

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR))

for the project:

Conservation and Sustainable use of Liberia's Coastal Natural Capital

FY23

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 (Year 3)

Executing Partner

Conservation International Liberia, and 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		
Executing Agency(ies):	The 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 5, 2022		
Co-financing Realized as of June 30, 2023:	US\$ 6,186,196	Mid-Term Review-Planned Date:	October 1, 2022		
Date of First Disbursement:	February 1, 2020	Mid-Term Review-Actual Date:	November 23, 2022		
Cumulative disbursement as of June 30, 2023:	US\$ 1,742,693	Terminal Evaluation-Planned Date:	April 1, 2025		
PIR Prepared by:	Emmanuel T. Olatunji and George Ilebo	Terminal Evaluation-Actual Date:	TBD		
CI-GEF Project Manager:	Charity Nalyanya	CI-GEF Finance Lead:	Susana Escudero		

Minor Amendment Categories	Minor Amendment Justification Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have a significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase in the GEF project financing by up to 5%. Please select the box that is most applicable for FY22 and include an explanation for the minor amendment request.
Results framework	
Components and cost	
Institutional and implementation arrangements	
Financial management	
Implementation schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor project objective change	
Safeguards	
Risk analysis 🖂	Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic was included as a new risk
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%	
Co-financing	Not Applicable
Location of project activity 🗵	There were some changes in locations due to accessibility and mangrove density – see section VI: project geocoding
Other _	-

MINOR AMENDMENT RESPONSE FROM CI-GEF

There are no changes/amendments as outlined in the table above

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

- <u>Section I:</u> 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;
- <u>Section II</u>: 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;
- <u>Section III</u>: **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;
- <u>Section IV:</u> 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;
- <u>Section V</u>: 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
- <u>Section VI</u>: Project Geocoding: documents the precise and specific geographic location(s) of activities supported by GEF investments based on information available in project documentation.

SECTION I: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS SUMMARY

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Conservation and Sustainable use of Liberia's Coastal Natural Capital 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 the 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., the declaration of Lake Piso, Mesurado, and Marshall wetlands as Ramsar sites and the 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 the above, 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 (FY22)

Component 1: Natural Capital Accounting in coastal ecosystems

<u>Outcome 1.1</u>: In both FY22 and FY21, 87% of output indicators under outcome 1.1 were pending completion. In addition, FY22 had registered a 13% improvement in that, no output indicators were delayed/overdue whereas in FY21, 13% of output indicators were reported delayed/overdue.

The NCA has been integrated into the NDC Implementation Plan (Coastal, Forest, and Agriculture sectors). The project prioritized five (5) priority natural capital accounts namely: Ecosystem Extent, Ecosystem Condition, Ecosystem Services Flow (crop provisioning, wood provisioning, fisheries resources, climate regulation, soil erosion control, and coastal protection), Monetary Assets, and Thematic Accounts (focusing on biodiversity and species accounts). In FY22 the project made significant progress towards completing the technical development of a coastal natural capital account. In FY22, a total of 25 (18 men and 7 women) government officials were trained on how to collect NCA and catalogue data the shared data on the government.

Component 2: Innovative financing Schemes for conserving coastal natural capital.

Outcome 2.1: In both FY22 and FY21, 100% of output indicators under outcome 2.1 are on track/under implementation.

In FY22, blue carbon feasibility assessments were conducted in the Lake Piso and Marshall landscapes, and these form the basis for the development of a blue carbon prospectus. Market assessment and value chain analysis of conservation-friendly enterprises were also conducted. In addition, a Multi-Agency Steering Committee (MASC) – renamed the Small Grants Appraisal Committee (SGAC) as per the recommendation of the PSC was established to oversee the implementation of the Liberia Conservation Action Fund (LCAF). The SGAC will comprise of members from 11 Institutions (Government, Private sector, and Civil society). The nomination of the members (male and female) for the SGAC is on-going. Nomination of members (men and women) is on-going The objective of the SGAC is to oversee the disbursement of small grants to Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to roll out conservation agreements and support conservation-friendly enterprises.

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

<u>Outcome 3.1</u>: In both FY22 and FY21, 50% of output indicators under outcome 3.1 are on track/under implementation and 50% have not started execution/are on track.

Six (6) conservation agreements have been signed between CI and six (6) local communities namely, Sarwein, Bleewein, Nyangba in Grand Bassa County and, Falie, Mandoe, and Bendu in Grand Cape Mount County to conserve and protect the coastal

ecosystems. To this end, a total of 2,449.67 ha of mangrove ecosystems have been put under protection and a total of 4,159.74 ha of terrestrial forest ecosystems under sustainable management in coastal areas.

Risks and Challenges: In FY22 Q1 and Q2, the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) caused delays in the implementation of field activities, and 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.

Environmental & Social Safeguards Compliance: Monitoring and reporting of safeguards were undertaken quarterly as covered in section IV.

CURRENT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (FY23)

Component 1: Natural Capital Accounting in coastal ecosystems

A total of 28 (23 men and 5 women) government officials and other relevant stakeholders were trained on the technical aspects including introduction to ecosystem accounting, the overview of ecosystem accounting concepts; the introduction to ecosystem accounting; the policy applications of NCA focused on six priority policies namely the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), National Environmental Policy of 2003, National Forest Policy and Implementation Strategy of 2006, National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change of 2018, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Strategy, 2014, and National Energy Policy of Liberia (NEPL).

In addition, five (5) priority natural capital accounts were established namely: Ecosystem Extent, Ecosystem Condition, Ecosystem Services Flow (crop provisioning, wood provisioning, fisheries resources, climate regulation, soil erosion control, and coastal protection), Monetary Assets, and Thematic Accounts (focusing on biodiversity and species accounts).

Against that backdrop, a national strategy and action plan was established for the implementation of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Liberia.

Component 2: Innovative financing Schemes for conserving coastal natural capital.

A total of US\$ 2,185,000 was secured. US\$ 185,000 was secured from Broadleaf for the development of the Project Identification Note (PIN), Project Opportunity Profile, and feasibility study for carbon projects in Marshall and Lake Piso. While US\$ 2 million was secured from the World Bank supported Liberia Sustainable Fisheries Management Project granting facility to build capacity of local fisherfolks and provide support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in coastal areas. Also, discussions are ongoing with Proctor and Gamble to fund a blue carbon worth US\$ 25 million for 25 years (US\$ 1 million p.a.).

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

A total of 2,449.67 ha of mangroves and 551.09 ha of terrestrial forest have been protected by six communities that signed conservation agreements in FY22. These six communities include Sarwein, Bleewein, Nyangba in Grand Bassa County and (Bendu, Mandoe, and Falie in Grand Cape Mount County.

As a standard operating procedure, projects are evaluated at the mid-term stage. As such, an MTE consultancy was initiated to conduct a thorough evaluation of project implementation and proffer recommendations to improve operational excellence in implementation. A draft report from the MTE assessment is being reviewed for approval.

Risks and challenges

The main challenge was staff turn-over due to the resignation of the Project Manager and Project Officer in CI Liberia and the termination of the contracts of 11 Moore Center of Science (MCS). This has caused delays in the implementation of project activities. This coupled with the termination of the contract of CI Liberia Technical Director will cause loss of institutional memory of the NCA project since these staff were involved in the design development and implementation of the project.

Environmental & Social Safeguards Compliance:

- A total of 23 eligible complaints were received and resolved successfully.
- A total of 22 engagements were held with 446 people [315 men (71%) and 131 women (29%)] from fifteen (15) institutions from five stakeholder groups.

• 2,278 people (1,062/47% male and 1,216/53% female gave consent for voluntary restrictions and were compensated through conservation agreement benefits for their restrictions on access and use mangroves

SUMMARY: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS

PROJECT PART	PRIOR FY22 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	CURRENT FY23 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING ¹	RATING TREND ²
OBJECTIVE	HS	S	Decreasing
COMPONENTS AND OUTCOMES	HS	S	Decreasing
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS	HS	S	Decreasing

PROJECT RISK RATING³

PROJECT PART	PRIOR FY22 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	CURRENT FY23 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	RATING TREND
RISKS	н	H	Unchanged

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

² Rating trend: Improving, Unchanged, or Decreasing

³ 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 since the start of the project 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

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END-OF-YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Indicator a: Number of national development policy instruments explicitly incorporating Natural Capital Accounting (NCA)	Zero (0)	IS	A policy assessment was conducted where six priority policies were identified including: 1. Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) 2. National Environmental Policy of 2003 3. National Forest Policy and Implementation Strategy of 2006 4. National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change of 2018 5. Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Strategy, 2014 6. The National Energy Policy of Liberia (NEPL)

OBJECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION
	This section is rated Satisfactory because 100% of the indicators are under implementation/on track. The rating for both FY23 and FY22 is the same.
	Policy assessments were carried out, identifying six policies that have integrated Natural Capital Accounting (NCA).

