



Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains

Part I: Project Information

Name of Parent Program

Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program

GEF ID

10232

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains

Countries

Liberia

Agency(ies)

CI

Other Executing Partner(s)

Liberia EPA

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Sustainable Land Management, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Agriculture, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Forest, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Climate Change, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, Least Developed Countries, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Community-based adaptation, Forest, Forest and Landscape Restoration, REDD - REDD+, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Biomes, Tropical Rain Forests, Financial and Accounting, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Conservation Trust Funds, Conservation Finance, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approach, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Participation, Partnership, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Private Sector, SMEs, Large corporations, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Local Communities, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Education, Beneficiaries, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Integrated Programs, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Deforestation-free Sourcing, Smallholder Farming, Food Value Chains, Sustainable Commodity Production, Integrated Landscapes, Sustainable Food Systems, Landscape Restoration, Comprehensive Land Use Planning, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Learning, Adaptive management, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Submission Date

11/30/2020

Expected Implementation Start

8/31/2021

Expected Completion Date

7/31/2026

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

642,551.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
IP FOLU	Transformation of food systems through sustainable production, reduced deforestation from commodity supply chains, and increased landscape restoration	GET	7,139,450.00	66,999,065.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			7,139,450.00	66,999,065.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

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

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Development, adoption and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 1.1: Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use by men and women</p> <p><i>Target 1.1: One comprehensive information and data set available to stakeholders and decision-makers</i></p> <p>Outcome 1.2: Improved land allocation by communities (men and women), government, private sector and civil society in NW Liberia landscape</p> <p><i>Target 1.2.a: Nine clan land use plans developed and adopted</i></p> <p><i>Target 1.2.b: 15,000 ha forest loss avoided</i></p> <p><i>Target 1.2.c: Gazettement package developed for one Proposed Protected Area</i></p> <p>Outcome 1.3: Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by men and women strengthened</p> <p><i>Target 1.3a: One governance mechanism in place</i></p> <p><i>Target 1.3b: Two new regulations supporting sustainable land-use planning and management</i></p>	<p>Output 1.1.1: Information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan generated from secondary/desktop research</p> <p><i>Target 1.1.1: One comprehensive review of relevant policies, laws, strategies, and initiatives</i></p> <p>Output 1.1.2: Biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape conducted to inform land-use planning for food-security and for sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa by men and women</p> <p><i>Target 1.1.2: One</i></p>	GT	1,817,639.00	8,416,457.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 2: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains	Investment	<p>Outcome 2.1: Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape</p> <p><i>Target 2.1a: 200,000 hectares under sustainable land management</i></p> <p><i>Target 2.1b: 100,000 ha under improved management to benefit biodiversity</i></p> <p>Outcome 2.2: Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production by men and women</p> <p><i>Target 2.2: Two new regulations supporting sustainable agriculture by men and women considered by cabinet</i></p> <p>Outcome 2.3: Resources for sustainable production by men and women secured</p> <p><i>Target 2.3: US\$ 10 million directed to sustainable production</i></p>	<p>Output 2.1.1: Capacity of male and female farmers, small-medium enterprise service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff built on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices with a focus on palm oil and cocoa value chains</p> <p><i>Target 2.1.1: 10,000 beneficiaries (5,100 men and 4,900 women) trained</i></p> <p>Output 2.1.2: Climate-smart agricultural practices demonstrated by men and women</p> <p><i>Target 2.1.2a: 10,000</i></p>	GT	2,928,537.00	37,835,008.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 3: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats	Investment	<p>Outcome 3.1: Degraded areas that are crucial for ensuring ecosystem connectivity and integrity restored in NW Liberia</p> <p><i>Target 3.1: 15,000 ha restored directly by project</i></p> <p>Outcome 3.2: Improved gender-sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia</p> <p><i>Target 3.2: One draft policy document supporting restoration by men and women considered by cabinet</i></p> <p>Outcome 3.3: Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities by men and women</p> <p><i>Target 3.3: US\$ 5 million directed to support restoration</i></p>	<p>Output 3.1.1: NW Liberia Landscape restoration plan developed by men and women</p> <p><i>Target 3.1.1: One restoration plan developed by men and women</i></p> <p>Output 3.1.2: Enhanced restoration capacity of communities (men and women), land-users and local county authorities</p> <p><i>Target 3.1.2: 10,000 beneficiaries (5,100 men and 4,900 women)</i></p> <p>Output 3.1.3: Restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management and natural regeneration</p>	GT	1,210,785.00	9,011,600.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4: Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 4.1: Improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation^[1]</p> <p><i>Target 4.1: 15 satisfactory quarterly Project progress reports produced</i></p> <p>Outcome 4.2: Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project by men and women</p> <p><i>Target 4.2a: Five community resource centers equipped and one online knowledge management system established</i></p> <p><i>Target 4.2b: 15 knowledge sharing events attended by men and women</i></p>	<p>Output 4.1.1: A gender-sensitive M&E system developed to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation</p> <p><i>Target 4.1.1: One Project M&E system operational</i></p> <p>Output 4.2.1: An integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system developed</p> <p><i>Target 4.2.1: One integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system developed and five community resource centers equipped</i></p>	GE T	849,180.00	7,700,000.00
		<p>^[1] Please note that this project was designed with a monitoring outcome (4.1), and not a complete separate component. CI kindly asks that the GEF accept this structure given the need for coordination and monitoring and evaluation with the Global Program. Total M&E is \$202,788</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	6,806,141.00	62,963,065.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
		GET	333,309.00		4,036,000.00	
		Sub Total(\$)	333,309.00		4,036,000.00	
		Total Project Cost(\$)	7,139,450.00		66,999,065.00	

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	10,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MoA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	10,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	LIBERIAN INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SERVICES (LISGIS)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY (LLA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,000,000.00
Private Sector	MANO MANUFACTURING COMPANY (MANCO)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	30,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS (RSPB)	Grant	Investment mobilized	270,016.00
Civil Society Organization	SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE IN LIBERIA (SCNL)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,443,049.00
Civil Society Organization	FAUNA and FLORA INTERNATIONAL (FFI)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,060,000.00
Civil Society Organization	THE SUSTAINABLE TRADE INITIATIVE (IDH)	Grant	Investment mobilized	250,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Civil Society Organization	CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL LIBERIA	Grant	Investment mobilized	36,000.00
Civil Society Organization	FAUNA and FLORA INTERNATIONAL (FFI)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	940,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				66,999,065.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Investment mobilized was identified as new funding with a specific scope of work and a time-frame, which contributes to the overall goals of this project. Many of the partners that were identified in the design of the project have significant experience and investments in Liberia that are in line with this project. The investments mobilized are leveraged resources based on engagement with partners and collaborators. This includes co-financing from various organizations such as: International NGOs (CI, RSPB, FFI, and IDH); National NGOs (SCNL); recipient governments (EPA, LLA, LISGIS, FDA, and MoA), and private sector (Mano). The investments mobilized are in form of grants, staff support, use of equipment, corporate social responsibility, etc. All the investments have been confirmed and co-finance letters obtained.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
CI	GET	Liberia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,162,763	284,649
CI	GET	Liberia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,647,180	209,656
CI	GET	Liberia	Multi Focal Area	IP FOLU Set-Aside	2,329,507	148,246
Total Grant Resources(\$)					7,139,450.00	642,551.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

18,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
CI	GET	Liberia	Multi Focal Area	IP FOLU Set-Aside	65,257	5,873
CI	GET	Liberia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	46,143	4,153
CI	GET	Liberia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	88,600	7,974
Total Project Costs(\$)					200,000.00	18,000.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	15000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	15,000.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

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 shrublands restored

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

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)
0.00	315000.00	0.00	0.00

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)
	100,000.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

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)
	200,000.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	15,000.00		

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

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 ₂ e (direct)	0	36134316	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (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 ₂ e (direct)		36,134,316		

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2021		
Duration of accounting		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 ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (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 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		24,500		
Male		25,500		
Total	0	50000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

The concept included direct and indirect benefits in terms of hectares under core indicators 3 and 4. The rationale behind the initial inclusion of indirect targets was to attempt to estimate the contribution of other partners and stakeholders. However, because of the difficulty in collecting this data and monitoring these targets, the team decided to remove the indirect targets and focus only on the direct targets which are under the control of the project and can be achieved during project implementation. The target for total area under improved practices (315,000 ha) was developed as below: ? Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity is 100,000 ha ? Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems is 200,000 ha ? Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided is 15,000 ha These targets and the project sites were selected based on the following: Only those areas crucial in ensuring ecosystem integrity and connectivity were selected using spatial analysis (GIS) and the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM). The analysis covered geographic, economic, and social aspects of the NW Liberia landscape, to help prioritize target areas for the project and optimize the impacts of interventions for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation using four main criteria: (a) value for conservation, (b) vulnerability to forest degradation, (c) vulnerability to deforestation, and (d) viability for intervention. Spatial data layers were created for the first three criteria, and for the fourth criterion, a qualitative assessment of the conditions for implementing project interventions was used and included assessing the strength of the governance and regulatory mechanisms that are associated with the dominant land uses in NW Liberia and the capacity of the decision-making institutions associated with those land use. By combining spatial layers into a single score, the sites with the highest conservation value forest and the greatest vulnerability were identified. The total HCVF area that is outside of the formal protected areas is 246,007 ha. So, through the project, conservation agreements will be signed with communities to avoid the loss of 15,000 ha of HCVF areas outside formal protection. This 15,000 ha was determined using GIS as the area of land under the jurisdictions of the nine selected clans

Costs per hectares. A study done in 2011 by FDA and UNDP that showed that the cost per hectare for Sustainable forest management is US\$ 2.50., and the cost per hectare for Afforestation and Reforestation is USD\$150.00 (Kantor and UNDP. 2011. Assessment of Investment and Financial Flows for mitigation in the forestry sector in Liberia). A stakeholder workshop that convened 32 partners from government, private sector, civil society, and NGOs was held to validate the proposed project sites. The key areas to prioritize for conservation in the land-use planning process will be existing protected areas, the proposed protected areas of Foya, Wologizi, Wonegizi and Kpo mountains, and communities neighboring these areas. The project will contribute to development of a gazettelement package for the establishment of the Wologizi Protected Area (about 99,538 ha), and catalyze community restoration and conservation management, including a focus on

conservation areas within designated Community Forests. Field interventions under Components 1 and 2 of the project will focus on 9 communities (clans) in the Northwest Liberia landscape. Within the framework of negotiated Conservation Agreements with each of these clans, the project will work with these communities on participatory land use planning, restoration, and participation in palm oil and cocoa commodity supply chains. Project activities will be undertaken through Conservation Agreements (CAs) with the nine clans will be as follows: four CAs focused on direct restoration (in Lofa County, Lower Guma clan in Vahun District; in Grand Cape Mount County, Seimavula clan in Porkpa District and Passawe and Fahnbulleh clans in Tewor District); two CAs for direct restoration and conservation through development and implementation of community land use plans (in Lofa County, Zeyema clan in ZorZor District and Bondi clan in Voinjama District); and three CAs focused on conservation through development of community land use plans (in Gbarpolu County, Jawajeh and Zuie clans in Kongba District; in Grand Cape Mount County, Sokpo clan in Porkpa District). These sites were selected in a stakeholder workshop that convened 32 partners from government, private sector, civil society, and NGOs. The land areas of these communities average just under 30,000 ha, for a total of 268,605 ha. The land use planning processes to be conducted with each clan will seek to identify a total target of 15,000 ha for restoration efforts. In addition to the field interventions, the project will support multi-stakeholder land use planning at the Northwest Liberia regional level (in which community-level land use planning results will be important inputs). This project will contribute to maintaining globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services it provides through restoration of 15,000 ha of degraded agricultural land; ensuring sustainable management in 200,000 ha mosaic of land uses; improving management on 100,000 ha to benefit biodiversity; and preventing the loss of 15,000 ha of high conservation value forest. Net emissions reductions will be achieved through the outcomes of the land-use planning processes to be conducted under the Project. Based on anticipated land-use planning results, the Project will absorb and sequester an estimated 36,134,316 tCO_{2e} through improved landscape management and forest protection, climate smart agriculture, and restoration. Emissions mitigated were estimated using FAO Ex-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT) Tool. The project will work with communities to restore 15,000 ha of degraded land. Collectively, the environmental benefits described above will directly benefit 50,000 people in the landscape. This figure comprises 20,000 people trained under Outputs 2.1.1 and 3.1.2 (10,200 men and 9,800 women); 10,000 people involved in demonstration of climate smart agricultural practices under Output 2.1.2 (5,100 men and 4,900 women); and 20,000 beneficiaries of incentives under Output 2.2.1 (10,200 men and 9,800 women).

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers:

The ProDoc has expanded significantly on the descriptions presented in the child project concept. Here we include the updated text, taken from the ProDoc.

Global Environmental Problems and Root Causes:

Expanding agriculture drives about 80% of deforestation worldwide and is estimated to have already cleared or converted 27% of tropical forests, with particularly severe impacts on biodiversity because tropical forests support about 70% of terrestrial plant and animal species. According to FAO (2015), tropical countries lost 7 million hectares per year between 2000 and 2010, with conversion of forest land to agriculture comprising 73% of the land use change. Moreover, following conversion the vast majority of agricultural lands are not sustainably managed.

In addition to habitat loss, replacing forests with unsustainable agriculture leads to an erosion of vital soil ecosystem services, including but not limited to production of biomass; filtration of chemical and biological deposits; water purification and serving as buffer and conduit in hydrological cycles; preservation of genetic diversity; and climate regulation through storage of carbon and other greenhouse gases.

Transformation from conventional agricultural production to sustainable, ecologically sound systems in poor rural developing country settings is challenged by several barriers. As described below, these include lack of data and thus lack of awareness and knowledge among decision makers about the value of natural capital; inadequate legislation and policy and, to the extent that policies to support sustainable intensification do exist, limited institutional capacity and coordination in government ministries to apply them; and a combination of poverty and limited access to financing that stifles investment in transformation. Compounding these barriers, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, are structural challenges that include poor access to market information as well as technological know-how; high transportation costs that increase the expense of inputs required for sustainable production while depressing farm-gate prices for outputs; and limited demand for sustainably produced output in local and regional markets. Consequently, the lack of market opportunities that support investment in better inputs, tools and practices results in a persistent productivity gap, such that maintaining or increasing output necessitates further land conversion. This vicious cycle constrains socioeconomic progress and undermines sustainability.

Expanding agriculture is driven by growing global population and demand. With world population set to increase to nine billion by 2050, and incomes expected to rise, food consumption is predicted to double. Global demand for palm oil in particular is growing precipitously as a key ingredient for food as well as biofuels and a host of other consumer products and meeting this burgeoning demand with conventional practices will continue to drive deforestation and degrade lands.

Additional threats include commercial logging (and at a smaller scale, informal logging by rural community members) and mining. Immediate stresses on natural forested ecosystems from development activity such as logging, mining and conversion to agroforestry are exacerbated by climate change impacts. Additionally, as climate change impacts agricultural production, there is increasing pressure on forest land for new farms. Agriculture itself contributes nearly a quarter of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (19-29% of total anthropogenic GHG, Vermeulen et al.,

2012), and land use change another 11% (some estimates go to 15% or higher). Emissions from agriculture (including forestry) have nearly doubled over the past fifty years and may increase 30 percent more by 2050 (Tubiello et al. 2014).

Regarding the focal sectors of the proposed project, both cocoa and oil palm represent potential sources of environmental problems in the NW Liberia Landscape. The cocoa sector in Liberia fell dormant during years of civil conflict, and only recently and slowly has begun to re-emerge. Although cocoa cultivation has not yet become a significant driver of deforestation in the country, experience with cocoa elsewhere in the region provides a strong rationale for intervening before it does. As emphasized in Ingram et al. (2018), development of the cocoa sector in major producer countries such as Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana has been accompanied by negative environmental impacts such as deforestation, soil degradation, and soil and water pollution, as well as social challenges such as persistently poor labor conditions and the use of child and forced labor. Insufficient attention to sustainability issues result in a sector characterized by old trees, pests and diseases, which lower tree productivity and stimulate further forest clearing (Niesten et al. 2004). These trends are exacerbated in weak governance contexts, leaving both ecosystems and communities vulnerable to negative impacts of unplanned land use and development.

Humid tropical regions like the NW Liberia Landscape that are ideal for oil palm are also home to the world's tropical rainforests. Conversion of complex forest ecosystems to monoculture oil palm plantations reduces diversity in tree species by 99 percent, eliminating habitat for a wide range of animal species, with reductions in mammal diversity as high as 90 percent (IUCN 2018). IUCN (2018) notes that "Over the last four decades, species have slid towards extinction twice as fast in Indonesia as in any other country" at least in part as a result of forest conversion for oil palm production. About half of oil palm expansion worldwide since the early 1970s has involved forest clearing; the rest replaced cropland, pastureland and other land uses. Oil palm plantation establishment typically is followed by pollution, with runoff of fertilizers and pesticides fouling freshwater systems in and around the plantations. The negative social impacts of large-scale development of commercial oil palm plantations are similarly well-documented (Brad et al. 2018; Greenpeace 2018; Meijaard and Sheil 2019). These impacts include land-grabbing and displacement of communities to make way for cultivation; manipulation of local people through bribery and false promises; and a cynical disconnect between stated government policies and enforcement of these policies on the ground (Lustgarten 2018). In NW Liberia, conflicts over land rights, community benefits and employment conditions have stymied concession development and blunted potential positive contributions of palm oil to socioeconomic development, and the sector remains vulnerable to social risks that accompany resource-based economic development in areas with weak governance (UNDP 2020).

With respect to root causes, a primary driver behind these threats in developing countries in the tropics is the pursuit of economic development at national and local levels. Combined with limited governance capacity and an absence of land use planning, the pressing need for livelihoods and food security are driving unplanned and destructive land conversion, responding to short-term needs at the expense of long-term sustainability. A dearth of land-use planning leads to uncoordinated development activities, and consequently partner interventions are not yielding as much impact as they could be due to missed synergies and limited sharing of lessons between localities.

Absence of land-use planning is one symptom of a more general governance deficit. Others include regulation, monitoring and enforcement, and participation and inclusion of stakeholders needed for integrated landscape scale solutions. Without land-use planning at the landscape level in rural areas, there is no mechanism to manage competing land uses, incorporate the needs and priorities of different stakeholders, or optimize investments and minimize inefficiencies and conflicts. Inadequate or unenforced regulation also contributes to uncertainty, conflict, and poor decision-making. Effective land-use planning requires community participation, as local stakeholders will have the greatest influence on actual outcomes on the ground. This includes a strong role in decision-making. Absent such participation, the prevailing context will continue to be characterized by conflict and uncertainty, inhibiting investment, socio-economic development, and sustainable resource management.

Barriers to Addressing the Environmental Problems and Root Causes

The lack of land use planning, zoning and enforcement of designated land use is a central barrier to addressing forest loss in Liberia. Efforts to expand production have outpaced clear analysis and careful planning, and inadequate environmental and social protections pose significant environmental, development and business risks. These risks are exacerbated by conflicting legislations and regulations in the target landscapes that ignore or even incentivize accelerated deforestation and forest loss. Farmer support and outreach programs are weak and underfunded, hindering the spread of knowledge, techniques, and tools for implementing sustainable agricultural practices. Specifically, the Project will address the following barriers in the Northwest Liberia Landscape:

Lack of data about the value of Liberia's natural capital. Data on the quantity and quality of natural resources in Liberia such as land, water, fish, soils, forests, minerals and energy, and changes in these stocks over time, is scarce. Liberian government institutions face shortages of scientific information pertaining to environmental management. The Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) houses the nation's statistical spatial and non-spatial data and produces the System of National Accounts, but despite some progress in capacity building LISGIS and other national statistical systems remain weak. Data that does exist tends to be scattered across different institutions with unclear ownership and is typically in an analog or paper format which limits external investigator access. This poses an obstacle to effective land-use planning.

Lack of awareness and knowledge among decision makers about the value of Liberia's natural capital. The value of ecosystem services is not yet fully recognized by decision makers. They are unaware of the direct and indirect services that ecosystems provide to people and that these indirect services can now be quantified. Awareness amongst forest communities and other stakeholders in Liberia of the important role of ecosystem services is also limited, and there is virtually no awareness of the value of or prospects for climate smart agriculture that seeks to maintain ecosystem services.

Inadequate legislation and gaps in national policy. Liberia lacks the policy, regulatory and informational frameworks necessary to integrate ecosystem and biodiversity protection into land-use planning and management. Regulatory authorities such as the EPA do not have adequate human and financial resources to execute enforcement responsibilities. Gaps in legislation and its application complicate sustainable land-use management, particularly in terms of how the mandates of sectoral and regulatory agencies relate to each other. Specific lacunae in the policy context for land-use planning include climate considerations, attention to gender-related aspects of land-use, and restoration.

Limited institutional capacity and coordination in government ministries. Institutional and individual capacity at both national and local levels in Liberia is limited. There is limited capacity in the Liberian government to assess, plan, and monitor use of land and natural resources and to determine how these resources contribute to the economy. There is also lack of integrated inter-sectoral planning between different government ministries and agencies, leading to duplication of efforts, gaps in project and program design, and poor delivery.

Poverty. Liberia is one of the poorest countries in the world with a gross national income (GNI) per capita in 2017 of USD 620, using the World Bank's methodology. Liberia ranks 175th out of 189 countries on UNDP's Human Development Index (UNDP, 2018). More than half of the population (50.9%) lives below the national poverty line, with large geographical disparities in poverty; 85% of young people, who make up two-thirds of Liberia's population, are unemployed (World Bank, 2018). Limited employment opportunities and pervasive poverty result in heavy local community dependence on natural resources for subsistence and local commerce (shifting cultivation for subsistence agriculture, non-timber forest product (NTFP) collection, wood for energy and housing materials, bushmeat for food consumption and sale, etc.). The combination of these economic pressures and limited awareness of ecosystem function and value result in unsustainable extraction methods and levels, undermining the viability of forests in Northwest Liberia. As men and women in Liberia interact with their environment in different ways, this barrier manifests in different way with respect to resource use, needs and priorities depending on gender. In addition to driving unsustainable resource use, poverty contributes to wider social concerns in the country. Rural poverty in particular aggravates land and resource disputes, which can escalate to violent conflict. Within households, poverty contributes to domestic violence, and poverty in Liberia also makes people vulnerable to other risks such as human rights abuses, abusive labor practices, and violation of prohibitions against child labor. These factors

present a challenging context for the pursuit of sustainable production models that adhere to environmental, social and governance safeguards.^[1]

Limited financing for integration of smallholders into commercial productive sectors. Although the Government of Liberia as well as the donor community emphasize the importance of integrating Liberia's small farmers into commercial agriculture and agroforestry, financing to do so at scale remains limited. Investments in smallholder agriculture predominantly take the form of ad hoc interventions that achieve neither scale nor sustainability, often relying on short term grants provided by private foundations and government aid agencies that cannot be sustained in the long term. Organization of smallholders into larger production entities of potentially viable size (e.g. cooperatives) is limited, as is the formation of commercial relationships between smallholders and larger commercial enterprises (e.g. oil palm outgrower programs).

In the Northwest Liberia Landscape, the immediate threats are expansion of commercial palm oil plantations into intact forest ecosystems, continued uncontrolled agricultural expansion by communities relying on shifting cultivation, and related extractive livelihoods such as charcoal production and bushmeat hunting. The Government of Liberia has identified the northwest region as a key agricultural production zone under the Liberia Agricultural Transformation Agenda (LATA) for a range of crops, with an emphasis on oil palm. The potential for conflict between pending oil palm development and closed canopy natural forest is significant. At least 50% of the total concession area of about 290,000 hectares is covered by dense forests with more than 40% tree canopy density. The importance of Northwest Liberia for both biodiversity as well as agricultural production highlights the value of soil ecosystem services that are at risk if uncontrolled expansion of unsustainable agriculture continues.

Its status as a highly forested country presents Liberia with a challenge in terms of national land use planning and agricultural development policy that contributes to economic growth while avoiding loss of valuable forest ecosystems. Investors have shown an appetite for developing commercial agroforestry, but much of Liberia's available land is high conservation value (HCV) and high carbon stock (HCS) forest, and/or is claimed by local communities as their traditional land. This makes the granting of commercial concessions a fraught process in which concessionaires are allocated a large area of interest, within which they must identify viable conversion areas in terms of economically practical spatial configuration, compliance with restrictions on natural forest conversion (e.g. under RSPO standards and principles), and respect for local community rights to land and resources. For example, this combination of challenges, combined with a decline in global prices for palm oil, led Sime Darby to relinquish its oil palm concession in Northwest Liberia at the end of 2019. Although the Government of Liberia continues to express commitment to environmental standards and protection of primary forest, there is a risk that this commitment may erode over time if these standards continue to stymie agroforestry development in the absence of workable models.

Current oil palm development is restrained by ambiguities surrounding the application of RSPO standards in Liberia. Should the company and/or government lose patience, these standards may well fall by the wayside giving way to uncontrolled expansion. Local communities are also growing impatient given the urgent need for socioeconomic development. Rural populations struggle to meet food needs through subsistence shifting cultivation, and, as populations grow, fallow periods are becoming shorter and soils more impoverished, driving a push deeper into intact forests in search of new land to cultivate. Subsistence farming is accompanied by efforts to generate cash through lucrative but destructive practices such as bushmeat hunting and wood collection for charcoal production and sale—about 75% of animal protein consumed in Liberia consists of bushmeat and over 95% of Liberia's urban population uses charcoal (Hoyt 2004; USAID 2009).

