203,789

255. The arrangements for Project M&E described above will be supplemented with provisions specific to the needs and requirements of the FOLUR Global Platform. These provisions will include the incorporation of additional indicators as needed to ensure compatibility with the Global Platform M&E framework; coordination with the Platform to ensure that Project M&E data accommodates roll-up and aggregation to the Global Platform level; and regular, timely reporting to the Platform to facilitate tracking as well as dissemination of results and learnings.

## SECTION 7: PROJECT BUDGET AND FINANCING

### A. Overall Project Budget

256. The project will be financed by a Full Size GEF grant of USD 7,139,449 with co-financing from EPA, CI, FDA, FFI, RSPB, SCNL, MoA, LISGIS, LLA, MANCO, and IDH. A summary of the project costs and the co-financing contributions is given in the two tables below. The project budget may be subject to revision during implementation. The detailed Project Budget is provided in Appendix VII.

**Table 12: Planned Project Budget by Component (rounded)**

	<i>Project budget by component (in USD)</i>					
	<i>Component 1</i>	<i>Component 2</i>	<i>Component 3</i>	<i>Component 4</i>	<i>PMC</i>	<i>Total budget</i>
<i>Personnel Salaries and benefits and Professional services</i>	\$645,437	\$798,755	\$170,264	\$476,726	\$241,471	\$2,332,653
<i>Travels Meetings and Workshops</i>	\$250,962	\$88,986	\$142,012	\$218,011	\$44,597	\$744,567
<i>Grants &amp; Agreements</i>	\$847,179	\$1,814,577	\$823,517	-	-	\$3,485,272
<i>Equipment</i>	\$26,311	\$35,081	\$26,311	\$22,541	-	\$110,244
<i>Other Direct Costs</i>	\$47,750	\$191,138	\$48,682	\$ 131,903	\$ 47,242	\$466,714
<b><i>TOTAL GEF FUNDED PROJECT</i></b>	<b>\$1,817,639</b>	<b>\$2,928,537</b>	<b>\$1,210,785</b>	<b>\$849,180</b>	<b>\$333,309</b>	<b>\$7,139,450</b>

**Table 13: Planned Project Budget by Year (rounded)**

	<i>Project budget by component (in USD)</i>					
	<i>Year 1</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Year 3</i>	<i>Year 4</i>	<i>Year 5</i>	<i>Total budget</i>
<i>Personnel Salaries and benefits and Professional services</i>	\$493,779	\$484,166	\$514,417	\$413,526	\$426,765	\$2,332,653
<i>Travels Meetings and Workshops</i>	\$208,307	\$230,487	\$124,897	\$86,246	\$94,630	\$744,567
<i>Grants &amp; Agreements</i>	\$730,850	\$914,652	\$786,652	672652	380465	\$3,485,272

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>\$100,196</b>	<b>\$1,236</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8811</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$110,244</b>
<b>Other Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$79,971</b>	<b>\$87,629</b>	<b>\$93,397</b>	<b>99563</b>	<b>106155</b>	<b>\$466,714</b>
<b>TOTAL GEF FUNDED PROJECT</b>	<b>\$1,613,103</b>	<b>\$1,718,170</b>	<b>\$1,519,363</b>	<b>1,280,798</b>	<b>1008015</b>	<b>\$7,139,450</b>

## B. Overall Project Co-financing

257. Project co-financing commitments are described in Table 13 below. The co-financing commitment letters are attached in the Appendix VIII

**Table 14: Committed Cash and In-Kind Co-financing (USD)**

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount
Conservation International Foundation	Conservation International Liberia	Grant	\$36,000
Government	Ministry of Agriculture	In-kind	10,000,000
Government	Environment Protection Agency	In-kind	5,000,000
Government	Forest Development Authority	In-kind	10,000,000
Government	Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geographical Information Services (LISGIS)	In-kind	5,000,000
Government	Liberia Land Authority	In-kind	2,000,000
Private Sector	MANCO	In-kind	30,000,000
Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Grant	270,016
Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)	Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL)	Grant	2,443,049
Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)	Fauna and Flora International (FFI)	Grant	1,060,000
Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)	Fauna and Flora International (FFI)	In-kind	940,000
Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)	The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH),	Grant	250,000
<b>TOTAL CO-FINANCING</b>			<b>66,999,065</b>

## APPENDIX 1: Project Results Framework

<b>Objective:</b>	To promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems for enhanced livelihood opportunities in NW Liberia Landscape through land use planning, restoration of degraded lands, and strengthening governance, policies, and market incentives for nationally replicable models of deforestation-free cocoa and palm oil value chains.
<b>Indicator(s):</b>	a. Number of degraded hectares in the NW Liberia Landscape restored (Target: 15,000 ha) b. Number of hectares in the NW Liberia Landscape under sustainable land management in production systems (Target: 200,000 hectares ha) c. Number of hectares in the NW Liberia Landscape under improved management to benefit biodiversity (Target: 100,000 ha) d. Greenhouse gas emission mitigated (Target: 36,134,316 tCO <sub>2</sub> e) e. Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (Target: 50,000 (25,500 men and 24,500 women))

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
<b>Component 1:</b> Development, adoption and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans			
<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use by men and women  <b>Indicator 1.1:</b> <i>Number of comprehensive information and data sets</i>	<b>Baseline Indicator 1.1:</b> No comprehensive information and data sets available	<b>Target 1.1:</b> One comprehensive information and data set available to stakeholders and decision-makers	<b>Output 1.1.1:</b> Information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan generated from secondary/desktop research.  <b>Indicator 1.1.1:</b> <i>Number of comprehensive reviews of relevant policies, laws, strategies, and initiatives</i>  <b>Target 1.1.1:</b> <i>One comprehensive review of relevant policies, laws, strategies, and initiatives</i>

			<p><b>Output 1.1.2:</b> Biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape conducted to inform land-use planning for food-security and for sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa by men and women</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.2.:</b> <i>Number of complete sets of baseline information for land-use planning</i></p> <p><b>Target 1.1.2:</b> <i>One complete set of baseline information</i></p>
<p><b>Outcome 1.2:</b> Improved land allocation by communities (men and women), government, private sector and civil society in NW Liberia landscape</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2a:</b> <i>Number of land-use plans adopted by clans</i></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2b:</b> <i>Ha of forest loss avoided</i></p>	<p><b>Baseline 1.2a:</b> No land-use plans adopted</p> <p><b>Baseline 1.2b:</b> No forest loss avoided</p>	<p><b>Target 1.2.a:</b> Nine clan land use plans developed and adopted and one coarse national land use plan developed</p> <p><b>Target 1.2.b:</b> 15,000 ha</p>	<p><b>Output 1.2.1:</b> Coarse National and comprehensive NW Liberia land-use plans/maps, identifying target areas for production, protection and restoration developed in a participatory and inclusive manner</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.1a:</b> <i>Number of land-use plans</i></p> <p><b>Target 1.2.1a:</b> <i>Ten land-use plans (nine at clan land use plans and one coarse national land use plan)</i></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.1b:</b> <i>No of hectares conserved using Conservation agreements</i></p> <p><b>Target 1.2.1b:</b> <i>15,000 ha conserved through conservation agreements with nine clans</i></p>

<p><b>Indicator 1.2c:</b> Number of gazettelement packages developed for proposed protected areas</p>	<p><b>Baseline 1.2c:</b> No gazettelement packages developed for proposed protected areas</p>	<p><b>Target 1.2.c:</b> Gazettelement package developed for one Proposed Protected Area</p>	<p><b>Output 1.2.2:</b> NW Liberia landscape land-use plans adopted and jointly implemented by communities (men and women), government, the private sector and civil society</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.2:</b> Number of signature sheets indicating adoption of land-use plans</p> <p><b>Target 1.2.2:</b> Nine signature sheets (one per clan) indicating adoption of land-use plans</p> <p><b>Output 1.2.3:</b> Land-Use Planning results inform the development of a gazettelement package for Wologizi Proposed Protected Area</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.3:</b> Number of proposed protected areas with gazettelement packages</p> <p><b>Target 1.2.3:</b> A gazettelement package for one Proposed Protected Area (Wologizi) developed</p>
<p><b>Outcome 1.3:</b> Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by men and women strengthened</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3a:</b> Number of multi-stakeholder and inclusive governance mechanisms in place</p>	<p><b>Baseline 1.3a:</b> No governance mechanisms in place</p>	<p><b>Target 1.3a:</b> One governance mechanism in place</p>	<p><b>Output 1.3.1:</b> Multi-Stakeholder and inclusive Landscape Governance Structure for NW Liberia Landscape established</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.1:</b> Number of multi-stakeholder and inclusive governance mechanisms</p>

<p><b>Indicator 1.3b:</b> Number of supporting land-use planning, and management regulations considered by cabinet</p>	<p><b>Baseline 1.3b:</b> No regulations supporting sustainable land-use planning and management considered by cabinet</p>	<p><b>Target 1.3b:</b> Two new regulations supporting sustainable land-use planning and management considered by cabinet</p>	<p><b>Target 1.3.1:</b> One mechanism</p> <p><b>Output 1.3.2:</b> A gender-sensitive system for management, monitoring and evaluation developed to ensure compliance with NW Liberia Landscape land-use plan</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.2:</b> Number of M&amp;E systems</p> <p><b>Target 1.3.2:</b> One M&amp;E system</p> <p><b>Output 1.3.3:</b> Two gender-sensitive regulations to improve integrated land-use planning and management in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia developed</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.3:</b> Number of gender-sensitive draft regulation documents presented to cabinet</p> <p><b>Target 1.3.3:</b> Two gender-sensitive draft regulation documents presented to cabinet</p>
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<b>Component 2: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains</b>			
<p><b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1a:</b> <i>Number of hectares under sustainable land management</i></p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1b:</b> <i>Number of hectares under improved management to benefit biodiversity</i></p>	<p><b>Baseline 2.1a:</b> Zero hectares under sustainable land management</p> <p><b>Baseline 2.1b:</b> Zero ha</p>	<p><b>Target 2.1a:</b> 200,000 hectares under sustainable land management</p> <p><b>Target 2.1b:</b> 100,000 ha under improved management to benefit biodiversity</p>	<p><b>Output 2.1.1:</b> Capacity of male and female farmers, small-medium enterprise service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff built on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices with a focus on palm oil and cocoa value chains</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.1:</b> <i>Number of beneficiaries trained</i></p> <p><b>Target 2.1.1:</b> <i>10,000 beneficiaries (5,100 men and 4,900 women) trained</i></p> <p><b>Output 2.1.2:</b> Climate-smart agricultural practices demonstrated by men and women</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.2a:</b> <i>Number of men and women involved in demonstration of climate smart agricultural practices</i></p> <p><b>Target 2.1.2a:</b> <i>10,000 (5,100 men and 4,900 women involved in climate smart agricultural practices</i></p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.2b:</b> <i>Number of climate smart agricultural demonstration sites</i></p> <p><b>Target 2.1.2b:</b> <i>20 demonstration sites</i></p> <p><b>Output 2.1.3:</b> Incentives for responsible palm oil and cocoa, and food crops provided for men and women</p>

			<p><b>Indicator 2.1.3:</b> Number of male and female beneficiaries receiving incentives</p> <p><b>Target 2.1.3:</b> 20,000 beneficiaries (10,200 men and 9,800 women)</p> <p><b>Output 2.1.4:</b> Community producers (men and women) of key commodities empowered and organized in a locally appropriate manner (cooperatives and other associations)</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.4:</b> Number of new producer cooperatives or associations established and/or strengthened</p> <p><b>Target 2.1.4:</b> 4 cooperatives / associations (one in each project County)</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production by men and women</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.2:</b> Number of regulations supporting sustainable agriculture by men and women considered by cabinet</p>	<p><b>Baseline 2.2:</b> No regulations supporting sustainable agriculture by men and women considered by cabinet</p>	<p><b>Target 2.2:</b> Two new regulations supporting sustainable agriculture by men and women considered by cabinet</p>	<p><b>Output 2.2.1:</b> Policy recommendations to support sustainable agriculture by men and women developed and provided to government</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.2.1:</b> Number of draft policy documents presented to cabinet</p> <p><b>Target 2.2.1:</b> Two draft regulation documents presented to cabinet</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2.3:</b> Resources for sustainable production by men and women secured</p>			<p><b>Output 2.3.1:</b> Long-term gender-sensitive financial plan</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.3.1:</b> Number of gender sensitive financial plans</p>

<p><b>Indicator 2.3:</b> <i>Financing (US\$) directed to support sustainable production</i></p>	<p><b>Baseline 2.3:</b> US\$ 500,000 directed to sustainable production</p>	<p><b>Target 2.3:</b> US\$ 10 million directed to sustainable production</p>	<p><b>Target 2.3.1:</b> <i>One gender sensitive financial plan</i></p> <p><b>Output 2.3.2:</b> Innovative and blended financing for sustainable production by men and women leveraged including supply chain systems, Liberia Conservation Fund, and REDD+</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.3.2:</b> <i>Aggregate funding flows secured in support of sustainable production by men and women</i></p> <p><b>Target 2.3.2:</b> <i>US\$ 10 million secured in support of sustainable production by men and women</i></p>
<p><b>Component 3:</b> Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats</p>			
<p><b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Degraded areas that are crucial for ensuring ecosystem connectivity and integrity restored in NW Liberia</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1:</b> <i>Number of hectares restored directly by project</i></p>	<p><b>Baseline 3.1:</b> Zero ha restored</p>	<p><b>Target 3.1:</b> 15,000 ha restored directly by project</p>	<p><b>Output 3.1.1:</b> NW Liberia Landscape restoration plan developed by men and women</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1.1:</b> <i>Number of restoration plans developed by men and women</i></p> <p><b>Target 3.1.1:</b> <i>One restoration plan developed by men and women</i></p> <p><b>Output 3.1.2:</b> Enhanced restoration capacity of communities (men and women), land-users and local county authorities</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1.2:</b> <i>Number of men and women trained on restoration</i></p> <p><b>Target 3.1.2:</b> <i>10,000 beneficiaries (5,100 men and 4,900 women)</i></p>

			<p><b>Output 3.1.3:</b> Restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management and natural regeneration</p> <p><i><b>Indicator 3.1.3:</b> Number of restoration pilot sites</i></p> <p><i><b>Target 3.1.3:</b> 4 pilot sites</i></p>
<p><b>Outcome 3.2:</b> Improved gender-sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia</p> <p><i><b>Indicator 3.2:</b> Number of draft policy documents supporting restoration by men and women considered by cabinet</i></p>	<p><b>Baseline 3.2:</b> No draft policy documents supporting restoration by men and women considered by cabinet</p>	<p><b>Target 3.2:</b> One draft policy document supporting restoration by men and women considered by cabinet</p>	<p><b>Output 3.2.1:</b> Gender-sensitive policies on performance payments and Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes developed and/or adopted by men and women for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape</p> <p><i><b>Indicator 3.2.1:</b> Number of draft policy documents presented to cabinet</i></p> <p><i><b>Target 3.2.1:</b> One draft policy document presented to cabinet</i></p>
<p><b>Outcome 3.3:</b> Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities by men and women</p> <p><i><b>Indicator 3.3:</b> Financing (US\$) directed to support restoration by men and women</i></p>	<p><b>Baseline 3.3:</b> US\$ 500,000 directed to support restoration by men and women</p>	<p><b>Target 3.3:</b> US\$ 5 million directed to support restoration</p>	<p><b>Output 3.3.1:</b> Innovative and blended financing for NW Liberia restoration leveraged, based on promising approaches from within Liberia and elsewhere to provide incentives for restoration to individuals (men and women) and communities</p> <p><i><b>Indicator 3.3.1:</b> Aggregate funding flows in support of restoration by men and women</i></p> <p><i><b>Target 3.3.1:</b> US\$ 5 million in support of restoration by men and women</i></p>

Component 4: Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation			
<p><b>Outcome 4.1:</b> Improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.1:</b> <i>Number of satisfactory Project progress reports</i></p>	<p><b>Baseline 4.1:</b> No satisfactory Project progress reports</p>	<p><b>Target 4.1:</b> 15 satisfactory quarterly Project progress reports produced</p>	<p><b>Output 4.1.1:</b> A gender-sensitive M&amp;E system developed to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.1.1:</b> <i>Number of Project M&amp;E systems operational</i></p> <p><b>Target 4.1.1:</b> <i>One Project M&amp;E system</i></p>
<p><b>Outcome 4.2:</b> Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project by men and women</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.2.a:</b> <i>Number of integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management systems established</i></p> <p><b>Indicator 4.2.b:</b> <i>Number of knowledge sharing events attended</i></p>	<p><b>Baseline 4.2a:</b> No integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system in place</p> <p><b>Baseline 4.2b:</b> No knowledge sharing events attended</p>	<p><b>Target 4.2a:</b> Five community resource centers equipped and one online knowledge management system established</p> <p><b>Target 4.2b:</b> 15 knowledge sharing events attended by men and women</p>	<p><b>Output 4.2.1:</b> An integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system developed</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.2.1:</b> <i>Number of integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management systems developed and number of community resource centers equipped</i></p> <p><b>Target 4.2.1:</b> <i>One integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system developed and five community resource centers equipped</i></p> <p><b>Output 4.2.2:</b> National, regional, and international engagement by men and women representatives to share knowledge generated in the Project</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.2.2.a:</b> <i>Number of engagements in various forums/platforms</i></p>

			<p><b>Indicator 4.2.2b:</b> % of men and women participating in various engagement forums/platforms at national, regional, and international levels</p> <p><b>Target 4.2.2.a:</b> 5 annual lessons sharing, and 5 global engagements held</p> <p><b>Target 4.2.2b:</b> At least 40% women and 60% men participate in various engagement forums/platforms</p>
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## APPENDIX II: Project Timeline

	Timeline																			
	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Component 1: Development, adoption and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans</b>																				
<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use by men and women																				
<b>Output 1.1.1:</b> Information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan generated from secondary/desktop research																				
<b>Output 1.1.2:</b> Biophysical, social and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape conducted to inform land-use planning for food-security and for sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa by men and women																				
<b>Outcome 1.2:</b> Improved land allocation and use by communities (men and women), government, private sector and civil society in NW Liberia landscape																				
<b>Output 1.2.1:</b> Coarse National and comprehensive NW Liberia land-use plans/maps, identifying target areas for production, protection and restoration developed in a participatory and inclusive manner																				
<b>Output 1.2.2:</b> NW Liberia landscape land-use plans adopted and jointly implemented by communities (men and women), government, the private sector and civil society																				
<b>Output 1.2.3:</b> Land-Use Planning results inform the development of a gazettelement package for Wologizi Proposed Protected Area																				
<b>Outcome 1.3:</b> Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by men and women strengthened																				
<b>Output 1.3.1:</b> Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Governance Structure for NW Liberia Landscape																				
<b>Output 1.3.2:</b> A gender-sensitive system for management, monitoring and evaluation developed to ensure compliance with NW Liberia Landscape land-use plan																				
<b>Output 1.3.3:</b> Two gender-sensitive regulations to improve integrated land-use planning and management in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia																				
<b>Component 2: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains</b>																				
<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape																				
<b>Output 2.1.1:</b> Capacity of male and female farmers, small-medium enterprise service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff built on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices with a focus on palm oil and cocoa value chains																				
<b>Output 2.1.2:</b> Climate-smart agricultural practices demonstrated by men and women																				
<b>Output 2.1.3:</b> Incentives for responsible palm oil and cocoa, and food crops provided for men and women																				
<b>Output 2.1.4:</b> Community producers (men and women) of key commodities empowered and organized in a locally appropriate manner (cooperatives and other associations)																				
<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production by men and women																				
<b>Output 2.2.1:</b> Policy recommendations to support sustainable agriculture by men and women developed and provided to government																				

	Timeline																			
	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Outcome 2.3: Sufficient resources for sustainable production by men and women secured</b>																				
<b>Output 2.3.1:</b> Long-term gender-sensitive financial plan																				
<b>Output 2.3.2:</b> Innovative and blended financing for sustainable production by men and women leveraged including supply chain systems, Liberia Conservation Fund, and REDD+																				
<b>Component 3: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats</b>																				
<b>Outcome 3.1: Degraded areas in NW Liberia landscape restored</b>																				
<b>Output 3.1.1:</b> NW Liberia Landscape restoration plan developed by men and women																				
<b>Output 3.1.2:</b> Enhanced restoration capacity of communities (men and women), land-users and local county authorities																				
<b>Output 3.1.3:</b> Restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management and natural regeneration																				
<b>Outcome 3.2: Improved gender-sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia</b>																				
<b>Output 3.2.1:</b> Gender-sensitive policies on performance payments and Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes developed and/or adopted by men and women for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape																				
<b>Outcome 3.3: Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities by men and women</b>																				
<b>Output 3.3.1:</b> Innovative and blended financing for NW Liberia restoration leveraged, based on promising approaches from within Liberia and elsewhere to provide incentives for restoration to individuals (men and women) and communities																				
<b>Component 4: Management, coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation</b>																				
<b>Outcome 4.1: Improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation</b>																				
<b>Output 4.1.1:</b> A gender-sensitive M&E system developed to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation																				
<b>Outcome 4.2: Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project by men and women</b>																				
<b>Output 4.2.1:</b> An integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system developed																				
<b>Output 4.2.2:</b> National, regional and international engagement by men and women representatives to share knowledge generated in the Project																				

## **APPENDIX III: Project Results Monitoring Plan**

Indicators	Metrics	Methodology	Baseline	Location	Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Resources (Not Required)
<b>Objective:</b> To promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems for improved livelihoods in NW Liberia Landscape through land use planning, restoration of degraded lands, and strengthening governance, policies, and market incentives for nationally replicable models of deforestation-free cocoa and palm oil value chains.							
Indicator a: Number of hectares in the NW Liberia Landscape under improved land-use practices	Hectares	Mapping of land under improved land-use practices	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	LISGIS, EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator b: Number of hectares in the NW Liberia Landscape under sustainable agroforestry	Hectares	Mapping of land under sustainable agroforestry	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	LISGIS, EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator c: Number of hectares in Liberia under improved land-use management	Hectares	Mapping of land under improved land-use management	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	LISGIS, EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator d: Greenhouse gas emission mitigated	tCO2e	Mapping of land under improved land-use practices, sustainable agroforestry and improved land-use management. ExAct tool.	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	LISGIS, EPA, CI-Liberia	
<b>Component 1: Development, adoption and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans</b>							
Indicator 1.1: Number of comprehensive information and data sets	# of data and information sets	Document check	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	End of Year 1	EPA, CI-Liberia	

Indicator 1.1.1: Number of comprehensive reviews of relevant policies, laws, strategies and initiatives	# of comprehensive reviews	Document check	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	End of Year 1	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 1.1.2: Number of complete sets of baseline information for land-use planning	# of baseline information sets	Document check	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	End of Year 1	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 1.2.a: Number of land-use plans adopted by clans	# of plans	Document check	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 1.2.b: Ha of forest loss avoided	Hectares	GIS analysis	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	End of project	LISGIS, EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 1.2.c: Number of gazettelement packages developed for proposed protected areas	# of packages	Document check	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	End of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 1.2.1: Number of land-use plans	# of plans	Document check	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 1.2.2: Number of signature sheets indicating adoption of land-use plans	# of signature sheets	Document check	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 1.2.3: Number of proposed protected areas with gazettelement packages	# of packages	Document check	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 1.3a: Number of multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms in place	# of mechanisms	Document check	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 1.3b: Number of supporting land-use planning and management regulations considered by cabinet	# of regulations	Document check	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	

Indicator 1.3.1: Number of multi-stakeholder and inclusive governance mechanisms	# of mechanisms	Document check	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 1.3.2: Number of gender-sensitive M&E systems	# of systems	Document check	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 1.3.3: Number of gender-sensitive draft regulation documents presented to cabinet	# of regulations	Document check	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<b>Component 2: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains</b>							
Indicator 2.1a: Number of hectares under climate smart agriculture practices	Hectares	Mapping of land under climate smart agriculture	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Annual	LISGIS, EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 2.1b: Number of tons of carbon sequestered and emissions avoided in NW Liberia landscape	Tons of carbon	FAO EX-ACT tool	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 2.1.c: Number of hectares under sustainable food and/or commodity production	Hectares	Mapping of production areas	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Annual	LISGIS, EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 2.1.1: Number of training beneficiaries reached	Beneficiaries	Tracking participation in training events	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 2.1.2: Number of men and women involved in demonstration of smart agricultural practices	Men, women	Tracking participation in demonstration sites	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 2.1.3: Number of climate smart agricultural sites	Sites	Mapping of demonstration sites	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Annual	LISGIS, EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 2.1.4: Number of male and female beneficiaries receiving incentives	Beneficiaries (disaggregate by gender)	Documenting of incentive programs	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	

Indicator 2.1.5: Number of new producer cooperatives or associations established	Newly registered entities	Tracking registration of entities	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 2.2: Number of regulations supporting sustainable agriculture by men and women considered by cabinet	# of regulations	Document check	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 2.2.1: Number of draft policy documents presented to cabinet	# of policy documents	Document check	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 2.3: Financing (US\$) directed to support sustainable production	US\$	Tracking investments	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 2.3.1: Number of gender-sensitive financial plans	Plans	Document check	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
Indicator 2.3.2: Aggregate funding flows in support of sustainable production by men and women	US\$	Tracking investments	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<b>Component 3: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats</b>							
<i>Indicator 3.1a: Number of hectares restored directly by project</i>	Hectares	Mapping of restored areas	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	LISGIS, EPA, CI-Liberia	
<i>Indicator 3.1b: Number of tons of carbon sequestered and emissions avoided in NW Liberia landscape through restoration</i>	Tons of carbon	Carbon analysis of mapping results	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<i>Indicator 3.1.1: Number of restoration plans developed by men and women</i>	Plans	Document check	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	

<i>Indicator 3.1.2: Number of men and women trained</i>	Beneficiaries (disaggregate by gender)	Tracking participation in training events	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<i>Indicator 3.1.3.: Number of restoration pilot sites</i>	Sites	Mapping of sites	<i>None</i>	NW Liberia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<i>Indicator 3.2: Number of draft policy documents supporting restoration by men and women considered by cabinet</i>	# of policy documents	Document check	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<i>Indicator 3.2.1.: Number of draft policy documents presented to cabinet</i>	# of policy documents	Document check	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<i>Indicator 3.3: Financing (US\$) directed to support restoration by men and women</i>	US\$	Tracking funding flows	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<i>Indicator 3.3.1: Aggregate funding flows in support of restoration by men and women</i>	US\$	Tracking funding flows	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Mid-term and end of project	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<b>Component 4: Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation</b>							
<i>Indicator 4.1: Number of satisfactory Project progress reports</i>	# of Reports	Document check	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Quarterly	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<i>Indicator 4.1.1: Number of Project M&amp;E systems operational</i>	# of systems	Document check	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<i>Indicator 4.2.a: Number of integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management systems established</i>	# of systems	Document check	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<i>Indicator 4.2.b: Number of knowledge sharing events attended</i>	# of events	Document check (event participation reports)	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	

<i>Indicator 4.2.1: Number of integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management systems developed and number of community resource centers equipped</i>	# of systems and centers	Document check	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<i>Indicator 4.2.2.a: Number of engagements in various forums/platforms</i>	# of events	Document check (event participation reports)	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<i>Indicator 4.2.2b: Number of men and women participating in various engagement forums/platforms at national, regional and international levels</i>	# of participants (disaggregate by gender)	Document check (event participation reports)	<i>None</i>	Monrovia	Annual	EPA, CI-Liberia	
<b>Safeguard Plans:</b>							
<b>Involuntary Resettlement</b>							
IR1: Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been voluntary restricted	Number of people	Socio-economic surveys	<i>None</i>	Project communities	Annual	CI-Liberia	
IR2: Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been involuntarily restricted	Number of people	Socio-economic surveys	<i>None</i>	Project communities	Annual	CI-Liberia	
IR3: Percentage of persons who gave their consent for voluntary restrictions	Percent of people	FPIC documentation	<i>None</i>	Project communities	Annual	CI-Liberia	
IR4: Percentage of persons who have received compensation for voluntary restrictions	Percent of people	Socio-economic surveys	<i>None</i>	Project communities	Annual	CI-Liberia	
IR5: Percentage of persons who have received compensation for involuntary restrictions	Percent of people	Socio-economic surveys	<i>None</i>	Project communities	Annual	CI-Liberia	


<b>Cultural Heritage</b>							
C1: Number of cultural heritage related complaints from local communities	Number of complaints	Analysis of project documentation	None	Monrovia, project communities	Annual	CI Liberia, EPA	
C1: Number of cases of reported non-compliance with the requirements of this Cultural Heritage Management Plan	Number of cases	Analysis of project documentation	None	Monrovia, project communities	Annual	CI Liberia, EPA	
<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>							
SE1: Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis	Number of stakeholders	Analysis of project documentation	None	Monrovia, project communities	Annual	CI Liberia, EPA	
SE2: Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	Number of people	Analysis of project documentation	None	Monrovia, project communities	Annual	CI Liberia, EPA	
SE3: Number of engagements (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	Number of engagements	Analysis of project documentation (meeting records)	None	Monrovia, project communities	Annual	CI Liberia, EPA	
<b>Gender Mainstreaming</b>							
GM1: Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations)	# of men, women	Meeting attendance records	None	Monrovia, project communities	Monthly	CI-Liberia, EPA	

GM2: Number of men and women that received benefits (e.g. employment, income generating activities, training, access to natural resources, land tenure or resource rights, equipment, leadership roles) from the project	# of men, women	Project documentation, socio-economic surveys	None	Project communities	Annual	CI-Liberia	
GM3: Number of strategies, plans (e.g. management plans and land use plans) and policies derived from the project that include gender considerations (where relevant)	# of instruments	Project documentation	None	Monrovia	Annual	CI-Liberia, EPA	
<b>Accountability and Grievance Mechanism</b>							
AG1: Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	Number of cases	Grievance mechanism records	None	Monrovia	Annual	CI-Liberia	
AG2: Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been addressed.	Percentage of cases	Grievance mechanism records	None	Monrovia	Annual	CI-Liberia	

#### APPENDIX IV: GEF 7 Core Indicators

Core Indicator 1	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use						
		Hectares (1.1+1.2)					
		Expected		Achieved			
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE		
Indicator 1.1	Terrestrial protected areas newly created						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
		(select)					
		(select)					
		Sum					
Indicator 1.2	Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score			
				Baseline		Achieved	
					Endorsement	MTR	TE
		(select)					
		(select)					
		Sum					
Core Indicator 2	Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use					(Hectares)	
		Hectares (2.1+2.2)					
		Expected		Achieved			
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE		
Indicator 2.1	Marine protected areas newly created						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
		(select)					
		(select)					
		Sum					
Indicator 2.2	Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score (Scale 1-3)			
				Baseline		Achieved	
				PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		(select)					
		(select)					

		Sum					
<b>Core Indicator 3</b>	<b>Area of land restored</b>						<b>(Hectares)</b>
			Hectares (3.1+3.2+3.3+3.4)				
			Expected		Achieved		
			Concept stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
			265,000 ha (15,000 ha direct, 250,000 ha indirect)	15,000 ha			
<b>Indicator 3.1</b>	<b>Area of degraded agricultural land restored</b>						
			Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			Concept stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
			265,000 ha (15,000 ha direct, 250,000 ha indirect)	15,000 ha			
<b>Indicator 3.2</b>	<b>Area of forest and forest land restored</b>						
			Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
<b>Indicator 3.3</b>	<b>Area of natural grass and shrublands restored</b>						
			Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
<b>Indicator 3.4</b>	<b>Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) restored</b>						
			Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
<b>Core Indicator 4</b>	<b>Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)</b>						<b>(Hectares)</b>
			Hectares (4.1+4.2+4.3+4.4)				
			Expected		Expected		
			Concept stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	

			2,476,066 ha (350,000 ha direct, 2,126,066 ha indirect)	315,000 ha		
Indicator 4.1	Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			Concept stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
			650,000 ha (100,000 ha directly and 550,000 ha indirectly)	100,000 ha		
Indicator 4.2	Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations					
Third party certification(s):			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 4.3	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			Concept stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
			950,000 ha (200,000 ha directly and 750,000 ha indirectly)	200,000 ha		
Indicator 4.4	Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided					
Include documentation that justifies HCVF			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			Concept stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
 HCVF justification.pdf			876,066 ha (50,000 ha directly and 826,066 ha indirectly)	15,000 ha		
Core Indicator 5	Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity					(Hectares)
Indicator 5.1	Number of fisheries that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations					

Third party certification(s):			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 5.2	Number of large marine ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollution and hypoxia					
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator 6</b>	<b>Greenhouse gas emission mitigated</b>					<b>(Tons)</b>
			Tons (6.1+6.2)			
			Entered		Entered	
			Concept stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
	Expected CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	Not indicated	36,134,316	tCo <sub>2</sub> e		
	Expected CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)					
Indicator 6.1	Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector					
			Tons			
			Entered		Entered	
			Concept stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
	Expected CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	Not indicated	36,134,316	tCo <sub>2</sub> e		
	Expected CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)					
	Anticipated Year		2021			
Indicator 6.2	Emissions avoided					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
	Expected CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)					
	Expected CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)					
	Anticipated Year					
Indicator 6.3	Energy saved					
			MJ			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 6.4	Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology					

		Technology	Capacity (MW)			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		(select)				
		(select)				
<b>Core Indicator 7</b>	<b>Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management</b>					<b>(Number)</b>
Indicator 7.1	Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 7.2	Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 7.3	Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 7.4	Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			Rating		Rating	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator 8</b>	<b>Globally over-exploited fisheries Moved to more sustainable levels</b>					<b>(Tons)</b>
			Metric Tons			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator 9</b>	<b>Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products</b>					<b>(Tons)</b>
			Metric Tons (9.1+9.2+9.3)			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	PIF stage	MTR	TE

Indicator 9.1	Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and POPs containing materials and products removed or disposed					
POPs type			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
(select)	(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)	(select)				
Indicator 9.2	Quantity of mercury reduced					
			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 9.3	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste					
			Number of Countries			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 9.4	Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities					
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator 10</b>	<b>Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources</b>					<b>(Grams)</b>
Indicator 10.1	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air					
			Number of Countries			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 10.2	Number of emission control technologies/practices implemented					
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 10.3	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste					
			Number of Countries			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

<b>Core Indicator 11</b>	<b>Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment</b>					
					Number Achieved	
			Concept stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Female	20,000	24,500		
		Male	30,000	25,500		
		Total	50,000	50,000		

\* The target for total area under improved practices (350,000 ha) was developed as below:

- Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity is 100,000 ha
- Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems is 200,000 ha
- Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided is 15,000 ha

These targets and sites were selected based on the following:

1. Only those areas crucial in ensuring ecosystem integrity and connectivity were selected using spatial analysis (GIS) and the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM). The analysis covered geographic, economic, and social aspects of the NW Liberia landscape, to help prioritize target areas for the project and optimize the impacts of interventions for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation using four main criteria: (a) value for conservation, (b) vulnerability to forest degradation, (c) vulnerability to deforestation, and (d) viability for intervention. Spatial data layers were created for the first three criteria, and for the fourth criterion, a qualitative assessment of the conditions for implementing project interventions was used and included assessing the strength of the governance and regulatory mechanisms that are associated with the dominant land uses in NW Liberia and the capacity of the decision-making institutions associated with those land use. By combining spatial layers into a single score, the sites with the highest conservation value forest and the greatest vulnerability were identified.
2. The total HCVF area that is outside of the formal protected areas is 246,007 ha. So, through the project, conservation agreements will be signed with communities to with nine clans to avoid the loss of 15,000 ha of HCVF areas outside formal protection. This 15,000 ha was determined using GIS as the area of land under the jurisdictions of the nine selected clans
3. Costs per hectares. A study done in 2011 by FDA and UNDP that showed that the cost per hectare for Sustainable forest management is US\$ 2.50., and the cost per hectare for Afforestation and Reforestation is USD\$150.00 (Kantor and UNDP. 2011. *Assessment of Investment and Financial Flows for mitigation in the forestry sector in Liberia*).
4. A stakeholder workshop was conducted where the results of this analysis were validated.