⁴ O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

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

COMPONENT 1 Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Coastal Ecosystems

Outcome 1.1:

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

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END-OF-YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome Indicator 1.1.a: Number of natural capital accounts established and embedded in key government policies and plans	At least one natural capital account (mangroves) established and embedded in at least five (5) key government policies and plans	Zero (0) natural capital accounts are embedded in key government policies and plans; the project is in progress towards achieving the outcome indicator.	IS	The project prioritized five (5) priority natural capital accounts namely: Ecosystem Extent, Ecosystem Condition, Ecosystem Services Flow (crop provisioning, wood provisioning, fisheries resources, climate regulation, soil erosion control, and coastal protection), Monetary Assets, and Thematic Accounts (focusing on biodiversity and species accounts). The first iteration of several ecosystem services flow accounts is also completed. In addition, a policy assessment was conducted where six priority policies were identified including: 1. Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) 2. National Environmental Policy of 2003 3. National Forest Policy and Implementation Strategy of 2006 4. National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change of 2018 5. Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Strategy, 2014 6. The National Energy Policy of Liberia (NEPL)
Outcome indicator 1.1.b: Number of government officials and other relevant stakeholders trained on the technical aspects of NCA	At least fifty (50) (10 women and 40 men) ⁶ government officials and other relevant stakeholders trained on the technical aspects of NCA	To-date (FY21, FY22 and FY23), trainings were provided to a total of 69 personnel (47 men and 11 women). This value has eliminated double counting. However, the actual numbers are as below:	IS	The training was on: (i) raising awareness about NCA; (ii) the overview of ecosystem accounting concepts, and (iii) the introduction to ecosystem accounting was provided.

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

 $^{^{\}rm 6}$ The sex disaggregated information is similar to Output 1.1.3

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END-OF-YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
		FY21: 16 government officials (13 men and 3 women)		
		FY22: 25 government officials (18 men and 7 women)		
		FY23: 28 (23 men and 5 women)		
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	At least fifty (50) (10 women and 40 men ⁷ decision-makers trained on how to use NCA results for the conservation and sustainable use of globally important biodiversity	To-date (FY21, FY22 and FY23), the total number of decision-makers who received trainings on policy application of NCA is 106 (82men and 24 women). However, the actual numbers are as below: FY21: 58 decision makers (47 men and 11 women) decision-makers have received virtual trainings on policy application of NCA.	IS	The training was on the policy applications of NCA focused on: 1. Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) 2. National Environmental Policy of 2003 3. National Forest Policy and Implementation Strategy of 2006 4. National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change of 2018 5. Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Strategy, 2014 6. The National Energy Policy of Liberia (NEPL
		FY22: 20 decision makers (12 men and 8 women) were trained.		
		FY23: 28 decision makers (23 men and 5 women)		

COMPONENT 1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	Component 1 is rated Highly Satisfactory because 100% of the target indicators are under implementation/on track.	Decreasing

COMPONENT 2 Innovative Financing Schemes for Conserving Coastal Natural Capital

 $^{^{7}\,\}mbox{The sex}$ disaggregated information is similar to Output 1.1.3

Outcome 2:1: Funding sources for sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems increased

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END-OF-YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁸	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 2.1.a: Financial resources (USD) available for the sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems	Financial resources for the sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems increased by 50% (USD 2.5 million over the lifetime of the project).	To-date: 31.4 % (US\$ 785,000) Foundation. The break down is below: FY21: US\$ 600,000 FY22: Zero (0) FY23: US\$ 185,000	IS	US\$ 185,000 was secured from Broadleaf for the development of the Project Identification Note (PIN), Project Opportunity Profile, and feasibility study for carbon project in Marshall and Lake Piso. Also, discussions are ongoing with Proctor and Gamble to fund a blue carbon worth US\$ 25 million for 25 years (US\$ 1 million p.a.)
Outcome indicator 2.1.b: Number of revenue streams to support the long-term sustainability of coastal ecosystems	At least two (2) new revenue streams to support the long-term sustainability of coastal ecosystems developed.	To-date: two (02) revenue streams have been secured to support sustainable management coastal ecosystems. The break down is below: FY21: Zero (0) FY22: One (1) revenue stream from the Embassy of Sweden has been secured (US\$ 2 million secured) FY23: One (1) revenue stream of US\$ 2 million from World Bank was secured.	IS	US\$ 2 million was secured from the World Bank supported Liberia Sustainable Fisheries Management Project granting facility to build capacity of local fisherfolks and provide support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in coastal areas
Outcome indicator 2.1.c: Number of local organizations receiving small grants for coastal conservation	Small grants provided to at least three local organizations.	Zero (0) local organizations receiving small grants for coastal conservation.	IS	Design and negotiations for conservation agreements were conducted in nine (09) local communities including Timbo, and Neegba communities in Rivercess County; Panama, Lexington, Dioh Town, Seebeh, Down the mangrove communities in Sinoe County; Grandcess community in Grand Kru County; Snafu Dock, and Ben's town in Margibi County. The delivery of the Conservation Agreement benefit packages to these local communities through the small grants was not done due to the resignation of the Project Manager and Project Officer.

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

COMPONENT 2 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	Component 2 is rated Satisfactory because 100% of the target indicators are under implementation/on track.	Decreasing
	Progress has been slow in FY23. For instance, two revenue streams have been secured (US\$ 185,000 from Broad Leaf and US\$ 2 million from World Bank secured); the design and negotiations were done for nine communities, however, the conservation agreements have not been done due to staffing challenges. The project manager and officer have been appointed, and activities under this component are set to pick up in FY24.	

COMPONENT 3 Community Incentives to Conserve and Sustainably Manage Natural Capital in Coastal Ecosystems

Outcome 3:1: Community-level conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources improved through performance-based payments using conservation agreements

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END-OF-YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 3.1.a: Area (hectares) of mangrove ecosystems under protection across Liberia	11,975 additional hectares of mangrove ecosystems under protection across Liberia.	To date: 2,449.67 ha	IS	2,449.67 ha have been protected by six communities that signed conservation agreements in FY22. These six communities include Sarwein, Bleewein, Nyangba in Grand Bassa County and (Bendu, Mandoe, and Falie in Grand Cape Mount County. Following the above, a total of 2,449.67 ha of mangrove ecosystems have been put under protection.
Outcome indicator 3.1.b: Area (hectares) of terrestrial forest ecosystems under sustainable management in coastal areas.	5,000 additional hectares of terrestrial forest ecosystems under sustainable management in coastal areas.	To date: 4,159.74 ha FY22: 4,159.74 ha FY23: Zero (0) ha	IS	A total of 551.09 ha of terrestrial forest is under sustainable management in six communities that signed conservation agreements in FY22 including Sarwein, Bleewein, Nyangba in Grand Bassa County and (Bendu, Mandoe, and Falie in Grand Cape Mount County. Following the above, a total of 4,159.74 ha of terrestrial forest ecosystems are under sustainable management in coastal areas. When the LCAF is operationalized in FY23, additional hectares will be put under some form of protection.
Outcome indicator 3.1.c: Income (USD) within coastal and mangrove	Income within coastal and mangrove communities targeted by	0%	IS	Design and negotiations for conservation agreements were conducted in nine (09) local communities including Timbo, and Neegba communities in Rivercess County; Panama, Lexington, Dioh Town, Seebeh, Down the mangrove

⁹ O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END-OF-YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
communities targeted by the project	the project improved by 50%.			communities in Sinoe County; Grandcess community in Grand Kru County; Snafu Dock, and Ben's town in Margibi County. The delivery of the Conservation Agreement benefit packages that would contribute to improved incomes for these local communities was not done due to the resignation of the Project Manager and Project Officer. Note. Socio-economic survey should be conducted during FY24 to assess the improvement in incomes of beneficiary local communities.

COMPONENT 3 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	Component 3 is rated Satisfactory because 100% of the target indicators are under implementation/on track.	Decreasing
	The performance of Component 3 has been slow due to staffing delays. Notably, although signing of the six (6) conservation agreements between CI and six coastal communities have been done, conservation agreements benefit packages have not been signed. Moreover, 2,449.67 ha of mangrove ecosystems put under protection and 4,159.74 ha of terrestrial forest ecosystems in coastal areas placed under sustainable management remain the same. Baseline socio-economic assessments will be conducted in FY24.	

c. Overall Project Results Rating

OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION RATING								
OVERALL RATING	RATING TREND ¹⁰							
S	The FY23 overall project results rating is Satisfactory. Although slow, the project has made progress towards achieving the outcome indicators. Although the project encountered staffing setbacks, including the resignation of both the project manager and project officer, it is noteworthy that 100% of the intended outcome indicators are currently in progress or on schedule. Activities are set to pick up in FY24 since the project manager and M&E officer have been recruited.	Decreasing						

¹⁰ Rating trend: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

d. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
1. Identify activities that can be run in parallel to make up for lost time and expedite the project's progress. Ensure that parallel activities are well-coordinated and do not lead to additional bottlenecks or confusion	CI-Liberia/EPA	30 th June 2024

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 risk annual reassessment.
- b. Recommendations for improving project risk management.

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

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
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.	The NCA project is socialized among key government institutions and key government technicians. Policymakers are also involved in the implementation of the project	IS	Project collaborated with nine government institutions including FDA, MFDP, MoA, Liberia Hydrological Service, LISGIS, EPA, LiMA, LLA, and NaFAA.	M	L	Decreasing
	Project delivery will emphasize capacity-building within relevant government agencies.	Five (5) trainings held where 30 government trainees (24 men and 6 women) from MFDP, EPA, FDA, MoA, LISGIS, and Liberia hydrological Services attended	IS	The trainings were on the compilation and use of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Liberia			
	Continued consultations will solicit input and cultivate support on an ongoing basis.	Consultations were held with 21 Institutions including Government: 9; Private sector: 2; Academia: 2; NGOs: 2 and local communities: 6 where a total of 446 (315 men and 131 women) attended.	IS	 73 engagements were held with these stakeholders including: Two Project Steering Committee meetings. One inception workshop on national strategy and action plan for implementation of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Liberia. 			