There is considerable overlap between forest areas and timber and mining concessions throughout Liberia, including the Northwest Landscape (CI 2017; see Figure 1 below). Although development of these concessions has been slowed by regulatory ambiguities and economic hurdles, they are a latent threat that can rapidly intensify in the absence of land-use planning, improved alternatives for communities, and stronger governance.

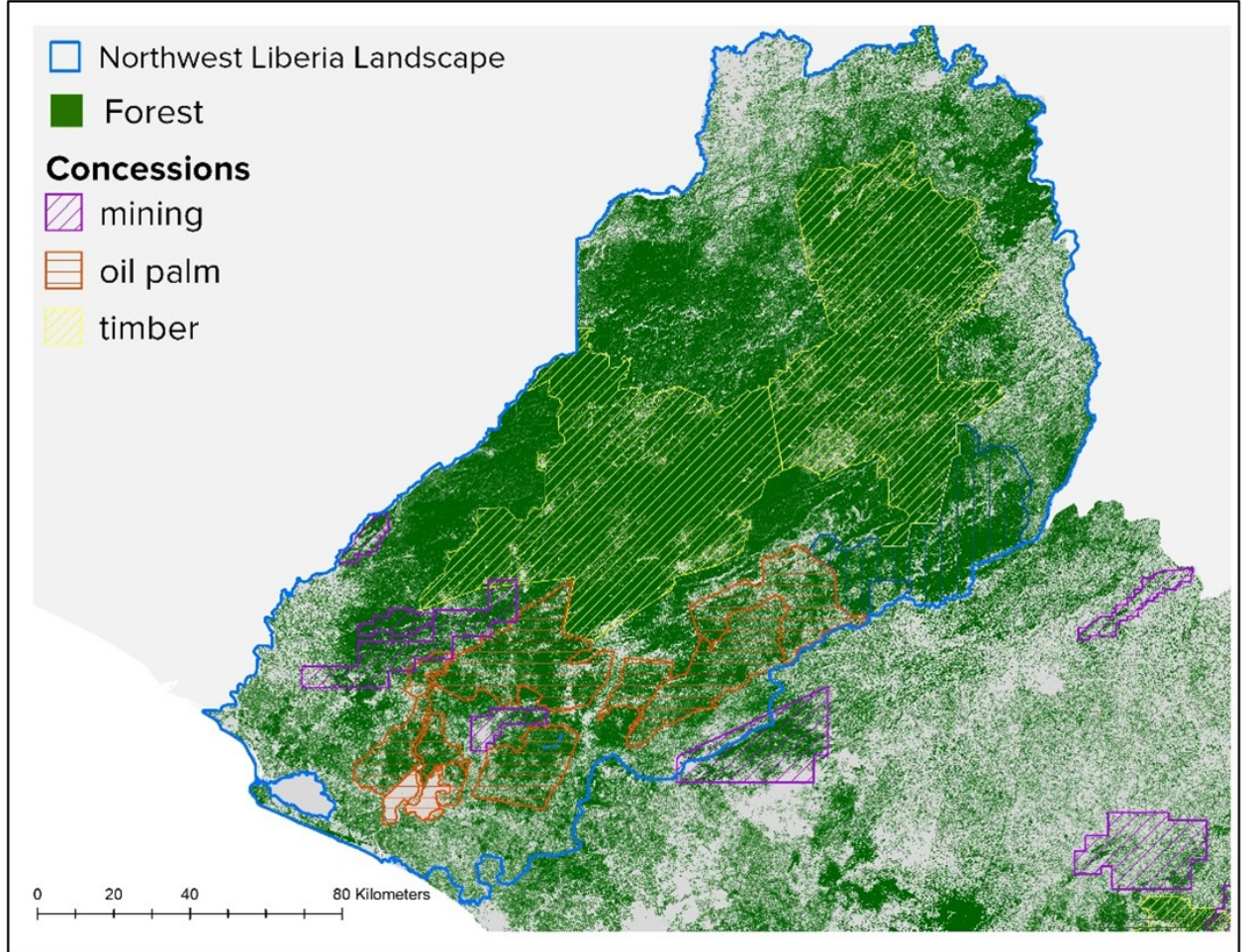


Figure 1: Map of Northwest Liberia Landscape & Concessions

2) Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects:

The ProDoc has expanded significantly on the baseline scenario presented in the child project concept. Here we include the updated text, taken from the ProDoc.

Current Baseline (Business-as-Usual Scenario) / Future Scenarios without the Project

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

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

Liberia has rich biodiversity and immense natural capital that has not yet been systematically assessed, measured, or valued. As the value of ecosystems is not fully recognized by decision makers, they continue to be lost and degraded. National planning and development agencies, which influence many of the decisions that impact natural resources in Liberia, are focused on the immediate need to improve the well-being of people; the notion that conserving natural resources is a critical element of human well-being in Liberia is not recognized by decision makers. The true costs of exploiting Liberia's natural resources are not being accounted for in development decision making and this is likely to result in a continuation of the current trend of unsustainable exploitation.

Although Liberia's environmental protection policies have proposed that key ecosystems be gazetted as protected areas (30% of the country's land area), limited actions have been implemented to date to ensure this gazettement moves forward. Of seven proposed protected areas in Northwest Liberia, only two have been established (Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve and Gola Forest National Park). Without land-use planning that incorporates the additional proposed protected areas, continued deforestation and forest degradation will undermine the ecological integrity of these areas. Continued forest loss in Northwest Liberia will have significant negative impacts on biodiversity. As one of the largest remaining forest blocks in West Africa, the region is vital for endangered species that require large areas of habitat, such as the chimpanzee, pygmy hippopotamus, and forest elephants. Continued forest loss and fragmentation will erode some of the last remaining large tracts of intact habitat for these species, which also serve as indicators of overall ecosystem health.

In terms of food security, without interventions the most severe effects of climate change on agricultural production in Liberia are anticipated in Bong and Lofa counties (USAID 2013), which comprise a significant portion of the Northwest Liberia Landscape. These counties were the primary agricultural areas before Liberia's civil war destroyed the nation's agricultural production system. Successful interventions therefore need to focus on adapting agriculture to anticipated changes, but this will not happen in the absence of integrated land-use planning that incorporates climate considerations and their implications for ecosystem services. Among the most problematic climate change implications that will be exacerbated by forest loss are hydrological impacts; in addition to undermining food security due to impacts on quantity, quality and timing of available water for agriculture, these impacts will affect watershed services pertaining to planned hydroelectric development as well as urban water supplies.

The current baseline scenario involves ongoing efforts of a broad array of stakeholders. Key actors relevant to the institutional and regulatory framework in the NW Liberia Landscape, relating in particular to land rights, conservation and food production, include:

Land rights

1. Government ? LLA: develop policies on a continuous basis, undertake actions and implement programs in support of land governance, including land administration and management in Liberia
2. NGO ? IDH: piloting land use planning in Lofa and conducting community awareness and sensitization the Liberian Land Rights Law particularly on land ownership in general and specifically on Customary Land and key questions related to Customary Land Right
3. NGO ? Landesa: identifying and addressing key land-related challenges with the aim of enhancing the tenure security of poor rural women and men in Liberia.
4. CBO ? FCI: Promoting Land rights, natural resource management and benefit sharing

5. CSO ? SDI: Promoting SDI's community rights and food security with good governance in forest and climate policy of Liberia.

Conservation

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

Food production

1. Local communities
2. Private sector ? Mano, Theobroma
3. Cooperatives who produce and buy food and cash crops
 - ? Gbahlay Farmers Cooperative
 - ? Nanorni oil palm cooperatives
 - ? Nanorni oil palm cooperatives
 - ? N?orfawor cooperatives
 - ? Manni rice farmers cooperative
 - ? Foya rural women cooperative

Various ongoing interventions seek to address aspects of the threats and barriers facing sustainable agricultural development in the Northwest Liberia Landscape. The most prominent examples include:

- ? The Liberia component of the GEF-funded Reducing Deforestation from Commodity Production project (Good Growth Partnership - GGP), which aims to facilitate sustainable oil palm development with a focus on the former Sime Darby concession;
- ? A REDD+ demonstration in the northeastern portion of the project area, by FFI;
- ? Forest monitoring and data management by the World Resources Institute (WRI);
- ? Community-level alternative livelihood and livelihood support projects by various local and international NGOs (in fisheries, subsistence food crops and agroforestry, NTFPs)

The IDH program of work in Liberia constitutes an important part of the baseline that informs the FOLUR project design, specifically on the development of stakeholder engagement plans, business plans and landscape management plans in cocoa and palm oil production areas. This includes lessons learned from IDH's work on formulating investment plans for community oil palm and other livelihood and conservation opportunities to unlock financing and facilitate scaling up of sustainable cocoa and palm oil production. In Lofa County, IDH worked with cocoa company Theobroma (ECOM) from 2018-2020 to pilot transformation of grassland to cocoa agroforestry, including forest protection and restoration with the local community. The FOLUR project also builds on IDH work with palm oil company Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) on community oil palm and green growth plans through mobilizing investment in community outgrowers. IDH worked with GVL outgrower communities and the FDA to set aside forests for conservation, and build community capacity in governance, land use planning, food security and income diversification, and forest management.

Of these, the GGP initiative is the most ambitious in scope and scale, including facilitation of national definition of RSPO standards and designing a smallholder oil palm development model, with support from IDH and CI. However, these interventions are unlikely to achieve scale or catalytic influence if

decision makers do not adopt an integrated landscape management approach for development planning. Current work is taking place without systematic, holistic land-use plans, resulting in duplication, inefficiencies, and conflicting agendas. To address these deficiencies, the proposed project will work with stakeholders to produce landscape and national land-use plans that incorporate production, maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and restoration of degraded areas. The proposed project will facilitate harmonization of ongoing efforts into a coherent landscape-level program of work embedded within national strategies and approaches.

GGP key achievements include:

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

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

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

- Conservation Agreement legalization being done by GGP Project where an analysis existing legislative gaps and linkages in relation to Conservation Agreements (CAs) as well as the identification of international best practices in CAs within production landscapes was produced, to inform the development of legal instruments related to CAs within production landscapes. A draft regulation was developed in consultation with the FDA and the EPA and finalization and gazettelement is envisioned for Q1-Q2 2021. Once legalized, this will give a legal basis for the use of CAs in FOLUR project, and facilitate land use planning, conservation and community benefits in production landscapes. This will provide a stronger legal framework as well as sustainability to CA tool, ensuring protection of HCVF and supporting local development.
- Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) completed to inform policy and strategy with respect to commercial and smallholder oil palm plantation development, on the basis of economic modeling combined with geospatial analysis of land suitability. The GGP does not include next steps to implement this strategy; the FOLUR project investment will use TSA results to ground the strategy for approaching potential sources of financing for development of sustainable smallholder palm oil production.

The list of associated baseline projects was updated as follows:

Retained:

Biodiversity conservation project in Gola and Foya; Community Forestry project in the Gola Landscape; and Gola Cocoa: Protecting Forests and Empowering People project

Ommitted:

Local Communities and the Law Enforcement Network project, as it was deemed tangential to the core project design.

Added:

Existing and planned investments for related work include:

Biodiversity conservation project in Gola and Foya, 2020 ? 2022 (USD 6.8 million). The European Union is funding this project, implemented by RSPB and SCNL with additional local partners, to support biodiversity conservation in protected areas in the Northwest Liberia Landscape (the existing Gola Forest National Park and the proposed Foya protected area) and neighboring community-managed forests. The initiative includes a land-use planning component which complements the proposed project; the proposed landscape-level planning process will align planning tools and processes, and aggregate local land-use planning outputs to achieve integrated landscape management.

Community Forestry project in the Gola Landscape, 2020 ? 2021 (USD 519,000). The Rainforest Trust is supporting SCNL efforts to consolidate work carried out in 5 community forests near Gola Forest National Park and extending this model to other communities. The focus is on sustainable management of Community Forests, a legal designation intended to enable communities to pursue commercial timber and NTFP extraction, subject to sustainable management and land-use planning that also considers conservation and agriculture. SCNL is also in discussion with Rainforest Trust to secure an additional US\$ 500,000 to support establishment of the Foya protected area. The proposed project will reinforce these efforts through a landscape level land-use plan that prioritizes ecological connectivity between Gola and Foya community forests and the larger Northwest Liberia Landscape. These community lands may also provide suitable demonstration sites for restoration work

Gola Cocoa: Protecting Forests and Empowering People project, 2020-2023 (USD 1 million).

RSPB and SCNL are finalizing discussions with Partnerships for Forests to secure support for the development of a market value chain for premium "green" cocoa, focused on communities around the Gola and Foya protected areas. The proposed project will align with this work and add critical enabling elements, including a land-use planning lens that considers strategic optimization of cocoa investments across the landscape, and support for development of producer associations to strengthen their positioning for participation in value chains.

Communities as Environmental Stewards of the Largest Guinea Rainforest Block, 2017-2020 (USD 330,000).

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is supporting SCNL work with 15 communities around Gola Forest to engage in rainforest-friendly and climate-smart income-generating activities in and around their community forests. This initiative also includes work to strengthen community capacity with respect to governance and sustainable financing. The proposed project will complement this initiative by linking it to wider planning processes and incorporating additional communities in the Northwest Liberia Landscape.

Microfinance for Gola Communities (USD 500,000). RSPB and SCNL are pursuing a Darwin Initiative investment in a financing mechanism for communities around Gola Forest National Park. The mechanism would provide small loans for small businesses and other income-generating activities; interest on loans is used to support Community Forest management activities. The proposed project will complement this potential project by pursuing other sources of impact investment for direct investment in the development of sustainable, deforestation free agroforestry (palm oil and cocoa).

Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP), 2016-2020 (USD 37.5 million). The LFSP is implemented by the FDA with funding from the Kingdom of Norway channeled through the World Bank. With the overarching goal of reducing deforestation to achieve carbon emissions reductions (REDD+), this project seeks to: expand the protected area network; improve government capacity to manage the nation's forest estate; promote sustainable community forestry; and develop sustainable financing for protected areas and community conservation. The proposed project will support LFSP by advancing land-use planning with an emphasis on deforestation-free development. The proposed project also will

build on the LFSP with respect to financing strategy for conservation and forest management, including restoration. SCNL is negotiating a sub-grant for USD 500,000 under LFSP to pursue community forest-sector livelihood projects with communities around Gola Forest.

West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA-BiCC), 2015-2020 (USD 48.9 million)/ Community Landscape Management to Reduce Deforestation and Biodiversity Loss in the Gola Transboundary Forest Landscape 2017-2020 (USD 1.9 million). The USAID-funded regional WA-BiCC program seeks to address direct and indirect drivers of natural resource degradation to improve livelihoods and natural ecosystems across the region. WA-BiCC focuses on efforts to strengthen policies and systems that will improve natural resource management and the health and resilience of coastal and upland forest ecosystems. The Community Landscape Management project under WA-BiCC has supported collaborative management of key corridors within the Greater Gola Forest Landscape (and area spanning the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia) to protect biodiversity, support livelihoods and combat climate change. In Liberia, the project focuses on Porkpa District in Grand Cape Mount County. The proposed project will build on this initiative by linking community-level management to integrated landscape management across the Northwest Liberia Landscape, and replicating successful components of the intervention with other communities.

Wonegizi REDD+ Pilot Project, 2016-2020 (USD 4.6 million). The Norad-funded Wonegizi REDD+ Pilot Project pursues three main outcomes: 1) Liberian stakeholders empowered to support development of international policy and global learning on REDD+; 2) National REDD+ policies enable the flow of climate finance to stakeholder communities at project and landscape scales, and align with frameworks for green growth and sustainable land use planning; 3) Operational REDD+ pilot protects forests and supports rural livelihoods in Wonegizi PPA and the wider landscape. The project works with national actors and local communities to establish the Wonegizi protected area and REDD+ pilot and promote sustainable forest management and improve rural livelihoods. This project sets the stage for the proposed project by providing baseline socio-economic, cultural, and ecological information required for relevant interventions. The proposed project will build on and strengthen livelihood activities around Wonegizi, particularly building on successful agricultural demonstrations and ensuring that they are taken to scale. The proposed project will also take learnings from the REDD+ pilot and incorporate them into the landscape financing strategy.

The Liberia Conservation Fund (LCF): An important component of the proposed project will advance sustainable financing for conservation management in Liberia. The FDA and CI worked together to create the LCF, launched in May 2018, with initial capitalization contribution of USD 1 million from CI's Global Conservation Fund and a commitment of USD 1 million from the Government of Liberia through the FDA. The above-mentioned LFSP may include a further contribution to this mechanism. The proposed project will examine the possibility of reinforcing the LCF as a national financing

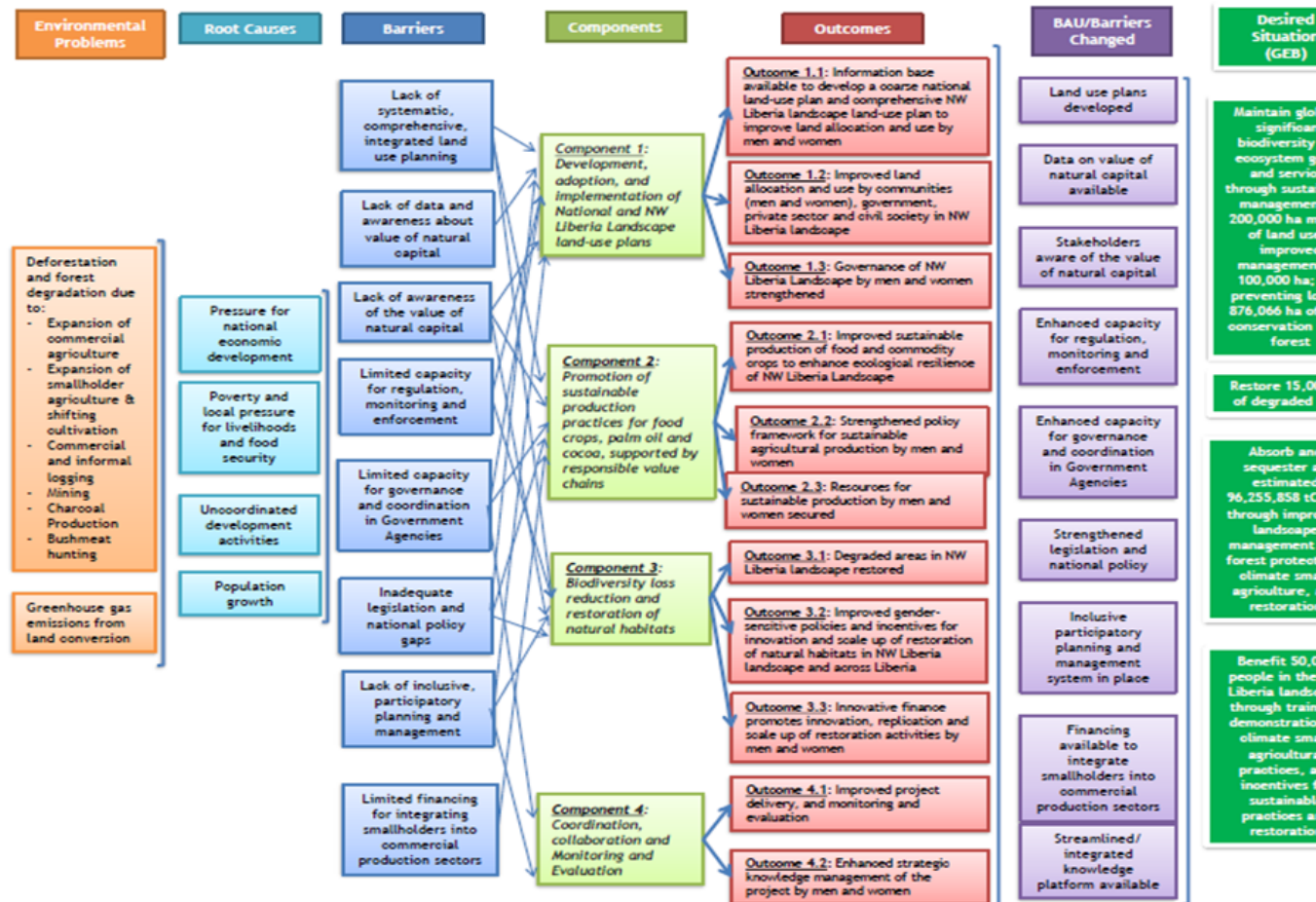
mechanism for community-based conservation and resource management, including REDD+ opportunities as well as restoration.

In addition to the currently ongoing and planned associated baseline projects, the proposed project will build on recently concluded activities including *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study in Liberia 2014-2016 (USD 120,000, UNEP/European Commission)* and *Mapping Essential Natural Capital 2016 (USD 300,000, EPA and CI)*.

3) Proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project.

The ProDoc has expanded significantly on the information presented in the child project concept. Here we include the updated text on the alternatives to the baseline scenario and the project strategy, taken from the ProDoc.

Figure 2: Theory of Change



Alternatives to the Business-as-Usual Scenario

Under the Business-as-Usual scenario, the forest ecosystems in the Northwest Liberia Landscape are highly threatened. Approaches that might be considered for improving land use management within the landscape include efforts that focus on formal protected areas, community forestry, livelihoods and economic development, or local land-use planning.

Protected area establishment is an important element of Liberia's overall biodiversity strategy. A focus to advance establishment of the pending proposed protected areas in Northwest Liberia would be an important contribution but would not be sufficient on its own. First, important areas fall outside the proposed protected areas in the landscape, especially with respect to habitat connectivity between high conservation value forest blocks. Creating protected areas as forest islands within an otherwise deteriorating landscape will not be ecologically, socially, or politically sustainable in the long term. As degradation leads to productivity decline elsewhere, communities, government and concessionaires will see these islands as obstacles to development rather than natural capital assets to be conserved.

A focus on livelihoods and economic development (e.g. through investment in community agriculture and community forestry) may be expected to reduce dependence on unsustainable resource use. Given that farmers in Northwest Liberia need alternatives to low-productivity shifting cultivation, there is a window of opportunity to both reduce forest loss and degradation and promote climate smart agriculture, including oil palm and alternatives such as sustainable cocoa. However, remote rural communities in Northwest Liberia will continue to rely on the natural resource base, auguring a significant risk of increased pressure on resources as market links improve, household incomes rise, and better prospects attract migrants to the area. These forces could overwhelm incentives for sustainable resource management at the local level in the absence of more holistic planning, coordination, monitoring and management.

Land-use planning is critical to help rationalize resource use, zoning, and land management. Comprehensive land use plans could specify, for example, conservation zones within Community Forests, parcels available for agriculture, and other areas that are available for extractive activities subject to sustainable harvesting plans. However, if not embedded in a broader policy framework and supported by a broad-based multi-stakeholder process, local level land-use planning on its own is unlikely to secure sufficient buy-in or impact to be maintained as an ongoing process. Thus, it is not likely to produce enduring behavior change that includes conservation and sustainable management.

Each of the approaches noted above offers valuable contributions, but they share several challenges. First, there is a dearth of information as well as processes to systematically incorporate information in decision-making. This relates to ecosystem functions, conditions, and trends, as well as ecosystem service values and the value of natural capital. This makes it difficult to make the case for protected areas or particular livelihood investments, and also poses an obstacle to land use planning. Second, each of these approaches requires sustained funding over a meaningful period of time, which is difficult to justify given low probability of success and long-term impact of individual actions. Third, they do not address important ecological and economic linkages across the larger landscape, or the array of mandates and policy frameworks that shape the priorities and activities of the many implicated stakeholders.

The selected scenario for this project adopts an integrated landscape approach that combines land-use planning at multiple levels with targeted support for community/smallholder participation in high-potential agroforestry sectors. The focus on oil palm and cocoa will leverage existing private sector interest in these commodities as prospects for the project area. Land use planning will also be used to guide investment in restoration activities that enhance ecosystem services and optimize spatial configuration of productive activities. Doing so will strengthen the wider enabling environment for livelihood investment, embedded in a national land-use planning process. This integrated approach will establish the framework for a fundamental shift in Liberia's approach to commercial agroforestry development, thus advancing conservation and sustainable use of Liberia's natural capital. Building the requisite capacity and demonstrating the ability of integrated landscape management to attract

efficacious development investment will secure multi-stakeholder buy-in and is more likely to be sustained at an institutional level in the long term.

Specific actions to improve production practices of palm oil and cocoa to make them more sustainable can include:

- Improving access of smallholder cocoa and palm oil farmers to high quality cocoa and palm oil seeds by linking them to seed suppliers and private sector such as MANO for palm oil and Theobroma for cocoa.
- Establish VSLAs and cooperatives to improve farmers' access to credit.
- Training of farmers on good agronomic and agroforestry practices.
- Demonstration and promotion of climate smart agricultural practices
- Crop suitability analysis for cocoa and palm oil will be conducted.
- Promote alternative livelihoods such as vegetable production, rice, cassava, NTFPs etc.
- Development of credible certification programme for NW Liberia Landscape cocoa and palm oil
- Strengthening existing cooperatives for activities such as extension, training, seeds and nursery, pre- and post- harvest technologies, and other agricultural products processing and marketing

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

A number of key policies exist that could potentially incentivize and promote enterprise and investments in sustainable cocoa and palm oil production including the Liberia Agricultural Transformation Agenda?LATA, The Cocoa and Oil palm export strategies by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the International Trade Centre (2014), and the Investment Promotion Strategy by the National Investment Commission (2013). Thus, the alternative scenario includes a review of legal context and policy incentive options on land use and promotion of climate-smart agriculture and responsibly produced palm oil and cocoa, to generate policy recommendations to support sustainable cocoa and palm oil production. For these recommendations to have an impact, the alternative scenario must include strengthening institutional capacities of key government agencies and ministries to effectively carry out their respective mandates, and coordination. Key entities to target include:

- The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), for it to provide climate smart agricultural extension and advisory services to farmers
- Liberia Agricultural Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA), enacted by national law to improve the regulatory environment for trade
- The Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) established with the mandate of training and certifying cooperatives

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with the mandate of guiding Liberia towards compliance with national and international environmental laws
- Forestry Development Authority as a custodian of the protected areas network and other forested lands in Liberia (ducts processing and marketing, mill operator, nneen Fund and Althelia) must include potential sources of financing for smallholder

Cost Effectiveness Analysis of Chosen Alternative

The three primary components of this project entail development of land-use plans; promotion of sustainable food, palm oil and cocoa production; and reduction of biodiversity loss principally through restoration. Each of these components pursues long-term outcomes that do not lend themselves to meaningful short-term indicators, so the cost effectiveness analysis takes the form of qualitative assessment that examines the alternatives that were considered.