## APPENDIX V: Safeguard Screening Form and Analysis

### CI-GEF'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARD (ESS) SCREENING FORM

1. The CI-GEF Project Agency undertakes environmental and social safeguard screening for every project at the beginning of the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase to determine the risk categorization for the project, the safeguard policies triggered by the project, and the mitigation measures to be put in place by the project.
2. The CI-GEF Project Agency classifies the project into one of three categories, depending on the type, location, sensitivity and scale of the project and the nature and magnitude of its potential environmental and social impacts. The descriptions of the categories and lists of types of projects identified in Appendix I of the CI-GEF ESS Policy and these which are meant to serve as guidance and are not meant to be exhaustive.
3. CI-GEF does not fund projects that involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams, and resettlement of people. CI cannot support projects that contradict its mission and policies.
4. The Executing Agency (EA) and Executing Partner are responsible for providing accurate responses to each question in this screening form and to submit the completed form to CI-GEF Project Agency in a timely manner.
5. The CI-GEF Project Agency is responsible ensuring that the project complies with the CI-GEF ESS, Gender and Stakeholder Engagement policies and will use the completed screening form to determine the mitigation measures for the EA to implement.
6. In addition to preparing and implementing mitigation plans for the ESS policies triggered, the EA will also need to prepare a Gender Mainstreaming Plan and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
7. The EA is responsible for informing the CI-GEF Project Agency in a timely manner, if at any time during the preparation and implementation of the project, the information provided in this Screening Form changes which results in the risks of the project being increased.

I. PROJECT INFORMATION		
<b>GEF Project ID:</b> 10232	<b>Country:</b> Liberia	
<b>Project Title:</b> Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains		
<b>Name of the Executing Entity:</b> Environmental Protection Agency and Conservation International		
<b>Length of Project:</b> 60 months	<b>Proposed Start date:</b> TBD	<b>Anticipated End date:</b> TBD
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b> Biodiversity, Land Degradation, and Multi-Focal Area (MFA)		
<b>GEF Project Amount:</b> USD 8,000,000	<b>Co-Financing Amount:</b> USD 66,999,065	
<b>Project Objectives:</b> To promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems for enhanced livelihood opportunities in NW Liberia Landscape through land use planning, restoration of degraded lands, and strengthening governance, policies, and market incentives for nationally replicable models of deforestation-free cocoa and palm oil value chains.		
<b>Project Components and Main Activities Proposed:</b> The project has four components and several activities as described below. <b>Component 1: Development, adoption and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land use plans</b>		

**Proposed activities:**

- i. Conduct desktop research to generate information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan
- ii. Conduct biophysical, social and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia
- iii. Develop coarse National and comprehensive NW Liberia land-use plans/maps
- iv. Socialize the NW Liberia landscape land-use plans with communities, government, the private sector and civil society
- v. Establish and empower a Multi-Stakeholder Governance Structure for NW Liberia Landscape
- vi. Establish an inter-agency coordination platform
- vii. Develop management, monitoring and evaluation system for NW Liberia landscape
- viii. Develop a gender sensitive training and capacity building program on integrated landscape management
- ix. Establish and implement NW Liberia Landscape Partnership MoUs for core partners
- x. Undertake gender sensitive policy review of existing laws and regulations to assess gaps/opportunities for formalizing integrated landscape management
- xi. Draft and present to Cabinet for approval, two gender sensitive regulations for improving integrated landscape management

**Component 2: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains**

**Proposed activities:**

- i. Build the capacity of farmers, small-medium enterprise service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff on climate-smart agricultural practices
- ii. Promote climate-smart agricultural practices
- iii. Develop a climate-smart agricultural working model for existing or abandoned agricultural areas
- iv. Provide incentives for responsible palm oil and cocoa, and food crops to both males and female farmers
- v. Develop long-term business partnerships for climate-smart and/or sustainable land management
- vi. Conduct research on value chain and market dynamics of local, domestic, and export markets, including a review of potential incentives for responsible palm oil and cocoa supply chains
- vii. Review, and where applicable adopt Supply Chain Management Standards and Certification Systems for responsible supply/value chains reviewed and, where applicable, adopted
- viii. Empower and organize community producers (male and female) of key commodities potentially via cooperatives
- ix. Evaluate and promote gender sensitive market incentives including the potential for differentiated "Green NW Liberia Landscape" palm oil and cocoa brand
- x. Conduct review of legal context and policy incentive options for promoting climate-smart agriculture and responsibly produced palm oil and cocoa
- xi. Assess Liberia's fiscal, financial, trade policies that affect food production systems and provide recommendations to the government
- xii. Engage RSPO, HCSA, Cocoa and Forest Initiative, World Cocoa Foundation on palm oil and cocoa sustainability issues/standards for high conservation value forest landscapes
- xiii. Develop, adopt and implement a National Commodity Action Plan for Palm Oil and Cocoa
- xiv. Develop gender-sensitive NW Liberia Landscape Business and Investment Plans/ Prospectus
- xv. Conduct risk and policy analyses for scaled up investment in NW Liberia landscape
- xvi. Leverage innovative and blended financing for sustainable production including supply chain systems, Liberia Conservation Fund, REDD+ etc.

**Component 3: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats**

**Proposed Activities:**

- i. Assess the extent of degradation and cost of restoration, including habitat and HCVP priorities in NW Liberia landscape
- ii. Identify degraded areas for restoration pilots
- iii. Build the capacity of communities, land-users, local county authorities etc. on restoration
- iv. Implement restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management, natural regeneration, etc.
- v. Demarcate boundaries for restoration
- vi. Develop and sign MoUs with partners on improved restoration practices
- vii. Conduct gender-sensitive policy review of existing laws and regulations to assess gaps/opportunities for restoration
- viii. Draft and present to cabinet for approval at least one gender sensitive regulation for restoration
- ix. Adopt and promote National laws and policies that support restoration
- x. Develop and/or develop gender-sensitive policies on performance payments and payment for ecosystems services schemes for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape
- xi. Develop gender-sensitive Business and Investment Plans for restoration of NW Liberia Landscape
- xii. Conduct gender-sensitive risk and policy analyses for scaled up restoration investment in NW Liberia landscape
- xiii. Leverage innovative and blended financing for NW Liberia restoration based on promising approaches from within Liberia and elsewhere to provide incentives to individuals and communities for restoration

**Component 4: Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Proposed activities:**

- i. Collect, analyze and/or synthesize relevant data during project implementation
- ii. Produce and share project progress reports with all key stakeholders
- iii. Develop gender-sensitive technical training materials for appropriate integrated landscape management including climate-smart agricultural practices and NTFP practices
- iv. Establish a physical community resource center and an online knowledge and learning platform for information sharing
- v. Conduct South-South Knowledge exchanges with other child projects
- vi. Captured, document and share success stories and lessons learned at landscape and national levels
- vii. Share and disseminate knowledge generated at the landscape at national, regional and international levels

**Safeguard Screening Form Prepared by:** George Ilebo

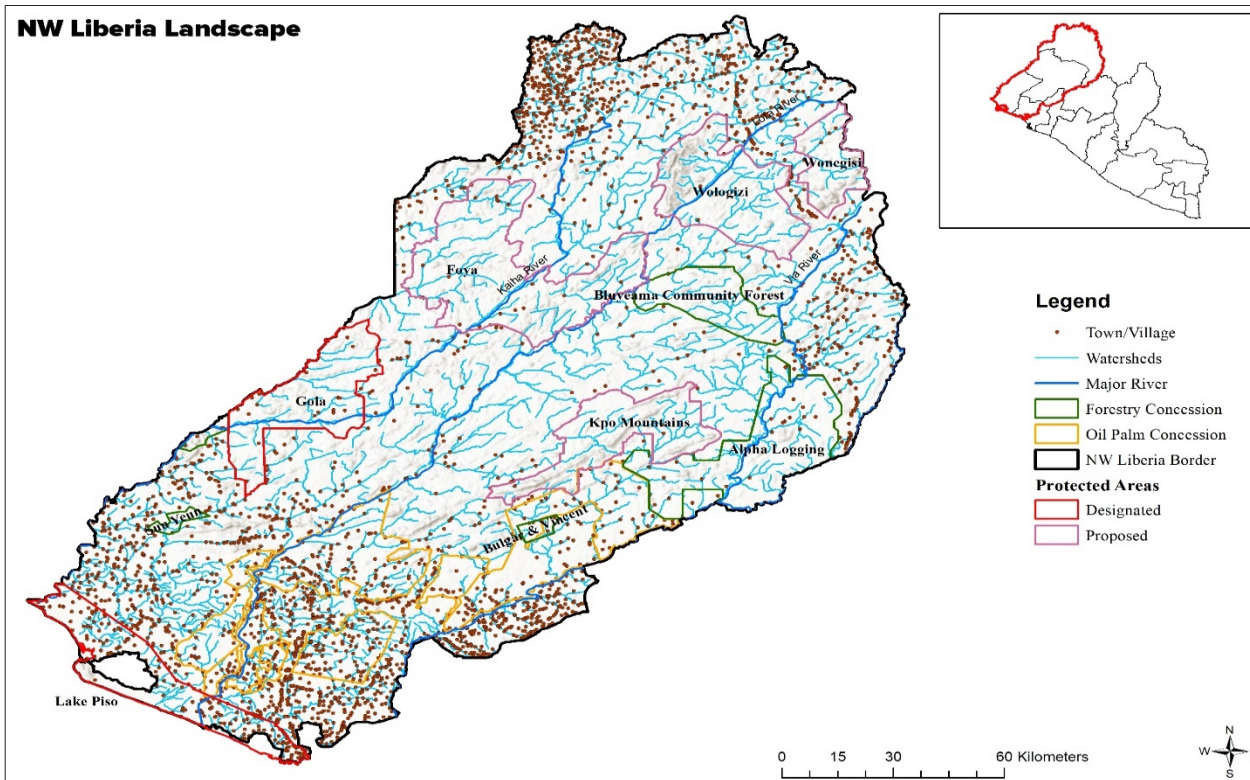
**Date of Submission/Resubmission to CI-GEF:** September 4, 2019

**Comments:**

## II. PROJECT CONTEXT

### Project Location

- Provide a legible map showing the project intervention areas, towns/communities/indigenous territories, protected areas, and main rivers/watersheds):



### Biological Context of Project Area

- Identify endemic and IUCN Red Listed species

The Northwest Liberia Landscape houses one of the largest remaining forest blocks in the Guinean Forests of West Africa global biodiversity hotspot, which features some of the highest biological diversity in all of Africa (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), 2015). It contains some of the last remnants of the Western Guinean Lowland forest ecoregion, recognized as one of the “Global 200” most outstanding and representative areas of biodiversity (WWF, 2018). The landscape is also an Endemic Bird Area and a Center of Plant Diversity (Stattersfield et al., 1998; WWF and IUCN, 1994) and contains several Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), which are sites contributing significantly to the persistence of global biodiversity (CEPF, 2015). These include sites prioritized for their importance as habitat for endangered endemic genera and species.

The Northwest Liberia landscape also houses four of Liberia’s nine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and 92% of the region’s 30 primate species are endemic. Flora in the area is closely related to flora of central Africa, but also displays high levels of local species-level endemism. In terms of plants, approximately 9,000 species of vascular plant are believed to occur in the hotspot, including 1,800 endemic species (Mittermeier et al., 1998, 2004).

The table below provides some of the known IUCN Red Listed species in NW Liberia Landscape.

<b>IUCN RED LISTED SPECIES IN NORTHWEST LIBERIA LANDSCAPE</b>		
<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>IUCN threat category</b>
<b>Mammals</b>		
Western Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>	CR
Western Red Colobus	<i>Piliocolobus badius</i>	EN
Pygmy Hippopotamus	<i>Choeropsis liberiensis</i>	EN
Jentink's duiker	<i>Cephalophus jentinki</i>	EN
Ziama Horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus ziama</i>	EN
Western Pied Colobus	<i>Colobus polykomos</i>	VU
Diana Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus diana</i>	VU
Golden Cat	<i>Caracal (Profelis) aurata</i>	VU
Bourlon's Genet	<i>Genetta bourloni</i>	VU
West African Oyan	<i>Poiana leightoni</i>	VU
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	VU
Long-tailed (Black-bellied) Pangolin	<i>Uromanis tetradactyla</i>	VU
White-bellied Pangolin	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	VU
Giant Ground Pangolin	<i>Smutsia gigantea</i>	VU
African Forest Elephant	<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>	VU
Zebra duiker	<i>Cephalophus zebra</i>	VU
Brooke's duiker (Ogilby's duiker)	<i>Cephalophus ogilbyi brookei</i>	VU
Liberian mongoose	<i>Liberiictus kuhni</i>	VU
Aellen's Roundleaf Bat	<i>Hipposideros marisae</i>	VU
Guinean horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus guineensis</i>	VU
African Manatee	<i>Trichechus senegalensis</i>	VU
Olive Colobus	<i>Procolobus verus</i>	NT
Sooty Mangabey	<i>Cercocebus atys</i>	NT
Yellow-backed duiker	<i>Cephalophus silvicultor</i>	NT
Bongo	<i>Tragelaphus eurycerus</i>	NT
Bay Duiker	<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>	NT
Buettikofer's Shrew	<i>Crocidura buettikoferi</i>	NT
Large-headed Forest Shrew	<i>Crocidura grandiceps</i>	NT
African Straw-coloured Fruit-bat	<i>Eidolon helvum</i>	NT
Johnston's Genet	<i>Genetta johnstoni</i>	NT
Jones' Roundleaf Bat	<i>Hipposideros jonesi</i>	NT
Spotted-necked Otter	<i>Hydrictis maculicollis</i>	NT
Schreiber's Bent-winged Bat	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	NT
<b>Birds</b>		
Gola Malimbe	<i>Malimbus ballmanni</i>	EN
Timneh Grey Parrot	<i>Psittacus timneh</i>	EN
Brown-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes cylindricus</i>	VU
Yellow-casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna elata</i>	VU
Rufous Fishing Owl	<i>Scotopelia ussheri</i>	VU
Western Wattled Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Lobotos lobatus</i>	VU
White-breasted Guineafowl	<i>Agelastes meleagrides</i>	VU
White-necked rock fowl	<i>Picathartes gymnocephalus</i>	VU
Yellow-bearded Greenbull	<i>Criniger olivaceus</i>	VU
Nimba Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis annamarulae</i>	VU

Sierra Leone Prinia	<i>Schistolais leontica</i>	VU
Green-tailed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda eximius</i>	NT
Shelley's Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo shelleyi</i>	NT
Copper-tailed Starling	<i>Hylopsar cupreocauda</i>	NT
Rufous-winged Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis rufescens</i>	NT
Lagden's Bush-shrike	<i>Malaconotus lagdeni</i>	NT
Blue-moustached Bee-eater	<i>Merops mentalis</i>	NT
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	LC
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	LC
Common Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	LC
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	LC
Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	LC
African fish eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	LC
Palm-nut vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	LC
Vieillot's barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>	LC
Yellow-spotted barbet	<i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i>	LC
Yellow-throated tinker bird	<i>Pogoniulus subsulphureus</i>	LC
<b>Reptiles</b>		
Slender-snouted crocodile	<i>Mecistops cataphractus</i>	CR
Nile crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	LC
Slender-snouted crocodile	<i>Mecistops cataphractus</i>	CR
Home's Hinge-Back Tortoise	<i>Kinixys homeana</i>	VU
African Dwarf Crocodile	<i>Osteolaemus tetraspis</i>	VU
Leatherback turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	EN
Loggerhead turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	EN
Green turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	EN
Olive Ridley turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	EN
<b>Amphibians</b>		
Ringed river frog	<i>Phrynobatrachus annulatus</i>	EN
Yapo River frog	<i>Phrynobatrachus villiersi</i>	VU
Allen's slippery frog	<i>Conraua alleni</i>	VU
African giant toad	<i>Amietophrynus superciliars</i>	LC
Sierra Leone reed frog	<i>Hyperolius chlorosteus</i>	NT
Wermuth's reed frog	<i>Hyperolius wermuthi</i>	NT
Chochran's running frog	<i>Kassina cochranae</i>	NT
Big-eyed forest treefrog	<i>Leptopelis macrotis</i>	NT
Tai Forest treefrog	<i>Leptopelis occidentalis</i>	NT

- Describe the environmental conditions of the area including pollution, threats to biodiversity, and natural disasters

Northwest (NW) Liberia Landscape is about 2.5 million ha in Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Bong counties, and home to 753,962 people (LISGIS HIES, 2016). The Northwest Liberia Landscape houses 40% of the remaining forest blocks of the Guinean Lowland forest ecoregion of West Africa global biodiversity hotspot (FAO, 2014) which features some of the highest biological diversity in all of Africa (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF 2015) recognized as recognized as one of the "Global 200" most outstanding and representative areas of biodiversity (WWF, 2018). The forests of Northwest Liberia are characterized by deciduous forests in the more mountainous areas and rainforest in the inland hills and plains, extending down to evergreen coastal regions with areas of mangrove. These forests contain high carbon stock and high conservation value sites, as well as extensive habitat and natural resources that

provide vital ecosystem services including provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural that are essential for many species and livelihoods for local communities.

NW Liberia landscape contains several Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), which are sites contributing significantly to the persistence of global biodiversity (CEPF, 2015), and houses four of Liberia's nine Important Bird Areas (IBAs), including Lake Piso and Wonegizi (African Bird Club, 2013). Flora in the area is closely related to flora of central Africa, but also displays high levels of local species-level endemism. In terms of plants, approximately 9,000 species of vascular plant are believed to occur in the hotspot, including 1,800 endemic species (Mittermeier et al., 1998, 2004).

NW Liberia landscape contains existing and proposed protected areas. The existing protected areas are; Gola Forest National Park and Lake Piso Multiple Use Protected Area, totaling 198,000 ha. The proposed protected areas are: Kpo Mountains; Bong Mountain; Wonegizi; Wologizi; and Foya, totaling 395,950 ha. Gola Forest National Park is part of a transboundary conservation complex extending westward into Sierra Leone's Gola Rainforest National Park, and Wonegizi is part of a transboundary forest complex with the Guinean Ziam Biosphere Reserve.

The immediate threats to the Northwest Liberia landscape include land use change arising from deforestation in the form of expansion of commercial plantations (oil palm, cocoa) into intact forest and continued agricultural expansion by communities relying on shifting cultivation, as well as related extractive livelihoods, such as charcoal production, artisanal mining and bushmeat hunting. About 75% of animal protein consumed in Liberia consists of bushmeat, and over 95% of Liberia's urban population uses charcoal (Hoyt, 2004; USAID, 2009). Industrial scale mining and logging are not yet prevalent in the area, but exploration is going on and companies that abandoned the area during the civil wars are starting to come back. Further, invasive elephant grass is expanding southwards, prohibiting forest regrowth and traditional agricultural practices.

Mangrove ecosystems in NW Liberia landscape are threatened by: (i) overexploitation of demersal fish species and other species (e.g. sea turtles), (ii) beach sand mining, (iii) beach erosion, (iv) population growth, (v) poor waste disposal and management, (vi) infrastructure development, (vii) unsustainable mangrove harvesting for fuel-wood for cooking and smoking fish, and (viii) beach and sand mining.

The primary driver behind these threats is a dire need for economic development at national and local levels, combined with limited governance capacity and an absence of land use planning, the desperate need for livelihoods and food security are driving unplanned and destructive development and land conversion, responding to short-term needs at the expense of long-term sustainability.

- **Describe climate change impacts**

NW Liberia landscape is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its low economic base, dependence on rain-fed agriculture, huge reliance on biomass energy, increasing coastal erosion and exposure to epidemics in addition to the low capacity at community and national levels. Thus, climate change is a serious threat to key economic sectors in NW Liberia Landscape namely agriculture, fisheries, forestry, energy, health, meteorology/hydrology. Production systems in each of these sectors have already experienced reduced productivity that is linked to changing climatic patterns. The socio-economic consequences fall particularly on rural populations whose livelihoods depend on natural resources and live below the poverty level.

The main climate change impacts in NW Liberia landscape are associated with increased frequency of natural hazards such as: coastal erosion; terrestrial flooding; loss of plant and animal biodiversity; increased disease burden; loss of human lives; destruction and or shorter life span of use of infrastructure and public facilities caused by flooding, sea level rise and overflow of wetlands.

Other impacts include erratic rainfall that affects particularly the farming communities who have witnessed either a shift in rain season by more than a month, or frequent short duration intensive rainfall causing overflow of water on the road infrastructure and agricultural fields. Thus, leading to poor harvests and food insecurity.

Future anticipated climate change impacts in NW Liberia landscape include average annual temperature increases of 0.9 – 2.6°C by the 2060s and 1.4 – 4.7°C by the 2090s; and an increase in average annual rainfall and the frequency of heavy rainfall events (USAID, 2012), which will have very adverse effects on local communities and biodiversity.

#### **Socio-economic Context of Project Area:**

- **Describe the broad economic, social and cultural context of, and local communities living in, the area of the proposed project including information on number of men, women, indigenous people, disadvantaged/vulnerable/disabled groups, economic/livelihood activity, household income**

NW Liberia Landscape is well endowed with natural resources such as water, minerals, forests etc., and all the 176,669 households with a total population of 753,962 (382,623 female and 371,339 male) community members derive their livelihoods primarily based on the use of these natural resources. Over 90% of the population of NW Liberia landscape depend on the forests for food, income, bush meat and medicine; and over 75% depend on subsistence agriculture to meet their economic needs.

On average, the literacy rate in NW Liberia landscape is 48.93%. According to the 2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey conducted by Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), the poverty levels in NW Liberia landscape is as follows:

- a) Average absolute poverty is 61.80%;
- b) Average food poverty is 44.60%; and
- c) Extreme poverty is 22.10%

Although average unemployment in the landscape is low (1.4%), 94.4% of the Landscape's workforce is considered 'working poor' as they live on less than \$USD 2.00 a day. Also, 84.4% of the average labour force is in the formal sector; and 85.25% on average are in vulnerable employment.

Socially, the people in NW Liberia landscape belong to secret societies such as the 'Poro' and 'Sande'. Poro is an all-male institution that imparts knowledge about the culture, traditions, and customs of the society. The Poro is both a political and religious organization as well as a no-appeal court system for the tribe. While, the Sande is an all-female, institution giving instruction to young women in the customs and traditions of the community, the role of women in society and their rights, duties, and responsibilities.

Culturally, Local institutions in NW Liberia landscape are ruled by clan chiefs, paramount chiefs, and district commissioners. Each village belongs to a Chiefdom and to a District and has a Paramount Chief and a Commissioner appointed by the President. The Clan Chief is selected by Paramount Chief, while the General Town Chief is selected either by the Commissioner or the Paramount Chief. Town Chiefs are selected (or elected) by the community. In NW Liberia landscape, there are a total of 79 clans and 23 districts.

Local judges solve local problems and the clan or town would protect their immediate surroundings, e.g. shrines, access roads, forests, and other sanctuaries. They also hold meetings to discuss issues of importance to the area. Over 60% of the population in NW Liberia landscape use the forest as a sacred place and sees it as a place for wildlife and biodiversity.

In NW Liberia landscape, there are taboos that are in three categories. Those observed by individuals within the tribe as a condition resulting from intermarriage; those sanctioned by the community; and those observed by members of extended families and clans. Some taboos prohibit particular clans from eating certain fauna and flora. A clan taboo is observed by all its members. Other taboos prohibit hunting in places

regarded as abodes of ancestors and or evil spirits. Another kind of taboo prohibits fishing in certain bodies of water in which the fish are considered humans in fish form waiting to be conceived by barren women. Taboos are enforced by institutions such as the Poro and Sande societies, as well as by heads of extended families or clans.

Women in NW Liberia landscape are particularly vulnerable due to high male domination that has resulted into exclusion, marginalization, and sexual and gender-based violence.

- **Describe how men and women access, use, manage and govern the natural resources that the project seeks to focus on**

In Liberia, men and women have clear gender divisions that determine how natural resources are utilized at the household and community levels. Women in rural settings in NW Liberia landscape are often highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods and are therefore particularly susceptible to changes in the availability and quality of these resources. Despite their reliance on natural resources, women have less access to and control over natural resources than men. Due to structural injustice, social norms and traditions, women have limited access to land even though the farmers often are women. Usually it is men who put land, water, plants, and animals to commercial use, which is often more valued than women's domestic uses.

Men and women in NW Liberia landscape, with different positions in society, use mangroves differently and have unique perspectives about why mangroves are important and how they should be protected. Access, and the ability to restrict it, is vital for the ability of local communities to properly manage mangrove forests. Both men and women living near forests and mangrove ecosystems in NW Liberia landscape use forests and mangrove resources in different ways. For instance, for mangroves, men are likely to harvest mangrove wood based on the level of physical effort required to fell mangrove trees, and women are likely to fish for crustaceans in mangroves ecosystems by setting out woven palm traps. Men are more inclined to cut channels through the mangroves and line them with nets to catch different species of fish. These same channels were used by women to gain access to Mangroves that grew closer to the water's edge. This clearly shows that both women and men use mangrove resources in different ways and any restriction on access to mangrove resources will have a negative impact on both sexes. Based on these key differences, a gendered perspective on forest and mangrove conservation must be adopted. Strategies to avoid inequality in this project will be developed to address power differences and recognize the differing levels of control and dependence on forests and mangrove ecosystems.

Also, during the PPG phase of this project, a gender analysis will be conducted to document and understand the different ways in which women and men access and utilize forest and mangrove resources in NW Liberia landscape and to identify any obstacles to equal participation in conservation.

- **Describe the extent of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation/abuse**

According to HRW 2016: Domestic violence, rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls, including practices such as female genital mutilation and early marriage remained widespread in NW Liberia landscape.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is not only prevalent in NW Liberia landscape; it is accepted as an integral part of gender relations (UN/GoL 2014 Report). This perception was exacerbated during the conflict period, as rape was used as a weapon of war driven by unequal gender relations. For many women and girls, the appalling violence they experienced during wartime is still evident as physical and mental scars. Reports between 2014-2016 from the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) indicate a general acceptance of the most common types of sexual and gender-based violence. Rape, child marriage, offensive touching (sexual assault), forced prostitution, wife inheritance, forced servitude, wife beating, denial of

resources, acid attacks as well as the more subtle and hidden forms of violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) are the main types of sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated in the communities

Overall, teenage pregnancy stands at 31percent and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); a harmful rite of passage that

deters girls from dignified adolescence and increases their complications during birth is widely practiced and acceptable in all the four Counties in NW Liberia landscape

A significant portion of these sexual violence often goes unreported/unpunished; these include violations such as rape,

incest and other forms of sexual as well as psychological forms of violence are treated, as private, and mostly handled

the “family way”. Meanwhile, the more public forms of violence which are more physical in nature, such as fighting/beating are often dealt with in accordance with traditional customary law, administered and enforced by the town chief in rural areas and town chairman in urban areas. There’s reluctance in addressing the more culturally ingrained issue of Female Genital mutilation (FGM). In rural Liberia, it is estimated that approximately 72 percent of women and girls have been subjected to FGM.

To address sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), the Government of Liberia has ratified international and regional instruments such as the Convention of Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls (1979) and the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights and its protocol on the rights of women in Africa, and the development of the 2006 National Action Plan to prevent and respond to sexual and gender based violence.

To this end, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection developed a referral pathway system for reporting and addressing SGBV issues. The referral pathway involves the following steps:

- i. seeking formal hospital or clinic medical care;
- ii. contacting the police;
- iii. seeing a counsellor; and
- iv. attending court.

However, the effectiveness of this system is limited especially in rural areas due to: inadequate personnel and other resources for local ministries, police, health centers and courts; deeply-entrenched harmful traditional practices and social barriers; the weakness of the justice system; and lack of knowledge on protection and services available to victims. Furthermore, there has been a lack of coordination among the ministries concerned in developing policy and planning frameworks and in their implementation.

- **Describe all sacred sites in or near the project area**

Sacred sites are found in all the four counties of NW Liberia landscape in the form of shrines and sacred groves, etc. However, these sacred sites have not all been mapped, and this will be done during the PPG phase. The sacred groves are of ritual and religious importance as these sites are both ritually and symbolically associated with ancestors through graves and certain trees. Ownership normally lies with the male head of a single family within the population of descendants and are sometimes used by gender-specific initiation societies (Poro for men, Sande for women), and for ritual and religious activities including divinations and sacrifice to protect individuals and groups.

Sacred groves feature a canopy of culturally significant mature rainforest tree species, and a midstorey of cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*), kola (*Cola nitida*), and various native and exotic fruit trees among Kpelle, Mano, and other speakers of languages belonging to the same Mande macro family as the Loma, all of whom share similar cultural and ritual practices in NW Liberia landscape. Clearing and burning these spaces is forbidden under customary law because these sites feature ancestors’ graves and certain trees tied to living individuals,

neither of which may be disturbed. At the site of old towns, this sacredness allows the continuing existence of mature trees within these spaces while allowing the planting of shade-tolerant economic tree crops such as kola.

Sacred groves are cultural spaces located on the sites of old towns characterized by the presence of ancestors and graves. Ancestors, supernatural beings, and ritual artefacts such as shrines, masks, divinatory media, fetish objects, and herbal medicine. Sacred groves, ancestors and some trees are seen as being endowed with this metaphysical power.

- **Describe any recent/on-going and potential social conflicts, including the displacement of people**

Levels of violence have dropped following the end of the civil war. But violence persists and, if left unaddressed, still poses a significant risk to peace. While Liberia has made progress away from war, there are still challenges to the long-term sustainability of peace. Causes of conflict persist in familiar and new forms, and social and political violence and unrest still affect the lives of many.

The key drivers of insecurity as perceived by stakeholders across the county included inadequacies in the provision of security and justice, land disputes among existing and returned former displaced populations, legacy divisions between ethnic and religious communities, and the physical isolation of many communities which remain inaccessible for much of the year; and violence against women is still widely perceived to be a problem.

Specific shortcomings in the provision of security and justice identified by stakeholders, including the police and legal professionals, include: insufficient ordinary police manpower, depots and equipment, especially vehicles; a lack of specialized policing, including riot control and forensic facilities, insecurity of the county prison and lack of provision for secure prisoners' transportation; confusion between legal regimes exercised by statutory and customary authorities; and a lack of trained judges, magistrates, solicitors and clerks as well as insecurity of court houses, records, evidence and witnesses. This has resulted in a low level of public confidence in the rule of law and thus high frustration with the state. The cost of pursuing cases through the statutory system is high, attending court is expensive for victims and witnesses, and police and judicial officials are widely reported to demand money to investigate and prosecute. Delivery of justice is slow, and many prosecutions collapse or are abandoned.

- **Identify security risks for project staff and stakeholders**

The main security risk for project staff and stakeholders is from opportunistic petty crime and sporadic outbreaks of violence resulting from disputes over land, economic hardship, illegal mining and the exploitation of natural resources pose a potential threat to members in remote locations. Also, politically motivated violence may occur with little or no warning and escalate rapidly, which is likely to increase as the country approaches the 2020 senatorial elections.

To ensure safety of project staff, CI Liberia has a dedicated security focal point person and safety and security risk management plan in place that provides general guidance for all CI employees, volunteers, consultants, interns and guests. For day to day security management, CI Liberia staff are trained on practicing basic security and situational awareness and, in high-risk locations, by adhering to location-specific personal security guidelines issued by Conservation International.

Also, as a member of Liberia International Non-Governmental Organizations (LINGO), CI Liberia receives security alerts from a variety of sources at both local and international levels.

**Climate Change and Natural Disaster Risks and Hazards:**

- **Describe the current and future exposure of the project area to relevant climate and geophysical hazards**

NW Liberia will be exposed to increased temperatures and increased frequency of intense precipitation due to climate change both now and in the future. Several climate disasters have already taken place in the NW Liberia landscape where more than 2500 people were displaced in 2007, leaving various communities under water on several occasions, and causing a flash flood in 2009 that displace about 600 people, mostly women and children. Sea erosion has also made various parts of NW Liberia's coast uninhabitable by removing meters from the coastline, destroying important infrastructure and driving many local people into homelessness, indicating that coastal ecosystem degradation, including deforestation and the threat of sea level rise, is serious.

Climate change will greatly affect NW Liberia landscape due to its high vulnerability resulting from low economic base, dependence on rain-fed agriculture, huge reliance on biomass energy, increasing coastal erosion and exposure to epidemics in addition to the low capacity at community and national levels. The primary driver behind these threats is a dire need for economic development at national and local levels. Combined with limited governance capacity and an absence of land use planning, the desperate need for livelihoods and food security are driving unplanned and destructive development and land conversion, responding to short-term needs at the expense of long-term sustainability.

Short-term stresses on natural forested ecosystems from activities such as logging, mining and conversion to agroforestry are exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Additionally, as climate change impacts agricultural production, forests lands experience increasing pressure for the development of new farms. In the absence of interventions, the most severe effects of climate change on agricultural production in Liberia are anticipated in Bong and Lofa counties, which comprise a significant portion of the landscape (USAID, 2013). These counties were the primary agricultural areas before Liberia's civil war destroyed the nation's agricultural production system.

The impacts of climate change are being felt by local communities in terms of loss of livelihood, income and settlement, displacement and Involuntary migration due to coastal erosion, flooding and drought that triggers disputes over land and other resources.

- **Describe the current and future impacts of identified climate and geophysical hazards on the project**

The following are the impacts of climate change on the project due to increased temperatures and increased frequency of intense precipitation:

- Flooding may render project communities inaccessible due to damage on roads and bridges being washed off; reductions in yields, loss of crops, soil and water-run-off etc.
- Displacement of people in low lying areas,
- Loss of life and property
- Salinization of land, rivers, and aquifers
- Damage to infrastructure such as roads, schools, hospitals etc.;
- Loss of income and livelihoods in project communities
- Increase in the prevalence of vector and water-borne diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, dengue fever, etc.

- **Describe how potential impacts on project components due to exposure to hazards is modulated by the project**

The project has identified both mitigation and adaptation activities designed to build adaptive capacity and the resilience of communities and stakeholders in the project areas. These include among others:

- The project proposed to invest in the development of national and landscape level land-use plans that link production, biodiversity loss reduction and restoration. The identification of areas for

production, reducing biodiversity loss and restoration will provide the opportunity for an integrated approach to foster climate smart agriculture and sustainable land management while also increasing the prospects for food security for smallholders and communities that are dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. In addition, restoring agricultural productivity will reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and enable Liberia to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- Gender action and stakeholder engagement plans will be developed to ensure full and equitable male and female participation, representation in, access and benefit from project activities.
- The project will improve food security by focusing on the establishment and promotion of two responsible value chains – cocoa and oil palm, coupled with the development of more intensive and sustainable production of the important food crops of rice, cassava, vegetables and fruits. Oil palm and cocoa are key drivers of deforestation and land use change in Northwest Liberia Landscape. The promotion of responsible production of cocoa and oil palm will reduce loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services and improve sustainable production of food and cash crops is vital in achieving scalable GHG emissions reductions from agriculture through avoided deforestation of high conservation and carbon stock forests.
- The proposed project also seeks to leverage partnership interventions across all of NW Liberia, bringing together what are currently separate and parallel interventions into one unified program embedded into national strategies and approaches. This project benefits from being a multi-partner collaboration to build ownership and accountability for environmental, social, economic development initiatives with a learning platform for sharing lessons across the country, thus, ensuring that the landscape model for the NW Liberia landscape is adopted across the country.
- Finally, the proposed project will also work to streamline the different knowledge management platforms currently in place by establishing a physical Community Resource Centre and an integrated online Knowledge and Learning Platform to improve information sharing, adaptation abilities and scalability, leveraging success across multiple interventions and other child projects.
- The project will also build the capacity of communities, partners, and other stakeholders on integrated landscape management

#### **Institutional Capacity:**

- **Describe the EA's existing capacity including staff/expertise, institutional experience to implement the safeguard policies**

Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership, and field demonstration, Conservation International (CI) empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the well-being of humanity. Through cutting-edge science, innovative policy, and global reach, we empower people to protect the nature that we rely on for food, fresh water and livelihoods. Conservation International has been working in West Africa for over 20 years.

In Liberia, CI has been active since 1999, and established an office in 2002. CI has nearly two decades of experience engaging stakeholders at all levels in Liberia, from local to national governments, companies from different sectors and communities. CI Liberia aims to demonstrate that sustainable development is achievable in Liberia through an integrated landscape approach that seeks to balance nature conservation, production, and the economic development. It has supported the Government of Liberia on creation of Protected Areas, such as East Nimba Nature Reserve, and the development of supportive community activities around these areas. Through this project, CI Liberia will be contributing to the development of marine protected areas in Liberia.