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

¹² Rating trend: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
				 One training on the compilation and use of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Liberia. One meeting with LISGIS data officers. 15 meetings with local communities of Lexington, Panama, Down the mangrove, Seebeh, Timbo Kru, Dioh town, Ben's Town, Snafu dock, Neegba, Bendu, Mando, Falie, Nyangba, Bleewein and Sarwein One virtual meeting with EPA, LISGIS, FDA and LLA on NCA. One meeting with EPA on way forward on the NCA project following the resignation of PMU staff 			
	The evolution of the NCA framework will be guided by Government priorities.	Five priority natural capital accounts and six priority policies were identified by government	IS	The five (5) priority natural capital accounts include: Ecosystem Extent, Ecosystem Condition, Ecosystem Services Flow (crop provisioning, wood provisioning, fisheries resources, climate regulation, soil erosion control, and coastal protection), Monetary Assets, and Thematic Accounts (focusing on biodiversity and species accounts). In addition, a policy assessment was conducted where six priority policies were identified including: Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), National Environmental Policy of 2003; National Forest Policy and Implementation Strategy of 2006; National Policy and			

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
				Response Strategy on Climate Change of 2018; Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Strategy, 2014; and the National Energy Policy of Liberia (NEPL)			
	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. A National Strategy and Action Plan for the implementation of Natural Capital Accounting in Liberia was produced with the Government of Liberia including MFDP.	IS	The MoFDP participated in the two PSC and TAC meetings that were held in FY23			
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 28 (23 men and 5 women) government officials and other relevant stakeholders were trained on the technical aspects of NCA.	IS	The training included introduction to ecosystem accounting, the overview of ecosystem accounting concepts; the introduction to ecosystem accounting; the policy applications of NCA focused on six priority policies namely the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), National Environmental Policy of 2003, National Forest Policy and Implementation Strategy of 2006, National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change of 2018, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Strategy, 2014, and National Energy Policy of Liberia (NEPL).	L	L	Unchanged
Risk 3: Investor/donor confidence insufficient for	Careful site/intervention selection under the project to maximize	All NCA sites were included as sites for the World Bank funded project	IS	US\$ 2 million was secured from the World Bank supported Liberia Sustainable Fisheries Management Project granting facility to build	L	L	Unchanged

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
adequate contributions to sustainable	demonstration impact.			capacity of local fisherfolks and provide support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in coastal areas			
financing mechanisms	Build on previous successes with small grants to scale up.	The LCAF small grant appraisal committee has been operationalized and will receive support from UNDP Small Grants Programme in Liberia	IS	The LCAF small grant appraisal committee consists of 11 institutions, including (MFDP, EPA, FDA, NaFAA, LMA, LLA, LISGIS, MIA, UL, Private sector, and CSO).			
	Align project with wider national sustainable conservation finance efforts.	In the development of a national strategy and action plan for NCA discussions were held with officials from MFDP who identified Climate change and climate finance as key priorities	IS	The project was also aligned with other coastal management initiatives funded by the World Bank and the Embassy of Sweden in Monrovia. Also, the PMU held meetings with the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement) and the World Bank on capitalizing the Liberia Conservation Fund			
Risk 4: Enterprise development fails or is not adopted by local Communities	Leverage the proven viability of existing conservation-friendly enterprises. Focus community-based development on activities with which they already are familiar (e.g., agriculture, fisheries).	Final report on value-chain analysis of conservation-friendly enterprises was produced which will inform the promotion of conservation friendly enterprises in project target sites.	IS	The study recommended three (3) value chains including fisheries, cassava, and rice	M	M	Unchanged
Risk 5: Community members are not interested	Apply Rights-Based Approach to ensure appropriate communication,	In all the 20 engagements held, prior information was provided, and consent sought from all participants	IS	Information was sent to participants at least two weeks in advance. During the engagements, the participants freely spoke and voiced their opinions and	L	L	Unchanged

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
in behavior change through commitments in Conservation Agreements (CAs)	engagement, and participation processes, including Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).			ideas. In addition, the views of participants were respected.			
	Cultivate local champions (through Community-Based Organizations, traditional leadership, and local NGOs) to act as intermediaries	Traditional leaders were included in the design and negotiations of Conservation Agreement Committees	IS	During community engagements, the team identified and worked with community gatekeepers specifically, the traditional leaders (clan chiefs and paramount chiefs) to socialize the project. Also, in the six communities where CAs had been signed, FCs in addition to clan chiefs, act as intermediaries.			
	Conduct site-level feasibility assessments to identify local appetite for participation in the project.	Site feasibility assessments were completed in Lexington, Panama, Down the mangrove, Seebeh, Timbo Kru, Dioh town, and Neegba, Grand Cess, and Picnicess in Southeast Liberia landscape and Nyangba, Bleewein, Mandoe, Falie, Sarwein and Bendu in Northwest Liberia landscape	IS	All the communities expressed willingness to work with the project.			
	Tailor Conservation agreement (CA) benefit packages to address local needs and priorities.	CA benefits were tailored to address local needs and priorities including green jobs, access to credit, cold storage, Farming tools, sustainable fishing gears	IS	In the design and negotiations for conservation agreements in all the local communities, pairwise ranking was used to select the most pressing local needs. CA design and negotiations have been completed for all the beneficiary communities.			
Risk 6: Other stakeholders such as local	Consult and engage local government as key stakeholders in planning and	Local government authorities including county authorities, District commissioners and	IS	To fulfill requirements contained in Liberia's National standards for participatory land use planning, awareness meetings were held with	М	L	Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
governments are reluctant to share planning and	executing CA initiatives.	town chiefs were consulted on land use planning		the County authorities and local communities of Lexington, Panama, Down the mangrove, Seebeh, Timbo Kru, Dioh town, and Neegba			
management responsibilities with communities	Ensure that capacity-building efforts include local government.	Refresher training was provided to 56 Frontline Conservationists and five communities sensitized on Liberia's National standards for participatory land use planning.	IS	Refresher training on forest patrol was conducted for 56 Frontline Conservationists. In addition, local authorities in Lexington, Panama, Down the mangrove, Seebeh, Timbo Kru, Dioh town, and Neegba communities were sensitized on Liberia's National standards for participatory land use planning.			
	Emphasize the role of local government in monitoring and enforcement of relevant laws and regulations.	56 local frontline Conservationists participated in monitoring compliance with conservation agreements in six communities that have already signed the agreements. Also, the District and County Superintendents were involved in the monitoring of field activities.	IS	The role of the local government was delineated in the conservation agreements where 56 frontline conservationists from local communities conduct forest patrols.			
	Build awareness within local government of the advantages of working toward a green economy.	Local government representatives were sensitized on the contribution of Liberia's National standards for participatory land use planning towards a green economy.	IS	The local authorities in Lexington, Panama, Down the mangrove, Seebeh, Timbo Kru, Dioh town, and Neegba communities were sensitized on Liberia's National standards for participatory land use planning.			
Risk 7: Institutional competition with respect to housing a	Conduct national program design in collaboration with a full range of	Multi-stakeholder participation was prioritized in the development of a National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) for the	IS	A National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) for the implementation of NCA in Liberia was launched to help with the identification and documentation of enabling conditions for accounting	М	L	Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
national conservation agreement program and its associated funding streams	stakeholder agencies.	implementation of NCA in Liberia		implementation, priority accounts to be implemented, needed institutional arrangements, and improvement on statistical systems, among other things. A total of 50 (44 male and 6 female) participants from about 15 agencies, including government, international organizations, civil society, and academia provided important input on key policy themes and associated data requirements associated with NCA, as well as recommendations on improving collaboration, challenges, and opportunities, as well as capacity building needs for the implementation of NCA in the country.			
	Jointly work toward a clear definition of roles and responsibilities for all concerned stakeholders.	ToRS and SOPs for operationalization of the LCAF has been developed and an appraisal committee established.	IS	ToRS and SOPs for operationalization of the LCAF small grants appraisal committee were approved by the PSC. LCAF small grants appraisal committee is composed of 11 institutions that constitute the NCA PSC. (EPA, FDA, LMA, MGCSP, LLA, LISGIS, NaFAA, MIA, MFDP, and UL).			
	Build on existing structures and forums for interagency coordination and collaboration (REDD+ working group; LCF; etc.).	The PMU participated in the Environmental Sector Working Group., and PSC meetings	IS	The PMU participated in two joint PSC meetings for all CI Liberia projects including FOLUR, NCA, and Blue Oceans Programme and two Environmental Sector Working Group meetings.			
Risk 8: Impacts of climate change undermine	Select sites that offer the maximum likelihood of weathering climate	The PMU is collaborating with the UNDP project entitled, "Mapping Nature for People and Planet in Liberia."	IS	This UNDP project aims to map 'Essential Life Support Areas' (ELSAs), where actions to protect, manage and restore nature can conserve critical	S	L	Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
project outcomes	change impacts given project support.			biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and provide humans with essential ecosystem services, such as carbon storage, food, freshwater provisioning, and disaster risk reduction			
	Prioritize early action on maintaining green infrastructure that buffers climate change impacts.	The NCA team participated in the inception workshop will for UNDP's project, "Mapping Nature for People and Planet in Liberia," which aims to map 'Essential Life Support Areas' (ELSAs), where actions to protect, manage and restore nature can conserve critical biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and provide humans with essential ecosystem services, such as carbon storage, food, freshwater provisioning, and disaster risk reduction.	IS	Through this collaboration with UNDP, pristine mangrove sites will be identified and actions for their protection and management will be developed			
	Ensure that land - and resource use planning takes into consideration climate change impacts.	During the policy assessment, one of the priority policies that has was selected is the 2018 National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change. To that end, the NCA project team is collaborating with UNDP on mapping nature for people and planet in Liberia	IS	The PMU is collaborating with UNDP's project, "Mapping Nature for People and Planet in Liberia," which aims to map 'Essential Life Support Areas' (ELSAs), where actions to protect, manage and restore nature can conserve critical biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and provide humans with essential ecosystem services, such as carbon storage, food, freshwater provisioning, and disaster risk reduction.			
Risk 9: Implementation capacity is inadequate.	Build-in extensive training opportunities	A total of 30 government staff (24 men and 6 women) and 56 Frontline	IS	The government staff were trained in technical aspects of NCA integrated data management and data inventory and cataloging. While A refresher	М	L	Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
		Conservationists were trained.		training on forest patrols was conducted for the Frontline Conservationists			
	Design implementation processes such that they contribute to capacity-building	 A National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) for the implementation of NCA in Liberia Liberian Scientists were selected and trained on various field survey tools for collecting primary data on relevant to ecosystem services, biodiversity, and condition indicators. NCA capacity building plan 	IS	 A National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) for the implementation of NCA in Liberia was launched to help with the identification and documentation of enabling conditions for accounting implementation, priority accounts to be implemented, needed institutional arrangements and improvement on statistical systems, among other things. During the field survey to collect primary data on relevant to ecosystem services, biodiversity, and condition indicators, Liberian Scientists were selected and trained on various field survey tools. A capacity building plan focusing on several topics including introduction to NCA, extent accounting, carbon accounting, timber and forest accounting, accounting for fisheries, accounting for water/energy, NCA applications, and NCA implementation. 			
	Rely on local partners to ensure cost-effectiveness	All the successful consultancy firms had local consultants as in their team	IS	All ongoing consultancies including the National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) for implementation of NCA in Liberia, and value chain analysis have local consultants. In addition, the blue carbon feasibility study was conducted by a local consultant.			

