



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

for the project:

Conservation and Sustainable use of Liberia's Coastal Natural Capital

FY21

*July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021
(Year 1)*

Executing Partner

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia



Project Information			
Project Title:	Conservation and Sustainable use of Liberia's Coastal Natural Capital		
Country(ies):	Liberia	GEF ID:	9573
GEF Agency(ies):	Conservation International	Duration In Months:	65 months
Executing Agency(ies):	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Actual Implementation Start Date:	February 1, 2020
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity and Land Degradation	Expected Project Completion Date:	June 30, 2025
GEF Grant Amount:	US\$ 3,944,220	Expected Financial Closure Date:	December 31, 2025
Expected Co-financing:	US\$ 11,194,248	Date of Last Steering Committee Meeting:	April 23, 2021
Co-financing Realized as of June 30, 2021:	US\$ 2,600,876	Mid-Term Review-Planned Date:	October 1, 2022
Date of First Disbursement:	February 1, 2020	Mid-Term Review-Actual Date:	TBD
Cumulative disbursement as of June 30, 2021:	US\$ 553,048	Terminal Evaluation-Planned Date:	April 1, 2025
PIR Prepared by:	Emmanuel T. Olatunji and George Ilebo	Terminal Evaluation-Actual Date:	TBD
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The CI-GEF Project Agency Project Implementation Report (PIR) is composed of six sections:

Section I: Project Implementation Progress Status Summary: provides a 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

The Conservation and Sustainable use of Liberia's Coastal Natural Capital Project is a Full-Size Project (FSP) where Conservation International (CI) is the Implementing Agency (IA) and the Executing Agency (EA) is the Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This project commenced on 1st February 2020 and is expected to end on 30th June 2025 (65 Months).

The objective of this project is: To improve conservation and sustainable use of Liberia's coastal natural capital by mainstreaming the value of nature into Liberia's development trajectory. This project has three components, namely: (i) Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in coastal ecosystems, (ii) Innovative financing schemes for conserving coastal natural capital, and (iii) Community incentives to conserve and sustainably manage natural capital in coastal ecosystems.

In Liberia, the greatest threats to mangroves include land degradation; overexploitation through hunting, firewood collection, charcoal production, and timber extraction; pollution of water, air, and soil from unregulated waste disposal and chemicals from agriculture and mining; and climate change.

Although there has been some policy recognition of the importance of mangrove ecosystems e.g., declaration of Lake Piso, Mesurado, and Marshall wetlands as Ramsar sites and identification of several mangrove areas for eventual inclusion in Liberia's formal protected area network, the value of coastal ecosystems is not yet fully recognized by decision-makers, thus, the true costs of Liberia's natural resources are not accounted for in national planning and development decision-making. To address this, the Conservation and Sustainable use of Liberia's Coastal Natural Capital Project will: account for the value that mangroves provide and help decision-makers understand the unpriced costs of development (externalities) to improve consideration of impacts and tradeoffs of development decisions; build the capacity of key development and statistical agencies to collect, analyze relevant data and include this information in decision making; and empower policymakers to develop long-term policy frameworks that support and incentivize private sector actors to value and report on their use of Liberia's natural capital.

PRIOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

N/A. This is the first year of implementation therefore, there is no prior project implementation status.

CURRENT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (FY21)

Below is a description of implementation progress under Components, Risks, Safeguards, and Challenges (including challenges related to COVID-19) for FY21 (1st July 2020 – 30th June 2021).

Project Set-Up:

Project Management Unit (PMU) staff were recruited, and a virtual inception workshop was held on June 16th, 2020. Twenty (25) participants (3 women and 22 men) attended the inception workshop. A [virtual grants management training](#) was held on July 6th, 2020.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) comprising of 19 members (all male) from government ministries, agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academic institutions were established to oversee project implementation. Three (3) PSC meetings were held in FY21. Additionally, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprising of seven (7) members (all male), from different government Ministries and Agencies was established and is operational. The TAC was constituted to facilitate synergy and coordination between the NCA project and other government initiatives. This project recognizes the need to ensure female representation in the PSC and TAC and is currently putting in place measures to incentivize and enroll women in the committees.

Component 1: Natural Capital Accounting in coastal ecosystems

A scoping exercise resulted in the establishment of an [Analytical Framework](#) that supported the selection of priority NCAs. Five (5) priority natural capital accounts have been selected, namely: The Ecosystem Extent, Ecosystem Condition, Ecosystem Services (crop provisioning, wood provisioning, wild fish and aquatic biomass, climate regulation, soil erosion control, coastal protection, and recreation-related services), Monetary Asset and Thematic Accounts (focusing on biodiversity and species accounts). The analytical framework follows the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) guideline and describes the methods for the implementation of a complete set of coastal accounts, including extent, condition, ecosystem services, monetary assets accounts as

well as biodiversity thematic accounts. Technical implementation of the accounts is currently underway. Recommendations on replication of the accounts and scaling up nationally will begin after the completion of coastal accounts.

An [ecosystems extent map](#)¹ was developed together with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The map shows Liberia's diverse ecosystem types – such as lowland forests, montane grasslands, mangroves, and freshwater ecosystems. The map serves as a critical step in Liberia's effort to implement a series of ecosystem accounts following the United Nations SEEA, a statistical standard that helps put natural capital at the forefront of economic decision-making.

The following number of trainees directly benefited from the project in FY21 (per Component one's target outcome numbers):

- Thirty-five (35) government officials (32 male and 3 female) trained on the technical aspects of NCA including 19 (all male) PSC members, 6 TAC (all men,) members and 10 other national technicians.
- Fifty-eight (58) (47 men and 11 women) decision-makers were trained on policy application of NCA and the analytical framework to implement natural capital accounting.
- A total of four (4) Geographic Information System (GIS) government staff were trained on the methodology used to develop the ecosystem extent and land use map: one trainee from each of the following institutions: the EPA, the Liberia Institute of Statistics, and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), the Forestry Development Authority (FDA).

Component 2: Innovative financing Schemes for conserving coastal natural capital

In FY21, CI-Liberia secured US\$ 600,000 (24%) funding from Turing and Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for the gazettement of Marshall wetlands as a Protected Area.

With regards to establishing revenue streams to support the long-term sustainability, the project developed two (2) concept notes to source philanthropic support for carbon credits with emphasis on the co-benefits of coastal carbon. Additionally, two Requests for Proposals (RFP)/ Terms of reference (ToRs) have been published to source the following services:

- to conduct a site-level feasibility assessment of the blue carbon initiative in mangrove ecosystems.
- to conduct market assessment and value chain analysis for conservation-friendly enterprises.

Lastly, this project seeks to establish a small grants mechanism called the Liberia Conservation Action Fund (LCAF) which will support small-scale interventions that promote good stewardship of natural resources. To achieve this, the project undertook the following in FY21:

- The project established the TAC composed of seven persons (all male) from seven (7) institutions from government agencies and ministries including EPA, FDA, LLA, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), LISGIS, and the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA). A meeting has been organized by the TAC to nominate non-state actors and ensure the issue of women's participation in the TAC is addressed. The TAC will oversee the LCAF.
- The project engaged the Liberia United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Small Grants Programme (SGP) team to understand: the current small grants portfolio in the country, strategies being used, location of current small grants projects, the successes, opportunities, and challenges faced in the implementation of the small grant's projects. This information will be integrated into the design and development of the LCAF. Notably, the guiding document for the establishment and management of the LCAF is being reviewed by the TAC.
- Small grants mechanism has not yet been rolled out but the processes to kick-start has been initiated

Component 3: Community incentives to conserve and sustainably Manage Natural capital Ecosystems

- Funding (US\$ 600,000) has been secured from Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Turing Foundation for the gazettement of Marshall wetlands as a Protected Area. This will ensure that 12,168 Hectares of mangroves are protected. In FY22, the project will report progress on the gazettement of the target 12,168 Ha.
- The project undertook a Conservation Agreement feasibility study to gather baseline information on social, biological, and economic data and information from eighteen local communities in six (6) coastal counties (4 in Grand Bassa County, 3 in Grand cape mount, 2 Margibi, 2 in Rivercess, 5 in Sinoe, and 2 in Grand Kru). The project is currently engaging communities, the private sector, and government stakeholders to design the conservation agreements.

