

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

for the project:

**Improve sustainability of mangrove forests and coastal
mangrove areas in Liberia through protection, planning
and livelihood creation – building blocks towards
Liberia's marine and coastal protected areas**

**July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019
End-of-project report**

Executing Partners



Project Information			
Project Title:	Improve sustainability of mangrove forests and coastal mangrove areas in Liberia through protection, planning and livelihood creation – as a building block towards Liberia’s marine and coastal protected areas		
Country(ies):	Liberia	GEF ID:	5712
GEF Agency(ies):	Conservation International	Duration in Months:	43
Other Executing Partners:	Environmental Protection Agency-Liberia, CI-Liberia	Start Date:	5/15/2016
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity	Actual Project Close Date:	12/31/2019
GEF Grant Amount:	\$963,994	Date of Last Steering Committee Meeting:	4/3/2019
Expected Co-financing:	\$3,650,000	Mid-Term Review-Planned Date:	Waived
Total Project Cost:	\$4,704,994	Mid-Term Review-Actual Date:	Waived
Co-financing Realized as of June 30, 2019:	\$3,676,255	Terminal Evaluation-Planned Date:	10/15/2019
Date of First Disbursement:	5/15/2016	Terminal Evaluation-Expected Date:	10/15/2019
Disbursement as of June 30, 2019:	\$933,996	PIR Prepared by: CI-GEF Program Managers:	Victor Smith; George Ilebo Free de Koning, Susana Escudero

The CI-GEF Project Agency Project Implementation Report (PIR) is composed of five sections:

- Section I: Project Implementation Progress Status Summary:** provides a brief summary of the project as well as the implementation status and rating of the previous and current fiscal years;
- Section II: Project Results Implementation Progress Status and Rating:** describes the progress made towards achieving the project objective and outcomes, the implementation rating of the project, as well as recommendations to improve the project performance, when needed;
- Section III: Project Risks Status and Rating:** describes the progress made towards managing and mitigating project risks, the project risks mitigation rating reassessment as needed, as well as recommendations to improve the management of project risks;
- Section IV: Project Environmental and Social Safeguards Implementation Status and Rating:** describes the progress made towards complying with the Environmental & Social Safeguards and the Plans prepared during the PPG phase, the safeguard plans implementation rating, as well as recommendations to improve the project safeguards;
- Section V: Project Implementation Experiences and Lessons Learned:** describes the experiences learned by the project managers and the lessons learned through the process of implementing the project; and

SECTION I: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS SUMMARY

PROJECT SUMMARY

Coastal ecosystems are critical to maintaining human well-being and global biodiversity. Mangroves provide numerous benefits and services that contribute to overall health and function of coastal ecosystem including protection from storm surge and sea level rise, erosion prevention, coastal water quality regulation, habitat provision for important and endangered marine species, and food security. Despite their benefits and services, it is estimated that up to 67% of the historical global mangrove range has been lost.

In Liberia, the rate of mangrove deforestation since 1980 is estimated to be as high as 65%. Key threats to mangroves in Liberia include habitat loss and land degradation, exploitation, pollution and climate change. Agriculture particularly for swamp rice, urbanization and urban development, transportation infrastructure (road) development, and mining and oil exploitation are the main drivers of habitat loss and degradation; while hunting, firewood collection, charcoal production, timber extraction and collection of species for pet trade are the main exploitative threats to mangroves in Liberia. Agricultural chemicals and oil spills are the main pollution threats.

Liberia recognizes the importance of mangroves as valuable habitat for endangered species. For instance, Lake Piso, Montserrado and Marshall proposed protected area are Ramsar sites. Progress has been made to include mangrove systems in international and national policy as well as in Liberia's formal protected area network.

To this end, the **objective** of this project is to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of Liberia's globally important mangrove forests through effective participatory land-use planning and establishment of coastal protected areas in at least 35% of Liberia's mangroves. The two **components** of this project are: (i) Enabling conditions for establishment of coastal and marine protected areas in 20% of priority mangrove forests; and (ii) Reducing pressures on an additional 15% of priority forest areas through integrated land-use planning, improving local community livelihoods and increasing stakeholders' capacity and awareness.

END OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

The implementation of activities during the total project implementation period (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2019) has resulted in the following key achievements:

Component 1: Enabling conditions for establishment of coastal and marine protected areas in 20% of priority mangrove forests:

- a) Baseline information on the distribution, extent, conservation status, value and key threats to mangroves and associated fauna in Liberia was collected;
- b) The management plan for Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve was updated and approved by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA). Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve has a total land surface area of 97,159 ha, of which 6,982 ha is mangroves representing 24.4% of priority mangrove areas in Liberia;
- c) A gazette package for Marshall Proposed Protected Area is over 80% developed. The Marshall Proposed Protected Area has a total land surface area of 23,813 ha of which 3,295 ha is mangroves representing 11.5% of priority mangrove forests in Liberia. CI Liberia secured funding from Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Turing Foundation for establishing Marshall proposed protected area as a Protected Area;
- d) Two co-management committees were established: one for Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve and the other for Marshall Proposed Protected Area.

Component 2: Reducing pressures on an additional 15% of priority mangrove areas

- a) A participatory land use planning tool kit was developed and piloted in 10 communities covering 11,107 ha;
- b) 10 community participatory land use plans were developed covering a total surface area of 15,253 ha; of which 4,146 ha are mangroves;
- c) A GIS lab was been established at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- d) Three staff (all men) of EPA were trained on GIS;
- e) 88 (2 women and 86 men) Frontline Conservationists were trained on the use of mobile tablets for the collection of monitoring data using Survey 123 for ArcGIS. Also, a dashboard was set up at the EPA GIS Lab to analyze and report on the data collected;

- f) Ten Community Conservation Agreements were signed with the communities of Nyangba, Bleewein, Sarwein, Edina, Snafu-Dock, Ben's Town, Falie, Mandoe, Bomboja and Bendu, covering 4,146 ha of mangroves.

In compliance with the CI-GEF Project Agency's Environmental & Social Safeguards, the following achievements were registered:

- a. **Accountability and grievance mechanism:** Two grievances were successfully resolved (see details below).
- b. **Gender mainstreaming:** A total of 4,687 persons (1,206 women and 3,481 men) people participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations). Gender considerations were taken into account during the implementation of the activities including: collection of sex disaggregated data; assessment of how both men and women use mangroves; focus group discussions for men and women separately to ensure that both sexes air their views without fear; two-weeks' notice of meetings was given to the town chief to inform the local community members of the activity including the time and venue; convenient times and locations were selected for meetings to allow participation of both sexes.
- c. **Stakeholder engagement:** A total of 80 community engagement meetings and nine workshops were held where a total of 4,687 persons (1,206 women and 3,481 men) participated. The main stakeholders included the Ministry of Agriculture, the Forestry Development Authority, the Liberia Land Authority, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Ministry of Information Culture and Tourism, the Liberia House Senate and Representative; the National Bureau of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Society for the Conservation of Nature Liberia (SCNL), the Collaborative Management Association (CMA), the Farmers Associated to Conserve the Environment (FACE), and local communities, among others
- d. A Rights-Based Approach, including Free Prior Informed Consent, has been applied in stakeholder engagement.

