



GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
 TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Conservation and sustainable use of Liberia's coastal natural capital		
Country(ies):	Liberia	GEF Project ID: ¹	9573
GEF Agency(ies):	CI (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	
Other Executing Partner(s):	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Conservation International - Liberia	Submission Date:	2017-04-03
GEF Focal Area(s):	Multi-focal Areas	Project Duration (Months)	60 Months
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of parent program:	[if applicable]	Agency Fee (\$)	354,980

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-4 Program 10 (select) (select)	GEFTF	3,046,789	6,000,000
LD-1 Program 1 (select) (select)	GEFTF	897,431	4,000,000
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
Total Project Cost		3,944,220	10,000,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To improve conservation and sustainable use of Liberia's coastal natural capital by mainstreaming the value of nature into Liberia's development trajectory						
Project Components	Financing Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
Component 1: Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in coastal ecosystems	TA	Outcome 1.1: Decision making in the governance of coastal ecosystems through the mainstreaming of natural capital accounting (NCA) into Liberia's Sustainable Development Plans including the Vision 2030 and the Agenda for Transformation (Aft) improved	Output 1.1.1: A multi-agency process to guide NCA, including an inter-ministerial NCA Steering Committee, established and functioning Output 1.1.2: Mangrove ecosystem account planned for, developed, and executed	GEFTF	1,800,000	5,000,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

² When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#).

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

		<p>Target 1.1.a: At least one natural capital account (coastal ecosystems) established and embedded in key government policies and plans</p> <p>Target 1.1.b: At least 50 government officials and other relevant stakeholders trained on the technical aspects of NCA</p>	<p>Output 1.1.3: Capacity for government officials and other relevant stakeholders on the technical aspects of NCA developed</p> <p>Output 1.1.4: Operational framework for SEEA-compliant natural capital accounts established</p> <p>Output 1.1.5: Support to the GOL to effectively integrate the operational framework for national level natural capital accounts into Liberia’s Sustainable Development Plan-Vision 2030 and the Agenda for Transformation provided</p> <p>Output 1.1.6: Support to the GOL to successfully incorporate information generated from NCA into the country’s Aichi Targets, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and other international commitments and reporting mechanisms provided</p>			
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<p>Component 2: Innovative financing schemes for conserving coastal natural capital</p>	TA	<p>Outcome 2.1: Funding for the sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems improved</p> <p>Target 2.1.a: Financial resources for the sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems increased by 50% (baseline to be assessed during PPG)</p> <p>Target 2.1.b: At least 2 new revenue streams to support the long term sustainability developed</p> <p>Target 2.1.c: Small grants provided to at least three local organisations</p>	<p>Output 2.1.1: Potential carbon based financing mechanisms for coastal ecosystem conservation identified and assessed</p> <p>Output 2.1.2: At least one market-based, conservation-friendly enterprise to improve sustainable use of coastal and marine resources based on value chain and market assessments developed</p> <p>Output 2.1.3: Small grants mechanism to ensure coastal conservation established</p>	GEFTF	1,101,704	1,000,000
<p>Component 3: Community incentives to conserve and sustainably manage natural capital in coastal ecosystems</p>	TA	<p>Outcome 3.1: Conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources improved through the establishment of a delivery mechanism for performance based payments building on current conservation agreement success</p> <p>Target 3.1.a: 10,000 additional hectares of mangrove ecosystems under protection across Liberia</p> <p>Target 3.1.b: 5,000 hectares of terrestrial forest ecosystems under sustainable management in coastal areas.</p> <p>Target 3.1.c: Income within coastal and mangrove communities targeted by the project improved by 50% (baseline to be assessed during PPG)</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1: Current conservation agreement pilots expanded to at least 10 additional communities along the southeastern coast of Liberia</p> <p>Output 3.1.2: Appropriate mechanisms (location, capacities, infrastructure, monitoring system etc.) to ensure national stewardship model identified and built</p>	GEFTF	854,696	4,000,000
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		

	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
				Subtotal		3,756,400 10,000,000
				Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴	GEFTF	187,820
				Total Project Cost		3,944,220 10,000,000

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: ()

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Recipient Government	The Forestry Development Authority (Conservation Trust Fund)	Grants	1,000,000
Others	USAID	In-kind	4,000,000
Recipient Government	Liberia Forest Sector Program	In-kind	4,000,000
GEF Agency	Conservation International	Grants	1,000,000
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
Total Co-financing			10,000,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS ^{a)}

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) ^{b)}	Total (c)=a+b
CI	GEFTF	Liberia	Biodiversity	(select as applicable)	3,046,789	274,211	3,321,000
CI	GEFTF	Liberia	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	897,431	80,769	978,200
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
Total GEF Resources					3,944,220	354,980	4,299,200

a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#).

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁵

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes No If no, skip item E.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: \$120,000					PPG Agency Fee: 10,800		
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee ⁶ (b)	Total c = a + b
CI	GEF TF	Liberia	Biodiversity	(select as applicable)	100,000	9,000	109,000

⁴ For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

⁵ PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to \$50k for PF up to \$2m (for MSP); up to \$100k for PF up to \$3m; \$150k for PF up to \$6m; \$200k for PF up to \$10m; and \$300k for PF above \$10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁶ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

CI	GEF TF	Liberia	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	20,000	1,800	21,800
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
Total PPG Amount					120,000	10,800	130,800

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁷

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	10,000 Hectares
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	5,000 Hectares
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	Number of freshwater basins
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	Percent of fisheries, by volume
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	metric tons
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	metric tons
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	metric tons
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	ODP tons
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	Number of Countries:
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	Number of Countries:

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. *Project Description.* Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area⁸ strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) [incremental/additional cost reasoning](#) and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and [co-financing](#); 5) [global environmental benefits](#) (GEFTF) and/or [adaptation benefits](#) (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

5.1. The global environmental problems (or climate change adaptation problems if this is an adaptation project), root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

1. Liberia is in the fortunate position of still retaining significant biodiversity and immense natural capital, particularly compared to neighboring countries in the West African region. Liberia hosts two of West Africa's three largest remaining rainforest blocks containing many plants and animal species that are

⁷ Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and/or SCCF.

⁸ For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target\(s\)](#) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

endemic and whose survival is severely threatened. These forest areas have also been internationally recognized as “biodiversity hotspots” and, therefore, are priorities for global conservation efforts. Only 15% of the original West African ecosystem remains (CEPF, 2005), 40% of which is found in Liberia. Liberia’s forests provide a wide range of benefits to the Liberian people and the international community such as habitat for globally important biodiversity, ecological services, ecotourism potential, timber and non-timber forest products, and significant input to the national budget through commercial forestry development.

2. Liberia is home to approximately 125 mammal species, 590 bird species, 162 native fish species, 74 known reptiles and amphibians, over 1000 described insect species and over 2,900 plant species, of which 240 are timber species (WAPS 1999). Moreover, Liberia is considered one of 14 centers of global plant endemism (CBD, 2006).
3. Liberia has a coastline 565 km long and claims an economic zone of 13 nautical miles and a territorial zone of two hundred nautical miles. About 90% of the coastline consists of a narrow sand beach 20- 25 meters wide, reaching 60-80 meters in some parts of southeastern Liberia, interspersed with lagoons. The coastal area consists of swamp-related vegetation, including mangroves forests and reeds that extend up to 25 miles inland.
4. Liberia is home to around 427 km² of mangrove habitats (Spalding *et al.* 1997) that are recognized internationally as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) (Kouame et al. 2012). Liberia’s continental shelf provides habitat for a variety of marine species including mollusks, crustaceans, demersal and pelagic species. The Liberian coast is critical habitat for four endangered species of marine turtles - Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*, EN), Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*, EN), Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*, EN), and Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*, EN)- which feed in the waters and breed on beaches and in estuaries. Estuaries are also important habitat for threatened West African manatees (*Trichechus senegalensis*, VU), while the mangroves harbor three species of crocodile, the African dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*, VU), the Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*, LC), and the African sharp-nosed crocodile (*Mecistops cataphractus*, DD).
5. Coastal ecosystems, including mangroves, also provide a range of ecological goods and services for Liberia’s coastal communities. They are sources of timber, fuelwood and medicines, and they protect shorelines from storms and tidal surges.
6. Liberia is faced with some severe development challenges. Liberia is a least developed country that has recently emerged from an extended period of civil war. It has struggled through two civil wars, one from 1989-1996 and the second from 1999-2003. An estimated 64% of Liberians live below the poverty line, of whom 1.3 million live in extreme poverty. Food insecurity affects 41% of the population and chronic malnutrition is high. Many people were displaced from their homes during the war and have only recently returned.
7. The war had a devastating impact on the country’s health and education systems and a large portion of the population is illiterate. The economy, though recovering, is still unable to generate the large-scale employment opportunities essential for absorbing a large pool of unemployed and underemployed young men and women. The majority of the country’s population is directly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. Nearly 700,000 households depend directly on the country’s forest resources and agricultural biodiversity for their livelihoods.
8. Natural capital accounting (NCA) refers to the measurement of stocks of natural resources (both renewable and non-renewable) and the flows of benefits they provide. NCA seeks to capture and integrate the contribution of nature into the systems that the public and private sectors use to make decisions. Such measurements of nature – in the form of stocks and flows – can then be incorporated into the balance sheets and framework that government and business rely on for planning and decision-making processes. This information allows policy, decision makers and business leaders to better understand how economic development depends on nature, both as a supply for economic production as well as for its capacity to assimilate waste and pollution.

9. Given the environmental context of Liberia (e.g., high biodiversity, high dependency on natural resources, but ongoing degradation and unsustainable use of resources) and given Liberia's aim to move towards sustainable development, NCA is the type of system that could be used by Liberia to guide its environmental goals.

Global environmental problems and root causes:

10. Coastal ecosystems occur where the land meets the sea. Worldwide, they extend along more than 1.6 million km of coastline in a total of 123 countries. These ecosystems include a diverse set of habitat types, encompassing both terrestrial habitats (e.g. sand dunes) and marine ones (e.g. seagrass beds). Coastal areas are home to approximately one third of the world's population and almost 40% of the world lives within 100 km of the coast. Coastal ecosystems are intricately connected to both upstream terrestrial/freshwater ecosystems and marine ecosystems. Processes and activities in one system invariably cause impacts on other systems, in positive and/or negative ways. For example, forest ecosystems help to stabilize soils, thereby preventing erosion and downstream sedimentation, which are processes that can smother coral reefs and otherwise negatively impact these ecosystems.
11. Coastal ecosystems and their services have economic as well as social values. They directly underpin or contribute to a number of economic sectors, including tourism, commercial fisheries, salt, minerals, oil and construction (e.g. by providing goods such as rock, sand, lime and wood). Estimates of their annual contribution to the global economy range from billions to trillions of US dollars. Fish are one of the most heavily traded food commodities in the world, particularly in developing countries where they can account for more than half of the total value of all traded commodities. In 2012 the total global value of fishery exports amounted to US\$129 billion. Coastal ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses support the global fishery export market through their role in providing habitat for commercially relevant fish species. In addition to their social and economic values, coastal ecosystems sustain a wealth of terrestrial and marine fauna and flora.
12. Globally, the current state of coastal ecosystems was thoroughly documented in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA, 2005), a five-year study involving more than 1,300 experts in 95 countries. The study identified coastal ecosystems as "among the most productive yet highly threatened systems in the world" (MEA, 2005). Population growth and technological advances have fueled an unprecedented and unsustainable exploitation of coastal resources in the past century. Coastal communities aggregate near the types of coastal systems that provide the most ecosystem services; these coastal subtypes are also the most vulnerable. Human pressures on coastal resources are compromising many of the ecosystem services crucial to the well-being of coastal economies and peoples.
13. Liberia's coastal ecosystems are valuable to the economy, though these values have not been systematically calculated at the sub-national or national level or tracked over time. Coastal ecosystems have an economic value in Liberia beyond their aesthetic benefit, supporting human lives and livelihoods through the provision of food and materials, nutrient cycling, waste processing, and other essential goods and services. Aquatic ecosystems provide protein for nearly 70% of the population (Government of Liberia, 2004) and also provide key ecosystem services such as flood control and water and soil filtration.
14. However Liberia's immense natural wealth is under threat. Biological diversity in Liberia has declined significantly over the past 30 years. Liberia has lost 60% of its forest cover over the last two centuries, which is particularly devastating to a forest-dependent country. Poverty and the need for economic growth/development are significant drivers of degradation of natural resources in Liberia. The impacts of this increasing pressure on coastal resources are becoming more evident. Coastal ecosystems are threatened by the overexploitation of demersal fish species and other species (e.g. sea turtles), beach sand mining, beach erosion and mangrove loss. Liberia is considered to be vulnerable to climate change, mainly due to high levels of poverty in combination with a high dependence on sectors sensitive to climate change, such as agriculture, fisheries, mining and forestry. In addition, the national capacity to handle predicted climate changes is very weak, increasing the vulnerability.