Environmental & Social Safeguards Compliance

¹ United Nations. (2021, March 25). African NCA Community of Practice Webinar: Leveraging Earth Observations for Ecosystem Accounting: A NASA-CI Effort to Pilot Ecosystem Mapping in Liberia. Retrieved from United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (UN SEEA): <https://seea.un.org/events/african-nca-community-practice-webinar-leveraging-earth-observations-ecosystem-accounting>

Monitoring, and reporting of safeguards were undertaken quarterly. The section below summarizes the status of safeguard indicators as at end of June 2021:

a) Stakeholder engagement:

- A total of five (5) stakeholder groups (government ministries and agencies; local communities; academic institutions; Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been active during the project implementation phase.
- A total of thirty-two (32) institutions (eleven (11) government agencies, eighteen (18) local communities, two CSOs/NGOs, and one (1) Academic institution) have participated in project implementation.
- A total of 362 people (73 women and 289 men) participated in the project implementation phase.
- A total of forty (40) stakeholder engagement meetings were held in FY21.

b) Gender mainstreaming:

- A total of 362 people (73 women and 289 men) from various institutions including Government Ministries and Agencies, local communities, academia, and the private sector participated in project activities.
- A total of 260 people (197 men and 63 women) received benefits from the project.

c) Accountability and Grievance Mechanism (AGM):

- AGM was developed for the NCA project, and it was first disclosed to stakeholders during the project's inception workshop. Thereafter, the AGM was shared with various stakeholders through email, and posters were distributed to participants in all the engagement activities. So far no, complaints have been received.

Risks and Challenges

The Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) has caused delays in the implementation of field activities, stakeholder engagement, and undermined the project's ability to meet some deliverables on time due to several measures that the Government of Liberia (GoL) instituted. Examples of these measures are the declaration of a health emergency, restriction of movement, and social distancing. As a result, field activities that involved face-to-face meetings were suspended, and staff had to work from home. The team adopted virtual tools for activities that could be done remotely and revised the work plan and budget. Unfortunately, the use of virtual tools was also impeded by poor/limited internet connectivity in certain areas/locations.

SUMMARY: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS

PROJECT PART	PRIOR FY20 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	CURRENT FY21 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING ²	RATING TREND ³
OBJECTIVE	N/A This is the first year of implementation therefore, there is no prior project implementation rating.	HS	N/A This is the first year of implementation therefore, there is no prior project implementation rating.
COMPONENTS AND OUTCOMES	N/A	HS	N/A
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS	N/A	S	N/A

PROJECT RISK RATING⁴

RISKS	N/A This is the first year of implementation	H	N/A This is the first year of implementation
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² **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

³ **Rating trend:** Improving, Unchanged, or Decreasing

⁴ **Risk Rating:** Low (L), Moderate (M), Substantial (S), High (H)

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 of four parts:

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

a. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Objective:

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

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:	To improve conservation and sustainable use of Liberia’s coastal natural capital by mainstreaming the value of nature into Liberia’s development trajectory
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OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
<p>Indicator: Number of national development policy instruments explicitly incorporating Natural Capital Accounting (NCA)</p>	<p>Zero (0) national development policy instrument explicitly incorporating NCA. This is because this target indicator is dependent on finalizing the tasks below. Nevertheless, the realization of this indicator is on track.</p> <p>The following progress was made in FY21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) priority natural capital accounts have been selected, namely: The Ecosystem Extent, Ecosystem Condition, Ecosystem Services (crop provisioning, wood provisioning, wild fish and aquatic biomass, climate regulation, soil erosion control, coastal protection, and recreation-related services), Monetary Asset and Thematic Accounts (focusing on biodiversity and species accounts). Technical implementation of the accounts is currently underway. • An ecosystem extent map depicting the different ecosystems in Liberia was jointly developed with NASA. 	IS	<p>Based on extensive discussion with stakeholders, internal technical discussion, and deliberation, the priority accounts have been determined. The final list of accounts includes Ecosystem Extent, Ecosystem Condition, Ecosystem Services (crop provisioning, wood provisioning, wild fish and aquatic biomass, climate regulation, soil erosion control, coastal protection, and recreation-related services), Monetary asset account, and Thematic Accounts (focusing on biodiversity and species accounts). The analytical framework has been finalized and discussed with the technical stakeholders in a workshop (May 19, 2021). Technical implementation of each of those accounts is currently underway.</p> <p>Recommendations on replication of the accounts and scaling up nationally will begin after the completion of coastal accounts.</p> <p>In the technical workshop held on 19th May, the participants identified a range of policy and decision-making processes at national and local levels that will benefit from NCA data and analysis such as:</p>

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

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An analytical framework was developed, which describes the methodology that will be used to create the various ecosystems accounts, in line with the UN- SEEA guideline. Fifty-eight (58) (47 male and 11 female) key government personnel, including policymakers and technicians were trained on NCA and involved in the decision-making of the project implementation. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> help in the development of County Development Agenda (CDA), County Action Plan (CAP), as well as County Economic Plan (CEP) Provide baseline conditions of ecosystem services. Identify critical hotspots/ vulnerable species of ecosystem services. Highlight economic and physical loss of ecosystem services in a do-nothing scenario. Provide the scientific and empirical basis for proposals to access international funding sources for conservation (Carbon Financing, Conservation Trust Funds, Bioprospecting, Water Funds, Green Taxes, etc.). Help the government with Disaster Preparedness Strategies and Strategic National Planning. Help the government to develop policies for sustainable use and management of coastal resources and ecosystem services (Fisheries, Mangroves for firewood and fish drying activities). Indicate revenue generation potential and the need for sustainable livelihood diversification strategies.

OBJECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION
HS	<p>This section is rated Highly Satisfactory because 100% of the indicators are under implementation/on track.</p> <p>Given that this project commenced in FY21, a big portion of the time was used to lay the foundation for project implementation. This entailed focusing on the following activities: undertaking due diligence of grantees; signing grant agreements with partners; recruiting the Project Management Unit Staff (PMU); holding an inception workshop virtually due to restrictions imposed by the Government during the pandemic; setting up the safeguard plans; establishing the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The PSC and the TAC are comprised of only men hence there is a need to ensure women are included. The establishment of these two committees took time because the committee members had to be nominated and approved by the Government of Liberia staff who were working remotely due to movement restrictions imposed during the pandemic. Notably, despite commencing implementation in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic, the project managed to adapt virtual platforms where applicable and reduced further project delays hence this indicator is on track.</p>

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 Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Coastal Ecosystems

Outcome 1: Decision-making improved in coastal ecosystem governance by mainstreaming natural capital accounting (NCA) into Government of Liberia (GOL) development strategy, policy, and planning

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁶	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
<p>Outcome indicator 1.1.a: Number of natural capital accounts established and embedded in key government policies and plans</p>	<p>Target 1.1.a: At least one natural capital account (mangroves) established and embedded in at least five (5) key government policies and plans</p>	<p>Zero (0) natural capital accounts are embedded in key government policies and plans.</p> <p>Five (5) priority natural capital accounts have been selected, namely: The Ecosystem Extent, Ecosystem Condition, Ecosystem Services (crop provisioning, wood provisioning, wild fish and aquatic biomass, climate regulation, soil erosion control, coastal protection, and recreation-related services), Monetary Asset and Thematic Accounts (focusing on biodiversity and species accounts). Extensive technical work is in progress for the implementation of natural capital accounts in coastal areas.</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>A scoping exercise was conducted through extensive discussion with relevant stakeholders including EPA and LISGIS, to determine priority accounts, ecosystem services to be measured/valued, including consideration of scaling up to the national level.</p> <p>a) An analytical framework has been developed describing methods for the implementation of a complete set of coastal accounts, including extent, condition, ecosystem services, and monetary assets accounts, as well as biodiversity thematic accounts (species).</p> <p>b) An in-depth comprehensive assessment of data and gaps and identification of required collection efforts have been conducted. Data requirements for the implementation of the accounts conducted, including with determination of existing and/or – i.e., gaps requiring the collection of primary data (e.g., field and/or household surveys). Data management strategy outlined for discussions with Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and relevant agencies. A rapid assessment, literature review, and new field observations have taken place in the coastal zone focusing on coastal erosion, seagrasses, mangroves resources, macrofauna, sea birds, and coastal fisheries.</p> <p>c) Maps for Liberia Landcover and ecosystem extent maps have been developed which will serve as baselines for future Natural Capital Accounting work in Liberia. Specifically, the maps will be used to compile ecosystem accounts from 2000 to 2018 which</p>