Summary of Project Progress Rating

PROJECT PART	PRIOR (FY18) IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	END-OF-PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING ¹	RATING TREND ²
OBJECTIVE	S	S	Unchanged
COMPONENTS AND OUTCOMES	S	S	Unchanged
RISKS	HS	HS	Unchanged
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS	HS	HS	Unchanged

¹ **Implementation Progress (IP) Rating:** Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). For more details about IP rating, please see the Appendix I of this report

² **Rating trend:** Improving, Unchanged, or Decreasing

SECTION II: PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS AND RATING

This section describes the progress made towards achieving the project objective and outcomes, the implementation progress rating of the project, as well as recommendations to improve the project performance. This section is composed four parts:

- Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Objective: this section measures the likelihood of achieving the objective of the project
- Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Outcomes (by project component)
- Overall Project Results Progress Rating, and
- Recommendations for improvement

a. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Objective:

This part of the report assesses the progress in achieving the objective of the project.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:	To strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of Liberia's globally important mangrove forests through effective participatory land-use planning and establishment of marine protected areas in at least 35% of Liberia's mangroves.		
OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ³	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Indicator a: Level of information and data on the distribution, extent, conservation status, value and key threats to mangroves and associated fauna in Liberia available to inform conservation requirements and planning initiatives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Six species of mangroves identified. Biodiversity diversity determined in Marshall and Lake Piso mangrove landscapes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Marshall: 37 amphibian specie, 339 bird species, and 114 mammal species Lake Piso: 59 bird species, 14 mammal species; and 4 species of marine turtles. A map of mangrove ecosystems along the entire Liberian coast was developed using GIS, Landsat imagery and ground-truthing. Six priority mangrove sites (Lake Piso, Bomboja, Mesurado, Marshall, Harper, and Buchanan) with a total priority mangrove area of 28,613 ha were identified. The project operated in two sites for formal protection: Lake Piso (6,982 ha of mangroves) and Marshall (3,295 ha of mangroves). Thus, for formal protection, the project area covered 10,277ha of mangroves which is 35.9% of the total priority mangroves in Liberia. Furthermore, the project achieved protection of an additional 4,146 ha of 	CA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Six different mangroves species identified including Red mangrove (<i>Rhizophora racemose</i>; <i>Rhizophora Rangle</i>); Black mangrove (<i>Avicennia germinana</i>; <i>Rhizophora harrisonii</i>); Golden leather/mangrove fern (<i>Acrostichum aureum</i>); Buttonwood Mangrove (<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>); and white mangrove (<i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>), in addition to the very rare endemic <i>Fegimanra acuminatissima</i>. The diversity of the associated fauna in these priority mangroves is high and includes species of global conservation significance such as the Red Colobus monkey, Glossy Ibis, Lesser Kestrel, and the Common Pratincole. The area also provides important nesting beaches for Olive Ridley (<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>, VU), Leatherback (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>, VU) and Green (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>, EN) marine turtles, which makes it significant in the global conservation context. Six priority mangrove forest sites were identified including: Lake Piso, Bomboja, Mesurado, Marshall, Harper, and Buchanan. The project operates in the Lake Piso and Marshall mangrove sites. Eight main threats to mangroves in Liberia were identified during socio-economic and threat surveys: coastal development around the larger coastal towns; road construction; mining; oil exploration; rice production; oil spills; hunting; and fuelwood (firewood collection, and charcoal production). A map of mangrove ecosystems along the entire

³ O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ³	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
	<p>mangroves through community-based conservation agreements, which is 14.5% of the total priority mangroves area.</p> <p>5. Eight key threats to mangroves were identified.</p> <p>6. A botanical study was conducted on the coastal vegetation between the Farmington River and St. John River in Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties where 85 tree species and five vegetation types were identified.</p> <p>7. An ecological/biophysical assessment and socio-economic and threat survey was conducted in 32 communities within the Marshall Landscape.</p>		<p>Liberian coast was developed using GIS, Landsat imagery and ground-truthing. A participatory Land use planning toolkit, and base maps for Grand Bassa, Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve and Marshall proposed protected area were developed.</p> <p>5. A botanical study was executed which identified 85 tree species and five vegetation types, including:</p> <p>a) Mangrove vegetation with species such as <i>Rhizophora spp.</i>, <i>Conocarpus erectus</i>, <i>Machaerium lunatum</i>, <i>Acrostichum aureum</i>, and <i>Eleocharis geniculata</i></p> <p>b) Fresh water swamp forest. This forest connected with the mangrove vegetation and has species such as <i>Anthocleista vogelii</i>, <i>Diplacrum capitatum</i>, <i>Englerophytum spec.</i>, <i>Isonema smeathmannii</i>, <i>Lasimorpha senegalensis</i>, <i>Napoleonaea sapoensis</i>, <i>Maschalocephalus dinklagei</i>, <i>Scleria vogelii</i>, <i>Stipularia africana</i>, and <i>Symphonia globulifera</i>)</p> <p>c) Forest on dry land with main tree species such as <i>Baphia spathacea</i>, <i>Bertiera spicata</i>, <i>Carapa spec.</i>, <i>Chassalia afzelii</i>, <i>Combretum calobotrys</i>, <i>Gaertnera cooperi</i>, <i>Haplormosia monophylla</i>, <i>Maranthes glabra</i>, <i>Trichoscypha laxissima</i>, and species mentioned under dense woody vegetation under # e below</p> <p>d) Savanna (Dry and wet) vegetation. Dry Savanna has species like <i>Bulbostylis laniceps</i>, <i>Curculigo pilosa</i>, <i>Eriosema arenicola</i>, <i>Neocarya macrophylla</i> as the main tree species; Wet Savanna has species like <i>Eriocaulon setaceum</i>, <i>Genlisea stapfii</i>, <i>Mesanthemum radicans</i>, <i>Rhynchospora rubra subsp. africana</i>, <i>Scleria achtenii</i>, <i>Trichantheium (Panicum) filifolium</i>, <i>Trichantheium (Panicum) parvifolium</i>, <i>Utricularia inflexa</i>, <i>Utricularia spiralis</i>, and <i>Utricularia subulate</i> as the main tree species.</p> <p>e) Dense woody vegetation. Main tree species included: <i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i> and <i>Sansevieria liberica</i>, <i>Afzelia parviflora</i>, <i>Ancistrocladus barteri</i>, <i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>, <i>Dalbergia ecastaphyllum</i>, <i>Dracaena ovata</i>, <i>Entada gigas</i>, <i>Ficus ovata</i>, <i>Gaertnera paniculata</i>, <i>Heisteria parvifolia</i>, <i>Hymenocardia lyrata</i>, <i>Ixora brachypoda</i>, <i>Ixora laxiflora</i>, <i>Napoleonaea spec.</i>, <i>Ochna multiflora</i>, <i>Palisota hirsuta</i>, <i>Pouchetia africana</i>, <i>Psychotria peduncularis</i>, <i>Ptychopetalum anceps</i>, <i>Rourea coccinea</i>, <i>Sacoglottis gabonensis</i>, <i>Salacia senegalensis</i>, <i>Smeathmannia laevigata</i>, <i>Tetracera alnifolia</i>, and <i>Xylopia acutiflora</i>.</p> <p>6. In support of the Marshall wetland Gazettement process, an ecological assessment and socio-economic and threats survey were conducted. The key findings included:</p>