15. Current development trends along the coast pose a significant and ongoing threat. In some instances ecosystem degradation may be higher than in terrestrial ecosystems. For example, it is estimated that the rate of mangrove deforestation could be as high as 65% since 1980.
16. Overall the main threats to coastal ecosystems in Liberia include the following:

Infrastructure Development

17. Liberia's burgeoning post-conflict economy and increased population have overwhelmed the original planned land area for Monrovia, its capital city, and other coastal cities. Originally made to accommodate 350,000 persons, Monrovia's population is now more than 1 million people. Nearly 58% of Liberia's four million people live within 40 miles of the coast, which puts extensive pressure on coastal ecosystems for food, land, mineral extraction and other resources, resulting in habitat loss and degradation. Populations continue to grow, and new infrastructure (e.g. roads and housing), while desperately needed, will only add additional pressure and increase ecosystem degradation.

Over-harvesting and over-hunting

18. Unsustainable harvesting of natural resources is a significant threat to coastal ecosystems. Demand for food, energy and building materials is leading to over exploitation of natural resources in and around major urban settlements. Charcoal production still remains the dominant source of cooking and heating energy for 80% of households in Sub-Saharan Africa and this is no different in Liberia where over 95% of the urban population uses charcoal. Demand for charcoal is driving deforestation and forest degradation in mangrove and coastal forests along the coast line of Liberia.
19. Although fish is the main protein source, bush meat comes second, comprising about 75% of animal protein consumed in the country. Whilst there is scarce data related to the harvesting rates of bush meat in Liberia, growing demand and the bush meat trade constitute a threat for the conservation of biodiversity. Although there have been no recent surveys to take stock of existing biomass, Liberia's Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF) estimates that the demersal species are under threat from over exploitation from both commercial and artisanal fisheries. Coastal fish resources are believed to be fully exploited, while the deep sea fisheries are under exploited. Breeding grounds for fish are threatened by destruction of coastal wetlands and water pollution from households, agricultural run-off, leaking fuel storage and vessels. Mangroves provide important breeding and nursery areas for many West African marine species of fish, crab, shrimp and mollusks and hence deforestation of mangroves is having a direct impact on fish stocks.

Agricultural Expansion

20. The Government of Liberia (GOL) has implemented initiatives that have focused on increasing agricultural investments in Liberia. The National Rice Development Strategy of Liberia (Republic of Liberia 2012) is aggressively attempting to double domestic rice production by 2018, which raises a number of potential environmental concerns. Historically, rice has been predominantly grown in upland habitats by smallholder farmers using slash-and-burn methods with minimal agricultural inputs, resulting in low yields harvested once per year; until now lowland habitats have not been farmed extensively for rice. However, this strategy aims to increase rice productivity in both upland and lowland ecosystems, but especially by expanding rice cultivation in the lowlands, where water resources are more abundant and climatic suitability is more favorable for higher productivity and more cropping cycles per year. Lowland rice cultivation is planned to increase from 22,000 ha in 2009 to 110,000 ha by 2018. Overall, the rice strategy may result in a net loss of wetlands along the coast and potentially damage wildlife due to chemical pollutants and habitat loss.
21. Since 2009 four international palm oil companies have been granted concessions in Liberia for palm oil production on 620,000 hectares of land. Palm oil concessions have been granted over land in Liberia that is assumed to be unencumbered public land but in reality these concessions extend over vast areas that

feature an intense mix of forest-dependent communities, high biodiversity value forest and competing natural resource interests such as logging, mining and rubber. Palm oil concessions extend down into coastal areas and may result in conversion of coastal forest.

22. Many people continue to rely on subsistence agriculture that is low in productivity and results in clearing of natural forest along the coast. The use of modern technology is limited. Slash-and-burn farming, where forest lands are cleared and burned, is still the primary production system. Land should be allowed to regenerate but pressure from burgeoning populations often decreases the fallow period and can lead to permanent loss of forest cover in coastal areas.

Illegal Sand Mining

23. Beach sand mining is one of the most serious threats to the coastline and marine environment in the country (UNDP 2008). Nearly every coastal community practices sand mining primarily for the purpose of brick production but there are no estimates regarding the actual amount of sand being removed. The sand pits cause a slight embayment, which must be filled before the sand moves along the coast leading to exacerbated shoreline erosion. Incidents of beach erosion along the Monrovia coastline have resulted in the loss of land and shorefront properties. Erosion is causing shoreline recession in several cities, including Buchanan, Greenville, Harper and Robertsport.

Unregulated Waste Disposal

24. The disposal of waste represents another potential source of environmental degradation as well as a risk to human health. Pollution is a threat not only to coastal ecosystems but also to basic human health. Improper waste disposal practices in much of the country threaten the access to and quality of drinking water, and contribute to the spread of disease. Liberia continues to struggle with providing sufficient access to water and sanitation facilities, and this is true for both urban and rural populations. The need for improved solid waste management is anticipated to increase with economic growth, and with continued rural-to-urban migration. Waste is often dumped on the edge of wetlands in coastal areas and sewage is often discharged directly into lagoons, rivers and the ocean.

Barriers:

25. The current threats to Liberia's coastal ecosystems are exacerbated by a number of barriers including:
 - a) Lack of data about the value of Liberia's natural capital
26. 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 within a given time period is scarce. Liberian government institutions are facing shortages of scientific information pertaining to environmental management. The Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) is the entity in Liberia which houses the nation's statistical spatial and non-spatial data and produces the System of National Accounts. Although some progress has been made in capacity building over the years, LISGIS as well as many other national statistical systems remain weak. Data that does exist tends to be scattered across different institutions and there is often limited knowledge concerning who has ownership of different data sets. The availability of tabular and spatial environmental data has been compromised and data that does exist is typically in an analog or paper format which limits external investigator access.
 - b) Lack of awareness and knowledge amongst decision makers about the value of Liberia's natural capital
27. The value of coastal ecosystems is still not fully recognized by decision makers, and they continue to be lost and degraded. Decision makers often are not cognizant of the true value that many ecosystems

provide to people. They are unaware of the indirect services that ecosystems provide and that these indirect services can now be quantified. Awareness amongst coastal communities and other stakeholders in Liberia of the important role of coastal resources is also poor. There is also often limited understanding in local communities of the importance of ecosystems such as mangroves, both for people and biodiversity.

c) Inadequate legislation and gaps in national policy

28. While the conflict ended in 2003, Liberia's civil war was a long dark period in its history characterized by violence, divisiveness, and economic mismanagement. National and local institutions understandably spent the years following the end of the war reestablishing a working government structure and providing livelihoods, housing, and food to the Liberian people. Liberia is now experiencing some economic improvement but it will take time to put in place the regulatory, political, and informational framework necessary to deal with integrating ecosystem and biodiversity protection into national actions. Law enforcement remains weak and regulatory authorities such as the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia seldom have adequate human and financial resources necessary to address legal enforcement. Specific areas that need improvement include addressing inconsistencies in legislation and how it is applied, lack of integrated planning between different sectors, and inadequate law enforcement. A key example of this in coastal areas is the proposed establishment of marine protected areas. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) is the custodian of the protected area network in Liberia. The FDA's responsibilities include setting up a protected areas network; training, employing, and equipping staff to deploy in protected areas; conducting monitoring patrols; and prosecuting violators. It also promulgates regulations, conducts inspections, and levies fines for such violations as over-harvesting of timber. However legislation that would allow for the creation of marine protected areas doesn't exist. Government entities such as the Liberia Maritime Authority (LMA) and Liberian coast guard appear to be more suited to address legal enforcement in MPAs, while the Environmental Protection Agency maintains a strong mandate for environmental management but does not have the capacity to implement these actions on the ground.

d) Limited institutional capacity and coordination in government ministries

29. 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 natural resource use in coastal areas and to determine how these resources contribute to the economy. There is also lack of integrated planning between different sectors in government which leads to duplication of efforts and poor delivery.

e) Limited financing for conservation and sustainable management of coastal resources

30. Currently there is significant investment in the protection of inland ecosystems in Liberia, especially terrestrial forests targeted for avoided deforestation activities. However, little attention is being given to the conservation and sustainable use of natural capital along Liberia's coastline. There are some interventions in place such as the GEF funded project "Improve sustainability of mangrove forests and coastal mangrove areas in Liberia through protection, planning and livelihood creation – building blocks towards Liberia's marine and coastal protected areas." However, total investments in conserving coastal resources is still woefully inadequate and often reliant on short term grants provided by private foundations and government aid agencies that cannot be sustained in the long term. There is limited opportunity for private sector investment in conservation.

1.2. The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Baseline scenario:

31. Liberia has rich biodiversity and immense natural capital that has not yet been systematically assessed, measured, or valued. Since peace was established nearly 13 years ago, little data has been gathered on Liberia's coastal ecosystems. It is clear, however, that there are many threats to Liberia's coastal ecosystems and that the rate of destruction is growing. Liberia is on the precipice of losing many of their key coastal ecosystems. There is a serious risk of losing sea turtle nesting beaches and ecosystems important for migratory birds. Also key breeding sites for economically important marine species may drastically decline, affecting fish stocks and creating greater pressure on land based biodiversity, already under threat from the bush meat trade. It is clear that the unsustainable loss of ecosystems in Liberia will have a direct and negative effect on food insecurity throughout the country. The rate at which mangrove forests are being lost in Liberia is already one of the highest in Africa (FAO 2007).
32. Across the country there is wide concern that communities are being threatened by coastal erosion and the impacts are exacerbated by irresponsible sand mining. Private developers are also taking advantage of local communities' need for cash income, their low levels of education, and their limited understanding of the true value of the land, and are entering into agreements to purchase or lease riparian and coastal land at rates that are well below market value. In the absence of clear guidelines, policies or regulations preventing it, landowners are free to clear the land thereby depriving coastal communities not only of the land itself but also the ecosystem goods and services that it historically provided.
33. While Liberia's protected areas network (which covers approximately 30% of the country) and other environmental protection policies have proposed that key ecosystems be gazetted as protected areas, limited actions have been implemented to date to ensure this gazettement moves forward.
34. There are some interventions in place that seek to address threats to Liberia's coastal ecosystems. However, these interventions are unlikely to achieve scale or catalytic influence if decision makers do not start taking the true costs of exploiting Liberia's coastal ecosystems into account in development planning.
35. There are few systematic measurements of the stocks of natural capital (natural assets including plants, animals, water, soils, minerals) in Liberia or of the flows of ecosystem services that these ecosystems provide to benefit people or sectors of the Liberian economy. For example, there have been no stock assessment surveys conducted in more than twenty years to determine the level of exploitation of the fisheries resources. Few research facilities exist to study the dynamics of the ecological factors affecting the fisheries environment- the productivity of ecosystems, pollution levels and nutrient load, species diversity of the various fish communities and harvesting pattern of commercial species.
36. Very little is known about the value of freshwater wetlands, from their role in providing medicinal plants and other products, to their role in providing ecosystems services such as water quality enhancement, flood control, and provision of habitat for valued species. Sand mining is permitted along the coast without a full understanding of coastal erosion and associated costs that these activities cause.
37. The value of coastal ecosystems is still not fully recognized by decision makers, and 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 upon the immediate need to improve the well-being of people. In the face of these severe challenges, the notion that conserving natural resources should be a critical component for improving 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.
38. The GOL is, however, starting to recognize the importance of measuring and valuing its natural capital. In addition to being a signatory for the Gaborone Declaration for the Sustainability in Africa, Liberia is also a signatory on the Communiqué for Natural Capital (related to Rio +20). More recently, the Liberian Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched the first TEEB project (The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity) project in Liberia. Focused primarily on mangroves and coastal regions,

this project has begun critical data collection efforts that would certainly be utilized and supplemented by a larger natural capital accounting project.

