GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Project Information

Project Title Promoting Sustainable land management for the achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality for Improved Equity, Sustainability, and Resilience in Rice Landscapes of Liberia	
Region Africa	GEF Project ID 11720
Country(ies) Liberia	Type of Project FSP
GEF Agency(ies): FAO	GEF Agency Project ID 754252
Project Executing Entity(s) Environmental Protection Agency Ministry of Agriculture Central Agricultural Research Institute	Project Executing Type Government Government Government
GEF Focal Area (s) Multi Focal Area	Submission Date 12/16/2025
Type of Trust Fund GET	Project Duration (Months) 60
GEF Project Grant: (a) 5,114,019.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 485,832.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 5,599,851.00	Total Co-financing 43,431,969.00
PPG Amount: (e) 150,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 14,250.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 5,764,101.00	
Project Tags CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No	
Project Sector (CCM Only) AFOLU	

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Forest and Landscape Restoration

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Liberia's forests cover approximately 69 percent of the national territory, providing vital ecosystem goods and services that sustain local livelihoods, generate foreign exchange through export products, and serve as critical global carbon sink for biodiversity conservation. However, rapid and unregulated land-use change, coupled with unsustainable agricultural practices—particularly upland rice cultivation—are accelerating land degradation and undermining ecosystem productivity. Recent assessments over 22-year period indicate alarming declines across the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) indicators, with an estimated 496,500 ha classified as severely degraded, 674,300 ha moderately degraded, and 1,220,900 ha highly stressed.

In response, Liberia, as Party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), has committed to achieving voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality targets through the national LDN Target Setting Programme. The project "Promoting Sustainable land management for the achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality for Improved Equity, Sustainability, and Resilience in Rice Landscapes of Liberia seeks to address the country's land degradation challenges by promoting climate-resilient and sustainable rice production systems within priority landscapes. The project overarching goal is to enhance soil health, improve land productivity, and reduce degradation through the large-scale adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) practices that balance agricultural expansion with forest conservation.

The project will focus on five major rice-producing counties—Lofa, Nimba, Grand Kru, Montserrado, and Bong—where varied topography includes tidal swamps, floodplains, and low hills. In these areas, approximately 71 percent of Liberia 404,000 farming households cultivate rice on small plots averaging 0.85 ha, facing challenges such as soil erosion on uplands, flooding and drought in lowlands, and declining yields. These challenges disproportionately affect rural women and youth, increasing vulnerability to food insecurity and income loss.

Through a comprehensive landscape approach, the project will strengthen the enabling environment for LDN by addressing fragmented policy and planning frameworks, build institutional and technical capacities for integrated land-use management, and promote gender-sensitive and inclusive SLM interventions. It will also enhance knowledge generation, monitoring, and dissemination mechanisms to support scaling up and tracking progress toward LDN targets. Working in coordination with ongoing initiatives such as the GEF-7 FOLUR-IP, the project aims to restore 25,000 ha of degraded land, improve management practices over 100,000 ha, and sequester approximately 1,080,200 tCO_2e.

The project will contribute directly to Liberia's national development priorities and advance progress toward multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land), thereby enhancing ecosystem resilience, food security, and sustainable livelihoods for Liberia's rural communities.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To promote sustainable land management practices in degraded uplands and lowland rice production landscapes for improved land use, enhanced soil fertility and manage land degradation to achieve Liberia's LDN targets

Project Components

Component 1: An enabling environment (institutional, policy) to achieve Liberia's LDN Targets

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
599,800.00	9,832,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1: Institutional capacity for improved LDN policy governance and coordination amongst MDA's and stakeholders strengthened

Output:

Output 1.1.1: Re-activating and revitalizing LDN multi-stakeholder workgroup.

Output 1.1.2: Development of a national land-use planning and management framework (guided by LDN Integrated land-use planning principles).

Output 1.1.3: Review and stock-take of LDN targets

Output 1.1.4: Strengthening skills and capacities for SLM in Liberia

Component 2: Strategic SLM and gender-focused interventions for Degradation Neutrality

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
2,595,775.00	13,123,544.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1: Participatory planning and integration of Gender-sensitive SLM practices in rice-based crop systems and degraded landscapes established

Output:

Output 2.1.1: Development of gender-responsive participatory integrated land management plans and strengthening land ownership and tenure for the target landscapes

Output 2.1.2: Demonstration of SLM practices and gender-sensitive approaches in degraded lowlands

Output 2.1.3: Rehabilitation of degraded upland forest landscapes through gender sensitive SLM practices

Output 2.1.4: Institutional strengthening and end-user access to tailored hydro-meteorological services and products

Component 3: SLM/LDN Investment models tailored to strengthen rural livelihoods and agri-food value chains

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
833,750.00	11,625,900.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1: Nature based livelihoods and agri-food value chain investment models developed and piloted to support SLM and achievement of LDN targets

Output:

Output 3.1.1: Training of trainers on gender transformative market analysis and development (MA&D).

Output 3.1.2: Small business grants developed to support gender transformative rural SLM enterprises and value chains

Output 3.1.3: TVETS partnerships for youth entrepreneurship, awareness and outreach on SLM - LDN actions

Component 4: Adaptive knowledge capture and MEL system to track LDN targets

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
672,169.00	605,932.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1: Gender sensitive Monitoring, evaluation and learning systems to promote adaptive knowledge management for LDN targets monitoring established

Output:

Output 4.1.1: A functioning National LDN Monitoring and Reporting System
Output 4.1.2: Project based Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MEL) framework.
Output 4.1.3: Knowledge Management for Replication, Documentation and Dissemination of LDN Approaches

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
169,000.00	605,932.00

Outcome:

Adaptive knowledge management and Gender-Sensitive MEL systems for LDN target established

Output:

Project based Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MEL) framework

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1: An enabling environment (institutional, policy) to achieve Liberia's LDN Targets	599,800.00	9,832,000.00
Component 2: Strategic SLM and gender-focused interventions for Degradation Neutrality	2,595,775.00	13,123,544.00
Component 3: SLM/LDN Investment models tailored to strengthen rural livelihoods and agri-food value chains	833,750.00	11,625,900.00
Component 4: Adaptive knowledge capture and MEL system to track LDN targets	672,169.00	605,932.00
M&E	169,000.00	605,932.00
Subtotal	**4,870,494.00**	**35,793,308.00**
Project Management Cost	243,525.00	7,638,661.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**5,114,019.00**	**43,431,969.00**

Please provide Justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Demographics: Liberia, situated along the west coast of Africa, boasts diverse ecosystems that include tropical forests, savannas, and coastal plains. Spanning approximately 9.6 million hectares, the country is home to around 5.76 million people with an annual increase of 2.06% and a population density of 60 people per square

kilometer [1][1]. The 2022 Population and Housing Census reveals a significant urban-rural population divide, with 55% and 45% of the populations living in urban and rural areas respectively. With about 50:50 population sex ration, the population trend indicates a growing trend towards urbanization. Moreover, the country's population density is further influenced by economic opportunities, infrastructure development and historical settlement patterns, with coastal and river valley regions being more densely populated due to their suitability for agriculture and trade. About 30% of urban and 80% of rural populations live in poverty[2][2], with most rural population highly dependent on rain-fed agriculture and which is prone to negative climate impacts. The country is divided into 15 counties, which are the primary administrative divisions of the country, with most populations residing in the capital city Montserrado. Other counties with high populations include Bong, Nimba, Lofa and Grand Gedeh. Remaining counties of Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Kru, Margibi, Maryland, Rivercess, River Gee and Sinoe have moderate to low populations.

Biophysical conditions: Liberia's economy is heavily reliant on natural resources, particularly agriculture and forestry, which are vital for the livelihoods of its predominantly rural population. This arises from its location within the West African Moonsoon climate, with alternating and intermittent wet-dry spells and dependent on prevailing moisture condition of southeastern monsoon winds. Moreover, the dust laden Harmattan winds from Sahara Desert prevail in November to March, resulting in dry chilly climate, whereas the wet season occurs between May and November. The southernmost parts of the country receive rainfall year-round, while the rest of the country experiences two seasons due to the movement of the inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ). The country has four distinct elevation zones (the coastal belt, rolling hills, plateaus, and northern highlands). The country's average annual precipitation is about 2,500mm with significant regional variations from the coastal belt to the Northern highlands and plateaus. Estimated average temperature vary from 24 to 26° C and 24 to 29° C during the wet and dry seasons, respectively [3][3].

Agricultural Production: Agriculture contributes significantly to Liberia's GDP (38%) and employs 80% of the workforce, especially smallholder farmers in rural communities. Agriculture and agribusiness livelihoods contribute between 25-25% of Liberia Gross Domestic Product (GDP)[4][4], while combined agriculture, forestry, and fishing, contributed about 33.64 % of the GDP in 2024[5][5]. Despite agriculture's importance through economic, livelihood, food security and household income benefits, 79.6% of households living in poverty have households' heads self-employed in agriculture, with about 7 out of 10 of the poorest households relying on agriculture for livelihood [6][6]. Liberia's agricultural system is primarily **rain-fed and subsistence-based**, with smallholder farmers cultivating rice, cassava, and other crops on plots of land typically under 2 hectares. The persistent poverty in farming households is driven by systemic agricultural constraints such as low inputs (e.g fertilizers and improved seeds) use, limited access to credit, extension services and markets, low yields and poor transport and storage infrastructure, which hinder households' ability to achieve self-sufficiency or transition to more profitable activities. Moreover, farming households face additional challenges from land tenure insecurity and weak institutional support, further complicating efforts to adopt sustainable land management (SLM) practices. **Slash and burn shifting cultivation** is practised by 90% of all rural farming households across Liberia, with many shortcomings such as labour intensive, low yielding, forest and environment degradation, and habitat and biodiversity destruction. Rice, the main staple crop, is central to the livelihoods of rural communities, but as productivity remains low, the country depends on imports to meet domestic demand.

Poverty is pervasive, with over 50% of the population living below the poverty line, and rural areas are the most affected. The country has 338,630 agricultural households, with the highest concentrations in Nimba (21.4%), Bong (16.7%), and Lofa (12.7%) counties[7][7]. **Gender disparities** also persist, with women playing a crucial role in agriculture yet having limited access to resources and decision-making opportunities. As Liberia's primary crops, including rice and vegetables, are highly sensitive to changes in temperature, humidity, and rainfall, rural communities—particularly women and children—are left more vulnerable to food insecurity and income loss. A landscape-level approach is needed to address land degradation and restore productivity.

Climate shocks and vulnerabilities: Liberia ranks 8th globally in climate change vulnerability[8][8], with climate change exacerbating environmental degradation, reducing agricultural productivity, and increasing the risk of flooding, landslides, and disease outbreaks. Liberia's relative geographical location along the Atlantic coast of west Africa (between lat. 4°18' & 8°30' N and long. 7°30' & 11°30' W of the equator) exposes it to a range climate-related hazards and vulnerabilities including increasing frequency of extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, storm surges, stressing fragile ecosystems and vulnerable farming communities[9][9]. The combination of high-energy wave patterns, storm surges, sea-level rise and high rainfall intensities is already causing severe coastal erosion and in-land river flooding, with rural communities, urban informal settlements and poorly constructed housing being especially vulnerable[10][10]. The climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and infrastructure are directly impacted by variable rainfall - temperature patterns and prolonged droughts further amplifying the vulnerabilities of poor farming communities and households. Furthermore, results from a **climate risk screening** (*See Annex O*) within the project development process reveal an increase in average mean temperature (by 1.6°C) and precipitation (by 2-5%) in dry and wet seasons respectively, from 2010 to 2050. Weather variability through extreme rainfall intensity and reduction in dry-season rainfall-especially in southern regions, is likely to trigger landslides and extreme flooding. Continuous loss of livelihoods after climate disasters is a significant factor for increasingly migrating to urban areas or abroad, particularly among the youth, is in search of better opportunities, contributing to labour shortages in rural agriculture.

Ecosystem and Landscape degradation: Liberia's natural landscapes, which contribute to the country's economy, are facing significant risk due to over-exploitation and poor management. Unsustainable agricultural practices, particularly shifting cultivation, threaten the country's forests, biodiversity, and livelihoods, resulting in the depletion of soil organic matter, accelerated loss of fertile land and contributed to decline in agricultural productivity [11][11].

Over the last 20 years, Liberia's population has increased by 65%, placing significant pressure on the country's natural resources, particularly its forests[12][12],[13][13]. Liberia is home to two of West Africa's three largest remaining rainforest blocks, which cover approximately 69% of the nation's total land area. However, the demand for alternative land uses now threatens the country's rich biodiversity. Since 1975, land-use change is believed to have contributed to the loss of 650,000 hectares of forest, representing an overall 15% loss by 2017

[14][14]. The forestry and agriculture sectors, which together accounted for 60% of Liberia's export earnings in 2023/2024 are at the heart of this competition for land use[6]. While agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood for many Liberians[15][15], land degradation puts smallholder households at considerable risk. Complex land ownership patterns and the lack of an equitable land tenure system exacerbate the expansion of shifting agriculture, driving deforestation and worsening land degradation and biodiversity loss[16][16]. Furthermore, poor coordination and management by mandated institutions, particularly the lack of extension services, contribute to further degradation[17][17].

Liberia's degraded land spans 496,500 hectares of declining land, 674,300 hectares of moderately declined land, and 1,220,900 hectares of stressed areas[18][18]. The country's 2020-2030 National Adaptation Plan (NAP) emphasizes the urgent challenge of environmental degradation, compounded by climate change. Agricultural productivity—already hindered by land degradation and extreme weather—is further threatened by a changing climate, as key crops such as rice are highly climate-sensitive [19][19]. A recent assessment of land degradation trends using UNCCD data highlights significant changes over 15 years in all three indicators (land cover/land use change, land productivity dynamics, and soil organic carbon levels)[20][20]. These shifts indicate Liberia's vulnerability to land degradation.

Key landscapes affected by degradation in Liberia include tidal swamps, floodplains, valley swamps, and low hills, where rice—Liberia's staple crop—is predominantly grown[21][21]. Rice cultivation, practiced by 71% of Liberia's 404,000 farming families, mainly relies on traditional slash-and-burn shifting methods, which lead to low productivity. Despite a high annual per capita rice consumption of 133 kg, one of the highest in Africa, domestic production has not kept up with demand. In 2010, rice was grown on 251,230 hectares with an average yield of 1.1 metric tons per hectare, producing 296,090 metric tons. By 2016, 312,314 farming households were engaged in rice cultivation, averaging 0.85 hectares per farm with a slightly higher yield of 1.26 metric tons per hectare[15]. The widespread use of labor-intensive and low-yielding traditional methods has exacerbated deforestation, soil erosion, and environmental degradation[22][22].

Land degradation status and trends: A 2013 analysis carried by FAO, and reported in the LDN Target Setting Report of Liberia[19], revealed that two-thirds of Liberia's land was forested, but 44% of it was degraded. Key drivers of land degradation in Liberia fall into three categories, two of which will be addressed directly by this project:

- Deforestation, mainly driven by slash-and-burn shifting cultivation agricultural production activities.
- Unsustainable Agricultural Practices leading to a decline in soil organic matter, threatening forests, biodiversity, and the land people depend on.

- Urbanization, with infrastructure development encroaching on agricultural and forest land, contributing to degradation.

A recent assessment of land degradation trends using UNCCD's LDN indicators (Land Cover/Land Use Change, Land Productivity Dynamics, and Soil Organic Carbon) over 22 years highlights negative trends[21]:

- Land Cover/Land Use Change (LUC): Based on data from 2000 - 2020, land area with degraded land cover, mostly forested landscape decreased by 0.4%, with significant 3.5% increase in land area with non-degraded land cover. Grassland and wetland areas also declined slightly, while artificial surfaces increased by 35.2%.
- Land Productivity Dynamics (LPD): The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), used to assess vegetation health and the land's ability to sustain life, reveal symptoms of declining, moderately declining and stressed tree-covered forest forests experiencing the greatest net area change and the highest levels of degradation.
- Soil Organic Carbon (SOC): Baseline SOC stocks were estimated using ISRIC's SoilGrids250m model for topsoil. Wetlands have the highest SOC content, while artificial surfaces show the most change. Conversion from forest to cropland has resulted in significant carbon losses, accounting for nearly 24% of the total SOC stock from 2000.

Liberia's Commitments to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN): Through the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Programme, Liberia, as a signatory to the UNCCD, is actively working towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 15.3 - 'By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.' Liberia's involvement in the LDN Target Setting Programme began with the submission of a Letter of Interest at COP13, followed by a national inception workshop that brought together key stakeholders involved in land, forest, environment, and natural resource management. This workshop led to the creation of the National Drought Initiative and Land Degradation Neutrality Technical Working Group[23][23], which, in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the UNCCD country focal point, drives Liberia's LDN target-setting process.

Liberia's vision for LDN aligns with its broader development goals, such as poverty reduction, food security, environmental protection, and the sustainable use of natural resources. The country has established specific LDN targets, including improving land cover and productivity, increasing forest cover by 10% by 2030, enhancing soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks, reducing soil erosion, and restoring one million hectares of degraded landscapes to managed forest land by 2030. To meet these targets, the government has proposed several measures, including promoting sustainable agriculture and energy, agroforestry, biodiversity conservation, disaster management, integrated coastal zone management, and reclaiming degraded mining areas. Moreover, the LDN target-setting process has weaved into the broader country development nexus, climate change, biodiversity and national action plan priorities while linking Liberia's existing national coordination mechanisms, with active participation from various stakeholder groups. Education, awareness raising and capacity building are prioritized to support the successful implementation of LDN actions.

Key Barriers to Overcome: Liberia TSP established clear targets to combat desertification and restore degraded landscapes, ecosystems and biodiversity and achieve land degradation neutrality. This project is conceived as a direct result to the country LDN targets and seeks to transform land management across various land use and cover types in Liberia by promoting sustainable land management practices in the most vulnerable

regions and localities. However, there are significant barriers to scaling sustainable land management (SLM) and meeting these the intended LDN targets and goals, including:

1. **Inadequate Institutional Capacity**: At both national and subnational levels, institutional capacity is insufficient to support the implementation of sustainable agriculture. Extension services are under-resourced and lack the ability to coordinate or enforce sustainable land management practices. This is compounded by the limited capacity to monitor and gather data on land productivity, organic soil carbon (SOC), and the environmental impacts of sustainable practices. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) have not effectively planned land use nor established robust LDN monitoring systems. Component 1, and to a lesser extent components 2 and 3 of this project will address these institutional capacity weaknesses across various LSL-LDN related actions.
2. **Limited Capacity Among Smallholder Farmers**: Smallholder farmers, particularly in vulnerable rural areas, lack the knowledge and resources to implement sustainable agricultural practices. There is limited access to information and expertise on location-specific SLM-LDN actions, which has resulted in low adoption rates. Farmers face challenges in scaling up their operations due to the lack of quality agricultural inputs, such as seeds, and inadequate support from extension services. Rural women, who are disproportionately affected, face additional barriers in accessing the necessary tools, training and entrepreneurship skills for sustainable farming. Moreover, institutional coordination is weak, with minimal collaboration between extension, research and hydro-meteorological services to provide farmers with essential agricultural inputs and advisories. Components 2 and 3 establish and maintain SLM-LDN actions across selected localities through on-the-ground demonstrations, while co-creating and adopting new practices, with emergent lessons and recommendations captured under component 4 of the project.
3. **Lack of Landscape-Level Coordination**: Sustainable land management and LDN require coordination across landscapes, involving both state and non-state actors. However, there is limited capacity to implement such approaches at scale. While research institutions may generate useful information, access to this data is often limited, preventing stakeholders from effectively managing landscapes for long-term sustainability. Established demonstration and entrepreneurship actions under component 2 and 3 in priority rice landscapes will equip partners with skills, information, tools and capacity to work at landscape level for potential replication in other counties and landscapes.
4. **Insufficient SLM-LDN Knowledge management, sharing and Innovation**: There is lack of a well-coordinated, systematic and structured knowledge management system across the nations and sectors to capture, track and monitor SLM-LDN actions. This not only hampers national reporting requirements and challenges dissemination of knowledge and expertise on SLM-LDN practices within Liberia and across the region. There is also lack of structured approaches to sharing best practices across various sectors and actors, which hinders innovation through "institutional silos" and the replication of successful models. Furthermore, the absence of a operational national LDN monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) system prevents stakeholders from accessing vital information, limiting their ability to scale up successful SLM approaches. Component 4 systematically addresses these shortcomings.

The Integrated approach proposed in this LDN project seeks to overcome these barriers through deliberate efforts to strengthen institutions and workforce, improve smallholder farmer support, enhance intersectoral and grassroot coordination, and foster innovation through better knowledge capture and dissemination.

Project strategic fit within the current landscape of investments: The project primarily responds to targets established under LDN TSP program. However, several other baseline investments and interventions fit within the broader land degradation neutrality landscape, upon which the proposed project will be anchored. Below is a summary of lessons learnt from some of the baseline projects and how the proposed LDN project aligns to outputs and outcomes from the past interventions[24].

- *Liberian National Action Programme to Combat desertification: Strengthening capacities for sustainable agriculture to reverse the trend of land degradation (1st phase 2009 - 2013; 2nd Phase 2013 - 2018).* The two NAP phases developed a comprehensive sustainable land management (SLM) strategy to reverse the extent and intensity of land degradation in Liberia with priority thematic areas comprising policy and legislation, land use planning, institutional coordination, capacity building and knowledge management network. The outputs from various NAP thematic interventions laid the foundation for Liberia TPS, strengthened implementation of the National and local land use plan, developed institutional, workforce, local and individual capacities and introduced SLM approaches into all types of agriculture including shifting cultivation, rangeland management, commercial farming. The third iteration of the Liberia NAP is currently under development and this LDN project will synchronize aligning activities to achieve the national LDN targets and outcomes.

- *Liberia forest sector project (LFSP): (World Bank/Norway/2016-2023: US$ 37.50 million).* The project was focused on strengthening the capacity for Management of Targeted Forest Landscapes through the incorporation of Participatory mapping and zoning and establishing a functional Forest Monitoring Information System for MRV system for REDD+. Geospatial skills and capabilities developed within the project, especially Forest Development Agency (FDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), enabled zoning and mapping activities and establishment of an MRV system thereby improving evidence base for decision making. The proposed LDN project will leverage the established MRV system and institutional capacities to amplify and synergize national measurements on landscape degradation.
- *Strengthening soil analysis and information systems to enhance sustainable soil management and support evidence-based decision making in Liberia (FAO/2021-2023: USD 440,000*). The project established the Liberian Soil Information System (LibSIS), a digital, open-source platform integrated with the Global Soil Information System (GloSIS) as a one-stop repository for soil data, including property maps, suitability maps, erosion maps, and carbon stocks. The system actively provides vital information to the Ministry of agriculture and forestry for effective land use planning, agriculture and forestry. The proposed LDN project will leverage on LibSIS/GloSIS to track greenhouse gas fluxes and trends in below /above ground carbon stocks as land degradation indicators.
- *Building Community Resilience to Climate Impacts and Livelihood Support through Climate Smart Small-Scale Farming (VOSIEDA Project)* (*Swedish Embassy; US$ 1,812,973; 2022-2026*). The ongoing project integrates Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices with nature-based agroecological solutions, combining traditional knowledge with modern techniques, to address deforestation challenges. The CSA practices promoted under the project, especially rice-vegetable production systems in lowlands areas, offer opportunities for close partnerships and collaboration in knowledge cross- fertilization, joint information exchange and outreach events towards achieving the country LDN targets. Furthermore, aligning accounting methodologies for reduced Greenhouse gas emissions is beneficial as a key milestone target under both projects.