Since opening its doors in Liberia, CI has maintained a focus on development of community livelihoods and introduced the Conservation Agreement model to Liberia more than six years ago. Conservation Agreements make biodiversity conservation a viable choice for local resource users through explicit voluntary agreements that provide tangible benefits in exchange for verified conservation actions in the target areas. The

Conservation Agreement methodology provides a process framework for sustainable utilization of natural resources, both within and outside protected areas. CI pioneered this approach and is now working with several governments, including the Liberian government, to create mechanisms for national conservation agreement programs.

CI's focus has been both bottom up engagement working with local communities through best practice in participatory engagement, as well as national level policy work with government and private sector. CI has developed a toolkit on best practices for community engagement which addresses key issues such as Free, Prior, and Informed Consent and gender equity. CI has also contributed immensely to the capacity development of the government of Liberia. In partnership with the Forestry Development Authority, CI implemented a Nationwide Assessment of Liberia's forest resources and co-facilitated the reform of the forest sector culminating in the development of Community, Conservation and Commercial (3-C) approach to forest management in Liberia. CI also led the development of the Protected Area Network Strategy and supported numerous critical national policy processes such as the Agenda for Transformation, the Low Carbon Development Strategy, and the National Interpretation of the Round Table on Sustainable Oil Palm.

CI Liberia has also developed profound experience in implementing GEF safeguard policies. Currently, CI Liberia has successfully implemented a GEF-funded project on mangrove conservation and has developed safeguard plans for the CBIT and NCA projects funded by the GEF.

CI has Respect for human rights and inclusion of all stakeholders' views in the design and implementation of its projects. To ensure that CI respects the rights and voices of communities and individuals, this project will utilize a "rights-based approach" (RBA.) RBA is an approach to conservation that promotes and integrates human rights into conservation policy and practice by emphasizing the positive connections between conservation and the rights of people to secure their livelihoods, enjoy healthy and productive environments, and live with dignity. The Right's Based Approach recognizes that respecting human rights is an integral part of successful conservation and emphasizes community rights to choose and shape conservation and development projects that affect them. CI's RBA includes principles, policies, guidelines, tools, and practical examples to guide the organization, ensuring that we respect human rights in all its work.

Although the project will not "*work in lands or territories traditionally owned, or occupied by indigenous peoples,*" the Project Management team will ensure that activities in this project embody the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The principle of FPIC refers to the right of indigenous peoples to give or withhold their consent for any action that would affect their lands, territories or rights, as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). While FPIC is the right of indigenous peoples alone under international law, the principles underlying it are generally considered to be a good guideline for engaging any community or group of local stakeholders, and for integrating gender, age and diversity into projects and programs.

### III. ESS SCREENING

This section will help the CI-GEF Project Agency to determine the category of the project and the ESS policies triggered by the project. Please provide accurate answers and details including supporting documents, where requested.

Will the project:	Yes	No
I. Propose to create significant destruction or degradation of <i>critical natural habitats</i> <sup>2</sup> of any type or have significant negative socioeconomic and cultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<sup>2</sup> Habitats considered essential for biodiversity conservation, provision of ecosystem services and the well-being of people at the local, national, regional or global levels. They include, among others, existing protected areas, areas officially proposed as protected areas,

impacts that cannot be cost-effectively avoided, minimized, mitigated and/or offset?		
II. Propose to create or facilitate significant degradation and/or conversion of <i>natural habitats</i> of any type including those that are legally protected, officially proposed for protection, identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation value, or recognized as protected by traditional local communities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
III. Propose to carry out <i>unsustainable</i> harvesting of natural resources -animals, plants, timber and/or non-timber forest products (NTFPs)- or the establishment of forest plantations in <i>critical natural habitats</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IV. Propose the introduction of exotic species that can certainly become invasive and harmful to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
V. Contravene major international and regional conventions on environmental issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VI. Involve <i>involuntary resettlement, land acquisition, and/or the taking of shelter and other assets</i> belonging to local communities or individuals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VII. Propose the use of pesticides that are unlawful under national or international laws?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VIII. Involve the removal, alteration or disturbance of any <i>physical cultural resources</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IX. Include the construction, rehabilitation and/or operation of large or complex dams?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
X. Involve trafficking of persons, procuring commercial sex acts, or the use of other forms of forced labor as described in CI's Anti-Trafficking policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XI. Produce the conditions for or include activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labor/harmful child labor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

areas recognized as protected by traditional local communities, as well as areas identified as important for conservation, such as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) Sites, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), Biodiversity Hotspot, Ramsar Sites, areas identified as important for ecosystem services such as carbon storage, freshwater provision and regulation, etc.

### Minimum Standard 1: Environmental and Social Assessment, Management and Monitoring

Will the project potentially:

- (a) cause significant adverse environmental and social impacts (which may affect an area broader than the project area) that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented; or
- (b) cause adverse environmental and social impacts (which are site-specific and few if any of them are irreversible) on human populations or environmentally or socially important areas?

☒ NO

☐ YES (If Yes, please provide details)

(c) Has a full or limited ESIA that covers the proposed project already been completed?

☒ NO

☐ YES (If Yes, answer the following)

a) 1. Is the assessment a: <input type="checkbox"/> A FULL ESIA <input type="checkbox"/> A LIMITED ESIA	Yes	No
b) 2. Does the assessment meet its terms of reference, both procedurally and substantively?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) 3. Does the assessment provide a satisfactory assessment of the proposed project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) 5. Does the assessment describe specific environmental and social management measures (e.g., avoidance, minimization, mitigation, compensation, monitoring, and capacity development measures)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) 6. Does the assessment identify capacity needs of the institutions responsible for implementing environmental and social management issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) 7. Was the assessment developed through a consultative process with key stakeholder & rightsholder engagement, including issues related to gender mainstreaming and Indigenous Peoples?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) 8. Does the assessment assess the adequacy of the cost of and financing arrangements for environmental and social management issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For any "no" answers, describe below how the issue has been or will be resolved or addressed.  
 Environmental and social risks associated with the project will be assessed and Safeguard plans developed during the PPG Phase

### Minimum Standard 2: Accountability, Grievance and Conflict Resolution

Does the EA have in place an accountability system that:

- (a) is able to receive complaints/grievances from stakeholders;
- (b) is independent, transparent and effective;
- (c) is accessible and broadly advertised to stakeholders;
- (d) keeps complainants abreast of progress with cases brought forward;
- (e) maintains records on all cases and issues brought forward for review, with due regard for the confidentiality of complainants' identity and of information; and
- (f) takes appropriate and timely measures to minimize the risk of retaliation to complainants?

☐ NO

☒ YES (If Yes, please provide details)

CI has a policy on conflict resolution and formal complaints as well as an ethics hotline operated by an independent General Counsel Unit (GCU) to handle complaints/grievances from staff and stakeholders. Reports can be made, anonymously (if you wish), by phone or through the secure web portal. All reports are investigated by the team from Human Resources and the General Counsel's Office. CI strictly prohibits retaliation against those who speak out. For details see:

[https://conservation.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet/Policy\\_Manuals\\_Toolkits/Operations\\_Manual2/Pages/Conflict-Resolution-and-Formal-Complaints.aspx](https://conservation.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet/Policy_Manuals_Toolkits/Operations_Manual2/Pages/Conflict-Resolution-and-Formal-Complaints.aspx) ;

<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/10680/index.html>

### Minimum Standard 3: Biodiversity Conservation and the Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Will the project:

- (a) involve adverse impacts on Critical Habitats<sup>3</sup>, including forests that are Critical Habitats, including from the procurement of natural resource commodities, except for adverse impacts on a limited scale that result from conservation actions that achieve a Net Gain of the Biodiversity values associated with the Critical Habitat;
- (b) contravene applicable international environmental treaties or agreements; or
- (c) introduce or use potentially invasive, non-indigenous species?

☒ NO

☐ YES (If Yes, please provide details)

<sup>3</sup> Critical Habitat means a Habitat with high Biodiversity value, including (i) Habitats of significant importance to Critically Endangered or Endangered species, as listed on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species or equivalent national approaches, (ii) Habitats of significant importance to endemic or restricted-range species, (iii) Habitats supporting globally or nationally significant concentrations of migratory or congregatory species, (iv) highly threatened or unique ecosystems, and (v) ecological functions or characteristics that are needed to maintain the viability of the Biodiversity values described in (i) to (iv).

**Minimum Standard 4: Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

**Will the project**

**(a) involve the voluntary or involuntary resettlement of people;**

**(b) restrict land use and access; or**

**(c) cause economic displacement of people?**

☐ **NO**

☒ **YES (If Yes, please provide details)**

Implementation of conservation agreements may affect access to natural resources. As part of its rights-based approach to conservation, CI recognizes that people have the right to remain on the lands and territories that they have traditionally occupied, which includes the continued access to resources they have traditionally used. While this project will not resettle individuals, it may have an effect on access to forest and coastal resources by individuals and communities in the project areas.

The project proposes to use Conservation Agreements to adequately compensate for any loss of access to resources that the affected communities may incur. In a Conservation Agreement, resource users commit to conservation actions in exchange for benefit packages defined through participatory processes to address local development needs and priorities. Conservation Agreements are long-term interventions that produce enduring solutions for people and nature, with an emphasis on financial sustainability and sound governance. Conservation agreements promote social structures and local empowerment that improve stewardship of key natural resources and help people pursue sustainable development options.

A Conservation Agreement can be broken can be broken down into to two key elements

- The conservation actions to be undertaken by the resource users in response to threats to biodiversity or ecosystems
- The benefits provided by the conservation investor to offset the opportunity cost of conservation incurred by the resource users

The benefit package in a Conservation Agreements is determined together with communities to ensure that it responds to local needs and priorities, but delivery of benefits over time depends on verified compliance with conservation commitments. Benefits are conditional on the counterpart's compliance with commitments specified in the agreement. Sanctions (adjustments in benefits) for non-compliance are designed jointly by all parties to the agreement to ensure that they are understood, viable, and appropriate to the counterpart's culture while still respecting rights.

Compensating resource users for any loss of access using Conservation Agreements. A Conservation Agreement recognizes that there is an opportunity cost associated with conservation. The opportunity cost of conservation reflects the value of what resource users give up by not utilizing their resources under the business-as-usual scenario.

This is the balance of:

- The income that would be derived from resource use such as clearing forest for agriculture or timber extraction (*e.g.*, the value of crops or timber that would be harvested in the absence of conservation)
- The value of ecosystem services that would be lost by destructive resource use (*e.g.*, reduced water quality, soil erosion, loss of culturally significant resources)

To secure an agreement, the benefit package must be designed to offset the opportunity cost that resource owners believe they will incur if they choose conservation. In essence, communities are compensated for any loss of access to resources using opportunity cost to determine a fair level of compensation.

The Conservation Agreement model reflects Conservation International's Rights-based Approach (RBA). RBA is an approach to conservation that promotes and integrates human rights into conservation policy and practice by emphasizing the positive connections between conservation and the rights of people to secure their livelihoods, enjoy healthy and productive environments, and live with dignity. The Right's Based Approach recognizes that respecting human rights is an integral part of successful conservation and

emphasizes community rights to choose and shape conservation and development projects that affect them. CI's RBA includes principles, policies, guidelines, tools, and practical examples to guide the organization, ensuring that we respect human rights in all our work. Any Conservation Agreement initiative involves a thorough community engagement process and a participatory design and negotiation stage that embodies the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The principle of FPIC refers to the right of indigenous peoples to give or withhold their consent for any action that would affect their lands, territories or rights, as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). While FPIC is the right of indigenous peoples alone under international law, the principles underlying it are generally considered to be a good guideline for engaging any community or group of local stakeholders.

FPIC can be broken down as follows:

Free: Without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation;

Prior: Before the start of any activity while also respecting indigenous consultation/consensus processes;

Informed: Indigenous peoples have full information about the scope and impacts of the proposed activity on their lands, resources, and well-being.

Consent: right to say yes or no as a result of consultation and participation in good faith.

FPIC is not simply a decision-making process or a veto mechanism for the community, but a tool to ensure that outside people and organizations engage indigenous communities in a culturally appropriate way, so that their development priorities, needs and desires can be met. A true FPIC process includes not only consultation but also the space for a community to give or withhold their consent to a project.

#### Minimum Standard 5: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES <sup>4</sup>

Does the project plan to:

- (a) work in lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by indigenous peoples?
- (b) cause impacts on land and natural resources, including restrictions on land use or loss of access to natural resources, subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation, or the location of a project or program on such land or the commercial development of such natural resources;
- (c) cause relocation of Indigenous Peoples from land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership, or under customary use or occupation; or
- (d) cause significant impacts on an Indigenous People's cultural heritage that is material to the identity and/or cultural, ceremonial, or spiritual aspects of the affected Indigenous People's lives, or the use of such cultural heritage for commercial purposes;

☐ NO

☒ YES (If Yes, please provide details)

In Liberia, there are no indigenous people but rather, local communities. The project will “*work in lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by local communities*,” thus, the Project Management Unit will ensure that project activities embody the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The principle of FPIC refers to the right of indigenous peoples to give or withhold their consent for any action that would affect their lands, territories, or rights, as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). While FPIC is the right of indigenous peoples alone under international law, the principles underlying it are generally considered to be a good guideline for engaging any community or group of local stakeholders.

#### Minimum Standard 6: Cultural Heritage<sup>5</sup>

Will the project implement activities that affect cultural heritage?

☐ NO

☒ YES (If Yes, please provide details)

Sacred sites are found in all the four counties of NW Liberia landscape in the form of shrines and sacred groves, etc. To ensure they are protected/preserved, all sacred sites in the landscape will be mapped during the PPG phase.

<sup>4</sup> According to CI Policy on Indigenous Peoples, “CI identifies indigenous peoples in specific geographic areas by the presence, in varying degrees, of: a) Close attachment to ancestral and traditional or customary territories and the natural resources in them; b) Customary social and political institutions; c) Economic systems oriented to subsistence production; d) An indigenous language, often different from the predominant language; and f) Self-identification and identification by others as members of a distinct cultural group”.

<sup>5</sup> Cultural Heritage means both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, natural features and landscapes that have archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic, or other cultural significance, located in urban or rural settings, above ground, underground or under water; as well as practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, or skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups, and in some cases individuals, recognize as part of their heritage, as transmitted from generation to generation and constantly recreated by them in response to nature and a shared history

### **Minimum Standard 7: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention**

**Will the project:**

- (a) promote the trade in or use of any substances listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, or other chemicals or hazardous materials subject to international bans, restrictions or phaseouts due to high toxicity to living organisms, environmental persistence, potential for bioaccumulation, or potential depletion of the ozone layer, consistent with relevant international treaties and agreements;
- (b) generate wastes and effluents, and emissions of short- and long-lived climate pollutants;
- (c) involve pest management measures, Integrated Pest Management or Integrated Management of Vectors and Intermediate Hosts;
- (d) procure pesticides; or
- (e) use energy, water and other resources and material inputs, where significant water consumption is involved and would cause adverse impacts on communities, other water users, and the environment?

☒ **NO**

☐ **YES (If Yes, please provide details)**

## **Minimum Standard 8: Labor and Working Conditions**

Does the EA have in place the necessary policies, procedures, systems and capabilities to ensure that:

- (a) the fundamental rights of workers, consistent with the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work are respected and protected;
- (b) written labor management procedures are established in accordance with applicable national laws;
- (c) workers are provided with clear and understandable documentation of employment terms and conditions, including their rights under national law to hours of work, wages, overtime, compensation and benefits;
- (d) workers are provided regular and timely payment of wages; adequate periods of rest, holiday, sick, maternity, paternity, and family leave; and written notice of termination and severance payments, as required under national laws and the labor management procedures;
- (e) decisions relating to any aspect of the employment relationship, including recruitment, hiring and treatment of workers, are made based on the principles of non-discrimination, equal opportunity and fair treatment, and not on the basis of personal characteristics unrelated to inherent job requirements;
- (f) appropriate measures are in place to prevent harassment, intimidation, and exploitation, and to protect vulnerable workers, including but not limited to women, children of working age, migrants and persons with disabilities;
- (g) workers who participate, or seek to participate, in workers' organizations and collective bargaining, do so without interference, are not discriminated or retaliated against, and are provided with information needed for meaningful negotiation in a timely manner;
- (h) forced labor and child labor are not used in connection with the project or program;
- (i) occupational health and safety (OHS) measures are applied to establish and maintain a safe and healthy working environment;
- (j) workers are informed of applicable grievance and conflict resolution systems provided at the workplace level; and
- (k) workers may use these mechanisms without retribution, and the grievance and conflict resolution systems does not impede access to other judicial or administrative remedies available under the law or through existing arbitration procedures, or substitute for grievance systems provided through collective agreements?

☐ NO

☒ YES (If Yes, please provide details)

CI has workplace Environment Policies that include:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Anti-Harassment                           | Drug-Free Workplace                       |
| • Workplace Conduct                         | Conflict Resolution and Formal Complaints |
| • Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination | Life-threatening Illnesses                |
| • Employment                                |   |

In addition, CI has operational policies and procedures that guide much of the day-to-day work including:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • CI's Legal Policies   | Compliance with Laws                            |
| • CI's Code of Ethics   | Privacy Policy                                  |
| • Use of CI Property (Tangible and Intangible)                    | Use of Property Copyrighted by Others           |
| • Signature Authority   | Conflict of Interest and Personal Relationships |
| • Anti-Fraud Policy and Guidelines for Investigation              | Whistleblower Policy                            |
| • Construction Policy   | Record Retention Policy                         |
| • Statutory Legal Policies  | Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy         |
| • Lobbying Policy   | Prohibition on Political Campaign Activity      |
| • Anti-Trafficking in Persons                                     | Child Protection and Safeguarding               |
| • Funding Terms Imposing Joint and Several Liability on CI Policy |   |

### Minimum Standard 9: Community Health, Safety and Security

**Will the project:**

- (a) potentially expose communities including disadvantaged or vulnerable groups or Individuals in particular women and children to both accidental and natural hazards, particularly where the structural elements of the project or program are accessible to members of the affected community, or where their failure could result in injury to the community;**
- (b) generate risks and impacts to the health and safety of the affected communities; or**
- (c) pose potential conflicts at the project site to the affected communities or the workers?**

☒ **NO**

☐ **YES (If Yes, please provide details)**

Potential conflicts envisaged mainly include: (a) contested boundaries between/amongst communities during land use mapping; and (b) and sharing of benefits.

To address these issues, the project will develop: (a) grievance and redress mechanisms and (b) benefit sharing mechanisms using a Rights-Based approach including ensuring Free Prior and Informed Consent is obtained from all parties involved.

### IV: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Identify any other risks not captured in Section III that can affect the success of the project.

Also, describe any important external factors that may affect your project from implementing safeguard measures/plans.

Risk	Risk level	Mitigation
Government (national and/or county levels) de-prioritizes sustainable palm oil and cocoa in favor of rapid forest conversion and conventional plantation development	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is already political will from various government agencies. This project will work directly with these agencies to build up their knowledge and ensure clear linkages are defined with existing responsibilities and tied directly to delivery of the Agenda for Transformation and pro-poor agenda for prosperity and development.</li> <li>The project will also ensure that best-practices incorporated are into a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which includes Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes, Rights Based Approaches (RBA), and ongoing processes to secure multi-stakeholder buy-in</li> </ul>
Enterprise development might have limited success and adoption from local communities	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project will evaluate appropriate value chains and thoroughly consult with communities to ensure their full buy in from an early phase. That said it does need to be</li> </ul>

		<p>stated that small scale enterprises do sometimes fail and therefore the project will test multiple strategies in order not to rely on one option too heavily</p>
There may not be interest from local communities to engage in Conservation Agreements	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project will demonstrate through strong community engagement that the environmental, social and economic benefits of Conservation Agreements have the potential for sustained impact over time. The project will demonstrate that the livelihood benefits associated with Conservation Agreements are determined together with communities and respond to local needs and priorities. The project will achieve this through numerous community meetings and workshops. CI has implemented Conservation Agreements in many countries including Liberia and the lessons learned from this experience will be utilized in this project</li> </ul>
Conflict in Liberia	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It has been over 15 years since civil conflict ended in Liberia. Whilst the risk of conflict remains low, current and planned protests may result in some unrest in local communities. CI will ensure that actions taken in the project do not exacerbate potentially volatile situations in local communities.</li> <li>The Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Process Framework for Restriction of Access to Natural Resources, and grievance redress mechanisms will help militate against the risk of conflict in this project.</li> </ul>
The impact of climate change	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rising sea levels and other climate change related impacts may pose a risk to the successful implementation of this project. The project will seek to mitigate this risk through careful site selection. The impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, should be reduced through conservation of ecosystems such as mangroves that provide coastal protection. Project sites will be carefully selected to minimize future climate impacts.</li> </ul>
Lack of government capacity makes them unable to fulfill its project role, compromising the timeline of the project	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project will build the capacity of key government entities involved in the project and will ensure that there is close coordination with parallel, related efforts by the project partners as well as others operating in the wider project landscape, to</li> </ul>

		exploit synergies in financial resource allocation and deployment of technical capacity
Elite capture of community benefits under Conservation Agreements (unequitable distribution of benefits or access to benefits)	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best-practices incorporated into a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which includes Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes, Rights Based Approaches (RBA), and ongoing processes to secure multi-stakeholder buy-in</li> <li>• Dedicated project Conflict Resolution and Grievance Redress Mechanism at the landscape, which will be designed through a multi-stakeholder participatory process to ensure community trust in mechanism, accessibility and effectiveness of its functions, awareness of the mechanism and transparency in evaluation and remediation of grievances. In addition, a specific grievance mechanism will be established for every Conservation Agreement that is signed with the communities to track grievances and foster conflict resolution from the point of reporting to the point of redress and finality</li> <li>• The Conservation Agreement model makes explicit provision for conservation commitments (within the framework of community-level land use plan), benefit delivery (including contingencies), equitable benefit distribution, and consequences of non-compliance</li> </ul>
Commitment to zero deforestation (from communities, private sector, or government) is abandoned, such that project funding facilitates unsustainable oil palm development	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best-practices incorporated into a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which includes Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes, Rights Based Approaches (RBA), and ongoing processes to secure multi-stakeholder buy-in</li> <li>• A comprehensive Communications Plan, which reinforces the stakeholder engagement plan, manages expectations, documents, and disseminates project progress and lessons learned, and supports fundraising efforts</li> <li>• Monitoring and enforcement of international and national labor laws, including prohibition against child labor and implementation of occupational health and safety measures</li> </ul>

Violations of legal or customary rights of local communities	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best-practices incorporated into a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which includes Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes, Rights Based Approaches (RBA), and ongoing processes to secure multi-stakeholder buy-in</li> <li>• Dedicated project Conflict Resolution and Grievance Redress Mechanism at the landscape, which will be designed through a multi-stakeholder participatory process to ensure community trust in mechanism, accessibility and effectiveness of its functions, awareness of the mechanism and transparency in evaluation and remediation of grievances.</li> <li>• Participatory Land Use Planning process, which emphasizes explicit inclusion of areas for conservation, oil palm, community food production, and other community uses</li> </ul>	
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**CI-GEF PROJECT AGENCY**  
**SCREENING RESULTS AND SAFEGUARD ANALYSIS**  
(To be completed by CI-GEF Coordination Team)

**I. PROJECT INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

<b>Country:</b> Liberia	<b>GEF Project ID:</b> 10232
<b>Project Title:</b> Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains	
<b>Executing Agency:</b> Environmental Protection Agency	
<b>Executing Partner:</b> Conservation International - Liberia	
<b>GEF Focal Area:</b> Biodiversity, Land Degradation, and Multi-Focal Area (MFA)	
<b>GEF Project Amount:</b> USD\$8,000,000	
<b>CI-GEF Project Manager:</b> Free De Koning	
<b>Safeguard Analysis Reviewed and Approved by:</b> Ian Kissoon	
<b>Date of Review:</b> September 4, 2019	
<b>Comments:</b> Analysis completed and approved	

**B. Project Objective:**

To promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems for enhanced livelihood opportunities in NW Liberia Landscape through land use planning, restoration of degraded lands, and strengthening governance, policies, and market incentives for nationally replicable models of deforestation-free cocoa and palm oil value chains.

**C. Project Description:**

This is a child project under the GEF 7 Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program.

Liberia's natural ecosystems are threatened by logging, mining, and agriculture, all exacerbated by the effects of climate change. As a result, the overall rate of change in land-use has contributed to 600,500 hectares of forest loss, which represents an overall loss of 15% of the 1975 forest coverage; 43.3 % of Liberia's land surface remains forest.

Liberia does not currently have comprehensive land-use plans to guide development activities, but the proposed project will develop a national and NW Liberia landscape land use plans that will identify areas for production, protection, and restoration. Current development of local land-use plans is not well coordinated, nor harmonized across the landscape. This work will be informed by the 2017 Natural Capital Mapping of Liberia.

The two primary commodity value chains already present in the landscape and targeted by this project are oil palm and cocoa. The project will build on existing initiatives to ensure sustainable production. Research by one of the partners - RSPB suggests that shade-grown cocoa can play an important role in connecting areas of primary forest and can provide economic value to a standing forest, minimizing the risk of it being cleared.

The project will be executed under the following components:

- Component 1: Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land use plans
- Component 2: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains
- Component 3: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats
- Component 4: Management, coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation

#### **D. Project location and biophysical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis:**

The project will be implemented in Northwest (NW) Liberia Landscape and is about 2.5 million ha in Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Bong counties. The Northwest Liberia Landscape houses one of the largest remaining forest blocks in the Guinean Forests of West Africa global biodiversity hotspot, which features some of the highest biological diversity in all of Africa (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), 2015). It contains some of the last remnants of the Western Guinean Lowland forest ecoregion, recognized as one of the “Global 200” most outstanding and representative areas of biodiversity (WWF, 2018). The landscape is also an Endemic Bird Area and a Center of Plant Diversity (Stattersfield et al., 1998; WWF and IUCN, 1994) and contains several Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), which are sites contributing significantly to the persistence of global biodiversity (CEPF, 2015). These include sites prioritized for their importance as habitat for endangered endemic genera and species.

The Northwest Liberia landscape also houses four of Liberia’s nine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and 92% of the region’s 30 primate species are endemic. Flora in the area is closely related to flora of central Africa, but also displays high levels of local species-level endemism. In terms of plants, approximately 9,000 species of vascular plant are believed to occur in the hotspot, including 1,800 endemic species (Mittermeier et al., 1998, 2004).

#### **E. Executing Partner’s Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies:**

The EA has experience in implementing GEF safeguard policies. Currently, CI Liberia has successfully implemented a GEF-funded project on mangrove conservation and has developed safeguard plans for the CBIT and NCA projects funded by the GEF.

## II. SAFEGUARDS TRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT

Based on the information provided by the EA in the Screening Form, the following safeguards were triggered:

Safeguard Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Justification
<b>1. Environmental &amp; Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)</b>		X		<i>No significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented is anticipated</i>
<b>2. Accountability and Grievance Mechanism</b>	X			<i>As a publicly funded GEF project, a Grievance Mechanism is required.</i>
<b>3. Biodiversity Conservation and the Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</b>		X		<i>The project is not proposing activities that would have adverse impacts on natural or critical natural habitats, contravene applicable international environmental treaties or agreements or introduce or use potentially invasive, non-indigenous species.</i>
<b>4. Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement</b>	X			<i>The project will not engage in the resettlement of people, but the implementation of conservation agreements may affect access to natural resources.</i>
<b>5. Indigenous Peoples</b>	X			<i>In Liberia, there are no indigenous people but rather, local communities. The project will “work in lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by local communities,”.</i>
<b>6. Cultural Heritage</b>			X	<i>Sacred sites are found in all the four counties of NW Liberia landscape in the form of shrines and sacred groves, etc. The sacred groves are of ritual and religious importance as these sites are both ritually and symbolically associated with ancestors through graves and certain trees.</i>
<b>7. Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</b>		X		<i>There are no proposed activities related to the use of banned, restricted or prohibited substances, chemicals, or hazardous materials.</i>
<b>8. Labor and Working Conditions</b>		X		<i>The EA has in place the necessary policies, procedures, systems and capabilities that meets the requirements set out in the GEF Minimum Standard 8.</i>
<b>9. Community Health, Safety and Security</b>		X		<i>While there are potential risks as described in the Screening Form, the EA has a dedicated security focal point person and safety and security risk management plan in place that provides general guidance for all its employees, volunteers, consultants, interns and guests. For day to day security management, the CI Liberia staff are trained on practicing basic security and situational awareness and, in high-risk locations, by adhering to location-specific personal security guidelines issued by CI.</i>

## III. PROJECT CATEGORIZATION

Based on the information provided by the EA in the Screening Form, the project is categorized as follows:

PROJECT CATEGORY	Category A	Category B	Category C
			X
Justification: The proposed project activities are likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.			

#### IV. MANAGEMENT OF SAFEGUARDS TRIGGERED

The EA is required to undertake the following measures:

##### I. Accountability and Grievance Mechanism

To ensure that the project complies with the GEF's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism Standard, the EA is required to develop an Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that will ensure people affected by the project are able to bring their grievances to the EA for consideration and redress. The mechanism must be in place before the start of project activities, and disclosed to all stakeholders in a language, manner and means that best suits the local context.

In addition, the EA is required to monitor and report on the following minimum accountability and grievance indicators:

1. Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism; and
2. Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been addressed.

##### II. Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

To ensure that the project complies with the GEF's Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement Standard, the EA is required to develop a Process Framework for the Restriction of Access and Use of Natural Resources.

In addition, the EA is required to monitor and report on the following minimum accountability and grievance indicators:

1. Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been voluntary restricted
2. Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been involuntary restricted
3. Percentage of persons who gave their consent for voluntary restrictions
4. Percentage of persons who have received compensation for voluntary restrictions
5. Percentage of persons who have received compensation for involuntary restrictions

##### III. Indigenous people

In Liberia, there are no indigenous people but rather, local communities. The project will "work in lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by local communities," thus, the Project Management Unit will ensure that project activities embody the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The principle of FPIC refers to the right of indigenous peoples to give or withhold their consent for any action that would affect their lands, territories, or rights, as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

In addition to measures covered under the Accountability and Grievance Redress Mechanism, cultural heritage, and restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement, the EA is required to monitor and report on the following minimum Indigenous People indicators

1. Number of local communities where free, prior and informed consultations have been undertaken

*and their consent to participate in the project obtained*

2. Number of local communities participating in the implementation and monitoring of project activities
3. Number of local communities receiving socioeconomic benefits in a culturally appropriate and inclusive manner

**IV. Cultural Heritage**

The project plans to map the sacred sites during the PPG phase. Following the mapping, the EA must inform the CI-GEF Project Agency whether the sacred sites fall within the project area or not. If the sites fall within the project area, the EA will be required to develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to ensure that the sites are appropriately preserved throughout the project cycle.

**V. Labor and Working Conditions**

Please ensure that the established procedures and policy as described in the Screening Form are complied with.

**VI. Community Health, Safety and Security**

Please ensure that the established procedures and policy as described in the Screening Form are complied with.

**VII. Climate Change and other Natural Hazards**

The project is required to address significant risks and potential impacts throughout the design and implementation of the project. The project has already identified a number of mitigation and adaptation activities in the Screening Form and must ensure that these activities are carried out.

**VIII. Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**

In case incidences of Gender-Based Violence and/or Sexual Exploitation and Abuse occur, the project is required to have established reporting and response protocols in place, and modalities to provide services and redress to survivors. The project identified in the Screening Form established procedures and must ensure that these procedures are followed and that all project staff are aware of the procedures.

**Other Plans**

Apart from the safeguard policies, the project is required to comply with the GEF's Gender Policy and Stakeholder Engagement Policy. As such, the project is required to develop the following plans:

**IX. Gender Mainstreaming**

*To ensure that the project complies with the GEF's Gender Policy, the EA is required to prepare a Gender Mainstreaming Plan.*

*In addition, the EA is required to monitor and report on the following minimum gender indicators:*

1. *Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations);*
2. *Number of men and women that received benefits (e.g. employment, income generating activities, training, access to natural resources, land tenure or resource rights, equipment, leadership roles) from the project; and if relevant*
3. *Number of strategies, plans (e.g. management plans and land use plans) and policies derived from the project that include gender considerations.*

**X. Stakeholder Engagement**

*To ensure that the project complies with the GEF's Stakeholders' Engagement Policy, the EA is required to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan.*

*In addition, the EA is required to monitor and report on the following minimum stakeholder engagement indicators:*

1. *Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis;*
2. *Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis); and*
3. *Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)*

## V. EXPECTED DISCLOSURE DATES

All plans must be submitted to the CI-GEF Project Agency for review and approval during the PPG Phase according to the PPG workplan. Following the approval, the plans must be disclosed as follows:

Plan	CI Disclosure Date	EA Disclosure Date
<b>Environmental &amp; Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)</b>	NA	NA
<b>Accountability and Grievance Mechanism</b>	<i>Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval</i>	<i>Within 30 days of CI-GEF approval</i>
<b>Environmental Management Plan (EMP)</b>	NA	NA
<b>Voluntary Resettlement Action Plan (V- RAP)/ Process Framework</b>	<i>Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval</i>	<i>Within 30 days of CI-GEF approval</i>
<b>Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)</b>	NA	NA
<b>Cultural Heritage Management Plan</b>	NA	NA
<b>Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</b>	NA	NA
<b>Labor and Working Conditions Framework</b>	NA	NA
<b>Community Health, Safety and Security Plan</b>	NA	NA
<b>Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)</b>	<i>Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval</i>	<i>Within 30 days of CI-GEF approval</i>
<b>Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)</b>	<i>Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval</i>	<i>Within 30 days of CI-GEF approval</i>

## APPENDIX VI: Accountability and Grievance Mechanism

### SECTION I: Project Information

<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>	Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains		
<b>GEF PROJECT ID:</b>	10232	<b>PROJECT DURATION:</b>	<u>60</u> months
<b>EXECUTING AGENCY:</b>	EPA		
<b>EXECUTING PARTNER</b>	CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL LIBERIA		
<b>PROJECT START DATE:</b>	(mm/yyyy)	<b>PROJECT END DATE:</b>	(mm/yyyy)
<b>AGM PREPARED BY:</b>	George Ilebo		
<b>DATE OF (RE)SUBMISSION TO CI-GEF:</b>			
<b>AGM APPROVED BY:</b>	<i>(To be completed by CI-GEF)</i>		
<b>DATE OF CI-GEF APPROVAL:</b>	<i>(To be completed by CI-GEF)</i>		

### SECTION II: Introduction

- Introduce your AGM by providing a short summary of your project and its main activities, anticipated grievances, and a concise overview of how your AGM plans to mitigate and address grievances.***

Liberia is at a crossroads as government, business, and civil society seek to balance the urgent need for jobs, food and economic development with conservation and sustainable use of the country's natural resources. This is particularly evident in Northwest Liberia. The forests that span Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Bomi and Bong counties have been identified as a conservation priority for carbon and biodiversity, as well as for key ecosystem services including freshwater provision for more than a million Liberians, sediment regulation for planned hydropower, and water provision for agricultural development. Throughout this landscape and much of Liberia, the urgent need for development and job creation is the driving priority for the government and the local communities. New integrated development models are needed to meet these economic objectives while maintaining essential ecosystem services and conserving critical forest areas.

This project seeks to address the need for integrated landscape management in Liberia, with a focus on the Northwest Liberia Landscape. The project will combine research, policy recommendations, technical support and practical tools working with communities to develop and demonstrate a participatory, multi-stakeholder approach to landscape-level land-use planning and integrated management. Work with local communities and other stakeholders will include training and awareness- and capacity-building with respect to sustainable agriculture and agroforestry and with restoration of degraded lands; negotiated Conservation Agreements with communities will be used to empower them to improve sustainable land and resource management in return for concrete incentives.

Since the project has multiple partners and stakeholders with different initiatives and interests in NW Liberia landscape, grievances are bound to occur, thus, Accountability and Grievance Mechanism was developed to allow for the expression of and response to complaints raised by project affected persons related to the design and implementation of the FOLUR project. The accountability and grievance mechanism was designed to address the concerns of the FOLUR project affected communities, identify the root causes of the grievance

and/or conflicts, and find options for the resolution of such grievances, hence, fostering good cooperation with project stakeholders and ensure effective delivery of FOLUR project.

### SECTION III: Scope

- *What grievances are eligible and would be received? How would the mechanism deal with grievances that are ineligible?*
- *How will the mechanism ensure transparency and fairness?*
- *Will the mechanism receive anonymous grievance?*
- *How would the mechanism deal with confidentiality?*

The AGM shall maintain a flexible approach with respect to receiving Grievances considering known local constraints with respect to communications and access to resources for some Stakeholders. The project will use various methods to receive complaints and grievances including complaint forms, email, SMS, telephone calls, postal or office report and documenting them.