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁶	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
				<p>will allow monitoring of trends of land cover and ecosystem extent over time, with important implications for spatial planning.</p> <p>The NASA-CI-GoL generated a national map of ecosystem classes for Liberia, a preliminary step towards the account, which was fully endorsed by the government and is being published in the forthcoming State of Liberia Environmental Report.</p> <p>d) Technical development of NCA accounts has progressed – with the development of the ecosystem accounting area, choice of ecosystem types for the coastal area of Liberia, as well as an analytical framework for core and thematic accounts documenting the methodological approaches for the biophysical and monetary measurements of all accounts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent accounts: Drafts of different Ecosystem Accounting Area (EAA) developed based on different criteria for terrestrial (e.g., i. ecologically based administrative; ii. administrative units-based and iii. environmentally defined boundaries; and for marine (i.e., 12 and 24 nautical miles coastal buffer). A fully automated procedure for compiling ecosystem extent accounts was developed and tested. Initial annual accounts for Mangrove and Estuary classes were compiled for 2000-2018. • Condition accounts: A list of condition indicators (ECT) has been proposed to be chosen based on local relevance and data availability. • Ecosystem services accounts: Initial assessment on modeling options and inputs data requirements for the selected ecosystem services • In addition, the feasibility and relevance of thematic accounts are being discussed.
<p>Outcome indicator 1.1.b: Number of government officials and other relevant</p>	<p>Target 1.1.b: At least fifty (50) government officials and other relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>Thirty-five (35) Government officials (32 male and 3 female) trained</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>Five (5) virtual technical trainings have been held for the PSC and TAC members ad detailed out below:</p>

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁶	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
stakeholders trained on the technical aspects of NCA	trained on the technical aspects of NCA	virtually on the technical aspects of NCA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first technical PSC training was held in FY21 Q2 on October 6, 2020, where 20 persons (all men) attended. • The second technical PSC training was held on December 15th, 2020, where eighteen (18) persons (all men) attended. • The third technical PSC training was held on 23rd April 2021, where eighteen (18) persons (2 women and 16 men) attended. • A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on 24th February 2021 to discuss the draft methodological approaches. • A technical workshop was held on May 19, 2021, for training and capacity building on ecosystem accounting in Liberia. Sixteen (16) participants (13 men, 3 women) were provided the technical training. The participants represented, among others, EPA, LISGIS, FDA, NaFAA, LMA, REDD+/EPA, LLA, MFDP, CBD- National Focal point.
<p>Outcome indicator 1.1.c: Number of decision-makers trained on how to use NCA results for the conservation and sustainable use of globally important biodiversity</p>	<p>Target 1.1.c: At least fifty (50) decision-makers trained on how to use NCA results for the conservation and sustainable use of globally important biodiversity</p>	<p>Fifty-eight (58) (47 men and 11 women) decision-makers have received virtual trainings on policy application of NCA.</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>Initial virtual training was provided during project kick-off including an overview of SEEA, CF, and EEA, methodological approaches, and illustrative examples of policy application.</p> <p>A second virtual training was provided during the PSC meeting on NCA, including on key definitions, concepts, standards, a utility for policy and decision-making, as relevant for the project implementation. Also addressed was some key information needed as per a scoping exercise, such as information gaps, barriers, and opportunities to inform better policies and decision-making. A total of nineteen (19) participants (all men) attended the joint NCA and CBIT PSC meeting</p> <p>A third virtual training was provided during the TAC meeting on NCA, including on key definitions, concepts, standards, a utility for policy and decision-making, as relevant for the project implementation. Also addressed was some key information needed for scoping and analytical framework. A total of nine (9) participants (one female and eight males) attended.</p>

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁶	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
				A fourth virtual training was provided to the Africa NCA Community of Practice on Liberia's effort to map ecosystems distribution and their changes over time through SEEA EA 'Ecosystem Extent Account', with an emphasis on the utility of the map for the GEF-funded project 'Conservation and sustainable use of Liberia's coastal natural capital' and ultimately Liberia's long-term sustainability and green growth.

COMPONENT 1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	<p><u>Component 1</u> is rated Highly Satisfactory because 100% of the target indicators are under implementation/on track.</p> <p>Despite facing slight delays due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the project adapted fast and managed to extensively engage the stakeholders and collected substantial information that informed the selection of the priority accounts, preparation of the analytical framework, and the Liberia Landcover and ecosystem extent map. The project also managed to score high stakeholder turn-up when they conducted trainings. For instance, in this Fiscal Year, thirty-five (35) (32 male and 3 female) and fifty-eight (58) (47 male and 11 female) trainees were trained under Outcome indicators 1.1.b and 1.1.c, respectively totaling to ninety-three (93) trainees (79 male and 14 female). This is great progress since the target number of trainees for Outcome indicators 1.1.b and 1.1.c is 100 (50 trainees per outcome indicator).</p> <p>The key recommendation for Component 1 is, need to put in place measures that will increase the number of female direct project beneficiaries/trainees/ participants.</p>	N/A This is the first year of implementation therefore, there is no prior project implementation rating.

COMPONENT 2	Innovative Financing Schemes for Conserving Coastal Natural Capital
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Outcome 2.1:	Funding sources for sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems increased
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 2.1.a: Financial resources (USD) available for the sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems	Target 2.1.a: Financial resources for the sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems increased by 50% (USD 2.5 million over the lifetime of the project)	24% (US\$ 600,000) received from Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Turing Foundation	IS	A total of US\$ 600,000 for the gazettement of Marshall wetlands (one of the project sites) as a protected area has been secured from Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Turing Foundation (each contributing 300k).
Outcome indicator 2.1.b: Number of revenue streams to support long term sustainability of coastal ecosystems	Target 2.1.b: At least two (2) new revenue streams to support the long-term sustainability developed	Zero funding streams developed. However, the process of setting up new revenue streams to support the long-term sustainability of coastal ecosystems is ongoing through the development of (a) concept notes and (b) a road map to integrate Liberia's Coastal natural capital Conservation Action Fund (LCAF) into the Liberia Conservation Fund (LCF) has been initiated.	IS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept note for US\$ 1 million was produced and submitted Mirova / L'Oreal Fund Blue Carbon Facility. • RFP/ToRs for site-level blue-carbon feasibility assessment was developed and advertised. The hiring of a consultant is in progress. • A presentation on Liberia Conservation Fund Inc. (LCF) was made to the TAC and PMU to provide understanding and operation of the LCF. As a result, a road map to integrate Liberia's Coastal natural capital Conservation Action Fund (LCAF) into the Liberia Conservation Fund (LCF) Inc. has been initiated. • The guiding document for the establishment and management of the Liberia Conservation Action Fund (LCAF) was produced and submitted to the TAC for review.
Outcome indicator 2.1.c: Number of local organizations receiving small grants for coastal conservation	Target 2.1.c: Small grants provided to at least three local organizations	Zero local organizations. Small grants mechanism has not yet been rolled out but the processes to kick-start have been initiated.	IS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An engagement meeting was held between the NCA-PMU and team from UNDP Liberia Small Grants Programme (SGP) was held to understand: the current small grants portfolio in the country, strategies being used, and locations of current small grants projects, the successes, opportunities, and challenges faced in the implementation of the small grants. This information will be used to inform the design and development of the NCA project's small grants mechanism. • The grant manager position was advertised, and the recruitment process is ongoing. The onboarding of the grant manager will enhance the process of rolling out the grants. • The guiding document for the establishment and management of the Liberia Conservation Action Fund (LCAF) was produced and submitted to the TAC for review. The document also includes the ToRs for the LCAF

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
				multi-agency steering committee. The nomination of the LCAF steering committee members will be finalized during the 4 th joint NCA-CBIT PSC meeting.