Project rationale for LDN investments in rice-landscapes: To align to GoL Land Degradation Neutrality and various adaptation and mitigation priorities, while supporting national efforts to achieve food and nutrition security and shift to a more sustainable and resilient rural development, the proposed LDN project seeks to strengthen and maintain sustainable land management by ensuring no net loss of healthy and productive land

through a combination of measures that avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation in Liberia. This goal enhances the resilience of over 70% rural farming communities that depend on land resource in Liberia, while ensuring supply of ecosystem services at communal grassroot and household levels.

Liberia's main rice-producing regions—Lofa, Nimba, Grand Kru, Montserrado, and Bong counties are generally characterized by fertile soils in upland and lowland areas, and each facing distinct challenges.

Despite rice cultivation being practiced by 71% of Liberia's 404,000 farming families, it mainly relies on traditional slash-and-burn shifting methods, which lead to low productivity. Despite a high annual per capita rice consumption of 133 kg, one of the highest in Africa, domestic production has not kept up with demand[25]. Moreover, the widespread use of labor-intensive and low-yielding traditional methods has exacerbated deforestation, soil erosion, and environmental degradation.

Upland areas are more vulnerable to soil erosion due to unsustainable farming practices and climate hazards, while lowland rice fields often struggle with water management issues, such as flooding and drought. Water resources in Liberia are abundant, with numerous rivers and high annual rainfall, particularly during the wet season (April to November). However, the uneven distribution of water across regions results in seasonal shortages and flooding, creating additional challenges for rural agricultural communities. The country also has significant groundwater potential, but it remains underdeveloped and poorly managed. Given that 70% of the population relies on rain-fed agriculture, erratic rainfall patterns and extreme weather events place significant stress on the country's food security.

To bolster agricultural resilience, the development of water management infrastructures such as irrigation systems and water storage facilities—remains crucial. Moreover, the country's vulnerability to climate change intensifies environmental risks by exacerbating soil erosion, biodiversity loss, and habitat degradation, which in turn results in crop losses, particularly in rice-producing counties. As Liberia's primary crops, including rice and vegetables, are highly sensitive to changes in temperature, humidity, and rainfall, rural communities—particularly women and children—are left more vulnerable to food insecurity and income loss. A landscape-level approach is needed to address land degradation challenges and restore productivity.

The proposed LDN project will address landscape vulnerability and degradation by promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices that build resilience in rice production systems. By incorporating climate adaptation strategies, restoring degraded lands, and improving water management, the project aims to enhance long-term sustainability in the target counties. The selection of counties for project implementation is based on several key criteria, including the extent and severity of land degradation, the competing demands of forestry and agriculture, and the vulnerability of these regions to climate change. Priority was given to counties identified in Liberia's Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Report, which set to achieve LDN by 2030. The target landscapes for SLM-LDN interventions within the 5 select counties have varied topographic features and include tidal swamps, floodplains, valley swamps, and low hills—key rice-growing areas that also support other companion and rotating crops and subsistence farming. The selected sites were further validated through an inclusive participatory process within the project development process and the national validation workshops[26].

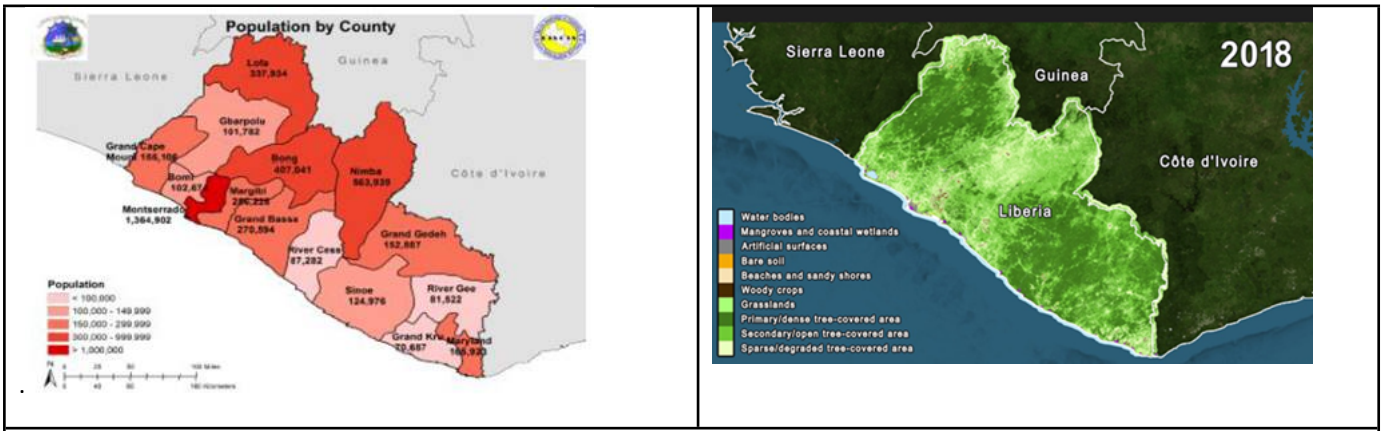


Figure 1: *Promoting Sustainable land management (SLM) for LDN may reduce impact of population density (left) on land cover (right) and was considered in the selection of project counties*

The project aims to sequester about 1,080,200 CO_2e through landscape restoration of 25,000 ha and establishment of improve landscape management practices in 100,000Ha across the five priority counties as follows.

- **Lofa County**[27][27] *(7°55'N 10°0'W (7.917°N, 10.000°W)* consists of 6 administrative districts and is one of Liberia's major agricultural hubs, known for its vast rice-producing areas. However, poor farming techniques and unsustainable land use have led to significant soil degradation, affecting both productivity and local livelihoods. The county's landscape is characterized by rolling hills and fertile valleys and vulnerable to erosion and deforestation. Liberia TSP estimated about 135,192 hectares are degraded through a combination of conversion of forestland into degraded grassland, invasive species and deforestation. The proposed LDN project will target the districts of ZorZor, Saleyea and Voinjama/Foya by placing about 5,000 hectares of land under restoration while 15,000 Hectares will be placed under improved management practices comprising SLM practices for sustained rice production, improving soil and water conservation. Lofa has a mix of subsistence farmers, and institutional support here will focus on capacity-building and improving access to inputs and technical assistance for smallholder farmers. The project will target about 4,000 direct and 16,000 indirect beneficiaries.

- **Nimba County**[28][28] *(6°45'N 8°45'W (6.750°N 8.750°W)*, with 6 administrative districts, is rich in both mineral and agricultural resources, with rice being a primary crop. Liberia TSP estimates about 123,360 hectares are degraded through a combination of intensive land use, deforestation, and mining activities. Moreover, the soil quality in Nimba varies, with some areas becoming increasingly infertile due to unsustainable land-use practices, especially the disctricts of water resources, though relatively abundant, are often poorly managed, with frequent flooding in heavy rainfall seasons. The socio-economic profile of the county includes a blend of farming and mining communities. The proposed LDN project will target 3 districts of Sanniquelleh (1 &2), Saclepea and Karnplay by placing about 4,000 hectares of land under restoration while 25,000 Hectares will be placed under improved management practices integrating SLM and gender-sensitive approaches to restore degraded rice landscapes, while enhancing local institutions' ability to manage natural resources effectively. Target beneficiaries will be 4,000 direct and 16,000 indirect beneficiaries.

- **Grand Kru County**[29][29] *(4°55'N 8°15'W (4.917°N, 8.250°W)* is a coastal area with 18 administrative districts with less favourable conditions for large-scale rice production but remains an important rice-growing region for local consumption. Liberia TSP estimates about 58, 519 hectares are severely degraded due to deforestation, poor farming methods, and overuse of soil resources. The coastal and riverine systems provide vital water resources that are often under strain from poor land management practices. Grand Kru's socio-economic structure is largely composed of smallholder farmers who rely on traditional farming methods. The proposed LDN project will target 3 districts of Garraway, Barclayville/Picniccess and Grandcess by placing about 6,000 hectares of land under restoration while 27,000 Hectares will be placed under improved management practices with a focus on preventing further degradation through sustainable farming practices and better land use planning, particularly in areas vulnerable to coastal erosion. The project will target about 4,000 direct and 16,000 indirect beneficiaries.

- **Montserrado County**[30][30], *(6°30'N 10°30'W)*, hosts to Liberia's capital, Monrovia, has 15 administrative districts. Although it has limited rice production compared to the other counties, the county still plays a role in regional food security. The Liberia TSP has not included Montserrado county in the 2018 degradation assessment and thus spatial area of degraded land in Montserrado County cannot be determined. However, feedback from country experts engaged with the stakeholder consultation process reveals massive degradation areas arising from urban expansion and industrial activities, which have severely degraded much of the available agricultural land, limiting rice cultivation to small patches of rural areas. Soil and water resources are highly stressed due to urbanization and heavy flooding occurs in high rainfall seasons. The socio-economic profile of Montserrado is diverse, ranging from urban professionals, peri-urban and rural farming. The proposed LDN project will target 3 districts of Todee, Rural Bentol (Bensonvile) and Barnesville by placing about 6,000 hectares of land under restoration while 15,000 Hectares will be placed under improved management practices, with a focus on integrating SLM into better land use planning, sustainable farming practices and rural entrepreneurship actions to prevent further degradation and promote more efficient land use in rural areas of the county. The project will target about 4,000 direct and 16,000 indirect beneficiaries.

- **Bong County**[31][31] (7°N 9°W (7 °N 9.66°W) with 12 administrative districts is a key agricultural region with extensive rice cultivation, but suffers from significant land degradation due to deforestation, poor agricultural practices, and mining activities. The county's fertile soils and adequate water resources provide opportunities for high productivity, but land-use mismanagement has led to declining yields. Bong's socio-economic profile is predominantly agrarian, with many smallholder farmers relying on rice as a staple crop. Settlements around discarded mines are numerous making youth and women living in these unproductive areas very vulnerable. The proposed LDN project will target 3 districts of Salala, Panta (Kpatawee) and Jorquelleh by placing about 4,000 hectares of land under restoration while 18,000 Hectares will be placed under improved management practices, with specific focus on initiatives to rehabilitate degraded lands and implement SLM practices that will both restore productivity and enhance the resilience of local farming systems. The project will target about 4,000 direct and 16,000 indirect beneficiaries

The selected target districts for SLM-LDN actions identified and discussed during the project development process and validated by key stakeholders' institutions and actors within the national validation workshop. While acquiring field data for project development, situation analyses were conducted, chaired by respective County Superintendents (GoL County administrative Leaders) and involving diverse stakeholders such as representatives from farmer cooperatives, local leaders and NGOs, private sector, academic /research organization, civil society organizations and community members through participatory focused group

discussions. Deeper per-feasibility assessments were also conducted by national specialists using multi-criteria component analysis within target communities, key private and public sector actors engaged in agricultural production, forest and non-forest product value chains. Further key informant interviews engaged land-use, agricultural and forest restoration specialists from key institutions and entities at national and district levels. Sustainable Land Management – Land Degradation Neutrality (SLM-LDN) interventions planned in each target landscape location are aligned to those proposed in the LDN-TSP (2018), Ministry of Agriculture's Technical Manual for Irrigable lowland development (2015) and Liberia Rice Development Strategy (2018-2030), the National Agriculture Development Plan (2024-2030), among many others. The interventions combine land use planning for lowland development, Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) combining natural regeneration methods such as assisted natural regeneration and agroforestry with native tree species, reforestation with native fast-growing tree species and sustainable rice crop rotations and intercrops and with companion crops. In addition, management practices that promote smart climate agriculture such as terracing, hillslope protection and residue management will be employed to mitigate against environmental degradation drivers, contribute to carbon sequestration, land restoration, and biodiversity conservation

---

[1] UN Population Division *(Sources V.27 Edition)* Nations Geo:Link

[2] World Bank, 2023: Liberia Poverty Assessment 2023 Report: Towards a More Inclusive Liberia. Link

[3] World Bank. 2021a. Country Summary. In: World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Link

[4] National Investment Commission. Link

[5] World Bank, 2024. Link

[6] World Bank, 2024. Liberia Poverty Assessment: Towards A More Inclusive Liberia. Link

[7] Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), 2024. Liberia Agriculture Census. Link

[8] https://gain-new.crc.nd.edu/ranking/vulnerability

[9]World Bank. 2021b. Climatology. In: World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Link

[10]ModernGhana (2020). Time to change the narrative and save Liberia from Climate Change crisis. Link

[11] Liberia LDN Target Setting Program, 2019.

[12] International Food Policy Research Institute (Ifpri), "West African Agriculture and Climate Change A Comprehensive Analysis," (Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute, 2013), Link

[13] EPA, "National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan II 2017-2025," n.d.

[14] EPA. National Adaptation Programme of Action, 2008, EPA, Monrovia, Liberia.

[15] World Bank (2015) Climate risk Profile- Liberia. Link

[16] Forestry Development Authority, "National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in Liberia" (Forestry Development Authority, 2016).

[17] Liberia country food and agriculture delivery compact

[18] EPA. 2019c. Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Program (LDN TSP). Monrovia. Liberia

[19] National Adaptation Plan for Liberia – 2020-2030.

[20]UNCCD, 2022. Report from Liberia. Link

[21] Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP) Report

[22] Liberia Ministry of Agriculture, 2015. Rehabilitation and Development of Integrated Lowland Rice Farming in Liberia. Link

[23] Representative include; Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Forestry Development Authority (FDA); Liberia Land Authority (LLA); Liberia Institute for Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS); Ministry of Finance and Development Planning; Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection; Ministry of Transport (Meteorological Unit/Department); Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA); Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME); Academic institutions (e.g., University of Liberia, Cuttington University, AME University); Research institutions (e.g., Central Agricultural Research Institute - CARI, World Resources Institute - WRI); Private sector representatives; National Disaster Management Agency; Civil Society Organizations (CSOs); UNFCCC Focal Point ;UNCBD Focal Point

[24] An inclusive and detailed summary is comprehensive summary is listed under Section B1: Summary of Institutional arrangements and coordination with other initiatives and projects

[25] Technical Manual for Irrigable Upland Development in Liberia.pdf (moa.gov.lr)

[26] Project site selection, although guided under LDN TSP was sublated to rigorous field assessment within the ProDoc development process. Refer appendix XX and XX for field data collection and validation reports for further details on the consultation process.

[27] County has a total area of 9,982 sq. kilometers and a population of 367,376 people (population density is 37/km²) by 2022 LISGIS Census. The population is composed of 183,100 males and 184,276 females, representing 49.8% and 50.2% of the total population, respectively.

[28] Nimba is the largest county in the country covering land area of 11,551 km². 2022 Census by LISGIS show a population of 621,841 (population density is 54/km²), and is the 2nd most populous county in Liberia.

[29]Grand Kru has an area of 3,895 km²) with topography characterized by coastal plains and rolling hills and vast forest resources

[30]Montserrado spatial area is 1,912.7 km² (738.5 sq mi) and is the smallest county in Liberia.

[31] Bong county is spatial extent of 8,772 km², with a population of 467,502 people (2022, LISGIS) and population density of 53people / km². County holds a vast mining industry, particularly iron ore production at the Bong Mine.

[32] Government of Liberia, 2022: 7th Report to UNCCD. Link

[33] Di Gregorio, A., Mushtaq, F., Tchana, E., Aw, M., D'Annunzio, R., Muchoney, D., Mamane, B., Mahamane, M., Assoumana, B.T., Mimouni, M., Aubee, E., Enaruvbe, G.O., Mensah, F., Bartel, P. and Henry, M. 2022. West African Land Cover Reference System. Rome, FAO, AGRHYMET, ECOWAS and OSS. Link

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

his project draws on lessons and recommendation from the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting program LDN-TSP)[1][32], which responds to the Government of Liberia commitment towards United Nations Sustainable evelopment goals (SDGs) and Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The project draws from ndings and recommendations of the LDN-TPS in Liberia, which was conducted through a national ultistakeholder process and culminated with the establishment of a national stakeholder group (National rought Initiative and Land Degradation Neutrality Technical Working Group). Despite completion of the LDN-SP in Year 2019, most, if not all the recommendations listed within the national report remain valid to date, otwithstanding the increasing land degradation context piling into Liberia's national circumstances.

.ligned to LDN-TSP key policy and technical recommendations, the primary goal of this project is to transform ınd management practices by integrating Sustainable Land Management (SLM) approaches to restoration of egraded landscapes across Liberia. This goal is supported by several GoL policy frameworks, notably; *ARREST genda for0 Inclusive develo0p0ment* (he National Development Plan 2025-2029); *Liberian feed Yourselves genda* (National Agricultural Development plan 2024 -2030); *From Subsistence to Sufficiency* (Food and .griculture Policy and Strategy of Liberia), among others. These plans are aimed at revitalizing the agricultural ector and enhancing self-sufficiency in food production through sustainable production practices for a secure ınd sustainable future. Moreover, GoL Land rights policy allow establishment of inclusive Community Land evelopment and Management Committee (CLDMC), which are mandates to develop land use management lans in support of agricultural production, economic livelihood activities and landscape conservation and ıanagement.

uilding on the strong stakeholder engagement achieved within the LDN-TSP process, the transformation will e evident through enhanced national capacities to overcome institutional and stakeholder engagement barriers ınd, better land management for sustainable agricultural production, thus contributing to Liberia's Land egradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. The project aims to bolster institutional and grassroot capacities for ıstainable land management at national, subnational, and smallholder-farmer levels, integrating SLM and ender-sensitive approaches to achieve national LDN targets. Additionally, it will promote effective knowledge ıanagement and the scaling of innovative monitoring and evaluation techniques for land restoration.

/hile there currently exists a number of government and development partners-led projects and programs[2][33] ocused on sustainable land management, ecosystem and landscape restoration, desertification and biodiversity ıanagement, weak vertical (within smallholder, sub-national and national actors and institutions) and horizontal ıcross projects and concerned Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) integration often results to "silo-d implementation"[3][34], thus diminishing their intended benefits to vulnerable communities and households. loreover, there has been few initiatives in Liberia linking rural privates sector investments to beneficial land ıanagement practices, the absence which represents a challenge in designing feasible, livelihood-and-income enerating land management practices for increased food and nutrition security.

he Proposed alternative Scenario assumes a transformation shift that seeks strong national, sub-national and rassroot partnerships, participatory and inclusive planning process(es) while leveraging public and private sector ıvestments to address the following systemic challenges.

1. Limited coordination among institutions and inadequate capacity to promote SLM for achieving Liberia's LDN targets;
2. Insufficient stakeholder capacity and knowledge at national, subnational, and farm levels to integrate sustainable land management practices (revert, reduce and avoid land degradation) into current agri-food systems;
3. Lack of a monitoring and tracking mechanism for LDN which hinders information and knowledge management for LDN decision-making within relevant Liberian institutions.

The project will introduce transformative actions to achieve LDN targets and objectives through four inter-related elements;

1) Enabling environment and cross sectoral integration; to strengthen institutional capacities and promote inclusive dialogues on compliance, regulation and incentive mechanisms for enhanced sustainable land management and restoration of degraded landscapes.

2) *Vertical and horizontal SLM integration*: to achieve equitable and gender-balanced participation in community-led sustainable land management actions (through development of integrated land use plans), strengthen sub-national and local institutions, enhance awareness and build collective and individual support for land degradation neutrality targets;

3) *Private sector-led multilevel SLM investment models;* designed to incorporate SLM-prioritized investment practices with attractive market-driven financial-inclusion opportunities for private sector, women, youth marginalized communities' initiatives towards Land degradation targets;

4) *Long-term adaptive LDN monitoring and knowledge management;* through digital approaches and tools that blend traditional and scientific methods to promote scaling of innovations, monitoring and evaluation for land degradation neutrality targets.

Whereas, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Forest Development Authority and Ministry of Lands Minerals and Energy, play a significant role in Sustainable Land Management (SLM) initiatives in Liberia, there remains significant reliance on development agencies and partners for technical expertise on biodiversity and landscape planning, management and restoration. The proposed alternative scenario seeks to build and strengthen institutional and man-power skills and capacities through knowledge transference, ultimately contributing to inform national policy and practice. Furthermore, the role of the private sector in sustainable land management is less understood in Liberia and appears to be inadequate (from anecdotal evidence and review of literature). Improving the awareness of the private sector from the business-as-usual profit driven models to SLM best-bet investments is critical to achieve sustainable land degradation neutrality outcomes.

In summary, the proposed alternative scenario seeks to strengthen the inclusion and participation of local stakeholders (sub-national counties, local communities, private sector, ethnic minorities, youth, women and men) in the design, implementation and tracking of land degradation neutrality actions and outcomes, which in response will;

Enhance grassroot, sub-national and institutional capacity for improved policy implementation and coordination of multi-stakeholder platforms among mandated agencies and actors

Improve planning, action and tracking sustainable land management practices within degraded landscapes among national, subnational, and smallholder-farmers through gender-sensitive and sustainable production approaches and monitoring indices

Increase access by women, youth and other marginalized to land resources, productive land inputs while bridging the gap in decision making and creating economic services and befits for women

Increase awareness and access by local private sector (agri-food value chain actors, micro-small medium enterprises (MSMEs), farmer cooperatives and associations, local entrepreneurs and traders) to financial investment opportunities in landscape and biodiversity-related livelihoods

Deliver multiple benefits through Improved rural livelihoods, restored biodiversity and strengthened climate resilience of beneficiary communities, actors and institutions in target counties and their environs

Strengthen capacities for tracking and monitoring LDN targets and outcomes through robust knowledge management system with a gender-sensitive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) strategy.

The overall impact anticipated from the project's interventions includes transformed land management approaches, reduced land degradation, decreased biodiversity loss, and sustainable agricultural production. The project's investment in multilevel financing models will promote private sector partnerships and investments in

sustainable land management solutions and livelihood actions, promoting the social-economic wellbeing of beneficiary grassroots communities and institutions. This will significantly contribute to achieving Liberia's LDN targets, its commitment to SDGs and other national development ambitions.