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
	Align with complementary programs to design mutually reinforcing investments (e.g., LFSP, WA -BiCC)	 UNDP's project, "Mapping Nature for People and Planet in Liberia US\$ 2 Swedish funded project on promoting resilient Livelihoods and mangrove conservation in Southeast Liberia US\$ 2 million World Bank project on Liberia Sustainable Fisheries Management 	IS	 The UNDP's project, "Mapping Nature for People and Planet in Liberia," which aims to map 'Essential Life Support Areas'. The Swedish funded project aims to conserve and maintain the healthy and productive populations of priority fish stocks and mangrove ecosystems for improved community livelihoods and climate protection. The World Bank funded project aims to build the capacity of local fisherfolks and provide support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in coastal areas 			
Risk 10: Impacts of COVID-19	Revise the work plan to identify activities that can be undertaken remotely	Work plan was not revised	IS	No revision of the work plan was done because Liberia was declared COVID-19 free. However, some engagements were done virtually.	Н	L	Decreasing
rating: High	Follow and abide by the Government regulations and measures to combat the COVID- 19 pandemic	Handwashing and use of sanitizers was undertaken in all local communities.	IS	Liberia has been declared COVID-19 free			
	Create awareness of the COVID-19 pandemic and provide Personal protective equipment (PPE) to project communities	Awareness on the importance of handwashing and use of sanitizers was undertaken in all local communities.	IS	Liberia has been declared COVID-19 free			

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
NEW Risk 11: Staff turnover affects timely implementation	This is a new risk. Activity 1: Expedite recruitment and onboarding of replacement staff	New Project Manager and M&E Manager recruited and on-boarded		The two staff have been CI Liberia staff for the last three years.	М	L	Decreasing
of the project.	Keep the government focal point for the NCA project abreast with every aspect of project implementation so that he can act as the Project Manager in the interim	A high-level meeting was held between Cl and EPA Leadership.		A high-level meeting was held between CI and EPA led by the Senior Vice President for Africa Filed Division and the Executive Director of EPA to develop a roadmap for the execution of the project considering the resignation of the Project Manager and Project Officer as well as the termination of the MCS staff who were leading on component one of this project.			

OVERALL RATING OF PROJECT RISKS	JUSTIFICATION	RISK RATING TREND ¹³
J	The Risk Rating for FY23 is High. In FY22, 70% of the risks were rated Low and 10% of the risks was rated High. The risk rating remains the same in FY23. In addition, in both FY22 and FY23, 10% of the risks were rated High. While the proportion of risks rated low has remained unchanged in FY23, the lingering staffing delays that contributed to sluggish progress across all three components still present a potential for further setbacks. It may take some time before the activities fully regain momentum. On a positive note, the project has successfully onboarded the project manager and M&E officer. Lastly, the global decline in COVID-19 cases has led to reduced impacts on the project's implementation.	Unchanged

¹³ Rating trend: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

Recommendations

	MITIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
2.	Given that the project manager and M&E officer have been onboarded, the team can consider identifying activities that can be run in parallel to make up for lost time and expedite the project's progress, taking into consideration recommendations from the Mid-term evaluation findings.	CI-Liberia/CI-GEF	June 2024

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

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESMF plans, as well as recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESMF plans when needed. This section is divided into six parts:

- a. Progress towards complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency's ESMF
- b. Information on Progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement
- c. Information on the progress towards achieving gender-sensitive measures/targets.
- d. Lessons learned and Knowledge Management products developed and disseminated.
- e. Overall Project ESMF Implementation Rating
- f. Recommendations

a. Progress towards complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency's ESMF

MINIMUM ESMF INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END-OF-YEAR STATUS	CUMULATIVE STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
ACCOUNTABILITY AND G	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM				
Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	No target was set.	23	23	IS	23 eligible complaints were received. These complaints centered around four key issues: 1. The resignation of NCA Project Manager and Project Officer; 2. Delay in delivery of some of the Conservation Agreement benefit packages, particularly, canoes; 3. Payment of stipends for Frontline Conservationists (FCs) who undertake mangrove patrols; and 4. Delays in in renewing conservation agreements that have already been negotiated.
Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved.	100% conflict and complaint cases resolved.	100%	100%	IS	All 23 (100%) of the complaints received were successfully addressed. See quarterly reports for details.

¹⁴ O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

	MINIMUM ESMF INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END-OF-YEAR STATUS	CUMULATIVE STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
1.	Number of males and females 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 Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).	446 (315 men and 131 women) but 123 people (113 men and 10 women) were new participants.	1,468 (928 men and 540 women)	IS	So far, 1, 468 (540/37% women men and 928/63% women) have been involved in the project activities such as workshops, meetings, and consultations (cumulative). Progress (breakdown per year): FY21: 362 (73 women and 289 men) FY22: 683 (338 women and 345 men) FY23: 423 (129 women and 294 men)
2.	Number of males and females 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	No Target was set at CEO Endorsement Target set at the implementation phase: At least 6,050 direct beneficiaries. [2,904 female (48%) and 3,146 Male (52%)]	162 (146 men and 16 women) but 106 people (99 men and 07 women) were new participants.	1,093 (672 men and 421 women)	IS	So far, a total of 1,093 (672/61% men and 421/39% women) Progress (break down of direct beneficiaries per year): FY21: 260 (197 men and 63 women) FY22: 671 (329 men and 342 women) FY23: 162 (146 men and 16 women) Liberia been a predominantly patriarchy society, men are more dominant, some common to many project sites. As a result, project teams use persuasive methods to get more women participation. Unfortunately, in the case of the NCA, the resignation of project manager and officer was a key determining factor for this low participation in FY23.
3.	Keep track of the number of men/women demonstrating leadership in project implementation.	No Target was set at CEO Endorsement The target set at the implementation phase: At least 150 people [105 Men (70%) and 45 Women (30%)] demonstrating leadership in project implementation.	28 (24 men and 04 women)	94 (67men and 27 women)		Total number of men & women in leadership roles to-date: 67/71% men and 24/29% women Progress (break down per year): FY21: 39 (33 men and 6 women) FY22: 27 (10 men and 17 women) FY23: 28 (24 men and 04 women)