39. There is clear demand from the Government of Liberia for introducing Natural Capital Accounting and a commitment to maintaining national accounts when the project draws to a close. The president of Liberia, Honourable Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, expressed her support for the proposed project during consultations with her advisers at the recently concluded climate talks in Mareskesh, Morocco. The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia has also consistently voiced their support for the introduction of Natural Capital Accounting in various stakeholder forums.
40. The EPA considers the need for more concrete data in the form of measurement and valuation of the stocks of natural capital in these regions (as well as of the flows of ecosystem services from these ecosystems to the economy) and subsequent integration of these data into decision-making to be of the highest priority.

Associated baseline projects:

41. There are many projects currently underway in Liberia that will also contribute to this project's baseline. They are:

Project Name	Years (Start-End)	Budget (USD)	Donor(s)	Objectives/Brief description of how it is linked to this GEF project
World Bank Forest Sector Project	2016- 2020	37.5 Million	Government of Norway/ World Bank	<p>The project will focus on the expansion of the protected area network and the establishment of community forests. Focus will be placed on increasing institutional capacity of key government agencies including Forest Development Administration (FDA), EPA, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS). The project will also strengthen the regional offices and support structures of all of these institutions.</p> <p>The proposed project will benefit from these increased institutional capacities and regional focus. The WB project may also look to invest in the Liberia Conservation Trust which is being set up to support conservation and may in future support long term financing of key mangrove areas.</p>
The Liberia Conservation Trust	2016-ongoing	2 Million initial endowment investment with aim to grow over time	CI/Government of Liberia	Conservation International (CI) is supporting the government of Liberia to set up and endow a conservation trust fund which seeks to provide long term sustainable financing to protected area management as well as the supporting community development actions around key conservation areas. This fund has the potential to support the long term financing of conservation agreements, and also provides the mechanism through which PES could be channeled
Strengthening Liberia's capability to provide climate information and services to enhance climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change	2013-2017	6.7 Million	UNDP/GEF	This project aims to strengthen Liberia's capability to provide climate and hydrological information and services that enable climate resilient sustainable development. This project will provide critical datasets which will be incorporated in to the natural capital accounting work moving forward.
Mapping essential natural capital (MENC) and laying the foundation for	2016	300,000	Betty and Gordon Moore via Conservation International	The EPA of Liberia and scientists from Conservation International are collaborating on a pilot project to develop and test approaches for measuring, mapping, and valuing natural

natural capital accounting (NCA)				capital in Liberia. The objective of this project is to develop a toolkit for helping Liberia to better understand and integrate the role of natural capital as Liberia defines and implements a pathway to sustainable development over the coming decade and beyond. This project is laying a critical foundation for the proposed project as it will result in a proof of concept pilot coastal natural capital account that can be repeated and refined under the proposed project.
Improved sustainability of mangrove forests and coastal mangrove areas in Liberia through protection, planning and livelihood creation	2016-2019	963,994	CI/GEF	CI is currently working to implement a project which will strengthen protection of key mangrove areas and put in place conservation incentives for local communities. The proposed project will build on the lessons of this initiative, look to expand into new mangrove areas in the southeast, support the development of policy frameworks, and more sustainable funding streams for these activities moving forward.
West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA-BiCC)	2015-2020	48.9 Million	USAID	WA-BiCC will address both direct and indirect drivers of natural resource degradation to improve livelihoods and natural ecosystems across the region. The project will work with partners at the community, national and regional levels to strengthen policies and systems that will improve natural resource management and the health and resilience of selected coastal and upland forest ecosystems. CI is already collaborating with WA-BiCC on coastal mangrove conservation and will look to ensure coordination of project activities moving forward
The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study in Liberia	2014 - 2016	120,000	European Commission	TEEB has executed a bilateral agreement with the European Commission entitled Reflecting the Value of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Policymaking. As part of this agreement, the TEEB approach is being applied in five pilot countries including Liberia. The TEEB study aims to reduce the pressures and threats on coastal mangroves by mainstreaming the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services into coastal and marine planning policies. CI is already collaborating with UNEP and the Environmental Protection Agency on the TEEB through the GEF 5 Mangrove project.

1.3. The proposed alternative scenario with the proposed project, with a brief description of the expected outcomes and components of the project

42. Conservation in Liberia clearly needs to evolve. National planning and development agencies are unlikely to be persuaded by intrinsic value arguments for conservation on their own. One way of altering the current development trajectory in Liberia is to take stock of coastal natural resources, as well as the ecosystem services they provide to people so that more effective decisions are made about their use. Doing so will uncover ways to restore and protect nature more effectively and at a larger scale than ever before.
43. The goal of this new project is to use new and powerful tools, such as Natural Capital Accounting (NCA), to build on intrinsic value arguments for nature conservation and provide actionable information derived from the same statistical systems countries use in the macroeconomic decision making to conserve natural capital in coastal areas.
44. The project will help account for the value that ecosystems such as coastal ecosystems, including mangroves, provide in Liberia and help decision makers come to understand the externalities, the unpriced costs of development, so that impacts and tradeoffs of development decisions are recognized from the onset. It will build the capacity of key development and statistical agencies to collect and analyze this data on a regular basis and to include this information in regular decision making. The project will empower decision makers in the public sector to develop clear, credible, and long-term policy frameworks that support and incentivise actors in the private sector – including foreign investors – to value and report on their use of Liberia’s natural capital and thereby work towards internalizing environmental costs.
45. The project will also ensure that mechanisms are put in place to ensure a steady flow of sufficient financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of coastal natural capital in the long term. However, information and capacity building alone are not enough. In fact, improved financial flows, without improved means of benefit sharing; will do little to change Liberia’s current status. This is why this project proposes a 3 tiered approach, one focused on improving decision making, one focused on enhancing the resource base for coastal conservation, and finally one focused on ensuring that the conservation agreement model developed in Liberia is appropriate for ensuring behavior change with resource users across all priority coastal areas. Through this integrated approach we believe we will be able to establish the operational and capacity foundations to achieve the fundamental shift in Liberia’s development paradigm – thus ensuring sustainable coastal management across all of Liberia.
46. This project will improve conservation and sustainable use of Liberia’s coastal natural capital. Community based interventions in this project will be implemented in the southeast of Liberia (project communities will be identified during the PPG phase).

Project Area in Liberia



Project consistency with the GEF-6 focal area strategy and the Aichi Targets

47. This project is aligned with the GEF 6 Biodiversity (Program 10) and Land Degradation (Program 1) Focal Areas, as well as Aichi Targets 1, 2, 3 and 4, as described below. It is important to highlight that the Aichi Target indicators are draft indicators that will be further refined during the PPG phase:

Project Components	GEF 6 Focal Area Programs	Aichi Targets and Indicators
<p>Component 1: This project will demonstrate how the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services can lead to demonstrable changes in development planning and financing in Liberia. This project will help close the circle between theory and practice and link biodiversity valuation and economic analysis with Liberia's development policy and finance planning. This project will provide training for key stakeholders on the value of coastal natural capital</p>	<p>BD - Program 10: Integration of the Valuation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Development & Finance Planning</p>	<p>Target 1: Awareness increased</p> <p>Draft indicator:</p> <p>a) Trends in key stakeholders awareness and attitudes to biodiversity</p> <p>Target 2: Biodiversity values integrated</p> <p>Draft indicators:</p> <p>a) Trends in incorporating natural capital, biodiversity, and ecosystem service values into national accounting systems</p> <p>b) Trends in integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service values into sectoral and development policies</p>

<p>Component 2: This project will help to operationalize innovative finance mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services in order to provide a steady flow of financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of coastal natural capital in Liberia in perpetuity. The operationalization of specific financial mechanisms in Liberia will provide an opportunity to increase public and private finance flows on the scale necessary to address threats.</p>	<p>BD - Program 10: Integration of the Valuation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Development & Finance Planning</p>	<p>Target 3: Incentives reformed Draft indicator: a) Trends in identification, assessment and establishment and strengthening of incentives that reward positive contribution to biodiversity and ecosystem services</p>
<p>Component 3: This project will address the need to sustain the flows of ecosystem services that underpin productivity of fisheries and agricultural systems in coastal areas. There is a need to intensify production of food crops in coastal areas in Liberia. The project will support intensification of food production through efficient use of natural resources (land, soil, water, and vegetation.) The project will maintain ecosystem services through the adoption of agroecological methods and approaches by smallholder farmers including conservation agriculture, agroforestry and organic agriculture. This will result in improved sustainable management of land, soil, water, and vegetative cover to generate multiple global environment benefits. The Conservation Agreement methodology will incentivize behavior change on the part of local resource users to ensure that coastal ecosystems are not further degraded and continue to provide the services that underpin food production. Land-use planning tools will be introduced in targeted communities. These tools will promote integrated land management and stewardship, as well as improve livelihoods of coastal communities.</p>	<p>LD - Program 1: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and Livelihoods</p>	<p>Target 4: Sustainable production and consumption Draft indicator: a) Trends in extent to which biodiversity and ecosystem service values are incorporated into organizational accounting and reporting</p>

Project Components, Outcomes and Outputs

48. The *objective* of this project is “to improve conservation and sustainable use of Liberia’s coastal natural capital by mainstreaming the value of nature into Liberia’s development trajectory”. This objective will be achieved through the implementation of the following components, outcomes and outputs:

COMPONENT 1: NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING (NCA) IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

49. The first component of the project is to build the foundation for Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Liberia to ensure that the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, particularly for coastal areas, is incorporated into national decision-making. This component will result in the following expected outcome:

Outcome 1.1: Decision making in the governance of coastal ecosystems through the mainstreaming of natural capital accounting (NCA) into Liberia’s Sustainable Development Plans including the Vision 2030 and the Agenda for Transformation (AfT) improved

Target 1.1.a: *At least one natural capital account (coastal ecosystems) established and embedded in key government policies and plans*

Target 1.1.b: *At least 50 government officials and other relevant stakeholders trained on the technical aspects of NCA*

50. National planning and development agencies, which influence many of the decisions that impact natural resources in Liberia, are primarily focused upon improving the well-being of people. Often this condition is measured by financial wealth or sectoral productivity. The true costs of Liberia’s natural resources are not accounted for in development decisions and this often results in unsustainable exploitation of natural resources for short term gain. The Agenda for Transformation (AfT) is the Liberian government’s primary strategy to foster sustainable and equitable growth over the next couple of years. The AfT seeks to promote a sustainable, transparent, and well-managed use of Liberia’s natural resources.
51. Like most governments that adhere to the statistical standard of the U.N. System of National Accounts, the government of Liberia attempts to collect data that describe the country’s economic performance, and form the basis for calculating GDP and other well-known economic indicators, such as balance of trade and household consumption. These accounts allow countries to make key macroeconomic decisions and set policy. However, the indicators within such national accounts are currently limited to the production boundary of the economy and thus, do not measure progress towards achieving the sustainability objectives of the AfT.
52. At present the government has not sought to measure the stock of natural capital in Liberia, the value of the ecosystems and the services they provide in monetary and non-monetary terms, and the change in these values as the ecosystems are degraded. As such, the true costs of Liberia’s natural resources, and thus how these natural resources contribute to development, and the policies that can help foster both, aren’t incorporated into the AfT. Incorporating natural capital into national accounts will reveal the impacts and dependencies of economic activity on the environment, and support better economic decisions in the long term. By providing information on the true cost of natural resource use, depletion and degradation, NCA can help a country’s decision makers to better understand the impacts and tradeoffs of development decisions from the onset.
53. Through an investment from the GEF this project will strengthen conservation and sustainable use of Liberia’s ecosystems, including coastal areas, by creating the enabling environment for natural capital accounting. This will directly increase the capacity for data collection and analysis within the government and indirectly, through the data produced by assessments associated with this project, allow for more effective sustainable development. As a result, Liberia would be able to better manage its

ecosystems, enhance its land use planning, and proactively protect its key biodiversity and threatened ecosystems.