The logical pathway aligns with actionable key policy and technical recommendations from LDN-TSP to achieve Liberia LDN targets, weaved through the four inter-linked components. The pathway further identifies several drivers of change, including enablers (E1, E2, E3, E4) and underlying assumptions (A1, A2, etc.) that are critical to the project's success:

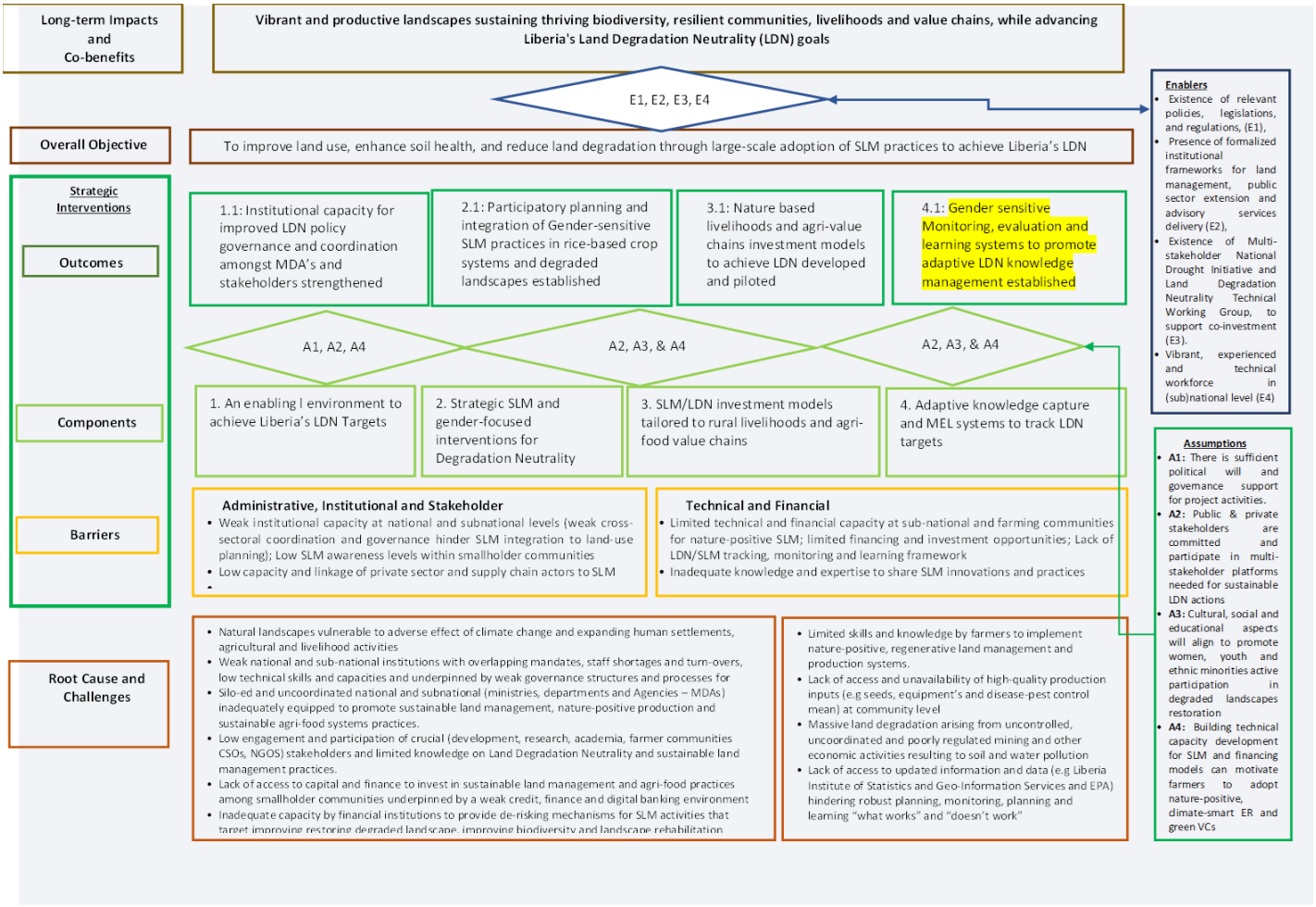
- **Enablers**:
    1. Existence of relevant policies, legislation, and regulations (E1).
    2. Formalized institutional frameworks for public sector extension and advisory services (E2).
    3. Presence of private sector, academic, and community-based organizations to support co-investment and adoption of sustainable land management practices (E3).
    4. Vibrant, experienced and technical workforce at (sub)national level (E4)

- **Assumptions**:

- **A1**: There is sufficient political will and governance support for project activities.
- **A2:** Public & private stakeholders are committed to participate in multi-stakeholder platforms needed for sustainable LDN actions
- **A3:** Cultural, social and educational aspects will align to promote women, youth and ethnic minorities active participation in restoration of degraded landscapes
- **A4:** Building technical capacity development for SLM investment models can motivate farmers to adopt nature-positive, climate-smart ER and green VCs

The project's impact pathway envisions the transformation of land management approaches at the landscape level to reduce biodiversity loss and restore degraded lands using SLM. The interventions are crafted to address the primary barriers, in consideration of the current context within Liberia select counties and necessary pre-conditions for achieving the desired impact, as detailed in the ToC (*Figure 1*).

Detailed description of project components, outcomes and outputs are outlined below (detailed description is provided in *Annex E*):



Component 1: Enabling institutional and actor environment to achieve Liberia's LDN Targets

Under outcome 1, the project will focus to bolster the capacity of national institutions to effectively implement and coordinate policies essential for achieving land degradation neutrality by establishing and operationalizing inter-agency coordination mechanisms. This will involve targeted training, strategic planning, and advocacy to ensure that institutions are well-equipped to tackle land degradation challenges. By creating structured coordination platforms, reviving the LDN Working Group for instance, the project will facilitate integration of SLM practices across sectors and levels of government. The outcome seeks to amend the current approach comprising scattered institutional initiatives and pivot sustainable land-use planning and management and delivery of LDN targets as a national agenda. The goal will be to achieve improved policy implementation and more cohesive efforts among mandated agencies through a unified approach to land management that aligns with Liberia's LDN targets. Outputs include;

Output 1.1.1: (*Re-activating and revitalizing LDN multi-stakeholder workgroup*). The LDN target setting process established a multi-stakeholder National Drought Initiative and as an anchor to support the UNCCD focal point, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Despite redundancy of the Land Degradation Neutrality Technical Working Group (TWG) having accomplished its objectives in the target setting process, the project will re-activate and revamp the technical work-group memberships across Government MDAs[4][35],

Private sector[5][36], NGOs and CBOs[6][37] and development partners[7][38] for cross-sectoral coordination. The TWG will further forge linkages with intermediary mechanisms such as National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC), Liberia Forestry Landscape Restoration (FLR) Platform and the National Land commission (NLC)[8][39]. Developed objectives, and terms of reference will align to establishment of updated LDN targets, LDN actions and tracking. The workgroup will meet quarterly to review progress, offer recommendations and render requisite technical support.

Output Indicator 1.1.1: Number of gender inclusive inter-agency representatives for revived LDN technical workgroup drawn among Liberia's formal and informal entities.

Output Target 1.1.1: At least two-annual national-local level coordination meetings by the LDN technical workgroup with documented recommendations (with at least 40% women representation).

Output 1.1.2: (*Development of a national land-use planning and management framework*). The government of Liberia has formulated several legal instruments which support LDN in Liberia including a National Development Policy and Strategy and Cross-Sectoral Environmental Regulatory Framework and Sector-Specific Regulatory Framework[9][40] . However, the country lacks a comprehensive land use policy to guide land-use planning and management amongst its diverse land-use types: forested, natural, agricultural, wetlands, mining areas and human settlements and infrastructure. By utilizing the LDN guidelines on Integrated Land Use Planning (ILUP) cycle and integrated landscape management (ILM), this output will undertake a rigorous assessment that will factor different uses and demands from multiple users and sectors. The output will explore land-use combinations that meet stakeholders' needs while safeguarding resources, identify efficient trade-offs between options and links social and economic development with environmental protection. Although this initiative will not engage in the legislative process for land-use policy enactment, it will actively support the development of a comprehensive land-use policy framework that will inform, guide and build the momentum needed for national discussions towards the policy's legislative enactment. Moreover, the new framework will mainstream SLM and LDN approaches into the land use policy. The framework will integrate elements in Land nd Rights Bill (2014) and Land Rights Act (2018) and especially the drawing on lessons learned on SLM and LDN into land use-related policies. The process will engage a multi-sectoral forum that bring together high-level political and technical decision-makers in design and validation of the land-use framework. The overall outcome seeks to balance economic, social and cultural opportunities provided by land with the need to maintain and enhance ecosystem services from land-based natural capital.

Indicator 1.2.1: Number of Land use management frameworks with SLM and LDN lessons integrated achieved through an inclusive multistakeholder process.

Target 1.2.1: At least 1- Land use management frameworks with SLM and LDN lessons integrated achieved through an inclusive multistakeholder process with actionable recommendations to support LDN (with the process engaging at least 40% women representation).

Output 1.1.3: (*Review and stock take of Liberia's LDN targets*): Updating Liberia's LDN targets is a crucial piece of this component, which will be integrated within the land-use policy framework. This output will review

the existing LDN target setting outcomes and propose an updated approach that considers sector-based needs and priorities in a rapidly changing land use and management context in Liberia, especially the proliferation of mining activities in natural and agricultural landscapes[1]. This output will comprise establishment of sector based technical work groups from revived LDN national technical workgroup and discussions to identify investment opportunities and innovative financing mechanisms for promoting the adoption and investment in SLM practices for income generation; financial (carbon trading, eco-tourism, private and community wood lots) and the private sector value chains. The project will develop sector-specific land management stock take reports for future updating and tracking LDN actions and outcomes.

[1] The most recent UNCCD report for Liberia (Feb 2023) notes that consensus was reached to use default estimates due to non-existence of national datasets required to establish a baseline for the reporting period. There exists a 2019 national land cover dataset which cannot be utilized for proposer estimates due to absence of datasets for the baseline year. Default datasets were used with a caveat to make improvements using national dataset for 2023 reporting in subsequent reporting periods.*Indicator 1.3.1: Number of LDN target setting plans with SLM and LDN lessons integrated achieved through an inclusive multistakeholder process.*

Target 1.3.1.: An updated Country report on LDN target setting with actionable recommendations and incentive mechanisms to support LDN (with the process engaging at least 40% women representation).

Output 1.1.4: (*Strengthening skills and capacities for SLM in Liberia*): The project will undertake a comprehensive assessment of capacity needs across LDN technical workgroup and mandated agencies, validating these needs with stakeholders, and implementing targeted capacity-building initiatives. By focusing on the specific requirements of these agencies, the project will ensure that they have the skills and resources necessary to lead and support SLM efforts to achieve LDN targets. Strengthening institutional capacity in this way will enable agencies to better coordinate and execute land restoration activities, ultimately contributing to more effective and sustainable management of degraded landscapes

Indicator 1.4.1: Number of state and non-state actors (from key government ministries, departments, agencies, local governments, civil society organizations, private sector and communities) trained to support implementation of SLM approaches within the framework of LDN targets.

Target 1.4.1.: At least 20 state and 30 non-state agencies (from key government ministries, departments, agencies, local governments, civil society organizations, private sector and communities) trained to support implementation of SLM approaches. (Target at least 200 trainees of which 40% women: 100 people from state agencies and 100 from non-state agencies).

Component 2: Strategic SLM and gender-focused interventions for Degradation Neutrality

Under outcome 2.1, the project will address the direct impacts of unsustainable resource use and poor cropping practices on land degradation in the five counties facing the highest land degradation conditions[1]. By focusing on rice production croplands that have been degraded through poor farming methods, the project aims to integrate SLM practices with gender-sensitive approaches to prevent further landscape degradation, restore productivity and improve land management. In addition, the country's land tenure systems recognize four categories of land ownership i.e Government Land, Public Land, Private Land, and Customary Land. Customary Land is the most prevalent, held and managed by communities under traditional practices. Ownership and tenure insecurity remains a challenge, with over 43% of adults feeling insecure about their land. Moreover, although 2018 Land rights Act aims for equal protection of Customary and Private Land, women's access to land remains constrained. Specifically, the project seeks to sustainably intensify productivity and reduce shifting cultivation particularly through encouraging rice growing utilizing degraded lowlands that can sustain three seasons of rice growing in a year compared to uplands that can only allow one season rice growing in a year[2]. This strategy

will enhance livelihood options while preserving critical ecosystem services provided by forests that predominate highland areas. For the lowlands areas yet to be developed, there could arise land tenure issues and possible conflict of interests with mining activities, urban expansion, or cattle grazing) or reduced upland shifting cultivation. These will be addressed establishment and strengthening of communal land tenure rights, which will seek strengthen and protect customary land tenure, granting communities and households the legal personality to own land individually and collectively. This will be discussed at the project steering committee level and resolution mechanisms implemented.

] Selection of project target landscapes is informed by LDN-TSP which identified the 5 select counties (Grand-Kru, Nimba, Lofa, Montserrado and Bong) among the highest degraded landscapes in Liberia.

[2] Liberia upland rice and vegetable farming is associated with shifting cultivation, which has resulted to rapid conversion and deforestation of upland forest areas. The Government of Liberia is currently promoting rice and vegetable cultivation in degraded lowland ecologies by investing in irrigation infrastructure. Such infrastructure will support farmers' cooperative and smallholder farmers to produce (rice and vegetable) 2-3 times a year. Lowland rice growing is aimed to reduce deforestation rates consequently reducing pressure on high value forests.

Output 2.1.1: (*Development of gender-responsive participatory integrated land management plans for the target landscapes*): National Agriculture Development Plan (NADP) 2024-2030[1] has prioritized site specific land use plans to ensure crops are grown in suitable areas. The project, through collaboration with other stakeholders[2] , especially Liberia Land Authority, will develop integrated Customary Land Development and Management Committee (CLDMC) through an inclusive, gender-focused and participatory process. According to 2018 land lights act, only communities must establish a Community Land Development and Management Committee (CLDMC) to apply for a collective land deed, ensuring gender and youth representation. Formalization of ownership will be conducted by Liberia land Authority through a five stage process; a five-step process managed by the Liberian Land Authority (LLA): Community identification and boundary demarcation; Establishment of a Community Land Development and Management Committee (CLDMC); Conducting confirmatory surveys; Submission of documentation (oral testimonies, maps, agreements with neighbors) and finally issuance of a community land deed. Engaging local communities and stakeholders through a co-development process ensures the plans are practical and aligned with local needs and contexts. In addition to linking the land-use management plans with LDN targets, LMPs' will further identify the best cropping systems for each niche landscape to optimize their production capacity and strengthen the overall system productivity. The plans will also identify training and capacity needs for women and youth smallholder producers and farmer groups and cooperatives. The Farmer Field and Business Schools' (FFBS) approach will be utilized to design of localized LMPs plans and impart skills development in crop husbandry, post-harvest management, marketing, and entrepreneurship. This component will be coordinated through the respective County agricultural coordinators' office.

Indicator 2.1.1.: *Number of gender-responsive participatory landscape management plans developed. Also, the number of participants, with women youth and minority groups engaged to develop LMPs*

Target 2.1.1.: *At least two (2) gender-responsive participatory landscape plans for each county Landscape developed and validated using participatory approaches. (Target at 40% women and youth participation in development of the LMPs)*

Indicator 2.1.1.: *Number of community and household land ownership deed issue by LLA to marginalized communities and households*

Target 2.1.1.: *At least one community per site acquire land ownership*

] Ministry of Agriculture and stakeholders are in the process of formulating the second generation of the Liberia National Agriculture Development Plan (called the Agricultural Sector Investment Plan, or LASIP II).

] Ministry of Agriculture, CARI, the Liberia Agriculture and Commodities Regulatory Authority (LACRA), National Standards Laboratory, the Liberia Agriculture Commercialization Regulatory Agency and other partners

Output 2.1.2 (*Demonstration of SLM practices and gender-sensitive approaches in degraded lowlands*): In "LIBERIANS FEED YOURSELVES AGENDA" National Agriculture Development Plan (NADP) 2024-2030, the government of Liberia has a target to develop 50 000 ha of lowland for irrigated rice production over five years. In alignment with this target, the project will undertake demonstration and promotion of SLM approaches (primarily rice-vegetable cropping systems but also integrated with other cropping practices) to avoid, reduce, and restore landscape degradation in lowlands landscapes as follows;

- 5,000Ha in Montserrado county
- 4,000Ha in Nimba County
- 5,000Ha in Lofa County
- 5,000Ha in Grand-Kru County
- 4,000Ha in Bong County

In addition, the project will strengthen Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) capacity to produce seed rice for farmers across these counties, by establishing 1,000Ha of rice-vegetable seed bulking sites. The project will further improve land-use practices (mixed cropping, agro-forestry, hedgegrow cropping) across 50,000 hectares within the 5 select counties through Ministry of Agriculture extension-led land management campaigns. The primary site-specific demonstration sites will comprise smallholder farmer fields, farmer cooperatives owned farmlands, women and youth groups-owned farms and agricultural viable lands managed under municipal and county governments. Farmer field school approach will be utilized to train to community members, including women and marginalized groups, to ensure that they are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to adopt SLM practices.

Indicator 2.2.1a: *Number of ha in the lowland landscapes under SLM practices for LDN*

Target 2.2.1a: *At least 25,000 ha of degraded lowlands target landscapes placed under SLM practices, 50,000 hectares placed under improved land use practices to achieve LDN.*

Indicator 2.2.1b: *Number of beneficiaries engaged in gender-sensitive Farmer Field and Business schools and other community awareness/education initiatives*

Target 2.2.1b: *At least 6 gender-sensitive FFBS and community awareness/education initiatives implemented per county directly reaching at least 40,000 people in the five counties (50% being women).*

Output 2.1.3: (*Rehabilitation of uplands forest degraded landscapes through SLM practices*). This project will support and align with the National Forestry Policy and Implementation Plan[15][41] which seeks to promote sustainable management, conservation, protection and development of forest resources in Liberia. The project will further reinforce current forest rehabilitation efforts by the Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration

(FOLUR) Impact Program[16][42] and the Boosting Biodiversity Conservation and Improving Livelihoods of Forest-Fringe/Forest-Dependent Communities and Groups (CFPM) project[17][43] through implementation of already existing land use and rehabilitation plans in select districts of Bong and Lofa counties. The project will undertake the following.

- restore 15,000 hectares of degraded forestland in both counties, with focus directed to native forested areas undergoing shifting cultivation, charcoal production and mineral/sand mining.

- Promote improved land management practices in 35,000 hectares within the five counties including household community farm forests, agroforestry and savanna ecosystems within the five counties.

To support the forest rehabilitation efforts, the project will strengthen the capacities of existing tree nurseries within the 5 counties established under past forestry restoration initiatives[18][44] as well as establish and maintain new tree and seed nurseries in target landscapes.

Indicator 2.3.1a: *Number of ha in upland landscapes under SLM practices for LDN*

Target 2.3.1a: *At least 15,000ha of degraded upland forests landscapes placed under SLM practices while 35,000ha placed under improved land use practices to achieve LDN***.**

Indicator 2.3.1b: *Number of beneficiaries engaged in gender-sensitive Farmer Field and Business schools and other community awareness/education initiatives*

Target 2.3.1b: *At least 4 gender-sensitive FFBS and community awareness/education initiatives implemented per county directly reaching at least 20,350 people in the five counties (50% being women)***.**

Output 2.1.4: (*Institutional strengthening and end-user access to tailored hydro-meteorological services and products*). Smallholder farmer settlement in lowland areas is accompanied by flood risks, which is a major stressor in rice cropping systems, making it problematic to establish and manage crops, frequently causing significant crop losses and intermittently leading land abandonment. The project will support the Liberia Hydrological services (LHS)[19][45] to provide flood early warning system to enable farmers anticipate and prepare for flood events. In partnership with the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), LHS will provide data (such as basin geomorphology, rainfall intensities, and soil hydrological properties) that will guide the development of resilience strategies for rice farming systems e.g improving crop establishment and management, flood prevention mechanisms and selection of flood tolerant varieties. Additionally, LSH advisories will support the development of sustainable irrigation systems and strategies at project-select landscapes within the five counties to optimize water use efficiency, considering climate change and erratic rainfall patterns. The project will provide institutional support to LHS through establishment of low costs physical infrastructure of hydrometeorological activities, procurement and capacity development on hydrological measurement, data processing and management systems, and support for community managed real-time flood risk monitoring. Further support will be provided to develop flood risk advisories and in dissemination of the flood risk information to beneficiary farmers and downstream communities.

Indicator 2.4.1a: *Number of advisories and flood risk products developed and disseminated to communities engaged in SLM practices for LDN in select counties*

Target 2.4.1a: *At least 4 flood risks developed per county (depending on basin properties) for landscapes under SLM practices for LDN reaching at-least 60, 350 direct users and at least 241,400 indirect users within the 5 counties (50% being women)***.**

Indicator 2.4.1b: *Number of communities managed real-time flood risk monitoring established within the 5 countries*

Target 2.4.1b: *At least 4 community-managed real-time flood risk monitoring schemes in each-select county*

Component 3. Investment models tailored to rural livelihoods and agri-value chains needs

Under outcome 3.1, the project will engage to develop sustainable agri-business and financing models to leverage SLM actions proposed under outcome 2. The component will focus on developing market analysis and development (MA&D) skills for a wide range of private sector actors, producers, value chain players and local entrepreneurs dealing in agricultural products, commodities and services. Developing market and entrepreneurial skills within rural private sector offers strong incentives for adoption and investment in SLM practices for income generation, eco-tourism goods and services and support activities by various agricultural value chains actors. This component will further provide economic incentives to encourage private sector actors, farmer groups and cooperatives and women and youth groups to adopt more SLN /LDN through investment in environmentally friendly practices and technologies. Further collaboration will be established with the Agricultural and Industrial Training Bureau[20][46] to promote youth engagement in entrepreneurship, strengthen their awareness and outreach on SLM practices and LDN targets, thereby strengthening youth inclusion in decision-making and implementation of LSM/LDN actions.

Output 3.1.1: (*Training of trainers on market analysis and development (MA&D*). The project will identify and select at least 5 trainers within each respective select county to support training on market analysis and development (MA&D). The team of 25 pax, with 50% being women, will undergo trainer of trainer training to build their capacities and skills on MA&D and thereafter engaged to engage in training 80 persons per county, with 50% being women, engaged in agricultural related enterprises, farmer cooperatives, traders, MSME traders, women and youth groups engaged farming related enterprises. Selection of trainees will also focus on their engagement in eco-tourism, artifacts and ornamental related value chains, with training focused on strengthening their entrepreneurship and business development and management skills. The training will culminate in the development and selection of 50 best-bet business proposals through a transparent bidding process involving project management partners for execution under output 3.2.

Indicator 3.1.1a: *Number of trainers (ToTs) engaged in market analysis and development (MA&AD). To promote SLM practices for LDN*

Target 3.1.1a: *At least 25 ToT's trained, with 50% being women, and capable of undertaking widespread capacity development in select county towards private sector and agricultural value chains actors linked to SLM to achieve LDN***.**

Indicator 3.1.2b: *Number of beneficiaries engaged by ToT trainers to strengthen market and entrepreneurial skills within rural private sector within select counties*

Target 3.1.2b: *At least 400 direct beneficiaries and 1200 indirect beneficiaries benefiting from market and entrepreneurial skills (50% being women)***.**

Output 3.1.2: (*Development of small business grants to support rural SLM enterprises and value chains*). The project will support 50 small business giants, based on best-bet proposals submissions developed under outcome 3.1. Preference will be given to bids characterizing small scale rice and vegetable farmers, non-Timber Forest products in uplands forest degraded areas, small scale agricultural enterprises engaged in food and non-food value chains, ecotourism, community woodlots, private and communal tree and agro-forestry nurseries and other SLM-and-biodiversity linked enterprises. A scoring criterion (innovation, capital and customer base, sex, age, experience, risk, local production and market dynamic etc) will be employed ensure inclusive, transparent and accountable granting process. The project will execute letters of agreement with selected grant entities to ensure compliance with grant requirements including, monitoring, reporting, compliance audits and other conditions[21][47]. Regular monitoring and review of the grants will ensure entrepreneurs stay focused on their business proposition while emerging challenges can be detected and resolved early. A key requirement of the MA&D training cascading to the grant process is each grant awardee will be required to identify and train at least 2 other local grassroots traders in their localities on market assessment and entrepreneurship to ensure scale-out of acquired skills into the wider rural localities.