	AINIDALIDA ECNAE	DDOILCT TARGET	FND OF VEAR	CLIDAL III ATIVE	DDOGDECC	COMMENTS / WICTIFICATION
	MINIMUM ESMF INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END-OF-YEAR STATUS	CUMULATIVE STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
	INDICATORS		STATUS	SIAIUS	KATING	
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 was set at CEO Endorsement. Target set at the implementation phase: At least five (5) strategy documents that include gender considerations (where relevant) generated: at least 1 document generated per year).	One (01) – A national strategy and action plan for the implementation of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Liberia	Three (3) strategy documents have been generated	IS	 Total number of strategies, and plans derived from the project that include gender considerations to date: Three (03) FY21: Two (2) strategy documents that include gender considerations (where relevant) were generated. See details in the FY21 Q4 report/FY21 PIR. FY22: One (1) strategy document - The NCA was integrated into the NDC implementation. See details in the FY22 Q4 report/FY22 PIR FY23: One (01) – A national strategy and action plan for the implementation of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Liberia. The development of the strategic document required inputs from cross-section of stakeholders including women, youth and other vulnerable groups.
STA	KEHOLDER ENGAGEN	MENT PLAN (SEP)		1	1	
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 was set at CEO Endorsement Target set at the implementation phase: Cumulatively, at least 50 institutions involved (with representation from Government, CSOs, local communities, Private sector, Media, and Academia).	14 institutions have been involved in project implementation	45 institutions were involved as outlined below: Government : 16 Local communitie s: 19 Private sector: 2 NGOs/CSOs: 3 Academia: 3	IS	 Five (5) stakeholder groups (government ministries and agencies; local communities, academic institutions; NGOs and CSO) and 45 institutions (Sixteen (16) Government agencies, nineteen (19) local communities, four (4) private sector institutions, three (3) Civil Society, and three (3) Academic institution) as detailed below: FY 21: 32 institutions namely: (11) Government agencies, (18) local communities, 2 private sector, and 1 Academic institution. See details in the FY21 Q4 report/ FY21 PIR. FY22: 42 institutions (Fifteen (15) Government agencies, nineteen (19) local communities, two (2) private sectors, three (3) Civil Society, and three (3) Academic institutions). See details in the FY22 Q4 report/ FY22 PIR. FY23: 15 (9 government, 2 private sector, 2 academic, and 2 NGOs)

ſ	MINIMUM ESMF INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END-OF-YEAR STATUS	CUMULATIVE STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
2.	Number of persons (sex-disaggregated) that have been involved in the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	No Target was set at CEO Endorsement. To avoid double-counting, the project follows the target numbers under Activity 1 in the gender mainstreaming plan.	446 (315 men and 131 women) but 123 people (113 men and 10 women) were new participants.	1,168 (1,027 men and 547 women)	IS	So far, 1, 168 (421/36% women men and 747/64% women) have been involved in the project activities such as workshops, meetings, and consultations (cumulative). Progress (break down per year): FY21: 362 (73 women and 289 men) FY22: 683 (338 women and 345 men) FY23: 123 (10 women and 113 men)
3.	Number of engagements (e.g., meetings, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	No Target was set at CEO Endorsement. Target set at the implementation phase: At least 175 engagements held by the end of five years (35 engagements per year).	22 engagements	89 engagements	IS	Total number of engagements to date: 89 Breakdown: FY21: 40 Engagements FY22: 29 Engagements FY23: 22 Engagements Due to resignation of staff on the project, engagements on project-related activities in FY23 stalled significantly as the project was put on a halt.
PRO	OCESS FRAMEWORK F	OR RESTRICTION OF ACCESS T	O NATURAL RESOU	RCES		
1.	Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been voluntarily restricted.	No Target was set at CEO Endorsement. Target set at the implementation phase: At least 1,100 [Male 700 (64%) and Female 400 (36%)] people's access to and use of natural resources has been voluntarily restricted.	Zero (0).	2,278 people [1,062/47% male and 1,216/53%) female	IS	TO-DATE: Total of persons with voluntary restricted access to and use of natural resources 2,278 [1,062 male (47%) and 1,216 female (53%)]. The breakdown is provided below: FY22: 0 FY22: 2,278 people [1,062 male (47%) and 1,216 female (53%)] whose access to mangroves were voluntarily restricted are from those communities where conservation agreements were signed including: Nyangba: 147 (65 male and 82 female) Bleewein: 324 (150 male and 174 female) Sarwein: 240 (112 male and 128 female) Bendu: 962 (428 male and 534 female) Mandoe: 161 (80 male and 81 female)

	MINIMUM ESMF INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END-OF-YEAR STATUS	CUMULATIVE STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
						Falie: 444 (227 male and 217 female) FY23: 0 Considering that communities regularly give their voluntary consent toward mangrove protection as captured in the CAs signed annually, they continue to consent to voluntary restrictions.
2.	Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been involuntarily restricted.	No Target was set at CEO Endorsement. Target set at the implementation phase: Zero (0) males and Zero (0) females have been involuntarily restricted to access and use of natural resources.	0	0	IS	TO-DATE: Total involuntary restricted persons: Zero (0) FY21: 0 persons. FY22: 0 persons. FY23: 0 persons.
3.	Percentage of persons who gave their consent for voluntary restrictions.	No Target was set at CEO Endorsement. Target set at the implementation phase: 100% of persons involved have given their consent for voluntary restrictions.	0%	100%	IS	TO-DATE: 100% of persons (47% male and 53% female) gave their consent for voluntary restrictions. A consent form was signed on behalf of the towns in consent to sign the conservation agreement. The breakdown is provided below: FY21: 0 FY22: 2,278 people (1,062/47% male and 1,216/53% female FY23: 2,278 people (1,062/47% male and 1,216/53% female
4.	Percentage of persons who have received compensation for voluntary restrictions.	No Target was set at CEO Endorsement. Target set at the implementation phase: 100% of persons who voluntarily consented to restrictions to access and use of natural resources have received compensation.	0%	100%	IS	100% of persons (47% male and 53% female) whose access to mangroves were voluntarily restricted were compensated through conservation agreement benefits. The breakdown is provided below: FY21: 0 FY22: 2,278 people (1,062/47% male and 1,216/53% female FY23: 0

MINIMUM ESMF INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END-OF-YEAR STATUS	CUMULATIVE STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
5. Percentage of persons who have received compensation for involuntary restrictions.	No Target was set at CEO Endorsement. Target set at the implementation phase: 100% of persons who have been involuntarily restricted to access and use of natural resources have received compensation.	0%	0%	IS	TO-DATE: 0% as there are zero involuntary restrictions.

b. Information on Progress, challenges, and outcomes of stakeholder engagement

Fifteen (15) institutions from five stakeholder groups were engaged in FY23 as indicated below:

- Nine (09) government institutions namely FDA, MFDP, MoA, Liberia Hydrological Service, LISGIS, EPA, LiMA, LLA, and NaFAA
- Two (02) private sector institutions (2) namely Institute for Development of Environmental-Economic Accounting (IDEEA), and Gehn Eco-services
- Two (02) academic institutions (2) namely African Methodist University (AMU), and University of Liberia (UL)
- Two (02) NGOs namely CI and SCNL

As a result, 22 engagements were held with a total of 446 people [315 men (71%) and 131 women (29%)], out of which 123 people [113 men (91.9%) and 10 women (8.1%)] were new participants. As compared to FY22, a low number of women participated in project activities. This is attributed to the resignation of the Project Manager and Project Officer, that affected the implementation of activities in the field. As such, most of the engagements were held in Monrovia with government stakeholders which is dominated by men especially in the conservation sector.

In addition, several communications via emails and letters were sent to the different stakeholders informing them of the resignation of the Project Manager and Project Officer, which caused delays/pause in the implementation of field activities. Despite this, there was a lot of skepticism especially by local communities who received the information from the project focal points as the information was not relayed to all the local community members. As a result, a total of 23 eligible complaints were received, out of which 20 were on the delays in implementation of field activities. To address this, field visits to project sites were conducted to hold face-to-face meetings/interactions with the local communities, which have proved effective as no new complaints have been received from the local communities that were visited, and all actions toward resolving complaints received were discussed with communities for their input and consent.

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

Describe the progress towards achieving gender-sensitive measures or targets as documented at CEO endorsement/approval in the gender action plan or equivalent. Please reply the following questions in your description:

- a) All activities anticipated by the GMP were implemented? Yes/No Why?

 Yes, many activities anticipated by the GMP were implemented. However, there were some delays in implementation of activities due to staff turnover on the project. These delays led to a moratorium on implementation that had some impact on project beneficiaries.
- b) Did the project face any challenges to implementing GMP as initially proposed? Please describe the challenges in case there were any.

Yes, there were challenges to implementation of activities initially proposed. As clearly articulated above, staff turnover impacted overall project implementation as field activities were halted for longer periods than initially anticipated. Another challenge was the delay in sign and implementing negotiated CAs. Consequently, these are challenges that were directly linked to the absence on project staffs.

c) As compared to the original GMP, was any adaptive management applied to promote meaningful participation of women and advance towards other gender sensitive targets?

Yes, as rural Liberia is predominantly patriarchy, the project team intentional requested women attendance and participation in engagement meetings. In addition, the team intentionally targeted the selection of women beneficiaries for CAs packages such as VSLA and Frontline Conservationists programs. These approaches have worked to increase the participation of both women and vulnerable groups in the project landscape. such adaptive management have proven successful based on the improvement of women and other vulnerable groups participation.

d) Did the project team/stakeholders observe any unintended outcomes (positive or negative) related to gender equality, that are difficult to capture in a quantitative way during this period? For example, women are more active in decision-making processes in the project, or public servants are more interested and open to advance gender outcomes, men or women are more reluctant to participate in the project activities or other similar situations.

Considering the points highlighted above, relative to adaptive management, women participation in decision-making on the project has improved to some extent. For example, an appreciable number of women are part of each Conservation Agreement Committee (CAC) that comprises the decision-making body/council for each CA signed and implemented throughout the project landscape.

e) Considering all the above, what are the recommendations for next FY to continue advancing towards gender sensitive targets?