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ³	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
			<p>Ecological:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The presence of six mangrove species was confirmed b) Nine tree species of Class A Economic value under Forestry Development Authority classification were identified including: <i>Afzelia bella</i>, <i>Canarium schweinfurthii</i>, <i>Ceiba pentandra</i>, <i>Hallea ciliate</i>, <i>Milicia excelsa</i>, <i>Piptadeniastrum africanum</i>, and <i>Terminalia ivorensis</i> c) One Vulnerable and one Endangered species of amphibians were identified: <i>Conraua alleni</i> (VU); and <i>Phrynobatrachus annulatus</i> (EN) d) Two critically endangered, two endangered and one vulnerable species of reptiles were identified: <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> (CR) and <i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i> (CR); <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (EN), <i>Caretta caretta</i> (EN); and <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> (VU) e) Two endangered species of mammals were identified: <i>Cercopithecus diana</i> (EN) and <i>Procolobus badius</i> (EN) f) Two vulnerable and three near threatened species of fish identified: <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> (VU), <i>Tilapia joka</i> (VU); <i>Tilapia walteri</i> (NT), <i>Aetobatus narinari</i> (NT) and <i>Epiplatys olbrechtsi</i> (NT) g) Main NTFPs identified in the Marshall wetland included: <i>Phragmite Austialis</i>, <i>Raphia palm</i>, <i>Elies guinesis</i>, <i>Cola affellii</i>, <i>Raphia Vinifera</i>, and <i>Raphia vinifera</i> h) Major fish species identified in the Marshall wetland included <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>, <i>Sardinella aurita</i>, <i>Caranx hippos</i> i) Main bird Species identified included <i>Actitus hypoleucos</i>, <i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>, <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>, <i>Ceryle rudis</i>, <i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>, <i>Egretta garzetta</i>, <i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>, and <i>Milvus aegyptius</i> <p>Socio-economic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) High dependence of communities on Marshall proposed protected area/mangroves specifically for fish, wood and bushmeat b) Subsistence farming and fishing are the main economic activities undertaken c) Average household size is about 6 people d) Main areas of expenditure are on education, health and transportation e) The main land tenure systems include customary, private and government
<p>Indicator b: Area (ha) and percent (%) of mangrove forest in Liberia incorporated in</p>	<p>3,295 ha (11.5% of priority mangrove forests in Liberia)</p> <p>Gazettement package for establishment of Marshall Proposed Protected Area (3,295 ha) was developed</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>1. The Marshall Proposed Protected Area has 3,295 ha of mangroves, which is 11.5% of the total priority mangrove forest in Liberia. At the start of the project, the then leadership of FDA suggested that there was no need to conduct an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment(ESIA) because that was already done in 2006 during the gazettement of Marshall</p>

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ³	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
<p>areas designated for formal protection</p>	<p>and free prior and informed consent obtained from 34 communities for establishing Marshall proposed protected area as a Protected as initially envisaged.</p> <p>However, after the change in government, the new leadership at FDA suggested that since the previous Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was conducted in 2006, a new full ESIA has to be conducted that has to include all communities within 3 km of the park boundary instead of within 2 km of the park boundary as was the case in the ESIA in 2006. This increases the number of affected communities from 34 to 68.</p> <p>Also, the boundaries needed to be re-demarcated in respect of the Land Rights Act that was signed into law on September 19, 2018.</p> <p>To this end, to ensure that the Marshall proposed protected area is gazetted as a protected area, a full ESIA and FPIC obtained from the additional 34 affected communities is required.</p>		<p>Proposed Protected Area (Marshall wetlands) as a Ramsar site, where also 34 affected communities were identified as located within 2 km from the boundary of the proposed protected area. To this end, it was agreed that ecological and socio-economic surveys be conducted as an update to the ESIA and free, prior and informed consent be obtained from the 34 affected communities. These were duly achieved.</p> <p>However, after the change in government, the new leadership at FDA suggested in April 2019 that since the previous ESIA was conducted in 2006, a new full ESIA has to be conducted that has to include all communities within 3 km of the park boundary instead of within 2 km of the park boundary as was the case in the ESIA in 2006. This increases the number of affected communities from 34 to 68. To this end, to ensure that the Marshall proposed protected area is gazetted as a protected area, a full ESIA and FPIC obtained from the additional 34 affected communities is required. As this change happened close to the end of the project, these additional requirements could not be addressed. We consider that 80% of the required outputs for gazettelement have been achieved.</p> <p>2. To ensure that Marshall proposed protected area is gazetted as a Protected Area, CI Liberia has secured funding from the Prince of Monaco and Turing Foundations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) complete the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in additional 34 communities that were not under this project; b) Conduct a full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), c) Conduct boundary demarcation (this is required due to the recently approved Land Rights Act); and d) Seek approval of the legislature and cabinet. <p>Of the total funding from the Prince of Monaco and Turing Foundations (which amounts to 470,000 euros), 180,787 euros will go towards completing the gazettelement package. The gazettelement package is expected to be completed within a 12 months period.</p> <p>3. A co-management committee composed of 14 persons (6 women and 8 men) was established for Marshall proposed protected area</p>
<p>Indicator c: Number of Conservation Agreements negotiated</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>CA</p>	<p>Ten Conservation Agreements were signed with the communities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Nyangba, Bleeweine, Sarwein and Edina in Grand Bassa County; b) Snafu-Dock and Ben's Town in Margibi County; and c) Falie, Mandoe, Bomboja and Bendu in Grand Cape Mount County

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ³	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
with coastal communities in Liberia			
Indicator d: Area (ha) and percent (%) of mangrove forest in Liberia safeguarded through community-based Conservation Agreements or other legal mechanisms	4,146 ha (14.5% of mangrove forest in Liberia)	CA	Ten Conservation Agreements were signed with the communities of Nyangba, Bleewein, Sarwein, Edina, Snafu-Dock and Ben's Town, Falie, Mandoe, Bomboja, and Bendu. These 10 Conservation Agreements covered a total surface area of 15,253 ha; of which 4,146 ha were mangroves.

OBJECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION
S	Substantive information was collected on mangrove extent, biodiversity and threats. The Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve Management Plan was updated, validated by stakeholders, and approved by the Forestry Development Authority. For the gazettement of the Marshall proposed protected area, activities were concluded as planned, but a few months before closure of the project the government requested additional assessments. These include a new ESIA and FPIC from an additional 34 communities due to the fact that all communities should be considered within 3 km of the park boundary instead of 2 km as was the case for the previous ESIA. This additional work could not be included within the scope of the current project. This means that about 80% of the required outputs for gazettement have been achieved. The project has assured financing from other donors to complete that work after the close of this project. The Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve Management Plan was updated, validated by stakeholders, and approved by the Forestry Development Authority. Ten communities have signed Conservation Agreements with a total surface area of 15,253 ha, of which 4,146 ha are mangroves.

b. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Outcomes (by project component).

This part of the report assesses the progress towards achieving the outcomes of the project.

COMPONENT 1	Enabling conditions for establishment of coastal and marine protected areas in 20% of priority mangrove forests (15% as National Protected Areas and 5% as community Conserved Mangrove Forest)
Outcome 1:	15% of priority mangrove areas have been identified, delineated, and management plans to safeguard them completed
Outcome 2:	5% of priority mangrove forests is safeguarded through community-based Conservation Agreements and other legal mechanisms

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
<p>Outcome 1.1.: 15% of priority mangrove areas have been identified, delineated, and management plans to safeguard them completed</p> <p>Outcome indicator 1.1: Area (ha and % of total) of mangrove forest incorporated into protected areas</p>	15%	6,982 ha (24.4%)	CA	<p>The Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve Management Plan was updated, validated by stakeholders, and approved by the Forestry Development Authority and was subsequently shared with various key stakeholders including communities, CSOs, and government lead agencies.</p> <p>Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve covers 6,982 ha of mangroves, representing 24.4% of the total priority mangrove forest in Liberia.</p> <p>4. In addition, over 80% of the work on the gazettelement package for Marshall proposed protected is completed. The Marshall Proposed Protected Area has a total land surface area of 23,813 ha of which 3,295 ha is mangroves representing 11.5% of priority mangrove forests in Liberia. CI Liberia has secured funding from the Prince of Monaco and Turing Foundations to complete the gazettelement package. Of the total funding from the Prince of Monaco and Turing Foundations (which amounts to 470,000 euros), 180,787 euros will go towards completing the gazettelement package. The gazettelement package is expected to be completed within a 12 months period.</p>
<p>Outcome 1.2: 5% of priority mangrove forests is safeguarded through community conservation and other legal mechanisms</p> <p>Outcome indicator 1.2: Area (ha and % of total) of mangrove forest under community conservation or other legal mechanisms</p>	5% of Liberia's priority mangrove forests under community conservation or other legal mechanisms	4,146 ha (14.5%)	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten Conservation Agreements were signed with the communities of Nyangba, Bleewein, Sarwein, Edina, Snafu-Dock and Ben's Town, Falie, Mandoe, Bomboja, and Bendu. These 10 Conservation Agreements cover a total surface area of 15,253 ha, of which 4,146 ha are mangroves. Ten Conservation Agreement Management Committees were formed in ten communities that signed conservation agreements including Nyangba, Sarwein, Bleewein, Edina, Snafu-Dock, Ben's Town, Bomboja, Falie, Mandoe and Bendu.