COMPONENT 2 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	<p><u>Component 2</u> is rated Highly Satisfactory because 100% of the target indicators are under implementation/on track.</p> <p>Despite stakeholder accessibility challenges faced during the pandemic, this project has managed to keep the stakeholders updated and involved which has ensured steady implementation progress under this component. For instance, the project managed to secure US\$ 600,000 from Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Turing Foundation; is actively engaging the Liberia UNDP SGP; has prepared and submitted two (2) concept notes to potential donors; established the PSC and TAC and is managing to frequently engage the committee members as needed.</p> <p>The implementation progress of Component 2 might face setbacks and delays in FY22 since it also has field activities that might be affected by the Coronavirus movement and interaction restrictions imposed by the Government of Liberia. The project, therefore, needs to continue utilizing adaptive management approaches that will ensure the continued implementation of project activities and the health safety of the people involved.</p>	N/A This is the first year of implementation therefore, there is no prior project implementation rating.

COMPONENT 3	Community Incentives to Conserve and Sustainably Manage Natural Capital in Coastal Ecosystems
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Outcome 3.1:	Community-level conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources improved through performance-based payments using conservation agreements
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁸	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 3.1.a: Area (hectares) of mangrove ecosystems under protection across Liberia	Target 3.1.a: 11,975 additional hectares of mangrove ecosystems under protection across Liberia	0 (zero) hectares	IS	Funding (US\$ 600,000) has been secured from Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Turing Foundation for the gazettement of Marshall wetlands as a Protected Area. This will ensure that 12,168 ha of mangroves are protected. In FY22, the project will report progress on the gazettement of the target 12,168 Ha.
Outcome indicator 3.1.b: Area (hectares) of terrestrial forest ecosystems under sustainable management in coastal areas.	Target 3.1.b: 5,000 additional hectares of terrestrial forest ecosystems under sustainable management in coastal areas.	0 (zero) hectares	IS	Conservation Agreement feasibility assessment was completed in eighteen (18) communities (Nine in NW Liberia and nine in SE Liberia) to ascertain which communities will benefit from the small grant mechanism and engage with stakeholders and gather baseline information on social, biological, and economic values. Once the conservation agreements are signed, more than 5000 additional hectares of terrestrial forest ecosystems will be under sustainable management.
Outcome indicator 3.1.c: Income (USD) within coastal and mangrove communities targeted by the project	Target 3.1.c: Income within coastal and mangrove communities targeted by the project improved by 50%	0 (zero) % improvement in income as conservation agreements have not yet been signed with selected coastal communities.	IS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with the eighteen (18) beneficiary communities has been undertaken. A conservation agreement feasibility study was conducted to collect baseline socio-economic and ecological information in the 18 target communities.

⁸ **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

COMPONENT 3 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	<p><u>Component 3</u> is rated Highly Satisfactory because 100% of the target indicators are under implementation/on track.</p> <p>The following milestones demonstrate the key progress made in FY21: The project has secured funding from Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Turing Foundation for the gazettement of Marshall wetlands as a Protected Area which will ensure that 12,168 Hectares (Ha) of mangroves will be under protection/improved management. In FY22, the project will report progress on the gazettement of the target 12,168 Ha. If this area is successfully gazetted, then this project would have made significant progress towards realizing the target number of Hectares that was committed at CEO Endorsement which is 11,975 Ha.</p> <p>Additionally, the project has initiated discussions with communities and stakeholders about the Conservation Agreements meaning, the number of direct project beneficiaries and Hectares under improved management will increase in due course. Notably, while engaging community members, the project needs to put in place measures that will increase the number of female direct project beneficiaries and their participation in decision making and project implementation.</p> <p>Lastly, the implementation progress of Component 3 might face setbacks and delays in FY22 since it also has field activities that might be affected by the Coronavirus movement and interaction restrictions imposed by the Government of Liberia. The project, therefore, needs to plan and if possible, find creative and safe ways of undertaking the field activities at the community level whilst ensuring the health safety of the people involved.</p>	N/A This is the first year of implementation therefore, there is no prior project implementation rating.

c. Overall Project Results Rating

OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION RATING		
OVERALL RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND ⁹
HS	<p>The FY21 overall project results rating is Highly Satisfactory.</p> <p>Despite the project delays and setbacks emanating from the effects of the Corona virus pandemic, this project adapted fast hence maintained steady stakeholder engagement, clearly identified activities that could be undertaken remotely and creatively executed. As a result, the overall project objectives, outcomes, and outputs are reported to be on track in FY21. Despite this good performance, the Coronavirus still poses a high risk to the delivery and achievement of the project outcomes in FY22 especially since most of the upcoming tasks are field activities that might be delayed due to the Coronavirus movement and interaction restrictions imposed by the Government of Liberia.</p>	N/A This is the first year of implementation therefore, there is no prior project implementation rating.

d. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
1. Put in place measures that will increase the number of female direct beneficiaries/trainees or participants in meetings/representation in the PSC and TAC.	CI-Liberia and EPA	30 th June 2022
2. Put in place measures that will increase the involvement of the non-state institutions in project implementation and decision making.	CI-Liberia and EPA	30 th June 2022
3. Because of the Corona Virus pandemic, the team should continue using creative ways and adaptive management to implement project activities whilst ensuring the health safety of everyone involved.	CI-Liberia and EPA	30 th June 2022

⁹ Rating trend: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

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	PRODOC MITIGATION MEASURE	RISK	MITIGATION IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁰	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹¹
Risk 1: Insufficient political will to adopt and mainstream NCA	Work on developing NCA will be done in close collaboration with government counterparts to promote buy-in.		Sensitization of government officials on the significant role of NCA on biodiversity conservation, economic development, and poverty alleviation.	IS	The GoL is represented and involved in the project through the PSC, TAC, and LCAF. Overall, there is a total of eleven (11) government institutions involved and forty (40) engagements to date.	M	L	Decreasing
	Project delivery will emphasize capacity-building within relevant government agencies.		The PMU involves government officials from relevant ministries in NCA planning and project delivery.	IS	Twelve (12) government GIS technicians participated in a technical meeting on the Ecosystem extent and land-use map. Nineteen (19) PSC members are government staff.			
	Continued consultations will solicit input and cultivate support on an ongoing basis.		Eleven (11) government agencies and ministries participated in project activities.	IS	Government staff participated in forty (40) engagements			
	The evolution of the NCA framework will be guided by Government priorities.		Priority government policies have been identified	IS	An initial set of priority policies have been identified including greening Liberia's national development plan (PAPD), Climate mitigation, cross-sectoral planning, and decision-making, supporting monitoring and reporting into international commitments.			

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

¹¹ **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁰	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹¹
	Demonstrate to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) that NCA will better capture Liberia's economic status and trends and help attract investor and donor support for sustainable development.	MFDP is represented at the PSC and TAC	IS	MFDP staff usually participate in the PSC and TAC meetings as well as capacity building/technical workshops			
Risk 2: Political instability undermines work with government	Investment in building and embedding technical expertise in government has proven effective ever since 2004, regardless of changes in administration. This project will devote explicit attention to applying this lesson, which also serves as means to mitigate the impact of the first risk listed.	A total of eighty-four (84) (72 Male and 12 Female) government staff have been trained on technical aspects and policy application of NCA	IS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thirty-five (35) Government officials (32 male and 3 female) trained on the technical aspects of NCA including 19 (all male) PSC members, and 16 TAC (13 men, 3 women) members. • Forty-nine (49) (40 men and 9 women) decision-makers have received trainings on policy application of NCA. A total of four (4) GIS staff (one each from EPA, LISGIS, LLA, FDA) were trained on the methodology used to develop the ecosystem extent and land use map. 	L	L	Unchanged