Based on the points highlighted above, one recommendation to enhance the implementation of the GMP on the project is to continue adaptive management approaches already initiated by the project team to intentionally request the participation of women on decision-making bodies and other key project related interventions. Sex- disaggregated data was collected indicating that a total of 446 people [315 men (71%) and 131 women (29%)] participated in project activities. However, only 123 people (113 men and 10 women) were new participants. Gender mainstreaming activities included holding separate meetings with men and women at the local community, meetings were held at favorable time ad accessible venues and gathering views of women during the negotiations for renewal of conservation agreements. Despite this, the number of women participating in project activities is low (29%). This is attributed partly to the resignation of the Project Manager and Project Officer, and the dominance of men in Liberia's conservation sector especially at the (PSC) or decision-making level where only 3 women out of 23 people attended the PSC meetings.

d. Information on the implementation of the accountability and grievance mechanism

Describe the progress on the implementation of the AGM:

a) How is the project ensuring that all stakeholders are aware of the existing AGM?

Awareness on the effectiveness of the accountability and grievance mechanism (AGM) usually forms a major part of community engagements and as far as the technical advisory committee (TAC) and the project steering Committee (PSC). This is a very important and sensitive information that gives stakeholders confidence in executing their roles and responsibilities on the project. In addition, the AGM structure (complaint filing processes) are clearly articulated in the Conservation Agreements that are designed and negotiated with the full participation of all stakeholders – these stakeholders are familiar with these processes.

- b) What challenges did the project encounter in implementing the AGM?
- As highlighted in this report, there were no major challenges encountered in the implementation of the AGM as all complaints filed, ranging from on delay in signing of the CAs and other complaints were addressed adequately using the AGM mechanism.
- c) How did the project adapt the mechanism to overcome the challenges identified above? Please see point B.
 - d) Indicate any specific adaptations relating to making the AGM more accessible to disadvantaged groups during this period of implementation? (This may include but is not limited to adding new reporting channels, changing the name of the mechanism to make it more sensitive to cultural context, etc.)

As clearly explained above, the AGM is part of key project documents and forms a major part of communication materials for the project. Furthermore, it has been used to resolve conflicts amongst stakeholders to an appreciable extent. As such, the current structure still applies and supports project implementation and is proving its effectiveness.

e. Lessons learned and Knowledge Management products¹⁵ developed and disseminated.

Key lessons learned are:

- On top of providing verbal reminders of the GRM in all meetings, there is a need to print and distribute copies of GRM to stakeholders, especially the local communities on a bi-annual basis.
- All the contact numbers on the GRM, except for GCO, should be of local staff because most of the local communities do not comprehensively understand all the information that a non-local person provides due to differences in dialects.
- Critical information about the delivery of the project should be provided to local communities through face-to-face meetings with all community members and not through focal point persons.
- After the resignation of the Project Manager and the Project Officer, the driver was contacted by most of the local communities when channeling their grievances/complaints. As such, the lesson learned is that all staff should be trained in the GRM.
- Project staff should be trained in the generation and documentation of success stories.
- ESMF Knowledge management products generated were in the form of GRM, compilation of success stories and best practices, and recommendations.

e. Overall Project ESMF Implementation Rating

SUMMARY: PROJECT ESMF IMPLEMENTATION RATING BY TYPE OF PLAN								
ESMF PLAN REQUIRED BY THE PROJECT	CURRENT FY23 IMPLEMENTATION RATING	RATING TREND						
Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	HS	Unchanged						
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	S	Decreasing						
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	S	Decreasing						
ESS 3: Voluntary Resettlement Action Plan/Process	MS	Decreasing						
Framework								

OVERALL PROJECT ESMF IMPLEMENTATION RATING			
RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND	
S	This FY the project received a significant number of grievances, mostly related to delays in project activities caused by the resignation of part of the PMU. All grievances were resolved, and face-to-face meetings with communities arranged to communicate on the resignation of the PMU. The team also identified the need to provide training on the AGM to all staff, as most grievances were raised through the project driver. On the project's performance on GMP indicators, this FY the project	Decreasing	

¹⁵ Knowledge Products are those that are both intended to transmit knowledge but at the same time enable action by their audiences. For example, a lesson learned report, compilation of good practices and recommendations, etc.

experienced a decrease in the participation of women in all the sex-disaggregated indicators. In the justification provided, this is connected to the gap created by the resignation of the PMU and by existing cultural norms, but in the previous FY the project was performing exceedingly well in engaging and benefiting women, as well as in encouraging their participation in leadership positions. On the SEP, the project also decreased its pace to engage with diverse stakeholders during this FY, this happened for the 3 indicators of the SEP in comparison to the previous FY. In addition to this, the project communicated about the resignation of the PMU to communities via letters, but the most effective way to communicate with these stakeholders was in person (as identified in the lessons and recommendations). This caused a high influx of grievances to the project's AGM, by communities worried about the delays in activities related to conservation agreements. This last situation also affected the performance of the project on ESS3, as several commitments with communities were delayed and in other cases the renewal of conservation agreements was delayed.

f. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Following the key lessons learned reported by the project, the project should implement measures to disseminate the AGM with communities, using verbal and printed channels, and should make sure that all project staff is trained on the AGM (including the project driver).	PMU	January 2024
To reverse the decrease in the participation of women, the project team needs to start implementing again the measures that proof to be successful in FY22.	PMU	June 2024
The gap left due to the resignation of part of the PMU staff affected the trust relationships built with communities and delayed the implementation of commitments and renovation of conservation agreements. The new PMU staff needs to plan for in-person engagements with communities, to re-build these relationships and communicate on action plans and timelines to fulfill the acquired commitments with local communities, especially those related to conservation agreements.	PMU	June 2024

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

Required topics

1. Knowledge activities/products (when applicable), as outlined in the knowledge management plan approved at CEO endorsement/approval.

Various communications materials were produced for stakeholder engagement in preparation for the team's September 2022 mission to Liberia, including: (i) Informational flyers highlighting the relationships between NCA and climate change, environmental-economic accounting, and industrial fishing, as well as one showcasing the team's proposal for a national strategy and action plan for NCA in Liberia; (ii) a draft technical brief summarizing findings from the technical analysis of the full set of accounts for Liberia's coastal areas and how NCA would informs the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC and the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) provided a unique opportunity to communicate the role of NCA towards climate and biodiversity goals as indicated below:

a) UNFCCC (COP 27): The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Implementation Plan of Liberia (Oct. 2016) produced by the GoL in advance of the CoP 27th described several areas where NCA can inform the commitments to the Paris agreement in various sectors, including through energy, fisheries, coastal and forestry accounts. Some

of these accounts are currently being piloted under the project or recommended for implementation by LISGIS and other agencies as part of the project national assessment and forthcoming National Strategy and Action Plan for NCA.

b) CBD (COP-15): In advance of the final negotiations of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), Conservation International developed recommendations addressing how science-based indicators as proposed by the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) can help to track progress toward achieving halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity by 2030. That document was shared with the GoL delegation to the CoP15. CBD outcomes include a recommendation for alignment of post-2020 GBF Monitoring Framework with the SEEA.



2. Capacity building

In FY22, three trainings were conducted including training on CI-GEF prohibited practices and financing, the overview of ecosystem accounting concepts; the introduction to ecosystem accounting; and training was on the policy applications of NCA focused on six priority policies namely the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), National Environmental Policy of 2003, National Forest Policy and Implementation Strategy of 2006, National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change of 2018, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Strategy, 2014, and National Energy Policy of Liberia (NEPL). One key lesson learned in capacity building activities is that face-face training is preferred by the trainees.

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

Accountability and grievance mechanism

During the project implementation in FY23, a total of 23 eligible complaints were received and resolved successfully. The complaints were on: (i) the resignation of NCA Project Manager and Project Officer; (ii) delays in the delivery of some of the Conservation Agreement benefit packages especially the canoes; (iii) the delays payment of stipends for the Frontline Conservationists (FCs) who undertake mangrove patrols due to shift to mobile money payments; and (iv) delays in in renewing conservation agreements due to the resignation of the Project Manager

Gender Mainstreaming

Sex- disaggregated data was collected indicating that a total of 446 people [315 men (71%) and 131 women (29%)] participated in project activities. However, only 123 people (113 men and 10 women) were new participants. Gender mainstreaming activities included holding separate meetings with men and women at the local community, meetings were held at favorable time ad accessible venues and gathering views of women during the negotiations for renewal of conservation agreements. Despite this, the number of women participating in project activities is low (29%). This is attributed partly to the resignation of the Project Manager and Project Officer, and the dominance of men in Liberia's conservation sector especially at the (PSC) or decision-making level where only 3 women out of 23 people attended the PSC meetings.

Stakeholder consultation

In FY23, a total of 446 people [315 men (71%) and 131 women (29%)] from fifteen (15) institutions from five stakeholder groups were engaged in implementation of project activities. However, a low number of women participated in project activities as compared to FY22. This is attributed to the resignation of the Project Manager and Project Officer, that affected the implementation of activities in the field. As such, most of the engagements were held in Monrovia with government stakeholders which is dominated by men especially in the conservation sector.

In addition, emails and letters were sent to the different stakeholders informing them of the resignation of the Project Manager and Project Officer that consequently caused delays/pause in the implementation of field activities. Despite this, there was a lot of skepticism especially by local communities who received the information from the project focal points as the information was not relayed to all the local community members. As a result, a total of 23 eligible complaints were received, out of which 20 were on the delays in implementation of field activities. To address this, field visits to project sites were conducted to hold face-to-face meetings/interactions with the local communities,

which have proved effective as no new complaints have been received from the local communities that were visited, and all the complaints received were successfully resolved during the meetings.