COMPONENT 1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
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^{4 4} **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

S	In terms of surface area targets, the project overachieved. The Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve Management Plan was updated, validated by stakeholders, and approved by the Forestry Development Authority. Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve covers 24.4% of the total priority mangrove forest in Liberia. Ten Conservation Agreements with local communities were implemented, with a total surface area of 15,253 ha, of which 4,146 ha are mangroves, representing 14,5% of the total priority mangrove forest in Liberia. For the gazettement of the Marshall proposed protected area (23,813 ha of which 3,295 ha are mangroves, representing 11.5% of priority mangrove forests in Liberia) all planned activities were completed. However, due to changes in government regulations that took place only a few months before the close of this project, additional assessment will need to be done. This was outside the control of the project. This means that about 80% of the required work for the gazettement of the Marshall proposed protected has been completed. The project has successfully assured additional funding from other donors to complete the gazettement package after the close of this project.	Unchanged
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COMPONENT 2	Decreasing pressures on an additional 15% of priority mangrove areas
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Outcome 1:	Priority mangrove forest land-use planning integrated and mainstreamed in the wider landscape and subjected to 5-year monitoring and evaluation program for adaptive management
Outcome 2:	No further deforestation within the 15% of priority mangroves and surrounding buffer areas through addressing drivers of deforestation and improving people's livelihoods.
Outcome 3:	Capacity and awareness of key government agencies and local communities on mangrove forest conservation and sustainable use substantially improved

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
<p>Outcome 2.1.: Priority Mangrove forest land-use planning integrated and mainstreamed in the wider landscape (surrounding buffer areas) and subjected to 5-year M&E program for adaptive management.</p> <p>Outcome indicator 2.1.: Area (ha or %) of priority mangroves covered by the M&E program</p>	15% of additional priority mangroves with integrated land use plans and M&E program	4,146 ha (14.5%)	CA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A land use planning toolkit was developed and tested in ten communities covering 11,107 ha as detailed out below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Bleewein – 235 ha b) Sarwein– 398 ha c) Bomboja – 359 ha d) Bendu – 463 ha e) Falie – 1,214 ha f) Mandoe – 1,100 ha g) Edina – 5,140 ha h) Nyangba – 372 ha i) Ben's Town – 370ha j) Snafu Dock – 1,456 ha 2. Ten (10) Land use plans were developed for Falie, Mandoe, Ben'sTown, Snafu-Dock, Nyangba, Edina, Bendu, Bomboja, Bleewein and Sarwein. These 10 communities have a total surface area of 15,253 ha; of which 4,146 ha are mangroves.

^{5 5} **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Base maps for Marshall proposed protected area and Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve were produced. Also, a map of mangrove ecosystems along the entire Liberian coast has been developed using GIS and Landsat imagery. 88 (2 women and 86 men) Frontline Conservationists were trained on the use of mobile tablets for patrolling and the collection of monitoring data using Survey 123 Three staff (all men) of EPA completed GIS training which included courses on Fundamentals of GIS, GIS Data Format, Design and Quality, Geospatial and Environmental Analysis, Imagery, Automation and Application, Geospatial Analysis, ARC GIS, and Geo Database. These three staff actively participated in the Land Use Planning activities in Bendu, Bomboja, Bleewein and Sarwein communities. A GIS Lab and a dashboard for mangrove monitoring was set up at EPA
Indicator 2.2.: Number of ha of avoided deforested within the buffer areas surrounding priority sites	2,053 ha	4,146 ha	CA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ten Conservation Agreements have been signed with the communities of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nyangba, Bleewein, Sarwein and Edina in Grand Bassa County; Snafu-Dock and Ben's Town in Margibi County; and Falie, Mandoe, Bomboja and Bendu in Grand Cape Mount County <p>The total land surface area of these ten communities with conservation agreements is 15,253 hectares, of which 4,146 ha is mangroves. Through the conservation agreements, the communities are committing to protect the mangrove areas and avoid their deforestation.</p> Co-Management Committees were established for Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve and Marshall Proposed Protected Area. Conservation Agreement Management Committees were established in 10 communities
Outcome 2.3.: Capacity and awareness of key government agencies and local communities on mangrove forest conservation and sustainable use substantially improved.	At least 50 government officials and 1,000 people in 4 local communities have received training on the key threats to and benefits provided by	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 514 (168 women and 346 men) government officials 4,058 (997 women and 3,061 men) community members 	CA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 514 (168 women and 346 men) government officials from Liberia Maritime Authority, Environmental Protection Agency, Forestry Development Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Gender, Children and social Protection House of Senate and Representative, and Liberia Land Authority etc. participated in project activities including meetings, workshops, monitoring etc. A total of 4,058 (997 women and 3,061 men) community members participated in meetings, workshops, negotiations and design for conservation agreements and other project activities

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Indicator 2.3.: Number of government officials and local stakeholders aware of threats and benefits of mangroves	mangrove forests in Liberia	c) A total of 3,004 (1,161 women and 1,843 men) people attended the World Wetlands day celebrations		<p>3. Two videos of five minutes each were produced for creating awareness and for advocacy. The videos highlighted the importance of mangroves and the threats facing mangroves as well as a call for action.</p> <p>4. Also, on World Wetlands days (February 2nd, 2018 and 2019) the project raised awareness on the importance of mangroves. About 3,004 people participated.</p>

COMPONENT 2 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	This progress for this component is rated as highly satisfactory as all outputs are being achieved and for two outcome indicators the results exceed the targets, namely hectares under conservation agreements to avoid deforestation of mangroves, and number of people trained. GIS capacity of EPA has been strengthened through training and the establishment of a GIS lab. A significant amount of data has been collected and mangrove maps have been produced. Feasibility assessments and community resource mapping and community consultations have been conducted extensively. A land use planning toolkit was developed, and land use plans were made for ten communities.	Unchanged

c. Overall Project Results Rating

OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION RATING

OVERALL RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND ⁶
S	The Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve Management Plan was updated, validated by stakeholders, and approved by the Forestry Development Authority. Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve covers 24.4% of the total priority mangrove forest in Liberia. Ten Conservation Agreements with local communities were implemented, with a total surface area of 15,253 ha, of which 4,146 ha are mangroves, representing 14.5% of the total priority mangrove forest in Liberia. For the gazettement of the Marshall proposed protected area (23,813 ha of which 3,295 ha are mangroves, representing 11.5% of priority mangrove forests in Liberia) all planned activities were completed. However, due to changes in government regulations that took place only a few months before the close of this project, additional assessment will need to be done. This was outside the control of the project. This means that about 80% of the required work for the gazettement of the Marshall proposed protected has been completed. The project has successfully assured additional funding from other donors to complete the gazettement package after the close of this project. GIS capacity of EPA has been strengthened through training and the establishment of a GIS lab. A significant amount of data has been collected and mangrove maps have been produced. Feasibility assessments and	Unchanged

⁶ Rating trend: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

	community resource mapping and community consultations have been conducted extensively. A land use planning toolkit was developed, and land use plans were made for ten communities. Frontline Conservationists in local communities were trained on the use of mobile tablets for patrolling and the collection of monitoring data using Survey 123.	
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d. Recommendations`