All received grievances and complaints will be assessed for eligibility by the Gender and Safeguards Officer based on the criteria below.

Under this AGM, grievances and complaints will be eligible if it:

- a) Is either filed/ lodged by an affected party (any individual, community or group that believes it is or may be harmed /negatively affected by the design and implementation of the FOLUR project) or lodged by a different individual or organization on behalf of an Affected Party, who must provide concrete evidence (written confirmation) of authority to represent them. The AGM will take reasonable steps to verify this authority.
- b) Has a Complainant's name and contact information. However, if complainants request confidentiality about their identities, and/or the details of complaints and responses, the AGM will honor those requests, while still making basic information about the complaint publicly available. Suffice to say that since this complaints process is oriented toward direct dialogue and engagement among all parties, there is a risk that confidentiality may limit efforts to resolve complaints, and complainants will be informed if confidentiality is impeding the process.
- c) Either specifies or describes what kind of impact has occurred or may occur, and how the FOLUR project has caused or may cause that impact?
- d) Provides any other relevant information or documents
- e) Describes any actions taken or what has been done by Claimant so far to resolve the matter
- f) Has any proposed solutions
- g) Describes specific help requested from the AGM.
- h) Related to negative social and environmental impacts emanating from the project such as inadequate stakeholder consultation, gender, and inclusivity related concerns, etc.

All complaints/grievances outside the mandate of this AGM, will be considered ineligible if:

- a) It is not related to the actions or omissions during formulating, processing, or implementing FOLUR project
- b) It is allegations concerning fraud, corruption, staff/ employment disputes.
- c) It is an issue that has already being handled. Repetitive complaints on the same subject and by the same complainant, which have already been addressed, will not be considered unless new facts or circumstances are presented.

- d) Two or more years have passed since the end date of the FOLUR project.
- e) It is frivolous, malicious, trivial, or generated to gain competitive advantage.
- f) It is about the procurement of goods and services, including consulting services.

For ineligible complaints, the complainant will be informed of the reasons within three (03) days of the determination of ineligibility by the Gender and Safeguards Officer. The complainant will then be advised to seek alternative redress mechanisms under national or international law, or the rules and regulations of other institutions, agencies or commissions related to the complaint including anti-corruption bodies, and courts of law, etc

#### SECTION IV: Accessibility

<b>Name of person(s) where grievances can be addressed to:</b>	Gender and Safeguards Officer (TBH)
<b>Physical address of person(s) above or location of grievance collection box:</b>	Conservation International Liberia 13 <sup>th</sup> Street, Beach Side, Sinkor Embassy Compound, Apartments 301 and 302
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	TBD
<b>Email:</b>	TBD
<b>Website/software application:</b>	
<b>Radio Frequency, if applicable:</b>	N/A
<b>Other<sup>6</sup>:</b>	The procedure to be followed in reporting a complaint is that at the community level, verbal complaints will first be reported and addressed in community-level meetings with project implementing staff. If unresolved, community members will be invited to submit complaints in writing to the Gender and Safeguards Officer. The letter of complaint must be dated and signed by the person(s) submitting the complaint, and if the complainant is unable to write, she/he should obtain assistance to write the note and endorse the letter with his/her thumbprint.

#### SECTION V: Acknowledgment and Follow-up

- ***How will your mechanism acknowledge receipt of the grievance?***
- ***How long will your mechanism take to provide a resolution to the grievant?***
- ***Do you plan to provide periodic updates throughout the process to the grievant?***

Upon receiving a complaint/grievance, the complainant will be notified verbally and/or written by the Gender and Safeguards Officer within three business days that the complaint/grievance has been received and will be logged, assigned a tracking number and reviewed for eligibility. The acknowledgement will contain: (a) a reference name or number for the complaint, (b) the summary of the grievance, (c) the point of contact, (e) the procedure for assessing eligibility, (f) the likely method that will be used to resolve the grievance, and (g) an estimated for resolving the grievance will be resolved. Also, the acknowledgment will be used to ask for any additional information or to clarify any unclear issues in order to determine eligibility.

<sup>6</sup> A grievant may not be able to write or have access to telephone/email services, or even travel to your office. Indicate how you plan to accommodate such circumstances.

If the complaint is not eligible, the complainant will be informed of the reasons, and other judicial and non-judicial mechanisms that may be of help. If the complaint is eligible, the complainant will be informed within 15 days of the next steps and the time frames including any further information/documentation required will be requested.

Once the investigations commence, the complainant will be provided with periodic updates (every two weeks) regarding the status and current actions to resolve the Grievance. For each grievance, the complainant and the public will be informed of the outcome of the grievances within 60 days. Appropriate steps will be taken to maintain the confidentiality of the Claimant if previously requested.

## SECTION VI: Processing

- *Describe how your mechanism will process the grievance.*
- *Will the grievance be screened to ensure it is related to the GEF project?*
- *How will the grievance be verified? Will there be site visits, face-to-face meeting, etc?*
- *Will it be categorized/prioritized based on the nature of the grievance? How will high-priority grievances be dealt with?*
- *What's the institutional/organizational structure to handle grievances? Will the grievance be assigned/directed to a specific project staff or committee to deal with the grievance?*
- *If the project fails to address the grievance, what steps would be taken to achieve a resolution? Will the project set up an arbitration process? Are there national mechanisms that the project can use?*
- *Please note that if the process does not result in resolution of the grievance, the grievant may choose to file a claim through CI's EthicsPoint Hotline at <https://secure.ethicspoint.com>. Alternatively, the grievant may file a claim with the Director of Compliance (DOC) who is responsible for the CI Accountability and Grievance Mechanism and who can be reached at: Director of Compliance, Conservation International 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500 Arlington, VA 22202, USA. This information should be contained in the AGM.*

The procedure to be followed in reporting a complaint is that at the community level, verbal complaints will first be addressed in community-level meetings with project implementing staff. If unresolved, community members will be invited to submit complaints in writing to the FOLUR Gender and Safeguards Officer or proceed directly to submit written complaints rather than raise the issue in a community meeting. The letter of complaint must be dated and signed by the person(s) submitting the complaint, and if the complainant is unable to write, she/he should obtain assistance to write the note and endorse the letter with his/her thumbprint. Upon receipt of the complaint, the aggrieved person will be notified by the Gender and Safeguards Officer that his/her complaint is being considered and meetings/discussions will be held with the aggrieved person(s) to resolve the issue. Each received complaint will be assessed for eligibility based on criteria stipulated in Section III above.

Grievances/complaints will also be screened depending the level of severity in order to determine which staff will address it and how the grievance is approached as shown below.

Grievance category	Description	Responsible
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Level I	When responses can be provided immediately	Implementing partner staff and Gender and Safeguards Officer
Level II	One-off grievance that will not affect the reputation of project.	Gender and Safeguards Officer, and Project Manager
Level III	Repeated and extensive grievances that may jeopardize the reputation of the project	Technical Director
Level IV	Sensitive and high priority grievances that may lead to failure of the project	PSC and CI Director of Compliance

If the complaint/grievance is eligible, the Gender and Safeguards Officer will categorize, assign priority, and route it to the appropriate entity. All received grievances/complaints will be logged and assigned a tracking number and entered in an electronic database, thus, all grievances will be filed systematically in both hard and soft copies.

For those eligible grievances that require simple explanations, responses will be provided instantly by the Gender and Safeguards Officer and if the person raising the grievance is satisfied, the grievance is documented and closed.

If the grievance cannot be resolved by the Gender and Safeguards Officer due to its complexity, or the aggrieved person is not satisfied with the outcome, the matter will then be taken up by the Project Manager and then to the Technical Director. If the matter cannot also be resolved by the Technical Director, the matter will then be forwarded to Project Management Unit, who will address it at the next PMU meeting or, if necessary, organize an emergency meeting. If no agreement is reached at this stage, then the complaint is taken to the PSC.

If there is still not agreement, the complainant will be made aware of other recourse that may be available including:

- a) If these processes do not result in resolution of the grievance, the grievant may choose to file a claim through CI's Ethics Point Hotline at <https://secure.ethicspoint.com>. Alternatively, the grievant may file a claim with the Director of Compliance (DoC) who is responsible for the CI Accountability and Grievance Mechanism and who can be reached at: Director of Compliance, Conservation International 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500 Arlington, VA 22202, USA.,
- b) the judicial and non-judicial system or other administrative channels

This is meant to ensure that there is no risk of retaliation and AGM functions in a completely open and non-coercive manner so that the complainant may wish to consider other redress mechanisms, with or without a direct referral from the AGM.

Throughout the entire process, the AGM staff will document the outcome of the discussions with the complainant in a way that makes clear what options were offered and why the complainant chose not to pursue them, and also make it clear to the complainant that even if rejects the proposed response, the AGM remains available to the complainant if he/she wishes to revisit the response, or to raise a different concern in the future.

The final step is to close out the grievance. If the response has been successful, the Gender and Safeguards Officer will document the satisfactory resolution, in consultation with the complainant. In cases where there have been major risks, impacts and/or negative publicity, it may be appropriate to include written documentation from the complainant indicating satisfaction with the response. In others, the Gender and Safeguards Officer will note the action taken, confirm that the response was satisfactory to the complainant and the organization, and document those facts. In more complex and unusual grievance situations, key lessons learned will be documented.

If the grievance cannot be resolved, Gender and Safeguards Officer will document steps taken, communication with the complainant and the decisions made by the organization and the complainant about referral or recourse to other alternatives, including legal alternatives. In general, AGM documentation on particular cases will maintain confidentiality about details, while making public aggregate statistics on the number and type of complaints received, actions taken, and outcomes reached. It may be appropriate in some cases to make basic information about the identity of complainants publicly available, with the consent of the complainant.

An outcome/resolution for each received the complaint(s) must be provided in written form within 60 days.

To create awareness and ensure the effectiveness of the accountability and grievance mechanism, these options for reporting grievances and the relevant contact information (names, addresses, phone numbers) for the Gender and Safeguards Officer, Project Manager and Technical Director will be provided to communities at the outset of community engagement activities, in readily accessible document form accompanied by verbal explanation.

As part of the FPIC process, engagement activities (initial presentation of the project, Conservation Agreement negotiations, socio-economic surveys, project status reports back to community, etc.) will include reminders of the grievance option and mechanisms, as well as contact information. The Project Manager will also ensure that community leadership (chiefs, teachers, religious leaders, women's group leaders) have the relevant contact information.

Complaints from other stakeholders, including partners, will also be directed to the Project Manager, the Technical Director, or the PMU. This option will be communicated in initial project documents shared with other stakeholders, along with project summary, implementation process, etc. Periodic reporting on the project to the wider stakeholder group and partners will also include reminders of the grievance submission options.

The CI-GEF Project Agency will be promptly informed about any complaints submitted and their resolution. Grievances not addressed at the project/country level can be escalated with CI's General Council Office at HQ.

A specific grievance mechanism will be established for each Conservation Agreement that is signed with communities. The details of the grievance mechanism will depend on the nature of the agreement and community dynamics; however, at a minimum the grievance management system under any agreement will track grievances and pursue conflict resolution from the point of reporting to the point of redress and finality. A Conservation Agreement grievance mechanism will provide a system for recognizing and responding coherently to a complaint through identifying a person responsible for investigating the complaint and coordinating response. The system will include a methodology for the following:

- Receiving complaints through any of the above-mentioned channels
- Assessing information needs
- Allocating responsibility for investigation
- Recording the process
- Contacting the complainant
- Determination of the facts
- Agreeing responsibility and action where required
- Informing the complainant
- Dealing with disagreements over response and outcome
- Implementing action
- Researching complainant satisfaction
- Monitoring and evaluating the outcome

The specific means of executing this methodology will be stipulated in the Conservation Agreement document, detailed jointly by the project implementer and the counterpart community. Thus, definition and launching of the grievance mechanism is an explicit component of the Conservation Agreement design and negotiation process.

## SECTION VII: Documentation

- ***How will grievance be recorded? Will there be a grievant form? Will there be a log book of the grievances received?***
- ***How and where would these records be stored? And for how long will they be kept?***

The project will use various methods to receive complaints and grievances including complaint forms, email, SMS, telephone calls, postal or office report and documenting them. If a grievance form is used to report complaint, the form must be dated and signed by the person(s) submitting the complaint, and if the complainant is unable to write, she/he should obtain assistance to write the note and endorse the letter with his/her thumbprint. All received grievances and complaints will be recorded both in a logbook and electronically, assigned a tracking number and acknowledgement subject to periodic updates will be sent to the claimant.

The AGM log will include a record of persons responsible for a complaint and record dates for the following events, when the; (i) Complaint was reported, grievance log was uploaded on the project database; (iii) information on proposed corrective action was sent to the complainant (if applicable); (iv) complaint was closed out; and (v) response was sent to the complainant.

The AGM information will be stored in the database throughout the five years of project implementation and for only two years after the end date of the project. Thereafter, the files will be deleted.

## SECTION VIII: Monitoring and Reporting

***Describe how will you track and ensure that the mechanism is working.***

To assess the overall effectiveness and the impact of the AGM, the PMU will track and monitor the process of grievance redress and the implementation of the decisions made and ensuring that redress is granted in a timely and efficient manner. In addition, the PMU will give regular feedback to the complainants about the progress of the grievance redress process.

The project will report on a quarterly basis (using the CI-GEF Quarterly Reporting template), progress made towards the implementation of the AGM. The quarterly report/updates will include the following: (i.) Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism; (ii.) Number/percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved; and (iii) Number of grievances not resolved within the mandatory timeframe of 30 days and reasons as to why they grievance were not resolved in time

Also, on an annual basis and using the CI-GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR) template, the above CI-GEF's minimum indicators will be reported and evaluated to show trends e.g. average time to resolve grievances, percentage of complainants satisfied with action taken, number of grievances resolved at first point of contact. The level of detail provided about any individual Grievance will depend on the sensitivity of the issues and stakeholder concerns about confidentiality, while providing appropriate transparency about the activities of the AGM. The report will also highlight key trends in emerging conflicts, Grievances, and dispute resolution, and make recommendations regarding: measures that can be taken by the project to avoid future occurrence; and improvements to the AGM that would enhance its effectiveness, accessibility, predictability, transparency,

legitimacy, credibility, and capacity. These results will be used to improve the performance of the AGM and provide valuable feedback to project management.

Indicator	Baseline	Target
1. Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	0	50
2. Number/Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved	0	100%
3. Number of grievances not resolved within the mandatory timeframe of 60 days (and reasons as to why they grievance was not resolved in time)	0	10

<b>Person responsible for implementing and monitoring the AGM:</b>	Gender and Safeguards Officer (TBH) Conservation International Liberia
<b>How/Where will the approved AGM be disclosed<sup>7</sup>:</b>	The approved AGM will be disclosed to stakeholders during the inception workshop. Further, the approved AGM will be printed and posted on notice boards in all community resource centers. Furthermore, the stakeholders will be made aware of existence of AGM through publicity actions such as project brochures, emails, website publications and through verbal interactions during project deliberations, stakeholder meetings and workshops
<b>When will the approved AGM be disclosed:</b>	The approved AGM will be disclosed to stakeholders during the inception workshop that will be held during the first quarter of project implementation
<b>Budget/Resources required:</b>	Staff (Full-time Gender and Safeguards Officer), funds for training and printing materials

<sup>7</sup> Approved Safeguard plans are to be disclosed to stakeholders in a manner and form that they will understand and that is culturally appropriate. This may require translation of the document.

## **APPENDIX VII: Voluntary Resettlement Action Plan (V-RAP)/Process framework**

As part of our existing rights-based approach to conservation, CI recognizes that people have the right to remain on the lands and territories that they have traditionally occupied, which includes the continued access to resources they have traditionally used. While this project will not resettle individuals, it may limit access to natural resources by individuals and communities in the project areas. The project proposes to institute community-based natural resource management in NW Liberia landscape. Sustainable management may include voluntary restrictions on access to resources including mangrove resources. To avert this, the project proposes to use Conservation Agreements to adequately compensate for any loss of access to natural resources.

### What are Conservation Agreements?

Forests, reefs and species around the world are threatened because in many places that harbor exceptional biodiversity, local people lack alternatives to unsustainable resource use. Protecting biodiversity and key ecosystem services in these places requires conservation tools that provide development opportunities to local populations. When conservation offers concrete benefits to rural farmers and local communities, protecting the environment becomes an increasingly viable and attractive choice. In a Conservation Agreement, resource users commit to conservation actions in exchange for benefit packages defined through participatory processes to address local development needs and priorities. Conservation Agreements are long-term interventions that produce enduring solutions for people and nature, with an emphasis on financial sustainability and sound governance. Conservation agreements promote social structures and local empowerment that improve stewardship of key natural resources and help people pursue sustainable development options.

A Conservation Agreement can be broken down into two key elements

- The conservation actions to be undertaken by the resource users in response to threats to biodiversity or ecosystems
- The benefits provided by the conservation investor to offset the opportunity cost of conservation incurred by the resource users

The benefit package in a Conservation Agreement is determined together with communities to ensure that it responds to local needs and priorities, but delivery of benefits over time depends on verified compliance with conservation commitments. Benefits are conditional on the counterpart's compliance with commitments specified in the agreement. Sanctions (adjustments in benefits) for non-compliance are designed jointly by all parties to the agreement to ensure that they are understood, viable, and appropriate to the counterpart's culture while still respecting rights.

### Compensating resource users for any loss of access using Conservation Agreements

A Conservation Agreement recognizes that there is an opportunity cost associated with conservation. The opportunity cost of conservation reflects the value of what resource users give up by not utilizing their resources under the business-as-usual scenario.

This is the balance of:

- The income that would be derived from resource use such as clearing forest for agriculture or timber extraction (*e.g.*, the value of crops or timber that would be harvested in the absence of conservation)
- The value of ecosystem services that would be lost by destructive resource use (*e.g.*, reduced water quality, soil erosion, loss of culturally significant resources)

To secure an agreement, the benefit package must be designed to offset the opportunity cost that resource owners believe they will incur if they choose conservation. In essence, communities are compensated for any loss of access to resources using opportunity cost to determine a fair level of compensation.

### Conservation International's Rights-based Approach (RBA) and Conservation Agreements

The Conservation Agreement model reflects Conservation International's Rights-based Approach (RBA). RBA is an approach to conservation that promotes and integrates human rights into conservation policy and practice by emphasizing the positive connections between conservation and the rights of people to secure their livelihoods, enjoy healthy and productive environments, and live with dignity. The RBA recognizes that respecting human rights is an integral part of successful conservation and emphasizes community rights to choose and shape conservation and development projects that affect them. CI's RBA includes principles, policies, guidelines, tools, and practical examples to guide the organization, ensuring that we respect human rights in all our work. Any Conservation Agreement initiative involves a thorough community engagement process and a participatory design and negotiation stage that embodies the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The principle of FPIC refers to the right of indigenous peoples to give or withhold their consent for any action that would affect their lands, territories or rights, as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). While FPIC is the right of indigenous peoples alone under international law, the principles underlying it are generally considered to be a good guideline for engaging any community or group of local stakeholders.

FPIC can be broken down as follows:

**Free:** Without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation

**Prior:** Before the start of any activity while also respecting indigenous consultation/consensus processes

**Informed:** Indigenous peoples have full information about the scope and impacts of the proposed activity on their lands, resources, and well-being

**Consent:** right to say yes or no as a result of consultation and participation in good faith

FPIC is not simply a decision-making process or a veto mechanism for the community, but a tool to ensure that outside people and organizations engage indigenous communities in a culturally appropriate way, so that their development priorities, needs and desires can be met. A true FPIC process includes not only consultation but also the space for a community to give or withhold their consent to a project.

### Negotiating Conservation Agreements under this Project

The decision to work on an agreement will be entirely up to the community. CI works with communities who have a strong collective interest and ability to organize to protect their natural resources. The consent to a Conservation Agreement must reflect the desire of the community, free of external pressure from not only the implementer but also any other entity such as the Government.

The following set of actions will be implemented by the Project Manager to ensure that there has been a true FPIC process that provides space for a community to give or withhold their consent to a project.

- The Project will develop the feasibility analysis for Conservation Agreement implementation using mainly secondary information to help avoid raising expectations in the communities.
- Respecting customary decision-making mechanisms within communities ensures that CAs are adapted to local realities. However, it is important to also remember that some customary decision-making mechanisms

do not allow for disadvantaged or marginalized groups to be heard. The Project Manager will establish culturally appropriate ways to ensure those voices are part of decision-making.

- The Project Manager will explain the CA model to communities during the engagement phase and allow them to understand the interests of the implementers and decide if they want to work together on a CA.
- The Project Manager will design the CAs together with communities and ensure that communities have enough time to discuss the content and to decide if they want to sign such an agreement
- The Project Manager will ensure that the communities know how the benefit package amount has been defined to reduce conflicts when negotiating the benefits to be provided by the CAs.
- The Project Manager will show the biodiversity and socioeconomic monitoring results to communities to increase their engagement and demonstrate how the CA impacts their natural resources and wellbeing.
- The Project Manager will aim to establish one-year agreements that allow communities and implementers to learn from the experience, improve the CA design, and build trust among the parties involved.

This process ensures that any restrictions of access to natural resources are enacted voluntarily and with the consent of the community and offset by mutually agreed-upon compensation in the form of the CA benefit package.

### **Monitoring and evaluation of Process Framework for Restriction of Access to Natural Resources**

**Indicator 1:** Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been voluntarily restricted

*Logic:* Shows how many people have accepted restrictions on resource access

**Indicator 2:** Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been involuntarily restricted

*Logic:* Shows how many people have seen their resource access restricted against their wishes

**Indicator 3:** Percentage of persons who gave their consent for voluntary restrictions

*Logic:* Shows the degree to which the project secured local agreement to restrict resource access

**Indicator 4:** Percentage of persons who have received compensation for voluntary restrictions

*Logic:* Shows the degree to which acceptance of resource access restrictions was secured through incentives

**Indicator 5:** Percentage of persons who have received compensation for involuntary restrictions

*Logic:* Shows the degree to which involuntary resource access restrictions were offset through compensation

## **APPENDIX VIII: Cultural Heritage Management Plan**

Socially, the people in NW Liberia landscape belong to secret societies such as the ‘Poro’ and ‘Sande’. Poro is an all-male institution that imparts knowledge about the culture, traditions and customs of the society. The Poro is both a political and religious organization as well as a no-appeal court system for the tribe. While, the Sande is an all-female, institution giving instruction to young women in the customs and traditions of the community, the role of women in society and their rights, duties and responsibilities.

Culturally, Local institutions in NW Liberia landscape are ruled by clan chiefs, paramount chiefs, and district commissioners. Each village belongs to a Chiefdom and to a District and has a Paramount Chief and a Commissioner appointed by the President. The Clan Chief is selected by Paramount Chief, while the General Town Chief is selected either by the Commissioner or the Paramount Chief. Town Chiefs are selected (or elected) by the community. In NW Liberia landscape, there are a total of 79 clans and 23 districts.

Local judges solve local problems, and the clan or town would protect their immediate surroundings, e.g. shrines, access roads, forests, and other sanctuaries. They also hold meetings to discuss issues of importance to the area. Over 60% of the population in NW Liberia landscape use the forest as a sacred place and sees it as a place for wildlife and biodiversity.

In NW Liberia landscape, there are taboos that are in three categories. Those observed by individuals within the tribe as a condition resulting from intermarriage; those sanctioned by the community; and those observed by members of extended families and clans. Some taboos prohibit particular clans from eating certain fauna and flora. A clan taboo is observed by all its members. Other taboos prohibit hunting in places regarded as abodes of ancestors and or evil spirits. Another kind of taboo prohibits fishing in certain bodies of water in which the fish are considered humans in fish form waiting to be conceived by barren women. Taboos are enforced by institutions such as the Poro and Sande societies, as well as by heads of extended families or clans.

The project proposes to restore degraded areas and conserve high forested areas which may be sacred sites for the different secret societies in the landscape. These activities to a very limited extent have the potential to result in negative impacts on both tangible and nontangible cultural heritage, that is held as highly valuable within local communities. To this end, an initial identification of sacred sites was conducted during the PPG phase and will be completed during project implementation.

Nonetheless, to ensure that the sacred sites and other culturally significant areas are preserved, the Project seeks to proactively manage, avoid or limit any negative impacts on cultural heritage through implementing the following mitigation measures and management actions throughout project delivery including:

- i. Maintain public access to cultural heritage sites (crosses, churches, cemeteries etc.) during project implementation
- ii. Map all historical or cultural value sites at the outset of the project implementation and project stakeholders will be advised of their sensitivity in advance of commencing project activities. The mapping will involve consultation with local consultants, archaeologists and the relevant authorities (Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Ministry of Internal Affairs, County authorities, District authorities, and traditional leaders including paramount chiefs, and clan chiefs).
- iii. Actively engage and involve cultural leaders in project implementation, so that attention is paid to activities in the vicinity of any recorded sacred sites and any or culturally important sites
- iv. Sensitize all project staff, partners and other stakeholders on the do’s and don’ts of operating in culturally significant sites to ensure the recognition of the cultural heritage by all those involved in project implementation
- v. Annual review of cultural heritage incidents, their impacts, mitigation used and success of mitigation measures

### **Monitoring and evaluation of Cultural Heritage Management Plan**

Indicator 1: Number of cultural heritage related complaints from local communities

*Logic:* Indicates instances of perceived negative impacts of project on cultural heritage sites

Indicator 2: Number of cases of reported non-compliance with the requirements of this Cultural Heritage Management Plan

*Logic:* Indicates effectiveness of Cultural Heritage Management Plan in avoiding negative cultural site impacts and satisfactorily addressing impacts that do occur

## APPENDIX IX: Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

### SECTION I: Project Information

<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>	Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains		
<b>GEF PROJECT ID:</b>	10232	<b>PROJECT DURATION:</b>	<u>60</u> months
<b>EXECUTING AGENCY:</b>	EPA		
<b>EXECUTING PARTNER</b>	CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL LIBERIA		
<b>PROJECT START DATE:</b>	(mm/yyyy)	<b>PROJECT END DATE:</b>	(mm/yyyy)
<b>SEP PREPARED BY:</b>	George Ilebo		
<b>DATE OF (RE)SUBMISSION TO CI-GEF:</b>			
<b>SEP APPROVED BY:</b>	<i>(To be completed by CI-GEF)</i>		
<b>DATE OF CI-GEF APPROVAL:</b>	<i>(To be completed by CI-GEF)</i>		

### SECTION II: Introduction

***Introduce your Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) by providing a brief context of your project and its stakeholders<sup>8</sup>, and an overview of your SEP. Limit yourself to one page.***

Liberia is at a crossroads as government, business, and civil society seek to balance the urgent need for jobs, food and economic development with conservation and sustainable use of the country's natural resources. This is particularly evident in Northwest Liberia. The forests that span Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Bomi and Bong counties have been identified as a conservation priority for carbon and biodiversity, as well as for key ecosystem services including freshwater provision for more than a million Liberians, sediment regulation for planned hydropower, and water provision for agricultural development. Throughout this landscape and much of Liberia, the urgent need for development and job creation is the driving priority for the government and the local communities. New integrated development models are needed to meet these economic objectives while maintaining essential ecosystem services and conserving critical forest areas.

This project seeks to address the need for integrated landscape management in Liberia, with a focus on the Northwest Liberia Landscape. The project will combine research, policy recommendations, technical support and practical tools working with communities to develop and demonstrate a participatory, multi-stakeholder approach to landscape-level land-use planning and integrated management. Work with local communities and other stakeholders will include training and awareness- and capacity-building with respect to sustainable agriculture and agroforestry and with restoration of degraded lands; negotiated Conservation Agreements with communities will be used to empower them to improve sustainable land and resource management in return for concrete incentives.

As a landscape-level, inclusive multi-stakeholder endeavor, the land-use planning process at the heart of the project necessarily implicates a wide range of stakeholders. These include local communities, local government,

<sup>8</sup> Stakeholder refers to individuals or groups who: (a) are affected or likely to be affected by the project (project-affected parties); and (b) may have an interest in the project (other interested parties).

an array of national government bodies with interests in planning, development and land use, the private sector, and a diverse set of Non-Government Organizations and bi- and multi-lateral assistance agencies in the conservation and agricultural development arenas.

This stakeholder engagement plan follows from the main elements of the overall project structure. Multi-stakeholder planning involves consistent engagement of all stakeholders with interests in the Northwest Liberia Landscape. As the planning process seeks to balance the needs and priorities of the many stakeholders involved, their ongoing involvement – not only through consultations and information sharing but through active participation in deliberative planning processes and ultimate endorsement of planning outcomes – will be essential.

To initiate application of land-use planning outcomes, the project will invest in pilot sites with communities, focused on development of palm oil and cocoa supply chains as well as land restoration activities. The execution of these pilot sites is inextricably linked to well-developed stakeholder engagement processes centered around the Conservation Agreement approach. The way that CI and partners implement Conservation Agreements embodies principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), by ensuring that communities have the opportunity to decide on whether and how to participate in pilot site activities. This is achieved through a deliberate cycle of engagement, internal community deliberations, transparent negotiations, and documentation of broad-based community consent to participate.

### SECTION III: Stakeholder Mapping

Project stakeholders were selected based on stakeholder analysis and mapping that was conducted to identify specific individuals, groups, and organizations who will be affected or be interested in the project, and subsequently a stakeholder workshop held to understand their power and influence on the project considering:

- The expected project area and impact, that is the geographical area over which it may cause impacts (both positive and negative) over its lifetime, and therefore the localities within which people and businesses could be affected;
- The nature of the impacts that could arise and therefore the types of national/local government entities, NGOs, academic and research institutions and other bodies that may have an interest in these issues.
- Geographical presence in NW Liberia landscape
- Mandate and/or role in biodiversity conservation and other activities proposed by the project

Stakeholder Name and Function <i>Name of the key stakeholder, and their main purpose/function</i>	Stakeholder's Interest <i>What are the stakeholder's main interests in and concerns about the project?</i>	Impact of Project on Stakeholder <i>How will the stakeholder be affected (both positively and negatively) by the project?</i>	Influence of Stakeholder <i>How can the stakeholder affect the project? Can they hinder or contribute to the success of the project?</i>	Risk Management <i>(Is this a low, medium or high-risk stakeholder? And how would you manage medium/high risk stakeholders)</i>
<b>Government (Add rows as necessary)</b>				
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	EPA is the executing agency on this project. As the operational focal point for GEF funding in Liberia, the EPA has a strong interest in the	The success of this project will reflect either positively or negatively on the agency's position as operational focal point for all GEF funding in Liberia.	As the operational focal point for GEF funding in Liberia, the EPA has a strong influence on the direction of this project. The agency has a strong role in	Low

	development and success of this project.		executing this project and this is reflected in the agency's strong representation on both the Project Steering Committee and Project Management team.	
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	As the project will work with communities near potential future protected areas, as custodian of the protected areas network in Liberia the FDA has a particularly strong interest in Component 3 of this project (conservation agreements).	The project will create the enabling conditions for inclusion of community co-management strategies in future protected area creation along Liberia's coast.	The FDA has a strong influence in all forest related projects across the country, including mangrove forests.	Low
Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)	The MOA is responsible for the agriculture sector and has a direct interest in project activities relating to climate smart agriculture, sustainable agroforestry, and restoration of degraded agricultural land. Efforts to advance policy relating to promotion of sustainable agriculture fall within the MOA remit.	Successful outgrower, smallholder, and cooperative models are vital to the MOA mission, such that the project offers a significant value to its work. Integrated landscape management will reduce conflicts between agriculture and concessions granted by other sectoral agencies.	The central role of the agriculture in land-use planning makes MOA a key participant; MOA policies and priorities will have a significant impact on land-use planning outputs.	Low
Liberia Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (LACRA)	LACRA has a major stake in the project given its emphasis on palm oil and cocoa production. Their regulatory role is directly implicated	Successful commodity production models will help shape regulatory priorities.	LACRA will be a key voice with respect to development of policies and regulations relating to sustainable production	Low

	in decisions on sustainability requirements for these commodities.		methods.	
Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOG)	Communities across Liberia are highly dependent on natural resource use for subsistence and local commerce. The mainstreaming of gender into all natural resource and climate change projects is a high priority for the MOG.	The execution of this project will provide valuable information for the ministry about the practicalities of mainstreaming gender into future natural resource management projects.	The MOG set important precedents that shaped the gender mainstreaming plan for this project.	Low
Cooperative Development Agency (CDA)	The CDA's mandate is to develop producer associations based on cooperative models; this aligns closely with planned project activities. Given CDA resource constraints, they have a strong interest in outside support to advance their mandate.	By advancing cooperatives and related associations in NW Liberia, the project will expand the constituency base of the CDA.	CDA represents a significant source of expertise on cooperative models; they can help shape these project activities based on that expertise.	Low
Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) is responsible for local governance and rural development. The MIA has an interest in all projects that seek to address issues related to rural development and governance of natural resources.	CI will be engaging with members of the County Administration in each project site, from County Superintendent down to the General Town chief. MIA will have an important role ensuring that the different representatives within the Local County Administration are aligned in their understanding and expectations of the project.	MIAs has an important role coordinating and implementing government services through the various units of the Local County Administration whose support and buy-in will be essential for the success and sustainability of this initiative.	Low

Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME)	The MME administers activities related to the use of land and has a direct interest in the land use planning component of the project.	Participatory land use planning at the community and landscape levels in this project may provide valuable information for the MLME as it devises new strategies for future land use planning processes across the country.	The MLME maintains jurisdiction over the management and extraction of minerals, water, and energy resources in Liberia. Future projects including hydroelectric projects or mining projects have a direct impact on Integrated Landscape Management.	Low
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)	The MFDP holds the mandate to formulate, institutionalize and administer economic development, fiscal and tax policies for the promotion of sound and efficient management of financial resources of the government. This is directly linked to landscape planning and financing strategies.	The project will affect central aspects of MFDP's approach to development planning and tracking of economic performance. It will make MFDP planning and decision-making more sustainable by incorporating the value of natural capital in a landscape framework.	MFDP are the ultimate authority with respect to planning processes. They are also integral to linking landscape financing strategy to the national conservation financing mechanism, as well as consideration of incentive strategies.	Low
Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)	LISGIS is responsible for collecting data and maintaining databases pertinent to national planning processes. Thus, the project's emphasis on landscape planning relates directly to core goals of LISGIS.	The project will focus on building LISGIS capacity to support land-use planning processes at community and landscape levels, including essential contributions to M&E systems.	LISGIS has a strong influence on the project as it houses the relevant technical mandate and capacity for developing and maintaining landscape planning data layers.	Low
Liberia Land Authority (LLA)	The mandate of the LLA extends to all land and land based natural resources. The landscape planning process and its tenure	The LLA can use experience generated through this project to shape future policy with respect to integrated	The LLA has a strong interest in the deployment of community-based resource planning and management activities as well as	Low

	implications therefore hold great interest for the LLA.	landscape management.	landscape planning, such that this project represents important demonstrations and precedents.	
Local County Administration	Local County Administration is the sum-total of personnel who run the various political sub-divisions of the Country as Local Government. The project will be active in Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Bomi and Bong Counties. Local County Administrators have a direct interest in all projects being implemented in their County. Landscape plans and County Development Plans must be aligned.	The project should provide Local County Administrators with an opportunity to demonstrate to their constituents that they are securing additional support to address challenges facing the local populace.	Local County Administrators have a strong influence on the direction and success of projects within their counties. Local communities are unlikely to actively engage in the project if the project does not have the blessing of the Local Administration.	Low
<b>CSOs/NGOs (Add rows as necessary)</b>				
The Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL)	SCNL has been involved in several initiatives in NW Liberia. They have a strong interest in improved enabling conditions for community development, successful models for climate smart agriculture and agroforestry, and participatory conservation.	The project offers SCNL a significant opportunity to consolidate and expand their work in the region.	SCNL has a strong interest in partnering with CI as one of the local partners on this project. SCNL will provide significant guidance on the direction of this GEF investment based on their past experience in the project area.	Low
Farmers Associated to Conserve the Environment (FACE)	FACE implemented a UNDP-sponsored awareness raising project in the Lake Piso wetlands in 1999 and an NC-IUCN small-grant	The project may induce FACE to expand work relating to climate-smart agriculture and sustainable commodities.	FACE will provide guidance on the direction of this GEF investment based on their past experience in the Lake Piso part of	Low

	sponsored project in 2004. They remain committed to work in this area.		the project area.	
Save My Future Foundation (SAMFU)	SAMFU has a strong interest in community-based conservation, including awareness campaigns, incentive models, and technical support and training.	SAMFU may partner with CI as a local partner on this project.	SAMFU may help shape thinking on the development on community-based conservation in this project.	Low
National Charcoal Union of Liberia (NACUL)	The production and distribution of charcoal is a significant driver of forest degradation in the NW Liberia landscape. Community-level land-use planning will include attention to charcoal production.	The project will potentially engage with NACUL to shape strategy for addressing the forest threat posed by charcoal production.	The NACUL may influence how the project engages with project beneficiaries on forest access for charcoal production.	Low
Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue Program (LCRP)	The project geography includes large areas that have been identified as critical chimpanzee habitat.	Integrated landscape management will include consideration of biodiversity value and critical habitats, offering direct contributions to WCF and LCRP mission.	WCF and LCRP offer experience in chimpanzee conservation, conservation planning, protected area design, and financing strategy.	Low
Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)	SDI is committed to protecting and strengthening community land rights and supporting rural communities as they defend their rights in relationships with concessionaires. Therefore, SDI has a strong interest in multi-stakeholder processes relating to these issues.	Multi-stakeholder governance structures that include community representation will provide an important avenue for continued SDI advocacy on behalf of rural communities.	As the project seeks to ensure involvement of local communities in land-use planning, and integrate smallholder producers into commodity value chains, SDI will be a strong advocate for community rights.	Low
Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS)	SADS currently partners with CI to implement	This project may offer SADS an opportunity to expand work on	As a potential partner, SADS may influence the	Low