SECTION VI: PROJECT GEOCODING

Geo Location Information of Project Location(s) for the current fiscal year

Geo Location Information	Location No. 1	Location No. 2	Location No. 3	Location No.3
CLASSIFICATION Indicate whether the site is new or already existing in the previous PIR or indicate whether the site is included at CEO Endorsement/Approval or not. Please add more columns for projects with more than 3 locations.	Already existing site included in the CEO Endorsement	Already existing site included in the CEO Endorsement	Already existing site included in the CEO Endorsement	Already existing site included in the CEO Endorsement
Note: Provide justification if the location is a new site in this line				
GEO NAME ID Provide the location's Geo Name ID in a numerical format. IDs are available in the GeoNames' geographical database covering all countries and containing millions of placenames with free access at: http://www.geonames.org.	2274324	Not available in GeoNames geographical database	2273189	Not available in GeoNames geographical database
LOCATION NAME Name of the geographic locations in which the activity is taking place. In instance when a GeoNames ID is provided above, the name of the said ID should be reflected. Otherwise, the location name provided will be considered as an exact location.	Butra	Karh	Webado Beach	Borkon Point
Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.	4.75839	4.79769	4.53861	5.439581
Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.	-8.57048	-8.665086	-8.06606	-9.588465
LOCATION DESCRIPTION (Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the location in which an activity is taking place, such as for example "mini-grid energy system" or "park ranger site".	Mangrove community	Mangrove community		
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION (Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the activity taking place at the location, for example, "Installing a mini-grid energy system".	No activity has been carried out at this site, because it has been replaced.	No activity has been carried out at this site, because it has been replaced.	No activity has been carried out at this site, because it has been replaced.	No activity has been carried out at this site, because it has been replaced.

Geo Location Information	Location No. 5	Location No. 6	Location No. 7	Location No.8
CLASSIFICATION Indicate whether the site is new or already existing in the previous PIR or indicate whether the site is included in CEO Endorsement/Approval or not. Please add more columns for projects with more than 3 locations.	Already existing site included in the CEO Endorsement	Already existing site included in the CEO Endorsement	Already existing site included in the CEO Endorsement	Already existing site included in the CEO Endorsement
Note: Provide justification if the location is a new site in this line		This has been replaced due to inaccessibility.		
GEO NAME ID Provide the location's Geo Name ID in a numerical format. IDs are available in the GeoNames' geographical database covering all countries and containing millions of placenames with free access at: http://www.geonames.org .	9891550	2278912	Not available in GeoNames geographical database	2597292
LOCATION NAME Name of the geographic locations in which the activity is taking place. In the instance when a GeoNames ID is provided above, the name of the said ID should be reflected. Otherwise, the location name provided will be considered as an exact location.	Neegba	Bame Town	Down The Mangrove	Greenville-Dioh Town
LATITUDE Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.	5.4295	5.20583	5.016175	4.98694
LONGITUDE Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.	-9.43562	-9.34139	-9.035279	-9.01389
LOCATION DESCRIPTION (Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the location in which an activity is taking place, such as for example "mini-grid energy system" or "park ranger site".				
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION (Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the activity taking place at the location, for example, "Installing a mini-grid energy system".	Conservation Agreement negotiation	No activity has been carried out at this site because it has been replaced.	Conservation Agreement negotiation	Conservation Agreement negotiation

	Geo Location Information	Location No. 9	Location No. 10	Location No. 11	Location No.12	
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CLASSIFICATION Indicate whether the site is new or already existing in the previous PIR or indicate whether the site is included in CEO Endorsement/Approval or not. Please add more columns for projects with more than 3 locations.	Already existing site included in the CEO Endorsement	Already existing site included in the CEO Endorsement	New Site	New site
Note: Provide justification if the location is a new site in this line			Accessible and has a good community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove) and terrestrial forests, performed well under previous CA signed under CI's GEF Mangrove project.	Accessible and has a good community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove) and terrestrial forests, performed well under previous CA signed under CI's GEF Mangrove project.
GEO NAME ID Provide the location's Geo Name ID in a numerical format. IDs are available in the GeoNames' geographical database covering all countries and containing millions of placenames with free access at: http://www.geonames.org.	Not available in GeoNames geographical database	2279055	2278712	2275149
Name of the geographic locations in which the activity is taking place. In instance when a GeoNames ID is provided above, the name of the said ID should be reflected. Otherwise, the location name provided will be considered as an exact location.	Togbawon	Turnata	Bendu	Mandoe
LATITUDE Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.	5.107265	5.17306	6.76203	6.69294
LONGITUDE Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.	-9.200296	-9.28361	-11.21253	-11.18691
LOCATION DESCRIPTION (Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the location in which an activity is taking place, such			Located within a nature reserve, along the shores of Liberia's largest open water (Lake Piso)	Located within a nature reserve, along the shores of Liberia's

as for example "mini-grid energy system" or "park ranger site".				largest open water (Lake Piso)
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION (Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence	No activity has been carried out in this area,	No activity has been carried	Implementation of Conservation Agreement	Implementation of Conservation
or so the activity taking place at the location, for example,	as it has been replaced	•	Conservation Agreement	Agreement
"Installing a mini-grid energy system".	due to inaccessibility	inaccessibility		

Geo Location Information	Location No. 13	Location No. 14	Location No. 15	Location No.16
CLASSIFICATION Indicate whether the site is new or already existing in the previous PIR or indicate whether the site is included in CEO Endorsement/Approval or not. Please add more columns for projects with more than 3 locations. Note: Provide justification if the location is a new site in	New site Accessible, has a good			
this line	community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove) and terrestrial forests, performed well under previous CA signed under CI's GEF Mangrove project.	community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove) and terrestrial forests, performed well under previous CA signed under CI's GEF Mangrove project.	community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove) and terrestrial forests, performed well under previous CA signed under CI's GEF Mangrove project.	community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove) and terrestrial forests, performed well under previous CA signed under CI's GEF Mangrove project.
GEO NAME ID Provide the location's Geo Name ID in a numerical format. IDs are available in the GeoNames' geographical database covering all countries and containing millions of placenames with free access at: http://www.geonames.org . LOCATION NAME	2277453 Falie	Not available in GeoNames geographical database Sarwein	Not available in GeoNames geographical database Bleewein	2274753 Nyangba
Name of the geographic locations in which the activity is taking place. In instance when a GeoNames ID is provided above, the name of the said ID should be reflected. Otherwise, the location name provided will be considered as an exact location.				
LATITUDE	6.67729	5.830076	5.814727	5.789012

Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.				
LONGITUDE Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.	-11.20848	-10.016004	-10.00495	-9.972392
LOCATION DESCRIPTION (Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the location in which an activity is taking place, such as for example "mini-grid energy system" or "park ranger site".	Located within a nature reserve, along the shores of Liberia's largest open water (Lake Piso)	Coastal Community with rich ecosystems containing endangered species	Coastal Community with rich ecosystems containing endangered species	Coastal Community with rich ecosystems containing endangered species
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION (Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the activity taking place at the location, for example, "Installing a mini-grid energy system".	Implementation of Conservation Agreement	Implementation of Conservation Agreement	Implementation of Conservation Agreement	Implementation of Conservation Agreement

Geo Location Information	Location No. 17	Location No. 18	Location No. 19	Location No.20
CLASSIFICATION Indicate whether the site is new or already existing in the previous PIR or indicate whether the site is included in CEO Endorsement/Approval or not. Please add more columns for projects with more than 3 locations.	This is a new site	This is a new site	This is a new site	This is a new site
Note: Provide justification if the location is a new site in this line	Accessible, has a good community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove) and terrestrial forests, performed well under previous CA signed under CI's GEF Mangrove project.	Accessible, has a good community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove) and terrestrial forests.	Accessible, has a good community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove) and terrestrial forests.	Accessible, has a good community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove) and terrestrial forests.
GEO NAME ID Provide the location's Geo Name ID in a numerical format. IDs are available in the GeoNames' geographical database covering all countries and containing millions of	Not available in GeoNames geographical database	2273589	9977140	2274325

placenames with free access at: http://www.geonames.org .				
Name of the geographic locations in which the activity is taking place. In instance when a GeoNames ID is provided above, the name of the said ID should be reflected. Otherwise, the location name provided will be considered as an exact location.	Ben's Town	Timbo Kru	Lexington	Panama
Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.	6.182766	5.560943	5.39119	4.99318
Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.	-10.417478	-9.719325	-8.49794	-8.93804
LOCATION DESCRIPTION (Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the location in which an activity is taking place, such as for example "mini-grid energy system" or "park ranger site".		Coastal Community with rich ecosystems containing endangered species		
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION (Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the activity taking place at the location, for example, "Installing a mini-grid energy system".	Implementation of Conservation Agreement	Conservation Agreement negotiation	Conservation Agreement negotiation	Conservation Agreement negotiation

Geo Location Information	Location No. 21	Location No. 22	Location No. 23	Location No.8
CLASSIFICATION Indicate whether the site is new or already existing in the previous PIR or indicate whether the site is included at CEO Endorsement/Approval or not. Please add more columns for projects with more than 3 locations.	New site	New site	New site	
Note: Provide justification if the location is a new site in this line	Accessible has a good community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove)	Accessible has a good community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove), and coastal resources.	Accessible has a good community structure to work with, located close to dense mangrove ecosystem, has expressed interest in working with CI to manage their wetlands (mangrove), coastal and forest resources.	
GEO NAME ID	2597291	2276625	2274100	