54. To ensure this necessary result, the project will involve all related ministries and agencies and provide capacity training to carry out and contribute to natural capital accounting. This project will ensure the enabling conditions for natural capital accounting are in place (multi-agency engagement process, a plan for streamlining data collection efforts, securing long-term funding for natural capital accounting), the development of preliminary assessments/pilot accounts that could facilitate future accounting efforts based on the context in the country, and making recommendations regarding the infrastructure required for future mainstreaming of accounting outputs into decision-making as per country priorities.
55. This readiness process will be linked with key decision makers within the government, and will be promoted as one of the tools that can help with planning for, and prioritizing of, biodiversity conservation and the maintenance of key ecosystems and their services. The outputs of the assessments and future accounts will ensure that decision-makers are made aware of the importance of ecosystem and biodiversity stocks and flows to the economy, and are clear on how key policies or government initiatives that could be informed by the initial assessments and, in the future, by accounts.
56. During the project preparation phase, clear policy targets and the means to influence these policies will be determined jointly with all stakeholders. However, for the sake of demonstrating what this outcome might look like we have provide two practical examples of how natural capital accounting could potentially be incorporated into public sector decision in Liberia:
57. *Permitting of future infrastructure projects and development along Liberia's coastline*
In some areas of Liberia, natural capital assets such as mangroves provide clear advantages over engineered infrastructure. The development of an account for mangroves will provide economists, environmentalists, planners and city leaders in Liberia with strong arguments for the value of green infrastructure over engineered infrastructure. Green infrastructure will come to be seen by urban planners as an integral part of the urban environment alongside other forms of infrastructure such as the roads, cables and pipes. In order the make this a reality on the ground, the proposed project will engage city leaders and planners and seek to influence Liberia's urban planning agenda. Liberia is currently developing a National Urban Policy (NUP) and information generated through the proposed project can potentially be used to influence the development of this policy, ensuring that the full value of green infrastructure is taken into account.
58. *Fisheries management*
Fisheries activities span a range of scales from subsistence to commercial in Liberia, and both domestic and foreign operators are active in the industry. To date, Liberia has failed to sustainably manage its fisheries resources in a manner that would allow protection of this renewable resource and optimization of the amount and use of the revenues generated. The information provided by a fisheries account would be useful for the implementation of a fisheries management strategy that is underpinned by robust data on the value of natural capital in the form of renewable fisheries resources. Specifically, information generated could help the Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF) to balance the needs of ecosystem health, food security, economic growth and social development. In 2014 the BNF developed a fisheries and aquaculture sector policy and strategy. The proposed project provides an opportunity to influence the implementation of this policy, ensuring that conservation targets within the policy are informed by robust scientific and economic data on marine ecosystems.
59. Key outputs arising from this expected outcome include:

Output 1.1.1: A multi-agency process to guide NCA, including an inter-ministerial NCA Steering Committee, established and functioning

60. NCA will require cooperation across a number of different government ministries to establish a functioning set of national accounts. This is because, for most natural capital accounting endeavors, the data needed to develop accounts comes from a series of line ministries who collect data and (usually) provide it to a central statistical agency. In addition, once the accounts are produced, the results are typically used by a different set of ministries (in this case the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning) than the ministries who provide the data for the account development. In order to coordinate this process, the project will establish a multi-agency process to guide delivery and ensure that there is alignment across different government institutions.

Output 1.1.2: Mangrove ecosystem account planned for, developed, and executed

61. Understanding that the Liberian EPA has prioritized pilot accounting initiatives to focus on coastal regions, the project will establish an account for mangroves ecosystems. Although it has been noted that there is currently a lack of baseline data that could be used to create repeated and complete natural capital accounts, what data is available clearly indicates that Liberia's natural capital is providing a substantial amount of ecosystem services to the economy and that this is not currently being accounted for, measured, or valued in monetary or non-monetary terms. Not only will this project fill a capacity need with the Liberian government, but it will also build the foundation for the development of future accounts, whether they be coastal or terrestrial accounts.
62. The data collected in this project and the link to decision-making envisioned through the proposed project will help to address threats to Liberia's ecosystems. Long-term financing plans for natural capital accounting in the country will be explicitly explored to ensure greater sustainability of project outcomes in the future. Support for integration of accounting outputs into decision-making is detailed in Outputs below.

Output 1.1.3: Capacity for government officials and other relevant stakeholders on the technical aspects of NCA developed

63. NCA is a public sector system and thus, a government driven process. This project will provide substantial training opportunities to ensure that there is capacity in the Liberian government to begin systematic and repeated natural capital accounting. This project will provide Liberia with a foundation to assess, plan, and monitor their natural resources and how they contribute to the economy. Participants in these trainings will be selected in the initial phase of the project but at a minimum would include staff from the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services, Forestry Development Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Land Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Lands, Mines and Energy and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. We recognize that this is a tall order in a country like Liberia and will dedicate much of our efforts to this process.

Output 1.1.4: Operational framework for national level natural capital accounts established

64. The project will aim to establish national-level natural capital accounts through the development of an operational framework compliant with the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), an internationally accepted framework for natural capital accounting developed by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). Specifically, the Liberian government has expressed interest in developing SEEA Ecosystem Accounts which measure the relationship between ecosystems and the economy. It is designed to allow long-term monitoring of the status and health of ecosystems, tracking stocks of ecosystems, and flows of ecosystem services to the economy. In order to develop this framework we will produce scoping information including: the identification of key accounts to establish given Liberia's natural resources priorities, recommendations on key statistical indicators, data collection protocols, recommendations for resourcing these as well as financial planning in the short, medium, and long term for the development of natural capital accounts; a review of data availability as it relates to natural capital accounting; and recommendations on institutional arrangements, roles, and responsibilities for²⁰

natural capital accounting. In essence, the operational framework will provide the Government of Liberia with the roadmap it requires to establish the relevant set of SEEA compliant national accounts determined in part by Liberia's development aspirations and policy goals. For example, Namibia's environmental accounts are based on the UN's SEEA framework (United Nations, 2002) and include minerals, fisheries, water, livestock, land and energy. Monetary asset accounts have been constructed only for minerals and fisheries. In Liberia the operational framework proposed in this project will help the government of Liberia to prioritise a set of relevant SEEA compliant accounts and provide concrete recommendations on data gaps that need to be filled, financial commitments that will need to be made and the institutional arrangements that are required to establish a set of national accounts.

Output 1.1.5: Support to the GOL to integrate the operational framework for national level natural capital accounts into Liberia's Sustainable Development Plan-Vision 2030 and the Agenda for Transformation (Aft) provided

65. To meet the outcome, this project will provide support to the GOL on the integration of the operational framework for national level natural capital accounts into the Aft. Development of the next iteration of the Aft will be an intensive process that cuts across a variety of different sectors with competing interests. This project will provide the necessary support to ensure that key government decision makers are placed in a position where they can lobby for the inclusion of specific objectives within the Agenda that address conservation of Liberia's Natural Capital over the next couple of years.

Output 1.1.6: Support to the GOL to successfully incorporate information generated from NCA into the country's Aichi Targets, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and other international commitments and reporting mechanisms provided

66. Countries are already starting to consider how they will achieve their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This preparation phase provides a unique window during which to influence national-level strategies for implementation so that they harness, conserve and restore the natural capital that is the foundation of truly sustainable development. However, many nations will require support to fully recognize the role of natural capital in achieving the SDGs and establish the right policy framework to integrate proper management of this natural capital into development plans. The project will help support the GOL to incorporate information generated from Natural Capital Accounting into the country's Sustainable Development Goals and other international commitments such as the Aichi targets.

COMPONENT 2: INNOVATIVE FINANCING SCHEMES FOR CONSERVING COASTAL NATURAL CAPITAL

67. The second component aims at increasing and diversifying resource flows for the sustainable management and restoration of mangrove and coastal ecosystems. This component will result in the following expected outcome and corresponding two targets:

Outcome 2.1: Funding for the sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems improved

Target 2.1.a: Financial resources for the sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems increased by 50% (baseline to be assessed during PPG)

Target 2.1.b: At least 2 new revenue streams to support the long term sustainability developed

Target 2.1.c: Small grants provided to at least three local organisations

68. Component 1 of this project will support decisions makers to understand the externalities, the unpriced costs of development. Of equal importance is ensuring that there is a steady flow of financial resources that is sufficient for the conservation and sustainable use of coastal natural capital. Conservation finance includes an array of innovative financing mechanisms, such as tourism-related taxes and fees, debt-for-nature swaps, conservation trust funds, and payments for environmental services. These include both market mechanisms and non-market mechanisms such as overseas development assistance.
69. Component 2 of this project seeks to pilot the development of several different mechanism/s that reward good stewardship of natural resources and provide long term, sustainable financing for coastal conservation. This will involve the piloting of different mechanisms through which the beneficiaries of ecosystem services such as the private sector can compensate those providing ecosystem services (such as mangrove dependent communities). Key outputs arising from this expected outcome include:

Output 2.1.1: Potential carbon based financing mechanisms for coastal ecosystem conservation identified and assessed

70. Coastal wetland areas are being recognized for their importance in supporting fisheries, reducing coastal erosion and flooding, maintaining coastal water quality, and providing essential natural materials and sources of livelihoods for millions of people across Liberia. In addition, Liberia's wetlands sequester and store significant quantities of carbon. The carbon stored in these systems can provide new incentives for prioritizing the conservation and sustainable use of coastal ecosystems and open new opportunities for sustainable financing in Liberia (e.g., carbon financing). Conservation International has been developing and implementing coastal carbon projects in Indonesia and Costa Rica, and this project will build on the lessons learned and successes of those projects.
71. This project will conduct a preliminary feasibility assessments to determine the carbon stock in mangrove ecosystems in Liberia. The project will also conduct a legal assessment of carbon rights. Efforts have already been made in Liberia to structure community agreements (including Conservation Agreements) that will be the foundation of any payment system and there have been some preliminary assessments of coastal carbon that have shown have shown great potential. This project will build on the existing efforts and ensure that some of the conditions necessary for a fully-fledged coastal carbon project are established in Liberia.