Indicator 3.2.1a: *Number of grant beneficiaries promoting market and entrepreneurial skills within rural private sector aligned to SLM and biodiversity management enterprises*

Target 3.2.1b: *At least 50 direct beneficiaries and 1500 indirect (assuming a 1:5 ratio) beneficiaries gaining critical market and entrepreneurial skills (50% being women)***.**

Output 3.1.3: (*TVETS partnerships for youth entrepreneurship, awareness and outreach on SLM - LDN actions*): This project will strengthen the ongoing efforts by the Agricultural and Industrial Training Bureau and food and agriculture organization (FAO) to strengthen manpower development in the country and specifically aligned strengthening SLM-focused market and entrepreneurial skills and capacities within the 5 target counties. The project will identify, select and train at least 30 instructors and administrators in TVETS (and other tertiary institutions e.g colleges and local universities) across the 5 counties with an aim to promote and integrate SLM/LDN actions in youth entrepreneurship, awareness and outreach teaching modules in their parent institutions. It is expected the trained TVETS personnel will champion integration of MA&D and SLM-oriented knowledge transfer to their student curricular and strengthen (through support to curricular development) existing knowledge management partnerships with FAO, IFAD and other development partners engaged in sustainable land management and biodiversity space.

Indicator 3.3.1a: *Number of TVET organization and trainers engaged in MA&D and SLM -oriented knowledge transfer within rural TVET Institutions within the 5-counties*

Target 3.3.1b: *At least 5 institutions and 25 direct beneficiaries and 500 indirect (assuming a 1:30 student ratio) youth beneficiaries acquiring critical SLM and market and entrepreneurial skills (50% being women)***.**

Component 4: Adaptive knowledge and MEL system for LDN tracking and reporting

Outcome 4.1 seeks to establish strengthen monitoring and tracking of LDN targets by strengthening monitoring, verification and reporting systems, knowledge management systems and focused outreach and dissemination campaigns to place SLN - LDN discourse to national limelight. The component will establish a comprehensive

National LDN Monitoring and Reporting System to support monitoring and tracking of LDN target across all relevant sectors. By embedding the National LDN Monitoring and Reporting System relevant sectors and institutions, the project will strengthen local capacity to monitor land degradation trends and make informed decisions that promote climate-resilient and sustainable land management practices. In addition, for the purpose of this LDN initiative, this project will establish a gender-sensitive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) strategy to support monitoring of project indicators and targets, guide project reporting and support dissemination of valuable insights and findings. This will enable evidence-based decision-making and promote a culture of continuous learning and improvement in sustainable land management practices. The project will generate significant information and lessons during implementation, and sharing this knowledge will foster shifts in mindset and encourage broader stakeholder participation in sustainable land management efforts. Knowledge sharing will promote collaboration with researchers, academia, and both state and non-state actors to improve access to and use of critical information that empowers stakeholders, including farmers, in sustainable land management (SLM) practices. Moreover, dissemination of results and lessons learned will contribute to scaling up effective Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) approaches and will guide future project designs.

Under Output 4.1.1: (*A functioning National LDN Monitoring and Reporting System*). The project will develop an LDN-MEL system to monitor and track progress towards achieving the LDN targets. This system will be designed collaboratively with UNCCD focal point (EPA) together with other sectorial stakeholders to meet the user needs of policymakers and Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDA) sectorial priorities. The system will further align to EPA's Monitoring and Evaluation policy[22][48] and EPA's project Management Framework[23][49]. At its core, the national LDN monitoring and reporting system will be established interlinked with several sector-based monitoring systems to ensure comprehensive sector-based data gathering and reporting. After validation through stakeholder workshops, the system will be integrated into the planning processes at relevant sector-ministries and county level. This system will provide a robust, quantitative basis for monitoring future land degradation and robust decision making towards achievement of the LDN targets by 2030. Its design will involve identifying, testing, and calibrating key LDN metrics—such as land cover, vegetation indices, soil organic carbon, land productivity, and soil erosion rates. The selection of these metrics will build on ongoing national efforts related to desertification, drought management, erosion control, climate resilience, and other relevant areas. These metrics will then be incorporated into a tool-based software (Open Foris toolbox). Once developed and tested, an LDN Decision-support system will enable decision-makers to evaluate land-use options effectively, balancing development goals with sustainable land management.

Output Indicator 4.1.1: *Number of LDN Monitoring and Reporting Systems developed and disseminated*

Output Target 4.1.1*: At least 1 National LDN Monitoring and Reporting System developed and operational by the end of the project.*

Under Output 4.1.2: (*Project based Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MEL) framework*). The project will establish a comprehensive MEL framework that is aligned with EPA monitoring and evaluation policy, and including a gender-sensitive approach to tracking and evaluating project outcomes. FAO tools to measure incentives for ecosystem services and social economic benefits such as social analysis framework will assess the extent to which project outcomes effect poverty reduction, food security and LDN environmental outcomes[1]. Other methodologies such as Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) and Social and biodiversity Impact assessment (SBIA) will evaluate the extent to which LDN actions influence local

livelihoods, biodiversity abundance, women empowerment and diversity and overall community resilience. These tools reinforce EPAs Project Management Framework MEL tools, which closely align to FAO social economic indicators for tracking benefits accrued from development projects. During the project's inception phase, the existing MEL framework will be reviewed, and necessary adjustments will be made to align it with current best practices and project-specific needs. The new framework will guide the monitoring and evaluation process, ensuring that all activities are regularly assessed for effectiveness and impact. The framework will support to measure and track LDN targets formulated for this project while ensuring activities supported through this project investment deliver environmental benefits to the most vulnerable, including women and youth. Impact metrics will be developed at multiple levels including:

---

[1] FAO tools to track Incentives for Ecosystem Services. Link

- **On-farm**- to measure and track improvement in individual and community adaptive capacities, support benchmarking and communal partnership (which may trigger additional finance)
- **Target landscape**- monitor impact at each selected landscape within each county
- **Project level**- Overall project level contribution to national LDN target from all project counties

Additionally, the project will produce regular progress reports, including Quarterly Reports, Project Progress Reports (PPR), Project Implementation Reports (PIR), and End-of-Project or Terminal Evaluation Reports, which will be shared with CI-GEF and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate transparency and accountability.

***Output Indicator 4.2.1a**: Number of project-based MEL and communication and outreach frameworks developed and implemented*

***Output Target 4.2.1a**: At least 1 Gender-Sensitive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework and communication and outreach framework developed and implemented for LDN*

***Outcome Indicator 4.2.1b**: Number of periodic M&E Reports submitted to FAO-GEF Agency developed for the project*

***Outcome Target 4.2.1b**: At least five Annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), 20 technical and financial quarterly reports; and 2 Climate Change Adaptation Core Indicator worksheets.*

***Output indicator 4.2.1c**: Number of Mid-Term Evaluation and Terminal Evaluation Reports*

***Output Target 4.2.1c**: One Mid-Term Evaluation and One Terminal Evaluation Report approved by FAO-GEF and submitted to the GEF.*

Output 4.1.3: (*Knowledge Management for Replication, Documentation and Dissemination of LDN Approaches*): Throughout the project's implementation, the approaches used to achieve LDN targets will be carefully documented and disseminated to ensure that successful strategies can be replicated in future initiatives. The project will collect and compile data on the effectiveness of different LDN approaches, providing a detailed record of best practices, challenges encountered, and lessons learned. These findings will be shared through various channels, including reports, publications, and workshops, to engage a wide audience of stakeholders. The documentation of results will not only support the scaling up of successful LDN practices but also provide valuable insights that can inform the design of future projects aimed at achieving land degradation neutrality in other contexts. A great opportunity for lesson sharing is the Guinean Forests Regional Coordination Project (RCP), working closely with the 3 child projects. Under the Guinean RCP each country will convene national

and community level meetings to determine land management issues that are priority at local and national level based on an already agreed regional Strategic Action Plan (SAP) which then informs regional engagements for experience sharing. The RCP thus provides a forum for lesson sharing of country-level interventions on sustainable land management with other countries of the MRU including documentation and dissemination of LDN approaches and experiences.

***Output Indicator 4.3.1a**: Number of LDN Knowledge Management Products developed and disseminated*

***Output Target 4.3.1a**: At least 5 policy briefs, 5 fact sheets and 5 storytelling videos integrating gender, equality and inclusion aspects prepared and disseminated by the end of the project.*

***Output Indicator 4.3.1b**: Number of LDN Knowledge sharing and/or outreach forums (trips, meetings etc) conducted nationally and regionally*

***Output Target 4.3.1b**: At least 2 national/regional trips (to counties) and 1 international annual trip (UNCCD/COP) to share and exchange LDN findings and emerging knowledge with nations undertaking LDN actions.*

Environment Protection Agency (2019). Republic of Liberia National Report- Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Program. Link

ection BI offers a summary of coordination with similar sustainable land management initiatives and projects

Silo-ed implementation results when different teams, departments, or ministries work in isolation on interventions with related outputs and ıtcomes, with limited or no collaboration, sharing of knowledge, or integration of effort resulting to fragmented workflows, duplicated efforts, ıd a lack of alignment with development strategies and goals. This scenario is frequent in Liberia, alongside many developing countries with ımerous development priorities

[4]MDAs- (National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA); Environment Protection Agency (EPA); Forestry Development Authority (FDA); Liberia Land Authority (LLA); Liberia Institute for Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS); Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP); Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection (MGCSP); Ministry of Transport (Meteorological Unit/Department) (MOT); Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA); Ministry of Mines & Energy (MME)

[5]Private sector- Liberia Timber Association (LTA); Academia & Research Institutions: University of Liberia (UL); Cuttington University (CU); World Resource Institute (Liberia)

[6]NGOs and CSOs- Conservation International (CI); Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE); Youth Climate Change Initiative (YCCI); Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL); Partners for Nature and Development (PaND); Fauna and Flora International; Partners in Development (PADEV); Youth Focus Center

[7]Development Partners: USAID; UNDP; FAO

[8]NLC- A coalition of 40 institutions from various sectors brought together to promote policies and practices related to land, environment, and responsible agricultural investment. It also prioritizes equal access to land for women, youth, and vulnerable populations

[9] Liberia National Report - Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Program; Environment Protection Agency Monrovia, Liberia March 2019.

[10] The most recent UNCCD report for Liberia (Feb 2023) notes that consensus was reached to use default estimates due to non-existence of national datasets required to establish a baseline for the reporting period. There exists a 2019 national land cover dataset which cannot be utilized for proposer estimates due to absence of datasets for the baseline year. Default datasets were used with a caveat to make improvements using national dataset for 2023 reporting in subsequent reporting periods.

1] Selection of project target landscapes is informed by LDN-TSP which identified the 5 select counties (Grand-Kru, Nimba, Lofa, Montserrado and Bong) among the highest degraded landscapes in Liberia.

2] Liberia upland rice and vegetable farming is associated with shifting cultivation, which has resulted to rapid conversion and deforestation of upland forest areas. The Government of Liberia is currently promoting rice and vegetable cultivation in degraded lowland ecologies by investing in

irrigation infrastructure. Such infrastructure will support farmers' cooperative and smallholder farmers to produce (rice and vegetable) 2-3 times a year. Lowland rice growing is aimed to reduce deforestation rates consequently reducing pressure on high value forests.

3] Ministry of Agriculture and stakeholders are in the process of formulating the second generation of the Liberia National Agriculture Development Plan (called the Agricultural Sector Investment Plan, or LASIP II).

4] Ministry of Agriculture, CARI, the Liberia Agriculture and Commodities Regulatory Authority (LACRA), National Standards Laboratory, the Liberia Agriculture Commercialization Regulatory Agency and other partners

5] National Forestry Policy and Implementation strategy,2006-2016. Link

6] GEF-funded and World Bank-led FOLUR Global Program:Link; Liberia Country Program: Link ; GEF Link spans 5 counties in Liberia: Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Bomi, Gbarpolu, and Bong

7] Boosting Biodiversity Conservation and Improving Livelihoods of Forest-Fringe/Forest-Dependent Communities and Groups in Liberia (CFPM) project. Link

[18] This includes leveraging on initiatives such as **One Million Trees Campaign** (link) and Ministry of Agriculture (Link)

[19] The Liberian Hydrological Service (LHS) a unit under the Department of Mineral and Environmental Research of the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, as the ministry in charge of development and management of water resources in the country.

[20] The bureau is currently conducting a nationwide Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Gap Analysis and Compliance Monitoring Study to acquire actionable, empirical data for reforming Liberia's TVET sector

[21] FAO has decades of experience in promoting investments to improve farmers entrepreneurship, market and marketing skills through public–private–producer and other model partnerships. Link, Link, Link , Link

[22] EPA, 2024. Monitoring and Evaluation Policy: Link

[23] EPA, 2024. Project Management Framework, Link

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

GEF Implementing Agency. FAO will provide project cycle management support and quality assurance services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to support three different actors within the organization to provide backstopping to the project (see Annex J for details):

- The Budget Holder at the Country Office, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day-to-day project execution.
- The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee.
- The Funding Liaison Officer(s) and the GEF Technical Officers (GTO) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being designed and carried out in accordance with FAO and GEF minimum fiduciary and technical standards.

FAO responsibilities, as the GEF agency, will include:

- Administer funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, and the rules and procedures of FAO;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities.
- Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and
- Report to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, on project progress and provide financial reports to the GEF Trustee.

At national level the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be the lead executing partner providing strategic leadership and oversight to the project implementation while working closely with other national Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA's).

A **Project Steering Committee** will be established comprising high-level representative ministries (Environment Protection Agency, Ministry of agriculture, Forestry Development Authority (FDA); Liberia Land Authority (LLA); National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA); Liberia Institute for Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS); Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP); Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection (MGCSP); Ministry of Transport (Meteorological Unit/Department) (MOT); Ministry of Mines & Energy (MME)) and other relevant line ministries and agencies. It will also constitute representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations (e.g Conservation International (CI); Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE); Youth Climate Change Initiative (YCCI); Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL); civil society organizations (E,g national Land Coalition – NCL); private sector (e.g Liberia Timber Association (TA), co-financing partners, project chief technical adviser (CTA), national Project Coordinator (NPC) and FAO). The Project Steering Committee will advise and make decisions in case of political, or security challenges faced in the implementation of the project and facilitate the integration of services and linkages between the project activities and the institutional frameworks. With the CTA, NPC and Project Management Unit (PMU) serving as Secretariat, the Steering Committee will:

- Provide good governance (oversight) of the project from start to finish without getting involved in its day-to-day operations;
- Ensure that the project is implemented in line with the approved project document.
- Review and approve project annual work plans and budgets;
- Review and supervise project progress and achievement of planned results as presented in six-monthly Project Progress Reports and Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs);
- Facilitate close collaboration between the project and other projects and programs to diversify funding sources;

- Facilitate sustainability, replication and scale-up of the main achievements of the project, through ongoing and new initiatives;
- Assist in effective coordination of stakeholders and timely availability of co-financing.
- Undertake roles as stipulate dunder EPA's Project Management Framework[1][50]

The Steering Committee will meet semi-annually either physically or virtually to provide the overall project oversights as described above.

The **Project Operational Partner**: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement signed with FAO[2][51]. As OP of the project, EPA is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements. It should be noted that the identified Operational Partner(s) or OP, results to be implemented by the OP and budgets to be transferred to the OP are non-binding and may change due to FAO internal partnership and agreement procedures which have not yet been concluded at the time of submission of this funding proposal. Under the OP will be the the ***National project technical and Monitoring Committee*****,** chaired by the UNCCD National Point and comprising members of the Land Degradation Neutrality Technical Working Group (TWG) and other members desired by the OP. This committee will offer routine technical guidance and oversight to the project directly reporting to the OP.

As the operating partner, EPA will carry out the following tasks:

1. *Project planning, coordination, management*: Overseeing the day-to-day management and implementation of the project activities, in coordination with all delivery partners (service providers).
2. *Project monitoring, evaluation, and reporting*: Timely, comprehensive, and evidence-based project reporting, in line with the project M&E framework and requirements.
3. *Risk management*: Monitoring risks, including environmental and social risks, identified during project preparation, identifying new risks and undertaking appropriate mitigation actions.
4. *Financial Management*: Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets and submission of financial statements to FAO.

Project Management Unit. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be hosted at the Operational partner and consisting of full-time or part time staff including;

- ***Consultant Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) (SLM-LDN Specialist)*** will provide substantial technical inputs to the PMU implementation, capitalization of project results, oversee co-funding, coordinate

activities with other technical and financial partners and build synergies with other national and international projects and initiatives to maximize the impact of the project.

- ***National Project Coordinator (NPC)*** is responsible for the day-to-day planning and coordination of project activities with all national institutions, service providers and partners involved in the execution of the various project components. The NPC will also be responsible for identifying opportunities for partnership with new initiatives.

- ***Consultant market development Specialist responsible*** for overseeing the implementation of the Market assessment and development and SLM-LDN livelihood granting systems. The market specialist will train the project team and executing partners on MA&D requirements and contribute to the implementation of the knowledge management plan working with a communication expert

- ***Consultant fisheries Specialist responsible*** for overseeing the implementation of the rice-fish development systems. The fisheries specialist will train the project team and executing partners on rice-fish systems and contribute to the implementation of the knowledge management plan working with a communication expert

- ***National Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) officer*** responsible for overseeing the implementation of the M&E plan, including setting up the project M&E system. The M&E officer will train the project team and executing partners on M&E requirements and contribute to the implementation of the knowledge management plan working with a communication expert.

- ***National environmental, social Gender specialist*** responsible for overseeing the implementation of gender action plan including setting gender related actions. The specialist will train the project team and executing partners on gender requirements and contribute to the implementation of the knowledge management plan working with a communication expert.

- ***National SLM-LDN specialist*** responsible for overseeing the implementation of all LSM-LDN component activities under component 1 and 2. The SLM-LDN specialist will train the project team and executing partners on SLM-LDN action and requirements and contribute to the implementation of the knowledge management plan working with a communication expert

- ***National markets and Nature-Based Livelihoods specialist*** responsible for overseeing the implementation of market and marketing activities under component 3. The markets specialist will train the project team and executing partners on market assessment and development action and requirements and contribute to the implementation of the knowledge management plan working with a communication expert

- ***National communications, knowledge management and Partnerships Specialist*** responsible for overseeing the implementation of partnerships and outreach activities under components 1 and 4. The specialist will train the project team and executing partners on partnerships/network and outreach activities and requirements and contribute to the implementation of the knowledge management plan working with a communication expert

- ***Administrative and finance officer*** will be responsible for carrying out administrative and fiscal management duties associated with project operations. This includes activities related to managing the budget and the project's procurement plans and preparation of financial statements.

-

Short-term consultants, either hired locally or internationally, will be recruited to technically support project implementation activities that require specialized expertise. This includes;

Summary:

National consultants[3][52]

- National Project Coordinator (NPC)
- National Monitoring and Evaluation specialist
- National environmental, social and gender specialist
- National SLM-LDN Specialist
- National Agricultural Specialist
- National markets and Nature-Based Livelihoods specialist
- National Partnerships, outreach and communication Specialist

External consultants[4][53]

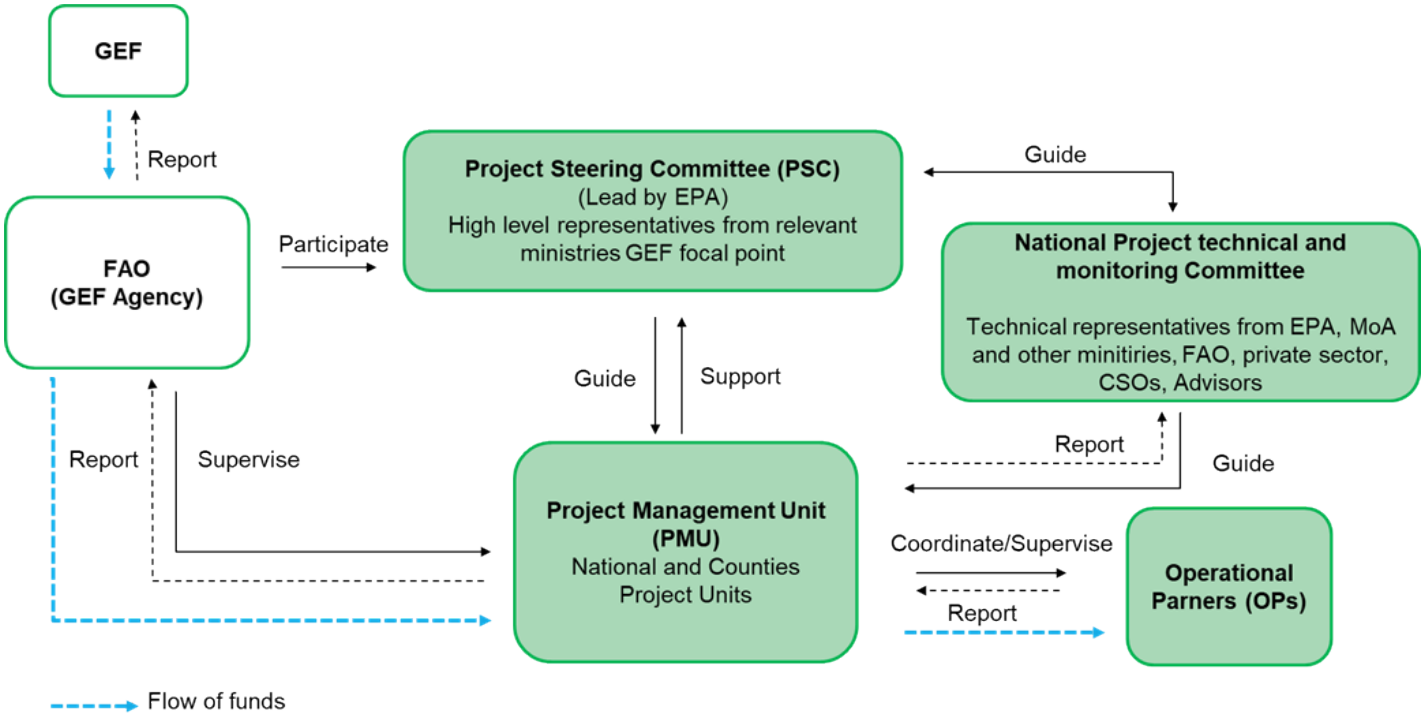
- Consultant Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) (SLM-LDN Specialist)
- Consultant market development Specialist
- Consultant Fisheries Specialist

NB: Terms of reference detailing the roles and responsibilities of the above staff are provided in **Annex L.**

Project funding flow will be as follows:

1. EPA, as the operational partner, will develop and submit annual plans (broken down to quarterly plans) for approval by FAO
2. FAO will review request and make fund transfers to EPA through agreed account channel stated in OPIM package
3. Executing contractor/Supplier/Consultant submits request for payment to operational partner. EPA will prepare financial documents monthly cleared by government internal processes.