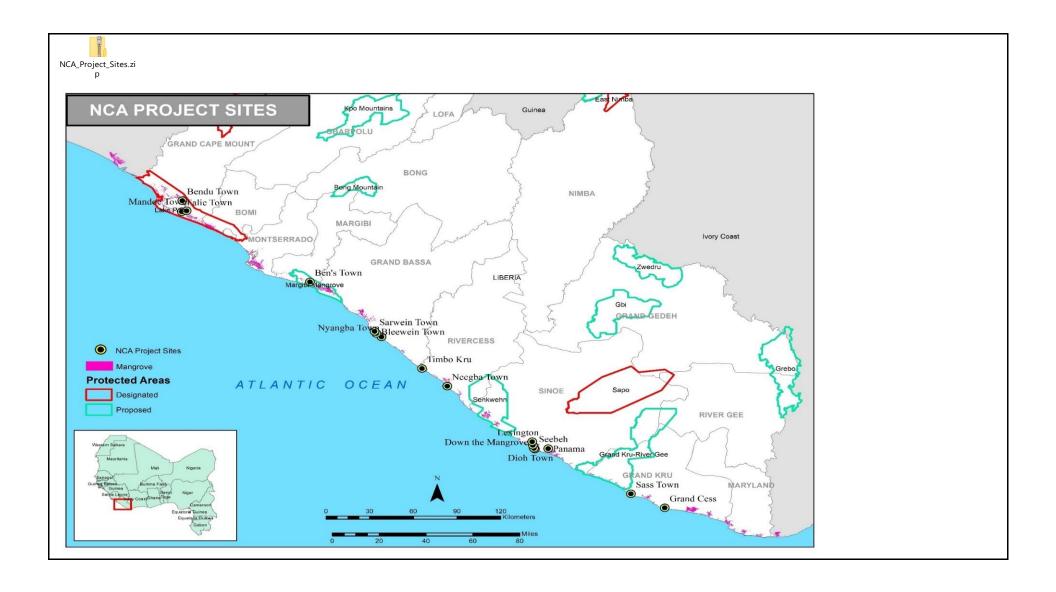
Provide the location's Geo Name ID in a numerical format. IDs are available in the GeoNames' geographical database covering all countries and containing millions of placenames with free access at: http://www.geonames.org.				
LOCATION NAME	Seebeh	Grand Cess	Sass Town	
Name of the geographic locations in which the activity	0000011		5055 10WII	
is taking place. In instance when a GeoNames ID is				
provided above, the name of the said ID should be				
reflected. Otherwise, the location name provided will be				
considered as an exact location.				
LATITUDE	4.99528	4.5689	4.66343	
Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a				
notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal				
fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal				
points.				
LONGITUDE	-9.02917	-8.21999	-8.42819	
Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a				
notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal				
fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal				
points.				
LOCATION DESCRIPTION		Coastal Settlement close to		
(Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a		rich mangrove settlement		
sentence or so the location in which an activity is taking				
place, such as for example "mini-grid energy system" or				
"park ranger site".				
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	Conservation	Conservation Agreement	Conservation Agreement	
(Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a	Agreement negotiation	negotiation	negotiation	
sentence or so the activity taking place at the location,				
for example, "Installing a mini-grid energy system".				

(Geo Name ID: Location Name)

Justification: There were some changes in locations due to accessibility and mangrove density – see section VI: project geocoding

Project Map and Coordinates

(Geo Name ID: Location Name)



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)	C	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 a "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)	Н	

- Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that 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% that 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% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.
- High Risk: There is a probability of greater than 75% that 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 ¹⁶	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome 1.1: Decision-making development strategy, policy,		cosystem governance by mainstreamin	ng natural capital account	ing (NCA) into the Government of Liberia (GOL)
Output Indicator 1.1.1: Number of NCA Steering Committees established	Target 1.1.1: One (1) NCA Steering Committee	One (1) NCA Project Steering Committee (PSC) has been established.	CA	Accomplished in FY20
Output Indicator 1.1.2a: Number of active mangrove ecosystem accounts	Target: 1.1.2a: One (01) Mangrove ecosystem account	Zero (0) Mangrove ecosystem account established. Extensive technical work is in progress for the implementation of natural capital accounts in coastal areas.	IS	Five (5) priority draft natural capital accounts have been completed, namely: 1. The Ecosystem Extent, 2. Ecosystem Condition, 3. Ecosystem Services (crop provisioning, wood provisioning, wild fish and aquatic biomass, climate regulation, soil erosion control, coastal protection, and recreation-related services), 4. Monetary Asset Account 5. Thematic Account (focusing on biodiversity and species accounts). In addition, a field survey to collect primary data for refining the above draft natural capital accounts was held.
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	To date: One (1) government policy i.e., revised/updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for Liberia. The NCA has been integrated into the NDC Implementation Plan (Coastal, Forest, and Agriculture sectors). FY23: Zero (0)	IS	A policy assessment was conducted drafted based or desktop research as well as consultations with government agencies through virtual meetings. The Priority policies identified include: 7. Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Developmen (PAPD) 8. National Environmental Policy of 2003 9. National Forest Policy and Implementation Strategy of 2006 10. National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change of 2018 11. Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Strategy 2014 12. The National Energy Policy of Liberia (NEPL)

¹⁶ O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

Output Indicator 1.1.3: Number of government officials and stakeholders that have participated in training events	Target 1.1.3: Fifty (50) people trained (10 female, 40 male).	To-date, trainings were provided to a total of 58 (47 men and 11 women). FY23: 28 government officials (23 men and 5 women	IS	Trainings were on: (i) raising awareness about NCA; (ii) the overview of ecosystem accounting concepts, and (iii) the introduction to ecosystem accounting was provided. Further training on accounting for ecosystem condition, ecosystem services (physical and monetary), and ecosystem asset valuation will be provided in FY24
Output Indicator 1.1.4: Number of operational frameworks	Target 1.1.4: One (1) operational framework	Zero (0) operational framework established for SEEA-compliant natural capital accounts.	IS	A national assessment to inform the National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) for implementation of NCA in Liberia was conducted.
Output Indicator 1.1.5: Number of national planning instruments that incorporate NCA results	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)	Zero (0)	NS	Not started. This will start in FY24.
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	Zero (0)	NS	Not started. This will start in FY24.
Output Indicator 1.1.7: Number of roadmap documents for additional natural capital accounts	Target 1.1.7: One (1) roadmap document	Zero (0)	NS	Not started. This will start in FY24.

Outcome 2.1 Funding sources for sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems increased				
Output Indicator 2.1.1: Number of prospectuses for Blue Carbon demonstration/pilot project	Target 2.1.1: One (1) prospectus for blue carbon demonstration/pilot project	One (01) prospectus for blue carbon demonstration/pilot project.	IS	To develop a blue carbon project, a Project Opportunity Profile (POP) is being developed. So far US\$ 185,000 has been realized from Broadleaf for the development of the Project Identification Note (PIN), Project Opportunity Profile, and feasibility study. In addition, there are discussions with Proctor and Gamble for US\$ 25 million for 25 years (US\$ 1 million p.a.) for a blue carbon project.
Output Indicator 2.1.2: Number of conservation- friendly enterprises active in the project area	Target 2.1.2: One (1) enterprise	Zero (0)	IS	Market assessment and value chain analysis of conservation-friendly enterprises were conducted. The contracting of enterprises to provide services to communities as part of the benefits package under Conservation Agreements will be done in FY24.
Output Indicator 2.1.3: Number of organizations receiving small grants	Target 2.1.3: Three (3) local organizations	Zero (0)	IS	The Small Grants Appraisal Committee has been fully constituted with 11 representatives (10 men and one woman) from 11 institutions, namely: EPA, LLA, MFDP, LMA, LISGIS, NaFAA, MIA, UL, ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML), National Civil Society Organization of Liberia, and FDA. These institutions fall under the following stakeholder groups: Government (8), CSO (1), Academia (1), and private sector (1). The RfPs for grantee organizations to bid for small grants will be advertised in FY24.
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	Zero (0)	IS	The ToRs have been produced for conducting feasibility analyses and stakeholder consultations on developing either a stand-alone financing mechanism for mangrove conservation or as a subsidiary mechanism housed under the LCF

Outcome 3.1: Community-level conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources improved through performance-based payments using conservation agreements

Output Indicator 3.1.1: Number of Conservation Agreements (CAs) signed with communities	Target 3.1.1: Ten (10) Conservation Agreements	Zero (0). However, a total of 12 communities were engaged on conservation agreement model.	IS	Conservation agreements are signed for a period of one year. After which, renegotiations are held with the communities for renewal. To that end, negotiations for renewal of CAs in six (06) communities (Falie, Bendu, Mandoe, Nyangba, Sarwein, and Bleewein) were held. In addition, the design, and negotiations for CAs were held in six (07) communities (Panama, Down the mangrove, Seebeh, Timbo Kru, Dioh's town, and Neegba) in Southeast Liberia. Despite this, the CAs were not signed in FY23 due to the resignation of the Project Manager and Project Officer. Thus, with the new Project Manager on-board, these CAs will be signed in FY24.
Output Indicator 3.1.2: Number of national conservation agreement programs designed and established	Target: 3.1.2: One (1) national conservation agreement program	Zero (0)	NS	Not started. This activity is planned to start in FY24.