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A	N/A

SECTION III: PROJECT RISKS STATUS AND RATING

a. Progress towards Implementing the Project Risk Mitigation Plan

This section describes the activities implemented to manage and reduce high, substantial, modest, and low risks of the project. This section has three parts:

- a. Ratings for the progress towards implementing measures to mitigate project risks and a project risks annual reassessment
- b. Recommendations for improving project risks management

a. Progress towards Implementing the Project Risk Mitigation and Plan Project Risks Annual Reassessment

PROJECT RISKS	PROJECT DOCUMENT (PRODOC) RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PROJECT DOCUMENT (PRODOC) RISK RATING	END OF PROJECT RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ⁸
Risk 1: Government entities may support an approach to Protected Area gazettement and management that is top-down and non-participatory	The project will work with individuals from government agencies to help them understand that top down and non-participatory approaches are seldom successful, and that this kind of approach may contravene CI's Right Based Approach to conservation. The project will achieve this through advocacy work that includes workshops and one on one meetings.	There was active involvement and participation of government officials in the implementation and management of the project where a total of 514 (168 women and 346) men) government officials participated in various project activities	CA	<p>The project actively worked with 10 key government officials from Liberia Maritime Authority, Environmental Protection Agency, Forestry Development Authority and Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Internal affairs, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and Liberia Land Authority to help them understand bottom up approaches to conservation and a rights-based approach.</p> <p>Six government staff (3 from EPA and 3 from FDA) were involved in the engagement, negotiations, and design of conservation agreements</p> <p>Three government staff from the Environmental Protection Agency completed their training in GIS and have completed the six recommended online courses which included Fundamentals of</p>	M	L	Decreased

⁷ **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

⁸ **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PROJECT DOCUMENT (PRODOC) RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PROJECT DOCUMENT (PRODOC) RISK RATING	END OF PROJECT RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ⁸
				GIS, GIS Date Format, Design and Quality, Geospatial and Environmental Analysis, Imagery, Automation and Application, Geospatial Analysis, ARC GIS, and Geo Database			
Risk 2: Communities living in or near proposed protected areas may not support the delineation and gazettement of those areas	The project will ensure that protected area identification, delineation and planning is a participatory process with full community involvement. The project will support the development of protected areas that allow for sustainable use of natural resources within the Protected Area. The project also proposes to use Conservation Agreements to adequately compensate for any loss of access to resources	During meetings, communities were sensitized on the importance of Land use planning and of protected areas	CA	34 communities signed a resolution consenting to the delineation and gazettement of Marshall Proposed Protected Area, hence the risk rating changed from high to medium. The communities also selected Co-Management Committee members for Marshall Proposed Protected Area and Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve from their communities.	H	L	Decreased
Risk 3: There may not be interest from local communities to engage in Conservation Agreements	The project will demonstrate through strong community engagement that the environmental, social and economic benefits	30 community meetings were held in the 10 target communities with a total of 1,736 (549 women and 1,187 men) participants involved in project activities including the negotiations, design	CA	Conservation Agreements were signed with the ten target communities	L	L	Unchanged

PROJECT RISKS	PROJECT DOCUMENT (PRODOC) RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PROJECT DOCUMENT (PRODOC) RISK RATING	END OF PROJECT RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ⁸
	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.	Implementation and monitoring of conservation agreements					
Risk 4: Local authorities may not be supportive of communities actively participating in land use planning activities	CI will work with local county authorities to help them understand that top down and non-participatory approaches are seldom successful and that this kind of approach may contravene CI's Right-based Approach to conservation. The project will achieve this through close one on one	101 County and community leaders (37 women and 64 men) actively participated in project activities including community meetings, design, negotiation, implementation and monitoring of the conservation agreements and overall project activities.	CA	Besides the government ministries and agencies, the project team worked with the local authorities of Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, and Grand Bassa to engage them in the project activities including land use planning and the conservation agreements model. For instance, Government officials at the county level including officials from the FDA in Cape Mount, from City Management in Marshall, and from FDA in Buchanan and Grand Bassa were involved in the project. Furthermore, they were also involved in the conservation agreement negotiation processes that led to the signing of ten	M	L	Decreased

PROJECT RISKS	PROJECT DOCUMENT (PRODOC) RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PROJECT DOCUMENT (PRODOC) RISK RATING	END OF PROJECT RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ⁸
	consultations with different local officials to help sensitize them on these issues			<p>conservation agreements. As a testament to that, County Superintendents and District Commissaires were signatory to the conservation agreement.</p> <p>Also, the County Authorities were involved in the monitoring of both the conservation agreements and overall project activities in their respective Counties</p>			
Risk 5: The impact of climate change	Rising sea levels and other climate change related impacts may pose a risk to the successful conservation of mangrove forests that are protected in this project. The project will seek to mitigate this risk through careful site selection.	A land use planning tool kit was developed and guided the selection of sites for various conservation and community development needs as well as informed CA design and negotiations of benefit packages	CA	The conservation agreements generated alternative livelihood benefits including agricultural production, soap making, fishing and the creation of green jobs (Frontline Conservationists) that contribute to community resilience to adverse impacts of climate change	H	L	Decreased
Risk 6: A resurgence of the Ebola virus in Liberia	Whilst the Ebola epidemic has subsided and all but disappeared in the West African region, there remains a risk that Ebola could reappear in Liberia. CI will work with all stakeholders to ensure the safety of those affected by this	The Project Management Unit and team ensured that strict hygiene procedures were maintained in the field, and provided continuous awareness on Ebola and its impact among stakeholders including washing of hands, have sanitizers	CA	During all community gatherings, participants were encouraged to wash their hands before entering the venue and seating was arranged in a way that minimized contact between people. The same routine was applied at all stakeholders' meetings. Project cars had first aid kits and sanitizers. There has been no major health outbreak since the deadly Ebola epidemic.	M	L	Decreased

PROJECT RISKS	PROJECT DOCUMENT (PRODOC) RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PROJECT DOCUMENT (PRODOC) RISK RATING	END OF PROJECT RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ⁸
	project. The Project Management Unit will ensure that strict hygiene procedures are maintained in the field and that there is continued awareness on Ebola and its impact among stakeholders.	and first aid kits in all vehicles		The change in the risk rating from medium to low is due to strict hygiene adherence and continuous community sensitization and awareness campaigns by many stakeholders			
Risk 7: Conflict in Liberia	It has been over 14 years since civil conflict ended in Liberia. Whilst the risk of conflict remains low, upcoming national elections in 2017 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. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Process Framework for Restriction of Access to Natural Resources in this document are important tools that will help	Various multi-stakeholder consultations including 80 community meetings and nine workshops were held to ensure that the views and concerns of these stakeholders are incorporated into the project. Open channels of communications were developed with the various project stakeholders	CA	The general elections were held peacefully, and there is peaceful and mutual coexistence in the communities. Negotiations for conservation agreements with the communities were successfully held without any conflict. All two grievances reported during project implementation were resolved amicably	L	L	Unchanged

PROJECT RISKS	PROJECT DOCUMENT (PRODOC) RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PROJECT DOCUMENT (PRODOC) RISK RATING	END OF PROJECT RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ⁸
	mitigate against the risk of conflict in this project.						