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC MITIGATION MEASURE	RISK	MITIGATION IMPLEMENTATION	MEASURES	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁰	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹¹
Risk 3: Investor/donor confidence insufficient for adequate contributions to sustainable financing mechanisms	Careful site/intervention selection under the project to maximize demonstration impact.		To maximize the demonstration impact, the PMU selected nine sites (communities) in NW Liberia that were part of the previous GEF-funded mangrove conservation projects and additional nine sites in Southeast Liberia.		IS	Site visits and conservation agreement feasibility assessments were conducted in eighteen (18) communities in NW Liberia and Southeast Liberia.	L	L	Unchanged
	Build on previous successes with small grants to scale up.		Lessons learned from UNDP's implementation of small grants projects has been used to develop a guiding document for the Liberia Conservation Action Fund (LCAF)		IS	An engagement meeting was held between the NCA-PMU and the team from UNDP Liberia Small Grants Programme (SGP) to understand: the current small grants portfolio in the country, strategies being used, and locations of current small grants projects, the successes, opportunities, and challenges faced in the implementation of the small grant's projects. This information informed the design and development of the guiding document for the establishment and management of the Liberia Conservation Action Fund (LCAF).			
	Align project with wider national sustainable conservation finance efforts.		The integration of the LCAF with the Liberia Conservation Fund (LCF) process has been initiated.		NS	The implementation of the LCAF will be used to get an understanding and/or potentially become a delivery mechanism for the LCF.			
Risk 4: Enterprise development fails or is not adopted by local Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage proven viability of existing conservation-friendly enterprises. Focus community-based 		RFP/ToRs to conduct site-level market assessment and value chain analysis of conservation-friendly enterprises was developed and advertised.		IS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A conservation agreement feasibility study was undertaken in eighteen (18) communities. RFP/ToRs for a consultant to undertake a market assessment and value chain analysis of conservation-friendly enterprises was developed and advertised. The Consultant will be onboard in FY22 Q1. 	M	M	Unchanged

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁰	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹¹
	development on activities with which they already are familiar (e.g., agriculture, fisheries).						
Risk 5: Community members are not interested in behavior change through commitments in CAs	Apply Rights-Based Approach to ensure appropriate communication, engagement, and participation processes, including Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).	During the feasibility assessments, all eighteen (18) local communities were sensitized on the concept of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Also, data and information about cultural practices and sacred sites for the eighteen (18) local communities were documented and mapped, respectively.	IS	The feasibility assessments were conducted for eighteen (18) coastal local communities in six (6) coastal counties including Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Sinoe, and Grand Kru.	L	L	Unchanged
	Cultivate local champions (through Community-Based Organizations, traditional leadership, and local NGOs) to act as intermediaries	Data and information about local champions were collected during the feasibility assessments in eighteen (18) local communities	IS	Data and information of local champions were collected in eighteen (18) coastal local communities along six (6) coastal counties including Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Sinoe, and Grand Kru.			
	Conduct site-level feasibility assessments to identify local appetite for participation in the project.	Site-level feasibility assessments were conducted in eighteen (18) local communities in NW Liberia and Southeast Libera	CA	Site-level assessments were conducted in eighteen (18) coastal local communities along with six (6) coastal counties including Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Sinoe, and Grand Kru			

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁰	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹¹
	Tailor Conservation agreement (CA) benefit packages to address local needs and priorities.	CA benefits will be tailored to address local needs and priorities	NS	Conservation agreement feasibility assessments have been conducted and the next step is to conduct engagement, negotiation, and design of conservation agreements.			
Risk 6: Other stakeholders such as local government are reluctant to share planning and management responsibilities with communities	Consult and engage local government as key stakeholders in planning and executing CA initiatives.	During the Conservation agreement feasibility study, the PMU engaged local authorities, including County Superintendents, District Commissioners, Town Commissioners/chiefs, clan chiefs, chairpersons of local communities, etc.	IS	The PMU consulted and engaged with various leaders in project sites including County Superintendents, District and Township Commissioners of Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, GrandKru, and Sinoe Counties) MGCSP, NaFAA, LiMA, SDI, and FACE.	M	L	Decreasing
	Ensure that capacity-building efforts include local government.	During the conservation agreement feasibility study, the PMU collected information on local government capacity gaps to develop a capacity building plan	IS	The capacity building plan will include the local government staff of six coastal counties including Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Sinoe, and Grand Kru.			
	Emphasize the role of local government in monitoring and enforcement of relevant laws and regulations.	During the engagement with various local government staff including County Superintendents, District, and Township Commissioners, the PMU emphasized the role of local governments in monitoring and enforcing relevant laws and regulations	IS	A monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed that will include the role of local government in monitoring and enforcement of relevant laws and regulations.			
	Build awareness within local government of the advantages of	Local government representatives participated in the virtual project inception workshop and feasibility assessments	IS	Local government representatives of (6) six coastal counties including Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Sinoe, and Grand Kru participated in			

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁰	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹¹
	working toward a green economy.			conservation Agreement feasibility assessments			
Risk 7: Institutional competition with respect to housing a national conservation agreement program and its associated funding streams	Conduct national program design in collaboration with a full range of stakeholder agencies.	National conservation agreement regulation is being developed	IS	CI Liberia and UNDP in collaboration with the GoL (EPA and FDA) is developing a National Conservation Agreement Regulation.	M	M	Unchanged
	Jointly work toward a clear definition of roles and responsibilities for all concerned stakeholders.	Stakeholders have been mapped and their roles defined	CA	Stakeholder mapping was conducted, and the roles and responsibilities of each project stakeholder was clearly defined.			
	Build on existing structures and forums for interagency coordination and collaboration (REDD+ working group; LCF; etc.).	The PMU members participated in environmental sector working group meetings	IS	Various inter-agency coordination and collaboration forums for the NCA project were identified.			
Risk 8: Impacts of climate change undermine project outcomes	Select sites that offer the maximum likelihood of weathering climate change impacts given project support.	Field visits were undertaken in eighteen (18) selected coastal communities to ascertain their vulnerability to climate change impacts	IS	Field visits were conducted in 18 communities (Grand Cape Mount Margibi, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, GrandKru, and Sinoe Counties) considered the communities vulnerability to environmental/climate shocks and stresses.	S	M	Decreasing
	Prioritize early action on maintaining green infrastructure that buffers climate change impacts.	The eighteen (18) selected sites have mostly pristine mangrove ecosystems which support climate change mitigation measures.	IS	The project will seek to conserve these pristine mangrove sites for climate change mitigation.			

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁰	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹¹
	Ensure that land - and resource use planning takes into consideration climate change impacts.	Land and resource use planning will take into consideration climate change impacts	NS	Land-use planning has not yet started			
Risk 9: Implementation capacity is inadequate	Build-in extensive training opportunities	Capacity building on NCA was provided to policy makers and government technicians	IS	Nineteen (19) PSC members, seven (7) TAC members, four (4) GIS technicians, and thirteen (13) national technicians from LLA, EPA, FACE, FDA were trained on the NCA.	M	M	Unchanged
	Design implementation processes such that they contribute to capacity-building	During the CA feasibility assessment, capacity-building gaps and needs were identified.	IS	Community leaders including Superintendents, District and Township Commissioners of Grand Cape Mount Margibi, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, GrandKru, and Sinoe Counties) were sensitized on conservation agreement and the importance of mangrove ecosystems			
	Rely on local partners to ensure cost-effectiveness	Potential local partners have been identified pending due diligence	IS	After the due diligence is completed, local partners that the project will rely on will be selected			
	Align with complementary programs to design mutually reinforcing investments (e.g., LFSP, WA -BiCC)	Technical analysis and recommendations for linking NCA to the design of Liberia's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) were undertaken.	IS	This technical analysis provided recommendations on how the government of Liberia can use NCA data to guide the country's NDC update, implementation plan, and progress-tracking systems providing support to the update Liberia's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).			