Output 2.1.2: At least one market-based, conservation-friendly enterprise to improve sustainable use of coastal and marine resources based on value chain and market assessments developed

72. Total investments in conserving natural capital are woefully inadequate and are often reliant on short term grants provided by private foundations and government aid agencies. Conservation finance is an undeveloped investment opportunity that offers the potential to conserve vital ecosystems while providing a financial return. An investor-driven approach to conservation finance has the potential to

conserve natural capital; however enterprises in Liberia often struggle to source the capital necessary to cover startup costs, as well as the technical expertise necessary to ensure that their business model will achieve conservation outcomes.

73. This project will seek to establish a partnership with at least one enterprise that can deliver alternative sources of income to communities as well as conservation outcomes. There are a number of market-based, conservation-friendly enterprises in Liberia that already exist. This project will help coordinate and promote the development of at least one nature based enterprise that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. Initial assessments are considering, palm, coconuts, honey, and bio-waste options. Further feasibility and market assessments will help to define which products are prioritized by this project.
74. Examples of enterprises that already exist with the potential to deliver alternative sources of income to communities as well as conservation outcomes include the following:
75. **J-Palm** is a Liberian company that employs a professional, for-profit business model to create a full range of consumer goods and clean energy products based on the oil palm plant. J-palm want to create smokeless, more energy-efficient, and affordable charcoal briquettes to directly compete with traditional charcoal. The company want to raise awareness about the problems of using wood charcoal for fuel (deforestation and environmental degradation, indoor air pollution) and offer a viable alternative for all Liberians. The company is looking for a conservation partner who would help them connect with coastal communities and establish a market for their product.
76. **Organic Matters** is a small Liberian start-up company that sells organic fertilizers, soil management services, farming assistance, and soil recovery services with replacement products for growth stimulants, pesticides, and herbicides. Organic Matters is already working with farmers along Liberia's coastline and the company is looking for a conservation partner to help develop and facilitate relationships with different communities along Liberia's coast.
77. **Universal Outreach** has developed a Liberian focused beekeeping program. With a guaranteed buyer ready to purchase every ounce of honey produced (at a very fair market price) beekeeping is a skills training program that results in improved financial stability for Liberians and more healthy bee colonies in Liberia.

Output 2.1.3: Small grants mechanism to ensure coastal conservation established

78. Local community based organizations often struggle to secure the financing necessary to support small scale interventions that promote good stewardship of natural resources. CI will reestablish the Liberia Conservation Action Fund (LCAF) that previously operated in Liberia from 2004-2008. The LCAF will support innovative interventions in select coastal ecosystems through the provision of small grants to local organizations. Interventions may include primary data collection, conservation agreements or other supportive conservation/ development work. The LCAF will establish regular call for proposals through a transparent selection process under the guidance of a multi-agency steering committee. This program will provide partnership coordination and regular training opportunities to our local partners.

COMPONENT 3: COMMUNITY INCENTIVES TO CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGE NATURAL CAPITAL IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

79. The third component of this project seeks to establish a locally appropriate delivery mechanism that can channel PES to communities providing the services. This component will result in the following expected outcome:

Outcome 3.1: Conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources improved through the establishment of a delivery mechanism for performance based payments building on current conservation agreement success

Target 3.1.a: 10,000 additional hectares of mangrove ecosystems under protection across Liberia

Target 3.1.b: 5,000 hectares of terrestrial forest ecosystems under sustainable management in coastal areas.

Target 3.1.c: Income within coastal and mangrove communities targeted by the project improved by 50% (baseline to be assessed during PPG)

80. Conservation finance mechanisms, such as water funds, green taxes, bioprospecting, tourism-based revenues, and carbon finance represent types of payments for ecosystem services that can be used to finance a shift away from conventional and unsustainable resource use practices and create a market in favor of preservation, restoration and sustainable management. They can also provide benefits for local communities, who are often the stewards of important conservation areas. This outcome will involve the piloting of a performance based system that improves stewardship and management of natural resources by local communities by providing the right incentives and price signals to change behaviors and ensure that communities protect the natural capital they depend on. Integrating NCA into government decision making processes is an important step. An equally important step is to identify appropriate incentives and price signals that result in more cost effective and sustained management of ecosystems and biodiversity at a community level. Setting up a system that allows for the efficient and fair distribution of these funds to the end resource users is fundamental in creating a lasting model for sustainable development.
81. Key outputs arising from this expected outcome include:

Output 3.1.1: Current conservation agreement pilots expanded to at least 10 additional communities along the southeastern coast of Liberia

82. The project will conduct a thorough stakeholder engagement process to identify key sites in the southeast coast of Liberia for community based conservation. This will likely include conservation of mangroves and other coastal ecosystems both within and outside Liberia's proposed protected area network based on the social, biological and economic value of these areas. The project will use Conservation Agreements to identify and provide appropriate incentives for communities that result in more cost effective and sustained management of ecosystems and biodiversity.
83. Conservation Agreements have been used in a wide variety of contexts in Liberia, demonstrating that the model complements a diversity of strategies and project types that entail some form of behavior change on the part of local resource users in pursuit of conservation objectives. Based on several years of experience implementing conservation agreements in coastal areas, incentives could include alternative livelihood development projects (such as agricultural & livestock extension services or enterprise development), job creation or direct payments. Incentives could include productive activities that address unsustainable land management, such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry and organic agriculture. This will also include participatory land use planning (PLUP) to ensure that local land users are given the opportunity to play a central role in decision-making processes concerned with the land and resources they use and depend upon.
84. The project seeks to improve local livelihoods by increasing household food security and income. A monitoring system will be developed and implemented to measure the impact on project beneficiaries. A socio-economic baseline will be established in the first year of the agreements and afterwards monitoring will be performed annually. The purpose of the socio-economic monitoring is to understand how socio-economic conditions of resource users change during implementation, and to track the impacts of the agreement on the wellbeing of resource users. Some of the indicators that will be used include (a final monitoring scheme will be developed during the PPG phase) changes in families' income sources and expenses, number of meals per day, number of months per year where most food is purchased (instead than locally produced), among others. Socio-economic monitoring also examines perceptions of

resource users about the agreements and the benefits realized, as these perceptions will influence the degree of compliance.

Output 3.1.2: Appropriate mechanisms (location, capacities, infrastructure, monitoring system etc.) to ensure national stewardship model identified and built

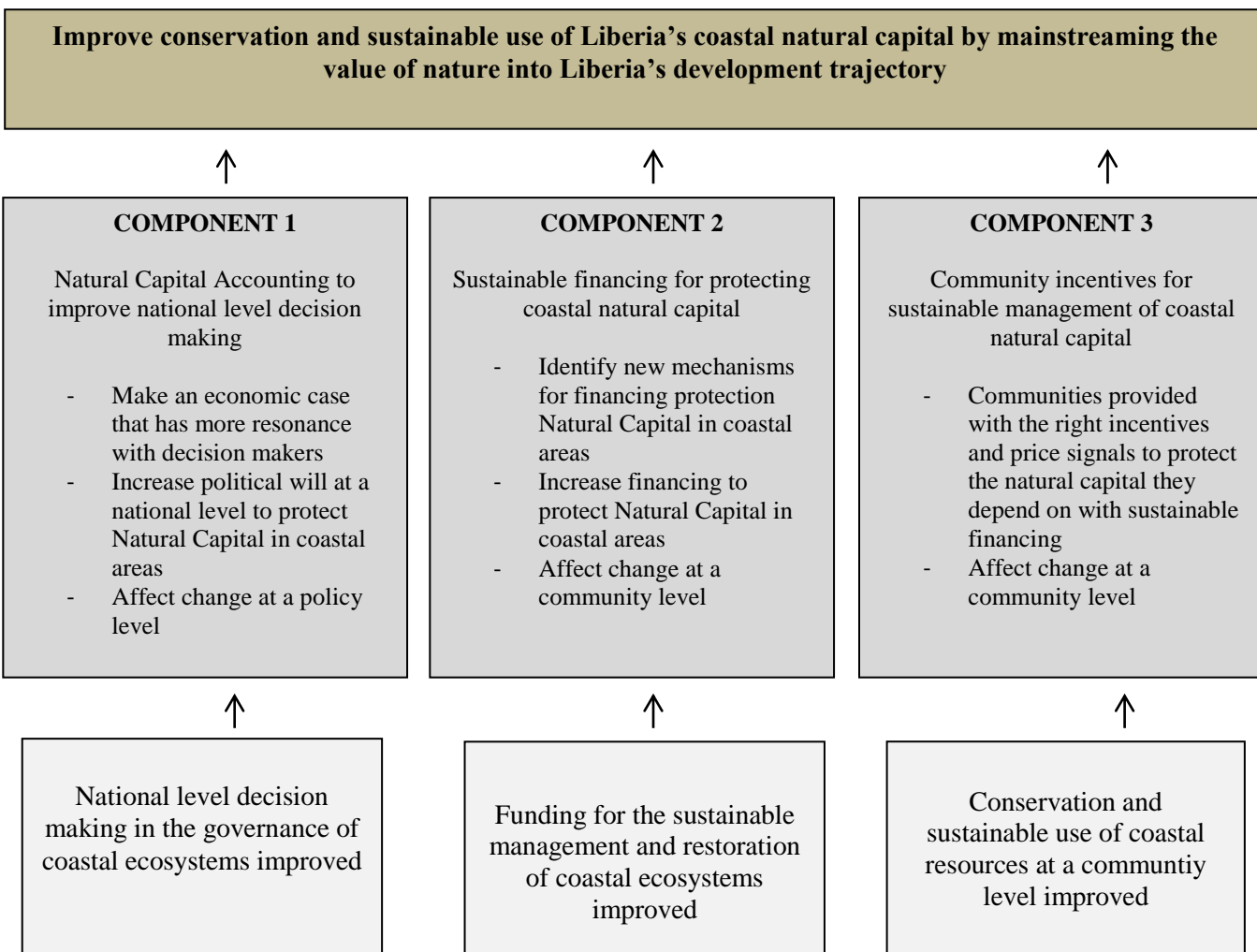
85. Building on the successes of conservation agreements to date, and the ongoing scale up through the current GEF-5 mangrove project (ID 5712) we will aim to set up a national stewardship model. The goal is to establish a national program that offers economic incentives to owners of land with critical natural assets such as forest to guarantee protection over the medium to long-term. Through this process we will identify key government institutions to work with, assess and build core competencies, review legal frameworks and seek out large scale funding for a national program that will be designed to respond to the realities of the Liberian context. We will draw on experiences in other countries including Ecuador's *Programa Socio Bosque* and China's *Forest Eco-Compensation Fund*. This national program will help channel financial resources that empower rural communities to manage natural resources while improving human well-being. The national stewardship program will link with the National Conservation Trust Fund (NCTF) that has been established by CI, the Government of Liberia, the Global Conservation Fund and the private sector. As a national mechanism, the NCTF will include endowed, revolving, and sinking fund components, and will accommodate sub-accounts tied to individual protected areas. Partners envision that the NCTF 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 sector, payments for ecosystem services such as REDD+ transactions, and earmarked government revenues such as conservation fees levied on the timber sector.

1.4. Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions to the baseline and co-financing

Incremental cost:

86. Approximately \$43.5 million dollars is being invested in terrestrial forest areas in Liberia through the World Bank Forest Sector Project. Without GEF interventions current investments would focus primarily on terrestrial forest areas. Little consideration would be given to the uniqueness of coastal ecosystems and their protection needs. This GEF investment will leverage current investments in both terrestrial and coastal conservation. There are some interventions at national level that the project will build on to ensure that the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, particularly for coastal areas, is incorporated into national decision-making.
87. The UNDP/GEF project 'Strengthening Liberia's capability to provide climate information and services to enhance climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change' will provide critical datasets which can be incorporated into the natural capital accounting work moving forward. Without GEF interventions these datasets may not be utilised to generate significant information on the value of coastal ecosystems.
88. In April 2016, Conservation International and the EPA initiated a pilot natural capital accounting project to put together: 1) a map of Liberia's natural capital (based on existing land cover and mangrove ecosystem maps); 2) a set of pilot accounts (ecosystem extent, ecosystem condition, accounting for one or two key ecosystem services); and 3) linking the outputs of the accounts to policy questions in Liberia relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals.
89. This project will build upon the foundation that this short 6 month pilot project will provide. The Liberian Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also launched the first TEEB project (The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity) project in Liberia. Focused primarily on mangroves and coastal regions, this project has begun critical data collection efforts that would certainly be utilized and supplemented by this larger project.
90. In the absence of this GEF funded project, these activities would likely remain as standalone activities and fail to provide a firm foundation for future investment in natural capital accounting in Liberia.