PROJECT RISKS MITIGATION MEASURES RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RISK RATING TREND ⁹
HS	For all identified risks, mitigation measures were implemented successfully, and several risks decreased over the course of the project. Conservation Agreements were signed with 10 communities, demonstrating their strong engagement in the project. The conservation agreements will – among others – strengthen climate change resilience of communities.	Unchanged

Recommendations

MITIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A	N/A

⁹ **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

SECTION IV: PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AND RATING

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved Environmental and Social Safeguard plans, as well as recommendations to improve the implementation of the safeguard plans, when needed. This section is divided in three parts:

- a. Progress towards Complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency's Environmental & Social Safeguards
- b. Overall Project Safeguard Implementation Rating
- c. Recommendations

a. Progress towards Complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency's Environmental & Social Safeguards

MINIMUM SAFEGUARD INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF PROJECT STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁰	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
ACCOUNTABILITY AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM				
1. Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	Not indicated in the Project Document (Project Document (ProDoc))	2	CA	<p>In FY18, one of the heirs of Bomboja Community, who lives in USA had allegedly accused the project of grabbing land using Conservation Agreements. This caused delays in signing of the Conservation Agreement between with Bomboja Community. This issue was resolved by the Project Manager, in collaboration with Cultural Leaders, County Authorities and the local communities</p> <p>In FY19, the Project Manager received one complaint from a community member in Bomboja of an alleged sale of conservation benefits - Canoe, Engine (15 HP) and assorted fishing nets - by some members of the community. This equipment was allegedly sold to Enisul Fisheries in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County. To verify this information, the Project Manager held a meeting with a representative of Enisul Fisheries who confirmed that Bomboja Community wanted Enisul Fisheries to manage the abovementioned equipment but not to sell them off.</p>
2. Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's	Not indicated in the Project	100%	CA	In FY 18, One complaint of alleged grabbing of land by the project using Conservation Agreements was successfully resolved. The complaint was raised by one

¹⁰ O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

<p>Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved</p>	<p>Document (ProDoc)</p>			<p>of the heirs of Bomboja community, Grand Cape Mount County who lives in the United States of America. Due to the sensitive nature of this complaint, the Project Manager informed the County Authorities about this allegation and a community meeting was organized to resolve the issue. 50 (21 women and 29 men) community members including the cultural leaders turned up for the meeting. In that meeting, the issue was resolved, recognizing that project activities in Bomboja are for the protection of mangroves and for improvement of livelihoods in the community, and that no land grabbing is taking place. Eventually the Conservation Agreement was signed by the Bomboja community.</p> <p>In FY19, The Project Manager received one complaint from a community member in Bomboja of an alleged sale of conservation benefits – a canoe, engine (15 HP) and assorted fishing nets - by some members of the community. This equipment was allegedly sold to Enisul Fisheries in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County. To resolve this issue, the Project Manager in collaboration with Grand Cape County official, Forestry Development Authority (Park Rangers) and a representative from Enisul Fisheries, held two Community meetings where a total of 79 community members (31 women and 48 men) attended.</p> <p>First Meeting Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was clarified that the canoe, engine (15 HP) and assorted fishing nets had not been sold but rather they were seeking the services of Enisul Fisheries to manage the equipment. • The project should develop a management contract <p>Second Meeting Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft management contract was presented to the communities. In the draft contract, Enisul Fisheries would make a monthly payment to Bomboja based on the volume of the fish catch for the month.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of the community members present during meeting rejected the contract and preferred a rental contract over a management contract. Due to the impasse, the community held a separate meeting where they resolved to retain the equipment and set up a management committee to manage the proceeds on behalf of the community.
GENDER MAINSTREAMING				
1	Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations)	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	4,572 (1,165 women and 3,407 men)	CA There was active community and government official's participation in project activities. A total of 4,572 (1,165 women and 3,407 men) 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	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	<p>A total of A total of 2,106 people (1,209 men and 897 women) benefited from the project as detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frontline Conservationists (FCs): 86 men and two women Soap making: 120 women only Eco-stoves: 300 women only Vegetable production: 300 women and 175 men Cassava production: 175 women and 206 men Fishing: 742 men only 	CA Gender considerations were considered in design, negotiations and implementation of Conservation Agreements. By nature of the work done by FCs involving undertaking forest patrols, more men were recruited than women. Only two women accepted to be recruited as FCs because of long distances for patrols and at times patrols are conducted at night which does not favor women who have other chores especially caring for their children.
3	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)	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	Three i.e. one Participatory Land use toolkit; one Management Plan for Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve; and 10 community land use plans	CA The updated Management Plan for Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve has clear delineated roles for both women and men. Gender issues were also considered in the development of Marshall Proposed Protected Area gazettelement package where 221 men and 119 women participated in the three consultative community meetings

				The 10 community land use plans that were developed had input from both women and men, who clearly identified gender-specific uses/values of mangroves.
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT				
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	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten (10) government Agencies Eight Non-Governmental Organizations Two Local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) 	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government Agencies included; Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Liberia Maritime Authority, Liberia Land Authority, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Finance, House of Parliament Non-Governmental Organizations included; Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Collaborative Management Association (CMA), Piso Conservation Forum, Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), World Chimpanzee Foundation-(WCF), Rural Integrated Center for Community Empower (RICCE), Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS), Society for the Conservation of Nature Liberia (SCNL), Civil Society organizations including Farmers Associated to Conserve the Environment (FACE), and Save My Future Foundation (SAMFU)
2 Number of persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	A total of 4,687 persons (1,206 women and 3,481 men) were involved in project implementation	CA	There was active participation of stakeholders in project activities.
3 Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	A total of 80 Community engagement meetings, 10 workshops and nine training sessions were held as follows: year 1: 24 community meetings and six workshops; Year 2: 26 community meetings; one workshop; and nine training sessions; Year 3: 30 community meetings	CA	The project implemented the stakeholder engagement plan and used a Rights Based Approach including Free Prior and informed Consent (FPIC) in engaging with the communities and stakeholders.

4	Percentage of stakeholders who rate as satisfactory the level at which their views and concerns are taken into account by the project	N/A	N/A		
PROCESS FRAMEWORK					
1.	Number of persons involved in voluntary resettlement	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	N/A		
2.	Number of persons compensated for voluntary resettlement	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	N/A		
3.	Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been voluntary restricted	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	8,161 persons (3,905 women and 4,256 men)	CA	To compensate for the loss of access to and use of natural resources, the project signed conservation agreements with 10 communities that received support for: improved agricultural production; eco stove production; green jobs; soap making and sustainable fishing. Also, 10 Community land use plans were developed for sustainable management of community resources.
4.	Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been involuntary restricted	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	0	CA	The project applied FPIC.
5.	Percentage of persons who gave their consent for voluntary restrictions	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	100%	CA	In engaging communities in project areas, the project used the Rights Based Approach (RBA) including Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
6.	Percentage of persons who have received compensation for voluntary restrictions	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	100%	CA	These are the direct beneficiaries of the Conservation Agreements
7.	Percentage of persons who have received compensation for involuntary restrictions	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	20.5% of the total population in the project sites (A total of 2,106 with 1,209 men and 897 women)	CA	This is the percentage of the total population that are beneficiaries of conservation agreements

b. Overall Project Safeguard Implementation Rating

SUMMARY: PROJECT SAFEGUARD IMPLEMENTATION RATING BY TYPE OF PLAN

SAFEGUARDS TRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT (delete those not applicable)	END OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION RATING	RATING TREND
Accountability and Grievance Mechanisms	HS	Unchanged
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	HS	Unchanged
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	HS	Unchanged
Process Framework	HS	Unchanged

OVERALL PROJECT SAFEGUARD IMPLEMENTATION RATING

RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	The safeguard results achieved by CI-Liberia are commendable. Only two grievances related to the project were received during the lifetime of the project and both were resolved using the grievance mechanism established by the project. Women were deliberately part of decision-making bodies and negotiations, and at least 40% of persons receiving direct benefits (training and employment) from the project were women. Notably, some of the trainings (soap-making and eco-stove production) solely targeted women. Stakeholders engaged amounted to almost 5,000 persons and included government agencies, NGOs and CSOs; particularly there were 80 community engagements. In terms of restriction of access to and use of natural resources, the restrictions were voluntary and agreed to by the communities, and the communities received agreed upon compensation. Overall, CI-Liberia successfully implemented the safeguard plans and complied with the ESS policies.	Improving

c. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A	N/A

SECTION V: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Required topics

1. Project institutional arrangements, including project governance

Functional governance structures are crucial for smooth and effective implementation of projects. Also, the involvement of government officials in the project governance structures is important for fostering government ownership and plays a key role in obtaining co-financing from EPA and FDA. The leadership of the project steering committee is crucial for the effectiveness of project oversight, which facilitates both coordination among the institutions/stakeholders involved and the provision of policy and strategic guidance. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by senior government officials greatly improves the participation of PSC members and the effectiveness of the PSC itself. Furthermore, selecting the right lead agencies (EPA and FDA) is critical for effective project management because they have the institutional mandate, institutional and technical capacities, and the required systems.