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁰	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹¹
Risk 10: Impacts of COVID-19 Baseline risk rating: High	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team is working remotely Virtual platforms to engage stakeholders have been adopted Adopted the Liberia Ministry of Health Guidelines; CIGEF guidelines on COVID19	IS	COVID-19 has caused a delay in the implementation of activities such as the process of recruiting consultants.	H	H	Unchanged

OVERALL RATING OF PROJECT RISKS	JUSTIFICATION	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
High	<p>The Risk Rating for FY21 is High.</p> <p>At CEO-Endorsement, 33% of the risks were rated Low and no risk was rated High whereas in FY21, 50% of the identified risks are rated Low and 10% are rated High. Notably, at CEO-Endorsement, the Corona Virus pandemic was not factored in because it had not yet occurred. This risk and its respective mitigation measures were implemented accordingly, and progress was reported every quarter. The baseline rating for the Coronavirus is High, and it has remained High even at the end of FY21.</p> <p>Despite the project reporting good risk mitigation progress in FY21, the Corona virus caused major challenges in executing some tasks and engaging stakeholders hence, FY21 would have recorded significant delays if the project had not adapted fast and if over 50% of the planned activities were field-based. As outlined in the table above, the project has adequately put in place the required risk mitigation measures for all the identified project risks (including the Coronavirus).</p> <p>The Coronavirus pandemic remains the biggest risk and potential impediment to achieving the project results since it has the potential of increasing the occurrence and severity of all the other identified risks. Additionally, most of the upcoming activities are field-based hence the national health and movement restrictions imposed by the Government of Liberia due to the Coronavirus might cause project delays in the future. If the current momentum persists, the project progress might stay on track however, this remains uncertain due to the unknown variables surrounding the pandemic. The Coronavirus mitigation measures at the country and global level will continue to directly influence project progress in FY22 and beyond.</p>	N/A This is the first year of implementation therefore, there is no prior project implementation rating.

¹² **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

Recommendations

MITIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, the team should continue using creative ways and adaptive management to implement project activities whilst ensuring the health safety of everyone involved.	CI-Liberia and EPA	30 th June 2022

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 into 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 YEAR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹³	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
ACCOUNTABILITY AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM				
1. Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	Zero conflict and complaint cases	0 (zero)	IS	<p>No complaint reported so far.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Accountability and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) was launched during the inception workshop. • The Accountability and Grievance Redress Mechanism poster was developed and shared with EPA and other stakeholders as a poster and leaflet. • The AGM (including the process, point of contact and how to reach the point of contacts, how to report a grievance, etc.) is also continually explained to local communities in a language and channels that they prefer. • During the PSC meeting, the GRM posters were distributed to the PSC members. • The Accountability and Grievance Redress Mechanism was explained to local communities during Conservation Agreement feasibility assessments in the nine local communities visited in Southeast (Rivercess, Sinoe, and Grandkru) Liberia
2. Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability	100% conflict and complaint cases resolved	0 %	IS	0% as no conflict or complaint case has been received

¹³ **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

and Grievance Mechanism that has been resolved					
GENDER MAINSTREAMING					
1. Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g., meetings, workshops, consultations)	No Target set To avoid double counting, the project follows the target numbers under Activity 2 in the gender mainstreaming plan.	Men 289	Women 73	IS TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TO-DATE: 362 persons (73 women and 289 men) FY20 Q3: 25 (2 women and 23 men) FY20 Q4: 40 (5 women and 35 men) FY21 Q1: 32 (3 women and 29 men) FY21 Q2: 54 (7 women and 47 men) FY21 Q3: 92 (12 women and 80 men) FY21 Q4: 119 (44 women and 75 men)	
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	Men 3,146	Women ¹⁴ 2,904	Men 197	Women 63	IS TOTAL NUMBER OF MEN & WOMEN BENEFICIARIES TO-DATE: 260 (197 men and 63 women) FY20 Q3: 0 FY20 Q4: 0 FY21 Q1: 13 men and 0 women (Total 13) FY21 Q2: 47 men and 7 women (Total 54) FY21 Q3: 74 male and 12 women (Total 86) FY21 Q4: 63 men and 44 women (Total 107)
3. Number of men/women demonstrating leadership in project implementation.	No target set	Men 33	Women 6	IS TOTAL NUMBER OF MEN & WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP ROLES TO-DATE: 39 (33 men and 6 women) FY21: 39 (33 men and 6 women)	
4. 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)	No target set	Two (2) strategy documents have been generated		IS TOTAL NUMBER OF STRATEGIES, PLANS DERIVED FROM THE PROJECT THAT INCLUDE GENDER CONSIDERATIONS TO DATE: 2 FY21 1. A Technical Analysis and Recommendations for linking Natural Capital Accounting to the design of Liberia's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) demonstrating the utility of	

¹⁴ Core indicator 11 target number is **6,050 participants** (2,904 Female and 3,146 Male)

				SEEA for monitoring and reporting of MEA in the country was developed. 2. The guiding document to establish and operate the Liberia Conservation Action Fund
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 on an annual basis	No Target set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five (5) stakeholder groups (government ministries and agencies; local communities; academic institutions; NGO and CSO) have been active during the project implementation phase. Thirty-two (32) institutions have been involved in project implementation. 	IS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eleven (11) Government institutions (Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) Liberia Maritime Authority (LMA), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MGCSP), Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP), Ministry of Mines & Energy (MME), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Liberia Land Authority (LLA), National Fisheries & Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) Eighteen (18) Local Communities (Down the mangrove, Seebeh, Timbo kru town, Neegbah, Dioh Town, Panama, Lexington, Picnicess-Togbaklee, Grandcess, Edina, Sarwein, Bleewein, Nyangba, Snafu Dock, Ben's Town, Mandoe, Falie and Bendu) Two (2) CSO/NGO (Sustainable Development Institute/; Famers association to conserve the environment (FACE) One (1) Academic institution (University of Liberia)
2. Number persons (sex sex-disaggregated) that have been involved in the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	No Target set To avoid double counting, the project follows the target numbers under Activity 2 in the gender mainstreaming plan	Men Women 289 73	IS	<p>TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS (SEX DISAGGREGATED) THAT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PHASE TO DATE: 362 (73 women and 289 men)</p> <p>FY20 Q3: 25 (2 women and 23 men) FY20 Q4: 40 (5 women and 35 men) FY21 Q1: 38 (3 women and 35 men) FY21 Q2: 54 (7 women and 47 men) FY21 Q3: 86 (12 women and 74 men) FY21 Q4: 119 (44 women and 75 men)</p>
3. Number of engagement (e.g., meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	No Target set	40 engagements	IS	<p>TOTAL NUMBER OF ENGAGEMENTS TO DATE: 40</p> <p>FY20 Q3: 1 FY20 Q4: 3 FY21 Q1: 6 FY21 Q2: 6 FY21 Q3: 13</p>

PROCESS FRAMEWORK FOR RESTRICTION OF ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources has been voluntarily restricted	No Target set	Men 0 Women 0	NS	<p>A conservation agreement feasibility study was conducted to collect baseline socio-economic and ecological information in the eighteen (18) target communities. Out of the eighteen (18) communities, a feasibility assessment was completed in nine (9) communities in three (3) southeast counties (Rivercess, Sinoe, and Grandkru counties) to ascertain which communities will benefit from the small grant/conservation agreement program.</p> <p>A value chain analysis RFP is also published to hire a consultant to advise on the kind of market to introduce in these communities, and which enterprises will best provide these services.</p> <p>The project is not able to give a number since discussions about the conservation agreements are ongoing and the conservation agreements are yet to be signed.</p>
2. Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources has been involuntarily restricted	Zero (0) men and Zero (0) women have been involuntarily restricted to access and use natural resources	Men 0 Women 0	NS	The project is not able to give a number since discussions about the conservation agreements are ongoing and the conservation agreements are yet to be signed.
3. Percentage of persons who gave their consent for voluntary restrictions	100% of persons involved have given their consent for voluntary restrictions	Men 0% Women 0%	NS	The project is not able to give a number/percentage since discussions about the conservation agreements are ongoing and the conservation agreements are yet to be signed.
4. Percentage of persons who have received compensation for voluntary restrictions	100% of persons who voluntarily consented to restrictions to access and use of natural resources have received compensation	Men 0% Women 0%	NS	The project is not able to give a number/percentage since discussions about the conservation agreements are ongoing and the conservation agreements are yet to be signed.
5. Percentage of persons who have received compensation for involuntary restrictions	100% of persons who have been involuntarily restricted to access and use	Men 0% Women 0%	NS	The project is not able to give a number/percentage since discussions about the conservation agreements are ongoing and the conservation agreements are yet to be signed.

	natural resources have received compensation			
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b. Information on Progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement

During the FY21, forty (40) engagement meetings were held where a total of 362 people (73 women and 289 men) from thirty-two (32) institutions (11 government agencies and ministries, eighteen (18) (local communities, two (2) CSO/NGO, and one (1) Academic institution) were involved in the project implementation. Out of the 362, a total of 260 people (197 men and 63 women) received benefits (trainings) from the project. There has been low participation of women in the project partly due to the Coronavirus pandemic which caused delays in field activities as the Government of Liberia (GoL) declared a health emergency, restricted movement of people, and face-face meetings. Most of the women's participation in the project is through women's involvement in community engagement. Aside from this medium, there is a minimal number of women as technicians and policymakers as stakeholders.