The project organization and implementation structure will be as follows;



[1] *EPA* project management framework *regulations compliments OP requirements by FAO and remain non-binding*

[2] *It should be noted that the identified Operational Partner(s) may change due to FAO internal due diligence and agreement procedures if not yet been concluded at the time of submission of the Ceo Endorsement Request*

[3] Existing personal within EPA will be considered for qualified national Consultant positions as stipulated under FAO-competitive recruitment rules.

[4] It is expected the International Forestry and Climate Change Consultant will have thorough knowledge of UNCCD mechanisms to offer guidance the LDN Monitoring, reporting and tracking process to be established under this project

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Within the ProDoc development process the following projects selected for collaboration and coordination through co-financing partnerships and technical leverage they offer the project. They include projects with interlinking activities within the 5-select counties of the proposed GEF LDN investments but operating beyond this project's scope of selected districts and localities. Additionally, other projects and initiatives, either

addressing having common thematic areas and/or activities in project periphery counties and districts offer opportunities for cross-fertilization with the GEF-LDN project.

Baseline project	Linkages with Proposed GEFF LDN Investment In Liberia
Building Community Resilience to Climate Impacts and Livelihood Support through Climate Smart Small-Scale Farming (VOSIEDA Project) (*Swedish Embassy; Total Budget US$ 1,812,973; 2022-2026*). The project seeks to build community resilience to climate impacts through climate-smart small-scale farming with the goal to empower smallholder agriculture and food systems adapt to climate change. The project integrates Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices with Nature-based agroecological solutions which combine traditional knowledge with modern techniques to address deforestation challenges. Capacity development on CSA practices such as soil fertility conservation (e.g composting), avoiding burning of bushes, protecting water sources, and forest conservation are key features of this project. Ultimately, these practices and approaches will reduce agriculture-based greenhouse gas emissions, and promote adaptation to climate-resilient farming practices	Under *component 2* of the proposed LDN project climate-resilient farming and landscape rehabilitation practices will be conducted to enhance smallholder productivity. Moreover *component 3* will focus on agricultural value chain expansion, both components which align with VOSIEDA project and contribute to meet the LDN targets. Moreover, the LDN project will seeks synergies will the Liberia Agriculture Commercialization Fund (LACF) for enhanced rice-vegetable production systems in lowlands areas, promoting scale-out of nature-based climate solutions, on restoring degraded landscapes and coastal ecosystems. With the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Agriculture and 60 Farmers organizations engaged in VOSIEDA project, the LDN project will seek partnerships for knowledge cross- fertilization, joint information exchange, outreach events (field visits) and similar project activities (*Component 4*) . Ultimately, both projects will share and align accounting methodologies for reduced Greenhouse gas emissions, as key milestone targets.
Building Climate Resilience Project (BCRP) - Building Climate Resilience in Liberia's Cocoa and Rice Sectors. (*Adaptation Fund through the International Fund for Agricultural Development: USD 9,592,082: 2019-2025*). The project seeks to promote agri-enterprises for income generation and poverty reduction in rural areas. It has a focus to address climate vulnerability in agriculture and water resources management in the rice and cocoa value chain, thus improve resilience of poor vulnerable smallholder farmers in Liberia	The proposed investment will build on the existing climate-proofed agricultural production and post-harvest activities in rice vegetable value chains currently under adoption in Bong County under *Component 2*. The LDN investment will further refine, intensity and out scale land restoration actions promoted under BCRP project to other degraded and neglected areas while exploring the potential for co-location, sharing of technical expertise, knowledge cross fertilization and adaptive learning. Further collaboration is envisaged in SLM - LDN related investment activities (*Component 3*), particularly skills and capacity development in SLM related agri-enterprise (*component 3-output 3.1*) and strengthening private sector investments in rural agriculture value chains (*component 3-output 3.2)*
Strengthening Agricultural Resilience through Transformational Livelihood Adaptation in Liberia (SARTLA) (*GEF-LDCF grant $8,932,420 + co-finance; Total budget of $US112,870,526; 2025 – 2030*). This multi-country project under UNDP and GoV-Liberia seeks to enhance climate resilience in rural communities through nature-based solutions and sustainable livelihood interventions. As one of the seven beneficiary countries, Liberia's project activities focus to bring 3,640 Ha of land and coastal Zones under climate resilient management practices.	The GEF LDN project investment will run parallel to this project in promoting systemic, integrated adaptation approach to build the resilience of communities and food production systems in the country. SARTLA focus on nature-based solutions directly links to proposed LDN natural rejuvenation practices (e.g regenerative forestry) aimed to address climate vulnerabilities of rural livelihoods. The two projects will actively collaborate through knowledge sharing, testing and evaluation of sustainable SLM actions under component 2 (*integrating SLM practices in rice-based systems + degraded landscapes*) while promoting small agri-business development models under component 3 (*agri-food investment models to achieve LDN*)
Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilience Project (MMCRP) (*Total US$25,638,905.00 (GCF-$17,255,755.00, UND - $1,577,750.00, GoL - $540,000), 2021-2027*). The EPA is the executing entity, with UNDP as the accredited entity. Project aims to build long-term climate resilience by addressing immediate adaptation needs and creating an	Proposed LDN project aligns to this project through its target's county of Grand Kru, where coastal interventions related to climate resilient livelihoods and landscape management align with the project *Component 2 and 3* activities. This includes promoting gender- and climate-sensitive livelihoods through sustainable land use actions and livelihood diversification strategies to promote LDN actions such as non-timber forest

enabling environment for scaling up coastal adaptation efforts across Monrovia and Liberia. It focuses on intervention areas of coastal protection, coastal management, and diversified climate-resilient livelihoods	products diversification, eco-tourism activities and strengthening economic activities of small-scale producer organizations
Sinoe Coastal Defence Project *(Total Budget $8.9 million GEF LDCF, + $11.47 million USAID, WB and CI), 2022 – 2027).* The project's primary goal is to undertake sea and river defense and risk management (SRDRM) approaches, protect and rehabilitate 20,000 hectares of degraded coastal habitats, and enhance income streams through livelihood diversification for up to 80,000 beneficiaries in Sinoe County. -	Proposed LDN project undertakes risk management approaches through establishment and provision of hydrological advisories for lowland rice and vegetable production (component 2) while strengthening livelihood diversification for about 100,000 beneficiaries across components 1, 2 and 3. Moreover, ecosystem rehabilitation strategies under the coastal defense project mirror the landscape rehabilitation action proposed under component 2 of the LDN project including reforestation, agroforestry and other LSM strategies for landscape improvements
Enhancing Climate Information Systems for Resilient Development in Liberia (Liberia CIS) (*GCF Grant + AfDB's ClimDev Africa Special grant: Total Budget of USD 10,000,000; 2020-2027*). EPA, as the executing entity for Gov-Liberia, seeks to strengthen Liberia's climate-related observing and monitoring capabilities, early warning and early action systems, and other environmental-related information systems. Delivery of climate information systems to reduce exposure of Liberia's communities, infrastructure and livelihoods will strengthen environmental resilience and promote evidence-based climate-informed decision-making, planning, and response	Establishment of feasible rice-vegetable cultivation in lowland landscapes proposed under this LDN investment is prone to several threats such as flooding, excessive rainfall and secondary dangers such as pest and disease invasions. Through collaboration with Liberia CIS project, especially Liberia Hydrological Service (LHS), user-focused flooding and other CIS advisories will be designed and disseminated to smallholder farmers, agricultural value chains traders, marketers and policy makers at the county level to support informed decision-making, planning and response to potential disaster risks (*Component 2-output 2.4*). Furthermore, provision of early-warning early-action information to smallholders and project stakeholders will build resilience through informed planning and execution of proposed SLM-LDN interventions across all LDN project components
Conservation and Sustainable use of Liberia's Coastal Natural Capital *(GEF US$3,944, 220; + Other Financing; Total budget US$ 15,258,468; 2020-2024).* The project is focused on integrated coastal management with emphasis on marine and coastal areas protection by providing local communities with incentives (e.g small business grants) to protect and sustainably manage natural resources. With Conservation International (CI) as an executing entity in partnership with GoV-Liberia (thro' Environmental Protection Agency- EPA), the project is part of larger efforts by Conservation International to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems in Liberia, including work on land-use planning and the restoration of degraded lands.	Sustainable land management interventions developed and tested under GEF-6 Natural capital project will be reviewed and refined for adoption under the proposed LDN investments in in coastal counties (*e.g Grand Kru County*). These include land-use planning and restoration activities in coastal areas (*Component 2-output 2.2*), community conservation agreements (*Component 2-output 2.1*), private sector investment mechanisms (*Component 3-output 3.2*), aligning forest satellite accounting to integrated landscape management and land-use planning (*Component 1-output 1.2*); gender mainstreaming in landscape restoration (*Cross-cutting*). This LDN project will acquire valuable lessons on project management aspects such as community engagement in Environmental and Social safeguard risks (*e.g capacity building, on grievance mechanisms and Free Prior and Informed Consent, and inclusivity within the communities and organizations undertaking landscape restoration activities*) under Component 4 (*Project MEL activities*)
Strengthening conservation and effective governance of Liberi's critical forests in the Northwest Liberia Landscape (*GEF USD 3,103,823, Total Budget USD 15,094,863; 2024 - 2029*). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and The Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) are executing partners the Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program. FOLUR is focused on strengthening land use planning to identify and zone essential areas for forest protection (e.g *Foya and Kpo Mountains Protected Area and the*	Despite the target sites of the GEF-funded and World Bank-led FOLUR program being far from the proposed GEF LDN project, the latter has several nodes of knowledge cross-fertilization and collaboration across its various components. Under *component 1*, the LDN project will develop Gender-responsive and inclusive landscape management framework in addition to Gender-responsive and inclusive capacity-building workshops (*both activities intersect with component 1 & 2 of the FOLAR project*). Proposed SLM-LDN investment models (*Component 3*) will gain valuable insights and knowledge from conservation-friendly livelihoods and enterprise investment

Wonegizi Nature Reserve) and sustainable agricultural production. It has a firm focus on sustainable ecosystem services through enhanced co-management of protected areas and joint transboundary watershed management.	models under component 2 of the FOLAR project. Moreover, gender-responsive participatory landscape management plans proposed under the LDN (*Component 2*) will likely align and gain valuable insights from gender-responsive land use plans proposed under component 2 of FOLAR project.
Community-Based Forestry and Protected Area Management (CFPM) (*Funded by the Embassy of Sweden, FAO and UNDP; Total Budget US$7,000,000; 2022-2026*). Implemented through UNDP and FAO in partnership with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), this project seeks pro-active co-management of forests and protected areas through a multistakeholder approach (local communities and institutions, government agencies, and international organizations) involving strengthening governance of community managed forests, seeking alternative livelihood strategies for forest-dependent community producer organizations, designing and adopting resilient, low-emission land management approaches and promoting non-timber forest product value chains by providing business development support for small-holder producers and their cooperatives.	Multiple learning and knowledge sharing nodes are apparent in activities of these two projects. The proposed LDN project focus on sustainable land management practices (*Component 2*) aligns with low-emission land management approaches and community forest governance under the CFPM. Critically CFPM focus on social equity by supporting women-led initiatives and enhancing women's participation in decision-making and land-use activities is crucial aspects deeply embed in proposed LDN project's activities under *Components 2 &3.* As an ecosystem restoration not only confined to forested landscapes, the LDN project will gain valuable insights and opportunities to learn and adopt Community-led transparency and accountability mechanisms in resource use and management promoted under CFPM and especially fusion of ancestral, traditional and scientific knowledge, and community-based planning and practices for the orderly use of resources (under LDN project *component 2*)
Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS) (*Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), AfDB and Gov-Liberia: Total budget of USD 9,008,000: 2020-2026*). Implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture in Liberia and aligned to Liberian Agriculture Sector Investment Plan, this project aims to develop and support competitive value chains (with focus on food crops e.g rice, cassava, and vegetables) and market linkages. strengthen agricultural extension, research and sustained productivity and promote adoption of agricultural practices that maintain the ecological and biological integrity of natural resources while improving governance and institutional capacity of government institutions, farmers and producer organizations to enhance agri-value chains	The proposed GEF LDN project aligns with several activities the MoA project. Capacity development and training on climate smart agriculture, small enterprise development and promotion of rural private sector led business constitute common activities for collaboration and partnership in both projects (*LDN project components 2 and 3*). Moreover, the GEF LDN project will gain valuable knowledge and insights from alternative livelihood strategies (*Component 3*) promoted by the MoA-led project, while similarly benefiting from gained experience in establishment of community-managed forests (using FDA's 9 steps criteria) and community led monitoring by forest fringe-communities of rehabilitated forest landscape (*Component 2*). Component 2 of this project will be executed by the Ministry of Agriculture and therefore knowledge cross-pollination is expected through activities by both projects.
Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP)-(*IDA/World Bank/2021-2026: Total Budget USD 59 million, 2021 - 2029*). RETRAP project is currently being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, which is aiming to improve productivity and market access for small holder farmers and agri-enterprises for selected value chains.	By empowering farmer access to climate-smart agricultural assets and services, especially vulnerable smallholder female farmers, RETRAP project offers an opportunity to assess, evaluate and adopt feasible bet-best models for beneficiaries of proposed LDN project (Component 2). Moreover, by reviewing changes in marketed volumes of locally produced agricultural communities supported by the RETRAP project, the proposed LDN project benefits from identifying the underlying causes of market shift and seek corrective countermeasures under component 3. With the MoA as an executing entity under the proposed LDN project, knowledge cross-fertilization is expected between both projects.

Guinean Forests (GEF-8 Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes) Integrated Program (GFIP) (*GEF Grant, Total Budget of 10,112,013 + Co-financing; 6-year project at ProDoc Development stage*). The multi-country (Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo) Integrated Programme to be executed under FAO, CI and IUCN seeks to arrest, manage and reverse forest loss and degradation in these critical biomes. The IP has multiple components and outputs such enhanced enabling environment for sustainable forest management through supportive government policy and sustainability financing solutions; alternatives to unsustainable land and resource use through land use planning and support for sustainable livelihoods and nature-friendly enterprises; and enhancing forest governance through multi-stakeholders dialogues for protected areas co-management and landscape-level coordination for improved planning and decision making.	The proposed LDN project and GFIP share opportunities for enhanced collaboration and coordination at national and regional levels between Liberia and Sierra Leone, with both projects promoting sustainable land management of selected transboundary watersheds (*component 2*). Through the Liberia child project (*Strengthening Conservation and effective governance of Liberia's critical forests in the Northwest Landscape- Discussed above*), proposed LDN project will seek membership to the Regional Coordination Platform to enhance knowledge sharing and management (*Component 4*), especially with the SierraLeone Child project (Strengthening Conservation and effective governance of Sierra Leone's critical forests in the Gola Forest Landscape). The RCP provides a forum for lesson sharing of country-level interventions on sustainable land management with other countries of the MRU including documentation and dissemination of LDN approaches and experiences.
Leh Go Green' initiative (*EU-Funded: USD 4.9 million USD: 2024-2027).* The project is implemented by implemented by UNDP partnership with FDA. The project focuses on forest users and forest fringe communities in Liberia's northwest and southeastern landscapes, with the primary goal to enhance forest-based revenue, improve livelihoods for forest communities, promote sustainable forest management, and contribute to climate change mitigation. Target counties include Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, and River Gee	The Leh go Green initiative focus on forest users and forest fringe communities in Liberia's northwest and southeastern landscapes aligns with proposed LDn project through their core goals to improve livelihoods for forest communities (Component 3) , promote sustainable forest management (Component 2) and contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Moreover, the initiative target areas (Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, and River Gee) intersect with the proposed LDN target areas in Lofa county where actions to strengthen sustainable use of natural resources, create jobs, and foster economic growth will be conducted

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
25000	25000	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland	25,000.00	25,000.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100000	100000	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100,000.00	100,000.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)

Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	1080200	1080200	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	1,080,200	1,080,200		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2026	2026		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	36,120	36,120		
Male	24,205	24,205		
Total	**60,325**	**60,325**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Core indicator 3: Area of Land restored (Ha)

Core indicator 3.1: Area of degraded agricultural lands restored

o SO-1: Trends in land cover: Increased in forestlands and areas under natural vegetation

The total size of degraded land in Lofa, Nimba, Grand Kru, Montserrado and Bong is estimated at 278,551 hectares. The project plans to reverse degradation on at least about 10% of this, focusing on 5000 ha of degraded production land per county, therefore contributing to the restoration of 25,000 Ha of rice and vegetables degraded land in low and upland areas by implementing regenerative agricultural production practices in selected sites. (NB: This aligns to the strategic objective (SO-4) of the Liberia UNCCD reporting i.e Proportion of degraded land: Rehabilitation of degraded agricultural landscape)

Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)

Core indicator 4.3: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Through integrated sustainable land management plans and sustainable agriculture practices (e.g. crop rotation, reforestation, intercropping, mulching, manure management and other land regenerative approaches) in Lofa, Nimba, Montserrado, Bong and Grand Kru the project will bring 100,000 ha under sustainable land management, therefore avoiding and reducing degradation (LDN hierarchy). This aligns to the strategic objective (SO-2) of the Country UNCCD reporting (i.e Trends in Land Productivity: Lowlands agricultural croplands placed under improved practices) .

Core indicator 6: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)

Core Indicator 6.1: Greenhouse emission mitigated in the AFOLU sector (Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use):

Sustainable land management activities will lead to improved agroforestry and thus improve carbon sequestration and will contribute to an estimated GHG emissions of 1,080,200 metric tons of CO2e.

This is an estimate from the EX-ACT tool (based on indicators 3 and 4, with estimation of land under the different land uses in the target landscapes), for a 20-year period considering the range of agroforestry, improved land management and cropland management practices under Components 2. (NB: This aligns to SO-3 i.e Trends in above and below carbon stocks: Resulting from increased land cover, rehabilitation of degraded land and increased landscape productivity)

Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

The total target number of direct beneficiaries is approximately 60,685 people (60% women) and about 250,000 indirect beneficiaries. The table below indicates the direct beneficiaries from the proposed project.

Component Output Male Female Total Comments

Component 1: Enabling environment for the achievement of Liberia's Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets Output 1.1: Re-activating and revitalizing LDN multi-stakeholder workgroup. - - - 125 participants in 3 coordination mechanisms including the revival of the LDN working group

Output 1.3: Updating Liberia's LDN targets: - - - 450 participants and stakeholders will be engaged in development of updated LDN TSP leverage plan.

Output 1.4:

Strengthening skills and capacities for SLM in mandated agencies for SLM of degraded landscapes. 140 60 200 At least 200 trainees of which 35% women: 100 people from state agencies and 100 from non-state agencies (Agriculture, water and land management, forestry management, gender and culture personnel) will benefit from knowledge and skills transfer, innovations and demonstrations.

Component 2: Integrating SLM and Gender-Sensitive Approaches to Achieve Land Degradation Neutrality Output 2.3: Rehabilitation of uplands forest degraded landscapes through SLM practices. 12,000 18,000 30,000 At least 5 gender-sensitive community SLM-LDN actions initiatives implemented per county reaching out to at least 30,000 people within

the counties, of which 60% are women including awareness/education campaigns. There are more women involved in subsistence farming in rural Liberia

Output 2.2: Demonstration of SLM practices and gender-sensitive approaches in degraded lowlands 12,000 18,000 30,000

Output 2.1: Development of gender-responsive participatory integrated land management plans for the target landscapes - - - Hydrological advisories will be shared to all 60, 000 direct beneficiaries under component 2 - therefore not indicated because of double-dipping. However, its is expected that at-least 50,000 farmers will benefit indirectly through hydrological messages in audio and local media stations and within the process of development of Community Management and Development Plans

Output 2.4: Institutional strengthening and end-user access to tailored hydro-meteorological services and products

Component 3: Integrating SLM and Gender-Sensitive Approaches to Achieve Land Degradation Neutrality Output 3.1: Training of trainers on market analysis and development (MA&D). 150 250 400 Women will be encouraged to undertake the MA&D course to support rural value chains that are largely managed by women.

Output 3.2: Development of small business grants to support rural SLM enterprises and value chains 25 25 60 Gender will be a key consideration for SLM-LDN entrepreneurship grants- through an transparent and open process (at least 70% being women and Youth entrepreneurs)

Output 3.3: TVETS partnerships for youth entrepreneurship, awareness and outreach on SLM - LDN actions 15 10 25 Women constitute a smaller number of college tutors compared to men. However, efforts will be made to ensure at least 45% of trainers are women

Total 24,330 36,345 60,675

Considering the percentage population in the target landscapes, the intervention addressing challenges of land degradation will benefit an estimated half the population of Liberia. The project will directly work with about 20% of the farming population therefore approximatively 60,000 people in the target counties mainly smallholder farmers. In addition, about 125 government staff (DRDRE and LIFAAS agents, EAS, research institutions) and non-government workers including from private sector, academia, and those involved in monitoring and information systems will directly benefit through capacity building, training and in direct implementation of project activities. The project will deliberately target all gender and marginalized demographics at least 60% of the beneficiaries being women and youth and ethnic minorities. It is not possible to reach all smallholder engaged in agricultural and SLM activities as a direct result of project activities. Smallholders living within project targets sites but engaged in both SLM-LDN activities and other economic activities (e.g palm-oil, cocoa and agro-forestry, production) will be targeted with knowledge outreach programme focussing on sustainable management of their agricultural landscapes through developed land use plans.

The project will also contribute to the domesticated SDG targets, particularly the Government of Liberia commits to implementing an SDG Stimulus Plan leading up to 2027 by organizing priority interventions around 5 SDG Transformations and also committed to the achievement of 17 SDGs with 169 targets, including the eradication of extreme poverty (SDG 1), ending hunger (zero hunger) (SDG 2), and equality in gender (SDG 5) . The country's national development plans (NDPs) have been aligned with the SDGs and the country reports on progress against each of the SDGs .