2. Capacity building

Capacity building is important in project implementation as it enables stakeholders gain better understanding of the project and, consequently, actively participate in project activities. It also empowers key beneficiaries by building their skills, for example a GIS Lab for monitoring of mangroves was established and three staff of EPA were trained in GIS and have gained skills that are helpful to the EPA and other government agencies.

Capacity-building is more than just training because it requires a conceptual understanding of how developing individual capacities contributes to achieving institutional and organizational change. Capacity strengthening thus needs to be demand-driven, gradual and dynamic, which requires flexibility and time. Flexibility should always be integrated into project design in order to allow room for learning and adjusting to changing circumstances. Trained individuals need good leadership, tools, equipment and operational budgets to enable them to put the acquired knowledge into practice.

3. Implementation of safeguard policies, including gender mainstreaming, accountability and grievance mechanisms, stakeholder consultations

Gender mainstreaming was practiced throughout project implementation, with about 32% women participating in all project activities. Holding discussions and negotiations separately with men and women is important in eliciting views that would not be possible if both men and women would discuss together. This led to identification of distinct benefits for men and women. For instance, the men were more interested in patrol work (Frontline Conservationists) and fishing, while women were interested in activities like soap making and eco-stoves for cooking and smoking fish. Thus, gender mainstreaming is key in determining the kind of benefits to be provided to communities in the implementation of project activities.

Accountability and grievance mechanisms: Six project steering committee meetings were held to provide quarterly updates on progress, challenges, and identify opportunities for collaboration with other projects and avoid duplication. Project steering committee and project management unit meetings were key for keeping all the key stakeholders abreast of project implementation and for generating feedback and guidance on project activities.

Grievance mechanism: Two complaints were received including one of alleged sale of equipment received as conservation agreement benefits in Bomboja Community and the other of alleged land grabbing land by the project using Conservation Agreements. Both complaints were successfully resolved through dialogue with all the affected parties and involved cultural and county authorities. Having a proper project grievance redress mechanism is important for the implementation of project activities. In addition, cultural institutions play a very crucial role in resolving grievances as they are well respected by local communities.

Stakeholder consultations: A total of 80 stakeholder engagement meetings, nine workshops and two training sessions were held with various stakeholders including government, Civil Society Organizations, local communities and cultural institutions to raise awareness on mangrove conservation and garner support and buy-in for the project. As a result, communities and other stakeholders gained knowledge and understanding on the project's objectives and activities which was instrumental in the negotiations, design and signing of conservation agreements, and implementation of project activities. When communities and stakeholders are consulted, and their views and concerns considered, they will actively participate and embrace project activities which leads to successful delivery and implementation of projects. In addition, building

on wide consultative and participatory processes develops ownership and can allow a better response to problems arising during project implementation. The implementation of safeguard policies is crucial for successful implementation sustainability of project interventions.

4. Factors that improve likelihood of long-term sustainability of project impacts

- a) **Co-financing/sustained financing:** CI Liberia recently launched the Liberia Conservation Fund for generating resources for conservation in perpetuity. If Lake Piso and Marshall mangroves are incorporated into the Liberia Conservation Fund, then this will greatly sustain the impacts of this project. Staff of the Government of Liberia that participated in the project has gained extensive knowledge and understanding of this project and will be able to apply the acquired knowledge in other mangrove areas or projects. This project was crucial for securing additional funding from the Prince of Monaco and the Turing Foundations for gazettelement of Marshall proposed protected area as a protected area. This is a clear indication of synergies built by this project.
- b) **Knowledge and understanding of mangrove conservation by local communities:** Through this project, local communities in Grand Bassa, Lake Piso and Marshall landscapes have benefitted from sensitization and increased awareness campaigns on the importance of mangrove conservation. Through this project the Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve management plan was updated and approved by FDA; the gazettelement package for Marshall Proposed Protected Area was produced; and co-management committees established. The impacts of these mechanisms will go beyond the life of this project.
- c) **Stakeholder engagement:** This project has incorporated the various views and concerns of multiple stakeholders in the negotiation, design and implementation of conservation agreements. The provision of skills in alternative livelihoods, and other benefits will be utilized by communities after the end of the project. There are ongoing efforts to raise funds for establishing a comprehensive mangrove programme for Liberia in collaboration with various government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, and the private sector.
Throughout the project Lifecycle stakeholders were involved in all the processes, meetings, workshops and consultations. Active Participation of stakeholders in project implementation is crucial for sustainability and scaling up of interventions and building on wide consultative and participatory processes develops ownership and can allow a better response to issues arising during project implementation.
- d) **Capacity development:** 88 Frontline Conservationists (FCs) and three staff of EPA were trained on forest monitoring and on GIS for the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Programme for mangroves. These capacities will be used beyond the lifecycle of this project.

5. Factors that encourage replication, including outreach, dissemination of lessons learned, and communications strategies

Accurate and reliable data collected during this project including the number of sea turtle nesting sites, number of sea turtles capture and release, the different uses of mangroves, and the frequency of unsustainable and illegal fishing in and around the mangroves can be used as baselines and reference materials for future mangrove work in Liberia. Furthermore, the Information, Education and Communications (IEC) materials used in this project can also be used for sensitization and awareness activities in other parts of Liberia. For instance, the video documentary on mangroves that has been produced can be used for advocacy on mangrove conservation within and outside Liberia. Furthermore, the Conservation Agreement model that was used in this project can be replicated in other mangrove sites of Liberia. This project also captured lessons learned which can be used by other entities in designing their projects, and for making decisions on mangrove conservation.

Additional topics

6. Scientific and technological issues

The project used survey 123 for ArcGIS for data collection by frontline conservationists. Survey123, is a simple and intuitive field data gathering solution that makes creating, sharing, and analyzing surveys possible in three simple steps: ask questions, get answers, and make better decisions. Survey123 works with forms (or surveys), which are frequently used to collect information for many different disciplines. Using the Survey 123 mobile app, teams in the field can capture survey results with their smartphones and tablets. Surveys can also be completed and submitted in a web browser. Data captured is immediately available for analysis in ArcGIS to help make better decisions. The introduction of forest monitoring using of survey123 for ArcGIS in mangrove monitoring has improved reliability and accuracy of data collected by Frontline Conservationists (FCs). In addition, it has improved the quality of data collection and analysis as well as reduced the time for data collection and processing. The data is now being shared with FDA and EPA.

APPENDIX I: PROJECT ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING

Rating		Overdue (O)	Delayed (D)	Not started on schedule (NS)	Under implementation on schedule (IS)	Completed/Achieved (CA)
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	HS	0%		100%		
Satisfactory (S)	S	20%		80%		
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	MS	40%		60%		
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	MU	60%		40%		
Unsatisfactory (U)	U	80%		20%		
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	HU	100%		0%		

- **Highly Satisfactory:** 100% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project. The project can be presented as an example of “good practice” project,
- **Satisfactory:** 80% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; except for only 20% that are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,
- **Moderately Satisfactory:** 60% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 40% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,
- **Moderately Unsatisfactory:** 40% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 60% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,
- **Unsatisfactory:** only 20% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 80% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action, and
- **Highly Unsatisfactory:** 100% of the indicators: a) are overdue, and/or b) delayed in their implementation, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project.