Additionally, there has been low involvement of the private sector in project implementation, partly because in FY21, the project activities were most tailored towards involving the government in building their capacity and implementing the project to enhance political buy-in. Hence in FY22, measures will be put in place during the project implementation to ensure the engagement of the private sector, particularly the ones that were situated along the project landscape.

COVID-19 pandemic affected face-face meetings which most people were accustomed to and consequently led to a shift to virtual meetings. However, issues of poor internet connectivity and poor coverage of electricity have limited the efficacy and effectiveness of virtual meetings.

c. Provide information on the progress towards achieving gender-sensitive measures/targets

Women participation is still low as detailed out below:

- i. 362 (73 women and 289 men) persons have participated in the project,
- ii. 260 persons (197 men and 63 women) have benefited from the project
- iii. 39 (33 men and 6 women) played a leadership role in the project.

The low participation of women in the project is partly due to the Coronavirus pandemic which caused a delay in field activities as the Government of Liberia (GoL) declared a health emergency, restricting movements of people, and face-face meetings. Due to COVID-19, most activities were held virtually/online with technicians and policy makers, that unfortunately in Liberia, is dominated by men. Thus, active women participation of women is expected to be high when project activities are rolled into the communities.

The issue of low participation of women especially at the PSC level was brought up and discussed during the second PSC meeting where it was resolved that a female alternative PSC member be nominated from each institution. In addition, the project team will ensure that women’s representation on PSC is not limited to nominal positions. At the community level, the Project team will: (i) ensure that any decision-making bodies that will be established will have fair and meaningful representation by both men and women; (ii) establish separate project decision-making bodies for both men and women in the target project sites; (iii) ensure adequate access to information for both women and men and conduct gender-sensitive communication activities in the project through distributing any communications and awareness-raising material to both men and women, and that the materials are presented in a manner that is accessible to community members who are illiterate or have not been through formal schooling; schedule community meetings will be scheduled at an appropriate time to allow participation by both men and women; and (v) consider gender as an important element during the negotiation and design of Conservation Agreements.

d. Overall Project Safeguard Implementation Rating

SUMMARY: PROJECT SAFEGUARD IMPLEMENTATION RATING BY TYPE OF PLAN		
SAFEGUARDSTRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT	CURRENT FY21 IMPLEMENTATION RATING	RATING TREND
Accountability and Grievance Mechanisms	HS	N/A This is the first year of implementation therefore, there is no prior project implementation rating.
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	S	N/A
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	HS	N/A
Process Framework	Not Started	N/A

OVERALL PROJECT SAFEGUARD IMPLEMENTATION RATING		
RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	The GRM was established and communicated to stakeholders via a poster and meetings. The gender participation/beneficiary's ratio is skewed in favor of men, however, two strategies produced under the project included gender considerations and this is a notable achievement. The project has engaged eighteen (18) local communities and fourteen (14) other institutions including the government, as well as had over forty (40) engagement activities despite the setbacks of the pandemic. The progress on Process Framework was not rated as this work has not started.	N/A

e. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
The gender participation/beneficiary's ratio is skewed in favor of men and an explanation was provided, as well as actions that the project will undertake in FY22 to address this issue. Please ensure that these actions are implemented.	PMU	June 30, 2022

SECTION V: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCES, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, AND LESSONS LEARNED

Required topics

1. Knowledge activities/products¹⁵

The project developed a range of knowledge products, including:

- NASA, Conservation International, and the government of Liberia jointly generated a [national map of ecosystem classes](#)¹⁶ for Liberia. The map series (2000-2018) enabled the compilation of an initial “ecosystem extent account” at the national level, which identifies and quantifies the different ecosystem types within the country and reveals trends never documented before, providing the foundation for quantifying, mapping and sustaining the sources of nature’s benefits to people. The map was fully endorsed by the Government of Liberia as the country’s official basis for a new national system of accounting for nature (“Ecosystem Accounting”) and is being published in the forthcoming State of Liberia Environmental Report.
- A webinar titled [Leveraging Earth Observations for Ecosystem Accounting](#) was delivered to the Africa NCA Community of Practice on March 25th 2021. The Webinar showcased how the development of national ecosystem maps can support other country's efforts to develop SEEA-compliant ecosystem extent accounts. The webinar was attended by over 150 participants from about forty (40) countries across Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Data and information generated in this project through field data collection, measurements, and modeling will benefit Liberia’s long-term sustainability and environmental conservation.
- Communication materials describing the project and natural capital accounting were developed and shared with participants. Some of these materials include brochures, standing banners, and ecosystem extent maps. The distribution and display of these materials exposed the project to a wider audience.
- An [analytical framework](#) was generated, customized for the implementation of natural capital accounting in Liberia following the recently adopted System of Environmental-Economic Accounting - Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) statistical standard for accounting for natural capital. The analytical framework describes methods for the implementation of a complete set of coastal accounts in Liberia, including extent, condition, ecosystem services, monetary assets accounts as well as biodiversity thematic accounts (species). This document will not only inform the development of accounts for the country, but can be more broadly shared with other countries, and customized for their specific needs.
- Technical analysis was done to link the design, planning, and monitoring of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets and activities to Natural Capital Accounting. This effort, spearheaded by EPA, CI through a Climate Action Enhancement Package Project with the Nationally Determined Contribution Partnership, and other partners provide recommendations on how the government of Liberia can use NCA data to guide the country’s NDC update, implementation plan, and progress-tracking systems providing support to the update Liberia’s Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

¹⁵ Additional Knowledge Management Products and Technical reports can be accessed on the CIGEF Website:

<https://www.conservation.org/gef/projects-list/conservation-and-sustainable-use-of-liberia%E2%80%99s-coastal-natural-capital>

¹⁶ United Nations. (2021, March 25). African NCA Community of Practice Webinar: Leveraging Earth Observations for Ecosystem Accounting: A NASA-CI Effort to Pilot Ecosystem Mapping in Liberia. Retrieved from United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (UN SEEA): <https://seea.un.org/events/african-nca-community-practice-webinar-leveraging-earth-observations-ecosystem-accounting>

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

2. Scientific and technological issues

- A partnership with NASA facilitated the development of [ecosystem extent maps](#) using the latest available technology and approaches to improve accuracy and ensure replicability. The maps were used to build awareness of the project at the highest levels of the government (a framed poster showcasing one of the maps was given to the President during the national environmental conference) and to inform the country's NDC update (see above).
- Difficulty in delineating a national boundary at an appropriate scale for accounting has been a challenge. We obtained multiple versions of the national boundary from different sources within the government which lack metadata. Further, boundaries were generated at scales that do not match the ecosystem extent maps generated for accounting. Having an accurate boundary for accounting is important and we will continue to work with the government, and with support from the TAC and PSC to overcome this challenge. As part of the condition account, simplifying condition variables to capture the full range of characteristics that are relevant to ecosystem integrity without duplication was one of the main issues. Collecting field data on condition indicators/variables has been a key challenge. The ratification of the SEEA has provided more complete guidance for the development of condition accounts.
- Travel restrictions during COVID hampered field work and effective stakeholder engagement on the ground. One of the lessons learned is to develop thorough contingency plans when fieldwork cannot be completed as originally scheduled.
- Ratification of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting - Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) benefitted the project. We now have an analytical framework that follows the recently adopted SEEA EA. The ecosystem extent needs to reflect ecosystem services provision. The extent account is taking a bottom-up approach to include ecosystem classes that generate important ecosystem services. We mapped two (2) coastal ecosystem types for which we can compile ecosystem accounting tables from 2000 to 2018: 1) Mangrove and Marsh and 2) Estuary and Lagoons. The Inclusion of additional ecosystem types into the accounts will depend on additional information obtained from the fieldwork and modeling.