	Conservation Agreements around East Nimba Nature Reserve. They have a strong interest in partnering with CI on this project.	Conservation Agreements in NW Liberia.	design and delivery of future Conservation Agreements under this project.	
World Resources Institute (WRI)	WRI has an interest in improved collection and use of forest data in Liberia.	The project will demonstrate use of WRI data, which can be replicated elsewhere. Community-level activities also offers an opportunity to ground truth data.	WRI's forest monitoring platform offers valuable contributions to land-use planning and M&E efforts.	Low
Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE)	RICCE currently partners with CI to implement Conservation Agreements around East Nimba Nature Reserve. They have a strong interest in partnering with CI on this project.	This project may offer RICCE an opportunity to expand work on Conservation Agreements in NW Liberia.	As a potential partner, RICCE may influence the design and delivery of future Conservation Agreements under this project.	Low
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	The RSPB has made considerable investments in Gola National Park and community-based conservation and development with communities impacted by the Park. These investments and ongoing efforts are nested within landscape level processes in NW Liberia.	Integrated landscape management will help reinforce the integrity of Gola National Park.	RSPB can bring scientific and technical expertise to the project, including valuable inputs and participation in land-use planning processes, and links to global markets for sustainable commodities.	Low
IDH, Solidaridad	IDH and Solidaridad are committed to advancing equitable, sustainable agriculture and agroforestry, including work in both palm oil and cocoa sectors. They	Planned project work with producers (training, planning, incentives, market links) offers substantial synergies with IDH and Solidaridad efforts, such that they are	IDH and Solidaridad offer global and in-country experience with production models and producer organization. They also are conduits to potential financing	Low

	also have been active in NW Liberia.	well-placed to lead several such activities.	sources.	
BRAC	BRAC is engaged in broad-based support for rural community development in several programmatic areas. Several of these overlap with proposed project elements, such as training/education, sustainable agriculture, and innovative financing.	A notable effect of the project on BRAC efforts will be to enhance the overall enabling environment for development efforts through improved planning, governance, and financing.	BRAC can influence the project by contributing its experience in community engagement and participatory development processes.	Low
Fauna and Flora International (FFI)	FFI previously implemented a project in Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve to improve the capacity of civil society members to sustainably use and conserve mangrove resources. This included the development of a protected area (PA) management strategy for the reserve. It currently leads REDD+ work in the Wonegizi area in the proposed project geography.	FFI may adopt lessons from the project in its own community, conservation financing, and forest management work.	FFIs previous work developing community co-management strategy may offer lessons relevant to community land-use planning. Their work on REDD+ offers a vital contribution to integrated landscape management financing strategy.	Low
<b>Local communities (Add rows as necessary)</b>				
Local communities in Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Bomi and Bong Counties.	Local communities with whom the project will partner using Conservation Agreements have a strong interest in ensuring that this project addresses the economic pressures and limited employment opportunities that	Local communities are the direct beneficiaries in this project and will ultimately determine whether integrated landscape management succeeds.	Local communities living in the landscape are key to the project's success as adopters of climate smart agriculture, sustainable agroforestry, and restoration.	Low

	drive unsustainable land use.			
<b>Private Sector (Add rows as necessary)</b>				
Mano Palm Oil Industries/Mano Palm Oil Plantation (MPOI/MPOP)	MPOI/MPOP has a strong interest in smallholder palm oil production.	A successful model for sustainable smallholder oil palm under the project will help MPOI/MPOP overcome the challenges that faced Sime Darby.	MPOI/MPOP can be a valuable source of support for work with communities in and around its concession on sustainable palm oil production.	Low
Theobroma	This Dutch cocoa company is working with IDH on a cocoa project to restore tree cover in grasslands in Foya, with intercropping and bushfire management.	The project can share lessons on stakeholder engagement, governance, regulatory reform and marketing.	The Theobroma project can offer technical knowledge with respect to cropping models.	Low
Liberia Agriculture and Asset Development Company (LAADCO)	LAADCO is a cocoa buyer with an interest in reliable supply of quality cocoa	The project can link LAADCO to producers with enhanced capacity for sustainable cocoa	LAADCO can contribute important supply chain relationships	Low
Vainga Agriculture Development and Management Consultancy (VADEMCO)	VADEMCO has an interest in advancing rural development through agriculture, including an emphasis on cocoa.	The project can create opportunities for VADEMCO to provide its technical services.	VADEMCO can contribute experience on community-based cocoa development	Low
Cooperatives (Gbahlay Farmers Cooperative; Nanorni oil palm cooperative; Maliando cocoa cooperative; N'torfawor cooperative; Manni rice farmers cooperative; Foya rural women cooperative)	Rural cooperatives have an interest in securing training, resources, new livelihood opportunities, and market links for their members	The project can provide training and resources for farmers, and facilitate linkages to other parts of the value chain.	The cooperatives provide important convening forums for member farmers, facilitating efficient outreach and participant recruitment for the project.	Low
Multiple (Liberation Chocolate; Greentech, Intofawar)	Collectively, private sector operators in the NW Liberia Landscape have a	The project, through enhanced planning, management and governance, as well	Concessionaires in the mining and forestry sectors are essential	Low

Cooperative, Trade Link, Wience)	strong interest in the overall business environment, including social stability, availability of small producers as partners, and reliable governance.	as capacity-building for communities and smallholders, offers significant improvement in the business environment.	participants in land-use planning and integrated landscape management. Their stance on partnership with communities and smallholders is also critical to the project.	
<b>Academia (Add rows as necessary)</b>				
Forestry Training Institute (FTI), University of Liberia (UL)	FTI and UL offer certificate and degree programs in fields of direct relevance to the project's themes. Ongoing integrated landscape management, and sustainable management of NW Liberia's land and resources, will require significant human capacity.	The project will result in long-term employment opportunities for people trained in relevant fields.	FTI and UL can work with the project to tailor curricula to Liberia's future needs with respect to relevant skills.	
<b>Disadvantaged/Vulnerable<sup>9</sup> Groups (Add rows as necessary)</b>				
The Elderly	The Elderly share interests with the rest of the community in improvements in standards of living, with a particular emphasis on access to health care.	The project will strengthen household income opportunities, with direct benefits for elderly household members.	The Elderly are important voices in household and community decision-making, and as repositories of knowledge; these are valuable contributions to participatory planning processes.	Low
Persons With Disabilities (PWDs)	The persons with disabilities have an interest in livelihood interventions and	The project will create a range of opportunities for PWD participation in	PWDs will be empowered to ensure their specific needs and	Low

<sup>9</sup> Disadvantaged/Vulnerable refers to those who may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project's benefits. Such an individual/group is also more likely to be excluded from/unable to participate fully in the mainstream consultation process and as such may require specific measures and/or assistance to do so. This will take into account considerations relating to age, including the elderly and minors, and including in circumstances where they may be separated from their family, the community or other individuals upon which they depend.

	capacity development opportunities of the project	planning and implementation of livelihood programs.	requirements are considered in rollout of field activities.	
Youth	The youth have a strong interest in ensuring that this project will provide capacity development and employment opportunities	The youth are the majority in local communities and are the main direct beneficiaries in this project, thus, they will ultimately determine whether integrated landscape management succeeds.	The youth living in the landscape are key to the project's success as adopters of climate smart agriculture, sustainable agroforestry, and restoration.	Low
<b>Others (Add rows as necessary)</b>				
USAID	USAID invests heavily in strengthening local communities' management of forests and natural resources in Liberia, as well as rural development and sustainable agriculture.	USAID is likely to be interested in lessons learned from this project. These lessons will likely determine future USAID investment in the environmental and natural resources sector, sustainable agriculture, and land-use planning in Liberia.	USAID has launched the regional West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA-BiCC) program. There is clearly a need for cross learning between the project and this program to avoid duplication of effort and maximize mutually reinforcing investments.	Low
EU	EU has committed significant resources to enhancing transparency and sustainability in Liberia's forest sector (among other areas). Sustainable forest management is a key element of the integrated landscape management that the project seeks to put in place.	The project will seek to embed integrated landscape management by strengthening governance; the landscape governance structure to be developed will also reinforce transparency and sustainability in the forestry sector (and others).	EU's forest programming can reinforce land-use planning, through decision-making that takes into account ecosystem services, and also through forest sector M&E frameworks that can support landscape management.	Low

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	UNDP has invested heavily in projects in Liberia focused on building community resilience, forest management, and agriculture. The GGP initiative is a significant UNDP commitment.	This project is likely to shape future UNDP investment sustainable rural development and conservation.	UNDP is one of the main GEF implementing agencies in Liberia. UNDP can potentially influence whether this project will secure additional funding for future expansion of the project.	Low
Global Environmental Facility (GEF)	As a GEF investment there is significant interest in the success of this project.	This project will likely have an impact in determining future allocations in Liberia.	The GEF secretariat provided important input for the design of this project, which will certainly impact implementation.	Low
CI-GEF Project Agency	As this is the third project implemented by the CI-GEF Project Agency in Liberia, there is a strong interest in ensuring that the project is a success.	The success of this project will have an impact on the appetite of the CI-GEF Project Agency to support future work in Liberia.	The CI-GEF Project Agency has a significant role in the Monitoring and Evaluation of this project. This will have a significant impact on the execution of this project over time.	Low
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Program (WFP)	FAO, IFAD and WFP are the three international agencies most directly focused on agriculture, agroforestry, food production and food security. Their programming includes support for policy, sustainable production models, and climate resilience, each of which also is integral to the proposed project and has direct bearing on landscape- and	This project will provide a landscape management framework for the types of interventions that FAO, IFAD and WFP support. This offers synergies and efficiencies that may motivate further investment in the future.	The three agriculture/food institutions are critical sources of support and guidance for Liberian government institutions as project participants. They also offer intervention experience that can inform design and implementation of project activities.	Low

	community-level land-use planning.			
World Bank (WB)	The WB has and continues to support many significant natural resource management projects in Liberia. The LFSP is particularly prominent and closely aligned.	This project may influence future WB investments in forestry, Liberia's Protected Area Network, and land-use planning.	WB support to FDA for executing the LFSP will help shape activities of this project.	Low

#### SECTION IV: Stakeholder Engagement During PPG Phase

a.

Stakeholder Name	Date, Location and Method of Engagement <sup>10</sup>	Outcomes
<b>Name the key stakeholder contacted during PPG in this column.</b> <b>Add rows as necessary.</b>	<b>When and where did you meet? Was it a meeting, consultation, workshop, etc?</b>	<b>What was the aim/rationale? What was discussed? What decisions were made, if any? How did this contribute to or was captured in the design of the project? If/how do they want to be engaged during the implementation phase?</b>
Local communities	1. Two surveys were conducted in four counties survey to collect environmental and social issues in NW Liberia Landscape from the 10 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 as indicated below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sinje community, Garwula District, Grand Cape mount County</li> <li>b. Vohnzula community, Garwula District, Grand Cape Mount County</li> <li>c. Dewah Clan, Gbarma District, Gbarpolu County</li> <li>d. Lekpeh Town, Tehr Clan, Klay District, Bomi County</li> <li>e. Gizima Clan, Zorzor District, Lofa County</li> <li>f. Njoma village, Cape Mount County</li> <li>g. Zumor Town, Bomi County</li> <li>h. Damba village in Bomi County</li> </ul> 2. 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 – 10	The information collected from the surveys and input from the community representatives was instrumental in: (a) identification of environmental and social issues, which enabled the development of environmental and social safeguard plans for the project; (b) determining the project sites and targets; (c) providing local knowledge on restoration; and (d) assessing the potential impact of the project on livelihoods. Also, due to poor road infrastructure during rainy seasons, the local communities suggested that project activities that involve face to face meetings/engagement should be conducted during the dry season when the roads are accessible

<sup>10</sup> Method of engagement can be face-to-face meeting, telephone call, workshop, consultation, survey, etc.

	<p>representatives from the communities participated in the Partners strategic alignment workshop held in Monrovia</p> <p>3. 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – 10 community representatives participated in the PPG inception workshop held in Monrovia</p>	
Government agencies	<p>Engagement with government ministries/ authorities (EPA, FDA, MoA, LLA, MME, LACRA, MGCSP, NBC, MFDP, MIA and LISGIS) was through face to face meetings, workshops and consultations through emails and phone calls. The main workshops included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> July – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019 – several face to face meetings were held and emails were shared with EPA during the development of PPG workplan and budget</li> <li>12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – PPG inception workshop</li> <li>4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Project Partners strategic alignment workshop</li> <li>5<sup>th</sup> February 2020, a meeting was held to review and refine the project results framework and targets</li> <li>Meeting to review the draft ProDoc</li> </ol>	<p>The various engagements with government were critical in: (a) establishing a coordination mechanism for the numerous government agencies ministries/authorities with a stake in the project; (b) identification of project sites; (c) identifying baseline projects; (d) obtaining co-financing letters from the government agencies; (e) formulation of the project implementation/execution structure; (f) refining of the project results framework; (g) identification of data and information on land use planning; (h) identifying gaps and challenges, and lessons learned in agricultural extension services; and (i) developing a common vision for NW Liberia landscape.</p>
Academia – Forestry Training Institute and University of Liberia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two face to face meetings were held with FTI and UL</li> <li>2. 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – PPG inception workshop</li> <li>3. 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to review and refine the project results framework</li> <li>4. Meeting to review the draft ProDoc</li> </ol>	<p>The academia were engaged so as to elicit information and data on analysis of the complementarities and trade-offs between developmental and environmental objectives, understanding of native species suitable for restoration, and any empirical knowledge of key stakeholders and the factors governing their resource allocation and investment. This information informed the design of the project and has been included in the ProDoc.</p>
Private sector	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – participate in FOLUR Project Partners strategic alignment workshop</li> <li>2. Smallholders and MANO</li> </ol>	<p>The engagements were critical in ensuring that MANO that took over SDPL in Liberia puts in place sustainability commitments in their operations and bringing them up to speed on the common vision for the landscape and what their role in the project will be. Consequently, MANO provided co-financing of US\$ 30 million in the project, baseline information for the project, and co-financing.</p>

Bilateral and multi-lateral agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – PPG inception workshop</li> <li>2. 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – FOLUR Project Partners strategic alignment workshop</li> </ol>	<p>The engagement with various bilateral and multilateral organizations led to the development of a common vision for NW Liberia landscape and establishment of a Land Use Planning Working Group for synergies, collaboration, and sharing of information and lessons learned.</p>
GEF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – meeting with executing agencies, partners and stakeholders in Monrovia, Liberia</li> <li>2. 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – participate in FOLUR Project Partners strategic alignment workshop; and</li> <li>3. 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to assess the impact of Corona Virus on the production of the ProDoc</li> </ol>	<p>Three field supervision missions were conducted by Mohammed Imam Bakarr, the Senior Environmental Specialist where he emphasized and urged the team to ensure the following issues are incorporated in the design of the FOLUR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Private sector involvement. According to GEF, the private sector has been identified as a key actor in agricultural expansion, thus, there is need to ensure that the private sector is involved and engaged throughout the design process of the project. He also informed us that the GEF is in the process of developing a private sector engagement strategy, of which a draft has already been produced. However, off-head he said that GEF definition of private sector includes all the actors involved in income generating activities such as smallholder farmers, cooperatives, companies etc. This has resulted in MANO and small holder palm oil companies providing input into the design of the project. MANO has also provided co-financing of about US\$ 30 million to the project</li> <li>2. Co-financing. He reiterated that the GEF will want to see three different co-financing options (cash, investment mobilized, and in-kind) mobilized for the FOLUR project. This advice resulted in co-finance letters to be sourced from various sources.</li> <li>3. Institutional and execution arrangements. He cautioned us to critically think through how the project will be implemented, and ensure we have broad-based consensus on the project's implementation framework. As a result, the project management structure has various institutions including the government and NGOs involved.</li> <li>4. Active involvement of landscape stakeholders. He encouraged us to have a meeting also at the landscape to ensure that we capture the views, and concerns of the</li> </ol>

		<p>landscape stakeholders including local communities, and county authorities. Several engagements were held at the community whose views were incorporated into project design</p> <p>5. Linkages with other commodity initiatives. Mohammed informed us that on their part (Paul and himself) they are willing to help link FOLUR to other initiatives like World Bank which has received US\$ 32 million from GEF for supporting regional and country initiatives on palm oil. He specifically referred to the African Palm Oil initiative (APOI) that will be one of the beneficiaries of this funding. Further, he stated that we should also include in the ProDoc, how FOLUR is building on the GGP and how some of the products (tools, knowledge management, forums etc.) developed by the GGP project in Liberia and globally will inform the design and later be used in the implementation of the FOLUR project. On this point, he emphasized how NOPPOL for instance will be institutionalized post the GGP project.</p> <p>6. Impact of COVID-19: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team was informed that a three-month to produce the ProDoc was granted.</p>
CI-GEF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 – Discussion on the change of dates for the submission of the full ProDoc from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020</li> <li>27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – Meeting to discuss about how the Covid-9 situation is potentially affecting the GEF projects</li> <li>22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 – Update on the ProDoc development</li> <li>29<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – meeting on CI-GEF policies and procedures</li> <li>5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – FOLUR budget preparation</li> <li>Consultations also took place through several email exchanges between CI-GEF team and CI Liberia</li> </ol>	<p>These engagements resulted in guidance being provided that has been used to inform the design and the production of the ProDoc</p>

NGOs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meetings to develop PPG workplan and budget</li> <li>2. 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – participate in FOLUR Project Partners strategic alignment workshop</li> <li>3. 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – PPG inception workshop</li> <li>4. 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to review and refine the attached results framework for FOLUR.</li> <li>5. 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 – Partners risk assessment</li> <li>6. Meeting to review the draft ProDoc</li> </ol>	<p>The various engagements with NGOs were helpful in: (a) developing synergies with ongoing and planned initiatives and avoid duplication of activities in NW Liberia landscape – these have been included as baseline projects in the ProDoc; (b) identifying strengths and gaps in each of the partners for implementation that resulted in selection of competent organizations to implement on the ground activities once the project is approved; (c) identification of project sites; (d) refining of the project results framework; (e) obtaining co-finance letters; (f) developing a common vision for NW Liberia landscape; and (h) developing of the project implementation/execution arrangements</p>
Media	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – PPG inception workshop</li> <li>2. 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – participate in FOLUR Project Partners strategic alignment workshop</li> </ol>	<p>The media were engaged to create awareness about the project and ensure that information about the project reaches to the various local communities. This resulted in an article on the project being published by FrontPage Africa Newspaper and a talk show hosted by Red Power FM.</p>

## b. Project Disclosure

Disclosing project information is essential for meaningful consultation on project design and for stakeholders to understand the potential opportunities of the project, and the risks and impacts of the project.

Confirm that the following information was shared with stakeholders during the PPG Phase:

Information	When, How and Where this was shared?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The purpose, nature and scale of the project	<p>On September 12, 2019, CI Liberia and EPA held a PPG Phase kick-off workshop for the Food-system, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) impact project held at Corina Hotel in Monrovia, Liberia with the main aim of introducing the FOLUR project to stakeholders and generate ownership, support and buy-in.</p> <p>A PowerPoint presentation on the purpose, nature, scope and scale of the project was made.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The duration of proposed project activities	<p>On September 12, 2019, CI Liberia and EPA held a PPG Phase kick-off workshop for the Food-system, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) impact project held at Corina Hotel in Monrovia, Liberia with the main aim of introducing the FOLUR project to stakeholders and generate ownership, support and buy-in.</p> <p>A PowerPoint presentation on the timeline of the project was made</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information from the environmental and	On September 12, 2019, CI Liberia and EPA held a PPG

<p><b>social safeguard screening process, regarding potential risks and impacts of the project on stakeholders, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Proposals for mitigating risks and impacts</b></li> <li>• <b>Potential risks and impacts that might disproportionately affect vulnerable and disadvantaged groups</b></li> <li>• <b>Description of differentiated measures to be taken to avoid and minimize disproportionate risks and impacts</b></li> </ul>	<p>Phase kick-off workshop for the Food-system, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) impact project held at Corina Hotel in Monrovia, Liberia with the main aim of introducing the FOLUR project to stakeholders and generate ownership, support and buy-in.</p> <p>A PowerPoint presentation on the timeline of the project was made</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>The proposed stakeholder engagement process, highlighting ways in which stakeholders can participate and contribute during project design and/or implementation</b></p>	<p>On September 12, 2019, CI Liberia and EPA held a PPG Phase kick-off workshop for the Food-system, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) impact project held at Corina Hotel in Monrovia, Liberia with the main aim of introducing the FOLUR project to stakeholders and generate ownership, support and buy-in.</p> <p>A PowerPoint presentation on stakeholder engagement process was made</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>The time and venue of proposed public consultation meetings, and the process by which meetings will be notified, summarized and reported</b></p>	<p>Before holding the inception workshop, agenda and invitation letters were sent to stakeholders indicating the purpose, venue, and time of the workshop two weeks prior. During the inception workshop, the stakeholders agreed that for subsequent meetings, the venue and time for the meetings/workshops will be communicated two weeks prior.</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>The process and means by which grievances can be raised and addressed</b></p>	<p>On September 12, 2019, CI Liberia and EPA held a PPG Phase kick-off workshop for the Food-system, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) impact project held at Corina Hotel in Monrovia, Liberia with the main aim of introducing the FOLUR project to stakeholders and generate ownership, support and buy-in.</p> <p>A PowerPoint presentation on the timeline of the grievance redress mechanism for the PPG phase was made.</p>

### c. Reporting of Indicators During PPG

<p><b>Number of stakeholders (and name) and stakeholder groups involved in project design and preparation process</b></p>	<p>47 stakeholders comprising the 9 stakeholder groups were consulted as detailed out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local communities (16)</li> <li>2. Government ministries and authorities including EPA, FDA, MoA, LLA, LISGIS, MME, MoGCSP, NBC, MIA, MFDP, LACRA (11)</li> <li>3. Private Sector – SDPL/MANO, Smallholder palm oil groups e.g. Local Farm Incorporated (LFI), and J-palm (3)</li> <li>4. NGOs including CI, FFI, IDH, SCNL, RSPB, SADS, LCRP, WCF (8)</li> <li>5. GEF and CI-GEF (2)</li> <li>6. Academia including University of Liberia and Forestry Training Institute (2)</li> </ol>
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	7. Bilateral and multi-lateral agencies including UNDP, FAO, USAID, EU (4) 8. Media including Frontpage Africa and Red Power FM 9. CSO – Sustainable Development Initiative (1)	
Number of people who have been involved in the project design and preparation process	Men: 174	352
	Women: 178	
Number of engagements (meetings, workshops, consultations, etc) with stakeholders during PPG phase	12 meetings, two workshops, two surveys, and several consultations undertaken through phone calls and email exchange	

#### **d. Lessons Learned during PPG:**

**What went well and did not go well during the stakeholder engagements? What would you continue to do or do differently during implementation phase to have better stakeholder engagements?**

1. Because this project covers a wider area and has multiple objectives and components, there were many stakeholders involved, who often had divergent and competing interests. So, during the PPG, a lot of time was spent on stakeholder engagement. As a lesson learned, we found out that stakeholder engagement demands a lot of time especially when there are multiple stakeholders involved. For the implementation, adequate time and resources (a full-time position Safeguards and Gender and US\$ 781,683) have been allocated for stakeholder engagement in various forums at global, regional, national and local levels.
2. Engaging stakeholders and partners, and negotiating trade-offs, although time consuming, are key to securing consensus among stakeholders. The project brought together diverse stakeholders to develop a common vision for NW Liberia landscape during the PPG Phase, which became necessary starting point in the design of the project. As a result, a working group on land use planning was established, which will be instrumental in steering the execution of land use planning activities during the implementation phase.
3. Meaningful stakeholder consultation especially with local communities in the landscape was a challenge during the rainy season as the heavy rains rendered most of the roads inaccessible. During implementation, most of the stakeholder engagement activities will be undertaken during the dry season when the communities are easily accessible.

## SECTION V: Stakeholder Engagement for Implementation Phase

Stakeholder Name	Role of stakeholder implementation of the SEP	Method of Engagement	Location and Frequency	Indicators	Resources Required	Budget
<i>Name the key stakeholder and group type to be engaged. Add columns as necessary.</i>		<i>How will you involve and engage this stakeholder? (meeting, consultation, workshop, discussion, etc)</i>  <i>What special measures would be taken to include disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals/groups?</i>	<i>Where and When will you engage with this stakeholder?</i>		<i>What materials (presentations, websites, brochures, surveys, translation) are needed?</i>  <i>What personnel are needed to lead and monitor these engagements?</i>	<i>How much will this engagement cost? Consider resources required, staff, transportation, etc.</i>
Local communities in project sites	Local communities will be useful agents in collection of data vital in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the SEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face-to-face community meetings</li> <li>• One-on-one interviews/meetings</li> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Public meetings</li> <li>• Focus group meetings.</li> <li>• Surveys</li> <li>• Announcements</li> <li>• Information boards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</li> <li>• Throughout land-use planning process and pilot site implementation, in project sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of emails</li> <li>• # of trainings</li> <li>• # of meetings</li> <li>• # of workshops</li> <li>• # of surveys</li> </ul>	Staff time; travel to project sites; meeting venue and catering for community meetings	\$703,854.74

		Participatory appraisal (PRA) of community needs; capacity building and awareness raising; feasibility studies for Conservation Agreements; data collection for research purposes; consultations to attain Free, Prior and Informed Consent; involvement in local land use planning meetings				
National Government Ministries and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share information related to the project and identify opportunities to leverage resources and promote collaboration.</li> <li>Facilitate the stakeholder meeting, prepares for meeting by identifying data sources and preparing an agenda that allows for the sources to be discussed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emails,</li> <li>Face-to-face meetings</li> <li>Workshops</li> <li>Project Management Unit meetings</li> <li>Project Steering Committee meetings</li> <li>Project Inception workshop</li> <li>Training and capacity building events</li> <li>Participation in landscape land-use planning processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PMU meetings will be held monthly in Monrovia.</li> <li>PSC meetings will be held quarterly in Monrovia.</li> <li>Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</li> <li>Consultations, training and capacity building activities will be held throughout the year in Monrovia and in the communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of emails</li> <li># of trainings</li> <li># of PMU meetings</li> <li># of PSC meetings</li> <li># of trainings and/or # of persons trained</li> <li># of inception workshops and/or # of participants in the inception workshop</li> </ul>	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$98,905.68

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serve as advocates at all levels (in Parliament, government, mass media, etc.) for improved project delivery</li> <li>Provide insight into project, lessons learned, and advocate for improved project delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation to propose policies/regulations</li> <li>Share mid-term and final project evaluation</li> <li>Distribution of printed public materials: leaflets, brochures, fact sheets</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of consultative meetings</li> <li># of project progress reports shared</li> </ul>		
Academia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform public using data and information about PMTCT program and about planning process</li> <li>Present relevant data or information produced by the university to stakeholders;</li> <li>advise planning process and conduct any necessary research per</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emails</li> <li>Face-to-face meetings</li> <li>Workshops</li> <li>Project Inception workshop</li> <li>Implementation planning and execution</li> <li>Participation in landscape land-use planning processes</li> <li>Involvement in M&amp;E</li> <li>Share midterm and final project evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</li> <li>Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</li> <li>M&amp;E of field activities will be held quarterly</li> <li>Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the endo of the project respectively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of emails</li> <li># of meetings</li> <li># of workshops and/or # of participants in the workshop</li> <li># of trainings and/or # of persons trained</li> <li># of field monitoring visits and/or # of monitoring reports shared</li> </ul>	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$19,769.52

	request of stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of printed public materials: newsletters/ updates</li> <li>• Blogs</li> <li>• Surveys</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of project progress reports shared</li> </ul>		
NGOs and civil society organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide data and information on project activities</li> <li>• participate in planning process as key service provider</li> <li>• possibly implement project activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails</li> <li>• Face-to-face meetings</li> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Inception workshop</li> <li>• Implementation planning and execution</li> <li>• Participation in landscape land-use planning processes</li> <li>• Involvement in M&amp;E</li> <li>• Share mid-term and final project evaluation</li> <li>• Distribution of printed public materials: newsletters/ updates</li> <li>• Blogs</li> <li>• Surveys</li> <li>• Information boards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</li> <li>• Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</li> <li>• M&amp;E of field activities will be held quarterly</li> <li>• Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of emails</li> <li>• # of meetings</li> <li>• # of workshops and/or # of participants in the workshop</li> <li>• # of trainings and/or # of persons trained</li> <li>• # of field monitoring visits and/or # of monitoring reports shared</li> <li>• # of project progress</li> </ul>	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$37,230.95

				reports shared		
Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide data and information on stakeholder engagement;</li> <li>• Provide any data/information related to project activities</li> <li>• Serve as advocate for the project, and potentially financially supplement stakeholder engagement efforts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails</li> <li>• Face-to-face meetings</li> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Project Inception workshop</li> <li>• Participation in landscape land-use planning processes</li> <li>• Cultivation of market relationships with producers</li> <li>• Share mid-term and final project evaluation</li> <li>• Blogs</li> <li>• Surveys</li> <li>• Print media and radio announcements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</li> <li>• Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</li> <li>• M&amp;E of field activities will be held quarterly</li> <li>• Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</li> <li>• The frequency of participation in land use planning will be throughout the land use planning process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of emails</li> <li>• # of meetings</li> <li>• # of workshops and/or # of participants in the workshop</li> <li>• # of field monitoring visits and/or # of monitoring reports shared</li> <li>• # of partnerships developed</li> <li>• # of trainings and/or # of persons trained</li> <li>• # of project progress reports shared</li> </ul>	Staff time; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$43,615.69
Bilateral/ Multilateral Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observe process (implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails</li> <li>• Face-to-face meetings, workshops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of emails</li> <li>• # of meetings</li> <li>• # of workshops and/or # of</li> </ul>	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue	\$19,769.52

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice on the implementation of stakeholder engagement plan</li> <li>• Share best practices and lessons learned in stakeholder engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Inception workshop</li> <li>• Share midterm and final project evaluation</li> <li>• Coordination meetings</li> <li>• Distribution of printed public materials: newsletters/ updates</li> <li>• Blogs</li> </ul>	<p>and when the situation warrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</li> <li>• Coordination meetings and M&amp;E of field activities will be held quarterly</li> <li>• Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</li> </ul>	<p>participants in the workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of coordination/ field monitoring visits</li> <li>• # of project progress reports shared</li> </ul>	and catering for meetings	
Local Government (County Authorities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the implementation of stakeholder engagement plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails</li> <li>• Face-to-face meetings,</li> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Project Inception workshop</li> <li>• Participation in landscape land-use planning processes</li> <li>• Share midterm and final project evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</li> <li>• Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</li> <li>• M&amp;E of field activities will be held quarterly</li> <li>• Mid-term and final evaluations will be held</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of emails</li> <li>• # of meetings</li> <li>• # of workshops and/or # of participants in the workshop</li> <li>• # of field monitoring visits and/or # of monitoring</li> </ul>	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$20,706.69

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local land use planning activities</li> <li>Distribution of printed public materials: newsletters/ updates</li> <li>Surveys</li> </ul>	<p>half-way of the project and at the endo of the project respectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The frequency of participation in land use planning will be throughout the land use planning process in the landscape</li> </ul>	<p>reports shared</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of project progress reports shared</li> </ul>		
<b>Total</b>						<b>\$943,852.8</b>

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP/INFORMATION FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

Method / Tool	Description and Use	Contents	Dissemination Method	Target Groups
Information repositories accompanied by a feedback mechanism	Placement of Project-related information and printed materials in dedicated/designated locations that also provide visitors and readers with an opportunity to leave their comments in a feedback register.	Various Project-related materials, ESMF documentation, environmental and social action plans.	Deposition of materials in publicly available places (offices of local NGOs, local administrations, community resource centres) for the duration of the project. Audience will also be given free access to a register of comments and suggestions	Directly affected communities in NW Liberia landscape
Dedicated telephone line for the project gender and safeguards officer	Setting up a designated and manned telephone line that can be used by the public to obtain information, make enquiries, or provide feedback on the Project. Initially, telephone numbers of Project's specialised staff can be shared with the public, particularly staff involved in stakeholder engagement, public relations and environmental protection.	Any issues that are of interest or concern to the local communities and other stakeholders.	Telephone numbers for the gender and safeguards officer will be specified on the printed materials distributed to Project stakeholders and will be mentioned during public meetings. The Project gender and safeguards officer will answer and respond to the calls, and to direct callers to specialist experts or to	Local communities within the Project Area of Influence. Any other stakeholders and interested parties.

			offer a call-back if a question requires detailed consideration	
Dedicated ethics (hotline) <a href="https://secure.ethicspoint.com">https://secure.ethicspoint.com</a>	An independent body that can investigate any claim or complaint on project implementation, health and safety, community relations, community updates, employment and procurement, environmental and social aspects	Any issues that are of interest or concern to project stakeholders.	To file a claim with the Director of Compliance (DoC) who is responsible for the CI Accountability and Grievance Mechanism and who can be reached at: Director of Compliance, Conservation International 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500 Arlington, VA 22202, USA.,	All stakeholders
Feedback & Suggestion Box	A suggestion box will be used to encourage residents in the affected communities to leave written feedback and comments about the Project. Contents of the suggestion box will be checked by gender and safeguards officer on a regular basis to ensure timely collection of input and response/action, as necessary	Any questions, queries or concerns, especially for stakeholders that may have a difficulty expressing their views and issues during public meetings.	Appropriate locations for suggestion boxes will be selected in safe public places to make it readily accessible for the community. Information about the availability of the suggestion box will be communicated as part of Project's regular interaction with local stakeholders.	Directly affected households in the Project Area of Influence. Other communities within the Project Area of Influence.
Community resource centres and implementing partners' field offices	Project's designated venue for depositing Project-related information that also offers open hours to the community and other members of the public, with Project staff available to respond to queries or provide clarifications.	Project-related materials. Any issues that are of interest or concern to the local communities and other stakeholders.	Information about community resource centres or implementing partners' field offices with open hours for the public, together with contact details, will be provided on the Project's printed materials distributed to stakeholders, as well as during public meetings and household visits.	Directly affected communities in the Project Area of Influence and any other stakeholders and interested parties

Stakeholder Name	Method of Engagement	Location and Frequency	Resources Required	Budget
<b>Name the key stakeholder and group type to be engaged. Add columns as necessary.</b>	<b>How will you involve and engage this stakeholder? (meeting, consultation, workshop, discussion, etc)</b>  <b>What special measures would be taken to include disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals/groups?</b>	<b>Where and When will you engage with this stakeholder?</b>	<b>What materials (presentations, websites, brochures, surveys, translation) are needed? What personnel are needed to lead and monitor these engagements?</b>	<b>How much will this engagement cost? Consider resources required, staff, transportation, etc.</b>
Local communities in project sites	Through face-to-face community meetings, individual interviews and workshops  Participatory appraisal (PRA) of community needs; capacity building and awareness raising; feasibility studies for Conservation Agreements; data collection for research purposes; consultations to attain Free, Prior and Informed Consent; involvement in local land use planning meetings	Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants  Throughout land-use planning process and pilot site implementation, in project sites	Staff time; travel to project sites; meeting venue and catering for community meetings	\$703,854.74
National Government Ministries and Agencies	Emails, face-to-face meetings, workshops  Project Management Unit meetings  Project Steering Committee meetings	PMU meetings will be held monthly in Monrovia.  PSC meetings will be held quarterly in Monrovia. Project  Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$98,905.68

	<p>Project Inception workshop</p> <p>Training and capacity building events</p> <p>Participation in landscape land-use planning processes</p> <p>Consultation to propose policies/regulations</p> <p>Share midterm and final project evaluation</p>	<p>Consultations, training and capacity building activities will be held throughout the year in Monrovia and in the communities</p>		
Academia	<p>Emails, face-to-face meetings, workshops</p> <p>Project Inception workshop</p> <p>Implementation planning and execution</p> <p>Participation in landscape land-use planning processes</p> <p>Involvement in M&amp;E</p> <p>Share midterm and final project evaluation</p>	<p>Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</p> <p>Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</p> <p>M&amp;E of field activities will be held quarterly</p> <p>Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</p>	<p>Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings</p>	\$19,769.52
NGOs and civil society organizations	<p>Emails, face-to-face meetings, workshops</p> <p>Project Inception workshop</p>	<p>Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</p> <p>Project inception workshop</p>	<p>Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings</p>	\$37,230.95

	<p>Implementation planning and execution</p> <p>Participation in landscape land-use planning processes</p> <p>Involvement in M&amp;E</p> <p>Share midterm and final project evaluation</p>	<p>will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</p> <p>M&amp;E of field activities will be held quarterly</p> <p>Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</p>		
Private Sector	<p>Emails, face-to-face meetings, workshops</p> <p>Project Inception workshop</p> <p>Participation in landscape land-use planning processes</p> <p>Cultivation of market relationships with producers</p> <p>Share midterm and final project evaluation</p>	<p>Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</p> <p>Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</p> <p>M&amp;E of field activities will be held quarterly</p> <p>Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</p> <p>The frequency of participation in land use planning will be throughout the land use planning process</p>	Staff time; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$43,615.69
Bilateral/ Multilateral Entities	<p>Emails, face-to-face meetings, workshops</p> <p>Project Inception workshop</p> <p>Share midterm and final project evaluation</p>	<p>Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</p> <p>Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</p>	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$19,769.52

	Coordination meetings	Coordination meetings and M&E of field activities will be held quarterly  Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the endo of the project respectively		
Local Government	Emails, face-to-face meetings, workshops  Project Inception workshop  Participation in landscape land-use planning processes  Share midterm and final project evaluation  Local land use planning activities	Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants  Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation  M&E of field activities will be held quarterly  Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the endo of the project respectively  The frequency of participation in land use planning will be throughout the land use planning process in the landscape	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$20,706.69
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$943,852.8</b>

## SECTION VI: Monitoring and Reporting

The project will report on a quarterly basis (using the CI-GEF Quarterly Reporting template), progress made towards the implementation of the SEP.