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Substantial	Future climate projections from climate risk assessments conducted within Pro Doc development reveal localized and variable precipitation and temperature patterns across the 5 select counties. Average mean temperatures are projected to increase across all regions, with a higher incidence of extreme rainfall events and, and frequent droughts. In upland rice landscapes, where land degradation is already severe, increased rainfall variability may lead to greater soil erosion and land degradation. Increased risk of flooding in lowland areas due to extreme rainfall events will compromise rice-vegetable production and water management systems (e.g across the main rivers such as Cavalla River, St John River, and St Paul River Basin). Surface-runoff (carrying sediment, nutrients, trash, animal waste) into water supplies will affect water resources and agricultural productivity. Component 2 of proposed LDN project will assess crops vulnerability and suitability for different Agroecological zones, promote climate-resilient crops, promote drought – resistant, flood-tolerant, and pest and disease-resilient varieties and design and adopt hydrological technology models for rice vegetable systems. It will further design and establish an integrated pest and pathogen management approach comprising practices such as Integrated Soil fertility management (SFM), water harvesting, conservation techniques, intercropping, and crop diversification. Further actions will include adoption of robust infrastructure and aquaculture. Weather and meteorological advisories will be employed at all stages of the project. Use of indigenous knowledge early warning, early action systems will further increase resilience of established practices
Environmental and Social	Moderate	A significant environmental risk within project sites is mining for sand and mineral (e.g gold, copper etc) extraction. Degraded landscapes after abandonment of the mines pose a risk from chemical and water contamination, uncovered wells and loss of livelihoods by communities left behind. The later often results to social conflicts and negative social attributes (e.g theft, school dropouts, prostitution, broken-up families etc), posing a threat to the sustainability of the project and resulting outcomes. To mitigate these risks component 2 of this project will target rehabilitation of discarded mining areas in Bong, Lofa, Montserrado and grand Kru for agricultural production through training and skills development and landscape management demonstration events. Agricultural activities will use safe and recommended organic and inorganic inputs in combination with Nature based approaches. Vulnerable women, youth and ethnic minorities will be targeted through skills development, encouraged to establish producers' groups and incentivized through small grants investments packages. To mitigate risks Between project stakeholders in competition of project benefits, the project will undertake rigorous inclusive and participatory beneficiary selection across all communities. Moreover, beneficiaries will be involved in MEL activities under component 4. An established grievance and redress

		mechanism will ensure issues arising from beneficiary communities and institutions are resolved timely. Outreach events and campaigns under component 4 will promote awareness raising and cultivate/encourage behavior change.
Political and Governance	Moderate	As a national commitment to member states of the UNCCD, the Government of Liberia bears the overall responsibility for development and tracking of the LDN targets. Therefore, implementation of proposed SLM – LDN interventions majorly rely of national and sub-national (counties) government commitment and support. Changes in leadership, staff transfers, competing work demands, corruption and fraud, difficulties in obtaining political commitments may disrupt project implementation and continuity. corruption risk assessments will be conducted to avert fraudulent and corruption practices by engaging civil society stakeholders in planning and monitoring. Strengthening institutions and focal points will support to retain institutional memory in case of staff mobility. The capacity to deliver the project will be built at multi-levels (national, county and grassroot) to decentralize and devolve SLM-LDN actions. Executing partners with grassroot presence will take lead role in project implementation. All project decision making organs (PSC, technical committees and Project management unit) will be inclusive to ensure relevant stakeholders have a voice and are engaged. Civil society organizations will intentionally and deliberately positioned within the various project governance structures (PSC/PICs) to ensure accountability and transparency in project activities and finances, while amplifying knowledge gained and lessons learnt from the project at grassroot, national and global levels.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	Policy misalignment and inconsistencies between project goals and existing policies and regulations remains a low risk. A slow rate to establish necessary reforms to scale up SLM-LDN actions and facilitate private sector partnerships and investments in SLM - LDN actions may challenge project outcomes and investments. The necessary policy framework favors mainstreaming SLM-LDN actions in national resource and biodiversity conservation efforts. Institutional mitigation measures include strengthening institutional memory through documentation and knowledge management and MRV practices inbuilt into the project design. Inclusive and proactive stakeholder consultations and engagement, especially through LDN Task force and other platforms will ensure emerging policy and institutional issues are resolved timely.
Technological	Low	Risks posed may include non-adoption of SLM-LDN technologies and maladaptation which hinders effective project implementation. Mitigation measures include capacity building, rigorous testing of SLM technologies and outreach programs to popularize and promote adoption.
Financial and Business Model	Low	Liberia economy after Covid-19 has enjoyed relative macro-economic stability and resilience through increased investments (through such

		initiatives as Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development and the Growth Accelerator Program were launched to support economic resurgence and long-term development). The project is generally anchored under a safe and low-risk policy environment. Other risks such as inflation and exchange rate pressures may affect project costs, budgeting, procurement, and overall project implementation. Mitigation includes regular monitoring and inflation, and exchange rates reviews for financial planning and adjustments and including contingency budgeting.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	Capacity for implementation: FAO will serve as the GEF implementing agency, and recipient of project funds. Through the Operational Partner Implementation Modality (OPIM) after capacity assessments of selected Operational partners (OPs), Environment Protection Agency (EPA) as been selected as the Lead executing partner. Other executing partners include MoA, FDA, LLA and AITB). EPA's current project portfolio is over $100M in partnership with a wide range of entities such as UNDP, AfDB, UNICEF and the World Bank. EPA has established efficient and reliable processes, mechanisms and procedures to manage national projects. To mitigate any unforeseen implementation risks, the project has inbuilt capacity building and training activities and regular project steering committees' meetings. Mentoring will also be undertaken through regular interaction by FAO with executing entities to address any potential lack of capacity in project management. Moreover, FAO will provide continued technical assistance to enhance executing partners ability to manage and implement project activities effectively and ensure monitoring of funds through quality assurance activities like spot checks and audits. Field visits and evaluation of progress in achieving agreed results will be undertaken. Regular communication and coordination will ensure smooth project implementation.
Fiduciary	Low	Under FAO OPIM modalities, due diligence and fiduciary risk assessment is conducted to establish the financial and procurement management capacity of executing institutions and certified for compliance. Unforeseen risks may, however, arise from lack of transparency and accountability in financial and procurement management. To mitigate against this risk, FAO retains overall responsibility for financial prudence of project implementation. Monthly quarterly and annual financial reports are mandated by executing agencies. FAO continued technical assistance will strengthen the ability to manage fund effectively and ensure monitoring of funds through quality assurance activities like spot checks, audits and Mid and terminal evaluations
Stakeholder	Moderate	Despite concerted efforts for inclusive and participatory stakeholder process in the PPG design phase, some stakeholders may not be aware of the project or its potential impact. Moreover, land tenure issues arising from lowland yet to be developed may lead to possible conflict of interests with mining activities, urban expansion, or cattle grazing) or reduced upland shifting cultivation. Multi stakeholder conflict resolution mechanisms will be instituted to resolve such arising issues. Moreover, language barriers may

		hinder effective communication or a lack of clear and consistent messaging resulting to (mis) understanding of the project's purpose, goals, or benefits and decreased participation. A stakeholder engagement plan has been developed to guide inclusivity and participation, especially of vulnerable groups such as women, youth and ethnic monitories at all levels during project implementation and ensure their interests and expectations to supported and achieved.
Other	Low	This project seeks to implement SLM activities and action that may interfere with community and household interests and priorities in land resource allocation and capital allocation. These may result to community conflicts and wrangles which interfere with project implementation and longer-term sustainability of desired project outcomes. As a mitigation measure, the project will strengthen the process for development of participatory community land use planning and management (Output 1.1.2), a guideline which has already been developed by Liberia Land Authority. In this project context, an inclusive and participatory stakeholder process that includes community leaders, local governance structures, Liberia land Authority experts country superintendent's and their coordinators and sector specialist from GOL ministries will be established to cultivate consensus and agreements on emerging land tenure and ownership issues (especially in uplands forest fringe communities and lowlands newly migrating communities to lowland catchment areas). Within this process, established workgroups will further identify potential conflict areas and design conflict resolution mechanisms as part of the community Managed integrated land management plans.
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The project is rated medium risk, reflecting moderate and manageable risks to implementation and outcomes. These risks have been clearly identified and will be addressed through targeted mitigation measures, including strengthened coordination mechanisms, continuous technical backstopping, and adaptive management throughout implementation. The project's strong alignment with national priorities on sustainable land management, ecosystem restoration, and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), together with solid government ownership, further mitigates overall risk. With these measures in place, the project remains well positioned to achieve its intended environmental and socio-economic outcomes.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Alignment with GEF-8 programming strategies

The proposed LDN project represents the implementation phase of the Land Degradation Neutrality -Target setting process (LDNTSP) in Liberia. The proposed LDN project investments primary focus on Land Degradation Focal Area objective (LDFA-4), with secondary alignments to LDFA-1 and LDFA 2. More specifically, component 1 contributes directly to Land Degradation Focal Area objective (LDFA-4) by enhancing national institutional capacities and coordination for land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets. Through improved governance, inter-agency mechanisms, and policy frameworks design, the project creates an enabling environment for scaling up and mainstreaming SLM as a national priority. Outputs such as revival of the National LDN workgroup, establishment of the national LDM monitoring systems, and revival of LDN sector workgroups strengthen Liberia's capacity to achieve LDN targets and enhance co-benefits for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. Component 2 directly contributes to LDFA-1 and LDFA-2 through design and implementation of sustainable landscape management and landscape restoration actions that mitigate against continued land degradation while restoring their ecosystem productivity.

The participatory land management plans and gender-sensitive approaches ensure that the needs of marginalized groups are addressed, contributing to inclusive conservation of biodiversity. Outputs under this component, such as the development of integrated land management plans and the implementation of SLM practices constitute core land restoration actions. The incentive mechanisms developed under component 3 reinforce adoption of productive SLM-LDN practices for rice-vegetable production system and promote multi co-benefits arising from agro-ecosystem services and livelihood of rural communities and smallholder farmers implicit in LDFA-2. By embedding gender-sensitive frameworks, proposed LDN interventions promote inclusive, equitable approaches to land management, ensuring benefits of restored landscapes are shared among all stakeholders.

The proposed LDN project further contributes to several Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets. This include A) Reducing threat to biodiversity (targets- 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8) , B) Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing (Targets- 9, 10, 10, 11, 13) and C) Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming (Targets 14, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23).

Alignment with the country's development and environmental priorities

The LDN TSP process[1][54] identified various aligned development and environmental needs and priorities outlined within country laws, policies, plans and multilateral agreements. To further cultivate sector endorsement and reinforce policy coherence to revised/updated frameworks the project takes a sector based approach to undertake the following actions;

A sector-based stakeholder engagement and consultation process workgroups to review and update the LDN targets (output 1.1.3) and development of national land-use planning and management framework (Output 1.1.2)

Development of a national LDN MEL system (Output 4.1.1) that is sector based to capture unique sectorial needs, priorities and reporting requirements

Building national and community climate resilience through sector-based actions in forestry, agriculture, Land management, gender and markets. (Output 2.1.2/2.1.3/2.1.4)

A knowledge management and outreach approach (output 4.1.3) that promotes sector-based analysis, synthesis and knowledge sharing at national and grassroot platforms.

[1] The Liberia LDN-TSP undertook a comprehensive analysis of national policies and plans related to LDN target setting programs, which are directly relevant to this project. These are mentioned briefly in this ProDoc for completeness.

National development and environment priorities and commitments	Alignment to proposed LDN project
• Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development 2018 to 2023 (PAPD) • National Agricultural Development Plan 2024-2030 • Rehabilitation and development of Integrated Low rice farming in Liberia – Road map to 2023 • National Action Program (NAP) to Combat Desertification • National Disaster Management Policy of 2012 • National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change of 2018 • Environment Protection and Management Law of Liberia • Land Rights Policy of 2013 • National Gender Policy (updated in 2018) • National Disaster Management Policy of 2012 • National Mineral Policy of Liberia • Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy (FAPS- 2008) • National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (FSNS- 2009) • Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP- 2009) • Integrated Water Resources Management Policy (IWRMP 2009) • The New Policy for Agricultural Advisory Services of 2009 • Liberia National Forestry Policy and Implementation Strategy of 2006 • National Forestry Reform Law of 2006 • National Environmental Policy of 2003 • Mineral and Mining Law of 2002	The proposed LDN project aligns these national policies, framework and plans through their forestry, landscape and biodiversity conservation aims, objectives and actions (*Component 1 and 2*). In addition, they address gender mainstreaming and minority ethnicities in decision-making within their thematic orientations, promoting a multi-stakeholder bottom-up approach to environmental protection, agricultural productivity and sustainable land management, which is a core principle under the LDN project. A significant majority of these national priorities promote inclusive and pro-poor agricultural production, competitiveness, value addition, market linkages and diversification (*Component 3*) while identifying strategies to strengthen human and Institutional Capacities (*Component 4*)
• GEF-8 National Dialogues • UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) • Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	The proposed LDN project aligns to several international Multilateral Environmental Agreements that commit to management and conservation of wetlands, protection of landscape from environmental degradation, protection forest and agricultural flora and fauna (*Component 1 and 2*). The MDA'

• CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) • UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) • The Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change • UNFCCC National Communications • UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) • UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA) • Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Accord • UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) • UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP) • Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	further align through their support for sustainable land management practices, alternative livelihood investment initiatives (*Component 3*) while improving institutional monitoring, verification and reporting processes (*Component 4*) abd integrating gender perspectives and equity across all its components

Alignment to FAO Strategic framework, SDGs and Country Programming Framework

This project targets three main FAO Programme Priority Areas (PPAs): Climate Change Mitigating and Adapted Agri-food Systems (BE.1), Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture (BE.2) and Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Production (BP.1). The project does this by aligning economic, social, and environmental livelihood improvements with sustainable land management practices. Landscape degradation will be halted, reduced and reversed to achieve restoration and enhance productivity. Restored landscapes will be placed under sustainable nature-based production practices thereby increasing resilience of agricultural systems, strengthening rural livelihoods, increasing community resilience to climate change and offering innovative incentives to local communities for job creation and innovative environmental and climate investments.

The proposed LDN project contributes to the achievement of several SDG Objectives. These include SDG 1, 2, 5, 10, 12 13 and 15. More specifically, the LDN investment aligns to **SDG-15**, particularly indicator **15.1** (ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems), indicator **15.9** (integrate ecosystem values into national and local planning), and indicator **15.a** (mobilize financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems). Progress towards **SDG 15** will be achieved through the project's interventions that focus on restoration of degraded forest and crop-lands, improving agricultural systems, generating and disseminating new knowledge on best SLM- LDN practices. In addition, the project will improve regulatory frameworks and plans at national and local level, to enhance SLM-LDN policy coherence for sustainable national development (**SDG target 17.14**)
The project will actively engage private sector stakeholders and launch dialogs with public institutions to improve the SLM-LDN knowledge and practices and identify pathways to leverage additional public and private investments towards SLM-LDN Interventions.

Finally, the project is aligned to FAO Country Strategic Framework (CPF) Priority 4 on inclusive Natural sustainable natural resources management and governance systems, including forest and farm producer's organizations provision for social and agricultural services.

Lessons learned from past projects

Since 2017, various landscape restoration and sustainable land management interventions[1] aided through bilateral, multilateral and development partners have been undertaken in Liberia. The country's Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Program (LDNTSP), a precursor for this proposed LDN investment, helped to place landscape degradation concerns at the top of the national Agenda, with recognition of lessons, knowledge and learning from previous and currently ongoing land degradation related projects. The proposed project draws on these lessons and reflects the commitments made by the Go-Liberia towards prioritizing landscape restoration through sustainable land management under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Emerging knowledge and lessons learned include;

Promoting nature-based solutions (NBS) in Liberia rural landscapes cost-effective/effective due to their low implementation, management and maintenance costs. This is possible due to the use of local materials and resources needed for their implementation and the beneficiary community's role in decision making and management. Moreover, scaling up NBS for a wider reach easily attainable through farmer-to-farmer knowledge cross-pollination, which encourages quicker replication and adoption of NBS solutions, which is a key focus under this proposed LDN project

A national stakeholder group (National Drought Initiative and Land Degradation Neutrality Technical Working Group- LDNTWG) was established in 2019 to drive Liberia's LDN target setting processes steered by the EPA. The LDNTWG established LDN targets and identified LDN priority areas and leverage opportunities, the building blocks for the proposed LDN investments. As a key focus under this project, reviving and strengthening the LDNTWG through deliberate capacity development, increased institutional membership, establishment and monitoring of LDN annual targets will increase the intensity and quality of LDN actions, while amplifying national debate and policy recommendations on land degradation.

The NDC process in Liberia has utilized a right based approach to towards addressing a broad of issues/challenges in the NDC commitments that interlink with this project. This includes management of freshwater Ecosystem (especially focus river catchment), Loss and Damage, Education (Capacity building) for Climate Action (with land degradation as a pillar), Land Rights, Child & Youth Rights, Women rights and Climate Mobility (Migration due to impacts of Climate Change). Mitigation measures towards some of the challenges are still inadequate and require an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach which is currently lacking. The proposed project is deliberate in its efforts to achieve sustainable land management (co) benefits with an aim to demonstrate the value of an inclusive and participatory landscape conservation campaign.

Stakeholder engagement and involvement in landscape conservation and management is crucial for project success (adoption and out-scale). Early engagement creates local and political but-in and enhances relevance to community needs and priorities. Moreover, local and national government ownership of the project projects a better change for durable outcomes and sustainability

Gender and social inclusion is critical in sustainable landscape management, with majority of vulnerable women, youth and ethnic minorities in rural Liberia engaged directly with utilization and management of land resources for livelihood. A bottom-up approach, aiming to empower local communities through inclusive decision-making and recognizing gender perspectives will increase equity and impact of SLM-LDN actions.

Liberia environmental commitments face various institutional challenges. This includes capacity (e.g limited staff and technical resources to lead or sustain project implementation), institutional processes (administrative hurdles can lead to delays in procurement, disbursement delays and reporting delays which affect the execution of activities. The proposed project has intentionally designed capacity development through

training, systems development and institutional strengthening as key to long-term environmental governance. This project will promote capacity development of front line extension staff within the five counties to strengthen implementation of SLM- LDN actions.

Proactive inter-institutional partnerships and multi-sectoral coordination (Including linkages to the national platform for climate changes, land management) and coordination of SLM initiatives under EU, AfDB, UNDP and other development partners with policies linked to SLM, NRM, CCA, CCM are crucial to sustain land strengthen formulation of realistic national policies and laws. Moreover, the project will support the establishment of communities of practice for community led and advocacy for LDN actions

Little progress has been made in establishing a functional LDN-MVR (which continues to challenge LDN reporting) which is vital for tracking national LDN indicators and targets, identifying the social-cultural dimensions of LDN and tracking SLM - LDN investments. This project supports the establishment of LDN National Monitoring system (LDN-NMS) integrated within the greater NDC and NAP national processes to track ecological, social and economic indicators for improved landscape management.

Efforts to develop and establish SLM- LDN incentive mechanisms require awareness raising and sensitization by smallholders and county financial and regulatory institutions. Moreover, a better understanding of market and marketing dynamics for NTFPs is needed in Liberia rural contexts to establish short, inclusive, and more sustainable SLM value chains through local private sector players such as farmer associations, dealers and other value chains actors. The market-oriented TVET training proposed under this LDN project will strengthen rural market skills for non-timber forest product value chains diversification and enhance profitability

Lack of access to updated environmental data challenges the design and monitoring of SLM-LDN actions especially in remote Northern (east and west) regions of the country. This project will engage technical specialist to update the Liberia LDN targets through a rigorous data driven updating of the current LDN targets under EPA's Monitoring and evaluations unit. Such data will support the design and improvement of future LDN targets/initiatives. Additionally, it will support data driven communication, outreach and messaging to maximize outreach within smallholder households, share transformative case studies, e.g (co)-benefits of SLM to marginalized communities living in degraded landscapes.

At national policy level, the proposed LDN project will support the finalization a national SLM policy and framework intended to mainstream SLM - LDN across major sectors such as Environment, Forestry, Land management, Gender and sustainable water management and across relevant spectrum of public plans and strategies such as *National Disaster Management Policy; National Environmental Policy; National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change; Liberia National Action Program to Combat Desertification; Land Rights Policy; Integrated Water Resources Management Policy; National Adaptation Programme of Action Liberia Agriculture Transformation Agenda; and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.* The project will build on the broad base of partnerships by EPI, FAO, UNDP, CI and other development partners through SMEs, young and women entrepreneurs, and rural communities for quantitative and qualitative improvement of value chains linked to forest and agricultural ecosystems food production and livelihood activities. The technical and business knowledge nested in the county and district-based farmer production cooperatives that have successfully established palm oil, vegetables, organic cocoa and coffee value chains will be used to inspire and boost improvements in SLM-LDN investment models contributing to landscape restoration, food security and nutrition. The project will assess and enhance co-management of community managed forest and agro-forestry systems through public-private partnerships. Gender equity mechanisms will be integrated in SLM investment models that will be designed through the public-private partnerships, also considering the specific situation of women landowners/managers. The project will ensure an equitable share of women-led enterprises in sustainable landscape management, and it will pay close

attention to those segments of the agroforestry/NTFPs value chains where women play predominant roles, such as processing, marketing and eco-tourism.

In summary, the project will prioritize implementation of SLM-LDN actions, taking advantage of the Liberia LDN-TSP leverage plan, the three indicators for LDN (e.g Land Cover/Land Use Change, Land Productivity Dynamic and Soil Organic Carbon and LDN target and measures and by scaling up the knowledge, technology and practices generated by SLM, Land degradation related interventions by development partners and target counties and communities. By strengthening the ongoing efforts by the Agricultural and Industrial Training Bureau and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to enhance manpower development in the country, the project will partner local private sector and tertiary institutions to create new learning tools and learning modules (aligned to SLM-focused market and entrepreneurial skills and capacities) at post-secondary school and graduate levels within the 5 target counties. This will promote innovation and sustainability of locally led future SLM-LDN actions.

---

[1] GEF listed project related to landscape degradation, Climate change and biodiversity include;

Promoting Sustainable land management for the achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality for Improved Equity, Sustainability, and Resilience in Rice Landscapes of Liberia

Strengthening conservation and effective governance of Liberia critical forests in the Northwest Liberia Landscape

Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains

Conservation and Sustainable use of Liberia Coastal Natural Capital

LDC/SIDS Portfolio Project: Mainstreaming and Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in Liberia

---

[1] The Liberia LDN-TSP undertook a comprehensive analysis of national policies and plans related to LDN target setting programs, which are directly relevant to this project. These are mentioned briefly in this ProDoc for completeness.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement**.**

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ; Yes

Executor or co-executor; No

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate		

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

The proposed LDN project aims to strengthen sustainable land management and land degradation neutrality actions within degraded rural landscapes of the 5 counties in Liberia comprised of forest, agri-forest and agricultural ecosystems. Restoration of these ecosystems is envisioned to provide multiple social- cultural- economic- benefits. Social-cultural benefits include preserving local landscape management knowledge systems, strengthening cultural and dietary habits, promoting gender-transformative land tenure systems, and strengthening local customs linked to achieving ecosystem health. Economic benefits include increased household and community incomes, increased asset ownership especially by vulnerable groups, improved communal welfare services, enhancing capacity for food and feed provision, and sustainable management of Timber and non-timer resources by households and communities living within and around these areas.

This LDN project further focusses on strengthening inclusion and participation of women, youth and ethnic minority communities to establish (and/or strengthen) farmer cooperatives, community-based micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), small-scale self-employed informal occupations, and as crucial actors in agri-food value chains in rural communities. This will avail opportunities for decent work that deliver fair income, social protection, prospects for personal development, and social integration, ensuring equal opportunities and treatment for all women and men. In addition, it provides new opportunities and an enabling environment for rural and national private sector organizations, associations and federations to promote

innovative and inclusive rural value chains and rural investments that address their needs and priorities (*LDCF Priority 2*). Creating an enabling environment to undertake sustainable landscape rehabilitation requires improved planning, decision-making, financial investments, training, monitoring and evaluation by aligning national government policy to private sector priorities and strengthening local institution capacities through inclusive, affordable, and innovative private-public financing mechanisms (*LDCF Priority 1*).