3. Capacity building

Capacity building has been a major activity carried out in the implementation of the project during FY21. The primary intent of building the capacity of policymakers on the NCA was to improve the political buy-in, to ensure the evolution of the NCA framework within government priorities, and to be able to solicit inputs and cultivate the support of the various stakeholders. From the inception stage of the project, numerous individuals, including policymakers, government technicians, other national experts, civil society organization members, and members of the academia were trained.

A training was provided during the PSC meeting on NCA, including on key definitions, concepts, standards, the utility for policy and decision-making. A total of nineteen (19) participants (all men) attended the joint NCA and CBIT PSC meeting.

Another **training** was provided to the Africa NCA Community of Practice on Liberia's effort to map ecosystems distribution and their changes over time through SEEA EA 'Ecosystem Extent Account', with an emphasis on the utility of the map for the GEF-funded project 'Conservation and sustainable use of Liberia's coastal natural capital' and ultimately Liberia's long-term sustainability and green growth.

Also, various stakeholders were trained on the methodology described in the analytical framework that will be used to establish the national accounts. Eighteen (18) local communities were sensitized on the FPIC process, and the concept of a conservation agreement, and how it will improve their livelihood through the project.

Capacity-building efforts in FY21 have raised awareness and interest from the government and other stakeholders who want to learn more about natural capital accounting and how it can contribute to biodiversity conservation, economic development, and poverty alleviation. Notably, more capacity building is needed so that target one of the Liberia National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) can be realized.

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: RISK RATINGS

Rating	
Low (L)	L
Moderate (M)	M
Substantial (S)	S
High (H)	H

- **Low Risk (L):** There is a probability of up to 25% those assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.
- **Moderate Risk (M):** There is a probability of between 26% and 50% those assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.
- **Substantial Risk (S):** There is a probability of between 51% and 75% those assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.
- **High Risk:** There is a probability of greater than 75% those assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.

APPENDIX III: PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING PROJECT EXPECTED OUTPUTS

INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome 1.1: Decision-making improved in coastal ecosystem governance by mainstreaming natural capital accounting (NCA) into Government of Liberia (GOL) development strategy, policy, and planning				
Output Indicator 1.1.1: Number of NCA Steering Committees established	One (1) NCA Steering Committee	One NCA Steering committee has been established	CA	The PSC comprising of nineteen (19) members (19 men and 0 women) who are representatives of several governmental agencies and civil society has been established.
Output Indicator 1.1.2a: Number of active mangrove ecosystem accounts	Target: 1.1.2 a: One (1) Mangrove ecosystem account	Zero (0) natural capital accounts are embedded in key government policies and plans. Five (5) priority natural capital accounts have been selected, namely: The Ecosystem Extent, Ecosystem Condition, Ecosystem Services (crop provisioning, wood provisioning, wild fish and aquatic biomass, climate regulation, soil erosion control, coastal protection, and recreation-related services), Monetary Asset and Thematic Accounts (focusing on biodiversity and species accounts). Extensive technical work is in progress for the implementation of natural capital accounts in coastal areas.	IS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A scoping exercise was conducted through the distribution of a questionnaire to determine the NCA priority accounts. • PMU extensively engaged different government institutions (TAC) including EPA, FDA, LISGIS, LiMA, NaFAA, MFDP, and LLA through technical meetings to establish priority accounts. • An analytical framework was developed and finalized to establish NCA. • An ecosystem's extent map was developed and launched. • An in-depth comprehensive assessment of data and gaps and identification of required collection efforts have been conducted.
Output indicator 1.1.2b: Number of policies and plans that include NCA results	Target 1.1.2 b: Five (5) Key government policies and plans	One (1) government policy - The NCA output contributed to the development of the updated NDC for Liberia.	IS	Technical Analysis and recommendations for linking Natural Capital Accounting to the design of Liberia's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) demonstrating the utility of SEEA EA for monitoring and reporting of MEA in the country was undertaken.

¹⁷ O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

<p>Output Indicator 1.1.3: Number of government officials and stakeholders that have participated in training events</p>	<p>Target 1.1.3: Fifty (50) people trained (10 women, 40 men).</p>	<p>Fifty-eight (58) government officials (11 females and 47 males) trained on the NCA.</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>Government staff were trained on NCA, including key definitions, concepts, standards, the utility for policy and decision-making, as relevant for the project implementation. Also addressed was some key information needed for scoping and analytical frameworks, such as information gaps, barriers, and opportunities to inform better policies and decision-making.</p> <p>Also, training was provided to the Africa NCA Community of Practice on Liberia’s effort to map ecosystems distribution and their changes over time through SEEA EA ‘Ecosystem Extent Account’.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 1.1.4: Number of operational frameworks</p>	<p>Target 1.1.4: One (1) operational framework</p>	<p>Delayed</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>Delayed due to COVID travel restriction</p>
<p>Output Indicator 1.1.5: Number of national planning instruments that incorporate NCA results</p>	<p>Target 1.1.5: One (1) national planning instrument (Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development) incorporates NCA results for assessing key indicators (forests’ contribution to the economy)</p>	<p>An ecosystem's extent and land-use map was developed through a NASA-CI-GoL partnership. One of the purposes of this map is to inform the proper planning of the development of a national planning instrument that would incorporate the NCA.</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>The NASA-CI-GoL generated a national map of ecosystem classes for Liberia, a preliminary step towards the account, which was fully endorsed by the government and is being published in the forthcoming State of Liberia Environmental Report.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing on how to support the country’s long-term sustainability and green growth actively and continually while alleviating poverty and human wellbeing towards achieving objectives of the pro-poor Agenda (PAPD). A key area of interest is to explore how accounts can inform our goal of protecting 30% of its territory, while also allowing the information on natural resources and cost of degradation to be taken into account in development decisions.</p>

Output Indicator 1.1.6: Number of reporting mechanisms for international commitments that incorporate NCA results	Target: 1.1.6: One (1) monitoring mechanism (Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development) incorporates NCA results for reporting progress on targets	0 (zero). However, technical analysis and recommendations for Linking Natural Capital Accounting to the design of Liberia's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) was provided.	IS	Technical analysis and recommendations for linking Natural Capital Accounting to the design of Liberia's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) demonstrating the utility of SEEA for monitoring and reporting of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the country. The document proposed targets and a monitoring mechanism for the GoL technical NDC consultation workshops.
Output Indicator 1.1.7: Number of roadmap documents for additional natural capital accounts	Target 1.1.7: One (1) roadmap document	Not started yet.	NS	Not started yet.
Outcome 2.1: Funding sources for sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems increased				
Output Indicator 2.1.1: Number of prospectus for Blue Carbon demonstration/pilot project	Target 2.1.1: One (1) prospectus for blue carbon demonstration/pilot project	0 (zero).	IS	RFP/ToRs for the site level blue-carbon feasibility assessment has been advertised.
Output Indicator 2.1.2: Number of conservation-friendly enterprises active in the project area	Target 2.1.2: One (1) enterprise	0 (zero)	IS	RFP/ToRs to conduct market assessment and value change analysis of conservation-friendly enterprise has been advertised.
Output Indicator 2.1.3: Number of organizations receiving small grants	Target 2.1.3: Three (3) local organizations	0 (zero)	IS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of local organizations is ongoing. • Recruitment of a grant manager is ongoing.
Output Indicator 2.1.4: Number of comprehensive design documents for national coastal conservation financing mechanism formally adopted by relevant government body/bodies	Target 2.1.4: One (1) design document	0 (zero)	IS	Guiding document for the establishment and management of the Liberia Conservation Action Fund (LCAF) has been developed, and is being reviewed by the TAC.
Outcome 3.1: Community-level conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources improved through performance-based payments using conservation agreements				

<p>Output Indicator 3.1.1: Number of Conservation Agreements signed with communities</p>	<p>Target 3.1.1: Ten (10) Conservation Agreements</p>	<p>0 (zero)</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>Community engagement and conservation agreement feasibility assessment was conducted in eighteen (18) communities. Once the conservation agreements are signed, more than 5000 additional hectares of terrestrial forest ecosystems will be under sustainable management.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 3.1.2: Number of national conservation agreement programs designed and established</p>	<p>Target: 3.1.2: One (1) national conservation agreement program</p>	<p>Not started yet</p>	<p>NS</p>	<p>Not started yet</p>