On an annual basis and using the CI-GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR) template, the following CI-GEF's minimum indicators are to be reported. The project can include other appropriate stakeholder engagement indicators in addition to the CI-GEF's indicators.

Indicator	Baseline	Target		
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
4. Number of people (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (Target	174	178	51418	50,059

based on desktop study of estimated populations in beneficiary communities/sites)				
5. Number of stakeholder groups (government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples, and others) that have been involved in the project implementation phase	9	9 (local communities, government, NGOs, CSO, academia, private sector, NGOs, media, and bilateral/multi-lateral organizations)		
6. Number of engagements (meetings, workshops, consultations, etc.) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase	16 (12 consultative meetings, two workshops, two surveys)	179 meetings and workshops		

<b>Person responsible for implementing and monitoring the SEP:</b>	Gender and Safeguards Officer (TBH)
<b>How/Where will the approved SEP be disclosed<sup>11</sup>:</b>	The approved Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be disclosed during the project inception workshop with the stakeholders, and will also be printed and posted on notice boards in all community centers
<b>When will the approved SEP be disclosed:</b>	The approved stakeholder engagement plan will be disclosed during the project inception workshop that will be held during the first quarter of implementation.

<sup>11</sup> Approved Safeguard plans are to be disclosed to stakeholders in a manner and form that they will understand and that is culturally appropriate. This may require translation of the document.

## APPENDIX X: CI-GEF GENDER MAINSTREAMING PLAN (GMP)

The Gender Mainstreaming Plan identifies and describes any gender differences, gender differentiated impacts and risks, and opportunities to address gender gaps and promote the empowerment of men and women. It is a requirement of the CI-GEF Agency and adheres to the GEF's 2018 Policy on Gender Equality. For more information on the CI-GEF Gender Policy, please see the CI-GEF's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). A guideline on how to develop the GMP can be found in Appendix VIII of the ESMF.

### SECTION I: Project Information

<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>	Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains		
<b>GEF PROJECT ID:</b>		<b>PROJECT DURATION:</b>	<u>60</u> months
<b>EXECUTING AGENCY:</b>	EPA		
<b>EXECUTING PARTNER</b>	CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL LIBERIA		
<b>PROJECT START DATE:</b>	mm/yyyy	<b>PROJECT END DATE:</b>	mm/yyyy
<b>GMP PREPARED BY:</b>	George Ilebo		
<b>DATE OF (RE)SUBMISSION TO CI-GEF:</b>			
<b>GMP APPROVED BY:</b>	<i>(To be completed by CI-GEF)</i>		
<b>DATE OF CI-GEF APPROVAL:</b>	<i>(To be completed by CI-GEF)</i>		
<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE GMP:</b>	Safeguards and Gender Officer (TBH) and Project Manager (TBD)		
<b>HOW/WHERE WILL THE APPROVED GMP BE DISCLOSED<sup>12</sup>:</b>	The approved GMP will be disclosed to stakeholders during the inception workshop. Further, the approved GMP will be shared by email with all stakeholders as well as printed and posted on notice boards in all community resource centers. Furthermore, stakeholders will be made aware of existence of GMP through publicity actions such as project brochures, emails, website publications and through verbal interactions during project deliberations, stakeholder meetings and workshops.		
<b>WHEN WILL THE APPROVED GMP BE DISCLOSED:</b>	The approved GMP will be disclosed to stakeholders during the inception workshop that will be held during the first quarter of project implementation		

<b>GENDER TAGS (please check the appropriate boxes):</b>		<b>JUSTIFICATION FOR SELECTING TAG</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gender Mainstreaming:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beneficiaries	The project seeks to benefit 50,000 (25,500 men and 24,500 women)

<sup>12</sup> Approved Safeguard plans are to be disclosed to stakeholders in a manner and form that they will understand and that is culturally appropriate. This may require translation of the document.

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Women groups	The project seeks to organize women producers into associations/cooperatives
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex-disaggregated indicators	Sex disaggregated data will be collected throughout project implementation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender-sensitive indicators	Gender-sensitive indicators have been mainstreamed into the project results-framework
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gender results areas:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access and control over natural resources	The project seeks to improve the access and control of natural resources by women from currently 17% to at least 40% (see Section II below for measurement/baseline)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation and leadership	The project seeks to ensure that at least 30% of the leadership positions in the landscape governance structure will be held by women (up from about 10% norm in the landscape). Also, at least 49% of women will participate in all project activities, in line with but exceeding the National Gender Policy of Liberia which seeks at least 30% women participating and holding leadership positions
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to benefits and services	The project seeks to increase women's access to benefits and services from currently 37% to at least 49%.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity development	The project will assess the different training needs of men and women and then conduct several capacity building initiatives tailored to those needs. In all the capacity building initiatives, at least 49% will be women in line with the National Gender Policy of Liberia which requires at least 30% women participation.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness raising	Gender-sensitive communications and use of translator, holding separate meetings for men and women and using local dialect in awareness raising will be done throughout the project
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge generation	A gender-sensitive results-framework and Monitoring and Evaluation system has been developed for the project to generate success stories and lessons learned and track the impact of gender mainstreaming on the achievement of project objective

## SECTION II: Introduction

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NW Liberia Landscape is well endowed with natural resources such as water, minerals, forests etc., and all the 176,669 households with a total population of 753,962 (382,623 female and 371,339 male) community members derive their livelihoods primarily based on the use of these natural resources. Over 90% of the population of NW Liberia landscape depend on the forests for food, income, bush meat, and medicine; and over 75% depend on subsistence agriculture to meet their economic needs.

Socially, the people in NW Liberia landscape belong to secret societies such as the ‘Poro’ and ‘Sande’. Poro is an all-male institution that imparts knowledge about the culture, traditions, and customs of the society. The Poro is both a political and religious organization as well as a no-appeal court system for the tribe. While, the Sande is an all-female, institution giving instruction to young women in the customs and traditions of the community, the role of women in society and their rights, duties, and responsibilities.

Culturally, Local institutions in NW Liberia landscape are ruled by clan chiefs, paramount chiefs, and district commissioners. Each village belongs to a Chiefdom and to a District and has a Paramount Chief and a Commissioner appointed by the President. The Clan Chief is selected by Paramount Chief, while the General Town Chief is selected either by the Commissioner or the Paramount Chief. Town Chiefs are selected (or elected) by the community. In NW Liberia landscape, there are a total of 79 clans and 23 districts

In Liberia, gender inequalities are widespread, based on patriarchal values and manifested in cultural practices. Women and girls are in a disadvantaged position in practically all spheres of society, whether it is about economic power, political voice, intra-household decision making power or role in the hierarchy of violence. Also, Liberia has a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.651, ranking it 155 out of 162 countries in the 2018 index, with low performance on women’s political participation, high maternal mortality rates and low levels of education for girls as only one in three Liberian women are literate (UNDP 2019). Gender-based violence (GBV), especially that perpetrated by men and boys against women and girls, is at elevated levels in Liberia. GBV cases are heavily underreported due to social and structural factors, including but not limited to unequal power relations, deeply rooted gender norms, poor legislation, and a weak justice system.

According to the 2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey conducted by Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), the poverty levels in NW Liberia landscape is as follows:

- d) Average absolute poverty is 61.8%.
- e) Average food poverty is 44.6%; and
- f) Extreme poverty is 22.1%

There are no significant differences in poverty between males and females. The landscape is also characterized by low literacy rate of 48.9%. However, the gap between men and women is even larger as 80.4% of males are literate, as compared to only 54.8% for females (HIES 2016).

The main economic activity in NW Liberia landscape include farming of cash and food crops like cassava, potatoes, rice, plantain, cocoa, oil palm and vegetables. Another source of income in landscape is charcoal production, and petty trade. In NW Liberia Landscape, men and women have clearly distinct gender roles with respect to natural resource use at the household and community levels based on traditional, customary, and religious practices that promote gender inequality in form of denying women to inherit land, restricting women participation in decision making and limiting women to hold leadership positions.

Average unemployment in the landscape is low (1.4%), however, 94.4% of the Landscape’s workforce is considered ‘working poor’ as they live on less than US\$ 2.00 a day. Also, 84.4% of the average labour force is in the formal sector; and 85.25% on average are in vulnerable employment. Women constitute 80% of the agricultural labor force and contribute 93% of food crop production and 76% of labor for cash crop production.

As a result, in NW Liberia landscape, the females spend more time in performing household chores than the males throughout the year. Daily, the females spend 11 hours as compared to 2.5 hours by males in performing household chores, implying that the female spend 8.5 more hours than men performing household chores. Also, the females spend 62% of their time as compared to 38% for males in performing both household and productive activities. In terms of productive roles, the men and women have defined roles although some of those roles intersect. Traditionally, gender roles are assigned to men and women according to the physical strength that is required to carry out the task and the tools to be used to complete the task well. There are activities that are done by all household members regardless of sex and age, yet other activities are specific to men, women and/or children. In households where there are no males, females perform some male roles, yet for others, they rely on hired labor, which is difficult to come by easily. Household roles such as child care, cooking, washing, sweeping, fetching water and firewood are regarded as females' roles, with some help from the children (both male and female), while clearing land for cultivation (locally known as brushing) is predominantly the role for men.

Across all the four counties visited, men generally agreed that since they are the heads of households, they should have a final say on major decisions that affect the household. Power dynamics within households also vary with age. Women tend to have increased influence on decision making as they grow older. Younger women on the other hand reported that their husbands consult them on most decisions as there is an increasing awareness among the younger generation that it is important to do joint decision making within the household. However, in cases where there is differing opinion between the husband and wife, the husband's decision takes precedence over that of the wife.

On productive decisions, both men and women across the counties concurred that decisions about agricultural production are usually arrived at through a consultative process. Women have more leeway in making decisions regarding what are perceived to be "women crops" such as groundnuts, cassava, and vegetables. Income realized through the sale of women's crops is usually used to buy kitchen utensils such as pots, plates and their essentials including clothing. Crops such as rice, cocoa, rubber, coffee, and oil palm are considered men's crops and decisions regarding these crops are usually arrived at through consultations between the husband and wife. Men are generally in charge of marketing the men's crops no matter how much time the woman contributes to the farming process. In terms of livestock, women own small livestock such as chickens and in some cases goats. Women can make decisions regarding small livestock without necessarily seeking permission first from the husband. They inform the husband if they want to sell or buy small livestock.

To participate in development programs and or activities, the woman would have to seek permission from her husband. The woman will also have to consult with the husband before accepting to participate in development committees and other social clubs or associations. In female-only households, the household heads can quickly decide on participating in committees or projects without seeking the consent of anyone. Decisions on household income use are in rare cases jointly made between the wife and the husband. Women are usually given leeway to make income use decisions when the income source is from "women's projects" or is very small. Whereas decisions on relatively large incomes realized from the sale of livestock or crops such as oil palm, cocoa, rice or other productive assets are usually arrived at through a consultative process, but men have the overall say on how the income will be used. In cases where there are disagreements on how to use the income, the man in the household has the final say.

In NW Liberia landscape, access to and control over assets and natural resources is dominated by the male authorities within the communities as 63% of males and 37% of females had access to assets and resources, while 83% of males and 17% females had control over assets and resources. Traditional and religious practices limit female ownership and access to resources subsequent of patriarchal norms and beliefs that the female is an inferior being. For the inheritance of family properties, the male child is given preference. Thus, women's access to land, (one of the most important productive assets for women considering that an estimated 65% of women derive their livelihood from agriculture), is limited. Although the majority of laborers in the agricultural sector are women, only 20% are practicing farming as land-owners and administrators of land are mostly men that are governed by negative traditional and religious norms relegating women to being mere caretakers and

home-keepers (domestic servants). Other constraints faced by women in this sector include limited access to credit due to the lack of collateral security, lack of sustainable markets and limited security of tenure resulting from discriminatory customary laws.

Thus, the domination of control of high value productive assets such as land, natural resources, agricultural tools and equipment, by men implies that women are left vulnerable. Without adequate control and access to high value assets, the capacity of women to respond and cope is very limited. Access to loans from financial institutions that require collateral security will also become difficult for women when they do not have high value assets to offer as security. Women also realize less income compared to men because they market low value crops and have limited access to high value markets because of the distances involved and the cost of accessing the markets.

In NW Liberia landscape, although some progress has been made in incorporating women in community-based decision-making structures, more than 90% of key decision-making positions are dominated by men. These positions included heads of local government in the locality and community leaderships including the Elder Councils. Traditional chieftainship and village headship positions in the four counties are occupied by men. The implications of male dominated leadership on development outcomes are dire for women in the sense that the women's voices and aspirations are drowned. For instance, in communities and townships with strong traditional practices and beliefs such as Tienne, Sinje, Suehn Mecca, Gbarma, Weasua, ZorZor, Salayea, etc., women complained during that although they have been incorporated into decision-making structures, in most instances, it has been cosmetic as it is difficult to influence decisions during meetings. This was particularly the case with structures that were chaired by traditional leaders such as village heads and chiefs. Barriers to women's meaningful participation in public decision making include lack of confidence to assert themselves in the public owing to cultural and religious practices and beliefs which limit public space for women, low educational levels and difficulties in balancing the demands of public office with their multiple gender roles

This project seeks to address the need for integrated landscape management in Liberia, with a focus on the Northwest Liberia Landscape. The project will combine research, policy recommendations, technical support and practical tools working with communities to develop and demonstrate a participatory, multi-stakeholder approach to landscape-level land-use planning and integrated management. Work with local communities and other stakeholders will include training and awareness- and capacity-building with respect to sustainable agriculture and agroforestry and with restoration of degraded lands; negotiated Conservation Agreements with communities will be used to empower them to improve sustainable land and resource management in return for concrete incentives. The project is expected to directly benefit 50,000 people (20,000 female and 30,000 male)

However, the societal and economic benefits of this project have the potential to reinforce and exacerbate gender inequality in the landscape. For instance, improved household incomes from palm oil and cocoa value chains may lead to gender-based violence and entrench further male domination of productive assets and control of resources. Also, the project may increase women's workloads due to loss or restricted access to natural resources as a result of the establishment of protected areas in the landscape. Further, the project will establish community management structures and conduct various capacity building activities which may reinforce male domination in decision making and limit women's participation and leadership.

To this end, the project proposes to use a gender-sensitive lens to design and implement the proposed activities, ensuring that the partners and staff understand the context in which the communities operate; understand the interaction between project interventions and the context; and act accordingly, to avoid negative impacts and maximize positive impacts. Because of structural discrimination and barriers related to resource rights and access that limit women's economic productivity as well as limit their ability to inherit, own and contest land rights, the project in its efforts to advance gender equality, will engage men and women in participatory change dialogues and activities. While many of the outcome and outputs included in this gender mainstreaming plan are shaped in terms of empowerment of women and girls, CI and partners will engage men and boys in planned activities.

### Lessons learned during the development of gender mainstreaming plan

- Conducting a gender analysis is crucial in ensuring that priority setting, project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and budgets address gender inequalities that are particular to each context. This is because a gender analysis identifies the different roles of men and women (gendered division of labour), access to and control over material and non-material resources by men and women, what the needs and priorities of men and women are, legal basis for gender equality political commitments with respect to gender equality; and the culture, attitudes and stereotypes which affect all preceding issues.
- Holding separate meetings and focus groups for men and women (with same sex facilitators) in male dominated areas is crucial for both men's and women's participation and ensure that they feel comfortable.
- Holding meetings at the community centers in the afternoons during the dry season at community centers using local languages (through translation) helped to improve women's participation in the meetings since the meeting was conducted in the local dialect and at a time (afternoon) when they had some free time ( most household chores are done in the morning).

### SECTION III: Gender Analysis

Description of resource users/group (group can be formal or informal)	Roles, Capacities, Knowledge and Expertise, Rights of Access and Control, and Responsibilities	Project impact on the users/group	Influence of users/group on the project
Local communities including forest fringe communities in NW Liberia landscape	<p>Local communities in NW Liberia landscape depend on the forests for their livelihoods. The common uses of forest land and forest resources in the area include farming, hunting, logging, mining, gathering medicinal plants, firewood, growing vegetables, and gathering materials for building houses.</p> <p>The communities own the land under the 2019 Land Rights Act which recognized customary land tenure. Customary Land means land owned by a Community and used or managed according to the customs and tradition. Customary Land includes, but is not limited to residential land, farmland, communal forestlands, and fallow lands.</p>	<p>The project has several activities aimed at improving food and income security, and community governance and management of forest resources</p> <p>Also, conflict may arise due to contested boundaries by communities during the development of a gazettelement package</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local communities may oppose the project due to establishment of a protected area which will restrict their access to the forest</li> <li>If there are no strong economic benefits from the project, forest fringe communities will uphold existing norms and practices such as bushmeat hunting and negative farming activities that result in biodiversity loss and deforestation due to increasing demand by forest fringe communities for arable land/settlements</li> <li>Because both women and men in forest fringe communities use forest resources differently,</li> </ul>

	<p>Local communities have very good local knowledge of the area</p> <p>Local communities in NW Liberia landscape use the forest land for rice farming, mixed with variety of food crops such as tubers (especially cassava) mostly concentrated on fallowed land or previously farmed areas, and occasionally in forested areas. Also, vegetables such as eggplant, bitter ball, pepper, okra, and beans and corn.</p> <p>Local communities also do hunt in the forest because for many of them bush meat is their main source of protein and to them <i>'bush meat also tastes good'</i></p> <p>Bush meat hunting is predominantly for subsistence and occasionally sold if there is surplus or in the event of a major kill.</p> <p>The local communities also reported that they gather firewood for domestic use, medicinal plants and herbs for both household use and treating neighbors</p>		<p>training and information should be provided to both women and men, lest conservation issues won't be fully understood by all forest users, which may have a detrimental impact on both the project and the forests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another risk is that during the rainy seasons, heavy rains make many roads in forest fringe communities inaccessible, thus, preventing forest fringe communities to attend and participate in certain project activities</li> </ul>
<p>Cultural groups including secret societies in NW Liberia landscape</p>	<p>In NW Liberia landscape, there are community shrines, sacred groves and trees that are used for cultural purposes because of their association with ancestral spirits. The cultural leaders/institutions have rights and ownership of these sacred groves that are passed on from generation to generation.</p>	<p>The project will support the preservation of local cultural identity and heritage, thus increasing community pride and protection of rights to use of sacred sites</p> <p>The cultural groups are also likely to benefit from eco-tourism activities</p>	<p>In NW Liberia landscape, there are secret societies for women (<i>'Sande'</i>) and for men (<i>'Poro'</i>). These societies are powerful and influential; thus, they can either they contribute to the success or hinder the project.</p> <p>The Sande and Poro</p>

	<p>Access and use controls applied to sacred trees and woodland areas are very strict. Only spirit mediums can enter or closely approach the most sacred sites. In others, ordinary people can enter the forests, but there is a strict code of behavior covering not only what can be done but also what can be said and worn.</p>	<p>proposed by the project. However, conflicts may arise if the necessary cultural rites agreed with community are not performed prior to access to sacred groves and shrines in community areas</p>	<p>societies play important roles in the transition from childhood to adulthood. Girls are taught how to take care of their husbands, conduct housework, motherhood, local medicine, and social etiquette, whereas boys learn how to be “real men”, breadwinners and be supportive. This is done through rituals and ceremonies.</p> <p>However, some rituals practiced by these secret societies such as female genital mutilation (FGM) are forbidden by law. Also, secret societies may reinforce negative forms of masculinities and hinder progressive attempts to challenge these norms. e.g. secret societies could have negative impact by cementing traditional gender roles that normalize SGBV and exclude women from e.g. participating in decision-making and owning land.</p>
Traditional healers/ Herbalists who are predominantly men.	<p>Herbalists in NW Liberia landscape collect herbs from the forest to treat various ailments. These herbalists are predominantly men who treat serious ailments in the area, and for these serious ailments the herbs were usually kept secret from other members of the community, while anybody could gather herbs used to treat common ailments. Some women gather herbs, but it is uncommon.</p>	<p>The project has several livelihood activities aimed at diversifying and improving food and income security.</p> <p>However, the establishment of a gazettement package for Wologizi Proposed Protected Area if it leads to its declaration as a protected area may cause restricted access to some herbs in specific areas leading to loss of livelihoods and make</p>	<p>The herbalists may oppose the project due to establishment of a protected area that is likely to restrict access to herbs in specific areas.</p>

		them lose power and undermine their status	
Females (women) in NW Liberia landscape	<p>Women in NW Liberia landscape depend on the forest for their livelihoods. They collect forest products such as fuel wood, craft materials, fruits and wild foods, fodder for livestock, and occasionally herbs and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and raw materials to meet mostly subsistence requirements and occasionally for sale to increase family income. They spend a considerable amount of time carrying out these tasks.</p> <p>Also, women use forest lands to grow crops (food and cash crops) such as rice, cassava and vegetables, cocoa, and palm oil. Food crops are mainly for the women while cash crops are for the men. Although men play a leading role in cash crop farming, women were often the ones that insisted on it because <i>'it is good to plant for your children' or property that you can leave with your children'</i> suggesting that it is a form of wealth that could be passed on to their children.</p> <p>Women preferred growing vegetables (egg plants, greens, cucumbers, bitter ball, pepper, okra, etc.) to cash crops (cocoa and palm oil) because they earn <i>'their own money'</i> and <i>'if you make a large enough garden, you don't have to depend on men for the things you need'</i>.</p> <p>Women have a high level of knowledge for the use of trees in the home situation than men.</p>	<p>The females will benefit from various livelihood and women empowerment activities proposed by the project.</p> <p>However, the main concern the women have on the project is restricted access to forest resources which may arise if Wologizi is declared a protected area after the development of a gazette package. This is likely to lead to loss of income, property, or wealth, that will hinder their ability to pay for children's education, and to cater for the general welfare of the family.</p> <p>Concerns about independence ranked higher than all other concerns about the potential effects of restrictions on the activities that were identified as being common among women. This concern was particularly associated with gardening, which participants said they relied on heavily to get <i>'their own money'</i>.</p> <p>Another concern is the loss of income that is accrued from some of the activities that are common among women. For example, concerns about restrictions on farming cash crops were more about loss of</p>	<p>Women are crucial in the success of the project. However, social, and cultural barriers, logistical barriers relating to the timings and length of meetings, and male bias in attitudes, may exclude women from participating in decision-making and in project activities.</p>

		<p>property or wealth, and inability to pay for children's education and general welfare of the family than it was about interests specific to women.</p> <p>Responding to the question about how restrictions on cash crop farming in their area would affect them, the women responded, <i>'how will we send our children to school?'</i></p> <p>The last concern is on survival. The women noted that there would be food insecurity or <i>'hunger'</i> because <i>'there would be no food'</i>.</p>	
Males (men) in NW Liberia landscape	<p>In NW Liberia landscape, men use the forest resources for mainly commercial purposes. Men play a greater role than women in extracting timber and NTFPs for commercial purposes such as control of disposal of trees and medicine, sale of domestic fruits, poles and timber for construction and farm implements.</p> <p>Men also use forest lands and resources for hunting, logging and mining which are referred to as <i>'men work.'</i></p> <p>The men have more knowledge of trees used to feed or browse by livestock</p>	<p>The males will benefit from various livelihood activities proposed by the project.</p> <p>However, the men were concerned about the restricted access to forest resources resources which may arise if Wologizi is declared a protected area after the development of a gazettelement package. This potentially could lead to loss of food and income, and hinder their ability to pay for children's education, and to cater for the general welfare of the family.</p> <p>The major concern men have is the implementation of project activities especially those geared towards</p>	<p>Men are crucial in the success of the project.</p> <p>However, this being a male-dominated society may hinder the success of the project because the men may exclude women from participating in making decisions, and holding leadership positions as well as entrench gender norms that are detrimental to female</p>

		empowering women may make them lose their power and their status to be directly undermined	
Private sector within and outside NW Liberia landscape e.g. timber, mining, and agricultural concessionaires; small holder farmers, and charcoal burners etc.	The private sector uses the forests to get revenue/income through timber extraction/logging, mining, burning charcoal, and for plantation and smallholder agriculture	<p>The private sector will benefit from ecotourism, land use plans and policies on sustainable production of cocoa and palm oil value chains; governance mechanisms, etc. that will be developed by the project.</p> <p>The major concern by the concessionaires is that the concessions especially of mining, and palm oil do overlap with forests.</p> <p>The logging companies are concerned that the establishment of protected area will restrict access to the forest, which will affect their revenue and operations.</p>	<p>The private sector is key in promoting sustainability and ensuring responsible sourcing of commodities – cocoa and palm oil.</p> <p>However, the private sector players without sustainability commitments in their operations may uphold sourcing of commodities even from non-deforestation free supply chains for their strong economic interests.</p>
Government	<p>The Government generates revenue from forest resources through allocation of logging concessions to the private sector. In addition, the government through the EPA and FDA ensure sound management and use of forest resources for sustainable development.</p> <p>The government has ownership and control of, and manages all protected and proposed protected areas in NW Liberia Landscape</p>	<p>The government will benefit from the land use plans, sustainable agricultural production policies, eco-tourism, and livelihood activities aimed at improving food and income security of the local communities, and increase in the number of forest areas under protection</p> <p>The main concern of the government is around the potential conflicts in the community due to contested boundaries in establishment of protected areas and the overlapping mining and agricultural concessions</p>	<p>The government is very crucial in providing security, policy guidance, coordination, and oversight of project activities</p> <p>Heavy rains that make many roads inaccessible or impassable during the rainy season may hinder government's ability to adequately monitor the implementation of project activities</p>

		with forests.	
NGOs and CSOs within and outside NW Liberia landscape	NGOs and CSOs support the government in promoting forest management, biodiversity conservation, climate regulation, and community livelihoods projects	<p>The NGOs will benefit from the land use plan that will go a long way in promoting biodiversity conservation. In addition, the project will support responsible and sustainable production of cocoa and palm oil commodities for improved food and income security crucial for improving community livelihoods. The project will also develop a landscape governance body which will help in coordination and management of landscape level activities.</p> <p>The NGOs/CSOs were concerned with equitable and fair benefit sharing mechanism (community capacity to manage benefits, administrative and management framework for direct benefits to communities)</p>	<p>The NGOs/CSOs are crucial in implementing and monitoring various project activities in the landscape.</p> <p>Heavy rains that make many roads inaccessible or impassable during the rainy season may hinder the ability of NGOs/CSOs to adequately implement and monitor the project activities.</p>

#### SECTION IV: Gender Mainstreaming

Using the Results Framework (RF) approved in the Project Identification Form (PIF), identify those components, outcomes and outputs where there can be gender implications (potential to impact or affect men and women) and revise those statements so that they are gender-sensitive. For example, the Output in the RF might be “*Persons* trained in natural resource management”; this can be revised to “*Men and women* trained in natural resource management. Please highlight the changes you make.

RF (PIF)			Revised RF (gender-sensitive) <sup>13</sup>		
<b>Component 1:</b> Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans	<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use	<b>Output 1.1.1:</b> Desktop research conducted to generate information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan from secondary/desktop research  <b>Output 1.1.2:</b> Biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping conducted in NW Liberia Landscape to inform land-use planning for food-security and for sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa.	<b>Component 1:</b> Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans	<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use by men and women	<b>Output 1.1.1:</b> Information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan generated from secondary/desktop research  <b>Output 1.1.2:</b> Biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape conducted to inform land-use planning for food-security and for sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa by men and women
	<b>Outcome 1.2:</b> Improved land allocation by Communities (male and female), government, private sector and civil society in NW Liberia landscape	<b>Output 1.2.1:</b> Coarse National and comprehensive NW Liberia land-use plans/maps, identifying target areas for production, protection and restoration developed in a participatory and inclusive manner  <b>Output 1.2.2:</b> NW Liberia landscape land-use plans adopted and jointly implemented by communities, government, the private sector, and civil society		<b>Outcome 1.2:</b> Improved land allocation by communities (male and female), government, private sector and civil society in NW Liberia landscape	<b>Output 1.2.1:</b> Coarse National and comprehensive NW Liberia land-use plans/maps, identifying target areas for production, protection and restoration developed in a participatory and inclusive manner  <b>Output 1.2.2:</b> NW Liberia landscape land-use plans adopted and jointly implemented by communities (men and women), government, the

<sup>13</sup> The revised (gender-sensitive) RF must be used to develop and write the Project Document (ProDoc). Also include the revised RF as Appendix I to this GMP.

					private sector and civil society  <b>Output 1.2.3:</b> <i>Land-Use Planning results inform the development of a gazettement package for Wologizi Proposed Protected Area Area</i>
	<b>Outcome 1.3:</b> Governance of NW Liberia Landscape strengthened	<b>Output 1.3.1:</b> Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Governance Structure for NW Liberia Landscape established and empowered  <b>Output 1.3.2:</b> Platform for inter-agency coordination developed and employed.		<b>Outcome 1.3:</b> Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by women and men strengthened	<b>Output 1.3.1:</b> Multi-Stakeholder and inclusive NW Liberia Landscape Governance Structure composed of men and women established and strengthened  <b>Output 1.3.2:</b> A gender sensitive system for management, monitoring and evaluation developed to ensure compliance with NW Liberia Landscape land-use plan
<b>Component 2:</b> Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains	<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Increased resilience of NW Liberia Landscape	<b>Output 2.1.1:</b> Capacity of farmers, small-medium enterprise service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff built on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices  <b>Output 2.1.2:</b> Climate-smart agricultural	<b>Component 2:</b> Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains	Outcome 2.1: Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape	<b>Output 2.1.1:</b> Capacity of male and female farmers, small-medium enterprise service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff (male and female) built on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices with a focus on palm oil and cocoa value chains

		practices implemented			<b>Output 2.1.2:</b> Climate-smart agricultural practices implemented by men and women
	<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops in NW Liberia landscape	<b>Output 2.2.1:</b> Incentives for males and females for responsible palm oil and cocoa, and food crops  <b>Output 2.2.2:</b> Community producers (male and female) of key commodities empowered and organized in a locally appropriate manner (cooperatives and other associations)		<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops by women and men in NW Liberia landscape	<b>Output 2.2.1:</b> Incentives for responsible palm oil and cocoa, and food crops provided to males and females  <b>Output 2.2.2:</b> Community producers (male and female) of key commodities empowered and organized in a locally appropriate manner (cooperatives and other associations)
	<b>Outcome 2.3:</b> Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production	<b>Output 2.3.1:</b> Policy recommendations to support sustainable agriculture developed and provided to government		<b>Outcome 2.3:</b> Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production by women and men	<b>Output 2.3.1:</b> Policy recommendations to support sustainable agriculture by women and men developed and provided to government
	<b>Outcome 2.4:</b> Long-term gender sensitive financial planning secures sufficient resources for sustainable production	<b>Output 2.4.1:</b> Gender sensitive NW Liberia Landscape Business and Investment Plans/ Prospectus developed  <b>Output 2.4.2:</b> Innovative and blended financing for sustainable production leveraged including supply chain systems, Liberia		<b>Outcome 2.4:</b> Resources for sustainable production by women and men secured	<b>Output 2.4.1:</b> Long-term gender sensitive financial plan developed  <b>Output 2.4.2:</b> Innovative and blended financing for sustainable production by men and women leveraged including supply chain systems, Liberia

		Conservation Fund, and REDD+			Conservation Fund, and REDD+
<b>Component 3:</b> Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats	<b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Information base available for restoration activities in NW Liberia Landscape	<b>Output 3.1.1:</b> An assessment of the extent of degradation and cost of restoration, including habitat and HCVF priorities conducted in NW Liberia landscape  <b>Output 3.1.2:</b> Degraded areas for restoration pilots identified	<b>Component 3:</b> Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats	<b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Degraded areas in NW Liberia landscape restored by men and women	<b>Output 3.1.1:</b> NW Liberia Landscape restoration plan developed by men and women  <b>Output 3.1.2:</b> The capacity of male and female community land-users and local county authorities enhanced  <b>Output 3.1.3:</b> Restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management and natural regeneration implemented by women and men
	<b>Outcome 3.2:</b> Degraded areas in NW Liberia landscape restored	<b>Output 3.2.1:</b> Capacity of communities, land-users, local county authorities etc. built on restoration  <b>Output 3.2.2:</b> Restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management, natural regeneration, etc. implemented  <b>Output 3.2.3.</b> Boundaries demarcated for restoration  <b>Output 3.2.4:</b>		<b>Outcome 3.2:</b> Improved gender sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats by women and men in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia	<b>Output 3.2.1:</b> Gender sensitive policies on performance payments and Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes developed and/or adopted by women and men for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape

		Partnership MoUs on improved restoration practices established			
	<b>Outcome 3.3:</b> Improved gender sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia	<b>Output 3.3.1:</b> Gender sensitive Policy review of existing laws and regulations conducted to assess gaps/opportunities for restoration  <b>Output 3.3.2:</b> At least one gender sensitive regulation for restoration drafted and presented for approval by cabinet  <b>Output 3.3.3:</b> National laws and policies that support restoration adopted and promoted  <b>Output 3.3.4:</b> Gender sensitive policies on performance payments and Payment for ecosystems services schemes developed and/or adopted for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape		<b>Outcome 3.3:</b> Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities by women and men	<b>Output 3.3.1:</b> Innovative and blended financing for NW Liberia restoration leveraged, based on promising approaches from within Liberia and elsewhere to provide incentives to men and women for restoration
	<b>Outcome 3.4:</b> Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities	<b>Output 3.4.1:</b> Gender sensitive Business and Investment Plans for restoration of NW Liberia Landscape developed  <b>Output 3.4.2:</b> Gender sensitive risk and policy analyses conducted for scaled up restoration			

		investment in Liberia landscape  <b>Output 3.4.3:</b> Innovative and blended financing for NW Liberia restoration leveraged – based on promising approaches from within Liberia and elsewhere to provide incentives to individuals and communities for restoration			
<b>Component 4:</b> Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation <i>(budget will be allocated for participation in the global IP framework events and activities)</i>	<b>Outcome 4.1:</b> Improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation	<b>Output 4.1.1:</b> Relevant data during project implementation is collected, analyzed, and/or synthesized  <b>Output 4.1.2:</b> Project progress reports produced and shared with all key stakeholders  <b>Output 4.1.3:</b> Gender sensitive technical training materials for appropriate integrated landscape management including climate-smart agricultural practices and NTFP practices are developed  <b>Output 4.1.4:</b> A physical community resource Centre and an online knowledge and learning platform established for information sharing	<b>Component 4:</b> Project management, coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation	<b>Outcome 4.1:</b> Improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation	<b>Output 4.1.1:</b> Gender sensitive M&E system to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation

	<b>Outcome 4.2:</b> Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project	<b>Output 4.2.1:</b> South-South Knowledge Exchanges conducted with other child projects  <b>Output 4.2.2:</b> Success stories and lessons learned at landscape and country level are captured, documented, and shared  <b>Output 4.2.3:</b> Sharing and dissemination of knowledge generated at the landscape is conducted nationally, regionally, and internationally		<b>Outcome 4.2:</b> Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project by women and men	<b>Output 4.2.1:</b> An integrated gender sensitive knowledge management system developed  <b>Output 4.2.2:</b> National, regional, and international engagements to share knowledge generated in the Project attended by men and women
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## SECTION V: Gender Action Plan

Project Level	Activities	Target	Resources Required	Budget
<b>Output 1.1.1.:</b> Information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan from secondary/desktop research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct comprehensive desktop research to identify and address the different constraints faced by men and women in accessing and using land to inform the development of a coarse national land use plan</li> </ul>	<b>Baseline:</b> No comprehensive information and data sets that identify and address the different constraints faced by men and women in accessing and using land is available  <b>Target:</b> One comprehensive information and data set that identifies and addresses the different constraints faced by men and women in accessing and using land is available	Stationery, Personnel (Consultant, safeguards, and Gender Officer), airtime, internet, laptop	\$10,000
<b>Output 1.1.2:</b> Biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape conducted to inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include gender considerations in the RFP/ToR</li> <li>Include gender specific issues in the questionnaires</li> <li>Include men and women in the team conducting</li> </ul>	<b>Baseline:</b> 5% women and 95% of men involved in biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape	Airtime, Translator, stationery, laptop Safeguards and Gender Officer, transport	\$10,000

land-use planning for food-security and for sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa by men and women	<p>assessments and ensure they are briefed and trained on the assessment tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold separate meetings and focus groups for men and women during surveys</li> <li>• Hold meetings and focus groups in the afternoons during the dry season at the community center</li> <li>• Hold meetings and surveys at the community centers that are accessible to men and women</li> <li>• Provide transport reimbursement for participants who come from 3 km and more</li> <li>• Provide two-weeks prior information about the assessments to both men and women in local communities using various platforms including places of worship, markets and community centers, and local community structures</li> <li>• Use a translator during all community consultation and engagement meetings in the community</li> </ul>	<p><b>Target 1.1.2:</b> At least 30% of women and 70% of men participate in biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape.</p> <p>The target is based on the national gender policy of Liberia that seeks to have at least 30% of women participation in activities</p>	allowances	
<b>Output 1.2.1:</b> Coarse National and comprehensive NW Liberia land-use plans/maps, identifying target areas for production, protection and restoration developed in a participatory and inclusive manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the capacity of project staff/consultants on gender mainstreaming</li> <li>• Train project staff and Consultants on gender mainstreaming</li> <li>• Hold inclusive, gender-sensitive “visioning” meetings and workshop to develop and generate agreement on land use plans</li> <li>• Hold awareness, consultation, and engagement meetings on land use planning with men and women in the communities</li> <li>• Use a translator during all</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No national and comprehensive land use plan developed</p> <p><b>Target:</b> One coarse national land use plan and one comprehensive landscape land use plan developed with participation of at least 30% women participation</p> <p>The target is based on the national gender policy of Liberia that seeks to have at least 30% of women participation in activities</p>	Digital maps, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer)	\$10,000

	<p>community consultation and engagement meetings in the communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct separate land use mapping exercises for men and women in community land use mapping</li> <li>• Provide transport allowances and per diems to participants from far more than 3 kms or more</li> <li>• Provide two-weeks prior information about the assessments to both men and women in local communities using various platforms including places of worship, markets and community centers, and local community structures</li> <li>• Conduct community land use mapping in the afternoons during the dry season to allow women to participate</li> <li>• Work with local leaders (cultural and religious) and male project participants to explain the importance of women's participation and identify culturally appropriate ways to allow for their participation</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Output 1.2.2:</b> NW Liberia landscape land-use plans adopted and jointly implemented by communities (men and women), government, the private sector and civil society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the training needs of men and women in implementing land use plans</li> <li>• Design training course that meets the needs of men and women in implementing landscape land use plans</li> <li>• Train men and women on integrated landscape management using gender-sensitive participatory training and facilitation methods</li> <li>• Provide incentives to men and women to adopt and implement the developed land use plans</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No landscape land use plan adopted and jointly implemented by men and women</p> <p><b>Target:</b> One landscape land use plan adopted and implemented with at least 30% women participation</p> <p>The target is based on the national gender policy of Liberia that seeks to have at least 30% of women participation in activities</p>	<p>Stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer)</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold land use plan validation workshops and ensure both men and women participate</li> <li>• Provide transport allowances and per diems to participants (men and women) attending land use plan validation workshops</li> <li>• Hold separate meetings and focus group discussions with men and women in developing protected area gazettelement package</li> <li>• Hold engagement meetings with both men and women to generate consensus on the land use plan</li> <li>• Work with local cultural and religious leaders and male project participants to explain the importance of women's participation and identify culturally appropriate ways to allow for their participation</li> </ul>			
<b>Output 1.3.1:</b> Multi-Stakeholder NW Liberia Landscape Governance Structure composed of men and women established and strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include men and women in NW Liberia Landscape Governance Structure</li> <li>• Include women in the executive positions of the NW Liberia Landscape Governance Structure</li> <li>• Assess the leadership training needs of men and women in NW Liberia Landscape Governance Structure</li> <li>• Design bespoke leadership training course(s) for men and women in NW Liberia Landscape Governance Structure in respect of the training needs identified above.</li> <li>• Hold leadership training workshop at the community centers during the dry season using gender-sensitive participatory</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No Multi-Stakeholder NW Liberia Landscape Governance Structure composed of men and women</p> <p><b>Target:</b> One Multi-Stakeholder NW Liberia Landscape Governance Structure established with with at least 30% women trained in leadership and holding executive positions</p> <p>The target is based on the national gender policy of Liberia that seeks to have at least 30% of women holding leadership positions</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer), and hotel	\$15,000

	<p>training and facilitation methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide transport allowance and per diems for the participants</li> <li>• Integrate sessions on equal decision making, gender norms, communication, and conflict resolution sessions into all leadership trainings</li> <li>• Work with local leaders (cultural and religious) and male project participants to explain the importance of women's participation and identify culturally appropriate ways to allow for their participation</li> </ul>			
<b>Output 1.3.2:</b> A gender sensitive system for management, monitoring and evaluation developed to ensure compliance with NW Liberia Landscape land-use plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include gender indicators in the management, monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>• Collect sex disaggregated data and information</li> <li>• Include questions assessing the impact of gender in evaluation terms of reference</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No gender sensitive gender sensitive system for management, monitoring and evaluation</p> <p><b>Target:</b> One gender sensitive system for management, monitoring and evaluation developed with at least 30% women participation</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer), and hotel	\$7,000
<b>Output 1.3.3:</b> Two gender sensitive regulations to improve integrated land-use planning and management in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop gender sensitive ToRs</li> <li>• Conduct gender sensitive review of regulations, laws and/or policies on integrated land-use planning and management</li> <li>• Include men and women in the team conducting the review of regulations, laws and/or policies on integrated land-use planning and management</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No gender sensitive regulations to improve integrated land-use planning and management in NW Liberia landscape</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Two gender sensitive regulation to improve integrated land-use planning and management in NW Liberia landscape</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop where two key issues that required regulations were identified</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer), and hotel	\$10,000
<b>Output 2.1.1:</b> Capacity of male and female farmers, small-medium enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the training needs of women and men on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No (zero) people trained climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP)</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances,	\$20,842

service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff (male and female) built on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices with a focus on palm oil and cocoa value chains	<p>products (NTFP) practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop gender sensitive technical training materials on climate-smart agricultural practices and NTFPs</li> <li>• Train men and women on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices using gender-sensitive participatory training and facilitation methods</li> <li>• Define gender sensitive outputs and indicators for training follow up and monitoring purposes.</li> </ul>	<p>practices</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 10,000 people including at least 3,000 women trained climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop to review project targets. The proportion of men to women is based on the Liberia National Government Policy on gender</p>	personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer)	
<b>Output 2.1.2:</b> Climate-smart agricultural practices implemented by men and women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the training needs of men and women in implementing Climate-smart agricultural practices</li> <li>• Train men and women on Climate-smart agricultural practices using gender-sensitive participatory training and facilitation methods</li> <li>• Hold trainings and meetings in the afternoons at the community center during the dry season when women have more free time.</li> <li>• Provide incentives to men and women to adopt and implement climate-smart agricultural practices</li> <li>• Provide transport allowances for participants far from the community center</li> <li>• Define gender sensitive outputs and indicators for training follow up and monitoring purposes</li> <li>• Work with local leaders (cultural and religious) and male project participants to explain the importance of women's participation and identify culturally</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No (zero) people implementing climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 10,000 people including at least 3,000 women implementing climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop to review project targets. The proportion of men to women is based on the Liberia National Government Policy on gender that requires at least 30% participation of women</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer), and hotel	\$15,000

	appropriate ways to allow for their participation			
<b>Output 2.2.1:</b> Incentives provided for males and females for responsible palm oil and cocoa, and food crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve men and women in in the analysis and identification of needs for responsible palm oil, cocoa, and food crop production</li> <li>Facilitate access of men and women to agricultural products/link farmers to markets and loans</li> <li>Provide post-harvest facilities to men and women</li> <li>Train men and women in group dynamics, entrepreneurship, and farming as a business</li> <li>Establish community cooperatives for men and women</li> <li>Work with local leaders (cultural and religious) and male project participants to explain the importance of women's participation and identify culturally appropriate ways to allow for their participation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No (zero) people receiving incentives for sustainable cocoa and palm oil production</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 20,000 people (14,000 men and 6,000 women) receive incentives for sustainable coco and palm oil production</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop to review project targets. The proportion of men to women is based on the Liberia National Government Policy on gender</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer), and hotel	\$10,000
<b>Output 2.2.2:</b> Community producers (male and female) of key commodities empowered and organized in a locally appropriate manner (cooperatives and other associations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve men and women in identifying aggregators currently working within the landscape. Also, work with the identified aggregators and farmers in the landscape to select crops specifically needed by big companies</li> <li>Assess opportunities and needs for establishing separate cooperatives for men and women</li> <li>Provide technical support that responds to the needs of men and women to establish new cooperatives</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No (zero) organized community producers organized in cooperatives/associations</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 500 (350 men and 150 women) producers organized in cooperatives /associations.</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop to review project targets. The proportion of men to women is based on the Liberia National Government Policy on gender that requires at least 30% participation of women</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer)	\$15,000

<p><b>Output 2.3.1:</b> Policy recommendations to support sustainable agriculture by women and men developed and provided to government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify women and men to engage with RSPO, HCSA, Cocoa and Forest Initiative and World Cocoa Foundation on palm oil and cocoa sustainability issues/standards for high conservation value forest landscapes</li> <li>Assess the training needs of the above identified men and women</li> <li>Design training courses that meets the needs of the identified men and women</li> <li>Hold the training in a hotel and provide transport reimbursement and per diem for the participants</li> <li>Involve men and women in the implementation of National Commodity Action Plan for Palm Oil in NW Liberia Landscape</li> <li>Hold separate meetings and focus groups for men and women in preparing fiscal, financial and trade policy recommendations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No (zero) regulations supporting sustainable agriculture by men and women considered by cabinet</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Two draft regulation documents supporting sustainable agriculture by men and women considered by cabinet</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop where two key issues that required regulations were identified</p>	<p>Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer), and hotel</p>	<p>\$6,482</p>
<p><b>Output 2.4.1:</b> Long-term gender sensitive financial plan developed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold separate community meetings and focus groups for men and women in the development of NW Liberia Landscape Business and Investment Plans/ Prospectus. The meetings and focus groups should be held in the afternoons during the dry season at the community centers that are accessible to men and women</li> <li>Provide transport reimbursement for participants who come from a 3 km and more</li> <li>Include men and women in the team leading the development of financial plan</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No gender sensitive financial plan</p> <p><b>Target:</b> One gender sensitive financial plan developed</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop to review project targets.</p>	<p>Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer), and hotel</p>	<p>\$45,000</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local leaders (cultural and religious) and male project participants to explain the importance of women's participation and identify culturally appropriate ways to allow for their participation</li> </ul>			
<b>Output 2.4.2:</b> Innovative and blended financing for sustainable production by women and men leveraged including supply chain systems, Liberia Conservation Fund, and REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the gaps and needs of men and women to access finance for sustainable production</li> <li>Design a strategy and plan that meets the needs of men and women to access finance for sustainable production</li> <li>Hold meetings and trainings to empower men and women to develop long-term business partnerships for climate-smart and/or sustainable land management.</li> <li>Train men and women involved in sustainable production on record keeping to demonstrate profitability/creditworthiness to banks</li> <li>Explore partnerships between large companies and small enterprises run by men and women to increase credit access</li> <li>Establish a business hub for men and women to support private sector engagement</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> US\$ 500,000 directed to sustainable production by men and women</p> <p><b>Target:</b> US\$ 10 million directed to sustainable production with at least 30% (US\$ 3 million) received by women</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop to review project targets. The proportion of men to women is based on the Liberia National Government Policy on gender that requires at least 30% of benefits being received by women</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer)	\$15,000
<b>Output 3.1.1:</b> Gender sensitive NW Liberia Landscape Restoration Plan developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold separate community meetings and focus groups for men and women in the development of NW Liberia landscape restoration plan. The meetings and focus groups should be held in the afternoons during the dry season at the community centers that are accessible to men and women</li> <li>Include men and women in the team leading the</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No (zero) restoration plans developed by men and women</p> <p><b>Target:</b> One restoration plan developed plan by men and women</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop to review project targets</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer)	\$27,032

	<p>development of NW Liberia landscape restoration plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide transport reimbursement for participants who come from a 3 km and more</li> <li>• Involve men and women in the identification of pilot restoration sites</li> <li>• Work with local leaders (cultural and religious) and male project participants to explain the importance of women's participation and identify culturally appropriate ways to allow for their participation</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Output 3.1.2:</b> Enhanced restoration capacity of communities, land-users, and local county authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the training needs of women and men on restoration</li> <li>• Develop training course that meets the needs of men and women for restoration</li> <li>• Train men and women on restoration using gender-sensitive participatory training and facilitation methods at the community centers and in the afternoons during the dry season</li> <li>• Define gender sensitive outputs and indicators for follow up and monitoring of restoration training</li> <li>• Provide incentives to men and women for restoration</li> <li>• Work with local leaders (cultural and religious) and male project participants to explain the importance of women's participation and identify culturally appropriate ways to allow for their participation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No men and women implementing restoration</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 20,000 beneficiaries (14,000 men and 6,000 women)</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop to review project targets. The proportion of men to women is based on the Liberia National Government Policy on gender that requires at least 30% women benefiting from activities.</p>	<p>Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer)</p>	<p>\$40,100</p>
<p><b>Output 3.1.3:</b> Restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management and natural regeneration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the training needs of women and men on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No women and men implementing restoration initiatives</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 4 restoration sites</p>	<p>Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems,</p>	<p>\$23,454</p>

implemented by women and men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design a training course that meet the needs of men and women on climate-smart agricultural practices and NTFP practices</li> <li>• Train men and women on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices using gender-sensitive participatory training and facilitation methods</li> <li>• Define gender sensitive outputs and indicators for training follow up and Execute pilot restoration activities</li> <li>• Hold separate community meetings and focus groups with men and women in the develop management plans for restoration sites within land-use plans. Meetings should be held during the dry seasons in the afternoons at the Community center</li> <li>• Provide transport allowances for participants who come from a 3 km and more</li> <li>• Involve men and women in identification, demarcation, and management of areas for restoration</li> <li>• Work with local leaders (cultural and religious) and male project participants to explain the importance of women's participation and identify culturally appropriate ways to allow for their participation</li> </ul>	<p>established with at least 30% women participating in the implementation of restoration initiatives</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop to review project targets. The proportion of men to women is based on the Liberia National Government Policy on gender that requires at least 30% participation of women</p>	personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer)	
<b>Output 3.2.1:</b> Gender sensitive policies on performance payments and Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the restoration needs of men and women</li> <li>• Provide incentives to men and women to adopt restoration</li> <li>• Hold separate community meetings and focus groups</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No draft policy documents supporting restoration by men and women considered by cabinet</p> <p><b>Target:</b> One draft policy document supporting</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator,	\$11,680

and/or adopted by women and men for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape	<p>for men and women in conducting gender sensitive risk and policy analyses for scaled up restoration investment in NW Liberia landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include men and women in the team conducting assessments and ensure they are briefed and trained on conducting gender sensitive risk and policy analyses for scaled up restoration investment</li> <li>• Hold meetings and focus groups in the afternoons during the dry season at the community centers that are accessible to men and women</li> <li>• Provide transport reimbursement for participants who come from a 3 km and more</li> <li>• Work with local leaders (cultural and religious) and male project participants to explain the importance of women's participation and identify culturally appropriate ways to allow for their participation</li> </ul>	<p>restoration by men and women considered by cabinet</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop where it was agreed that one document should be developed and presented to cabinet</p>	translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer), and hotel	
<b>Output 3.3.1:</b> Innovative and blended financing for NW Liberia restoration leveraged, based on promising approaches from within Liberia and elsewhere to provide incentives to men and women for restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the restoration needs of men and women</li> <li>• Develop a benefit-sharing mechanism for men and women involved in restoration</li> <li>• Provide incentives to men and women involved in restoration</li> <li>• Hold separate community meetings to generate and incorporate the views of men and women in the development of gender sensitive Business and Investment Plans for restoration</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> US\$ 500,000 directed to support restoration by men and women</p> <p><b>Target:</b> US\$ 5 million directed to support restoration by men and women with at least 30% directed to women</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop to review project targets. The proportion of men to women is based on the Liberia National Government Policy</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer)	\$17,956

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold community meetings in the afternoons during the dry season at the community centers that are accessible to men and women</li> <li>• Provide transport reimbursement for participants (men and women) who come from a 3 km and more</li> <li>• Work with local leaders (cultural and religious) and male project participants to explain the importance of women's participation and identify culturally appropriate ways to allow for their participation</li> </ul>	on gender that requires at least 30% women benefiting from activities		
<b>Output 4.1.1:</b> Gender sensitive M&E system to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect sex-disaggregated data and analyse the impact of gender in the project</li> <li>• Assess the training needs of project staff on collection and analysis of sex disaggregated data</li> <li>• Design a training course that meet the needs of men and women in the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data</li> <li>• Conduct bespoke training for project staff on collection and analysis of sex-disaggregate data in Monrovia</li> <li>• Provide transport allowances and per diems for field staff to attend the training above in Monrovia</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No Gender sensitive M&amp;E system to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation</p> <p><b>Target:</b> One Gender sensitive M&amp;E system developed to collect, analyze, and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop to review project targets.</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer), and hotel	\$5,484
<b>Output 4.2.1:</b> An integrated gender sensitive knowledge management system developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document success stories and lessons learned in gender mainstreaming</li> <li>• Generate a participant list composed of men and women to share success stories and lessons learned</li> <li>• Send invitations to men and women identified as participants for the success stories and lessons learned</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> No integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system in place</p> <p><b>Target:</b> One integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system developed</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer), and hotel	\$45,485

	<p>workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold a workshop in Monrovia for men and women to share success stories and lessons learned</li> <li>• Provide transport allowance and per diems for workshop participants (men and women)</li> </ul>	stakeholder workshop to review project targets.		
<p><b>Output 4.2.2:</b> National, regional and international engagement to share knowledge generated in the Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify men and women to participate in South-South knowledge exchanges with other FOLUR child projects</li> <li>• Provide transportation allowances and per diems to men and women to participate in national, regional, and international engagement meetings/forums</li> </ul>	<p><b>Baseline:</b> 5% women participate in national, regional, and international engagement</p> <p><b>Target:</b> At least 30% women participate in national, regional, and international engagement</p> <p>This target was agreed upon by stakeholders during a stakeholder workshop to review project targets, and based on the Liberia national gender policy that requires 30% women participation in activities</p>	Airtime, stationery, transport allowances, per diems, personnel (facilitator, translator, Safeguards and Gender Officer), and hotel	\$15,000

## SECTION VI: Monitoring and Reporting

The new GEF Policy on Gender Equality requires the collection and analysis of sex- disaggregated data and gender information to inform project design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

The project is expected to report on a quarterly basis (using the CI-GEF Quarterly Reporting template), progress made towards the achievement of gender mainstreaming activities.

On an annual basis and using the CI-GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR) template, the following CI-GEF's minimum indicators are to be reported. The project can include other appropriate gender indicators in addition to the CI-GEF's indicators.

Indicator	Baseline		Target <sup>14</sup>	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
7. Number of men and women who participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations).	174	178	80,000	40,000
8. Number of men and women who received benefits (e.g. employment, income generating activities, training, access to natural resources, land tenure or resource rights, equipment, leadership roles)	0	0	30,000	20,000
9. Number of strategies, plans (e.g. management plans and land use plans) and policies derived from the project that include gender considerations (this indicator applies to relevant projects)	18 (breakdown given below) 1. One (01) coarse national land use plan 2. One (01) detailed NW Liberia Landscape use plan 3. Nine (09) clan land use plans 4. Two regulations for improving integrated landscape management 5. One policy for sustainable agricultural production 6. One policy for performance payments/payment for ecosystem services 7. Three Conservation Agreements signed with the clans			

**Table 15: Gender-mainstreamed Results Framework**

Component	Outcomes	Outputs
1. Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans	1.1: Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use by men and women	1.1.1.: Information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan from secondary/desktop research  1.1.2: Biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape to inform land-use planning for food-security and for sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa by men and women
	1.2: Improved land allocation and use by communities (male and female), government, private sector,	1.2.1: Coarse National and comprehensive NW Liberia land-use plans/maps, identifying target areas for production, protection and restoration developed in a participatory and inclusive manner

<sup>14</sup> Please collect sex-disaggregated data throughout the implementation of the project so that you can report on the numbers required above. If the project does not achieve its gender target, an explanation and plan to address the shortfall is expected.

	and civil society in NW Liberia landscape	1.2.2: NW Liberia landscape land-use plans adopted and jointly implemented by communities (men and women), government, the private sector and civil society
	1.3: Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by women and men strengthened	1.3.1: Multi-Stakeholder NW Liberia Landscape Governance Structure composed of men and women established and strengthened  1.3.2: A gender sensitive system for management, monitoring and evaluation developed to ensure compliance with NW Liberia Landscape land-use plan  1.3.3: Two gender sensitive regulations to improve integrated land-use planning and management in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia
2: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains	2.1: Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape	2.1.1: Capacity of male and female farmers, small-medium enterprise service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff (male and female) built on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices  2.1.2: Climate-smart agricultural practices implemented by men and women  2.1.3: Incentives provided for males and females for responsible palm oil and cocoa, and food crops  2.1.4: Community producers (male and female) of key commodities empowered and organized in a locally appropriate manner (cooperatives and other associations)
	2.2: Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production by women and men	2.2.1: Policy recommendations to support sustainable agriculture by women and men developed and provided to government
	2.3: Resources for sustainable production by women and men secured	2.3.1: Long-term gender sensitive financial plan developed  2.3.2: Innovative and blended financing for sustainable production by women and men leveraged including supply chain systems, Liberia Conservation Fund, and REDD+
3. Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats	3.1: Degraded areas in NW Liberia landscape restored	3.1.1: Gender sensitive NW Liberia Landscape Restoration Plan developed  3.1.2: Enhanced restoration capacity of communities, male and female land-users, and local county authorities  3.1.3: Restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management and natural regeneration implemented by women and men

	3.2: Improved gender sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats by women and men in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia	3.2.1: Gender sensitive policies on performance payments and Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes developed and/or adopted by women and men for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape
	3.3: Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities by women and men	3.3.1: Innovative and blended financing for NW Liberia restoration leveraged, based on promising approaches from within Liberia and elsewhere to provide incentives to men and women for restoration
4: Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation	4.1: Improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation	4.1.1: Gender sensitive M&E system to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation
	4.2: Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project by women and men	4.2.1: An integrated and gender sensitive knowledge management system developed  4.2.2: National, regional, and international engagements by men and women representatives to share knowledge generated in the Project

## **APPENDIX XI: Gender Based Violence (GBV)**

As UN Women reports, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is not only prevalent in Liberian society; it is accepted as an integral part of gender relations (UN/GoL 2014 Report). This perception was exacerbated during the conflict period, as rape was used as a weapon of war driven by unequal gender relations. For many Liberian women and girls, the appalling violence they experienced during wartime is still evident as physical and mental scars. Reports between 2014-2016 from the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) indicate a general acceptance of the most common types of sexual and gender based violence, identified by communities as rape, child marriage, offensive touching, wife beating, denial of resources, acid attacks as well as the more subtle and hidden forms of violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Gender-based violence is common among the youth and adolescents, but also among adults especially in the form of intimate partner violence. In addition to entrenched patriarchal gender norms, the main causes of GBV according to rank include:

- i. Narcotic and substance abuse
- ii. Alcoholism
- iii. Unfaithfulness
- iv. Women economic dependence on men
- v. Unemployment and poverty which cause tensions at home

The cases of GBV among the youth is high because most of the youths are vagrants; unemployed and have refused to engage in meaningful socio-economic activities. Among adults, are rare because of the punitive measures instituted by community leaderships (violators are fined monetary amounts according to the severity of the damage done to the victim).

The common causes of GBV among adults were accusations of getting money from boyfriends, or not obeying the “dictations” of the husbands in the utilization of resources. Women also stated that economic dependence on the husband is one of the causes of domestic violence. At the same time, some men feel threatened by women’s economic independence and this again was reported to be one of the triggers of domestic violence.

However, GBV cases are heavily underreported due to social and structural factors, including but not limited to unequal power relations, deeply rooted gender norms, poor legislation, and a weak justice system.

### **Risks of project activities exacerbating GBV**

- Women participants in project activities may experience GBV if they’re not given permission from spouse or if their participation takes them away from other responsibilities.
- Increasing women’s income (and associated financial independence) could cause jealousy or power differences in households leading to increased GBV incidents.
- Women in leadership positions may be seen as “taking away” those places where men traditionally rule; this could lead to GBV

### **GBV mitigation actions**

- i. Create a referral list of community resources and services for people experiencing GBV and establish a list of formal and informal support systems that people experiencing GBV can access. This will be done in collaboration with the county GBV Task force, local leaders and women’s groups within the first quarter of the project.
- ii. Include basic training on GBV for all project staff and partners during project start up
- iii. Ensure that the project’s GRM is sensitive to GBV project-related reports (it is accessible and secure enough to capture GBV-related incidents that may be reported during the course of the project).

- iv. Partner with National and County GBV Task Forces by participating in multi-sector support and referral systems that include community, district, county, and national stakeholders.
- v. Identify and train religious and traditional leaders to act as GBV champions (community change agents).
- vi. Incorporate discussions about positive masculinity, GBV, and women's rights into all project trainings/workshops

### **Indicators**

*Indicator 1:* % of staff + partners who have been trained on GBV in the project (target: 100%)

*Indicator 2:* % of communities in the project that have a tailored referral list prepared in case of GBV incident report (target: 100%)

*Indicator 3:* Number of GBV cases reported through the project's GRM

*Indicator 4:* Percentage of community trainings that involve GBV issues such as positive masculinity, GBV, and women's rights (target 100%)

*Indicator 5:* Number of GBV community change agents (target; one person per clan)

## APPENDIX XII: Detailed Project Budget

Please see Appendix XII in Excel File

## APPENDIX XIII: Co-financing Commitment Letters



Republic of Liberia  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

P.O. BOX 10-9010  
1000 MONROVIA 10, LIBERIA



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

November 9, 2020

Mr. Miguel Morales  
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency  
2011 Crystal Drive  
Suite 500  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
USA

**Subject: Co-Financing support for "Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia."**

Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), I am pleased to commit **\$10,000,000** in co-financing to Conservation International in support of the GEF, "Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains.

This co-financing is from the MOA recurrent cost of operations and will support all components under this project during the period of performance, currently estimated from **January 2, 2021 – December 31, 2025**. Specifically, the co-financing will cover in-kind contribution to human, operations, administrative and equipment costs to support the implementation of the project activities. These in-kind co-financing will be estimated using the equivalent cost of service if outsourced

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as an in-kind co-financing should the project proposal be successful.

Please accept the assurance of my highest esteem and consideration as we strive for environmental sustainability for now and successive generation.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Kerkulah Fagans, Sr.  
DEPUTY MINISTER



## REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA)

Office of the Managing Director

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MD/062/2020/01

May 20, 2020

Mr. Miguel Morales  
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency  
2011 Crystal Drive  
Suite 500  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
USA

**Subject: Co-Financing support for "Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia."**

Dear Mr. Morales,

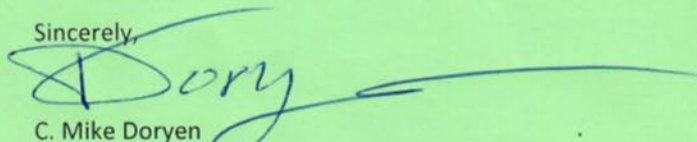
On behalf of The Forestry Development Authority (FDA), I am pleased to commit **\$10,000,000** in co-financing to Conservation International in support of the GEF, "Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains.

This co-financing is from the FDA recurrent cost of operations and will support all components under this project during the period of performance, currently estimated from **January 2, 2021 – December 31, 2025**. Specifically, the co-financing will cover in-kind contribution to human, operations, administrative and equipment costs to support the implementation of the project activities. These in-kind co-financing will be estimated using the equivalent cost of service if outsourced

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as an in-kind co-financing should the project proposal be successful.

Please accept the assurance of my highest esteem and consideration as we strive for environmental sustainability for now and successive generation.

Sincerely,



C. Mike Doryen  
MANAGING DIRECTOR



**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

P. O. BOX 4024  
4<sup>th</sup> Street Sinkor, Tubman Bouvelard  
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia



Office of the Deputy Executive Director

DED/EPA-02/00273/20/RL

April 2, 2020

Mr. Miguel Morales  
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency  
2011 Crystal Drive  
Suite 500  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
USA

Subject: Co-Financing support for "Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia."

Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA), I am pleased to commit \$5,000,000 in co-financing to Conservation International in support of the GEF, "Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains."

This co-financing is from the EPA recurrent cost of operations and will support all components under this project during the period of performance, currently estimated from **January 2, 2021 – December 31, 2025**. Specifically, the co-financing will cover in-kind contribution to human, operations, administrative and equipment costs to support the implementation of the project activities. These in-kind co-financing will be estimated using the equivalent cost of service if outsourced

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as an in-kind co-financing should the project proposal be successful.

Please accept the assurance of my highest esteem and consideration as we strive for environmental sustainability for now and successive generation.

Sincerely,

  
Randall M. Dobayou, II  
Acting Executive Director  
Environmental Protection Agency

Mobile: +(231) 778 777578 / 777 556238 Email: [rdobayou@epa.gov.lr](mailto:rdobayou@epa.gov.lr)



**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**  
**LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY**

Clay Building, Mamba Point  
Monrovia, Liberia



*Office of the Chairman*

May 13, 2020

**LLA/C-JAM/00136-20/RL**

Mr. Miguel Morales  
**Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency**  
2011 Crystal Drive  
Suite 500  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
USA

**SUBJECT: Co-Financing support for "Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia."**

Dear Mr. Morales:

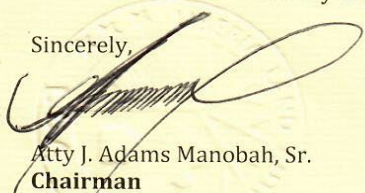
On behalf of The Liberia Land Authority (LLA), I am pleased to commit \$2,000,000 USD over four years, in co-financing to Conservation International in support of the GEF, "Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains".

This co-financing is from the LLA's recurrent cost of operations and will support all components under this project during the period of performance, currently estimated from January 2, 2021 – December 31, 2025. Specifically, the co-financing will cover in-kind contribution to human, operations, administrative and equipment costs to support the implementation of the project activities. The in-kind co-financing will be estimated using the equivalent cost of service if outsourced.

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as an in-kind co-financing should the project proposal be successful.

Please accept the assurance of my highest esteem and consideration as we strive for environmental sustainability for now and successive generations.

Sincerely,

  
Atty J. Adams Manobah, Sr.  
**Chairman**



Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services

Statistics House  
Capitol Hill P.O. Box 629  
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia



Office of the Director-General  
Cell: 231-886560435/0777256957  
Email: [ffwreh@hotmail.com](mailto:ffwreh@hotmail.com)/[ffwreh25@gmail.com](mailto:ffwreh25@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.lisgis.net](http://www.lisgis.net)

LISGIS/FFW/DG/070/A-1.1/04/'20

May 21, 2020

Mr. Miguel Morales  
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency  
2011 Crystal Drive Suite 500  
Arlington, Virginia 22202 USA

Dear Mr. Morales:

**Subject: Co-Financing support for “Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia.”**

On behalf of The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geographical Information Services (LISGIS), I am pleased to commit \$5,000,000 in co-financing to Conservation International in support of the GEF, “Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains.

This co-financing is from the LISGIS recurrent cost of operations and will support all components under this project during the period of performance, currently estimated from **January 2, 2021 – December 31, 2025**. Specifically, the co-financing will cover in-kind contribution to human, operations, administrative and equipment costs to support the implementation of the project activities. These in-kind co-financing will be estimated using the equivalent cost of service if outsourced

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as **an in-kind co-financing** should the project proposal be successful.

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*“National Vision: One People One Nation United For Peace and Sustainable Development”*

Please accept the assurance of my highest esteem and consideration as we strive for environmental sustainability for now and successive generation.

Regards!



Prof. Francis F. Wreh  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**



April 17, 2020

Mr. Miguel Morales  
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency  
2011 crystal Drive  
Suite 500  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
USA

**Subject: Co-Financing support for “Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia”.**

Dear Mr. Morales,

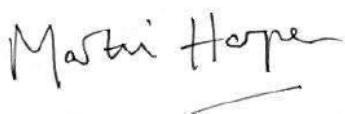
On behalf of The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), I am pleased to commit \$US 270,016 in co-financing to Conservation International in support of the proposed GEF FOLUR project, “Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains.”

The co-financing is derived as follows:

Gola PAPFor Project: \$270,016 to support Component One: Development, adoption and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape Land-use plans and Component Two: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains, during Jan 2021 to Dec 2022. Specifically, the co-financing will cover human, administrative, equipment and activity costs to support the implementation of the project activities.

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as a Grant co-financing should the project proposal be successful.

Sincerely,



Martin Harper  
Executive Director, Global Conservation  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

**UK Headquarters**

The Lodge  
Potton Road  
Sandy  
Bedfordshire  
SG19 2DL

**Tel:** 01767 680551

**Fax:** 01767 692365

**Facebook:** RSPBLoveNature

**Twitter:** @Natures\_Voice

**rspb.org.uk**



The RSPB is part of BirdLife International,  
a partnership of conservation organisations  
working to give nature a home around the world.