Finally, the multisector and multi-stakeholder partnership proposed by this LDN project at community, landscape, County and national levels align with a whole-of-society approach (*LDCF Priority 3*). This approach is anchored on knowledge-cross fertilization, intentional efforts to disseminate information and lesson leant, ownership of SLM-LDN actions and mainstreaming and institutionalizing SLM-LDN action within the country development trajectory.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
FAO	GET	Liberia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	2,962,620.00	281,449.00	3,244,069.00
FAO	GET	Liberia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	1,203,264.00	114,310.00	1,317,574.00
FAO	GET	Liberia	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-1	Grant	948,135.00	90,073.00	1,038,208.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**5,114,019.00**	**485,832.00**	**5,599,851.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

150000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

14250

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
FAO	GET	Liberia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	86,897.00	8,255.00	95,152.00
FAO	GET	Liberia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	35,293.00	3,353.00	38,646.00
FAO	GET	Liberia	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-1	27,810.00	2,642.00	30,452.00
Total PPG Amount ($)					**150,000.00**	**14,250.00**	**164,250.00**

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
FAO	GET	Liberia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,339,221.00
FAO	GET	Liberia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,356,220.00
FAO	GET	Liberia	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,068,660.00
Total GEF Resources					**5,764,101.00**

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
LD-1	GET	1,203,264.00	14691794
BD-1-1	GET	2,962,620.00	21772321
CCM-1-1	GET	948,135.00	6967854
Total Project Cost		**5,114,019.00**	**43,431,969.00**

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Environmental Protection Agency	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2000000
Recipient Country Government	Environmental Protection Agency: GCF Project	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	11431969
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture: Rural Economic Transformation Project	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	29000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Total Co-financing				**43,431,969.00**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The Government of Liberia identified Investment Mobilized by reviewing ongoing and planned public investment programmes aligned with the GEF project's objectives and landscapes. Two major public investments were confirmed: the EPA's GCF Project (US$ 11,431,969) and the Ministry of Agriculture's Rural Economic Transformation Project (US$ 29,000,000). These in-kind contributions support climate resilience, sustainable land management, and agricultural transformation.

Investments were classified as mobilized based on their alignment with project components, confirmation of availability during implementation, and clear contribution to global environmental benefits. Recurrent public expenditures from EPA (US$ 2,000,000) and MoA (US$ 1,000,000) were recorded separately as recurrent costs rather than investment mobilized.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	12/1/2025	Griffin Jeffrey		jeffrey.griffin@fao.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Dr Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo	Executive Director/CEO	Environmental Protection Agency	8/20/2025

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<u>Project Objective</u>: To promote sustainable land management practices in degraded uplands and lowland rice production landscapes to support Liberia in achieving its voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets. **<u>Indicators targets</u>:** 1) Core indicator 11- Number of people benefiting from GEF-financed investment (disaggregated by sex) -Target: 100,000 (of which 50% are women) 2) Core indicator 3 - Total area of land and ecosystems under restoration- Target: 25,000 Ha 3) Core indicator 4 - Area of land under sustainable land management in production system – Target 100,000Ha 4) Core Indicator 6 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric ton of CO2e) - Target 1,080,200							
Component 1: Enabling institutional and actor environment to achieve Liberia's LDN Targets							
Outcome 1.1: Institutional capacity for improved LDN policy governance and coordination amongst MDA's and stakeholders strengthened	1.1) Number of decision-making workgroups and cross sectoral LDN mechanisms with access to and sharing of SLM-LDN actions 1.2) Percentage of officials in line ministries and at national and subnational local governments that demonstrate increased awareness and knowledge SLM-LDN	1.1) N/A 1.2) Baseline to be established at inception	1.1) At least two-annual national-local level coordination meetings by the LDN technical workgroup with documented recommendations (with at least 40% women representation). 1.2) At least 20 institutions and key stakeholders participate in LDN intersectoral meetings and capacity development (50% women participation)	1.1) At least 8 dialogues held at national and local level coordination meetings by the LDN technical workgroup with documented recommendations (with at least 40% women representation). .2) At least 50 institutions, key stakeholders and private sector actors engage in intersectoral meetings and capacity development (50% women participation)	Meeting notes and minutes Policy recommendations	Relevant stakeholders and institutions are available to participate	Project management Unit (PMU)
	1.1.1a) Number of meeting	Existing LDN-TWG	1.1.1a) Two semi-annual	1.1.1a) At least 8 semi-	Semi-annual intersectoral	1.1.1) Two semi-annual	1.1.1) Two

Output.1.1.1 Re-activating and revitalizing LDN multi-stakeholder workgroup	dialogues convened for decision making on SLM-LDN	is defunct and convenes ad-hoc through support from existing initiatives. This project will revamp the TWG and enhance intersectoral coordination setting.	planning meetings per year	annual planning meeting per year	coordination dialogues minutes and notes	planning meetings per year	semi-annual planning meetings per year
	1. 1.1.b) Development of gender responsive skills and capacities database.	No gender responsive SLM-LDN expertise database currently exists	1.1.1b) Preliminary gender responsive SLM-LDN expertise database (unvalidated)	Validated gender responsive SLM-LDN expertise database	SLM-LDN expertise legacy database	specialists and experts available across Institutions and agencies	PMU
	1.1.1c). Improvement of LDN-TWG learning and knowledge sharing capacities and skills	No knowledge sharing events currently undertaken	1.1.1c) field learning tours and missions to the 5 target counties (at one-trip per year) and at-least 1 national dialogue to showcase LDN achievements from 2nd year	1.1.1c) At least 4 learning tours and missions to the 5 target counties and 3 national dialogue to showcase LDN achievements from 2nd year	learning and knowledge sharing reports	Institutions and actors in LDN TWG participate to learning and knowledge sharing actions	PMU
Output 1.1.2	1.1.2a) No. of frameworks developed 1.1.2b) Number of participants engaged in training (disaggregated by sex)	No reference plans currently exist	1.1.1a) One reference framework 1.1.2b) at least 200 200 participants (disaggregated by sex)	Na	Reference framework (ToR) Participants list Minutes of proceedings	Institutions and actors are actively engaged in discussions. National specialists are guiding the process	PMU
	1.1.2c) Number of land use plans developed and validated 1.1.2d) Number of participants	No land use plans currently exist	1.1.2c) 15 land us plans developed 1.1.2d) At least 50 participants	Na	Draft land use plans Participants list Minutes of proceedings	Institutions and actors are actively engaged in discussions. National specialists are guiding the process	PMU

	engaged in training (disaggregated by sex)		engaged per site (disaggregated by sex)				
	1.1.2e) No. of land use plans developed and validated 1.1.2f) No. of participants engaged in training (disaggregated by sex)	No land use plans currently exist	1.1.2e) at least 15 plans validated 1.1.2f) at least 35 participants engaged in validation per site (disaggregated by sex)	Na	Final land use plans Participants list Minutes of proceedings	Institutions and actors are actively engaged in discussions. National specialists are guiding the process	PMU
Output.1.1.3	1.13a) No. of Assessments conducted 1.1.3b) No. of Institutions an actors involved	One baseline LDN-TSP available	1.1.3a) One assessment conducted 1.1.3b) at least 15 institution and 45 participants engaged in assessment	na	Assessment report (ToR) Participants list Minutes of proceedings	Institutions and actors are actively engaged in discussions. National specialists are guiding the process	PMU
	1.1.3c) No. of updated sectorial targets developed 1.1.3d) No. of Institutions an actors involved	One baseline national target available	1.1.3c) one updated sectorial targets developed 1.1.3d) at least 15 institution and 35 participants engaged in assessment	na	LDN sector target report Participants list Minutes of proceedings	Institutions and actors are actively engaged in discussions. National specialists are guiding the process	PMU
	1.1.3e) No. of validated LDN-TSP targets 1.1.3f) No. of Institutions an actors involved	One validated LDN-TSP available	na	1.1.3e) one validated LDN-TSP targets 1.1.3f) at least 15 institution and 200 participants engaged in validation	Validated and updated national LDN Targets report Participants list Minutes of proceedings	Institutions and actors are actively engaged in discussions. National specialists are guiding the process	PMU
Component 2: Strategic SLM and gender-focused interventions for Degradation Neutrality							

Outcome 2.1: Participatory planning and integration of Gender-sensitive SLM practices in rice-based crop systems and degraded landscapes established -	2.1.a) Number of gender-responsive participatory landscape management plans developed in target counties 2.1b) Area of landscapes under improved practices 2.1.c) Area of land restored (Hectares) 2.1.d) Amount of greenhouse gas offset (metric tons of CO2e)	2.1a) N/A 2.1b) na 2.1c) na 2.1d) baseline to be established at inception	2.1a) At least 10 land use plans developed and validated 2.1b) 40,000ha across all sites 2.1c) 10,000 Ha across all sites 2.1d) na	2.1a) at least 15 land use plans developed and validated 2.1b) 100,000ha across all sites 2.1c) at least 25,000 ha established across all sites 2.1d) 1,080,200 metric tons of CO2e	Community land use plans Meeting reports and Community-developed work calendars Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Availability and access to productive inputs	Project management Unit (PMU)
Output.2.1.1.	2.1.1a) No. of gender-responsive community participatory sessions in target counties 2.1.1b) No. of participants, with women youth and minority groups engaged to sensitization exercise (disaggregated by sex)	2.1.1a) na 2.1.1b) na)	2.1.1a) 3 gender responsive sessions per county 2.1.1b) at least 600 participants engaged (with 70% being women, youth and ethnic communities)	2.1.1a) 6 gender responsive sessions per county 2.1.1b) at least at least 600 participants engaged (with 70% being women, youth and ethnic communities)	No of gender responsive sessions conducted Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by LLA and EPA PMU	LLA and PMU
	2.1.1c) No. of gender-responsive community land use plans developed in target counties	2.1.1c) na 2.1.1d) na	2.1.1c) gender responsive community land use plans developed per county	2.1.1c)2 gender responsive community land use plans developed per county	No of gender responsive plans developed Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel)	LLA and PMU

	2.1.1d) No. of land tenure ownership deeds issues to at least one pilot communities per site (5 communities)		2.1.1d) na	2.1.1d)Atleas t5 community land ownership deeds within 5 target counties		Institutional support by LLA and EPA PMU	
	2.1.1e) No. of gender-responsive community land use plans validated in target counties 2.1.1f)No. of participants, with women youth and minority groups engaged in validation of the plans (disaggregated by sex)	2.1.1e) na 2.1.1f)) na	2.1.1e) 2 gender responsive community land use plans validated per county 2.1.1f)at least 200 participants engaged (with 70% being women, youth and ethnic communities)	2.1.1e) 2 gender responsive community land use plans validated per county 2.1.1f)at least 200 participants engaged (with 70% being women, youth and ethnic communities)	No of gender responsive plans validated Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by LLA and EPA PMU	LLA and PMU
Output. 2.1.2	2.1.2a) No. Hectares in the lowland landscapes under SLM practices for LDN 2.1.2b) No. of participants, with women youth and minority groups engaged to development establishing SLM/LDN technologies (disaggregated by sex)	2.1.2a) na 2.1.2b) na	2.1.2a) 10,000 ha of degraded lowlands target landscapes placed under SLM practices, 25,000 hectares placed under improved land use practices 2.1.2b) at least 2000 direct participants engaged (with 70% being women, youth and ethnic communities)	2.1.2a) 25,000 ha of degraded lowlands target landscapes placed under SLM practices, 50,000 hectares placed under improved land use practices 2.1.2b) at least 2000 participants engaged (with 70% being women, youth and ethnic communities)	Spatial maps of areas with interventions Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by MoA and EPA PMU	MoA and PMU

	2.1.2c) Amount of Germplasm produced by CARI	2.1.2c) na	2.1.2c) 300,000 rice seedlings	2.1.2c) 600,000 rice seedlings	Seedlings delivery and inventory reports to beneficiaries Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by CARI and EPA PMU	CARI and PMU
	2.1.2d) No. Hectares developed in MoA-led SLM Campaigns 2.1.2e) No. of participants, with women youth and minority groups engaged to development establishing SLM/LDN technologies (disaggregated by sex)	2.1.2d) na 2.2.3b) Na	2.1.2d) 10,000 hectares placed under improved land use practices 2.1.2e) at least 300 farming HH engaged across all sites (with 20% being female headed HHs)	2.1.2d) 25,000 hectares placed under improved land use practices 2.1.2e) at least 300 farming HH engaged across all sites (with 20% being female headed HHs)	Spatial maps of areas with interventions Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by MoA and EPA PMU	MoA and PMU
Output.2.1.3	2.1.3a) No. Hectares in the highlands landscapes under SLM practices for LDN 2.1.3b) No. of participants, with women youth and minority groups engaged to development establishing SLM/LDN technologies (disaggregated by sex)	2.1.3a) na 2.1.3b) na	2.1.3a) 3,000ha of degraded upland forests landscapes placed under SLM practices while 5,000ha placed under improved land use practices 2.1.3b) at least 1000 farming HH engaged	2.1.3a) 6,000ha of degraded upland forests landscapes placed under SLM practices while 10,000ha placed under improved land use practices 2.1.3b) at least 3000 farming HH engaged	Spatial maps of areas with interventions Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by FDA and PMU	FDA and PMU

			across all sites (with 20% being female headed HHs)	across all sites (with 20% being female headed HHs)			
	2.1.3c) No. of nurseries established promoting SLM practices for LDN 2.1.3d) No. of beneficiaries supporting established nurseries (with ownership disaggregated by sex)	2.1.3c) na 2.1.3d) na	2.1.3c) at least 15 nurseries established per county 2.1.3d) at least 60 households per county supporting established nurseries	2.1.3c) at least 30 nurseries established per county 2.1.3d) at least 60 households per county supporting established nurseries	Spatial maps of areas with interventions Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by FDA and PMU	FDA and PMU
	2.1.3e) No. Hectares in the highland's landscapes under SLM-LDN campaigns 2.1.3f) No. of participants, with women youth and minority groups engaged to development establishing SLM/LDN technology campaigns (disaggregated by sex)	2.1.3e) na 2.1.3f) na	2.1.3e) at least 5000 ha reached through district wide campaigns in 5 counties 2.1.3f) at least 10,000 indirect participants reached through district wide campaigns in 5 counties	2.1.3e) at least 10, 000 ha reached through district wide campaigns in 5 counties 2.1.3f) at least 15,000 indirect participants reached through district wide campaigns in 5 counties	Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by FDA and PMU	FDA and PMU
Output 2.1.4	2.1.4a) Number of needs assessment report developed	2.1.4a) na	2.1.4a) one assessment report developed and validated	2.4.1a) one assessment report developed and validated	Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by Hydrological Department and PMU	Hydrological Department and PMU

	2.1.4b)). No on hydrological monitoring points established 2.1.4c)No of capacity development events conducted	2.1.4b)na 2.1.4c)na	2.1.4b)at least 5 new stations established 2.1.4c)at least 2 capacity development events	2.1.4b)at least 15 new stations established 2.1.4c)at least 3 capacity development events	Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by Hydrological Department and PMU	Hydrological Department and PMU
	2.1.4d)No of hydrological forecasts/advisories developed 2.1.4e)No of beneficiaries reached (disaggregated by sex)	2.1.4d)na 2.1.4e)na	2.1.4d)at least 1 seasonal forecast produced per county 2.1.4e)at least 30,000 beneficiaries reached with forecasts	2.1.4d)at least 2 forecast produced annually per county 2.1.4e)at least 60,000 beneficiaries reached with forecasts	Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by Hydrological Department and PMU	Hydrological Department and PMU
Component 3: SLM/LDN Investment models tailored to rural livelihoods and agri-food value chains							
Outcome 3.1: Nature based livelihoods and agri-value chains investment models to achieve LDN developed and piloted_	3.1a) No. of trainers (ToTs) engaged in market analysis and development (MA&AD) 3.1b) No. of beneficiaries engaged by ToT trainers to strengthen market and entrepreneurial skills 3.1c) No of Institutions engaged in capacity development and training	3.1a) na 3.1b) na 3.1c) na	3.1a) 25 trainers trained on MA&D 3.1b) at least 200 beneficiaries trained on MA&D 3.1c). at least 10 institutions engaged in training and capacity development actions	3.1a) 25 trainers trained on MA&D 3.1b) n at least 400 beneficiaries trained on MA&D 3.1c). at least 25 institutions engaged in training and capacity development actions	MA&D Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel)	Project management Unit (PMU)

Output.3.1.1	3.1.1a) No of ToTs trained 3.1.1b) No of training session conducted	3.1.1a) na 3.1.1b) na	3.1.1a) 25 ToTs trained 3.1.1b) at least 2 training sessions conducted	3.1.1a) 25 ToTs trained 3.1.1b) at least 3 training sessions conducted	MA&D Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by MoA and PMU	MoA and PMU
	3.1.1c) No of trainings conducted 3.1.1d) No of beneficiaries trained (disaggregated by sex)	3.1.1c) na 33.1.1d) na	3.1.1c) at least 2 trainings conducted per county 3.1.1d) at least 200 beneficiaries rained	3.1.1c) at least 2 training conducted per county 3.1.1d) at least 400 beneficiaries trained	MA&D Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by MoA and PMU	MoA and PMU
Output.3.1.2	3.1.2a) No of business plans developed and validated 3.1.2b) No of entrepreneur's groups selected (disaggregated by sex)	3.1.2a) na 3.1.2b) na	3.1.2a) at least 25 plans developed 3.1.2b) at least 250 entrepreneur selected	3.1.2a) At least 25 plans developed 3.1.2b) at least 50 entrepreneurs reached	MA&D Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by MoA and PMU	MoA and PMU
Output.3.1.3.	3.1.3a) No of instructors selected (disaggregated by sex) 3.1.3b) No of Institutions engaged	3.1.3a) na 3.1.3b) na	3.1.3a) at least 3 instructors selected 3.1.3b) at least 2 institutions engaged per county	3.1.3a) atleast 3 instructors selected 3.1.3b) at least 2 institutions engaged per county	MA&D Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by AITB and PMU	AITB and PMU
	3.1.3c) No of training and capacity development	3.1.3c) na	3.1.3c) at least 2	3.1.3c) at least 2	MA&D Activity reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants	AITB and PMU

	sessions conducted 3.1.3d) No of participants trained (disaggregated by sex)	3.1.3c) na	trainings conducted 3.1.3d) at least 25 instructors trained (with 50% being women)	trainings conducted 3.1.3d) at least 25 instructors trained (with 50% being women)	Monitoring reports Technical reports	and resource personnel) Institutional support by AITB and PMU	
	3.1.3e) No of curricular developed 3.1.3f) No of Institutions engaged in developing curricular	3.1.3e) na 3.1.3f) na	3.1.3e) at least one training curricula developed per institution engaged 3.1.3f) at least 10 institutions developing curricula	3.1.3e) at least one training curricula developed per institution engaged 3.1.3f) at least 15 institutions developing curricula	MA&D Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	Active engagement of community stakeholders (participants and resource personnel) Institutional support by AITB and PMU	AITB and PMU
Component 4: Adaptive knowledge and MEL system for LDN tracking and reporting							
Outcome 4.1: Gender sensitive Monitoring, evaluation and learning systems to promote adaptive LDN knowledge management established -	4.1a) Monitoring systems developed and validated 4.1b) No. of stakeholders (women and men) participating in knowledge and outreach dialogue at national and community levels 4.1c) No. of knowledge products developed and disseminated 4.1d) No. beneficiaries receiving	4.1a) na 4.1b) na 4.1c) na 4.1d) na	4.1a) one MEL system develop 4.1b) At least 5000 actors participating in knowledge dialogues 4.1c). At least 3 technical briefs developed 4.1d) At least 8000 beneficiaries receiving new knowledge from project activities	4.1a) one MEL system develop 4.1b) At least 10,000 actors participating in knowledge dialogues 4.1c) At least 5 technical briefs developed 4.1d) At least 15,000 beneficiaries receiving new knowledge from project activities	Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	EPA Institutional willingness to establish the LDN system Sectorial and stakeholder support	Project management Unit (PMU)

	knowledge products						
Output.4.1.1	4.1.1a) No. of needs assessment report developed	4.1.1a) na	4.1.1a) one needs assessment report developed	4.1.1a) one needs assessment report developed	Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	EPA Institutional system and procedure's ability to undertake the assessment	Project management Unit (PMU)
	4.1.1b) Procurement of system hardware and software's 4.1.1c) No. of capacity development training conducted	4.1.1b) na 4.1.1c) na	4.1.1b) Assorted hardware and software procured 4.1.1c) at least one training conducted with 50% being women.	4.1.1b) Assorted hardware and software procured 4.1.1c) at least 2 capacity development trainings conducted with 50% being women	Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	EPA Institutional system and procedures establish/develop system	Project management Unit (PMU)
	4.1.1d) No, of systems tested and validated 4.1.1e) No of stakeholders at validation workshop (disaggregated by sex)	4.1.1d) na 4.1.1e) na	4.1.1d) one system tested and validated 4.1.1e) at least one stakeholder workshops conducted	4.1.1d) one system tested and validated 4.1.1e)at least three stakeholder workshops conducted	Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	EPA Institutional system and procedures establish/develop system	Project management Unit (PMU)
Output.4.1.2 - - - - -	4.1.2a) No. of participants at inception workshop event 4.1.2b) No. of participants at close-out workshop event 4.1.2c). No. of monitoring	4.1.2a) na 4.1.2b) na 4.1.2c). na	4.1.2a) at least 150 stakeholder and actors attend inception event 4.1.2b) at least 200 stakeholder and actors	4.1.2a) at least 150 stakeholder and actors attend inception event 4.1.2b) at least 200 stakeholder and actors	Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	EPA Institutional system and procedures to undertake events	Project management Unit (PMU)

	frameworks developed		attend inception event 4.1.2c). on system developed	attend inception event 4.1.2c). One system developed			
	4.1.2d). No of monitoring events conducted 4.1.2e). No of capacity development training developed	4.1.2d). na 4.1.2e). na	4.1.2d). at least 4 events conducted per year 4.1.2e). At least 2 trainings conducted	4.1.2d). at least 4 events conducted per year 4.1.2e). At least 3 trainings conducted	Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	EPA Institutional system and procedures to undertake monitoring visits and capacity development	Project management Unit (PMU)
	4.1.2f). conduct midterm review 4.1.2g). Conduct terminal project evaluation	4.1.2f). na 4.1.2g). na	4.1.2f). one review conducted 44.1.2g). na	4.1.2f). one review conducted 4.1.2g). one terminal review conducted	Activity reports Monitoring reports Technical reports	EPA Institutional system and procedures to undertake review and evaluation	Project management Unit (PMU)
	4.1.2h). No of implementation progress report and annual reports developed 4.1.2i). No of PSC and technical committee session conducted	4.1.2h). na 4.1.2i). na	4.1.2h). At least 4 quarterly reports and one annual report 4.1.2i). At least one bi-annual session for PSC and one quarterly session for technical committee	4.1.2h). At least 4 quarterly reports and one annual report 4.1.2i). At least one bi-annual session for PSC and one quarterly session for technical committee	Quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports Committee minutes and activity reports Technical reports	EPA Institutional system and procedures to convene sitting and develop reports	Project management Unit (PMU)

Output.4.1.3	4.1.3a) No of knowledge products developed 4.1.3b) No of knowledge products disseminated	4.1.3a) na 4.1.3b) na	4.1.3a) at least one success story per year from year 2 4.1.3b) About 12,000 advisories disseminated	4.1.3a) at least one success story per year from year 2 4.1.3b) About 12,000 advisories disseminated	Knowledge products, case studies Technical reports publications, technical notes and learning workshops reports	EPA Institutional system and procedures to convene sitting and develop reports	Project management Unit (PMU)
	4.1.3c) No of communication strategies developed 4.1.3d) No of awareness raising campaigns conducted 4.1.3e) No. of stakeholder reached	4.1.3c) na 4.1.3d) na 4.1.3e) na	4.1.3c) One communication strategy developed 4.1.3d) At least 2 awareness campaigns conducted per year 4.1.3e) At least 10,000 beneficiaries reached in awareness campaigns	4.1.3c) One communication strategy developed 4.1.3d) At least 2 awareness campaigns conducted per year 4.1.3e) At least 10,000 beneficiaries reached in awareness campaigns	Communication strategy Activity reports Technical reports	EPA Institutional system and procedures to conduct learning events	Project management Unit (PMU)
	4.1.3f) No of national learning tours conducted 4.1.3g) No of regional knowledge study visit conducted	4.1.3f) na 4.1.3g) na 4.3.3c) na	4.1.3f) At least 2 national learning tours conducted 4.1.3g) At least I regional	4.1.3f) At least 2 national learning tours conducted per year 4.1.3g) at least two	Concept notes and schedules Trip and learning Activity reports	EPA Institutional system and procedures to organize learning events and document learning	Project management Unit (PMU)

	4.1.3h) No of global knowledge study visit conducted		learning tours conducted 4.1.3h) At least I global learning tours conducted	regional learning trips 4.1.3h) at least 2 global trips	Technical reports		

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Consultants - International Technical Design Expert; Gender and Environmental & Social Safeguards; National Biodiversity Expert; Stakeholder Engagement Expert; National-Sustainable Land Management expert	104,500.00	99,200.00	5,300.00
Contracts including OPIM Fiduciary assessment and TAPE tool application and NEXT	14,500.00	5,555.00	
Travels: National and International Travels, Field assessment and Consultations	19,000.00	35,369.00	
Training: Inception and validation workshop	12,000.00		
Expendable Procurement		4,576.00	
Total	**150,000.00**	**144,700.00**	**5,300.00**

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Grand Kru County	6.15000	-10.23333	

Location Description:

The county is facing rampant sand harvesting, mangrove and forested areas destruction, excessive charcoal/firewood extraction, slash-burn activities and a converge of several rivers that create flood plain in rainfall seasons and making it

prone to sea-level rise and coastal erosion. Land use induced conflicts are rife due to rights over mining activities, mining pollution and livelihood pressure on extraction of forest resources

Activity Description:

The coastal communities have a strong social cooperation, with high number of women and youth engaged in agricultural activities and environmental conservation. The project identified the area suitable for swamp rice farming with the provision of necessary inputs and capacity development. Introducing SLM (integrated rice-fish farming) will also promote development of forest maps and committees to strengthen conservation efforts in vulnerable coastal hotspots. Promoting NTFP livelihoods will stimulate economic activity and further strengthen conservation efforts

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nimba County	7.35397	-8.70903	

Location Description:

The areas support mining activities of iron and other minerals, which has resulted to massive deforestation from charcoal and firewood production. Slash and burn activities are rampant with perennial mass swamp flooding. Communities and institutions lack awareness of LDN targets and there is poor enforcement of relevant environmental protection laws mining-induced pollution resulting to massive land degradation. There is poor coordination amongst relevant agencies and institutions with most projects undertaken through silo-ed approach.