91. This project will also build on existing projects which seek to establish innovative financing schemes. Conservation International is already supporting the government of Liberia to set up and endow a conservation trust fund which seeks to provide long term sustainable financing to protected area management as well as the supporting community development actions around key conservation areas. This fund has the potential to support the long term financing of conservation agreements, and also provides the mechanism through which PES could be channeled. Total investments in conserving natural capital remain woefully inadequate in Liberia and in the absence of this GEF funded project, there would no mechanism in place through which the beneficiaries of ecosystem services such as the private sector can compensate those providing ecosystem services.
92. GEF investment will build on results achieved through the GEF/CI project: ‘Improved sustainability of mangrove forests and coastal mangrove areas in Liberia through protection, planning and livelihood creation.’ This project seeks to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of Liberia’s globally important mangrove forests in the northern coast of Liberia. Without this additional GEF investment, unique coastal ecosystems in Liberia’s southern coastline wouldn’t receive the investment necessary to safeguard their protection. The proposed project will enhance the sustainability of current project interventions by ensuring that development policy decisions recognize the importance of these areas.
93. USAID has invested in the West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA-BiCC). The project has a significant amount of funding that could contribute to policy making in coastal areas in Liberia. However in the absence of GEF funding, the WA-BiCC project is unlikely to generate significant information on the value of coastal ecosystems. The combined impact of both projects is likely to achieve global environmental benefits.



Co-financing

94. Co-financing for this project will come from a number of different projects in Liberia and ensure that investment under GEF 6 will support incremental costs.

Project Name	Years (Start-End)	Budget (USD)	Donor(s)	Objectives/Brief description of how it is linked to this GEF project
Forest Incomes for Environmental Sustainability	2015-2020	4 Million	USAID	This project support enterprise development in local communities we will seek to build on this work incorporating project successes within targeted mangrove communities
Conservation Trust Fund	2016-ongoing	1 Million	Government of Liberia	The Forestry Development Authority will be matching CI's investment in a sustainable financing mechanism which will support conservation agreements in perpetuity
Liberia Forest Sector Program	2016-2020	4 million	WB/ Government of Norway (GoL)	This project seeks to strengthen key government institutions and will be fundamental to the success of the proposed project
Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (GDSA)	2014-ongoing	1 Million	CI	CI is the secretariat for the GDSA and is providing a platform for information exchange, training and capacity building for participating governments which will be critical to the implementation of this project

1.5. Global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits:

95. This project is expected to deliver the Global Environmental Benefits described below. These benefits will be further assessed and refined during the PPG phase.

Biodiversity conservation

- a) This project will contribute to maintaining globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that coastal ecosystems provide to society. As mentioned before, Liberia's coastal ecosystems are recognized internationally as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). They provide habitat and feeding grounds for several endangered species (see table below). The key species that this project will help conserve will be further identified during the PPG.

This project will help maintain globally significant biodiversity through improved management of coastal resources.

List of globally threatened species identified in Liberia's coastal ecosystems

IUCN status	Common Name	Scientific Name
Vulnerable	West African manatee	<i>Trichechus senegalensis</i>
Near Threatened	Eurasian curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Vulnerable	Rufous fishing owl	<i>Scotopelia ussheri</i>
Near Threatened	African dwarf crocodile	<i>Osteolaemus tetraspis</i>

Endangered	Leatherback turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
Endangered	Loggerhead turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>
Endangered	Green turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>
Endangered	Olive Ridley turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>

Land degradation

- b) This project will address the need to sustain the flows of ecosystem services that underpin productivity of fisheries and agricultural systems in coastal areas. This project aims to halt the ongoing destruction of globally significant coastal ecosystems, including mangroves and other types of coastal forests. In doing so, the project will support improved and continued availability of ecosystems services, such as carbon sequestration, nutrient filtration, coastal and soil stabilization, and flood protection. The project will also address irresponsible development by large private landowners who continue to degrade coastal ecosystems. The project will halt ecosystem degradation through improved management in additional 10,000 hectares of mangroves and coastal forest.

Additional environmental and socio-economic benefits

- c) Mangroves and other coastal ecosystems in Liberia offer significant opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including livelihood support, food security and storm/flood protection. This project will help reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and enhance carbon stocks through the conservation of coastal wetlands, including sea grass meadows and mangroves that store and sequester carbon within their biomass and soils. Protection of these ecosystems will provide climate mitigation benefits and enhance carbon stocks through the natural regeneration in coastal wetlands. The protection of coastal ecosystems such as mangroves under this project will reduce the vulnerability of people by providing protection and shelter against extreme weather events, such as storm winds and floods and reduce the impact of coastal erosion that is currently threatening Liberia's coastline. Specifically, the project will utilize community Conservation Agreements to provide incentives for sustained management of coastal resources.
- d) The projects will utilize the Conservation Agreement (CA) methodology with at least 10 new communities living in the Southeast of Liberia. By incorporating alternative livelihood trainings, establishing woodlots, etc., the project will incentivize behavioral change and lessen the dependence that people have on natural resources in rural parts of Liberia. Specific details on the benefits that communities will receive under the Conservation Agreements will need to be determined during the negotiation and design of the agreements; however, we anticipate that investments in local livelihoods and socioeconomic development will potentially enhance food security, improve access to education and health services and provide direct income through conservation jobs. The project will also enhance rural development and participation in the governance of natural resources through participatory land use planning. By engaging resource users and all other relevant stakeholders in planning processes, this project will ensure that they have a say in how resources are extracted sustainably and how benefits are shared. Through this process, communities will be empowered to negotiate future land and resource uses and help reduce power asymmetries that exist between local groups and other stakeholders.

1.6. Innovation, sustainability, and potential for scaling up:

Innovation:

96. New and innovative tools in natural capital accounting will be introduced to Liberia through the proposed project. This will draw upon CI's experiences globally as well as on CI Liberia's extensive experience in Liberia itself. CI and its partners have produced a set of best practices in ecosystem accounting which will be introduced through this project. For example, in Peru, we recognized that there was a need not just for capacity building and account development, but to book-end natural capital

accounting efforts with the identification of policy targets before, and the applications to decision making and policy afterwards.

97. With the proposed project, CI will work together with the GOL to build a strategy for natural capital accounting that will identify key ecosystems and natural resources for which to create future accounts, and begin the process of ensuring ongoing data collection and decision-making processes are linked together and amplified so as to ensure that Liberia's ecosystems are valued in a way that is comparable to the country's economic sectors. The project will promote the readiness of natural capital accounting programs set forth by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in the the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (UN-SEEA) whose standards and guidelines form the backbone of public sector natural capital accounting. Similar initiatives undertaken by programs such as the World Bank Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), the TEEB Advancing Natural Capital Accounting (ANCA) project, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) initiatives in Africa, and Ecosystems Values & Accounting (EVA) at CI all provide useful lessons learned in utilizing the SEEA. Like all these programs, this project will adhere to the SEEA frameworks but will draw from various SEEA compliant approaches to promote the enabling conditions for natural capital accounting in Liberia.
98. New and innovative tools in participatory land-use planning and conservation agreements will be introduced to the southeast coastline of Liberia through the proposed project. This will draw upon CI's experiences globally, but will be adapted to the specific situation in Southeast. 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. CI has worked with local partners to adapt the Conservation Agreement approach in more than 60 communities around the world (including in Nimba County, Liberia). These tools will be used throughout the project to promote integrated management, stewardship, and improved livelihoods within the priority coastal areas of Liberia. The Conservation Agreement methodology also provides an innovative framework to address any restriction of access to natural resources in the project field sites.

Sustainability:

Financial sustainability

99. One of the outcomes of this project is to ensure that there is a steady flow of financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of coastal natural capital. The project will develop and pilot a number of different mechanisms through which the beneficiaries of ecosystem services such as the private sector can compensate those providing ecosystem services. The project will increase and diversify resource flows for the sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems and in so doing ensure that any interventions that are introduced during the life of this project can be maintained in the long term.
100. In addition, a National Conservation Trust Fund (NCTF) is currently being developed by CI, the Government of Liberia, the Global Conservation Fund and the private sector. The first step toward the NCTF will be the establishment of an endowment for the East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR), one of Liberia's three existing protected areas. The Global Conservation Fund has committed USD 1 million toward the capitalization target, and the Government of Liberia now is seeking additional co-financing from partners. As a national mechanism, the NCTF will include endowed, revolving, and sinking fund components, and will accommodate sub-accounts tied to individual protected areas.
101. Partners envision that the NCTF 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 sector, payments for ecosystem services such as REDD+ transactions, and earmarked government revenues such as conservation fees levied on the timber sector. The ultimate goal of the Government of Liberia and her partners is to ensure long-term financing for all Liberia's protected areas. Completing the ENNR portion of the NCTF will be an important first step toward this goal.

National ownership

102. The foundation for natural capital accounting developed during this project, as well as associated assessments and data collection initiatives, will provide key decision makers and technicians the platform for the development of accounts beyond the life of this project, with the ability to develop accounts in the future and on different types of natural resources.
103. The project will also build institutional capacities within key government ministries and agencies to provide improved environmental management that will benefit Liberia beyond the life of the project. The approach in this project seeks to build and enhance governance structures that should be sustained beyond the project timeline. With the relevant government ministries involved at every stage of this project, the project will ensure “buy-in” from these entities. By incorporating capacity building, long-term financing, and mainstreaming into decision-making, the project will ensure that development and green economy decisions are made based on quantified information about Liberia’s ecosystems and biodiversity, thereby allowing the government to manage and protect these vital ecosystems. It should be noted that the project will directly inform ongoing CI Liberia projects.

Potential for scaling up:

104. This project seeks to develop the foundation for natural capital accounting in Liberia via an extensive readiness and strategic development process. The baseline data collected during the life of the project will identify the highest priority accounts to develop (first as assessments then later as accounts), but secondary priority accounts or topics of interest (e.g., priority ecosystem services) will also be identified, to be addressed in the future once the initial natural capital accounting efforts have been developed. The currently proposed project will be a model for the development of natural capital accounts in Liberia as well as in the rest of Africa.

2. Stakeholders. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from civil society organizations (yes /no) and indigenous peoples (yes /no)? If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.

105. The following table summarizes key stakeholder roles in the project. Nonetheless, a full stakeholder analysis will be conducted during PPG. It is important to highlight that, while not defined as indigenous peoples, the project will work with local communities along Liberia coastline and may have an effect on access to marine and coastal resources by individuals and communities in the project areas. In this case the project will engage with the communities drawing on CIs existing rights-based approach and respecting the principle of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC). Our conservation agreement model is designed to adequately engage with and collectively design project interventions with affected communities.