March 24, 2020

Mr. Miguel Morales  
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency  
2011 Crystal Drive  
Suite 500  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
USA

**Subject: Co-Financing support for “Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia.”**

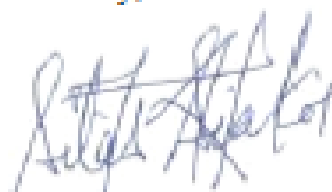
Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), I am pleased to commit \$250,000 in co-financing to Conservation International in support of the GEF, “Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains.

This co-financing is from non-GEF sources, and will support Component two - Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains during the period of performance, currently estimated from January 2, 2021 – December 31, 2023. Specifically, the co-financing will cover implementation of the project activities and human and administrative costs to support the implementation of the project activities. Where applicable, these co-financing will be estimated using the equivalent cost of service if outsourced. This co-financing is contingent upon full execution of a grant from the non GEF funding source.

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as a Grant co-financing should the project proposal be successful.

Sincerely,



Silas Kpanan'Anyong Siakor  
Country Manager  
The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH),  
Congo Town, Liberia

March 20 2020

Mr. Miguel Morales  
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency  
2011 Crystal Drive  
Suite 500  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
USA

**Subject: Co-Financing support for "Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia."**

Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of The Mano Manufacturing Company (MANCO), Mano Palm Oil Industries (MPOI) and Mano Palm Oil Plantation (MPOP), I am pleased to confirm that we are planning to contribute \$30,000,000 in co-financing in support of the project "Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia", in the light of our recent investment in the ex-Sime Darby palm oil plantation in Liberia.

This co-financing is from our group of companies which entail operations both in upstream and downstream supply chain of palm oil and will support Component two – Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains during the period of performance, currently estimated from **January 2, 2021 – December 31, 2025**. Specifically, the co-financing could consist of human, operations, administrative and equipment costs to support the implementation of the project activities.

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as an **in-kind co-financing** should the project proposal be successful

Sincerely,

Asaad Fadel  
CEO

Mano Manufacturing Company (MANCO),  
Liberia



29 April 2020

Mr. Miguel Morales  
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency  
2011 Crystal Drive  
Suite 500  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
USA

**Subject: Co-Financing support for "Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia."**

Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of Fauna & Flora International (FFI), I can confirm we will be seeking to demonstrate **\$2 million USD** in co-financing to Conservation International in support of the GEF, "Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains."

This co-financing will likely be from a variety of sources, including statutory and non-statutory funders and also in-kind contributions from FFI and our partners. FFI has a strong long-term programme in Liberia and a commitment to continue raising funds and investing in the programme alongside our partners.

Specifically, the co-financing will include personnel, administrative and equipment costs to support the implementation of the project activities should the project proposal be successful.

Based on secured grants, our existing rolling pipeline, and anticipated in-kind contributions, we foresee contributing a 2:1 match commensurate with FFI's scope of work and sub-grant budget over the life of the project.

Sincerely,



Svetlana Ignatieva  
Chief Operating Officer  
Fauna & Flora International

## Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL)



Tubman Boulevard, Congo Town, CARE Compound  
 P. O. Box 2628 Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa  
 ☎: (+231) 886-573-612/0886511138  
 Website: [www.scnliberia.org](http://www.scnliberia.org)  
 E-mail: [scnliberia@yahoo.com](mailto:scnliberia@yahoo.com)



BirdLife Partner

March 20, 2020

Mr. Miguel Morales  
 Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency  
 2011 crystal Drive  
 Suite 500  
 Arlington, Virginia 22202  
 USA

**Subject: Co-Financing support for “Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia”.**

Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of The Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia(SCNL), I am pleased to commit 2,443,049 USD in co-financing to Conservation International in support of the proposed GEF FOLUR project, “Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains.”

The co-financing is derived as follows:

Gola PAPFor Project: \$831,449 to support Component One: Development, adoption and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape Land-use plans and Component Three: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats, during Jan 2021 to Dec 2022. Specifically, the co-financing will cover human, administrative, equipment and activity costs to support the implementation of the project activities.

Rainforest Trust Community Forest Project: \$ 410,341 to support Component Three: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats, during Jan 2021 to Dec 2024. Specifically, the co-financing will cover human, administrative, equipment and activity costs to support the implementation of the project activities.

Rainforest Trust Foya Protected Area Project: \$791,749 to support Component Three: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats, during Jan 2021 to Dec 2024. Specifically, the co-financing will cover human, administrative, equipment and activity costs to support the implementation of the project activities.

Darwin Initiative Project: \$ 409,510 to support Component Three: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats, during Jan 2021 to Dec 2024. Specifically, the co-financing will cover human, administrative, equipment and activity costs to support the implementation of the project activities.

*Helping to Conserve Nature*

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as a Grant co-financing should the project proposal be successful.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Garbo  
Executive Director  
Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia

*Helping to Conserve Nature*

2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22202, USA  
Tel: +1 703 341.2400  
Fax: +1 703 553.4817  
www.conservation.org



**October 28, 2020**

Dr. Miguel Morales,  
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency  
2011 Crystal Drive  
Suite 500  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
USA

**Subject: Co-Financing support for “Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia.”**

Dear Dr. Morales,

On behalf of Conservation International Foundation (CI), I am pleased to inform you that CI plans to contribute **USD 36,000** in co-financing from non-GEF funding in support of the GEF project titled **“Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains Project in Liberia.”**

This co-financing will support additional funding for **Component 1: Development, adoption and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans and Project Management costs (PMC)** during the period of performance, currently estimated from **January 2, 2021 – December 31, 2021**. Specifically, the co-financing will cover **human, administrative and equipment costs** to support the implementation of the project activities. **This co-financing is contingent upon full execution of a grant from the non-GEF funding source.**

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as **GRANT** co-financing should the project proposal be successful.

We look forward to continued partnership for the implementation of this project.

Sincerely,



Barbara DiPietro  
Chief Financial Officer  
Conservation International Foundation

## APPENDIX XIV: Terms of Reference for project staff and in-house Consultants

### STAFF: TECHNICAL LEAD

**Project Objective:** To promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems for enhanced livelihood opportunities in NW Liberia Landscape through land use planning, restoration of degraded lands, and strengthening governance, policies, and market incentives for nationally replicable models of deforestation-free cocoa and palm oil value chains.

The Project Technical Lead will provide technical inputs to the outcomes, and oversee the day-to-day management and decision-making including planning, implementation, coordination, staff supervision, and monitoring of all project activities to ensure efficient and timely delivery of project goals, objectives, and targets to the highest standards in terms of quality, effectiveness, impact and relevance. He/she will ensure compliance with GEF and CI policies, as well as other local requirements including tracking and reporting on deliverables and project status; and works to build alliances with community, government authorities, partners and stakeholders who are critical to the success of this project.

COMPONENT 1:	Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans
<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use	<p><b>Output 1.1.1:</b> <i>Information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan from secondary/desktop research.</i></p> <p>The Technical lead in collaboration with other staff in the PMU will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversee the set-up of the document management and sharing system</li> <li>• Work with the National Policy and Government Relations Expert to develop a comprehensive list of policies and laws across various sectors</li> <li>• Oversee the review of existing national strategies of relevance to NW Liberia (REDD+, cocoa and oil palm), and review of existing agriculture and food security project reports, assessments, and surveys</li> <li>• Work with the National Policy and Government Relations Expert to analyze the alignment/implications of policies and laws for project activities</li> <li>• Assess social and economic conditions in NW Liberia landscape</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 1.1.2:</b> <i>Biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape to inform land-use planning for food-security and for sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa.</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in the evaluation of the RFPs, and provide necessary support to the various consultants conducting: assessment of Liberia's fiscal, financial, trade policies that affect food production system; review of legal context and policy incentive options for promoting climate-smart agriculture and responsibly produced palm oil and cocoa; spatial analysis of existing natural resources (incl. threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services); mapping and assessing social and economic conditions; and identification and mapping of HCS and HCV forest areas, and sacred sites</li> <li>• Identify existing land-use, management practices and ownership structure</li> <li>• In collaboration with the MEAL Manager, document local/traditional knowledge pertaining to resilience, NRM and food security</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the National Policy and Government Relations Expert to review the legal context and policy incentive options for promoting climate-smart agriculture and responsibly produced palm oil and cocoa</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 1.2:</b> Improved land allocation by Communities (male and female), government, private sector, and civil society in NW Liberia landscape	<p><b>Output 1.2.1:</b> <i>Coarse National and comprehensive NW Liberia land-use plans/maps, identifying target areas for production, protection and restoration developed in a participatory and inclusive manner.</i></p> <p>The technical lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold community consultations and carry out awareness campaigns</li> <li>Hold stakeholder consultations and engagement meetings and workshops</li> <li>Oversee the digitalization and classification of land-use maps</li> <li>Provide support to the consultants to develop a coarse national land use plan and a comprehensive land use map for NW Liberia Landscape</li> <li>Socialize the coarse National and comprehensive NW Liberia land-use plans/maps</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 1.2.2:</b> <i>NW Liberia landscape land-use plans adopted and jointly implemented by communities, government, the private sector and civil society.</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with the Gender and Safeguards Officer, develop and implement gender sensitive training and capacity building program on integrated landscape management</li> <li>Hold a stakeholder workshop to validate NW Liberia landscape land-use plans</li> <li>Conduct awareness-raising program among local communities on policies, laws, private sector activities, and new projects</li> <li>Oversee the development of a gazettelement package for establishment of Wologizi Protected Area</li> <li>Hold stakeholder meetings to develop and implement the strategy and plan for adoption of NW Liberia lands use plans</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 1.3:</b> Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by men and women strengthened	<p><b>Output 1.3.1:</b> <i>Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Governance Structure for NW Liberia Landscape</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in the evaluation of the RFPs, and provide necessary support to the consultants conducting a gap analysis of existing national and local governance coordination mechanisms</li> <li>Develop NW Liberia Landscape Partnership MoUs with core partners, outlining partnership objectives, roles, responsibilities, and capacities.</li> <li>Establish an inter-agency/multi-stakeholder coordination platform for NW Liberia Landscape</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 1.3.2:</b> <i>A system for management, monitoring and evaluation developed to ensure compliance with NW Liberia Landscape land-use plan</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Together with the MEAL Manager, develop M&amp;E framework for monitoring NW Liberia Landscape land-use plan implementation</li> <li>In collaboration with the MEAL Manager, develop an early warning system to track resilience indicators</li> </ul>
<b>COMPONENT 2:</b>	<b>Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains</b>
	<p><b>Output 2.1.1:</b> <i>Capacity of farmers, small-medium enterprise service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff built on climate-smart agricultural</i></p>

<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape	<p><i>practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices with a focus on palm oil and cocoa value chains.</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversee the MEAL Manager and the Gender and Safeguards Officer in conducting gender-sensitive training needs assessments on climate-smart agriculture</li> <li>• Oversee the MEAL Manager and the Gender and Safeguards in the design and implementation of capacity building activities and extension services on climate-smart agriculture</li> <li>• Conduct education and awareness campaign on conservation and climate-smart agriculture</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 2.1.2:</b> <i>Demonstration of climate-smart agricultural practices</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct “State of Agriculture” review to identify existing climate smart strategies, identify alternate avenues, and priority locations</li> <li>• Working with partners, develop a climate-smart agricultural working model for existing or abandoned agricultural areas</li> <li>• Manage partners to pilot climate-smart agriculture model with at least three communities</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 2.1.3:</b> <i>Incentives provided to both males and females for responsible palm oil and cocoa, and food crops.</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in the evaluation of the RFPs, and provide necessary support to the consultants conducting analysis of value chain and market dynamics of local, domestic, and export markets, including a review of potential incentives for responsible palm oil and cocoa supply chains.</li> <li>• Review Supply Chain Management Standards and Certification Systems for responsible supply/value chains</li> <li>• Evaluate potential for gender-sensitive market incentives, including differentiated "Green NW Liberia Landscape" palm oil and cocoa brand</li> <li>• Facilitate access for agricultural products/link farmers to markets and loans</li> <li>• Identify and develop post-harvest storage facilities</li> <li>• Design additional incentive mechanisms based on value chain analysis and standards review</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 2.1.4:</b> <i>Community producers (male and female) of key commodities empowered and organized in a locally appropriate manner (potentially via cooperatives)</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify aggregators currently working within the landscape</li> <li>• Work with aggregators and farmers to select crops specifically needed by big companies</li> <li>• Build capacity of existing cooperatives</li> <li>• Assess opportunity for establishment of new cooperatives</li> <li>• Provide technical support to newly established cooperatives</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 2.2.1:</b> <i>Policy recommendations to support sustainable agriculture developed and provided to government.</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p>

<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage RSPO, HCSA, Cocoa and Forest Initiative and World Cocoa Foundation on palm oil and cocoa sustainability issues/standards for high conservation value forest landscapes</li> <li>Work with partners to demonstrate implementation of National Commodity Action Plan for Palm Oil and Cocoa in NW Liberia Landscape</li> <li>Work with the National Policy and Government Relations Expert to prepare fiscal, financial and trade policy recommendations to advance gender-sensitive, climate-smart, sustainable food production systems in Liberia</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 2.3:</b> Resources for sustainable production secured	<b>Output 2.3.1:</b> <i>Long-term gender sensitive financial plan</i>  Technical Lead will participate in the development of gender-sensitive NW Liberia Landscape Business and Investment Plans/ Prospectus.
	<b>Output 2.3.2:</b> <i>Innovative and blended financing for sustainable production leveraged including supply chain systems, Liberia Conservation Fund, and REDD+</i>  The Technical Lead will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in the development of long-term business partnerships for climate-smart and/or sustainable land management</li> <li>In collaboration with Innovative Finance Advisor, engage risk capital/financing to mitigate/de-risk agriculture (i.e. insurance)</li> <li>Document improvement farm management to demonstrate profitability and/or creditworthiness to banks</li> <li>Explore partnerships between large companies and small enterprise to increase credit access</li> <li>In collaboration with Innovative Finance Advisor, establish business hub to support private sector engagement</li> </ul>
<b>COMPONENT 3:</b>	<b>Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats</b>
<b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Degraded areas that are crucial for ensuring ecosystem connectivity and integrity restored in NW Liberia	<b>Output 3.1.1:</b> <i>NW Liberia Landscape Restoration Plan</i>  The Technical Lead will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold multi-stakeholder meetings and consultations to develop landscape restoration plan built on land-use planning outputs (including prioritization and costing)</li> <li>Identify pilot sites for restoration</li> </ul>
	<b>Output 3.1.2:</b> <i>Enhanced restoration capacity of communities, land-users, local county authorities etc.</i>  The Technical Lead will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversee the MEAL Manager and the Gender and Safeguards Officer in conducting gender-sensitive training needs assessments on restoration</li> <li>develop training modules and provide training materials to build capacity on restoration</li> <li>Conduct capacity building activities on restoration</li> </ul>
	<b>Output 3.1.3:</b> <i>Restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management and natural regeneration.</i>  The Technical Lead will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversee the work of partners in the implementation of pilot restoration activities</li> <li>Develop management plans for restoration sites within land-use plans</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with the PMU, work with stakeholders to demarcate boundaries of areas identified for restoration</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 3.2:</b> Improved gender sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia	<p><b>Output 3.2.1:</b> <i>Gender sensitive policies on performance payments and Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes developed and/or adopted for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape.</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversee and provide technical inputs to the Gender and Safeguards Officer in conducting gender sensitive policy review of existing laws and regulations to assess gaps and opportunities for restoration</li> <li>Oversee and provide technical inputs to the Consultant conducting a gender-sensitive risk and policy analyses for scaled up restoration investment in Liberia landscape</li> <li>Draft and present to cabinet at least three gender sensitive regulations, laws and/or policies to support restoration</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 3.3:</b> Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities	<p><b>Output 3.3.1:</b> <i>Innovative and blended financing for NW Liberia restoration leveraged, based on promising approaches from within Liberia and elsewhere to provide incentives to individuals and communities for restoration.</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Innovative Finance Advisor to review conservation/carbon financing to refine targets, and assess the potential for PES based on watershed services</li> <li>Evaluate and promote gender sensitive market incentives for restoration</li> <li>Work with stakeholders to develop a benefit-sharing mechanism linked to conservation and restoration</li> <li>Provide support to the Innovative Finance Advisor to develop gender-sensitive Business and Investment Plans for restoration of NW Liberia Landscape</li> </ul>
<b>COMPONENT 4:</b>	<b>Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation</b>
<b>Outcome 4.1.:</b> Improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation	<p><b>Output 4.1.1:</b> <i>Gender sensitive M&amp;E system to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation.</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversee the MEAL Manager and Gender and Safeguards Officer in developing and deploying M&amp;E framework and system for the collection, analysis and synthesis of data and information generated before and during project implementation</li> <li>Work with the MEAL Manager and Gender and Safeguards Officer to review and refine project baselines</li> <li>Develop a database for storage and management of project activities</li> <li>Conduct routine field monitoring visits</li> <li>Provide support to the Consultants conducting Mid-term evaluation</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 4.2.1:</b> <i>An integrated and gender sensitive knowledge management system developed</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce and share quarterly and annual progress reports with all stakeholders</li> <li>Prepare a plan for capturing and disseminating lessons learned and knowledge generated in the Project</li> <li>Work with the PMU to document lessons learned and best practices in the implementation of project activities</li> </ul>

<b>Outcome 4.2.:</b> Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project by women and men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish physical Community Resource Centre and an online knowledge and learning platform for information sharing</li> <li>• Develop system to track private sector agreements in NW Liberia landscape (incl. baseline assessment of ESSG and development plans)</li> <li>• Oversee the MEAL Manager and the Gender and Safeguards officer in the documentation of local/traditional knowledge pertaining to resilience, NRM and food security</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 4.2.2:</b> <i>National, regional, and international engagements by men and women representatives to share knowledge generated in the Project</i></p> <p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in the South-South knowledge exchanges with other FOLUR child projects</li> <li>• Organize success story and lesson sharing forums at landscape and country levels</li> <li>• Participate in national and regional knowledge-sharing engagements</li> <li>• Participate in international knowledge sharing platforms</li> </ul>
<b>PMC</b>	<p>The Technical Lead will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare quarterly and annual progress reports</li> <li>• Hold Project Steering Committee meetings</li> <li>• Addressing complaints/grievances arising from implementation of project activities</li> <li>• Hold coordination meetings with PMU</li> <li>• Hold consultative and/or coordination meetings with other stakeholders including government, private sector, CSOs, CBOs, Academia, etc.</li> <li>• Day-to-day management of the project</li> </ul>

#### IN-HOUSE CONSULTANT: TECHNICAL ADVISOR

<b>COMPONENT 1:</b>	<b>Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans</b>
The Technical Advisor will be responsible for providing technical oversight and scientific leadership, quality control and assurance of the project; stakeholder engagement and coordination with project partners and liaison with government lead agency focal points and CI-GEF Agency; supporting the Project Manager in the timely and effective implementation of project	<p><b>Output 1.1.1:</b> <i>Information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan from secondary/desktop research.</i></p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document management and sharing system</li> <li>• Assessment report of social and economic conditions in NW Liberia landscape</li> <li>• A comprehensive list of policies and laws across various sectors</li> <li>• Report on the review of existing national strategies of relevance to NW Liberia (REDD+, cocoa and oil palm)</li> <li>• Assessments/survey reports on existing agriculture and food security project, and social and economic conditions in NW Liberia landscape.</li> <li>• Risk assessment reports and risk mitigation strategies for scaled up investment in NW Liberia Landscape</li> </ul>

<p>activities, deliverables and execution, monitoring and reporting.</p> <p><b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use</p>	<p><b>Output 1.1.2:</b> <i>Biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape to inform land-use planning for food-security and for sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa.</i></p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved consultancy ToRs for assessment of Liberia's fiscal, financial, trade policies that affect food production system; review of legal context and policy incentive options for promoting climate-smart agriculture and responsibly produced palm oil and cocoa; spatial analysis of existing natural resources; mapping and assessing social and economic conditions; and identification and mapping of HCS and HCV forest areas, and sacred sites</li> <li>• Map of HCS and HCV forest areas and sacred sites</li> <li>• Reports on Liberia's fiscal, financial, trade policies that affect food production system; review of legal context and policy incentive options for promoting climate-smart agriculture and responsibly produced palm oil and cocoa; spatial analysis of existing natural resources (incl. threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services); mapping and assessing social and economic conditions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 1.2:</b> Improved land allocation by Communities (male and female), government, private sector, and civil society in NW Liberia landscape</p>	<p><b>Output 1.2.1:</b> <i>Coarse National and comprehensive NW Liberia land-use plans/maps, identifying target areas for production, protection and restoration developed in a participatory and inclusive manner.</i></p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ToRs for Consultancy on land use planning</li> <li>• NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 1.2.2:</b> <i>NW Liberia landscape land-use plans adopted and jointly implemented by communities, government, the private sector, and civil society.</i></p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NW Liberia Land-use plan validation report</li> <li>• Validated NW Liberia Land-use plan</li> <li>• Gazettement package for establishment of Wologizi as a protected area</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 1.3:</b> Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by men and women strengthened</p>	<p><b>Output 1.3.1:</b> <i>Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Governance Structure for NW Liberia Landscape</i></p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NW Liberia Landscape Partnership MoUs</li> <li>• Report on gap analysis of existing national and local governance coordination mechanisms</li> <li>• Inter-agency/multi-stakeholder coordination</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 1.3.2:</b> <i>A system for management, monitoring and evaluation developed to ensure compliance with NW Liberia Landscape land-use plan</i></p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M&amp;E framework for implementation of NW Liberia land-use plan</li> <li>• Early warning system to track resilience indicators</li> </ul>
<p><b>COMPONENT 2:</b></p>	<p><b>Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains</b></p>
	<p><b>Output 2.1.1:</b> <i>Capacity of farmers, small-medium enterprise service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff built on</i></p>

<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape	<i>climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices with a focus on palm oil and cocoa value chains.</i>  Deliverables include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on training needs assessments</li> <li>• Online knowledge and learning platform for information sharing</li> <li>• Capacity building modules and materials</li> </ul>
	<b>Output 2.1.2:</b> <i>Demonstration of climate-smart agricultural practices</i>  Deliverables include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on “State of Agriculture” review</li> <li>• A climate-smart agricultural working model for existing or abandoned agricultural areas</li> <li>• Climate-smart agriculture model piloted in at least three communities</li> </ul>
	<b>Output 2.1.3:</b> <i>Incentives provided to both males and females for responsible palm oil and cocoa, and food crops</i>  Deliverables include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on value chain and market dynamics of local, domestic, and export markets,</li> <li>• Report on the review Supply Chain Management Standards and Certification Systems for responsible supply/value chains</li> </ul>
	<b>Output 2.1.4:</b> <i>Community producers (male and female) of key commodities empowered and organized in a locally appropriate manner (potentially via cooperatives)</i>  Deliverable: Capacity building report
<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production	<b>Output 2.2.1:</b> <i>Policy recommendations to support sustainable agriculture developed and provided to government.</i>  Deliverable: Fiscal, financial and trade policy recommendations to advance gender-sensitive, climate-smart, sustainable food production systems in Liberia
<b>Outcome 2.3:</b> Resources for sustainable production secured	<b>Output 2.3.1:</b> <i>Long-term gender sensitive financial plan</i>  Deliverable: Gender sensitive NW Liberia Landscape Business and Investment Plans/ Prospectus
	<b>Output 2.3.2:</b> <i>Innovative and blended financing for sustainable production leveraged including supply chain systems, Liberia Conservation Fund, and REDD+</i>  Deliverables include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term business partnerships MoUs</li> <li>• Business hub to support private sector engagement</li> </ul>
<b>COMPONENT 3:</b>	<b>Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats</b>
<b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Degraded areas that are crucial for ensuring ecosystem connectivity and integrity restored in NW Liberia	<b>Output 3.1.1:</b> <i>NW Liberia Landscape Restoration Plan</i>  Deliverables include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape restoration plan</li> <li>• Management plans for restoration sites</li> </ul>
	<b>Output 3.1.2:</b> <i>Enhanced restoration capacity of communities, land-users, local county authorities etc.</i>

	Deliverable: Capacity building materials on restoration <b>Output 3.1.3:</b> <i>Restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management and natural regeneration.</i> Deliverable: Report on NW Liberia Landscape restoration initiatives
<b>Outcome 3.2:</b> Improved gender sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia	<b>Output 3.2.1:</b> <i>Gender sensitive policies on performance payments and Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes developed and/or adopted for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape</i> Deliverable: Report on gender sensitive risk and policy analyses for scaled up restoration investment
<b>Outcome 3.3:</b> Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities	<b>Output 3.3.1:</b> <i>Innovative and blended financing for NW Liberia restoration leveraged, based on promising approaches from within Liberia and elsewhere to provide incentives to individuals and communities for restoration.</i> Deliverables include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on conservation/carbon financing review</li> <li>• Report on assessment of the potential for PES based on watershed services</li> <li>• Benefit-sharing mechanism linked to conservation and restoration</li> <li>• Gender sensitive Business and Investment Plans for restoration of NW Liberia Landscape</li> </ul>
<b>COMPONENT 4:</b>	<b>Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation</b>
<b>Outcome 4.1.:</b> Improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation	<b>Output 4.1.1:</b> <i>Gender sensitive M&amp;E system to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation.</i> Deliverable: Project M&E system
<b>Outcome 4.2.:</b> Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project by women and men	<b>Output 4.2.1:</b> <i>An integrated and gender sensitive knowledge management system</i> Deliverables include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly and annual progress reports</li> <li>• Physical Community Resource Centre and an online knowledge and learning platform for information sharing</li> <li>• System to track private sector agreements in NW Liberia landscape</li> <li>• Report on local/traditional knowledge pertaining to resilience, NRM and food security</li> <li>• Quarterly field monitoring visits</li> </ul>
	<b>Output 4.2.2:</b> <i>National, regional, and international engagements by men and women representatives to share knowledge generated in the Project.</i> Deliverables include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge products/List of success stories, lessons learned and best practices</li> <li>• Reports on South-South knowledge exchanges with other FOLUR child projects</li> <li>• Report on knowledge sharing at landscape, national, regional and international platforms</li> <li>• Conflict/grievance redress reports</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grievance redress</li><li>• Annual workplans and budgets developed</li></ul>
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## IN-HOUSE CONSULTANT: NATIONAL POLICY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS EXPERT

<b>COMPONENT 1:</b>	<b>Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans</b>
<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use	<p><b>Output 1.1.1:</b> <i>Information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan from secondary/desktop research.</i></p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive list of policies and laws across various sectors</li> <li>• Report on Liberia's fiscal, financial, trade policies that affect food production systems</li> <li>• Report on the review of existing national strategies of relevance to NW Liberia (REDD+, cocoa and oil palm)</li> <li>• Report on the analysis of alignment/implications of policies and laws for project activities</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 1.1.2:</b> <i>Biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape to inform land-use planning for food-security and for sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa.</i></p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ToRs for assessment of Liberia's fiscal, financial, trade policies that affect food production system; and review of legal context and policy incentive options for promoting climate-smart agriculture and responsibly produced palm oil and cocoa</li> <li>• Reports on Liberia's fiscal, financial, trade policies that affect food production system; and review of legal context and policy incentive options for promoting climate-smart agriculture and responsibly produced palm oil and cocoa</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 1.2:</b> Improved land allocation by Communities (male and female), government, private sector, and civil society in NW Liberia landscape	<p><b>Output 1.2.2:</b> <i>NW Liberia landscape land-use plans adopted and jointly implemented by communities, government, the private sector, and civil society.</i></p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NW Liberia Land-use plan validation report</li> <li>• Validated NW Liberia Land-use plan</li> <li>• Policy guidance document on the development of a gazettelement package for establishment of Wologizi as a protected area</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 1.3:</b> Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by men and women strengthened	<p><b>Output 1.3.1:</b> <i>Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Governance Structure for NW Liberia Landscape</i></p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NW Liberia Landscape Partnership MoUs</li> <li>• Inter-agency/multi-stakeholder coordination</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 1.3.3:</b> <i>Two gender sensitive regulations to improve integrated land-use planning and management in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia developed</i></p> <p>Deliverable: Two gender sensitive regulations, laws and/or policies to support integrated land-use planning and management</p>
<b>COMPONENT 2:</b>	<b>Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains</b>

<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production	<b>Output 2.2.1:</b> <i>Policy recommendations to support sustainable agriculture developed and provided to government.</i>  Deliverable: Fiscal, financial and trade policy recommendations to advance gender-sensitive, climate-smart, sustainable food production systems in Liberia
<b>Outcome 2.3:</b> Resources for sustainable production secured	<b>Output 2.3.2:</b> <i>Innovative and blended financing for sustainable production leveraged including supply chain systems, Liberia Conservation Fund, and REDD+</i>  Deliverable: Long-term business partnerships MoUs
<b>COMPONENT 3:</b>	<b>Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats</b>
<b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Degraded areas that are crucial for ensuring ecosystem connectivity and integrity restored in NW Liberia	<b>Output 3.1.1:</b> <i>NW Liberia Landscape Restoration Plan</i>  Deliverable: Policy guidance document for the development of landscape restoration plans
	<b>Output 3.1.3:</b> <i>Restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management and natural regeneration.</i>  Deliverable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy guidance document on the execution of pilot restoration activities</li> <li>• Policy guidance document on the development of management plans for restoration sites within land-use plans</li> <li>• Policy guidance document on demarcation of boundaries of areas for restoration</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 3.2:</b> Improved gender sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia	<b>Output 3.2.1:</b> <i>Gender sensitive policies on performance payments and Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes developed and/or adopted for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape</i>  Deliverables include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three gender sensitive regulations, laws and/or policies to support restoration</li> <li>• Report on gender-sensitive policy review of existing laws and regulations to assess gaps and opportunities for restoration</li> <li>• Report on gender-sensitive risk and policy analyses for scaled up restoration investment in Liberia landscape</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 3.3:</b> Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities	<b>Output 3.3.1:</b> <i>Innovative and blended financing for NW Liberia restoration leveraged, based on promising approaches from within Liberia and elsewhere to provide incentives to individuals and communities for restoration.</i>  Deliverables include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy guidance document on the review of conservation/carbon financing</li> <li>• Policy guidance document on the assessment of the potential for PES based on watershed services</li> <li>• Policy guidance document on the development of a benefit-sharing mechanism linked to conservation and restoration</li> </ul>

## IN-HOUSE CONSULTANT: SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION SPECIALIST

COMPONENT 4:	Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation
<p><b>Outcome 4.2.:</b> Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project by women and men.</p> <p>The International Engagement Expert will represent the project at various regional and International platforms such as RSPO, HCSA, Cocoa and Forest Initiative, World Cocoa Foundation, and Global Landscape Forum.</p>	<p><b>Output 4.2.2:</b> <i>National, regional, and international engagements by men and women representatives to share knowledge generated in the Project</i></p> <p>Deliverables: International engagement reports</p> <p>The International Engagement Expert will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in project inception workshop</li> <li>• Organize and hold consultative and/or coordination meetings with CI-GEF Agency, GEF, World Bank, RSPO, HCSA, Cocoa and Forest Initiative, World Cocoa Foundation, and Global Landscape Forum</li> </ul>

## STAFF: Finance Lead

**Project Objective:** To promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems for enhanced livelihood opportunities in NW Liberia Landscape through land use planning, restoration of degraded lands, and strengthening governance, policies, and market incentives for nationally replicable models of deforestation-free cocoa and palm oil value chains.

This role will provide administrative, logistical, and programmatic support to the project that includes overall management of the project budget, conduct of subaward assessments, monitoring of grants released to partners, and procurement and contracts management. Also, this role will take charge in the preparation and submission of the regular project financial reporting, co-financing reporting and the final financial reporting by project-end.

COMPONENT 1:	Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans	
The Finance lead will be responsible for all the contracting of consultants; due diligence and ensure compliance to policies for both CI and GEF. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure program staff are aware and understand donor restrictions through ongoing training and communication</li><li>• Develop and deliver finance, operations, and security management trainings, workshops and meetings</li><li>• Review and approve all pre-award financial due diligence documentation to assess financial capacity and internal</li></ul>	<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> <i>Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use by men and women</i>	
	<b>Outcome 1.2:</b> <i>Improved land allocation by communities (men and women), government, private sector and civil society in NW Liberia landscape</i>	

<p>controls of sub-grantees; establish appropriate financial risk mitigation measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve agreements, amendments and payments for assigned portfolios.</li> <li>• Conduct on-site field assessments of financial and contractual compliance of sub-awards.</li> <li>• Managing partner monthly and quarterly financial reporting and ensuring compliance</li> <li>• Review and approve financial reports and supporting expense documentation submitted by sub-recipients</li> <li>• Lead the consolidation and review of annual budget and procurement plan</li> <li>• Management of the budget including monthly budget vs actual reports to the technical lead</li> <li>• Prepare quarterly report to the donor</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcome 1.3:</b> <i>Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by men and women strengthened</i></p>
<p><b>COMPONENT 2</b></p>	<p><b>Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains</b></p>
<p>Support the grant management role including partner due diligence, financial reviews, and partner training. Conduct on site financial reviews of partners: Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure program staff are aware and understand donor restrictions through ongoing training and communication</li> <li>• Develop and deliver finance, operations, and security management trainings, workshops and meetings</li> <li>• Review and approve all pre-award financial due diligence documentation to assess financial capacity and internal controls of sub-grantees; establish appropriate financial risk mitigation measures.</li> <li>• Approve agreements, amendments and payments for assigned portfolios.</li> <li>• Conduct on-site field assessments of financial and contractual compliance of sub-awards.</li> <li>• Managing partner monthly and quarterly financial reporting and ensuring compliance</li> <li>• Review and approve financial reports and supporting expense documentation submitted by sub-recipients</li> <li>• Lead the consolidation and review of annual budget and procurement plan</li> <li>• Management of the budget including monthly budget vs actual reports to the technical lead</li> <li>• Prepare quarterly report to the donor</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcome 2.1:</b> <i>Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape</i></p> <p><b>Outcome 2.2:</b> <i>Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production by men and women</i></p> <p><b>Outcome 2.3:</b> <i>Resources for sustainable production by men and women secured</i></p>
<p><b>COMPONENT 3</b></p>	<p><b>Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats</b></p>
<p>Support the grant management role including partner due diligence, financial reviews, and partner training. Conduct on site financial reviews of partners: Specifically:</p>	<p><b>Outcome 3.1:</b> <i>Degraded areas that are crucial for ensuring ecosystem connectivity and integrity restored in NW Liberia</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure program staff are aware and understand donor restrictions through ongoing training and communication</li> <li>• Develop and deliver finance, operations, and security management trainings, workshops and meetings</li> <li>• Review and approve all pre-award financial due diligence documentation to assess financial capacity and internal controls of sub-grantees; establish appropriate financial risk mitigation measures.</li> <li>• Approve agreements, amendments and payments for assigned portfolios.</li> <li>• Conduct on-site field assessments of financial and contractual compliance of sub-awards.</li> <li>• Managing partner monthly and quarterly financial reporting and ensuring compliance</li> <li>• Review and approve financial reports and supporting expense documentation submitted by sub-recipients</li> <li>• Lead the consolidation and review of annual budget and procurement plan</li> <li>• Management of the budget including monthly budget vs actual reports to the technical lead</li> <li>• Prepare quarterly report to the donor</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcome 3.2:</b> <i>Improved gender-sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia</i></p>
	<p><b>Outcome 3.3:</b> <i>Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities by men and women</i></p>
<p><b>PMC</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide variance analysis and recommendations to sub-recipients/sub-grantees to ensure core fund spending is within budget and schedule tolerances.</li> <li>• Support Technical Lead to negotiate on costs and cost-sharing agreements with sub-recipients based on donor limitations/requirements (such as allowable, disallowable and allocable expenses)</li> <li>• Conduct site visits to ensure compliance and provide financial assistance support to implementing partners.</li> <li>• Provide finance orientation to new contractors/sub-grantees.</li> <li>• Maintain a spreadsheet of funds transferred to subgrantees and expenses liquidated, review financial liquidations, and endorse the release of the next tranche.</li> <li>• Maintain budget and expenditure management files</li> <li>• Managing the monthly and quarterly financial reporting and ensuring compliance</li> <li>• Lead the consolidation and review of annual budget and procurement plan</li> <li>• Manage other financial issues that arise, including risk management</li> <li>• Annual workplans and budgets developed</li> <li>• Compliance with policies and donor agreement</li> </ul>