Activity Description:

The area has potential for introduction of fish-rice systems with NTFPs livelihoods such as Rubber tapping and agri-food value chains as an alternative source of good income for smallholder farmers, especially women and youth. Farmer cooperatives and association have been established through past and current development projects making the communities conscious of benefits of cooperation. Capacity development of NTFPs and marketing activities, alongside rice-fish farming and forest rehabilitation practices is likely to change community behavior towards land scape management.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Lofa County	8.42022	-9.73494	

Location Description:

Lofa county has diverse ecological features with swampy river, savanna woodland patches and massive degraded land covered by elephant grass. The county has three Ecotourism sites (Wologizi Mountain, Wonegizi Range, and Foya Forest) but poor infrastructure and service utilities have under-utilized the potential benefits. Lofa's has a high agricultural potential, but the agri-food value chains are poorly supported (exploitation, lack of support services e,g credit etc), have poor yields and discourages participation by low capital vulnerable groups e.g women and youth. Deforestation arising charcoal and firewood us high. There is scarce knowledge of LND targets.

Activity Description:

The project will promote non-timer forest value chains (NTFPs) to support local agri-food chains and eco-tourism services. Access to weather advisories will support the establishment of smart climate agricultural practices and extend

the range of SLM-LDN actions proposed under this project. Furthermore, the project will integrate adoption integrated fish cum rice farming practices to support household FNS demands and strengthen productivity of local food systems

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bong County	7.12228	-9.63953	

Location Description:

Land degradation is through deforestation for agricultural land expansion (e.g rice farming), rampant charcoal making and firewood harvesting, unlawful mining, lack of backfilling during construction which interferes with river water systems, overflooding in swampy areas and rice fields. Agriculture production (Pepper, plantain, vegetables, cassava, potatoes, corn, sugarcane and Rice) faces several challenges including low sale volumes to urban centers during peak production seasons, low market prices due to low market negotiation skills, lack of access to better markets (especially rice and vegetables), lack of technical advisory services thus poor timing of crop calendar's, lack of access to agricultural inputs and credit, weak skills in forming and maintaining farmer groups, lack of post-harvest services (e,g rice driers) thus high post-harvest losses. Communities within mining areas don't farm and are poorest in the county.

Activity Description:

Project interventions target landscape rehabilitation and strengthening agricultural production through utilizing swamplands to increase rice-fish production systems and through provision of timely weather forecast and advisories. Furthermore, rehabilitation efforts targeted for the lowland areas will be conducted through large scale campaigns to disseminate agro-forestry tree species and develop the market and marketing capacity of smallholder farmers and traders. The project will target the communities in mining areas to build their capacity in agricultural production, especially women and youth left behind the mining areas when abandoned.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Montserrado County	6.33747	-10.74392	

Location Description:

The rural social economy is weak with rife unemployment, poor land administrative structures and gender disparities. The region has low awareness of LDN targets and low levels of environmental education. Forest management committees are non-existent with poor land administrative structures. The communities are not aware of LND targets, with high unemployment, social inequalities with rampant urban and peri-urban challenges (Slums, exploitation, poor land and waste management etc)

Activity Description:

The project offers has opportunity to promote community land governance synergy through communal cooperation structures for development of land management plans. A high number of women and youth are engaged in agriculture making is feasible to form farmer cooperatives to strengthen NTFPs-based livelihood and enterprises. Outreach actions will further sensitize Advocacy to sensitize the local population of socio-economic and environmental benefits of the proposed SM-LDN actions.

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

Revise ESFM Liberia012026

Full ES Risk Screening checklist for project 754252 Liberia

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

FAO Cost Categories	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1		Component 2		Component 3		Component 4		M&E	PMC	Total GEF	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
				1.1	Total	2.1	Total	3.1	Total	4.1	Total				
5013 Consultants															
Consultant (Market & NB Livelihoods) Component 3 (3.1 & 3.2)	W/days	120	400	-	-	-	-	48,000	**48,000**	-	-			**48,000**	**EPA**
Consultant (CTA- SLM/LDN Specialist (All Components)	Wdays	600	400	60,000	**60,000**	60,000	**60,000**	60,000	**60,000**	60,000	**60,000**			**240,000**	**EPA**
Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (Component 4)	Wdays	50	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,000	**14,000**	6,000		**20,000**	**EPA**
Sub-total international Consultants				**60,000**	**60,000**	**60,000**	**60,000**	**108,000**	**108,000**	**74,000**	**74,000**	**6,000**	**-**	**308,000**	
National SLM-LDN Specialist (Component 1 & 2)	Monthly	52	2,500	32,500	**32,500**	32,500	**32,500**	32,500	**32,500**	32,500	**32,500**			**130,000**	**EPA**
SLM- LDN County/district coordinators (Component 1 and 2) (4 pax *5counties, 10 days , 8 months by 4 years	W/days	6400	30	48,000	**48,000**	144,000	**144,000**		-		-			**192,000**	**EPA**
National Gender, Environment and Social Specialist (Components 1, 2, 3 & 4)	Monthly	35	2,100	18,375	**18,375**	18,375	**18,375**	18,375	**18,375**	18,375	**18,375**			**73,500**	**EPA**
Communication, knowledge Management and Partnerships Specialist (All componets)	Monthly	52	1,900	24,700	**24,700**	24,700	**24,700**	24,700	**24,700**	24,700	**24,700**			**98,800**	**EPA**
Geographic Information Services and Remote Sensing (Output 4.1)	Monthly	30	2,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	63,000	**63,000**			**63,000**	**EPA**
National Project Coordinator	Monthly	52	1,500										78,000	**78,000**	**EPA**
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	Monthly	25	1,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,000	**9,000**	36,000		**45,000**	**EPA**
Market Development and and Nature-Based Livelihoods Specialist (Component 3 (3.1 & 3.2))	Monthly	30	2,100		-		-	63,000	**63,000**	-	-			**63,000**	**EPA**
Administrative and finance officer	Monthly	52	1,800		-		-		-		-		93,600	**93,600**	**EPA**

Sub-total national Consultants				**123,575**	**123,575**	**219,575**	**219,575**	**138,575**	**138,575**	**147,575**	**147,575**	**36,000**	**171,600**	**836,900**	
5013 Sub-total consultants				**183,575**	**183,575**	**279,575**	**279,575**	**246,575**	**246,575**	**221,575**	**221,575**	**42,000**	**171,600**	**1,144,900**	
5014 Contract															
Contract to develop LDN-TWG Updated ToRs (Output 1.1)	Lumpsum	1	8,000	8,000	**8,000**		-	-	-	-	-			**8,000**	**EPA**
Contract (LoA with LLA) for Output 2.1	Lumpsum	1	40,000		-	40,000	**40,000**	-	-	-	-			**40,000**	**LLA**
Contract to update/revise Liberia LDN targets (Output 1.3)	Lumpsum	1	100,000	100,000	**100,000**		-	-	-	-	-			**100,000**	**EPA**
Contract to conduct institutional need assessment (Output 1.4)	Lumpsum	1	30,000	30,000	**30,000**		-	-	-	-	-			**30,000**	**EPA**
Contract (LoA with LLA) for CLDMPs (Output 2.1)	Lumpsum	5	50,000	-	-	250,000	**250,000**	-	-	-	-			**250,000**	**LLA**
Contract to farmer groups to establish tree nurseries for restoration actions	Lumpsum/Site	5	16,725	-	-	83,625	**83,625**	-	-	-	-			**83,625**	**EPA**
Contract (LoA with MoA) for SLM-LDN actions (Output 2.2)	Lumpsum /Site	5	100,000	-	-	500,000	**500,000**	-	-	-	-			**500,000**	**MoA**
Contract (LOA with CALI) for Seed multiplication (Activity 2.2.2)	Lumpsum /Site	5	30,050	-	-	150,250	**150,250**	-	-	-	-			**150,250**	**CALI**
Contract to support Fish-rice systems (Activity 2 2.3)	Lumpsum /Site	5	50,000	-	-	250,000	**250,000**	-	-	-	-			**250,000**	**MoA**
Contract (LoA with FDA) for SLM-LDN actions (Output 2.3)	Lumpsum /Site	5	100,000	-	-	500,000	**500,000**	-	-	-	-			**500,000**	**FDA**
Contract (LoA with Hydrological Dept.) for forecasts (Output 2.4)	Lumpsum	1	234,000	-	-	234,000	**234,000**	-	-	-	-			**234,000**	**Hydro. Dept**
Support grants to NTFPs Private sector (Output 3.2)	Lumpsum	50	5,000	-	-		-	250,000	**250,000**	-	-			**250,000**	**EPA**
Contract (LoA with AITB) for TVET action (Output 3.3)	Lmpsum	1	110,000	-	-		-	110,000	**110,000**	-	-			**110,000**	**AITB**
Mid Term review	Lumpsum	1	40,000		-		-		-	-	-	40,000		**40,000**	**FAO**
Final/Terminal Evaluation	Lumpsum	1	50,000		-		-		-	-	-	50,000		**50,000**	**FAO**
Final FAO report	Lumpsum	1	7,000		-		-		-	-	-	7,000		**7,000**	**FAO**
Audits (1/year)	once/year	5	6,000		-		-		-	-	-		30,000	**30,000**	**FAO**
Spot Checks (2/year)	twice/ year	10	3,000		-		-		-	-	-	30,000		**30,000**	**FAO**
Laguage translation	Per /Year	4	2,500	-	-		-		-	10,000	**10,000**			**10,000**	**EPA**
5650 Sub-total Contracts				**138,000**	**138,000**	**2,007,875**	**2,007,875**	**360,000**	**360,000**	**10,000**	**10,000**	**127,000**	**30,000**	**2,672,875**	
5021 Travel															
(Lump sum) International travel (for external Consultants)	Lumpsum/Year	4	30,000	30,000	**30,000**	30,000	**30,000**	30,000	**30,000**	30,000	**30,000**			**120,000**	**EPA**
(Lump sum) National travel (across all outputs)	Lumpsum/Year	4	60,000	60,000	**60,000**	60,000	**60,000**	60,000	**60,000**	60,000	**60,000**			**240,000**	**EPA**
(Lump sum) Travel for training/workshops and meetings	Lumpsum	4	12,250		-		-		-	49,000	**49,000**			**49,000**	**EPA**
Regional forums and conferences for SLM-LDN Output 4.3	Lumpsum/trip	5	11,190							55,950	**55,950**			**55,950**	**EPA**
5021 Sub-total travel				**90,000**	**90,000**	**90,000**	**90,000**	**90,000**	**90,000**	**194,950**	**194,950**	-	-	**464,950**	
5023 Training														-	

Meeting to establish SLM-LDN Legacy dbase (Activity 1.1.2)	Per	1	24,000	24,000	**24,000**		-		-		-			**24,000**	**EPA**
National dialogue learning session workshop (Activity 1.1.3)	Per	1	15,600	15,600	**15,600**		-		-		-			**15,600**	**EPA**
Workshop to establish Nation LDN TWG (Activity 1.2.1)	Lumpsum	2	4,400	8,800	**8,800**		-		-		-			**8,800**	**EPA**
Development of LDN TWG TOR (Activity 1.1.1)	Lumpsum	3	5,000	15,000	**15,000**		-		-		-			**15,000**	**EPA**
National Validation meeting (Activity 1.2.3)	Lumpsum	1	7,900	7,900	**7,900**		-		-		-			**7,900**	**EPA**
Development of updated sector LDN (Activity 1.3.2)	Lumpsum	4	15,000	60,000	**60,000**		-		-		-			**60,000**	**EPA**
Validation of the national LDN-TSP (Activity 1.3.3)	Lumpsum	1	7,900	7,900	**7,900**									**7,900**	**EPA**
SLM-LDN Capacity need assessment workshop (Activity 1.4.1	Lumpsum	1	1,400	1,400	**1,400**		-		-		-			**1,400**	**EPA**
Sensitization and CLDMC development (Output 2.1.1 & 2.1.2)	Lumpsum	5	10,000		-	50,000	**50,000**		-		-			**50,000**	**EPA**
CLDMC validation workshop (Activity 2.1.3)	Lumpsum	5	9,200		-	46,000	**46,000**		-		-			**46,000**	**LLA**
Community tree nursery meeting (Activity 2.3.2)	Lumpsum	30	2,000		-	60,000	**60,000**		-		-			**60,000**	**MoA/FDA**
Tree seedling and demonstration worshop (Activity 2.3.3)	Lumpsum	6	1,700		-	10,200	**10,200**		-		-			**10,200**	**MoA/FDA**
Women and youth enterpreneur training (Activity 3.1.1)	Lumpsum	15	2,750					41,250	**41,250**					**41,250**	**EPA**
Agriculture enterprise training (Activity 3.1.3)	Lumpsum	15	2,800					42,000	**42,000**					**42,000**	**EPA**
Instructors selection meeting (Activity 3.3.1)	Lumpsum	2	900		-		-	1,800	**1,800**		-			**1,800**	**EPA**
Need assessment training(Activity 4.1.1)	Lumpsum	2	900		-		-		-	1,800	**1,800**			**1,800**	**EPA**
Development and Validation of LDN system (Activity 4.1.2)	Lumpsum	1	900		-		-		-	900	**900**			**900**	**EPA**
Testing and validation of LDN workshop (Activity 4.1.3)	Lumpsum	1	1,650		-		-		-	1,650	**1,650**			**1,650**	**EPA**
MEL Framework dvelopment workshop (Activity 4.2.1)	Lumpsum	2	7,900		-		-		-	15,800	**15,800**			**15,800**	**EPA**
National Technical Meeting (Activity 4.1.5)	Lumpsum	16	1,400		-		-		-	22,400	**22,400**			**22,400**	**EPA**
PSC Meeting (Actvity 4.1.5)	Lumpsum	4	1,050		-		-		-	4,200	**4,200**			**4,200**	**EPA**
Learning workshop (Activity 4.3.1)	lumpsum	1	1,650		-		-		-	1,650	**1,650**			**1,650**	**EPA**
National Dialogue workshop (Activity 4.3.2)	Lumpsum	2	3,400		-		-		-	6,800	**6,800**			**6,800**	**EPA**
National Inception workshop (Activity 4.3.2)	Lumpsum	1	40,000		-		-		-	40,000	**40,000**			**40,000**	**EPA**
National Closeout workshop (Activity 4.3.2)	Lumpsum	1	40,000		-		-		-	40,000	**40,000**			**40,000**	**EPA**
5023 Sub-total training				**140,600**	**140,600**	**166,200**	**166,200**	**85,050**	**85,050**	**135,200**	**135,200**	**-**	**-**	**527,050**	
5024 Expendable procurement														-	

Media (Tv, Radio talk shows & Roundtables (Activity 4.2.3)	Lumpsum/Year	5	5,000	12,500	**12,500**		-		-	12,500	**12,500**			**25,000**	**EPA**
Design and production of outreach, learning & Awarenes materials for stakeholders (Component 1,2,3& 4)	Lumpsum/Year	5	7,000	8,750	**8,750**	8,750	**8,750**	8,750	**8,750**	8,750	**8,750**			**35,000**	**EPA**
Production and publication of M&E framework, yearly M&E plans and associated materials (Component 1,2,3 & 4)	Lumpsum/Year	5	2,100	2,625	**2,625**	2,625	**2,625**	2,625	**2,625**	2,625	**2,625**			**10,500**	**EPA**
5024 Sub-total expendable procurement				**23,875**	**23,875**	**11,375**	**11,375**	**11,375**	**11,375**	**23,875**	**23,875**	**-**	**-**	**70,500**	
6100 Non-expendable procurement														-	
Hardware & Software to establish Nat. LDN Laboratoty (Output 4.1)	Lumpsum	1	62,819		-		-		-	62,819	**62,819**			**62,819**	**EPA**
Purchase of simple irrigation equipments for rice-rotation systems in demo sites (Component 2-output 2.1.2)	Lumpsum	1	34,000	-	-	17,000	**17,000**	17,000	**17,000**	-	-			**34,000**	**EPA**
Purchase of field bikes to implement component 1,2,3 & 4 for 5 counties	Lumpsum	15	5,000	18,750	**18,750**	18,750	**18,750**	18,750	**18,750**	18,750	**18,750**			**75,000**	**EPA**
6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement				**18,750**	**18,750**	**35,750**	**35,750**	**35,750**	**35,750**	**81,569**	**81,569**	**-**	**-**	**171,819**	
5028 GOE budget														-	
Office expenses (electircity, water, phone, fuel, etc)	lumpsum	1	41,925		-		-		-		-		41,925	**41,925**	**EPA**
Maintenace of field motorbikes	Per Year	5	4,000	5,000	**5,000**	5,000	**5,000**	5,000	**5,000**	5,000	**5,000**			**20,000**	**EPA**
6300 Sub-total GOE budget				**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**-**	**41,925**	**61,925**	
TOTAL				**599,800**	**599,800**	**2,595,775**	**2,595,775**	**833,750**	**833,750**	**672,169**	**672,169**	**169,000**	**243,525**	**5,114,019**	

Revised-Liberia Budget_23.01.2026.xls

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.

Member state	Comments linked to Component	Response to comments	Main changes from PIF

Germany	Integrate the number or percentage of women in Outcome Indicator 2.1 target	Revised – at least 50% inclusion and participation by women	na
	corruption risk assessments and the development of mitigating measures in the project design at country level, involving local civil society stakeholders in planning and monitoring. Furthermore, add corruption as a possible key risk under Political and Governance	Revised	na
	integrate the most recent regulatory frameworks, e.g. the Land RightsBill (2014) and Land Rights Act (2018) under Output 1.1.2: Integration of lessons learned on SLM and LDN into land use-related policies.	Revised	na
	The Theory of Change lists essentially the same points for barriers and root causes. Germany proposes to add root causes described in the proposal, e.g. increase of population; climate change impacts such as temperature increases, more frequent extreme weather events; competing demands for forestry and agriculture leading to increased degradation, etc	Revised to expound on root causes	na
	Address land tenure issues (add these as a key risk) and possible conflict resolution mechanisms if a change in land use is sought in the context of the project. This could be relevant for lowland yet to be developed (e.g. possible conflict of interests with mining activities, urban expansion, or cattle grazing) or reduced upland shifting cultivation.	Revised and included under output 2.1	na
	Mention more detailed how/if the project will address a reduction of shifting cultivation encroaching into natural forest land, as promoting rice cultivation in lowlands will not automatically lead to reduced cultivation in highland areas	Revised- systemwide locally led campaigns by ministry of agriculture and Forestry department will sensitize on change of shifting cultivation. The project will also establish local nurseries to support agro-forestry and other practices that have multiple benefits.	na
Japan	The JICA technical cooperation project, 'Improving Rice Production for Smallholders Project (LibRice)', is being implemented from May 2021 to May 2025. Implementing agency is the Department of Regional Development and Research Extension (DRDRE) of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the target is Bong County. The LibRice project has developed the 'LibRice Technical Handbook for Sustainable Lowland Rice Production' and is currently finalizing the Handbook. The 'LibRice Technical Handbook for Sustainable Lowland Rice Production' prepared by the LibRice project could be use ful for this GEF project. Reference: https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/project/liberia/002/index.html	The PPG team held conducted a meeting with JICA team in Liberia. Main points for discussion was outputs of LibRice amd how the proposed project can scale out outputs by LibRice, including built capacity and	na

		skills by MDA's. The technical manual developed under LiBrice will be a key resource under the LDN project	
United Kingdom	Include a further institution in the delivery architecture of this project (which is currently dominated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection Agency) ideally one from the UN, Civil Society or academia which can take an independent and politically neutral view, and contribute helpful tools such as a political economy analysis of rice production in Liberia.	Revised- the Liberia land authority, CSOs and NGOs such as Liberia Rice Alliance, Industrial and Agriculture training Bureau (AITB), Forest development Authority have been included as project executors	na
	Ensure that all interventions are climate-smart for future generations, as Liberia is on the frontline of climate change	Agreed and climate proofed all proposed SLM-LDN activities	na
	Try to ensure buy-in from the full range of Government institutions, including the Forest Development Authority, before starting activities.	Agreed- Forest Development Authority is one of executing agencies of the project under component 2	Na
	Factor in the risks and opportunities in HLP interventions (housing land and property rights), as these are often contested following Liberia's civil wars.	Agreed- A locally led implementation approach will support proposed conflict resolution mechanisms to address tenure issues and property rights especially in lowland rice farming.	na