Stakeholder	Role	Engagement in the Project
Major decision makers (government ministers and the legislature of Liberia)	Major decision makers, including government ministers and the legislature of Liberia, make decisions that have a direct impact on the use of natural resources in Liberia	The value of coastal ecosystems is still not fully recognized by decision makers, and they continue to be lost and degraded. One of the key objectives of this project is to influence major decision makers and alter the current development trajectory.
Local Communities	Local communities residing in the Southeast of Liberia are the custodians of coastal resources	The project will identify key sites in the southeast coast of Liberia for community based conservation. This will likely include conservation of mangroves and other coastal ecosystems both within and outside Liberia’s proposed protected area network based on

		the social, biological and economic value of these areas.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	EPA is charged with implementing the Environment Protection and Management Law, a framework environmental law that envisions the development and harmonization of sector-specific laws. EPA serves as the principal authority for managing and regulating environmental quality (including environmental and social impact assessments), and it is directed to coordinate all activities relating to environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources	The EPA is an integral actor that would have a strong role in the multi-agency process that is envisioned in this project. In addition, as the operational focal point for GEF funding in Liberia, the EPA has a strong interest in the development and success of this project.
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)	MFDP is mandated to formulate, institutionalize as well as administer economic development, fiscal policies, and tax policies for the management of the government's financial resources. Finance ministries are typically closely involved in natural capital accounting initiatives and would be a key partner in the preparation and implementation of this project	In order to ensure natural capital is taken into account by the political agenda, Liberia will need to nominate a minister responsible for natural capital within their Finance Ministry. This minister would oversee the latest environmental accounting methods and ensure the preparation of a set of Natural Capital Accounts.
Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)	LISGIS is entity in Liberia which houses the nation's statistical spatial and non-spatial data and produces the System of National Accounts.	LISGIS houses the nation's statistical spatial and non-spatial data and produces the System of National Accounts. As such, LISGIS will be a key coordinating partner through the preparation and implementation of the project
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	The FDA was created by an Act of the Legislature in 1976, which was subsequently amended in 2006 with the adoption of the Forestry Reform Law. The FDA provides forestry planning, develops forestry policy, administers and enforces the forestry laws, administers concession agreements, calculates forestry fees, carries out reforestation and forest research and training, monitors the activities of timber companies, and sets up and administers national parks.	The value of mangroves and coastal forest is often underestimated. The FDA has significant stake in the development of coastal accounts that will help account for the full range of ecosystem services provided by mangroves and coastal forest.
Liberia Maritime Authority (LMA)	Liberian Maritime Authority has a statutory mandate to administer, promote and regulate programs relating directly and indirectly to the functioning, growth and development of the maritime sector	As the agency with a statutory mandate to regulate development in coastal areas, the LMA will likely play a significant role in this project providing the data for coastal account development and influencing major decisions makers
Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)/ National Bureau of Fisheries (BNF)	The Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF) is housed within the MOA to regulate fishing activities in Liberian waters. The BNF is working to promote the sustainable development of the fisheries sector in Liberia,	The BNF will likely have a significant role helping to collect data on fish stocks and other marine species and the flows of benefits these stocks provide.

	balancing the needs of ecosystem health, food security, economic growth and development within a framework of good governance	
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	Environment and energy represents one of the key practice areas for UNDP in Liberia due to its critical links with efforts in poverty eradication and sustainable development	This project seeks to build on the UNDP small grant program by ensuring support to civil society and community groups in key coastal landscapes
United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)	UNEP has strong interest supporting conservation of mangroves and coastal ecosystems in Liberia.	UNEP is implementing a TEEB study which aims to reduce the pressures and threats on coastal mangroves by mainstreaming the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services into coastal and marine planning policies. CI is already collaborating with UNEP through GEF-5 mangrove project (ID 5712). The TEEB study.
World Bank (WB)	In past years, the World Bank has supported more than 30 projects in Liberia that have impacted many sectors such as agriculture, education, transportation, energy, and water, supply and sanitation	The World Bank lead a global partnership called WAVES that aims to promote sustainable development by ensuring that natural resources are mainstreamed in development planning and national economic accounts. As such the World Bank has a strong interest in Natural Capital Accounting.
Oil companies	Several large oil companies are currently prospecting off the coast of Liberia for oil including Chevron and Exxon Mobil.	Applying NCA systems can enable business people to see commonly missed risks, costs and benefits associated with businesses' reliance on nature's services. Major oil companies may be engaged to help with some of the innovative financing schemes that will be evaluated by the project
Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)	EJF is working to strengthen local fishing cooperatives to track and monitor fish catch and support sustainable fisheries.	EJF are collecting key data which would be used in the NCA work, implementing enterprise development activities and supporting management of coastal areas
The Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL)	Founded in 1986, SCNL is the oldest environmental NGO in Liberia. Its conservation projects include the creation and maintenance of protected areas, wildlife conservation, bio monitoring, and the use of socioeconomic surveys.	SCNL is currently working in several key coastal communities with Conservation International on implementing conservation agreements. SCNL will potentially support community based conservation in the southeast coast of Liberia through this project.
Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS)	SADS was founded in 1998 as a campus-based organization with the goal of improving environmental awareness and education of students.	SADS is currently working with Conservation International on implementing conservation agreements in East Nimba Nature Reserve. SADS will potentially support community based conservation in the southeast coast of Liberia through this project.
Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE)	The mission of RICCE is to empower rural residents to build vibrant self-sustaining communities through peace	RICCE is currently working with Conservation International on implementing conservation agreements in East Nimba

	building initiatives, networking, advocacy and poverty reduction	Nature Reserve. RICCE will potentially support community based conservation in the southeast coast of Liberia through this project.
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3. *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.* Are issues on [gender equality](#) and women’s empowerment taken into account? (yes /no). If yes, briefly describe how it will be mainstreamed into project preparation (e.g. gender analysis), taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.

106. Liberia is well endowed with natural resources and economic growth is primarily based on the use of these resources. Men and women have clear gender divisions that determine how natural resources are utilized at the household and community levels. Women in rural settings in Liberia are often highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, and are therefore particularly susceptible to changes in the availability and quality of these resources. Despite their reliance on natural resources, women have less access to and control over natural resources than men. Due to structural injustice, social norms and traditions, women have limited access to land despite the fact that farmers often are women. Usually it is men who put land, water, plants and animals to commercial use, which is often more valued than women's domestic uses. Men and women in Liberia, with different positions in society, use coastal resources differently and have unique perspectives about why these natural resources are important and how they should be protected.
107. To address the different ways that women and men use coastal resources in Liberia, the project will develop a Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP) during the PPG phase. The GMP will include an assessment of gender roles, responsibilities, uses and needs relating to the coastal natural resources and both short-term and long-term costs and benefits of the project on men and women. The assessment will also include potential roles, benefits, impacts and risks for women and men of different ages, ethnicities and social structure and status, specific actions and activities to ensure that gender-related adverse impacts of the project are avoided and will identify specific indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress towards gender equality within the project.
108. In addition to the GMP, the project will also ensure that gender considerations outlined in the GMP are fully embedded throughout the Project Document as necessary/appropriate. This project will seek to address power differences and recognize the differing levels of control and dependence on coastal ecosystems.

4 *Risks.* Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable).

109. The table below summarizes the risks and their levels, as well as the mitigation strategies that the project will put in place to manage risks. During the PPG phase, project risks will be reassessed and updated as needed.

Risk	Level ⁹ (H, S, M, L)	Mitigation Strategy
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⁹ **a. High Risk (H):** There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.

b. Substantial Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.

c. Modest Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/ or the project may face only modest risks.

d. Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/ or the project may face only modest risks.

Lack of sufficient political will for Natural Capital Accounting	Moderate	There is already political will from various government agencies, the challenge however will be to ensure full commitment from key Agencies such as the Ministry of Finance and Development planning. This project will work directly with these agencies to build up their knowledge and ensure clear linkages are defined with existing responsibilities and tied directly to delivery of the Agenda for Transformation
Lack of capacity within government agencies to take on NCA work	Moderate	While a recognized risk, the project will focus heavily on building the capacities within key government agencies to develop ecosystem accounts and perform necessary functions
Enterprise development might have limited success and adoption form local communities	Moderate	The project will seek to evaluate appropriate value chains and thoroughly consult with communities to ensure their full buy in from an early phase. That said it does need to be stated that small scale enterprises do sometimes fail and therefore the project will test multiple strategies in order not to rely on one option too heavily
Institutional competition will make situating and developing a national conservation agreement program challenging	Low	Project proponents are very familiar with the institutional mandates and capacities in Liberia, in this case due diligence will be given to all options and likely a highbred model of authorities and accountabilities will be proposed.
There may not be interest from local communities to engage in Conservation Agreements	Low	The project will demonstrate through strong community engagement that the environmental, social and economic benefits of Conservation Agreements have the potential for sustained impact over time. The project will demonstrate that the livelihood benefits associated with Conservation Agreements are determined together with communities and respond to local needs and priorities. The project will achieve this through numerous community meetings and workshops. CI has implemented Conservation Agreements in many countries including Liberia and the lessons learned from this experience will be utilized in this project.
Conflict in Liberia	Moderate	It has been over 14 years since civil conflict ended in Liberia. Whilst the risk of conflict remains low, upcoming national elections in 2017 may result in some unrest in local communities. CI will ensure that actions taken in the project do not exacerbate potentially volatile situations in local communities. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Process Framework for Restriction of Access to Natural Resources in this document are important tools that will help militate against the risk of conflict in this project.
The impact of climate change	High	Rising sea levels and other climate change related impacts may pose a risk to the successful conservation of mangrove forests that are protected in this project. The project will seek to mitigate this risk through careful site selection. The impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, should be reduced through conservation of ecosystems such as mangroves that provide coastal protection. Project sites will be carefully select to minimize future climate impacts.
Limited availability of data on Liberia's natural capital	High	The project will collate and make use of all available data. In the event that data doesn't exist, the project will address these gaps through primary data collection during the PPG phase.

5. *Coordination.* Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives.

110. This project will coordinate with a number of major projects in Liberia. This includes a number of GEF funded projects.

Initiative	Coordination
<p>CI-GEF: Improve sustainability of mangrove forests and coastal mangrove areas in Liberia through protection, planning and livelihood creation – building blocks towards Liberia’s marine and coastal protected areas.</p>	<p>Conservation International and the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia are currently implementing a GEF funded mangrove project. The objective of this project is to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of globally important mangrove forests through effective participatory land-use planning and establishment of marine and coastal protected areas in at least 35% of Liberia’s mangroves. The project focuses on mangrove areas along the northern coast of the country. This GEF 6 project will expand community based conservation to at least 10 additional communities along the southeastern coast of Liberia ensuring full coverage of Liberia’s coastline and priority areas for conservation.</p>
<p>UNDP/GEF project: Enhancing Resilience of vulnerable coastal areas to climate change risks in Liberia—June 2010-June 2014-ongoing, USD 3.3 million</p>	<p>This project seeks to develop coastal defense mechanisms. Current investments are specifically focused on the Monrovia and Buchanan areas where risks are highest. The proposed Project will compliment these investments, working specifically with coastal and mangrove communities on local land-use plans and livelihood solutions. This project aims to value natural ecosystem based solutions and their alternatives thus will coordinate heavily with this project to ensure information is incorporated into national accounts.</p>
<p>UNDP/GEF Small Grants Program</p>	<p>This project seeks to build on the UNDP Small Grant Program (SGP) by ensuring support to civil society and community groups in key coastal landscapes. During the PPG, this project will work with the SGP to seek synergies with current and future SGP projects in Liberia, and avoid duplication of efforts. Some recent projects, from the SGP database, with which this project will seek coordination include (this list will be refined during the PPG phase):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Farmers’ Capacity to Increase Rice Production through Improved Lowland Farming Methods that Promote Forest Preservation and Reduce their Vulnerability to Effects of Climate Change • Combating erosion in local coastal Liberia • Promoting Biodiversity Conservation through Alternative Livelihood Development and Market Access Support in Rural Montserrado County
<p>UNDP/GEF project: Strengthening Liberia’s capability to provide climate information and services to enhance climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change—October 2013-2017, USD 6.7 million</p>	<p>This project aims to strengthen Liberia’s capability to provide climate and hydrological information and services that enable climate resilient sustainable development. This proposed Project will collaborate with the UNDP/GEF project to ensure the data collected for the early warning system is also included as part of local land-use plans and other development activities. CI maintains regular communication with UNDP on both projects.</p>
<p>WB Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP)</p>	<p>This project will continually share lessons and collaborate with the LFSP as it is implementation. We will continue to work with FDA and the WB to ensure the two projects are able to build on one another’s success in institutional capacity building and livelihood development for local communities</p>
<p>West Africa Regional Fisheries Project (WARFP)</p>	<p>The project, part of a larger regional initiative in 9 countries, in Liberia aims to strengthen the capacity of Liberia to govern and manage targeted fisheries, reduce illegal fishing and increase local value added to fish products. Liberia was granted USD 12 million for the implementation of</p>

	WARFP over five years beginning in April 2010. The proposed project will coordinate with the BNF to ensure synergies especially in promoting the conservation of key fish breeding areas along the coast (i.e. mangrove forests). Also as fisheries data is being collected through the WARFP, the project will seek to integrate this data into natural capital accounts.
UNDP/GEF project: Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations with the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities	This project aims to strengthen a targeted set of national capacities to deliver and sustain global environmental outcomes within the framework of sustainable development priorities. The proposed Project will compliment these investments, particularly component 1 which seeks to establish an integrated environmental knowledge management system that catalyzes the application of best practices and innovations for the global environment. The proposed project will compliment efforts to develop new and improved global environmental indicators for select high priority sector(s) in Liberia.