APPENDIX II: PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING PROJECT EXPECTED OUTPUTS

INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome 1.1: 15% of priority mangrove areas have been identified, delineated, and management plans to safeguard them completed				
Output Indicator 1.1.1: Report on distribution and delineation of mangrove forests in Liberia with priority coastal protected areas identified for incorporation into formal protected areas and endorsed by the Government of Liberia	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecological, Socio-economic and threats survey report produced 2. Mangrove map for Liberia developed 3. Base maps/map books for Lake Piso and Marshall Proposed Protected area developed 4. Conservation Agreement Feasibility assessments produced 5. Report on botanical study on the coastal vegetation produced 	CA	All these reports were validated by the relevant lead government agencies
Output Indicator 1.1.2: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Gazettement packages prepared for establishment of two coastal protected areas in Liberia and submitted to FDA for endorsement b) Multi-stakeholder management forums established for each proposed protected area 	Gazettement package for two coastal protected areas; and Multi-stakeholder management forum for each proposed protected area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gazettement package for Marshall Proposed Protected Area was developed • Management plan for Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve was updated, validated by stakeholders and approved by the Forestry Development Authority • Two Co-Management Committees (CMCs) have been set up i.e. for Lake Piso Multiple Reserve and Marshall Proposed Protected Area 	CA	<p>For Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve, the Lake Piso Conservation Network which includes Forestry Development Authority, Collaborative Management Association and other conservation actors active in Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve serve as the Co-Management Committee</p> <p>About 80% of the work for the gazettement package for Marshall proposed protected area is completed.</p>

¹¹ O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

Output Indicator 1.1.3: Financial plans prepared for two coastal protected areas in Liberia and endorsed by the Government of Liberia	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	Financial plans for both Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve and a template for Marshall Proposed Protected Area were developed and endorsed by Forestry Development Authority	CA	The Financial plans for Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve and Marshall Proposed Protected Area were participatorily developed, validated by stakeholders and validated by Forestry Development Authority (FDA)
Output Indicator 1.1.4: Number of key government staff (gender disaggregated) that participated in project workshops and training sessions	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	A total of 514 (168 women and 346 men) government officials participated in various workshops and training sessions as detailed out below: Year 1: 122 (19 women and 103 men); Year 2: 183 (68 women and 115 men); and Year 3: 209 (81 women and 128 men)	CA	A total of 514 (168 women and 346 men) government officials from key government agencies including Environmental Protection Agency, Forestry Development Authority, Maritime Authority, Liberia Land Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Gender, Children participated in project activities. Three staff (all men) from the Environmental Protection Agency have completed GIS training along with six other recommended online GIS Courses.
Outcome 1.2.: 5% of priority mangrove forests is safeguarded through community-based Conservation Agreements and other legal mechanisms				
Output Indicator 1.2.1: Number of workshops and meetings held with local communities to discuss progress	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 community meetings 9 workshops 	CA	These were community meetings for sensitization and awareness creation on the importance of mangroves; negotiation, design, and signing and monitoring of conservation agreements; and conflict and grievance redress.
Outcome 2.1: Priority Mangrove forest land use planning integrated and mainstreamed in the wider landscape (surrounding buffer areas) and subjected to 5-year M&E program for adaptive management				
Output Indicator 2.1.1: Tool kit is completed	One toolkit	One Participatory Land Use planning tool kit was developed	CA	Participatory land use planning tool kit has been developed

Output Indicator 2.1.1: Number of ha where tool kit has been applied successfully	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	11,107 ha	CA	Toolkit has been tested in the following ten communities: i. Bleewein – 235 ha ii. Sarwein– 398 ha iii. Bomboja – 359 ha iv. Bendu – 463 ha v. Falie – 1,214 ha vi. Mandoe – 1,100 ha vii. Edina – 5,140 ha viii. Nyangba – 372 ha ix. Ben’s Town – 370ha x. Snafu Dock – 1,456 ha
Output Indicator 2.1.2.: M&E program developed and endorsed by the EPA	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangrove monitoring plan using survey 123 for ArcGIS was developed and approved by EPA • The three Environmental Protection Agency staff have completed the six additional online GIS Courses (Fundamental of GIS, GIS Data Format, Design and Quality, Geospatial and Environmental Analysis, Imagery, Automation and Application, Geospatial Analysis, ARC GIS, Geo Database) • 88 Frontline Conservationists have been trained in forest monitoring using survey 123 for ArcGIS 	CA	88 (2 women and 86 men) Frontline Conservationists are now using survey 123 for ArcGIS for mangrove and forest monitoring. A total of 4,455 monitoring patrols were reported and analyzed using the dashboard that was set up at the GIS Lab at the Environmental Protection Agency.
Output Indicator 2.1.2.: Records of monitoring activities and results of assessments undertaken	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project Steering Committee (PSC) held a joint monitoring field visit • CI-Liberia Technical Director conducted quarterly monitoring • Ecological, socio-economic and threat survey reports have been produced 	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to Office reports are in place • PSC monitoring report in place • Various Assessment and survey reports were produced
Output Indicator 2.1.3.: Number of plans completed	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	10 community land use plans were developed	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use plans have been developed for 10 communities including Bleewein, Sarwein, Bomboja, Bendu, Falie, Mandoe, Ben’s Town, Snafu Dock, Nyangba and Edina

Output Indicator 2.1.3.: Reduction in the rate of loss of mangrove forest area at priority sites.	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten Conservation Agreements signed Three staff (all men) from the Environmental Protection Agency have completed an Introductory GIS training along with six recommended online GIS Courses. 88 (2 women and 86 men) Frontline Conservationists were trained in forest monitoring using Survey 123 for ArcGIS 	CA	A total of 4,455 monitoring patrols were conducted that have showed a reduction in illegal activities in mangrove areas
Outcome 2.2: No further deforestation within the 15% of priority mangroves and surrounding buffer areas through addressing drivers of deforestation and improving people's livelihoods				
Output Indicator 2.2.1.: Number of communities with Conservation Agreements	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	10 communities	CA	<p>Ten Conservation Agreement have been signed with the communities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Nyangba, Bleewein, Sarwein and Edina in Grand Bassa County; b) Snafu-Dock and Ben's Town in Margibi County; and c) Falie, Mandoe, Bomboja and Bendu in Grand Cape Mount County
Outcome 2.3: Capacity and awareness of key government agencies and local communities on mangrove forest conservation and sustainable use substantially improved				
Output Indicator 2.3.1.: Needs assessment completed and report available	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report on assessment of the level of knowledge on mangroves was produced 	CA	The key need identified was on GIS skills for monitoring
Output Indicator 2.3.2.: Capacity building program designed	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The three Environmental Protection Agency staff have completed the six additional online GIS Courses (Fundamental of GIS, GIS Data Format, Design and Quality, Geospatial and Environmental Analysis, Imagery, Automation and Application, Geospatial Analysis, ARC GIS, Geo Database 	CA	Three staff (all men) from the Environmental Protection Agency have completed GIS training

Indicator 2.3.3.: Number of participants by type of stakeholders (gender disaggregated)	Not indicated in the Project Document (ProDoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 514 (168 women and 346 men) government officials • 4,058 (997 women and 3,061 men) community members; and • 101 County and community leaders (37 women and 64 men) • Four (one woman and three men) Civil Society Organization representatives • 10 (3 women and 7 men) Non-Governmental Organization representatives 	CA	A multi-stakeholder approach was promoted in the implementation of this project
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