As described above, the alternatives to the selected approach may be valuable activities to undertake, and therefore are not necessarily to be ruled out on the basis of cost, but on their own and in the absence of requisite enabling conditions they offer a low probability of success. For example, protected areas established without regard to wider landscape management are unlikely to be robust. Livelihood investment in the absence of a land-use planning framework will not result in optimal resource use. Land-use planning at the local level is unlikely to endure without the foundation of multi-stakeholder, landscape-level planning, and management, supported by an appropriate policy framework. Therefore, premature investment in these alternatives, particularly as stand-alone initiatives, would be a poor use of scarce conservation and development funds.

The selected scenario is thus more cost-effective because it will involve collaboration between communities, civil society organizations, the private sector, and a broad range of government agencies to put in place the enabling conditions for enduring sustainable management through a landscape-level land-use planning process. Landscape-level results will guide local land-use planning, livelihood investment, and restoration efforts, which together increase the likelihood of enduring stakeholder buy-in that will sustain positive ecosystem impacts. In so doing, the project will also enhance the probability of success for future deployment of other approaches.

In addition to the on-ground activities of the Project, a landscape land-use plan that informs a national land-use plan will enhance the cost-effectiveness of a broad range of future investments. Protected area planning will benefit from a land-use plan that reflects community input on priority areas for resource access. Investment in commercial agroforestry will benefit from mapping of suitability based on soil, hydrology, climate, and other factors. Community forestry initiatives will benefit from baseline information on spatial distribution of resources. Government infrastructure investments will benefit from mapping of current and potential land use including settlements, agroforestry, and other activities. Absent an integrated landscape management framework with the associated planning tools, work in any of these and other domains would require costly *de novo* investment in data gathering, stakeholder engagement and consultations, and policy analysis.

The constituent parts of the project design all were retained, and none added, but the organization of outcomes and components of the project design (as shown in Section B above) was adjusted to eliminate overlap and redundancies. The reorganization consolidated initial research, assessment and planning activities under Component 1. Doing so will facilitate planning and tracking of project execution, and promote more efficient oversight and implementation of sequential activities.

Geographic Scope

The Northwest Liberia Landscape (Figure 1) falls between 11.5° 0' 0''W 9.8° 0' 0''W and 9° 0' 0''N 6° 0' 0''N. It comprises about 2.7 million hectares (ha) in Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Bong counties, which have a total population of 900,000 people (GOL 2008), of which 570,000 live in the project area. Its forests contain High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV) forest sites and extensive habitat and natural resources essential for an assemblage of species as well as livelihoods for local communities. Limited economic development leaves the local population heavily reliant on natural resources for subsistence and livelihoods. The area has also attracted logging, mining, and commercial agroforestry interests.

The landscape comprises existing and proposed protected areas as well as some of Liberia's largest emerging production activities such as palm oil and other commodities; it therefore presents an enormous opportunity to demonstrate sustainable development that relies on positive links between human wellbeing and natural capital. The existing protected areas are Gola Forest National Park and Lake Piso Multiple Use Protected Area, totaling 198,000 ha. In addition, several proposed protected areas are currently under development, including Kpo Mountains, Bong Mountain, Wonegizi, Wologizi and Foya, totaling 395,950 ha.

Gola Forest National Park is part of a transboundary conservation complex extending westward into Sierra Leone's Gola Rainforest National Park, and Wonegizi is part of a transboundary forest complex with the Guinean Ziam Biosphere Reserve. These transboundary links show how the landscape benefits from the wider conservation geography. To the south/southwest, the Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve serves as a boundary for the landscape. To the east of the landscape lies Liberia's principal agricultural corridor, with a major road and train line linking the coastal capital of Monrovia to the border with Guinea through Nimba County in the central-northern portion of the country. Map-based analysis of accessibility shows a buffer between this populated corridor and the intact forests of the NW Liberia Landscape, attributable to natural features (topography and rivers) and limited road development westwards (CI 2017).

The thematic scope of the project will be land-use planning and governance to guide agroforestry development (oil palm and cocoa) as well as forest conservation and restoration at the local and landscape levels. The activities focused on Northwest Liberia landscape will also inform and be informed by work in parallel on a national level land use plan. At the national level, this project will be informed by FDA work towards a national land use planning policy/strategy under the Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP), while at the local level, it will be informed by clan-level land use planning work by IDH in Foya District and similar work planned in Vahun and Kolahun districts. Administratively, Liberia is divided into fifteen counties, which are subdivided into 90 districts; districts are further subdivided into clans, which are the smallest unit of governance. The fifteen counties are administered by superintendents appointed by the President of Liberia. Site level activities also will be informed by local land use planning to be undertaken in Lofa by FFI and in Gola by RSPB and SCNL. Details of project geography are provided below. Anticipated impacts of climate change form a backdrop for these processes and motivates an emphasis on climate smart agriculture. Finally, as this work is being initiated in a context where limited planning has taken place, it offers an opportunity to incorporate gender-sensitive considerations from the outset.

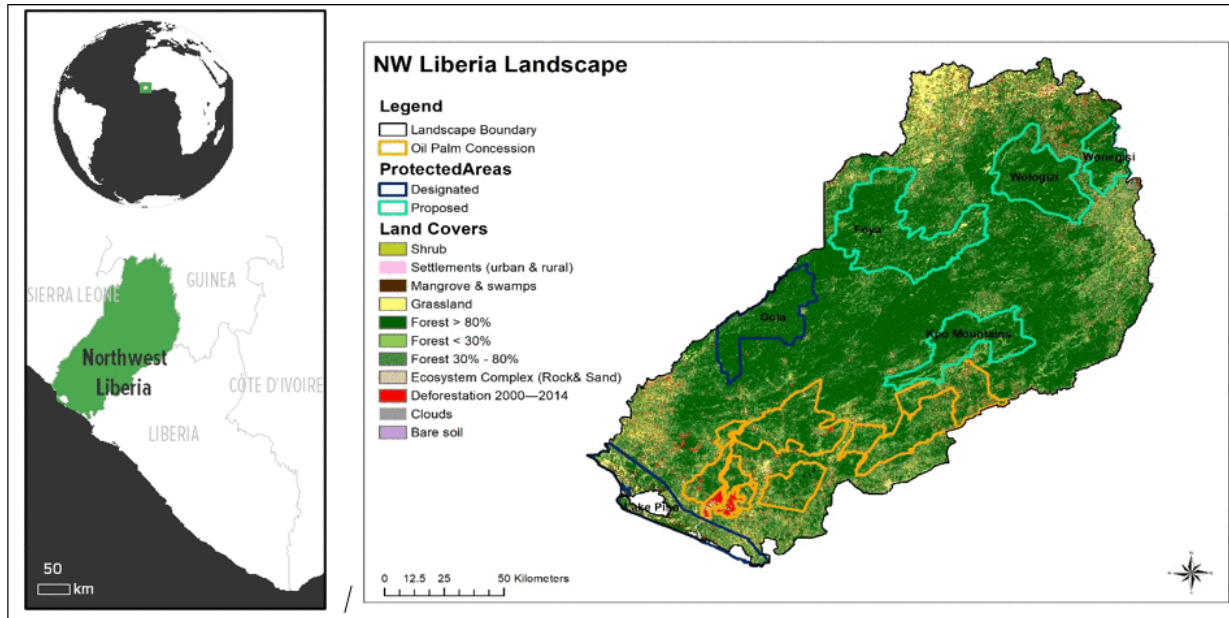


Figure 3: Map of Northwest Liberia

Landscape (Project Area)

Project sites were selected based on spatial analysis and the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM). The analysis covered geographic, economic, and social aspects of the NW Liberia landscape, to help prioritize target areas for the project and optimize the impacts of interventions for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation using four main criteria: (a) value for conservation, (b) vulnerability to forest degradation, (c) vulnerability to deforestation, and (d) viability for intervention. Spatial data layers were created for the first three criteria, and for the fourth criterion, a qualitative assessment of the conditions for implementing project interventions was used and included assessing the strength of the governance and regulatory mechanisms that are associated with the dominant land uses in NW Liberia and the capacity of the decision-making institutions associated with those land use. By combining spatial layers into a single score, the places with the highest conservation value forest and the greatest vulnerability were identified. Table 1 below details the criteria used. A stakeholder workshop that convened 32 partners from government, private sector, civil society, and NGOs was held to validate the proposed project sites. In addition, project sites for improved agriculture were selected based on desktop research on crop, soil and climate suitability analyses. The main sources cited included:

- i. CAAS. 2007. Tree Crops Sub-sector Report. Comprehensive Assessment of the Agricultural Sector in Liberia. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Bank, Monrovia, pp 69-139.
- ii. LISGIS (Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services). 2012. Agriculture and Crop Survey 2012. Monrovia.
- iii. Republic of Liberia. 2012. National Export Strategy - Cocoa Export Strategy 2014-2018. Republic of Liberia and International Trade Centre, Monrovia and Geneva.
- iv. Schroth G, L'Herach P, Martinez-Valle AI, Bunn C. 2015. Climate vulnerability and adaptation of the smallholder cocoa and coffee value chains in Liberia. Working Paper No. 134. CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Copenhagen, Denmark. Available online at: www.ccafs.cgiar.org

Table 1: Criteria used for selection of project sites

Conservation value	Vulnerability to deforestation	Vulnerability to degradation
<p>? Areas of high carbon value (based on level of forest cover)</p> <p>? High biodiversity values based on existing and proposed protected areas and on conservation priority areas and</p>	<p>? Areas of agricultural concessions</p> <p>? Areas of logging concessions</p> <p>? Areas of mining concessions</p>	<p>? Threats from current levels of shifting cultivation and associated activities such as hunting, collection of NTFPs</p> <p>? Threats from existing and proposed logging concessions</p> <p>? Threats from accessibility provided by roads and tracks</p> <p>? Threats from increased use of forests in and around concessions where employment and incomes are expected to increase</p>

The key areas to prioritize for conservation in the land-use planning process will be existing protected areas, the proposed protected areas of Foya, Wologizi, Wonegizi and Kpo mountains, and communities

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

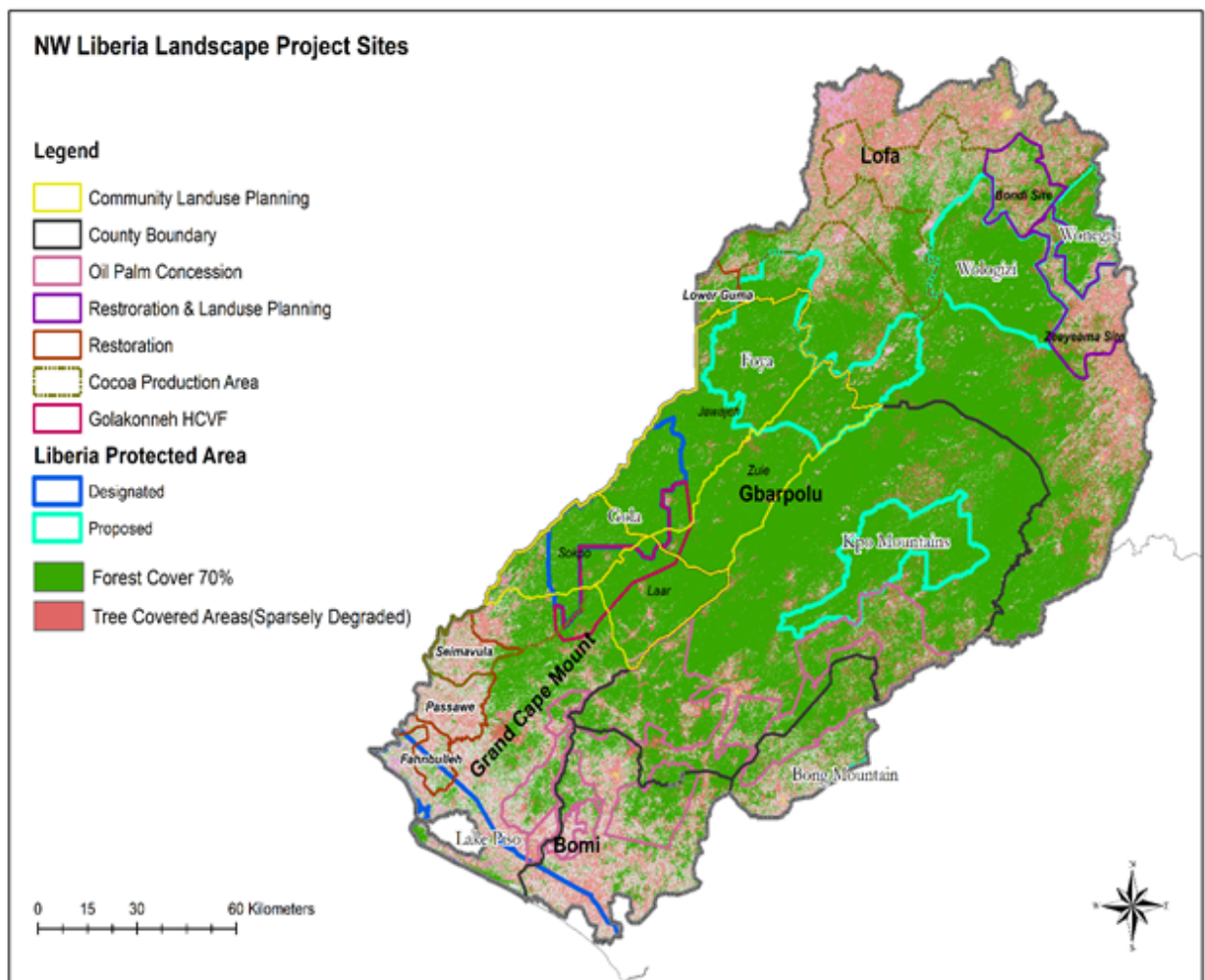


Fig 4: Map of Northwest Liberia Landscape showing proposed project sites

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

Activity	County	District	Clan	Population	Male	Female	Households	Hectares
Restoration only	Lofa	Vahun	Lower Guma	3,709	1,806	1,903	424	15,238
	Grand Cape Mount	Porkpa	Seimavula	21,920	11,301	10,619	2,723	26,147
			Fanhbulleh	7,188	3,516	3,672	1,543	17,333
		Tewor	Passawe	16,557	8,064	8,493	3,615	29,821
Community land use planning only	Gbarpolu	Kongba	Zuie	5,844	3,352	2,492	1,015	39,962
			Jawajeh	7,432	4,248	3,400	1,180	29,422
	Grand Cape Mount	Porkpa	Sokpo	9,795	5,515	4,280	1,349	49,149
Both restoration and land use planning	Lofa	Zorzor	Bondi	8,921	4,208	4,713	1,948	57,230
		Voinjama	Zeyeama	19,895	9,408	10,487	4,129	30,449
Total				101,261	51,418	50,059	17,926	268,605

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

Objective, Components, Expected Outcomes, Targets, and Outputs

Objective

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

The project will do so by supporting community adoption of sustainable agriculture and agroforestry methods in Northwest Liberia, in areas identified through land-use planning at community and landscape levels. This includes work with communities whose lands overlap with commercial oil palm concessionaire MPOI/MPOP, such that the concessionaire is a key participant in land-use planning processes. Land-use planning outputs will also inform development of a coarse national land-use plan. Community participation in markets will be enhanced through farmer cooperatives and private-sector partnerships. To reinforce sustainable production, the project will also pilot land restoration activities with communities and introduce draft regulations that support sustainable land-use management, agriculture, and restoration.

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

The first component of the project will entail preparing land-use plans as the basis for investments in sustainable, climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry and restoration. Participatory, multi-stakeholder land-use planning will take place at community and landscape levels. At the same time the project will support a national land-use planning process to extend project impacts beyond the Northwest Liberia Landscape; the three levels of planning will take place concurrently and inform each other. At the national level, a coarse national land use plan will be developed, relying on secondary/desktop research; at the landscape level, detailed land use plans will be developed based on secondary data as well as primary data to be collected under the project.

Integrated landscape management refers to long-term collaboration among different groups of land managers and stakeholders to achieve the multiple objectives required from the landscape.

Stakeholders seek to solve shared problems or capitalize on new opportunities that reduce trade-offs and strengthen synergies among different landscape objectives. Although there are many different approaches to integrated landscape management, with different entry points, processes and institutional arrangements, common features include broad stakeholder participation, negotiation around objectives and strategies, and adaptive management based on shared learning. To these ends, the project will work through a coalition of partners, government authorities and other stakeholders, through an existing land use planning working group that already is in place; a first step in the process will be to jointly develop a vision for the landscape. Land use planning will identify areas for protection, conservation, and production, which will be delineated in an inclusive and participatory manner; a landscape management body will be established with responsibility for ensuring implementation of the land use plans; and this body will be supported by regulations on integrated land use planning and management to be developed by the project. Lessons learned from the land use planning process will be documented and shared for adaptive management.

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

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

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

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

While the critical scale for land-use planning and sustainable land use management is at the local level, the wider national context shapes opportunities and constraints and dictates norms and standards for relevant processes and products. Therefore, the planning process must be grounded in a comprehensive review of relevant policies, laws, strategies, and initiatives. This output will also help the wide range of

diverse stakeholders involved in the land-use planning process converge on shared expectations for how the process will unfold, and the factors that shape and constrain options for decision-makers. This output will include an inventory of available data sets with national coverage of essential layers for a coarse national land use map (e.g. population distribution; current land use/land cover; transportation infrastructure; agricultural potential; mineral potential; critical ecosystems).

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

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

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

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

Target 1.2.b: *15,000 ha of HCS/HCV forest loss directly avoided, and 826,066 ha of forest loss indirectly avoided*

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

The information and data collected under Outcome 1.1 will be used to inform participatory multi-stakeholder, multi-criteria land-use planning processes at two levels, the landscape, and communities. A coarse national land-use map will provide the starting point for a comprehensive Northwest Liberia Landscape land-use plan, with input from government (national agencies and local government at district and county levels), the private sector and civil society. Thus the project will develop land-use plans (LUPs) for the Northwest Liberia Landscape as a whole, and with 9 clans (Gola Konneh, Maima, Normon, Sokpo, Tonglay, Zue, Wengolu, Zeayamai, and Bondi) to avoid 15,000 ha of HCS/HCV forest loss and 826,066 ha of indirect forest loss. These clans were selected through a participatory multi-stakeholder process during the partners' strategic alignment workshop, based on (a) their proximity to either Protected Areas or Proposed Protected Areas; (b) the presence of one or more implementing partners; and (c) on-going initiatives including stakeholder engagement by partners. These land use plans will seek to achieve a stakeholder-informed balance between production and natural capital maintenance needed to make production sustainable in the long term. The project will further improve land allocation and use by preparing the gazettement package for the Wologizi Proposed Protected Area.

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

The coarse national land use map will highlight key planning criteria such as population distribution; current land use/land cover; transportation infrastructure; agricultural potential; mineral potential; and natural capital values and critical ecosystems (including proposed protected areas). With more comprehensive and spatially explicit data, the landscape-level planning process will result in proposed

zoning that balances the various policy priorities and commitments of the Government of Liberia, including employment, economic development, and environmental sustainability. This initial landscape LUP will be fine-tuned based on Clan LUP results.

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

To ensure adoption of the NW Liberia land use plan at the local level, the land use planning process will emphasize sustainable livelihoods and strengthened participation in growing commercial opportunities in palm oil and cocoa, and also will prioritize food security and the potential for community-based conservation (e.g. set-aside and management of primary forest on their lands and within Community Forests). LUPs will be developed for nine clans that will inform investment to support adoption of sustainable agriculture/agroforestry options and restoration activities to avoid the loss of 15,000 ha of HCS/HCV forests, and serve as pilot/demonstration exercises for future replication throughout the Northwest Liberia Landscape and elsewhere in Liberia, thus indirectly avoiding the loss of 826,066 ha of HCS/HCV forests. The planning process itself will draw on participatory tools that already have been developed and adapted to the Liberia context for instance by IDH in Foya District in Lofa County.

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

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

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

Target 1.3a: *One governance mechanism in place*

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

The purpose of investing in land-use planning processes is to facilitate improved governance of the Northwest Liberia Landscape, positing that improved governance will lead to better outcomes with respect to sustainable economic development. A land-use plan will serve as a mechanism for coordinating and aligning the activities of the various agencies and stakeholders that relate to governance. Improved governance requires the formation of a suitable mechanism to convene stakeholders and supporting regulations that empower the governance structure to fulfill its function. Thus, whereas much of the project area currently exhibits a governance vacuum, at the end of the project there will be a functioning structure for governance focused on sustainable land use.

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

As the Northwest Liberia Landscape spans several counties and is relevant to multiple sectors, governance at the landscape level necessarily requires a multi-stakeholder framework. The principal functions of this governance structure will be to monitor adherence to and implementation of the land-use plan; periodically revisit and update land-use plans in light of changing circumstances, opportunities or needs; and address land-use conflicts that may emerge. The mandates of the EPA and County Administrations are most closely aligned with the role of convening this governance structure, with other key participants including sectoral ministries and agencies as well as representation from the private sector, civil society, and the local populace. While executing the land-use planning process, the project will develop the Terms of Reference for the governance structure as a whole and its participating members.

Under the GGP project, a multi-stakeholder landscape forum - North West Oil Palm Landscape Forum (NWOPLF) was established covering two counties of Bomi and Grand Cape Mount. NWOPLF was composed of several stakeholders including Government (MoA, FDA, MiA, and NBC), NGOs (CI Liberia), the Private sector (Sime Darby Plantation Liberia) and CSOs in both Counties. Based on the successes and lessons learned from NWOPLF, this project will strengthen the NWOPLF to cover all five Counties in the NW Liberia Landscape (Lofa, Bong, Bomi, Gbarpolu, and Grand Cape Mount). The composition of the NWOPLF will also be increased to include additional stakeholders as below:

? Government: MoA, LLA, FDA, MiA, NBC, MoGCSP, Ministry of Mines and Energy, LACRA, CDA

? NGOs: CI Liberia, SCNL, FFI, RSPB, IDH and Solidaridad

? Private sector: MPOI, Theobroma, Liberation Chocolate, Greentech, Intofawar Cooperative, Trade Link, Gbahlay Farmers Cooperative, Wienco, Liberia Agriculture and Asset Development Company (LAADCO), Nanorni oil palm cooperatives, Maliando cocoa cooperative, N?torfawor cooperatives, Foya rural women cooperative, Vainga Agriculture Development and Management Consultancy (VADEMCO) etc.

? CSOs: Foundation for Community Initiative (FCI), SDI, SADS, Forest cry, FACE, Grand Cape Mount Civil Society Organizations, SAMFU etc.

? Academia: University of Liberia, Forestry Training Institute

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Building on land-use planning and capacity-building with respect to climate-smart agriculture through training and demonstrations, the project will extend sustainable practices to 100,000 ha of land under production of food and commodity crops, through direct work with project beneficiaries. Achieving this level of adoption will require incentive mechanisms and institutional development, to motivate and

make possible behavior change at scale. The spatial configuration of this behavior change will depend on outcomes of land-use planning processes, but a substantial focus may be anticipated in and around the existing commercial oil palm concession; analysis conducted for UNDP suggests that on the order of 120,000 ha of the concession may be suitable for sustainable smallholder oil palm development. Additional areas under improved sustainable production are anticipated through replication by non-beneficiaries facilitated by partners in the landscape.

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

The project will conduct a wide-reaching awareness and training program to expose stakeholders throughout the landscape to climate-smart agricultural alternatives, prioritizing palm oil and cocoa value chains and, in response to community priorities, also addressing NTFP opportunities. This package of practices will emphasize livelihood options that do not rely on continual forest conversion, but instead benefit from the presence of healthy forest ecosystems. (In addition to livelihood diversification, emphasis on NTFPs helps strengthen the case for forest conservation and restoration activities). This campaign will reach at least 10,000 beneficiaries; recognizing that exposure does not result in 100% of beneficiaries immediately changing behavior, this size audience will ensure an initial critical mass of early adopters. Producers will be trained on farming as a business, post-harvest handling, and market information systems. The content of this capacity-building program will be developed by contracted subject-matter experts working with FDA, the Ministry of Agriculture, EPA and civil society organizations to also generate institutional capacity growth.

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

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

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

The principal incentives for responsible production will consist of access to initial financing for agroforestry development, and market access and/or price premiums linked to global markets for sustainable palm oil and cocoa. The project will work to incorporate small farmers into these value chains through partnerships with larger private sector operators. One form of such links will be private sector engagement with commercial aggregators, who can combine supplies purchased from smallholders for onward sale to international buyers. Another is linking smallholder oil palm

cultivation to the Mano Palm Oil Plantation as purchaser of output to feed the Mano mill. Access to initial financing will be linked to commitments to zoning and regulations developed under land-use plans, which thereby also forms an incentive for conservation-compatible food crop production. Other bespoke incentives will be defined using participatory processes during the design of conservation agreements with communities. These incentives will reach at least 20,000 beneficiaries by the end of the project, most of whom will be smallholders entering either the palm oil or cocoa sectors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Output 2.3.1: Long-term gender-sensitive financial plan

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

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

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

Component 3: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats

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

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

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

Target 3.1b: 250,000 ha restored indirectly

Target 3.1c: 5,468,072 tCO₂e sequestered in NW Liberia landscape

The landscape land-use planning process will identify areas for restoration and prioritize at least 15,000 ha for these efforts. The results of this prioritization will be validated through land-use planning steps at the community level. Restoration plans will be developed in response to specific needs at the site level but are anticipated to involve a combination of passive and active restoration measures depending on the level and type of degradation at a particular restoration site. At a minimum, restoration sites will be subject to monitoring and vigilance to prevent further disturbance and permit natural recovery. In extreme cases, active reforestation may be required. Restoration plans will be developed with technical guidance from EPA and the FDA, with input from other agencies as appropriate. By restoring 15,000 hectares directly and 250,000 hectares indirectly, the project will help sequester an estimated 5,468,072 tCO₂e in the Northwest Liberia landscape (CO₂e impacts estimated using the FAO Ex-Ante Carbon-balance Tool [EX-ACT] Tool).

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

A Restoration Plan will be one of the outputs of the landscape-level land use planning process. The plan will reflect planning objectives relating to habitat quality and connectivity, as well as productivity for agriculture (e.g. through watershed and pollination services) and NTFP provisioning services. The project will be guided by the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) and The Economics of Ecosystem Restoration (TEER) initiatives, to inform both data collection and analysis such that SLM, restoration and rehabilitation activities are built on a strong empirical evidence base. Thus, the plan will build on the process used to define the target of 15,000 ha, based on spatial analysis and ROAM methodology as described above. A further planning objective will relate to integrity and functioning of protected areas, which may benefit from restoration efforts both inside and outside their boundaries. To the degree possible, the Restoration Plan will indicate whether a site is suitable for active or passive restoration, subject to validation at the community level. Community-level land-use planning will include ground-truthing of landscape level restoration priorities, and verification of community needs and priorities with respect to restoration.

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

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

program; targeted technical training with respect to active restoration will be provided at sites where this is relevant.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Incentives to induce restoration at scale will require financing, particularly for active restoration efforts that require significant land-use management interventions. On their own, growing policy recognition of the issue of degradation in Liberia and recognition of restoration as an important element of integrated landscape management will not result in tangible improvements. Incentives to motivate restoration efforts and funding to cover the costs of these efforts will be essential. Rather than a distinct, stand-alone financing need, the costs of restoration need to be included as a core element of

financial planning for integrated landscape management. Possible financing approaches include Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) by larger corporate actors in the landscape; bundling of restoration in REDD+ arrangements; and designation of restoration as an eligible activity under incentive-based community efforts catalyzed through conservation agreements. Recognizing that financing for restoration is a global challenge, this area of work is especially suitable for coordination with and support from the FOLUR Global Platform, and will generate learnings to capture in documentation for dissemination through the Platform's communications efforts.

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

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

Component 4: Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation

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

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

The project will also engage with regional platforms and initiatives focusing on cocoa and palm oil value chains (e.g., African Palm Oil Initiative, African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), and West Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (WACSAA) through South-South cooperation and exchange visits with other FOLUR beneficiary countries in West Africa (Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Guinea). At the Global level, the project will engage with various bodies such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), Global Landscape Forum (GLF), the One Planet network (10YFP) Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme, World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), UNDP Green Commodities Programme, and FOLUR-specific collaboration mechanisms that will be established.

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

Target 4.1: 15 satisfactory quarterly Project progress reports produced

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The integrated knowledge management system will provide a model for multi-stakeholder data and information sharing. For this system, the EPA will host an online portal that provides access to knowledge products and serves as a technical resource to facilitate replication of the integrated landscape management approach elsewhere. The five community resource centers will also be established under this output, as the means by which knowledge products and other resources will be made available to local information users. Recognizing limited internet access as well as low literacy levels, key resources need to be tailored appropriately to the intended users (e.g. short video formats viewable on phones rather than text-heavy brochures). The locations of these centers will be decided

together with principal government agencies and county administrations, informed by the locations of the project's demonstration sites; choice of location will also consider potential use of centers as bases for outreach/extension efforts of EPA, FDA, Ministry of Agriculture and partners.

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

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

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies: This information was not included in the PIF; the Project Document contains the following:

This project is aligned with the GEF-7 Programming Directions and Focal Areas and Aichi Targets as described in Table 4. It directly relates to the expected outcomes under the FOLUR IP, stated as: sustainable food systems promoted; negative externalities in value chain reduced; deforestation free commodity supply chains promoted; landscape-scale restoration promoted for production and ecosystem services.

Table 3: Mapping of Project Components to GEF Focal Area and Aichi Targets

Project Components	GEF 7 Focal Area Programs	Aichi Targets and Indicators
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<p>Component 1: Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans</p>	<p>BD 1-1: Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors</p> <p>BD 2-7: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate</p> <p>FOLU IP: Promoting effective coordination and adaptive management for Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration</p>	<p>Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>
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<p>Component 2: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains</p>	<p>LD 1-1: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)</p>	<p>Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.</p> <p>Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p> <p>Target 7: By 2020, areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>
<p>Component 3: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats</p>	<p>LD 2-3: Maintain or improve flows of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)</p>	<p>Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all-natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p>

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

The currently ongoing associated baseline projects described above are taking place without an integrated landscape management plan or any other holistic planning framework. This carries a significant risk of duplication of effort, missed opportunities for synergies, mixed messages to stakeholders, and incompatible intentions under different projects operating in the same areas. The proposed GEF investment in land-use planning will address this deficiency, thereby constituting clear coverage of an incremental cost above and beyond current efforts. Moreover, most of these baseline projects will conclude in 2020 or soon thereafter; the proposed project will be critical to consolidate and build on their outcomes and sustain progress toward integrated landscape management.

The Government of Liberia has emphasized palm oil as a leading driver of economic growth in its development planning. The smallholder segment of this sector offers significant potential for employment and pro-poor development, but to date Government and others have struggled to secure catalytic investment to scale up smallholder participation in Northwest Liberia, with attention concentrated on unlocking large commercial investment. One aspect of strengthening smallholder participation in value chains for both palm oil and cocoa is organizing farmers for collective benefits

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

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

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

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

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

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

The expected contribution from the GEFTF is \$7,139,449.

Co-financing (which includes contributions from the baseline) was updated from the child project concept, was updated as in Section C above, with major changes from the PIF being:

Breakdown of Government of Liberia contributions into contributions from specific agencies: EPA, LISGIS, FDA, and LLA, and Ministry of Agriculture with an increase in the total from USD 10 million to USD 32 million.

Private sector contribution no longer from Sime Darby, but from Mano Palm Oil Industries, who took over the concession from Sime Darby. The confirmed contribution is USD 30 million, down from USD 50 million initially anticipated from Sime Darby as recorded in the PIF.

Omitted European Union

Confirmed contributions from civil society organizations listed in Section C, to now include RSPB, SCNL, FFI and IDH; omitted Rainforest Alliance

Partnership for Forests contribution is omitted since the project is suspended and may not get reinstated. CI contribution is USD 36,000 only and reflect grants contribution from unrestricted funding (not listed in PIF).

The new total for confirmed co-financing is **\$66,999,065**, compared to the initial estimate of USD 70,824,090 provided in the PIF.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF): points on global environmental benefits were raised in various parts of the PIF. In the Project Document they were consolidated in one section as:

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

Biodiversity conservation

This project will contribute to maintaining globally significant biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services by improving land use practices over 315,000 ha as below:

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

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

- i. Only those areas crucial in ensuring ecosystem integrity and connectivity were selected using spatial analysis (GIS) and the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM). The analysis covered geographic, economic, and social aspects of the NW Liberia landscape, to help

prioritize target areas for the project and optimize the impacts of interventions for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation using four main criteria: (a) value for conservation, (b) vulnerability to forest degradation, (c) vulnerability to deforestation, and (d) viability for intervention. Spatial data layers were created for the first three criteria, and for the fourth criterion, a qualitative assessment of the conditions for implementing project interventions was used and included assessing the strength of the governance and regulatory mechanisms that are associated with the dominant land uses in NW Liberia and the capacity of the decision-making institutions associated with those land use. By combining spatial layers into a single score, the sites with the highest conservation value forest and the greatest vulnerability were identified.

ii. The total HCVF area that is outside of the formal protected areas is 246,007 ha. So, through the project, conservation agreements will be signed with communities to with nine clans to conserve 15,000 ha of HCVF areas outside formal protection. This 15,000 ha was determined using GIS as the area of land under the jurisdictions of the nine selected clans

iii. Costs per hectare. A study done in 2011 by FDA and UNDP that showed that the cost per hectare for Sustainable forest management is US\$ 2.50., and the cost per hectare for Afforestation and Reforestation is USD\$150.00 (Kantor and UNDP. 2011. *Assessment of Investment and Financial Flows for mitigation in the forestry sector in Liberia*).

iv. A stakeholder workshop was conducted where the results of this analysis were validated.

Climate change mitigation

The forests of the Northwest Liberia Landscape offer significant opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Net emissions reductions will be achieved through the outcomes of the land-use planning processes to be conducted under the Project. Based on anticipated land-use planning results, the Project will absorb and sequester an estimated 36,134,316 tCO₂e through improved landscape management and forest protection, climate smart agriculture, and restoration as calculated with the EX-ACT tool.

Land degradation

One of the primary objectives of improved land-use planning and management is to combat land degradation. Moreover, the project also will introduce restoration to Liberia to reverse degradation of agricultural land. The project will work with communities to restore 15,000 ha of degraded land and build on site-based demonstration and support for policy/regulatory improvement to indirectly benefit a further 250,000 ha. Indirect restoration is expected principally as a result of formation and strengthening of cooperatives that will have an impact beyond the areas of direct restoration. For instance, training and knowledge received through site-based demonstrations are expected to be applied in other surrounding areas, especially with respect to restoration through agro-forestry and sustainable cocoa and palm oil production.

Collectively, the environmental benefits described above will directly benefit 50,000 people in the landscape. This figure comprises 20,000 people trained under Outputs 2.1.1 and 3.1.2 (10,200 men and 9,800 women); 10,000 people involved in demonstration of climate smart agricultural practices under Output 2.1.2 (5,100 men and 4,900 women); and 20,000 beneficiaries of incentives under Output 2.2.1 (10,200 men and 9,800 women).

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up: this was elaborated in the Project Document based on initial remarks in the child project concept, as follows:

Innovativeness

The project will introduce integrated landscape land-use planning and management to Liberia. This will involve new ways of collecting, managing, analyzing, and utilizing economic and environmental data in Liberia. To do so the project will draw on CI's global experiences with landscape planning as well as the in-country experience of several government agencies and other partners with more localized land-use planning. For example, CI-South Africa and its partners have produced a set of best practices in participatory land use planning which will be introduced through this project. Grounding the landscape-level land-use planning process in an emphasis on sustainable agroforestry production and conservation of priority habitat, against the backdrop of anticipated impacts of climate change, represents a new planning and management framework for Liberia, but one that is strongly aligned with Government policy as expressed in the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

Novel applications of the Conservation Agreement approach will be introduced to Northwest Liberia through the proposed project. This will draw upon CI's experiences globally but will be adapted to the specific context in the project area. CI has worked with local partners to adapt the Conservation Agreement approach in more than 60 communities around the world (including multiple sites in Liberia). This tool will be used throughout the project to promote adoption of sustainable food and commodity production, restoration, and conservation management of high conservation-value forest sites.

The project will offer a key contribution to rural development in Liberia by demonstrating means for investing in smallholder agroforestry. Efforts to develop commercial plantations in the oil palm sector have stalled due to the challenge of designing and financing locally appropriate outgrower models that allow smallholders to participate in economic development. The project will pilot solutions to this bottleneck, through a combination of training and extension services, producer organization, and incentives that represent valuable innovations in the country. An important innovation in the Liberian context will be the pursuit of impact investment financing from sources such as &Green and Althelia, reflecting the conviction that the project will successfully demonstrate models for palm oil and cocoa production that conforms to high social and environmental standards while generating sufficient returns to repay this type of investor. Securing such financing at scale would be a first in Liberia, and represent a breakthrough in promoting smallholder development and value chain participation.

A core element of the project is to position restoration as an investment in sustainable production and/or conservation and build the case for such restoration as a legitimate way to generate carbon credits. This is an innovative approach to financing restoration while contributing to global efforts to mitigate climate change. The project will allow Liberia to join the forefront of global work to refine market-based approaches to reducing global carbon emissions.

Sustainability

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

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

environmental benefits of such participation and commitment will further reinforce institutional sustainability.?

The proposed project will result in enhanced capacity on the part of stakeholders with respect to land-use planning and integrated landscape management. This capacity will be sustained by replicating the approach in other parts of Liberia, such that newly developed skills and capacity remain in active use and receive ongoing financial and institutional support. Subsequently, landscape management will require regular revisiting and updating of land-use management plans, stakeholder coordination, and conflict management. These activities will warrant continued investment in sustaining and deploying the requisite capacity built in the project, as core functions of the agencies involved.?

Sustainability of project benefits will be supported by wider economic development policy of the Government of Liberia. For the foreseeable future, agriculture and agroforestry will be the leading sectors for achieving broad-based rural development and poverty reduction. Therefore, an emphasis on palm oil and cocoa will remain a policy priority for the government, and a focal area for bilateral and other development assistance. The continued central role of these sectors in Liberia's development planning will contribute to sustained interest in and support for the activities needed to sustain project benefits.?

Sustainability in the form of enduring change in production practices will be secured through demonstration of the productivity advantages of sustainable, climate smart practices; the collateral ecosystem service benefits provided by these practices; and market advantages (access and price premiums) available to producers as a result of these practices. Thus, behavior change in favor of sustainable land-use will be self-reinforcing as a result of gains derived from new production and business models. This aspect of sustainability prioritizes smallholder organization into more effective business units, linkages between smallholders and the private sector, and links to global markets for sustainably produced deforestation-free commodities.?

A core element of financial sustainability will be efficiency gains and price premiums made available through promotion of sustainable production practices. Another element of the sustainable financing strategy is the incorporation of climate-smart agriculture and restoration as eligible activities for REDD+ carbon credits, as well as implementation of conventional REDD+ projects. Finally, a program of performance payments for community-based conservation, particularly in and around protected areas, will inform an activity line to build up the Liberia Conservation Fund (LCF). The LCF was launched in May of 2018. The LCF serves as a mechanism for channeling funds from a range of conservation finance sources, including biodiversity offsets from Liberia's growing mining and energy sector, payments for ecosystem services such as REDD+ transactions (as well as blue carbon), and earmarked government revenues such as conservation fees levied on the timber sector.?

Replicability and Potential for Scaling Up

The combination of multi-stakeholder, multi-level land-use planning, investment in sustainable agriculture and agroforestry, and conservation of natural capital offers great potential for replicability and scaling up. The project will develop the foundation for integrated landscape management in Liberia; the coarse national land-use map that will be developed will provide the basis for replicating the overall project in other landscapes in the country. The suite of investments in sustainable smallholder production likewise will be replicable elsewhere in the country, while offering a solution for commercial agroforestry concessionaires. The planning processes and governance mechanisms to be designed and applied in Northwest Liberia will provide models for improved planning and decision-making in other landscapes and thus for an ever-greater portion of the country's natural capital.

The main form of scale up will be the involvement of growing numbers of smallholders in sustainable supply chains for palm oil and cocoa. Initially, this will be achieved through replication in Northwest Liberia, and then other parts of the country, as NGOs, civil society and relevant government agencies gain experience with the model, processes, and production techniques. Importantly, proof of concept

and demonstration of ability to repay will open the door to additional financing. Replication and scale-up of links between smallholders in Liberia and global markets for sustainably produced, deforestation-free commodities will benefit from economies of scale; these economies of scale relate to increasing returns to investment in monitoring and certification systems, chain of custody systems, and marketing and transaction infrastructure as more producers participate throughout Liberia.

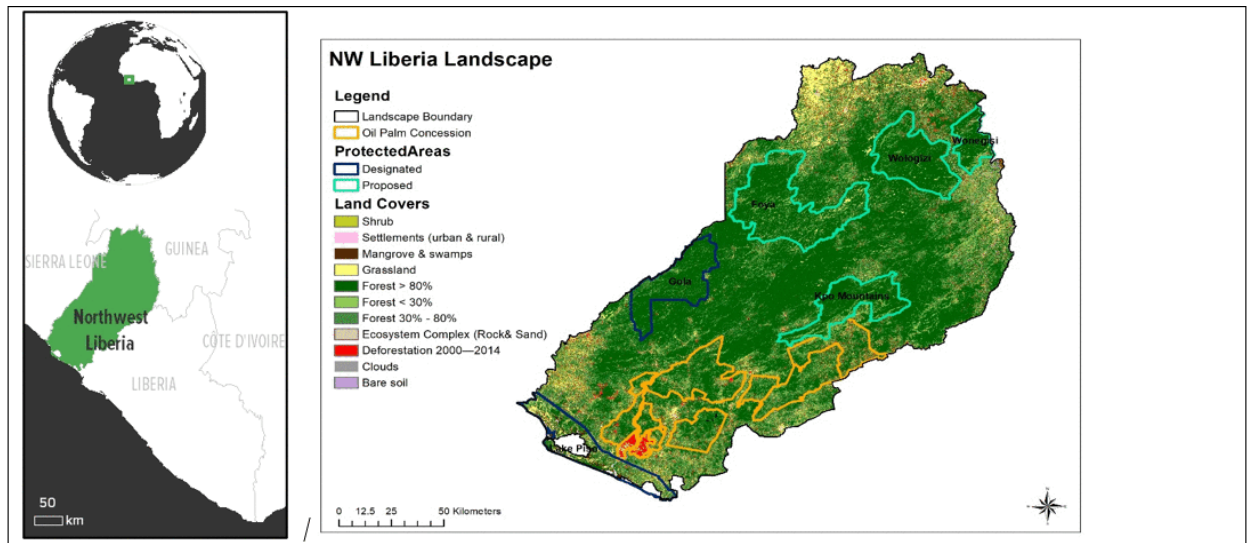
Successes of Conservation Agreements to date and the additional Conservation Agreements to be implemented in Northwest Liberia under this project will inform continued efforts to formulate a national stewardship model and deployment strategy. The goal is to establish a national program that offers economic incentives to owners of land with critical natural assets such as forest to guarantee protection over the medium to long-term. Linked to the LCF and associated financing mechanisms developed through the project, this national program will help channel financial resources that empower rural communities to manage natural resources while improving human well-being. The program will act as a catalyst for replicating the Conservation Agreement model throughout the country to achieve community-based conservation and natural resource management at scale.

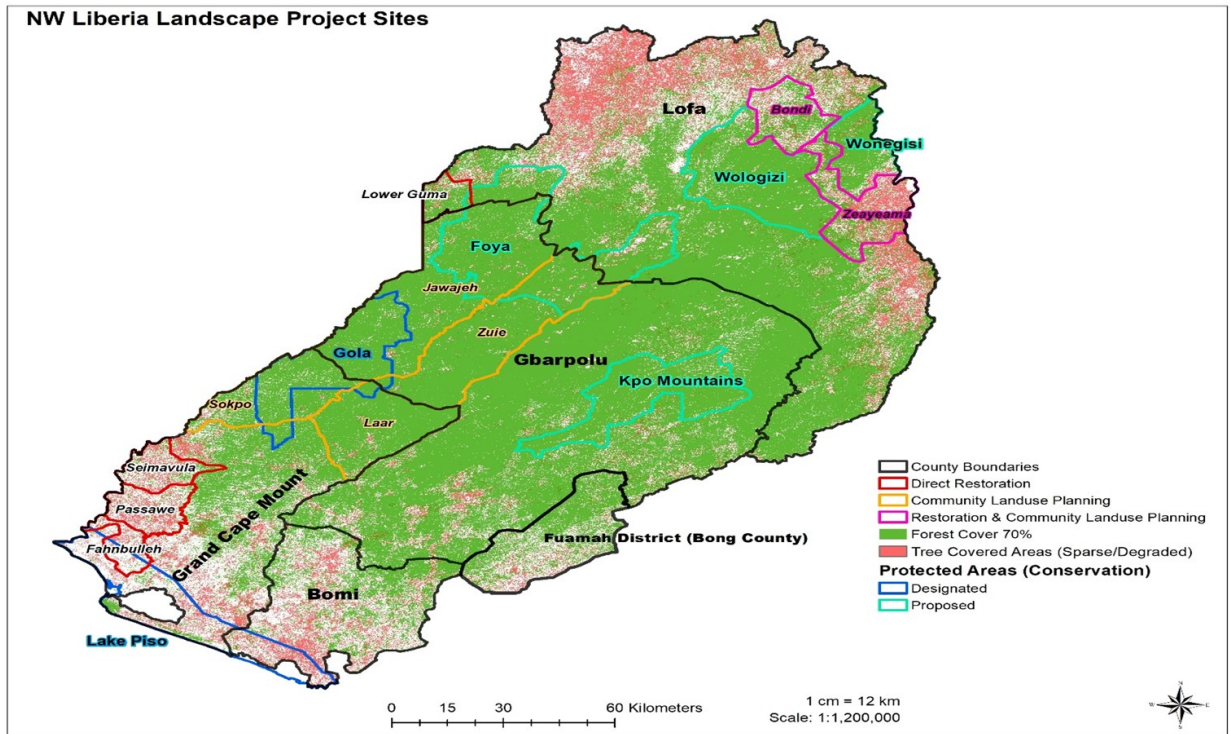
Finally, the project's effective demonstrations of integrated landscape management and land-use planning linked to sustainable commodity production will also serve as models for replication elsewhere in West Africa and beyond. This potential for wider replication motivates the project's substantial commitment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

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

Figure 5: Map of Northwest Liberia Landscape (Project Area and Proposed Project Sites)





NW Liberia Landscape coordinates are:

North = 08°33'03.0636", -010°26'32.1065"

South = 06°28'30.6553", -010°26'08.9103"

West = 07°33'21.8645", -011°30'15.2792"

East = 07°33'45.7019", -009°20'47.1079"

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

This is a Child Project under the FOLUR IP, which pursues the following program impacts: Sustainable food systems promoted; Negative externalities in value chain reduced; Deforestation-free commodity supply chains promoted; and Landscape-scale restoration promoted for production and ecosystem services.

The project has been designed to contribute to these impacts by promoting sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa by smallholders on 200,000 ha. The adoption of sustainable production practices will reduce negative externalities in the primary production stage of the value chain, and promote deforestation-free commodity supply chains through land-use planning at local, landscape and national levels. Negative externalities will be further reduced by improving land management to benefit biodiversity on 100,000 ha, also per land-use planning products. The project will also promote landscape-scale restoration with activities focused directly on 15,000 ha of restoration.

With respect to Component 2 in particular, implementation of market-based interventions requires rigorous and thorough analysis of market conditions and feasibility. Too many livelihood, enterprise and production initiatives operate based on assumptions and theories of change that prove to be unrealistic; consequently, interventions struggle to achieve self-sufficiency and sustainability. This leads to unmet expectations, and loss of trust and confidence on the part of local communities,

government, and investors. Therefore, the proposed project will prioritize robust feasibility and market analyses, value chain assessments, and economic modeling. These steps, planned for the first year of implementation, will benefit greatly from technical input and expertise offered by the FOLUR Global Platform team. For Component 3, recognizing that financing for restoration is a global challenge, this area of work is especially suitable for coordination with and support from the FOLUR Global Platform, and will generate learnings to capture in documentation for dissemination through the Platform's communications efforts.

With respect to M&E (Component 4), linkages to the FOLUR Global Platform will be essential, to align program management and ensure consistency of M&E systems. The reporting framework will be designed to meet the M&E needs of the Global Platform with respect to impact measurement as well as aggregation; the reporting system will be designed to facilitate bi-directional exchange between the Project and the Global Platform so as to maximize opportunities to benefit from FOLUR technical support. The M&E system also will incorporate (among other considerations) the specific gender-related indicators tracked in the FOLUR Global Platform M&E framework. The arrangements for Project M&E will include the incorporation of additional indicators as needed to ensure compatibility with the Global Platform M&E framework; coordination with the Platform to ensure that Project M&E data accommodates roll-up and aggregation to the Global Platform level; and regular, timely reporting to the Platform to facilitate tracking as well as dissemination of results and learnings.

Furthermore, as described in Section 8 below (Knowledge Management) the project will contribute to overall FOLUR IP impact through production and sharing of knowledge products and dissemination of lessons learned among FOLUR IP Child Projects that face similar challenges. Regular documentation of success stories and lessons will facilitate sharing with the Global Platform, for onward communication to other Child Projects and wider audiences. Together with the FOLUR Global Platform, opportunities will also be identified and pursued for exchanges with other Child Projects and other GCP and GEF commodity projects in order to maximize institutional learning and dissemination in key technical areas related to the cocoa and palm oil production-deforestation nexus. The Project will coordinate engagement efforts with commodity platforms and roundtables with the FOLUR Global Platform, to streamline efforts and ensure a consistent global approach.

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

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Table 4

Stakeholder Name	Date, Location and Method of Engagement [1]	Outcomes
<p><i>Name the key stakeholder contacted during PPG in this column. Add rows as necessary.</i></p>	<p><i>When and where did you meet? Was it a meeting, consultation, workshop, etc?</i></p>	<p><i>What was the aim/rationale? What was discussed? What decisions were made, if any? How did this contribute to or was captured in the design of the project? If/how do they want to be engaged during the implementation phase?</i></p>
<p>Local communities</p>	<p>1. Two surveys were conducted in four counties survey to collect environmental and social issues in NW Liberia Landscape from the 10th ? 29th November 2019 as indicated below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sinje community, Garwula District, Grand Cape mount County b. Vohnzula community, Garwula District, Grand Cape Mount County c. Dewah Clan, Gbarma District, Gbarpolu County d. Lekpeh Town, Tehr Clan, Klay District, Bomi County e. Gizima Clan, Zorzor District, Lofa County f. Njoma village, Cape Mount County g. Zumor Town, Bomi County h. Damba village in Bomi County <p>1. 4th-5th December 2019 ? 10 representatives from the communities participated in the Partners strategic alignment workshop held in Monrovia</p> <p>2. 12th September 2019 ? 10 community representatives participated in the PPG inception workshop held in Monrovia</p>	<p>The information collected from the surveys and input from the community representatives was instrumental in: (a) identification of environmental and social issues, which enabled the development of environmental and social safeguard plans for the project; (b) determining the project sites and targets; (c) providing local knowledge on restoration; and (d) assessing the potential impact of the project on livelihoods. Also, due to poor road infrastructure during rainy seasons, the local communities suggested that project activities that involve face to face meetings/engagement should be conducted during the dry season when the roads are accessible</p>

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

Private sector	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4th-5th December 2019 ? participate in FOLUR Project Partners strategic alignment workshop 2. Smallholders and MANO 	<p>The engagements were critical in ensuring the MANO that took over SDPL in Liberia puts in place sustainability commitments in their operations and bringing them up to speed on the common vision for the landscape and what their role in the project will be. Consequently, MANO provided co-financing of US\$ 30 million in the project, baseline information for the project, and co-financing.</p>
Bilateral and multi-lateral agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 12th September 2019 ? PPG inception workshop 2. 4th-5th December 2019 ? FOLUR Project Partners strategic alignment workshop 	<p>The engagement with various bilateral and multilateral organizations led to the development of a common vision for NW Liberia landscape and establishment of a Land Use Planning Working Group for synergies, collaboration, and sharing of information and lessons learned.</p>

GEF

1. 28th-29th October 2019 ? meeting with executing agencies, partners and stakeholders in Monrovia, Liberia
2. 4th-5th December 2019 ? participate in FOLUR Project Partners strategic alignment workshop; and
3. 6th April 2020 to assess the impact of Corona Virus on the production of the ProDoc

Three field supervision missions were conducted by Mohammed Imam Bakarr, the Senior Environmental Specialist where he emphasized and urged the team to ensure the following issues are incorporated in the design of the FOLUR:

1. Private sector involvement. According to GEF, the private sector has been identified as a key actor in agricultural expansion, thus, there is need to ensure that the private sector is involved and engaged throughout the design process of the project. He also informed us that the GEF is in the process of developing a private sector engagement strategy, of which a draft has already been produced. However, off-head he said that GEF definition of private sector includes all the actors involved in income generating activities such as smallholder farmers, cooperatives, companies etc. This has resulted in MANO and small holder palm oil companies providing input into the design of the project. MANO has also provided co-financing of about US\$ 30 million to the project

2. Co-financing. He reiterated that the GEF will want to see three different co-financing options (cash, investment mobilized, and in-kind) mobilized for the FOLUR project. This advice resulted in co-finance letters to be sourced from various sources.

3. Institutional and execution arrangements. He cautioned us to critically think through how the project will be implemented, and ensure we have broad-based consensus on the project?s implementation framework. As a result, the project management structure has various institutions including the government and NGOs involved.

4. Active involvement of landscape stakeholders. He encouraged us to have a meeting also at the landscape to ensure that we capture the views, and concerns of the landscape stakeholders including local communities, and county authorities. Several engagements were held at the community whose views were incorporated into project design

5. Linkages with other commodity initiatives. Mohammed informed us that on their part (Paul and himself) they are willing to help link FOLUR to other initiatives like World Bank which has received US\$ 32 million from GEF for supporting regional and country initiatives on palm oil. He specifically referred to the African Palm Oil initiative (APOI) that will be one of the beneficiaries of this funding. Further, he stated that we should also include in the ProDoc, how FOLUR is building on the GGP and how some of the products (tools, knowledge management, forums etc.) developed by the GGP project in Liberia and globally will inform the design and later be used in the implementation of the FOLUR project. On this

CI-GEF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 22nd August 2019 ? Discussion on the change of dates for the submission of the full ProDoc from 30th September to 31st December 2020 2. 27th March 2020 ? Meeting to discuss about how the Covid-9 situation is potentially affecting the GEF projects 3. 22nd August 2019 ? Update on the ProDoc development 4. 29th February 2020 ? meeting on CI-GEF policies and procedures 5. 5th February 2020 ? FOLUR budget preparation 6. Consultations also took place through several email exchanges between CI-GEF team and CI Liberia 	<p>These engagements resulted in guidance being provided that has been used to inform the design and the production of the ProDoc</p>
NGOs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meetings to develop PPG workplan and budget 2. 4th-5th December 2019 ? participate in FOLUR Project Partners strategic alignment workshop 3. 12th September 2019 ? PPG inception workshop 4. 5th February 2020 to review and refine the attached results framework for FOLUR. 5. 29th-31st January 2020 ? Partners risk assessment 6. Meeting to review the draft ProDoc 	<p>The various engagements with NGOs were helpful in: (a) developing synergies with ongoing and planned initiatives and avoid duplication of activities in NW Liberia landscape ? these have been included as baseline projects in the ProDoc; (b) identifying strengths and gaps in each of the partners for implementation that resulted in selection of competent organizations to implement on the ground activities once the project is approved; (c) identification of project sites; (d) refining of the project results framework; (e) obtaining co-finance letters; (f) developing a common vision for NW Liberia landscape; and (g) developing of the project implementation/execution arrangements</p>

Media	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 12th September 2019 ? PPG inception workshop 2. 4th-5th December 2019 ? participate in FOLUR Project Partners strategic alignment workshop 	The media were engaged to create awareness about the project and ensure that information about the project reaches to the various local communities. This resulted in an article on the project being published by FrontPage Africa Newspaper and a talk show hosted by Red Power FM.
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[1] Method of engagement can be face-to-face meeting, telephone call, workshop, consultation, survey, etc.

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

The PPG phase included the preparation of a detailed Stakeholder Engagement Plan that is included as Appendix IX to the ProDoc.

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

? The expected project area and impact, that is the geographical area over which it may cause impacts (both positive and negative) over its lifetime, and therefore the localities within which people and businesses could be affected;

? The nature of the impacts that could arise and therefore the types of national/local government entities, NGOs, academic and research institutions and other bodies that may have an interest in these issues.

? Geographical presence in NW Liberia landscape

? Mandate and/or role in biodiversity conservation and other activities proposed by the project

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

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

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

As a landscape-level, inclusive multi-stakeholder endeavor, the land-use planning process at the heart of the project necessarily implicates a wide range of stakeholders. These include local communities, local government, an array of national government bodies with interests in planning, development and land use, the private sector, and a diverse set of Non-Government Organizations and bi- and multi-lateral assistance agencies in the conservation and agricultural development arenas.

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

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

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The table below summarizes planned stakeholder engagement activities:

Table 5: Planned Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Stakeholder Name	Method of Engagement	Location and Frequency	Resources Required
Local communities in project sites	<p>Through face-to-face community meetings, individual interviews and workshops</p> <p>Participatory appraisal (PRA) of community needs; capacity building and awareness raising; feasibility studies for Conservation Agreements; data collection for research purposes; consultations to attain Free, Prior and Informed Consent; involvement in local land use planning meetings</p>	<p>Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</p> <p>Throughout land-use planning process and pilot site implementation, in project sites</p>	<p>Staff time; travel to project sites; meeting venue and catering for community meetings</p> <p>(\$703,855)</p>
National Government Ministries and Agencies	<p>Emails, face-to-face meetings, workshops; Project Management Unit meetings; Project Steering Committee meetings; Project Inception workshop; Training and capacity building events; Participation in landscape land-use planning processes; Consultation to propose policies/regulations</p> <p>Share midterm and final project evaluation?</p>	<p>PMU meetings will be held monthly in Monrovia.</p> <p>PSC meetings will be held quarterly in Monrovia.</p> <p>Project</p> <p>Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</p> <p>Consultations, training and capacity building activities will be held throughout the year in Monrovia and in the communities</p>	<p>Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings</p> <p>(\$98,906)</p>

<p>Academia</p>	<p>Emails, face-to-face meetings, workshops; Project Inception workshop; Implementation planning and execution; Participation in landscape land-use planning processes; Involvement in M&E; Share midterm and final project evaluation</p>	<p>Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</p> <p>Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</p> <p>M&E of field activities will be held quarterly</p> <p>Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</p>	<p>Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings</p> <p>(\$19,770)</p>
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<p>NGOs and civil society organizations</p>	<p>Emails, face-to-face meetings, workshops; Project Inception workshop; Implementation planning and execution; Participation in landscape land-use planning processes; Involvement in M&E; Share midterm and final project evaluation?</p>	<p>Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</p> <p>Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</p> <p>M&E of field activities will be held quarterly</p> <p>Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</p>	<p>Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings (\$37,231)</p>
<p>Private Sector</p>	<p>Emails, face-to-face meetings, workshops; Project Inception workshop; Participation in landscape land-use planning processes; Cultivation of market relationships with producers; Share midterm and final project evaluation?</p>	<p>Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</p> <p>Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</p> <p>M&E of field activities will be held quarterly</p> <p>Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</p> <p>The frequency of participation in land use planning will be throughout the land use planning process</p>	<p>Staff time; meeting venue and catering for meetings (\$43,616)</p>

Bilateral/ Multilateral Entities	Emails, face-to-face meetings, workshops; Project Inception workshop; Share midterm and final project evaluation; Coordination meetings?	Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation Coordination meetings and M&E of field activities will be held quarterly Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings (\$19,770)
Local Government	Emails, face-to-face meetings, workshops; Project Inception workshop; Participation in landscape land-use planning processes; Share midterm and final project evaluation; Local land use planning activities?	Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation M&E of field activities will be held quarterly Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively The frequency of participation in land use planning will be throughout the land use planning process in the landscape	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings (\$20,707)

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

Further details with respect to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the project are offered in the tables below:

Table 6: Details of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholder Name	Role of stakeholder implementation of the SEP	Method of Engagement	Location and Frequency	Indicators	Resources Required	Budget
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Local communities in project sites	Local communities will be useful agents in collection of data vital in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the SEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Face-to-face community meetings ? One-on-one interviews/meetings ? Workshops ? Public meetings ? Focus group meetings. ? Surveys ? Announcements ? Information boards <p>Participatory appraisal (PRA) of community needs; capacity building and awareness raising; feasibility studies for Conservation Agreements; data collection for research purposes; consultations to attain Free, Prior and Informed Consent; involvement in local land use planning meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants? Throughout land-use planning process and pilot site implementation, in project sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? # of emails ? # of trainings ? # of meetings ? # of workshops ? # of surveys 	Staff time; travel to project sites; meeting venue and catering for community meetings	\$703,854.74
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<p>National Government Ministries and Agencies</p>	<p>? Share information related to the project and identify opportunities to leverage resources and promote collaboration. ? Facilitate the stakeholder meeting, prepares for meeting by identifying data sources and preparing an agenda that allows for the sources to be discussed. ? Serve as advocates at all levels (in Parliament, government, mass media, etc.) for improved project delivery ? Provide insight into project, lessons learned, and advocate for improved project delivery</p>	<p>? Emails, ? Face-to-face meetings ? Workshops ? Project Management Unit meetings ? Project Steering Committee meetings ? Project Inception workshop ? Training and capacity building events ? Participation in landscape land-use planning processes ? Consultation to propose policies/regulations ? Share mid-term and final project evaluation ? Distribution of printed public materials: leaflets, brochures, fact sheets</p>	<p>? PMU meetings will be held monthly in Monrovia. ? PSC meetings will be held quarterly in Monrovia. ? Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation ? Consultations, training and capacity building activities will be held throughout the year in Monrovia and in the communities</p>	<p>? # of emails ? # of trainings ? # of PMU meetings ? # of PSC meetings ? # of trainings and/or # of persons trained ? # of inception workshops and/or # of participants in the inception workshop ? # of consultative meetings ? # of project progress reports shared</p>	<p>Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings</p>	<p>\$98,905.68</p>
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Academia	<p>? Inform public using data and information about PMTCT program and about planning process ? Present relevant data or information produced by the university to stakeholders; ? advise planning process and conduct any necessary research per request of stakeholders.</p>	<p>? Emails ? Face-to-face meetings ? Workshops ? Project Inception workshop ? Implementation planning and execution ? Participation in landscape land-use planning processes ? Involvement in M&E ? Share midterm and final project evaluation ? Distribution of printed public materials: newsletters/ updates ? Blogs ? Surveys</p>	<p>? Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants ? Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation ? M&E of field activities will be held quarterly ? Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</p>	<p>? # of emails ? # of meetings ? # of workshops and/or # of participants in the workshop ? # of trainings and/or # of persons trained ? # of field monitoring visits and/or # of monitoring reports shared ? # of project progress reports shared</p>	<p>Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings</p>	<p>\$19,769.52</p>
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NGOs and civil society organizations	<p>? Provide data and information on project activities</p> <p>? participate in planning process as key service provider</p> <p>? possibly implement project activities</p>	<p>? Emails</p> <p>? Face-to-face meetings</p> <p>? Workshops</p> <p>? Inception workshop</p> <p>? Implementation planning and execution</p> <p>? Participation in landscape land-use planning processes</p> <p>? Involvement in M&E</p> <p>? Share mid-term and final project evaluation?</p> <p>? Distribution of printed public materials: newsletters/updates</p> <p>? Blogs</p> <p>? Surveys</p> <p>? Information boards</p>	<p>? Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</p> <p>? Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</p> <p>? M&E of field activities will be held quarterly</p> <p>? Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</p>	<p>? # of emails</p> <p>? # of meetings</p> <p>? # of workshops and/or # of participants in the workshop</p> <p>? # of trainings and/or # of persons trained</p> <p>? # of field monitoring visits and/or # of monitoring reports shared</p> <p>? # of project progress reports shared</p>	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$37,230.95
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Private Sector	<p>? Provide data and information on stakeholder engagement;</p> <p>? Provide any data/information related to project activities</p> <p>? Serve as advocate for the project, and potentially financially supplement stakeholder engagement efforts.</p>	<p>? Emails</p> <p>? Face-to-face meetings</p> <p>? Workshops</p> <p>? Project Inception workshop</p> <p>? Participation in landscape land-use planning processes</p> <p>? Cultivation of market relationships with producers</p> <p>? Share mid-term and final project evaluation?</p> <p>? Blogs</p> <p>? Surveys</p> <p>? Print media and radio announcements</p>	<p>? Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants</p> <p>? Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation</p> <p>? M&E of field activities will be held quarterly</p> <p>? Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</p> <p>? The frequency of participation in land use planning will be throughout the land use planning process</p>	<p>? # of emails</p> <p>? # of meetings</p> <p>? # of workshops and/or # of participants in the workshop</p> <p>? # of field monitoring visits and/or # of monitoring reports shared</p> <p>? # of partnerships developed</p> <p>? # of trainings and/or # of persons trained</p> <p>? # of project progress reports shared</p>	Staff time; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$43,615.69
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Bilateral/ Multilateral Entities	<p>? Observe process (implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan) ? Provide advice on the implementation of stakeholder engagement plan ? Share best practices and lessons learned in stakeholder engagement</p>	<p>? Emails ? Face-to-face meetings, workshops ? Project Inception workshop ? Share midterm and final project evaluation ? Coordination meetings ? Distribution of printed public materials: newsletters/updates ? Blogs</p>	<p>? Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants ? Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation ? Coordination meetings and M&E of field activities will be held quarterly ? Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively</p>	<p>? # of emails ? # of meetings ? # of workshops and/or # of participants in the workshop ? # of coordination / field monitoring visits ? # of project progress reports shared</p>	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$19,769.52
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Local Government (County Authorities)	? Monitor and evaluate the implementation of stakeholder engagement plan	? Emails ? Face-to-face meetings, ? Workshops ? Project Inception workshop ? Participation in landscape land-use planning processes ? Share midterm and final project evaluation ? Local land use planning activities? ? Distribution of printed public materials: newsletters/ updates ? Surveys	? Emails will be sent throughout the project implementation and the frequency will be as and when the situation warrants ? Project inception workshop will be held in Monrovia during the first three months of project implementation ? M&E of field activities will be held quarterly ? Mid-term and final evaluations will be held half-way of the project and at the end of the project respectively ? The frequency of participation in land use planning will be throughout the land use planning process in the landscape	? # of emails ? # of meetings ? # of workshops and/or # of participants in the workshop ? # of field monitoring visits and/or # of monitoring reports shared ? # of project progress reports shared	Staff time; travel support; meeting venue and catering for meetings	\$20,706.69
					Total	\$943,852.80

Table 7: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP/INFORMATION FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

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

<p>Dedicated ethics (hotline)</p> <p>https://secure.ethicspoint.com</p>	<p>An independent body that can investigate any claim or complaint on project implementation, health and safety, community relations, community updates, employment and procurement, environmental and social aspects</p>	<p>Any issues that are of interest or concern to project stakeholders.</p>	<p>To file a claim with the Director of Compliance (DoC) who is responsible for the CI Accountability and Grievance Mechanism and who can be reached at: Director of Compliance, Conservation International 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500 Arlington, VA 22202, USA.,</p>	<p>All stakeholders</p>
<p>Feedback & Suggestion Box</p>	<p>A suggestion box will be used to encourage residents in the affected communities to leave written feedback and comments about the Project. Contents of the suggestion box will be checked by gender and safeguards officer on a regular basis to ensure timely collection of input and response/action, as necessary</p>	<p>Any questions, queries or concerns, especially for stakeholders that may have a difficulty expressing their views and issues during public meetings.</p>	<p>Appropriate locations for suggestion boxes will be selected in safe public places to make it readily accessible for the community. Information about the availability of the suggestion box will be communicated as part of Project's regular interaction with local stakeholders.</p>	<p>Directly affected households in the Project Area of Influence. Other communities within the Project Area of Influence.</p>

Community resource centres and implementing partners? field offices	Project's designated venue for depositing Project-related information that also offers open hours to the community and other members of the public, with Project staff available to respond to queries or provide clarifications.	Project-related materials. Any issues that are of interest or concern to the local communities and other stakeholders.	Information about community resource centres or implementing partners? field offices with open hours for the public, together with contact details, will be provided on the Project's printed materials distributed to stakeholders, as well as during public meetings and household visits.	Directly affected communities in the Project Area of Influence and any other stakeholders and interested parties
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3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

The initial project design in the child project concept included gender considerations, but did not yet include a gender analysis. A full gender analysis was conducted in the PPG phase, and the analysis and resulting gender mainstreaming plan are included in the ProDoc as Appendix X.

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

Gender roles, responsibilities, and time use

Household patterns of power and decision-making

Access to and control over assets and resources

Meaningful participation in public decision-making; and

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The gender analysis revealed that in NW Liberia Landscape, men and women have clearly distinct gender roles with respect to natural resource use at the household and community levels based on

traditional, customary, and religious practices that promote gender inequality in form of denying women to inherit land, restricting women participation in decision making and limiting women to hold leadership positions.

Further, the gender analysis revealed that in the landscape, gender inequalities are widespread, based on patriarchal values and manifested in cultural practices. Women and girls are in a disadvantaged position in practically all spheres of society, whether it is about economic power, political voice, intra-household decision making power or role in the hierarchy of violence. Also, the study revealed that Gender-based violence (GBV), especially that perpetrated by men and boys against women and girls, is at elevated levels in Liberia. GBV cases are heavily underreported due to social and structural factors, including but not limited to unequal power relations, deeply rooted gender norms, poor legislation, and a weak justice system. Poor reporting structures at community, district, and county level, further contributes to an unclear picture of the prevalence of SGBV in Liberia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

Private sector engagement is a key element of the project, as the work with commercial plantation operator Mano Palm Oil Industries and the Mano Palm Oil Plantation (MPOI/MPOP) will focus on applying sustainability standards and pursuing socially equitable and mutually beneficial relationships with smallholder producers. Private sector engagement with the concessionaire will be essential to reinforce sustainability commitments, facilitate their application, and thereby maintain intactness of key ecosystems (private sector engagement is captured within the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy prepared for the project; a Private Sector Engagement Strategy will be elaborated during the first year of implementation). The work with smallholders to promote adoption of sustainable practices is another form of private sector engagement. Moreover, the project will work to incorporate small farmers into value chains through partnerships with larger private sector operators. One form of such links will be private sector engagement with commercial aggregators, who can combine supplies purchased from smallholders for onward sale to international buyers. Another is linking smallholder oil palm cultivation to the Mano Palm Oil Plantation as purchaser of output to feed the Mano mill. Finally, the project will facilitate organization of smallholders into cooperatives or other forms of farmer associations, which constitutes a form of private sector strengthening that is particularly relevant to rural Liberia.

The relationship with Mano will be central to the success of the project. The MPOI concession is the single-largest land holding in Northwest Liberia, and thus occupies an outsized role in land use

planning processes. As a potential purchaser of large volumes of oil palm fruit, it is also one of the largest economic actors in the landscape (MPOI has indicated that they intend to prioritize purchases from smallholders over expansion of its own managed commercial plantation area). Although the full strategy for engagement with Mano will be developed within the overall Private Sector Engagement Strategy in year one of the project, we can anticipate several key elements:

- i. The EPA will engage MPOI to facilitate compliance with all Liberian environmental regulatory requirements. The transition of the concession from Sime Darby to MPOI left a small number of regulatory issues unresolved; these will be addressed as a precondition for further work (at the time of this submission, the EPA and MPOI have formally agreed on all the required steps).
- ii. CI will work with MPOI specifically on the further refinement of corporate policies with respect to environmental sustainability and community engagement. (CI already has secured co-financing to support this work). When it took over the concession, MPOI adopted general Sime Darby policies and principles, which conform to RSPO requirements; MPOI itself is in the process of securing RSPO membership. CI's work will involve not only helping MPOI refine its policies and processes, but also support training of management and technical staff so as to embed sustainability principles and practices in the company's corporate culture and identity.
- iii. In Land-use Planning processes with communities in and around the MPOI concession, MPOI will be engaged to participate so as to inform consideration of prospects and options for community-based smallholder oil palm development. This includes technical input as well as discussion of market opportunities, with an emphasis on logistical requirements for getting smallholder produce to the mill within the 24-hour window before spoilage.
- iv. The project will work closely with MPOI to develop an investment prospectus for approaching potential impact investment sources, including &Green and Althelia. Company input into formulation of the business case will be valuable, as will corporate commitments including technical assistance and preferential purchasing, based on smallholder and community conformity with environmental and social standards.

The Private Sector Engagement Strategy to be developed will also define ways to collaborate with:

- ? Theobroma, a Dutch cocoa company, also working with IDH to implement an agroforestry cocoa project to restore tree cover to the grasslands in Foya. The project involves the cultivation of 40 hectares of cocoa intercropped with fruit trees, timber trees, plantain and pigeon peas. Other value chain participants include: Liberation Chocolate, Greentech, Trade Link, Gbahlay Farmers Cooperative, and Wienco.
- ? Liberia Agriculture and Asset Development Company (LAADCO) - Cocoa buyer
- ? Nanorni oil palm cooperatives (Oil palm production, cattle introduction)
- ? Maliando cocoa cooperative (Rice, coffee, cocoa, cattle, support to farmers)
- ? N?torfawor cooperatives (Rice, coffee, cocoa, cattle, support to farmers)
- ? Manni rice farmers cooperative (Rice, support to farmers)
- ? Foya rural women cooperative (Poultry and oil palm nursery production)
- ? Vainga Agriculture Development and Management Consultancy (VADEMCO) - Training of small scale cocoa farmers in basic modern cocoa production, pest management and control, as well as cocoa intensification, among others.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Table 8: Indicated Risks and Proposed Measures

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

<p><u>Outcome 1.2:</u> Improved land allocation by communities (men and women), government, private sector and civil society in NW Liberia landscape</p>	<p>Key stakeholders uninterested in participating in land-use planning</p> <p>Stakeholders do not abide by land-use management plan</p>	<p>L</p> <p>M</p>	<p>Stakeholder engagement to emphasize benefits from voluntary participation</p> <p>Policy work to mandate land-use planning and formalize status of land use plans; link livelihood investments and incentives to LUP compliance</p>
<p><u>Outcome 1.3:</u> Governance of NW Liberia Landscape strengthened</p>	<p>Key agencies do not participate in governance structure</p> <p>Governance structure languishes after project concludes</p>	<p>L</p> <p>M</p>	<p>Policy work to mandate land-use planning and formalize status of land use plans</p> <p>Incorporate landscape governance into EPA and county administration responsibilities</p>
<p><u>Outcome 2.1:</u> Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape</p>	<p>Farmers do not adopt sustainable practices</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Project activities relating to training and awareness, and to incentives for sustainable production</p>
<p><u>Outcome 2.2:</u> Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production</p>	<p>GOL does not take up proposed regulations</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Stakeholder engagement to include key decision-makers, dissemination of positive project impacts</p>
<p><u>Outcome 2.3:</u> Resources for sustainable production secured</p>	<p>Limited donor / investor appetite</p> <p>No or insufficient price premium for sustainable production</p>	<p>L</p> <p>L</p>	<p>Develop strong business case for sustainable production in NW Liberia Landscape</p> <p>Bundle sustainability premium with other performance-based incentives (i.e. PES)</p>
<p><u>Outcome 3.1:</u> Degraded areas that are crucial for ensuring ecosystem connectivity and integrity restored in NW Liberia</p>	<p>Communities do not see restoration as a priority</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Training, awareness, and incentives built into project design</p>

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

With respect to climate risk, future anticipated climate change impacts in the NW Liberia landscape include average annual temperature increases of 0.9 ? 2.6°C by the 2060s and 1.4 ? 4.7°C by the 2090s, and an increase in average annual rainfall and the frequency of heavy rainfall events (USAID, 2012). The main climate change impacts in NW Liberia landscape are associated with increased frequency of natural hazards such as: coastal erosion; terrestrial flooding; loss of plant and animal biodiversity; increased disease burden; loss of human lives; destruction and or shorter life span of use of infrastructure and public

facilities caused by flooding, sea level rise and overflow of wetlands. The people of NW Liberia are highly vulnerable to climate change due to its low economic base, dependence on rain-fed agriculture, reliance on biomass energy, and exposure to epidemics, in addition to limited capacity at community and national levels. Climate change poses a significant threat to key economic sectors in the project area, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry and energy. Production systems in each of these sectors already have experienced reduced productivity with probable links to changing climatic patterns. For example, increasingly erratic rainfall affects farming communities in particular, who have witnessed the main rainy season shift by more than a month as well as flooding from frequent short-duration high-intensity rainfall, negatively impacting agricultural production and food security. The socio-economic consequences fall particularly on rural populations whose livelihoods depend on natural resources and live below the poverty line. The project identified and incorporated the following mitigation measures to reduce vulnerability as limit the consequences of climate risk:

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

Also, the project has included adaptation activities focused on:

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

Other Potential environmental and social benefits and impacts

The project has *potential environmental benefits*. For instance, the promotion of tree and canopy crops, like cocoa in already degraded lands and rehabilitation of abandoned plantations is expected to significantly improve the canopy agro-ecosystems with positive climate and environmental benefits. More climate and environmental provisioning services (including food and freshwater), regulating services (including carbon sequestration, flood and erosion prevention, land degradation prevention and restoration, water

purification, soil remediation, and pollination), supporting services (including soil formation and nutrient cycling), and cultural services (including recreation and aesthetics), if done well, can bring environmental benefits. Such services will also enrich the biodiversity by creating new habitats and corridors for bird and animal populations. The mitigation monitoring strategy will ensure the preservation of virgin forests and wetlands. Adopting agroforestry (retaining trees in farmlands) and mixed cropping (with cover crops and anchor crops) will increase soil fertility, prevent erosion and reduce the use of pesticides and agrochemicals, resulting in an overall cleaner and safer environment.

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

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

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

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

Potential negative social impacts include:

Land Access issues and restriction to resources due to tenure insecurity by women and youth in NW Liberia landscape. Without secure ownership or at least guaranteed access to land for women and youth, the production of sustainable palm oil and cocoa will be difficult, and this could negatively affect the project. The risk of being pushed out of the land leading to loss of investments after improvements have been made or even cash crops planted is high if the land is not appropriately secured or authorized by the relevant community and government institution. The project will address this issue by working with the relevant institutions such as LLA to create awareness about the 2019 Land Rights Act that recognizes the customary land tenure. Also, land use planning activities by the project may restrict community access to land and forest resources for local populations who depend on these assets for domestic and commercial purposes which may cause tension and potential conflict. This impact is largely predictable, low in

magnitude and expected to be temporary and reversible. The project proposes to ensure that stakeholders are consulted and alternatives provided for loss of access.

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

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

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

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

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

COVID-19 Risk Analysis

Pandemic context in Liberia

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

Disruption in transportation systems present challenges to getting perishable products to market. Transportation issues include gasoline shortages, reduced availability as operators choose to suspend services, and longer transport times due to the proliferation of checkpoints; combined with capacity limits to enforce social distancing, transport prices for some routes have doubled and tripled. During the Ebola crisis in 2014-15, the spike in transportation costs from comparable restrictions on movements made trade in some agricultural products financially unviable. For smallholder palm oil producers, these are particularly pertinent challenges given the importance of getting FFB to a mill before spoilage.

The wider anticipated economic consequences of COVID-19 in Liberia are still being analyzed. For reference, annual GDP growth during the Ebola crisis fell to 0.7% in 2014, down from a projected 5.9% (Beevers & Shannon-Cooper 2020). However, the Liberian economy already was in a more precarious state prior to the pandemic with an estimated contraction of 2.3% in 2019. Taking into account the impact of COVID-19, the World Bank projected continued contraction in 2020 at a rate of 2.2% (World Bank 2020); given the intensification of pandemic impacts in Liberia after these projections were made (April of 2020), the ultimate contraction may be even more severe.

MPOI operations correspondingly have been constrained. Due to difficulties of movement the company limited their community outreach, though they also report distributing COVID-19 response material to communities. However, they are confident that the situation will continue to normalize, such that in the course of 2021 they will be able to resume their original operational development plan. As a reflection of this confidence, they are proceeding with investment in a refinery.

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

With respect to availability of technical expertise and capacity, the CI-Liberia Country Program is committed to supporting the EPA and other project partners on several fronts to ensure continued delivery during Project implementation. The Country Program has technical staff in country and benefits from support from regional and global CI expertise. CI and its Country Programs have developed COVID-19 response strategies and protocols to protect staff as well as partners and project beneficiaries. They are well adjusted to remote work and online interactions, and in facilitating access for others to interactions requiring connectivity.

The project is unlikely to suffer from redirection of government capacity, as the pertinent capacity is quite limited to begin with. Indeed, building relevant capacity (e.g. relating to planning, community consultations, and incorporating sustainability requirements into policy) is central to the project. Given the focus of field interventions on local stakeholders and the private sector, the principal concern with respect to redirection of capacity and resources due to COVID-19 is that private sector actors in the landscape may find their activities curtailed by either corporate policies or government restrictions. However, as noted, when the government imposed such restrictions earlier in 2020, movements of agricultural products were exempt. The larger concern is that throughout 2020 MPOI felt forced to suspend many (though not all) community outreach activities; if this situation endures, it would complicate their involvement in participatory planning, training etc. efforts. Part of the response to this challenge is that CI-Liberia and partners will share best practices with respect to safety planning and protocols.

Nevertheless, economic shocks caused by the pandemic are likely to affect the project in various ways. Impacts can include increased costs of inputs; possible disruptions due to government-imposed healthy and safety restrictions on commerce and movement of people; and disruption in operations if employees contract the illness. Moreover, these various types of business disruptions may make potential investment sources reluctant to engage in the near term, delaying the development and execution of financing solutions to enable smallholder agroforestry development.

Mitigation and Response

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

Opportunity for Green Recovery

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

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA), as the Project Executing Agency, will play the lead role in implementing and monitoring the project and maintaining its strategic focus. CI-Liberia is the primary strategic partner and Co-Executing Partner on this project. The EPA has been deeply involved during the preparatory phase and will continue to play a strong role during the execution of the project. EPA will collaborate and work closely with other relevant government agencies and ministries

including Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Liberia Land Authority (LLA), Liberia Agricultural Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA), The Cooperative Development Agency (CDA), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), National Bureau of Concessions (NBC), Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), and Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS). Also, the EPA will coordinate and collaborate on ad-hoc basis and through the established coordination mechanisms such as (a) the quarterly Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings chaired by EPA and co-chaired by MoA and attended by the Heads of the above-mentioned government agencies and ministries; (b) involving the relevant government agencies and ministries in joint monitoring of project activities; and (c) sector coordination meetings held to promote close collaboration between the project and relevant ongoing and planned government initiatives and ensure project outputs and outcomes are mainstreamed into government policies, laws, and regulations.

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

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

Key partners identified during the partners strategic alignment workshop as critical in the achievement of project objective and outcomes include:

Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Forestry Development Authority
Ministry of Agriculture
Liberia Land Authority
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services
IDH (smallholder commodity production)
Mano Palm Oil Industries palm oil concessionaire (link between smallholders and global markets for certified product)

Additional details on the roles of these partners are provided in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

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

Table 9: Project Executing Agency, Executing Partner, Subgrantees and Partner Roles and Rationale for their inclusion

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

<p>Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL) - <i>Subgrantee</i></p>	<p>SCNL will participate in community and landscape level planning processes. They will also be responsible for direct engagement with farmers to promote and demonstrate improved practices, and to help advance farmer associations.</p>	<p>SCNL has extensive experience in the project area with respect to alternative livelihoods, community-based conservation, and community engagement. They have developed experience in community land use planning in Gola.</p>
<p>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) - <i>Subgrantee</i></p>	<p>RSPB will support land use planning processes and technical development of sustainable and climate smart agriculture models.</p>	<p>RSPB, working with SCNL, has experience and relationships in the project area relating to sustainable agroforestry and community-based conservation.</p>
<p>Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) - <i>Partner</i></p>	<p>IDH will contribute technical input into identification and design of sustainable financing options and help link the project to potential sustainable financing sources.</p>	<p>IDH is a key participant in efforts to advance sustainable palm oil in Liberia, including development of smallholder/outgrower models and financing solutions through impact investment.</p>
<p>UNDP Global Commodities Programme - <i>Partner</i></p>	<p>The UN Development Programme Global Commodities Programme, through its Good Growth Partnership (GGP), will help align the efforts of Government of Liberia agencies and other partners with respect to advancing sustainable agroforestry production in the Northwest Liberia Landscape.</p>	<p>GGP is a key global partner in FOLUR, as the two programs are closely aligned with respect to objectives. In Liberia the GGP is particularly relevant with respect to supporting government policy processes, which are an important factor in the overall enabling environment for the FOLUR project.</p>

<p>Mano Palm Oil Industry (MPOI)/Mano Palm Oil Plantation (MPOP) ? Partner</p>	<p>MPOI will participate in outreach and technical support to communities in and around their oil palm concession, and incorporate sustainability considerations into their operation. They will also contribute a critical private sector voice to multi-stakeholder planning processes.</p>	<p>As the largest (by area) private sector actor in the landscape, MPOI serves as a crucial anchor for sustainable economic activities ? as a producer, a purchaser of smallholder supplies, and a conduit to input purchases and technical assistance.</p> <p>The relationship with Mano will be central to the success of the project. The MPOI concession is the single-largest land holding in Northwest Liberia, and thus occupies an outsized role in land use planning processes. As a potential purchaser of large volumes of oil palm fruit, it is also one of the largest economic actors in the landscape (MPOI has indicated that they intend to prioritize purchases from smallholders over expansion of its own managed commercial plantation area). Although the full strategy for engagement with Mano will be developed within the overall Private Sector Engagement Strategy in year one of the project, we can anticipate several key elements:</p> <p>i. The EPA will engage MPOI to facilitate compliance with all Liberian environmental regulatory requirements. The transition of the concession from Sime Darby to MPOI left a small number of regulatory issues unresolved; these will be addressed as a precondition for further work (at the time of this submission, the EPA and MPOI have formally agreed on all the required steps).</p> <p>ii. CI will work with MPOI specifically on the further refinement of corporate policies with respect to environmental sustainability and community engagement. (CI already has secured co-financing to support this work). When it took over the concession, MPOI adopted general Sime Darby policies and principles, which conform to RSPO requirements: MPOI</p>
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<p>Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) and Liberia Chimp Rescue and Protection (LCRP) ? <i>Partner</i></p>	<p>WCF and LCRP will contribute expertise specific to chimpanzee conservation and broader biodiversity conservation to landscape level planning, as well as technical input into conservation management planning for the proposed protected area. They will also participate in development of innovative financing solutions.</p>	<p>Large portions of the project geography have been identified as critical chimpanzee habitat. Moreover, WCF and LCRP have extensive experience and technical expertise relating to on-the-ground conservation planning and management; protected area design; and conservation finance.</p>
<p>Sustainable Development Initiative (SDI) ? <i>Partner</i></p>	<p>SDI will support representation of community interests in project planning, management, and consultation processes to ensure that multi-stakeholder processes appropriately incorporate community rights, needs and perspectives.</p>	<p>SDI is the leading advocate for community rights and representation in Liberia, including work in arenas ranging from granting of agroforestry concessions to new protected area design and establishment to promotion of sustainable community forestry. Thus, SDI represents an invaluable voice with respect to social safeguards.</p>
<p>Skills and Agriculture Development Services (SADS) - <i>Partner</i></p>	<p>SADS will support community engagement, technical assistance for climate smart agriculture, and strengthening of farmer associations.</p>	<p>SADS is a leading Liberian local NGO working on community-level agricultural development. They already are active in the project area and have prior experience with CI approaches and execution standards.</p>

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

Project Management Unit

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for operational planning and day-to-day implementation of all project activities under the three project components, as well as for monitoring and reporting on project outputs and outcomes. The PMU will prepare and support Project Steering Committee (PSC, see below) meetings and manage the project budget. The PMU be based in the CI-Liberia Office in

Monrovia and will be led by a full time Project Manager, with support from Operations Officer, Gender and Safeguards Officer, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Manager, and others who will specifically be hired for this project. The Project Manager will maintain ultimate responsibility for this project, with input from senior EPA staff as well as the CI Technical Director, Operations Director, and Country Director. In addition, the PMU will receive important technical, administrative, and institutional support from technical advisers at the EPA, FDA and LISGIS, as well as consultants.

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

PMU Members:

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

Project Steering Committee

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

Project Steering Committee members:

Randall, M. Dobayou (Environmental Protection Agency)
Hon. Joseph J. Tally (Forestry Development Authority)
Robert, K. Fagans, Sr. (Ministry of Agriculture)
Roosevelt, S. Kla-Feh (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection)

Tom Wesley Korkpor (Liberia Land Authority)
Daniel Tarr (Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services)
Losine, N. Sanyon (Ministry of Internal Affairs)
Hon. Benedict Kolubah (Ministry of Finance and Development Planning)
James, G. Otto (Sustainable Development Institute)
Mr. Rafael S. Ngumba (University of Liberia)

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

The other major primary initiative that the project will coordinate with is the GEF-funded Reducing Deforestation from Commodity Production project (Good Growth Partnership - GGP), which aims to facilitate sustainable oil palm development with a focus on the former Sime Darby concession, and where the FOLUR IP is a key partner. EPA is the Executing Agency and CI is the Executing Partner, while the MoA, FDA, LISGIS, LLA, RSPB, SCNL, IDH, and FFI are key partners in implementation of project activities, such that cross-representation on project steering committees will facilitate coordination and alignment.

Figure 6: *Project Execution Organizational Chart*



7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

Table 10: Project Consistency with National Priorities

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	<p>The Government of Liberia ratified the CBD on November 8, 2000. This project is of particular relevance to articles 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17 of this convention.</p>
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	<p>Liberia signed the UNCCD on March 3, 1998. As a signatory, the Government of Liberia has embraced Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) as captured in 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. As previously stated, the LDN target-setting process in Liberia is still ongoing, but the Government of Liberia has articulated the following LDN targets of relevance to the proposed project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? National scale: LDN is achieved by 2030 as compared to 2015 and an additional 10% of the national landscape has improved (net gain). ? Sub-national scale (Counties): LDN is achieved in selected districts in Lofa, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Gbarpolu, Rivercess and Grand Kru Counties respectively by 2030 as compared to 2015 (no net loss) and an additional country specific percentage of the landscape in those Counties has improved (net gain): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Additional 10% of landscape improved in Voinjama, Foyah, Quadugbonie Districts in Lofa County (135,191.9 ha targeted degraded area) o Additional 7% of landscape improved in Lower Belleh and Bopulu Districts in Gbarpolu County (203,959.7 ha targeted degraded area) <p>These provisional targets and the project activities reflect the LDN Conceptual Framework as presented in Orr et al. (2017), by both avoiding new degradation through Sustainable Land Management and reversing past degradation through restoration and rehabilitation. The project will be guided by the ELD and TEER initiatives to inform data collection and analysis such that SLM, restoration and rehabilitation activities are built on a strong empirical evidence base. By demonstrating net positive economic impacts, the project approach will contribute to long-term sustainability of the interventions as well reinforce commitments of policy- and decision-makers.</p>
Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), 2018 ? 2023	<p>The PAPD includes efforts to enhance inter-sectoral coordination on the environment, implementation of the new NBSAP, and advancing TEEB analyses, each of which relates to planning, sustainable production, and natural capital management advanced by the proposed project. The PAPD also signals the intention to advance on a national conservation financing mechanism. The Development Outcome under Pillar Four (Governance and Transparency) of the PAPD is ?Reduction in degradation of farming land, coastal wetlands, and deforestation while increasing returns on natural capital?; the project clearly offers a direct contribution to this national priority.</p>

<p>Liberia's Protected Areas Network Strategy, 2006</p>	<p>The proposed protected area (PPA) network of Liberia includes four areas in Northwest Liberia: the Wologizi, Wonegizi, Kpo Mountains and Foya PPAs (and a fifth, Bong Mountain, borders the landscape to the east). Landscape-level land-use planning under this project will take into consideration plans for future protected area gazettement and emphasize conservation-compatible land uses as well as restoration in their vicinity. The project will support preparation of a gazettement package to establish the Wologizi protected area. Land-use planning processes that will identify sites identified for community-based conservation will likely include high conservation value sites within and neighboring the abovementioned PPAs.</p>
<p>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), 2017 - 2025</p>	<p>Liberia's NBSAP includes national targets and indicators with consideration being given to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. The mission of the new NBSAP is to promote biodiversity mainstreaming in sectoral, cross-sectoral planning, and national accounting systems, through development policies, plans and programmes. This project will address threats identified within the NBSAP and will align with specific national goals and targets as indicated below:</p>
<p>Relevant NBSAP Goals and Targets:</p> <p>GOAL ONE: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society Target 1.2: By 2020, biodiversity values and prioritized ecosystem services are quantified, monitored, and mainstreamed to support national and sectoral policymaking, planning, budgeting and decision-making frameworks Target 1.3: By 2020, selected incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use are in place and applied, and the most harmful subsidies are identified, and their phase out initiated. Target 1.4: : By 2020, mobilization of financial resources from all sources will be increased compared to the period 2008-2012 to allow for the effective implementation of this strategy and action plan.</p> <p>GOAL TWO: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use. Target 2.1: By 2024, the rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats outside protected areas serving ecological corridors or containing key biodiversity areas or providing important ecosystem services is minimized by 3% through integrated land use planning.</p> <p>GOAL THREE: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity Target 3.1: By 2020, at least 4% of existing terrestrial protected areas (national parks, nature reserves, conservation areas set aside in community forests, etc.) are conserved, effectively and equitably managed, within an ecologically representative and well-connected system...</p> <p>GOAL FOUR: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services Target 4.1 By 2022, ecosystems that provide essential services and contribute to health, livelihoods, and well-being, are safeguarded, and restoration programmes have been initiated for degraded ecosystems covering at least 15 per cent of the priority areas.</p> <p>GOAL FIVE: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building Target 5.3: By 2025, knowledge, science base and technologies relating to biodiversity and ecosystem management are improved and made relevant to political decision makers. Target 5.4: By 2022, mobilization of financial resources from all sources will be increased compared to the period 2008-2012 to allow for the effective implementation of this strategy and action plan.</p>	

<p>Liberian National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Desertification (2011-2018)</p>	<p>Liberia's National Action Programme outlines strategic objectives for Liberia to achieve Sustainable Land Management within eight (8) years, starting in 2011. This project is directly aligned with Strategic Objective 1 which aims to improve the standard of living of people in areas affected by land degradation and its associated negative impacts. The project is also aligned with Strategic Objective 2 which seeks to improve the condition of affected biodiversity within habitats and affected ecosystems in Liberia.</p>
<p>National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), 2008</p>	<p>This project addresses key issues highlighted within Liberia's NAPA. In particular it will address socioeconomic challenges of groups identified as most vulnerable, support adaptation strategy in the agriculture and forestry sectors, and support the NAPA priority of enhancing resilience through diversification.</p>
<p>National Land Reform Programs and Strategies</p>	<p>Ongoing programs being completed or supported by the Land Commission, USAID and other partners address land reform issues. Land-use planning for integrated landscape management must align with these initiatives for policy consistency and regulatory coherence.</p>
<p>National laws, policies, and regulations</p>	<p>This project both supports and is developed within Liberian national laws, especially the Environment Protection and Management Law of 2003 and the New Forestry Law of 2006, and subsequent environmental and forestry management policies.</p>
<p>National Climate Change Policy and Strategy</p>	<p>The EPA currently has prepared a national Climate Change Policy for Liberia. The proposed project directly will address several aspects of this policy, particularly: modalities for community participation in and benefits from national climate action, including carbon markets; emphasis on landscape approaches in forestry and protected area planning and management; advancing REDD+; and mainstreaming gender considerations with respect to land use and climate change.</p>
<p>Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (GDSA)</p>	<p>Liberia is a signatory of the GDSA which includes commitments to sustainable development and specifically work with the private sector and innovative conservation finance. The proposed project directly responds to these themes.</p>
<p>Community Rights Law Land Rights Act</p>	<p>This project, through Conservation Agreements, will demonstrate practical ways to resolve issues surrounding community exercise of land rights. FPIC, RBA, etc. and will align closely with Liberia's Land Rights Policy which empowers communities.</p>

<p>Environmental Policy of Liberia</p>	<p>The proposed project is closely aligned with the National Environmental Policy of Liberia, which provides for: Integration of environmental considerations in sectoral, structural, regional, and socioeconomic planning at all levels; Sound management of the environment and natural resources; Protection and maintenance of human habitats, the ecosystems, and ecological processes essential for the functions of the biosphere; Guidance for national action plan and for healthy environmental practices on the national development effort; Sustainable development; and Common approach to environmental issues. The Policy states that appropriate incentives and mechanism will be put in place to ensure compliance with the provisions of the policy. The primary aims of the policy will be pursued and achieved through harmonization and enforcement of relevant laws on environment protection.</p>
<p>Liberia National Export Strategy, Palm Oil Export Strategy, and Cocoa Export Strategy</p>	<p>Liberia's national export strategy emphasizes the importance of agroforestry commodities, particularly palm oil, rubber, and cocoa. These strategies note the significance for these sectors for increasing rural employment and householder incomes and reducing poverty; the potential for certified sustainable production; and the importance of focusing on smallholder participation. The proposed project directly supports these government priorities.</p>

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

The proposed project will place substantial emphasis on lesson learning, dissemination, and uptake. Knowledge-sharing is a priority for the implementing partners and government agencies. These processes will unfold at multiple levels, beginning at the landscape and working upwards through sub-national and national, regional platforms and, finally, to participation in the Global Landscapes Forum Community of Practice (CoP). At the regional level, since Liberia is a leading member of the Africa Palm Oil Initiative, sharing of experiences and lessons learned in Liberia will be done with other frontier palm oil and countries in Africa. Similarly, coordination and sharing of lessons and experience with other cocoa growing countries in West Africa e.g. Ghana and C?te d'Ivoire will be undertaken. The project will engage with regional platforms and initiatives focusing on cocoa and palm oil value chains (e.g., African Palm Oil Initiative, African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), and West Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (WACSAA) through South-South cooperation and exchange visits with other FOLUR beneficiary countries in West Africa (Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Guinea). Thus, learning, exchange and co-operation will take place both within and outside countries via project-supported exchange fora, which will enable and guide much of the project's support to enhance south-south learning, cooperation, technology transfer, and networking among a broad array of practitioners.

In addition, there will be numerous opportunities for sharing lessons learned within the landscape, at the national level and among FOLUR IP Child Projects that face similar challenges, particularly at the regional

and global levels. This will create significant opportunities for South-South cooperation. Success stories will figure prominently among the lessons being shared, with the goal of ensuring extensive within- and between-Child Projects uptake and replication. Regular documentation of success stories and lessons will facilitate sharing with the Global Platform, for onward communication to other Child Projects and wider audiences. Together with the FOLUR Global Platform, opportunities will also be identified and pursued for exchanges with other Child Projects and other GCP and GEF commodity projects in order to maximize institutional learning and dissemination in key technical areas related to the cocoa and palm oil production-deforestation nexus.

The proposed project team, in close co-operation with the adaptive management and learning team, will engage regularly with external partners, and participate at key events to disseminate information through media coverage, publications and presentations, all of which will facilitate South-South learning. Working with the FOLUR Global Platform, the Project will organize South-South exchanges in co-operation with other Child Projects to enable practitioners to learn from each other's experiences, thereby facilitating learning especially through the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF), Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) and the Global Restoration Council that support the Bonn Challenge. Work with the GLF ? a Core Partner within the FOLUR Global Platform ? will be particularly helpful to the Project given the Forum's expertise and role with respect to communications, outreach and events; for example, intended GLF-organized annual regional gatherings focused on cocoa on West Africa are especially pertinent to the Project.

The proposed project will leverage and strengthen the current multi-stakeholder forums at the landscape level established under the Good Growth Partnership (GGP), another Core Partner of FOLUR. As noted, for palm oil, the project will engage using existing multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms at the national and landscape levels established under the Good Growth Partnership (GGP) including National Oil Palm Platform of Liberia and the Northwest Liberia landscape Oil Palm Forum; for cocoa, the project will engage with the Liberia Cocoa Sector Working Group. As the GGP-initiated platform continues to grow and achieve success in the palm oil sector, it could also be used to integrate other key agricultural crops such as cocoa, cassava and rice especially in an agroforestry setting. At the global level, in addition to the aforementioned GPFLR and GLF, the project will engage with various bodies such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA), the One Planet network (10YFP), Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme, World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), and the UNDP Green Commodities Programme.

There will also be significant stakeholder engagement with leaders from e.g. industry, civil society and government, to secure buy-in for the Project. The proposed project will work with industry initiatives, such as the High Carbon Stock Approach Group, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and the World Cocoa Foundation, and environmental and social organizations to ensure alignment and support. Importantly, the Project will coordinate engagement efforts with commodity platforms and roundtables with the FOLUR

Global Platform, to streamline efforts and ensure a consistent global approach. Working with the Platform, the Project will seek to position Liberia as a model of sustainability for heavily forested countries globally. We can leverage the growing experience of organizations across Liberia that are piloting innovative approaches, as well as build on private sector partnerships with companies interested in shaping their investments to promote sustainable development.

Knowledge management is covered under Outcome 4.2 of the project.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

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

Monitoring and Evaluation Roles and Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring and Evaluation Components and Activities

The Project M&E Plan includes the following components (see M&E Table below for details):

Inception workshop

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

Inception workshop Report

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

Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes, and Outputs)

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

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

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

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

GEF Core Indicators

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

Project Steering Committee Meetings

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

CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions

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

Quarterly Progress Reporting

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

Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)

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

Final Project Report

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

Independent External Mid-term Review

The project will undergo an independent Mid-term Review within 30 days of the mid-point of the grant

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

Independent Terminal Evaluation

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

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

Lessons Learned and Knowledge Generation

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

Financial Statements Audit

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

Table 11: M&E Plan Summary

Type of M&E (rounded)	Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Budget from GEF (USD)
<i>a. Inception workshop and Report</i>	Within three months of signing of CI Grant Agreement for GEF Projects	? Project Team ? Executing Agency ? CI-GEF PA	6,664
<i>b. Inception workshop Report</i>	Within one month of inception workshop	? Project Team ? CI-GEF PA	9,354
<i>c. Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes and Outputs)</i>	Annually (data on indicators will be gathered according to monitoring plan schedule shown on Appendix III)	? Project Team ? CI-GEF PA	15,779
<i>d. Track GEF-7 Core Indicators</i>	i) Project development phase; ii) prior to project mid-term evaluation; and iii) project completion	? Project Team ? Executing Agency ? CI-GEF PA	15,779
<i>e. CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions</i>	Approximately annual visits	? CI-GEF PA	19,909

<i>f. Quarterly Progress Reporting</i>	Quarterly	? Project Team ? Executing Agency	30,544
<i>g. Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)</i>	Annually for year ending June 30	? Project Team ? Executing Agency ? CI-GEF PA	15,779
<i>h. Project Completion Report</i>	Upon project operational closure	? Project Team ? Executing Agency	15,779
<i>i. Independent External Mid-term Review</i>	CI Evaluation Office Project Team CI-GEF PA	? Approximate mid-point of project implementation period	25,000.00
<i>j. Independent Terminal Evaluation</i>	CI Evaluation Office Project Team CI-GEF PA	? Evaluation field mission within three months prior to project completion.	25,000.00
<i>k. Lessons Learned and Knowledge Generation</i>	Project Team Executing Agency CI-GEF PA	? At least annually	24,201
Total M&E			203,788

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

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF)?

Improved management of forest and lands under agriculture and agroforestry in Liberia will generate a range of socio-economic benefits including contributions to enhanced food security, livelihoods, and water availability and quality. Forest conservation achieved through community commitments under Conservation Agreements will also contribute to maintenance of key environmental provisioning services for a range of NTFPs. With respect to climate security, this project will help reduce GHG emissions and enhance carbon stocks through forest conservation, restoration, and climate-smart agriculture. Protection of forest ecosystems will provide climate mitigation benefits and enhance carbon stocks through natural regeneration.

At the national level, a 2013 report estimated that 49% of Liberians faced some level of food insecurity, and 34% had inadequate food consumption patterns characterized by high intake of cereals and low intake of protein-rich foods (World Food Program 2013). Forest protection and landscape management for habitat connectivity will maintain critical reservoirs of bushmeat supply that represents 75% of protein consumption in Liberia; climate-smart agriculture will provide more dependable supplies of food crops; and improved agriculture and sustainable agroforestry will increase household incomes that further contribute to improved food security.

To generate direct socio-economic benefits on the ground, the project will implement pilot activities to demonstrate climate-smart agriculture using the Conservation Agreement (CA) methodology with 9 clans throughout the Northwest Liberia Landscape. These agreements will improve the livelihoods of an estimated 6,000 people (half of whom are female). In return for community conservation commitments, the project will offer compensatory benefit packages such as alternative livelihood training, support for agroforestry establishment, and other benefits determined through participatory processes, and thereby catalyze behavioral change and reduce dependence on unsustainable resource use. Details of community commitments and benefits provided under the CAs will be determined in negotiation and design phases, but we anticipate that investments in local livelihoods and socioeconomic development will contribute to household incomes and enhance food security, improve access to education and health services, and provide direct income through conservation jobs (e.g. monitoring, surveillance, planting, etc.).

Building on these demonstration projects, the training and capacity building program to be deployed under the proposed project will reach 40,000 beneficiaries (30,000 through training programs, and 10,000 through field demonstration work). Enhanced awareness of climate-smart agricultural practices will position these producers to take advantage of new opportunities for participation in sustainable commodity value chains. Incentive programs to be developed under the proposed project will facilitate such participation, reaching at least 10,000 beneficiaries, including household participation in CAs, improved agroforestry prospects through development of producer associations and partnerships with commercial operators, links to impact investors with an interest in positive social, environmental and economic outcomes, and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) (principally REDD+) for reduced carbon emissions linked to land use change and restoration.

Some socio-economic benefits will differ by gender based on different gender roles in food production and income generating practices. In general, by intervening in ecosystem degradation trends through the application of integrated landscape management and land-use planning, the project will preserve the ability to continue activities essential for household food security as well as livelihoods. This will be achieved through training and support for sustainable cultivation practices as well as habitat restoration and maintenance.

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

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification *

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

CI-GEF PROJECT AGENCY SCREENING RESULTS AND SAFEGUARD ANALYSIS

(To be completed by CI-GEF Coordination Team)

I. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country: Liberia	GEF Project ID: 10232
Project Title: Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains	
Executing Agency: Environmental Protection Agency and Conservation International - Liberia	
GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity, Land Degradation, and Multi-Focal Area (MFA)	
GEF Project Amount: USD\$8,000,000	
CI-GEF Project Manager: Free De Koning	
Safeguard Analysis Reviewed and Approved by: Ian Kissoon	
Date of Review: November 19, 2020	
Comments: Analysis completed and approved	

B. Summary of Project Risk Categorization, Safeguards Triggered and Mitigation Plans Required

Project Category:	Category A	Category B	Category C
<i>The proposed project activities are likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.</i>			
Safeguards Triggered:			
Environmental & Social Impact Assessment		Cultural Heritage	
Protection of Natural Habitats and Biodiversity Conservation		Labour and Working Conditions Community Health, Safety and Security	
Resett. & Physical/Economic Displacement		Private Sector Direct Investments and Financial Intermediaries	
Indigenous Peoples			
Resource Efficiency & Pollution Prevention		Climate Risk and Related Disasters	
Mitigation Measures Required:			
Environment & Social Impact Assessment		Resource Efficiency & Poll. Prevention Plan	
Environmental & Social Management Plan		Cultural Heritage Management Plan	
Plan for Natural Habitat Protection and Biodiversity Conservation		Labour Management Procedures	
Voluntary Resettlement Action Plan		Community Health, Safety and Security Plan	
Process Framework		Environmental and Social Management Framework	
Indigenous Peoples Plan		Climate and Disaster Risk Management Plan	

C. Project Objective:

Farming and forest-dependent communities are more food-secure, while palm oil and cocoa are produced without deforestation, through the implementation of a transformative, climate-smart landscape approach.

D. Project Description:

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

Liberia's natural ecosystems are threatened by logging, mining and agriculture, all exacerbated by the effects of climate change. As a result, the overall rate of change in land-use has contributed to 6,500 km² of forest loss, which represents an overall loss of 15% of the 1975 forest coverage; 43.3 % of Liberia's land surface remains forest.

Liberia does not currently have comprehensive land-use plans to guide development activities, but the proposed project will develop a national and NW Liberia landscape land use plans that will identify areas for production, protection and restoration. Current development of local land-use

plans are not well coordinated, nor harmonized across the landscape. This work will be informed by the 2017 Natural Capital Mapping of Liberia.

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

The project will be executed under the following components:

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

E. Project location and biophysical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis:

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

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

F. Executing Agency's Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies:

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

II. SAFEGUARDS TRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT

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

Safeguard Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Justification
ESS1: Environmental & Social Impact Assessment		X		<i>No significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented is anticipated</i>
ESS2: Protection of Natural Habitats and Biodiversity Conservation		X		<i>The project is not proposing activities that would have adverse impacts on natural or critical natural habitats, contravene applicable international environmental treaties or agreements or introduce or use potentially invasive, non-indigenous species.</i>
ESS3: Resettlement and Physical and Economic Displacement	X			<i>The project will not engage in the resettlement of people but the implementation of conservation agreements may affect access to natural resources.</i>
ESS4: Indigenous Peoples		X		<i>The project does not plan to work in lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by indigenous peoples.</i>
ESS5: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention		X		<i>There are no proposed activities related to the use of banned, restricted or prohibited substances, chemicals or hazardous materials.</i>
ESS6: Cultural Heritage			X	<i>Sacred sites are found in all the four counties of NW Liberia landscape in the form of shrines and sacred groves, etc. The sacred groves are of ritual and religious importance as these sites are both ritually and symbolically associated with ancestors through graves and certain trees.</i>
ESS7: Labor and Working Conditions		X		<i>The EA has in place the necessary policies, procedures, systems and capabilities that meets the requirements set out in the GEF Minimum Standard 8.</i>
ESS8: Community Health, Safety and Security		X		<i>While there are potential risks as described in the Screening Form, the EA has a dedicated security focal point person and safety and security risk management plan in place that provides general guidance for all its employees, volunteers, consultants, interns and guests. For day to day security management, the CI Liberia staff are trained on practicing basic security and situational awareness and, in high-risk locations, by adhering to location-specific personal security guidelines issued by CI.</i>
ESS 9: Private Sector Direct Investments and Financial Intermediaries		X		<i>The project does not plan to make either direct investments in private sector firms, or channels funds through Financial Intermediaries.</i>
ESS 10: Climate Risk and Related Disasters		X		<i>The project identified moderate risks and the design of the project responds to these risks, therefore mitigating against the potential impact of climate change.</i>

III. PROJECT CATEGORIZATION

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

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

IV. MANAGEMENT OF SAFEGUARDS TRIGGERED

The EA is required to undertake the following measures:

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

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

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

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

- III. Labor and Working Conditions
 Please ensure that the established procedures and policy as described in the Screening Form are complied with.

- IV. Community Health, Safety and Security
 Please ensure that the established procedures and policy as described in the Screening Form are complied with.

- V. Climate Change and other Natural Hazards
The project identified moderate climate risks and these risks included flooding and food insecurity arising from increased temperatures, changes in rainfall pattern and amounts, and sea-level rise. Local communities are vulnerable and have limited capacity to respond to these risks. The core project components, outcomes, outputs and activities are a direct response to risks that accompany climate change. Improved management of the stock of natural capital in

the Northwest Liberia Landscape, through sustainable production, restoration, and protection of high conservation value forest will preserve landscape-level resilience to climate change. Improved agricultural production through climate smart agriculture will enhance household level resilience through enhanced livelihoods and food security. Improved governance capacity will enhance multi-stakeholder capacity to respond to risks and adapt to change in a coordinated fashion. Key measures during the implementation phase include participatory planning processes, strengthening the data and information base for planning and adaptive management, and demonstration of climate smart agriculture practices.

VI. Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

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

Other Plans

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

VII. Accountability and Grievance Mechanism

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

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

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

VIII. Gender Mainstreaming

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

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

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

IX. Stakeholder Engagement

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

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

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

All plans must be submitted to the CI-GCF/GEF Project Agency for review and approval during the PPG Phase.

V. DISCLOSURE

Following approval of the plans, the EA must disclose the plans no later than 30 days from date of approval.

COVID-19 Guidelines

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, projects are required to follow the guideline issued by CI-GEF/GCF Project Agency during the PPG and Implementation Phases. The guideline is attached.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
20201111 FOLUR Liberia Climate Risk and Related Disaster Assessment Tool	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Cultural Heritage Management Plan	CEO Endorsement ESS	
VRP	CEO Endorsement ESS	
AGM	CEO Endorsement ESS	
SCREENING RESULTS AND SAFEGUARD ANALYSIS	CEO Endorsement ESS	
SCREENING FORM AND ANALYSIS	CEO Endorsement ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Objective:	To promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems for enhanced livelihood opportunities in NW Liberia Landscape through land use planning, restoration of degraded lands, and strengthening governance, policies, and market incentives for nationally replicable models of deforestation-free cocoa and palm oil value chains.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Number of degraded hectares in the NW Liberia Landscape restored (Target: 15,000 ha) b. Number of hectares in the NW Liberia Landscape under sustainable land management in production systems (Target: 200,000 hectares ha) c. Number of hectares in the NW Liberia Landscape under improved management to benefit biodiversity (Target: 100,000 ha) d. Greenhouse gas emission mitigated (Target: 36,134,316 tCO₂e) e. Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (Target: 50,000 (25,500 men and 24,500 women)

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

<p>Outcome 1.1: Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use by men and women</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.1: Number of comprehensive information and data sets</i></p>	<p>Baseline Indicator 1.1: No comprehensive information and data sets available</p>	<p>Target 1.1: One comprehensive information and data set available to stakeholders and decision-makers</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1: Information and data for developing a coarse national land-use plan generated from secondary/desktop research</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.1.1.: Number of comprehensive reviews of relevant policies, laws, strategies, and initiatives</i></p> <p>Target 1.1.1: One comprehensive review</p> <p>Output 1.1.2: Biophysical, social, and economic assessments and mapping in NW Liberia Landscape conducted to inform land-use planning for food-security and for sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa by men and women</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.1.2.: Number of complete sets of baseline information for land-use planning</i></p> <p>Target 1.1.2: One complete set of baseline information</p>
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<p>Outcome 1.2: Improved land allocation by communities (men and women), government, private sector and civil society in NW Liberia landscape</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.2a: Number of land-use plans adopted by clans</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 1.2b: Ha of forest loss avoided</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 1.2c: Number of gazettement packages developed for proposed protected areas</i></p>	<p>Baseline 1.2a: No land-use plans adopted</p> <p>Baseline 1.2b: No forest loss avoided</p> <p>Baseline 1.2c: No gazettement packages developed for proposed protected areas</p>	<p>Target 1.2.a: Nine clan land use plans developed and adopted</p> <p>Target 1.2.b: 15,000 ha</p> <p>Target 1.2.c: Gazettement package developed for one Proposed Protected Area</p>	<p>Output 1.2.1: Coarse National and comprehensive NW Liberia land-use plans/maps, identifying target areas for production, protection and restoration developed in a participatory and inclusive manner</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.2.1a: Number of land-use plans</i></p> <p><i>Target 1.2.1a: Ten land-use plans (nine at clan level, one at landscape level)</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 1.2.1b: No of hectares conserved using Conservation agreements</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 1.2.1b: 15,000 ha conserved through conservation agreements with nine clans</i></p> <p>Output 1.2.2: NW Liberia landscape land-use plans adopted and jointly implemented by communities (men and women), government, the private sector and civil society</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.2.2: Number of signature sheets indicating adoption of land-use plans</i></p> <p><i>Target 1.2.2: Nine signature sheets (one per clan)</i></p> <p>Output 1.2.3: Land-Use Planning results inform the development of a gazettement package for Wologizi Proposed Protected Area</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.2.3: Number of proposed protected areas with gazettement packages</i></p> <p><i>Target 1.2.3: A gazettement package for one Proposed Protected Area (Wologizi) developed</i></p>
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<p>Outcome 1.3: Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by men and women strengthened</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.3a: Number of multi-stakeholder and inclusive governance mechanisms in place</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 1.3b: Number of supporting land-use planning, and management regulations considered by cabinet</i></p>	<p>Baseline 1.3a: No governance mechanisms in place</p> <p>Baseline 1.3b: No regulations supporting sustainable land-use planning and management considered by cabinet</p>	<p>Target 1.3a: One governance mechanism in place</p> <p>Target 1.3b: Two new regulations supporting sustainable land-use planning and management considered by cabinet</p>	<p>Output 1.3.1: Multi-Stakeholder and inclusive Landscape Governance Structure for NW Liberia Landscape established</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.3.1: Number of multi-stakeholder and inclusive governance mechanisms</i></p> <p><i>Target 1.3.1: One mechanism</i></p> <p>Output 1.3.2: A gender-sensitive system for management, monitoring and evaluation developed to ensure compliance with NW Liberia Landscape land-use plan</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.3.2: Number of M&E systems</i></p> <p><i>Target 1.3.2: One M&E system</i></p> <p>Output 1.3.3: Two gender-sensitive regulations to improve integrated land-use planning and management in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia developed and implemented</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.3.3: Number of gender-sensitive draft regulation documents presented to cabinet</i></p> <p><i>Target 1.3.3: Two gender-sensitive draft regulation documents</i></p>
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Component 2: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains

<p>Outcome 2.1: Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological resilience of NW Liberia Landscape</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1a: Number of hectares under sustainable land management</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1b: Number of hectares under improved management to benefit biodiversity</i></p>	<p>Baseline 2.1a: Zero hectares under sustainable land management</p> <p>Baseline 2.1b: Zero ha</p>	<p>Target 2.1a: 200,000 hectares directly under sustainable land management</p> <p>Target 2.1b: 100,000 ha under improved management to benefit biodiversity</p>	<p>Output 2.1.1: Capacity of male and female farmers, small-medium enterprise service providers, government, universities, and civil society, and organizational staff built on climate-smart agricultural practices and non-timber forest products (NTFP) practices with a focus on palm oil and cocoa value chains</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.1: Number of beneficiaries trained</i></p> <p>Target 2.1.1: 10,000 beneficiaries (5,100 men and 4,900 women) trained</p> <p>Output 2.1.2: Climate-smart agricultural practices demonstrated by men and women</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.2a: Number of men and women involved in demonstration of climate smart agricultural practices</i></p> <p>Target 2.1.2a: 10,000 (5,100 men and 4,900 women) involved in climate smart agricultural practices</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.2b: Number of climate smart agricultural sites</i></p> <p>Target 2.1.2b: 20 demonstration sites</p> <p>Output 2.1.3: Incentives for responsible palm oil and cocoa, and food crops provided for men and women</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.3: Number of male and female beneficiaries receiving incentives</i></p> <p>Target 2.1.3: 20,000 beneficiaries (10,200 men and 9,800 women)</p> <p>Output 2.1.4: Community producers (men and women) of key commodities empowered and organized in a locally appropriate</p>
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<p>Outcome 2.2: Strengthened policy framework for sustainable agricultural production by men and women</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.2: Number of regulations supporting sustainable agriculture by men and women considered by cabinet</i></p>	<p>Baseline 2.2: No regulations supporting sustainable agriculture by men and women considered by cabinet</p>	<p>Target 2.2: Two new regulations supporting sustainable agriculture by men and women considered by cabinet</p>	<p>Output 2.2.1: Policy recommendations to support sustainable agriculture by men and women developed and provided to government</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.2.1: Number of draft policy documents presented to cabinet</i></p> <p><i>Target 2.2.1: Two draft regulation documents presented to cabinet</i></p>
<p>Outcome 2.3: Resources for sustainable production by men and women secured</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.3: Financing (US\$) directed to support sustainable production</i></p>	<p>Baseline 2.3: US\$ 500,000 directed to sustainable production</p>	<p>Target 2.3: US\$ 10 million directed to sustainable production</p>	<p>Output 2.3.1: Long-term gender-sensitive financial plan</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.3.1: Number of gender sensitive financial plans</i></p> <p><i>Target 2.3.1: One gender sensitive financial plan</i></p> <p>Output 2.3.2: Innovative and blended financing for sustainable production by men and women leveraged including supply chain systems, Liberia Conservation Fund, and REDD+</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.3.2: Aggregate funding flows secured in support of sustainable production by men and women</i></p> <p><i>Target 2.3.2: US\$ 10 million secured in support of sustainable production by men and women</i></p>
<p>Component 3: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats</p>			

<p>Outcome 3.1: Degraded areas that are crucial for ensuring ecosystem connectivity and integrity restored in NW Liberia</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1a.: Number of hectares restored directly by project</i></p>	<p>Baseline 3.1a: Zero ha restored</p>	<p>Target 3.1a: 15,000 ha restored directly by project</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1: NW Liberia Landscape restoration plan developed by men and women</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.1: Number of restoration plans developed by men and women</i></p> <p><i>Target 3.1.1: One restoration plan developed by men and women</i></p> <p>Output 3.1.2: Enhanced restoration capacity of communities (men and women), land-users and local county authorities</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.2: Number of men and women trained on restoration</i></p> <p><i>Target 3.1.2: 10,000 beneficiaries (5,100 men and 4,900 women)</i></p> <p>Output 3.1.3: Restoration initiatives including agroforestry, land management and natural regeneration</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.3: Number of restoration pilot sites</i></p> <p><i>Target 3.1.3: 4 pilot sites</i></p>
<p>Outcome 3.2: Improved gender-sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.2: Number of draft policy documents supporting restoration by men and women considered by cabinet</i></p>	<p>Baseline 3.2: No draft policy documents supporting restoration by men and women considered by cabinet</p>	<p>Target 3.2: One draft policy document supporting restoration by men and women considered by cabinet</p>	<p>Output 3.2.1: Gender-sensitive policies on performance payments and Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes developed and/or adopted by men and women for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.2.1.: Number of draft policy documents presented to cabinet</i></p> <p><i>Target 3.2.1: One draft policy document</i></p>

<p>Outcome 3.3: Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities by men and women</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.3: Financing (US\$) directed to support restoration by men and women</i></p>	<p>Baseline 3.3: US\$ 500,000 directed to support restoration by men and women</p>	<p>Target 3.3: US\$ 5 million directed to support restoration</p>	<p>Output 3.3.1: Innovative and blended financing for NW Liberia restoration leveraged, based on promising approaches from within Liberia and elsewhere to provide incentives for restoration to individuals (men and women) and communities</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.3.1: Aggregate funding flows in support of restoration by men and women</i></p> <p>Target 3.3.1: US\$ 5 million</p>
<p>Component 4: Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation</p>			
<p>Outcome 4.1: Improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.1: Number of satisfactory Project progress reports</i></p>	<p>Baseline 4.1: No satisfactory Project progress reports</p>	<p>Target 4.1: 15 satisfactory quarterly Project progress reports produced</p>	<p>Output 4.1.1: A gender-sensitive M&E system developed to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.1.1: Number of Project M&E systems operational</i></p> <p>Target 4.1.1: One Project M&E system</p>

<p>Outcome 4.2: Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project by men and women</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.2.a: Number of integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management systems established</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 4.2.b: Number of knowledge sharing events attended</i></p>	<p>Baseline 4.2a: No integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system in place</p> <p>Baseline 4.2b: No knowledge sharing events attended</p>	<p>Target 4.2a: Five community resource centers equipped and one online knowledge management system established</p> <p>Target 4.2b: 15 knowledge sharing events attended by men and women</p>	<p>Output 4.2.1: An integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system developed</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.2.1: Number of integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management systems developed and number of community resource centers equipped</i></p> <p><i>Target 4.2.1: One integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system developed and five community resource centers equipped</i></p> <p>Output 4.2.2: National, regional, and international engagement by men and women representatives to share knowledge generated in the Project</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.2.2.a: Number of engagements in various forums/platforms</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 4.2.2.b: % of men and women participating in various engagement forums/platforms at national, regional, and international levels</i></p> <p><i>Target 4.2.2.a: 5 annual lessons sharing, and 5 global engagements held</i></p> <p><i>Target 4.2.2.b: At least 40% women and 60% men participate in various engagement forums/platforms</i></p>
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ANNEX B: 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).

GEF Council Member comments to the Program Framework Document (PFD) and Additional comments received at CEO endorsement

Comment	Response
Germany (28 June 2019 and 23 August 2021)	
<p>The PIF does not adequately address some fundamental structural challenges of the conventional agricultural production system. Germany would like to request a more explicit analysis of the prevailing transformation challenges towards ecologically sound intensification in both small farming and industrial farming systems, as these substantially affect the described correlation between commodity production and deforestation. Germany suggests addressing these challenges with regard to the agricultural research system, extension system and incentive system more explicitly.</p>	<p>Added to Section 1, Under Global Environmental Problems and Root Causes: Transformation from conventional agricultural production to sustainable, ecologically sound systems in poor rural developing country settings is challenged by several barriers. As described below, these include lack of data and thus lack of awareness and knowledge among decision makers about the value of natural capital; inadequate legislation and policy and, to the extent that policies to support sustainable intensification do exist, limited institutional capacity and coordination in government ministries to apply them; and a combination of poverty and limited access to financing that stifles investment in transformation. Compounding these barriers, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, are structural challenges that include poor access to market information as well as technological know-how; high transportation costs that increase the expense of inputs required for sustainable production while depressing farm-gate prices for outputs; and limited demand for sustainably produced output in local and regional markets. Consequently, the lack of market opportunities that support investment in better inputs, tools and practices results in a persistent productivity gap, such that maintaining or increasing output necessitates further land conversion. This vicious cycle constrains socioeconomic progress and undermines sustainability.</p>

The text systematically narrows landscape ecosystem challenges down to forest resources. Consequently, the lack of conclusive regulatory frameworks on soils and targeted incentives for sustainable soil management are not addressed in the PIF. Germany would like to suggest, that the vital role of soil ecosystem services are more specifically spelled out in the program description and analysis of root causes, and to include GSP/FAO in the list of relevant stakeholders.

Added to the CEO endorsement/Section 1, Under Global Environmental Problems and Root Causes:

In addition to habitat loss, replacing forests with unsustainable agriculture leads to an erosion of vital soil ecosystem services, including but not limited to production of biomass; filtration of chemical and biological deposits; water purification and serving as buffer and conduit in hydrological cycles; preservation of genetic diversity; and climate regulation through storage of carbon and other greenhouse gases.[1]¹

Added to section on CEO endorsement/ barriers:

The importance of Northwest Liberia for both biodiversity as well as agricultural production highlights the value of soil ecosystem services that are at risk if uncontrolled expansion of unsustainable agriculture continues.

FAO is identified as a stakeholder (ProDoc page 172), though specific sub-programs were not mentioned; we have noted GSP as a mechanism of particular relevance.

Furthermore, Germany would like to suggest stronger reference to Land Degradation Neutrality (SDG 15.3) targets and policies. The link of this PIF to the LDN conceptual framework (SPI/UNCCD) needs more systematic elaboration and should include an explicit reference to UNCCD as the custodian agency for SDG 15.3. The Economics of Land Degradation Initiative (ELD) and the Economics of Ecosystem Restoration by FAO should be taken into account in component 3.

Added to the Table in the section on Consistency with National Priorities, Plans, and Policies:

Liberia signed the UNCCD on March 3, 1998. As a signatory, the Government of Liberia has embraced Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) as captured in 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. As previously stated, the LDN target-setting process in Liberia is still ongoing, but the Government of Liberia has articulated the following LDN targets of relevance to the proposed project:^[2]

? National scale: LDN is achieved by 2030 as compared to 2015 and an additional 10% of the national landscape has improved (net gain).

? Sub-national scale (Counties): LDN is achieved in selected districts in Lofa, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Gbarpolu, Rivercess and Grand Kru Counties respectively by 2030 as compared to 2015 (no net loss) and an additional country specific percentage of the landscape in those Counties has improved (net gain):

- o Additional 10% of landscape improved in Voinjama, Foyah, Quadugbonie Districts in Lofa County (135,191.9 ha targeted degraded area)
- o Additional 7% of landscape improved in Lower Belleh and Bopulu Districts in Gbarpolu County (203,959.7 ha targeted degraded area)

These provisional targets and the project activities reflect the LDN Conceptual Framework as presented in Orr et al. (2017),^[3] by both avoiding new degradation through Sustainable Land Management and reversing past degradation through restoration and rehabilitation. The project will be guided by the ELD and TEER initiatives to inform data collection and analysis such that SLM, restoration and rehabilitation activities are built on a strong empirical evidence base. By demonstrating net positive economic impacts, the project approach will contribute to long-term sustainability of the interventions as well reinforce commitments of policy- and decision-makers.

Added to description of Output 3.1.1 under Component 3: The project will be guided by the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD)^[4] and The Economics of Ecosystem Restoration (TEER)^[5] initiatives, to inform both data collection and analysis such that SLM, restoration and rehabilitation activities are built on a strong empirical evidence base.

Furthermore, the project will not engage in the resettlement of people but the implementation of conservation agreements may affect access to natural resources (ESS3-Page-118). Therefore, we would like the project to add this as an additional risk measure because previously similar issues occurred in other GEF funded projects. Proposal: ? Verify that conservation agreements did not negatively affect access of natural resources for the local population?

This is addressed in the ProDoc in the section on compliance with safeguard recommendations: Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement (paragraphs 231 and 232). The proposed language on verification has been added.

231. To ensure that the project complies with the GEF's Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement Standard, the Executing Agency and Executing Partner developed a Process Framework for the Restriction of Access and Use of Natural Resources. The Executing Agency and Executing Partner will monitor and report on the following minimum accountability and grievance indicators to verify that conservation agreements did not negatively affect access of natural resources for the local population:

? Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been voluntarily restricted

? Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been involuntary restricted

? Percentage of persons who gave their consent for voluntary restrictions

? Percentage of persons who have received compensation for voluntary restrictions

? Percentage of persons who have received compensation for involuntary restrictions

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

Annex B (RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS) has not added by the GEF Sec and/or not considered by the implementing agency CI.	Annex B now updated.
United States (03 July 2019):	
<p>Gender. It is insufficiently clear how the program will incorporate actions that will address the institutional constraints on gender equity and women's economic empowerment on the part of implementing partners (government agencies) and key stakeholders (non-gender oriented CSOs). For example, although the program expresses an interest in providing greater training of women and in increasing their number in leadership roles within groups supported by FOLUR, there is no mention of how government policies and practices (at the national or decentralized levels) will continue to support these initiatives upon the completion of the program cycle. There is also no mention of promoting gender sensitive procurement to encourage economic empowerment of women. Another concern is the gendered rates of literacy; if literacy rates are low, how will female small holder farmers be guided on how to read the labels of agro-chemical inputs so that applications can be applied in a safe and environmentally friendly manner? The issue of gendered literacy also extends to access to credit and land tenure (e.g. title deeds). What strategies are being considered to encourage best practices for measures to increase access to credit for female smallholder farmers and gender sensitive procurement? Finally, the sustainability/durability of interventions to incorporate gender equity and economic empowerment of women at the conclusion of the program cycle could be made clearer.</p>	<p>Gender has been fully mainstreamed throughout the project, as described in detail in the gender mainstreaming plan (Appendix X). This is also reflected in the gender mainstreamed results framework (see Table 15 in the ProDoc) for example Output 1.3.2: A gender-sensitive system for management, monitoring and evaluation developed to ensure compliance with NW Liberia Landscape land-use plan; Output 1.3.3: Two gender sensitive regulations to improve integrated land-use planning and management in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia developed and implemented; Outcome 3.2: Improved gender-sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia; Output 2.3.1: Long-term gender-sensitive financial plan; Outcome 3.2: Improved gender-sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia; Output 3.2.1: Gender-sensitive policies on performance payments and Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes developed and/or adopted by men and women for restoration activities in NW Liberia landscape; Output 4.1.1: A gender-sensitive M&E system developed to collect, analyze, and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation; Output 4.2.1: An integrated and gender-sensitive knowledge management system developed. As indicated in the ProDoc, socio-economic benefits will differ by gender based on different gender roles in food production and income generating practices. In general, by intervening in ecosystem degradation trends through the application of integrated landscape management and land-use planning, the project will preserve the ability to continue activities essential for household food security as well as livelihoods. This will be achieved through training and support for sustainable cultivation practices as well as habitat restoration and maintenance. Also, specific attention will be paid to Gender Based Violence (see ProDoc Appendix X!)</p>

Additional questions. Given the demographic changes in much of Africa and Asia, how will the program address the various constraints (financial, legal, etc.) that impede the ability of youth (18-25 years) to access productive inputs such as land?

The project will pay specific attention to youth. The project will target about 50,000 direct local beneficiaries, hence contributing to: reduction in unemployment especially among the youth; improved food security situation, and improved access to social services (see paragraph 167 of the ProDoc). The project will also look at how land tenure insecurity could affect women and youth. As described in the ProDoc's stakeholder engagement plan, the project will: work with Community Land Development and Management Committees (CLDMCs) or with the elders, chiefs, traditional leaders, women, and youth in communities where CLDMCs have not yet been established and ensure FPIC processes are applied. As established in the land rights act, the CLDMC shall have equal representation of men, women, and youth.

United States (05 August 2021):

Overall, informing where and how oil palm is restored in the 220,000 hectare concession is one of the biggest opportunities for avoiding deforestation while ensuring oil from that concession meets RSPO requirements and receives associated preferential pricing that incentivizes continued sustainable practices.

However, we have concerns around customary tenure in Liberia, especially with regard to the legitimate legal governance units. The proposal notes "participatory, multi-stakeholder land-use planning will take place at the landscape level and at the community level with nine clans."

The Land Rights Act requires that land use planning authority vest with communities as they self-identify (clan or town). Many communities have opted to self-identify at the town level--not the clan level. This approach raises concerns about a potential top-down exercise in which competing sources of authority are vested in an illegitimate clan chief. Despite the terms 'landscape level' and 'community level,' key is the level at which communities choose to self-identify--the community land use planning authority they consider legitimate. While the national government has authority for land use planning over larger spatial scales, it is important to engage communities in a manner they consider legitimate.

We would appreciate clarity on how the project implementors will identify and engage the legitimate planning authority within each community to guarantee free, prior, and informed consent.

We have noted the comment and request for clarification. The approach proposed is indeed in full compliance with the Land Rights Act, which we have now elaborated in the Project Document as below:

To inform landscape level planning, the project proposes to develop land use plans at community level in nine clans, in compliance with the 2019 Land Rights Act that recognizes the customary land tenure.

According to the Land Rights Act, "the highest decision-making body concerning Customary Land shall be the community members when they come together as the Community Assembly. Each community shall establish its own Community Land Development and Management Committee (CLDMC) to govern and manage their land. The CLDMC shall have equal representation of men, women, and youth. The community shall draft by-laws for the management of the CLDMC. Each community shall also draft by-laws for the management of their land and natural resources or how they will look after their land and resources together. Each community shall develop processes for non-community members to become community members."

In addition, the Land Rights Act provides that if the CLDMC is not established yet, the elders, chiefs, traditional leaders, women, and youth shall be responsible to manage and develop Customary Land

Therefore, the project will: (a) work with Community Land Development and Management Committees or with the elders, chiefs, traditional leaders, women, and youth in communities where CLDMCs have not yet been established, and (b) ensure FPIC processes are part and parcel of the land use planning through:

- a. Conducting participatory assessments to understand and document the socio-economic, historical, political, and cultural dynamics of NW Liberia landscape;
- b. Holding several meetings and workshops with communities (represented by leaders, men, youth, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities) to disclose information about the project, including project impacts. These meetings and decisions will be made in locations, at times and in languages and formats determined by the local communities;
- c. Disclosing information about land use planning that it is accessible, clear, consistent, accurate, and transparent (including potential risks, benefits) by using materials that are understandable by local community members. This information will be communicated in local languages and in culturally appropriate formats (e.g., radio, community meetings, etc.).

Norway (26 June 2019):

We welcome the proposed IP on Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration. We note that the program includes commodities as well as food crops ? challenges may be similar in some ways but are not always identical. Both agriculture itself and surrounding lands contain genetic resources for food and agriculture, a vital resource for resilient food production in coming years. It is therefore timely to focus on Food Systems and their effect on the environment. We would, however, like to be informed more in detail on how the program will ensure "adaptation benefits by creating more climate-resilient and disease-reliant plants" as stated on page 41 in the main document. We note that the issue of challenges for certain food crops due to climate change has also been brought up by the STAP in their review of this Program.

The project has included adaptation activities (see ProDoc paragraph 163) focused on:

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

[1] <http://www.fao.org/resources/infographics/infographics-details/en/c/284478/>

[2] <https://knowledge.unccd.int/home/country-information/countries-having-set-voluntary-ldn-targets/liberia>

[3] Orr, B.J., A.L. Cowie, V.M. Castillo Sanchez, P. Chasek, N.D. Crossman, A. Erlewein, G. Louwagie, M. Maron, G.I. Metternicht, S. Minelli, A.E. Tengberg, S. Walter, and S. Welton. 2017. Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality. A Report of the Science-Policy Interface. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Bonn, Germany

[4] <https://knowledge.unccd.int/knowledge-products-and-pillars/access-capacity-policy-support-technology-tools/economics-land>

[5] <http://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/our-work/gl/teer/en/>

Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) comments (13 May 2019) to the Program Framework Document (PFD):

Comment	Response
<p>Theory of change. While outcomes, longer-term outcomes and GEBs are clearly specified, the causal links at these levels are less explicit.</p>	<p>A theory of change that includes causal links is included for the Liberia child project</p>
<p>Global environmental benefits. Little attention is devoted to trade-offs and possibly negative side effects, though social and environmental risks are mentioned in the risks section. There is little explicit attention to power dynamics, including potential winners and losers from the changes envisaged and how potential conflicts may be addressed.</p>	<p>Output 1.3.1: Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Governance Structure for NW Liberia Landscape established, has been designed to address land-use conflicts</p>
<p>Resilience to climate change. Climate resilience not addressed in detail, though mentioned in the section on risks. The proposed response to climate change is quite general at this level; more detail expected in development of country projects and in program-level monitoring and targeted capacity support functions.</p>	<p>Climate risks and mitigation measures are described in the Risk Table in the Prodoc and CEO endorsement/portal</p>
<p>Innovativeness. Emphasis is on policy and institutional innovations. More thinking about possible technological, financing, and business model innovations would be desirable, from which each country and the IP as a whole could benefit.</p>	<p>The innovativeness section for the Liberia child project includes information on financing:</p> <p>The project will offer a key contribution to rural development in Liberia by demonstrating means for investing in smallholder agroforestry. Efforts to develop commercial plantations in the oil palm sector have stalled due to the challenge of designing and financing locally appropriate outgrower models that allow smallholders to participate in economic development. The project will pilot solutions to this bottleneck, through a combination of training and extension services, producer organization, and incentives that represent valuable innovations in the country. An important innovation in the Liberian context will be the pursuit of impact investment financing from sources such as &Green and Althelia, reflecting the conviction that the project will successfully demonstrate models for palm oil and cocoa production that conforms to high social and environmental standards while generating sufficient returns to repay this type of investor. Securing such financing at scale would be a first in Liberia, and represent a breakthrough in promoting smallholder development and value chain participation.</p>

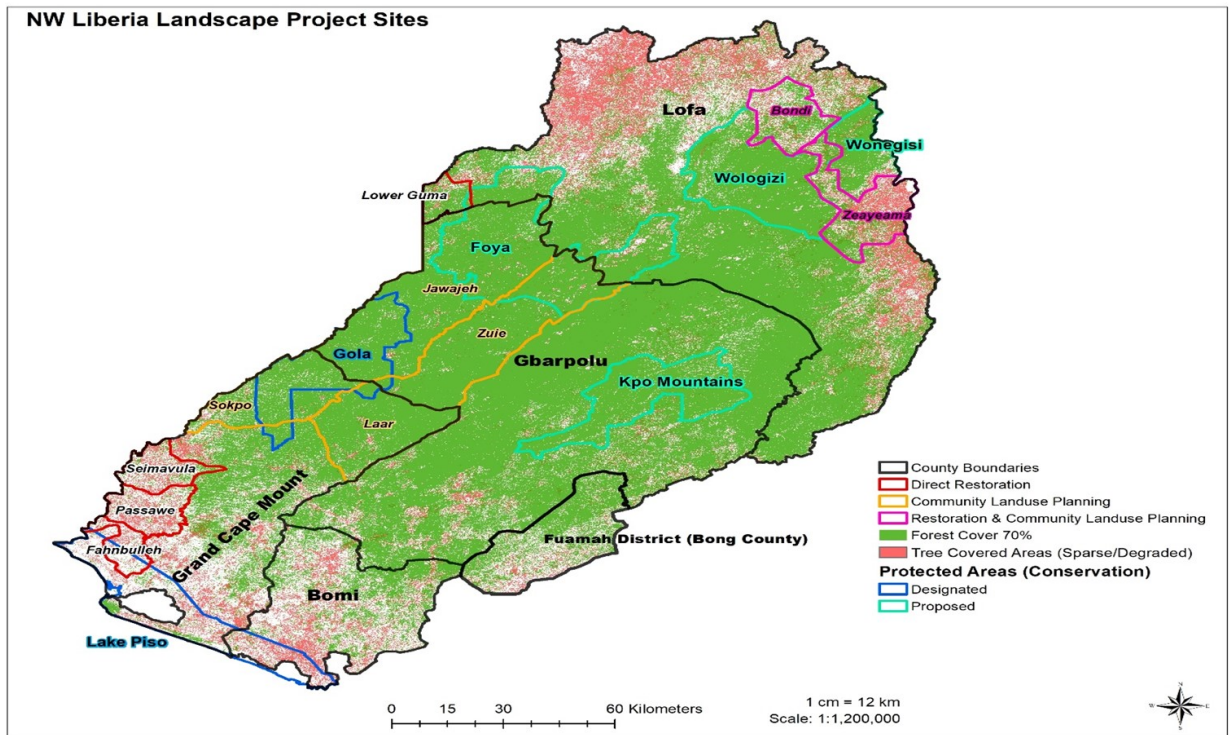
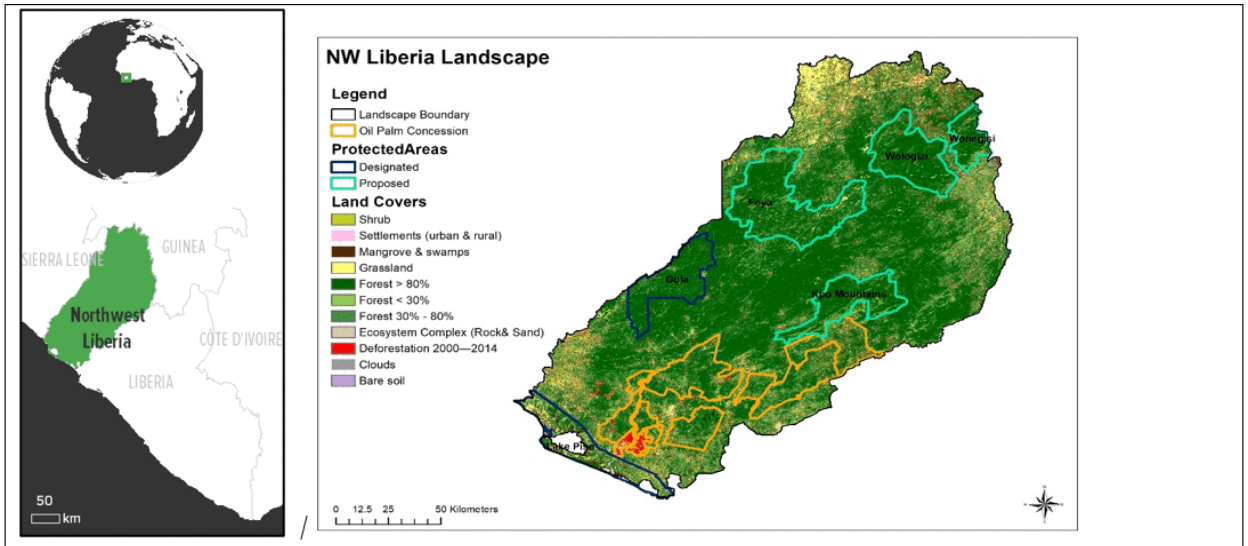
<p>Gender equality and women's empowerment. Gender sensitive indicators are missing ? but dimensions above indicate a suitable framework. Consider applying indicators and measurement protocols of Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI).</p>	<p>Gender sensitive indicators are included in the Liberia child project. In addition, a Gender Mainstreaming Plan was developed for this project. See GMP in the ProDoc and CEO endorsement/portal.</p>
<p>Risks. While generic policy and governance risks are noted, there is inadequate explicit attention to political and economic interests that could (and are likely to) oppose desired changes.</p>	<p>Political risks are included along with an analysis of environmental and social benefits and impacts. See Risk Table in Prodoc and CEO endorsement/portal</p>
<p>Risks: sensitivity to climate change. No climate impact assessment is presented; only the possibility of climate change impacts on productivity and resilience is alluded to. Since impacts will be region and location-specific, climate impact assessment and response strategies will need to be developed in the country projects.</p>	<p>Climate risk screening included. Climate risks and mitigation measures are described in the risk section of the ProDoc and CEO endorsement/portal.</p>

**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status
in the table below:**

<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
<p>During the PPG phase the following activities were conducted: Stakeholder Engagement, Gender Analysis, Safeguard studies, Prodoc preparation, RAP surveys for establishing the baseline, socio-economic studies, grantee/partner due diligence, and project budget.</p>	200,000	172,275	27,725
Total	200,000	172,275	27,725

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.



NW Liberia Landscape coordinates are:

North = 08°33'03.0636", -010°26'32.1065"

South = 06°28'30.6553", -010°26'08.9103"

West = 07°33'21.8645", -011°30'15.2792"

East = 07°33'45.7019", -009°20'47.1079"

Table showing Project sites GPS coordinates

Site Name	Project Intervention	GPS Coordinates
Fahnbulleh	Restoration	11° 10' 00"W 11° 25' 00"W; 6° 45' 00"N 7° 05' 00"N
Lower Guma	Restoration	10° 30' 10"W 10° 37' 10"W; 7° 50' 20"N 8° 80' 20"N
Passawe	Restoration	11° 05' 00"W 11° 25' 00"W; 6° 50' 20"N 7° 70' 00"N
Seimavula	Restoration	11° 07' 00"W 11° 24' 00"W; 7° 05' 10"N 7° 70' 00"N
Jawajeh	Community Land use Planning	10° 60' 00"W 10° 90' 00"W; 7° 25' 00"N 8° 0' 10"N
Laar	Community Land use Planning	10° 60' 00"W 10° 90' 00"W; 6° 90' 00"N 7° 25' 00"N
Sokpo	Community Land use Planning	10° 80' 00"W 11° 10' 00"W; 7° 15' 10"N 7° 30' 10"N
Zuie	Community Land use Planning	10° 60' 00"W 10° 90' 00"W; 7° 20' 00"N 7° 50' 10"N
Zeayema	Restoration & Land use Planning	9° 25' 00"W 9° 38' 00"W; 7° 48' 00"N 8° 10' 10"N
Bondi	Restoration & Land use Planning	9° 30' 00"W 9° 48' 00"W; 8° 05' 00"N 8° 25' 00"N
	Cocoa production areas	9° 70' 00"W 11° 70' 00"W; 7° 90' 00"N 8° 30' 10"N

	#12,351	#21,582	#27,123	#4,878	#20,607	#34,323	#20,076	#93,380	#17,585	#15,341	#484,206	#26,738	#19,662	#44,537	#747,263			
Grants and Agreements	Conservation Agreements to communities							\$100,000			\$300,000					\$300,000	Sub-Grants to communities through Conservation International-Liberia	
	Grants-Non-Fund Grants to Environment Protection Agency							\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000					\$120,000	Environment Protection Agency (EPA)	
	Grants-Non-Fund Grants to Forestry Development Authority (FDA)							\$31,000	\$31,000	\$29,000	\$30,000					\$121,000	Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	
	Grants-Non-Fund Grants to Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geographical Information Services (LIGIS) for Software	\$45,000	\$45,000														\$90,000	Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geographical Information Services (LIGIS)
	Grants-Non-Fund Grants to Ministry of Agriculture - Conduct "State of Agriculture" review to identify existing, identify smart investments, identify alternate resources, and priority locations				\$22,500	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$22,500									\$90,000	Ministry of Agriculture
	Grants-Non-Fund Grants to Liberia Land Authority	\$45,000	\$45,000														\$90,000	Liberia Land Authority
	Grants-Non-Fund Grants - Equipments resource centers in 4 Counties				\$20,000												\$80,000	Sub-Grants to community resource centers through Conservation International-Liberia
	Grants-Non-Fund Grants to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	\$84,174	\$84,174	\$84,174	\$71,287	\$71,287	\$71,287	\$71,287	\$84,174	\$84,174	\$84,174	\$84,174					\$670,000	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
	Grants-Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL)	\$72,025	\$72,025	\$72,025	\$91,257	\$91,257	\$91,257	\$91,257	\$89,832	\$89,832	\$89,832	\$89,832					\$1,027,362	Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL)
	Grants-Flexa and Funa International (FFI)	\$106,783	\$106,783	\$106,783	\$56,626	\$56,626	\$56,626	\$56,626	\$18,308	\$18,308	\$18,308	\$18,308					\$1,000,000	Funa and Funa International (FFI)
	#312,393	#312,393	#222,393	#423,644	#581,644	#401,644	#401,644	#297,172	#297,172	#229,172	#3,485,272	\$0	\$0	\$0	#3,485,272			
Equipment	Laptop Computer - MIE Manager															\$0		
	Land Rover Handop - 2 vehicles	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500					\$30,000	Conservation International-Liberia	
	Office Desks and printers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0					\$0	Conservation International-Liberia	
	2 Laptop Computers - Technical Lead and Operations Officer	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833					\$1,667	Conservation International-Liberia	
Vehicle Tire replacement	\$213	\$213	\$213	\$213	\$213	\$213	\$213	\$213	\$213	\$213					\$854	Conservation International-Liberia		
Country Office Support Cost	\$8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#8,548	#18,096		
Other Direct Costs	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833	\$833				\$3,333	Conservation International-Liberia		
Vehicle Insurance																\$24,422	Conservation International-Liberia	
Communication Material Development (Billboards, posters, banners, talk shows)																\$0		
Grand Total	#573,227	#752,888	#491,524	#639,861	#821,824	#740,353	#719,239	#471,666	#382,479	#356,540	#5,956,960	#203,789	#645,332	#333,369	#7,193,450			

Notes: Please note that this project was designed with a monitoring outcome (M), and not a complete separate component. CHINDY asks that the GEF accept this structure given the need for coordination and monitoring and evaluation with the Global Program

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencies is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).