6. *Consistency with National Priorities.* Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes /no). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.

111. This project is consistent with the following national priorities in Liberia:

National strategies/plans/reports/assessments	GEF Project Alignment and Contribution
a. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	This project addresses, directly or indirectly, articles 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, and 19 of this convention
b. Agenda for Transformation (Liberia's PRSP), 2012 - 2017	This project will specifically address <i>Strategic Objective 6: Improve Wetlands, Water Catchments, and Coastal Management</i> within the environmental cross-cutting section of the Agenda for Transformation otherwise known as Liberia's PRSP. It will also contribute to many other strategic objectives including climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental governance, and mainstreaming environmental concerns into natural resource use and management policies and practice.
c. Liberia's Protected Areas Network Strategy, 2006	The proposed protected area network of Liberia identifies two areas in the Southeast, namely Cestos Senkwehn protected area and the Grand Kru –River Gee protected area. This project will conduct a thorough stakeholder engagement process to identify key sites in the southeast coast of Liberia for community based conservation. Sites selected for community based conservation will likely include conservation of mangroves and other coastal ecosystems within the abovementioned protected areas.
d. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), 2015 - 2025	Liberia is currently in the process of developing a revised NBSAP to 2020, including 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 seeks to address threats identified within the NBSAP and will demonstrate specific alignment with national targets and indicators during the PPG phase of this project.
e. Liberian National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Desertification (2011-2018)	Liberia's National Action Programme outlines a number of strategic objectives for Liberia to achieve Sustainable Land Management within eight (8) years, starting in 2011. This project is most directly aligned

	with Strategic Objective 1 which aims to improve the standard of living of people in areas affected by the 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 its habitats and affected ecosystems within the political boundaries of Liberia and its political sphere including Liberia's continental shelf.
f. National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), 2008	This project addresses key issues highlighted within Liberia's draft NAPA. Mainly it will address socioeconomic challenges of groups identified as most vulnerable and also will support the NAPA priority projects and ongoing efforts to reduce vulnerability to coastal erosion through the maintenance and regeneration of mangrove forest areas.
g. National Land Reform Programs and Strategies	There are currently ongoing programs being completed or supported by the Land Commission, USAID and other partners addressing land reform issues. It is important to ensure that these programs are in compliance with laws regarding coastal protection.
h. Abidjan Convention, 1984	Coastal profile and action plans have been completed that highlight the importance of mangrove conservation in Liberia.
i. National Laws, policies, and regulations	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 the subsequent environmental and forestry management policies.
j. National Climate Change Policy	The EPA is currently leading the development of a national Climate Change Policy for Liberia. Drafts of the policy suggest that this project will specifically address a number important policy issues that will be determined in greater detail over the course of this project.
k. Gaborone Declaration on Sustainable Development in Africa	Liberia is a signatory the GDSA which includes commitments to sustainable development and specifically the adoption of natural capital accounting. This project specifically aims to support the Government of Liberia to deliver on this commitment.

7. Knowledge Management.

112. Knowledge generated through this project will be disseminated through a number of different channels. Content will be created and disseminated through CIs global website. This will include blog entries, social media updates and videos being posted online to raise the profile of the project and of mangrove ecosystems in Liberia more generally. Media releases will be crafted and published in local newspapers to help highlight major milestones in the project or bring attention to upcoming events. Project factsheets will also be widely disseminated at key meetings and events. Where possible, the project will also share lessons during major events, including such as the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) and the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (GDSA).

113. Annex 1: What are Conservation Agreements?

Forests, reefs and species around the world are threatened because in many places that harbor exceptional biodiversity, local people lack alternatives to unsustainable resource use. Protecting biodiversity and key ecosystem services in these places requires conservation tools that provide development opportunities to local populations. When conservation offers concrete benefits to rural farmers and local communities, protecting the environment becomes an increasingly viable and attractive choice. In a Conservation Agreement, resource users commit to conservation actions in exchange for benefit packages defined through participatory processes to address local development needs and priorities. Conservation Agreements are

long-term interventions that produce enduring solutions for people and nature, with an emphasis on financial sustainability and sound governance. Conservation agreements promote social structures and local empowerment that improve stewardship of key natural resources and help people pursue sustainable development options.

A Conservation Agreement can be broken down into two key elements

- The conservation actions to be undertaken by the resource users in response to threats to biodiversity or ecosystems
- The benefits provided by the conservation investor to offset the opportunity cost of conservation incurred by the resource users

The benefit package in a Conservation Agreements is determined together with communities to ensure that it responds to local needs and priorities, but delivery of benefits over time depends on verified compliance with conservation commitments. Benefits are conditional on the counterpart's compliance with commitments specified in the agreement. Sanctions (adjustments in benefits) for non-compliance are designed jointly by all parties to the agreement to ensure that they are understood, viable, and appropriate to the counterpart's culture while still respecting rights.

Compensating resource users for any loss of access using Conservation Agreements

A Conservation Agreement recognizes that there is an opportunity cost associated with conservation. The opportunity cost of conservation reflects the value of what resource users give up by not utilizing their resources under the business-as-usual scenario.

This is the balance of:

- The income that would be derived from resource use such as clearing forest for agriculture or timber extraction (*e.g.*, the value of crops or timber that would be harvested in the absence of conservation)
- The value of ecosystem services that would be lost by destructive resource use (*e.g.*, reduced water quality, soil erosion, loss of culturally significant resources)

To secure an agreement, the benefit package must be designed to offset the opportunity cost that resource owners believe they will incur if they choose conservation. In essence, communities are compensated for any loss of access to resources using opportunity cost to determine a fair level of compensation.

Conservation International's Rights-based Approach (RBA) and Conservation Agreements

The Conservation Agreement model reflects Conservation International's Rights-based Approach (RBA). RBA is an approach to conservation that promotes and integrates human rights into conservation policy and practice by emphasizing the positive connections between conservation and the rights of people to secure their livelihoods, enjoy healthy and productive environments, and live with dignity. The Right's Based Approach recognizes that respecting human rights is an integral part of successful conservation, and emphasizes community rights to choose and shape conservation and development projects that affect them. CI's RBA includes principles, policies, guidelines, tools, and practical examples to guide the organization, ensuring that we respect human rights in all of our work. Any Conservation Agreement initiative involves a thorough community engagement process and a participatory design and negotiation stage that embodies 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.

FPIC can be broken down as follows:

Free: Without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation

Prior: Before the start of any activity while also respecting indigenous consultation/consensus processes

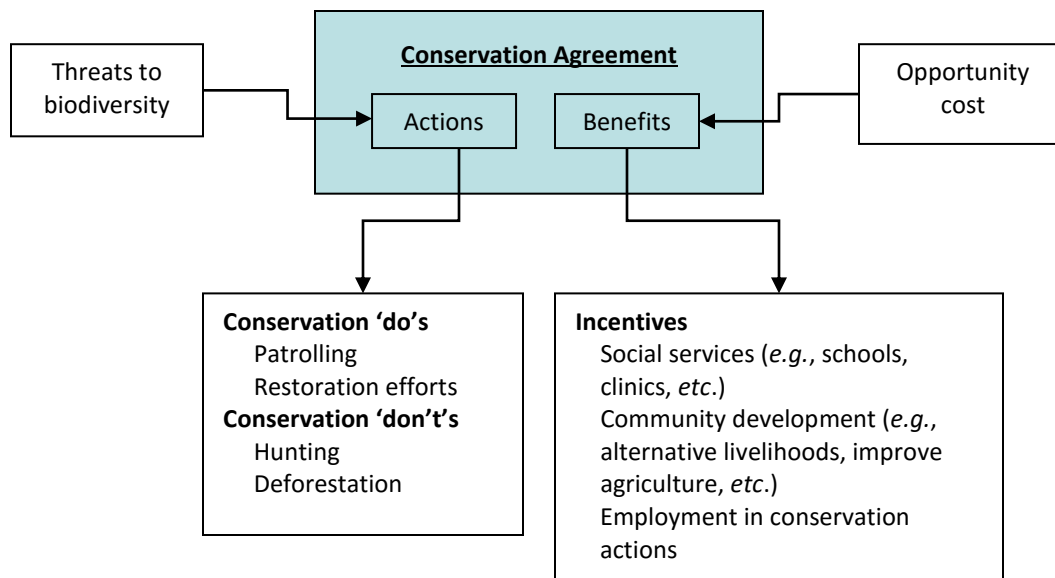
Informed: Indigenous peoples have full information about the scope and impacts of the proposed activity on their lands, resources and well-being

Consent: right to say yes or no as a result of consultation and participation in good faith

FPIC is not simply a decision-making process or a veto mechanism for the community, but a tool to ensure that outside people and organizations engage indigenous communities in a culturally appropriate way, so that their development priorities, needs and desires can be met. A true FPIC process includes not only consultation but also the space for a community to give or withhold their consent to a project.

Conservation Agreements in Liberia

In Liberia, Conservation International has adopted the mechanism of entering into Conservation Agreements (CAs) with communities as a means of involving natural resource users in conserving biodiversity, promoting sustainable community livelihood development and supporting the Government of Liberia's objectives of alleviating poverty under the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and the Agenda for Transformation. There are currently 12 active conservation agreements in Liberia. These 12 are being implemented with communities around the East Nimba Nature reserve. 10 new conservation agreements are currently being negotiated with coastal communities around Lake Piso, the Marshall wetlands and Buchanan. These new agreements will come into effect in June 2017. Incentives provided to communities in Liberia often include technical support and training to improve agricultural productivity and conservation jobs. To date, Conservation Agreements have proven to be an effective mechanism for community based conservation.



PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)


A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT¹⁰ OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

(Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter](#)(s) with this template. For SGP, use this [SGP OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mrs. Anyaa Vohiri	CEO/Executive Director	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	07/14/2016

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies¹¹ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Miguel A. Morales		04/03/2017	Free de Koning	202-770-5640	fdekoning@conservation.org

C. ADDITIONAL GEF PROJECT AGENCY CERTIFICATION (APPLICABLE ONLY TO NEWLY ACCREDITED GEF PROJECT AGENCIES)

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required [GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template](#) to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

¹⁰ For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

¹¹ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF