

Participatory Self Assessment and Synthesis of Liberia's R-Package

Presented in
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September 25, 2017



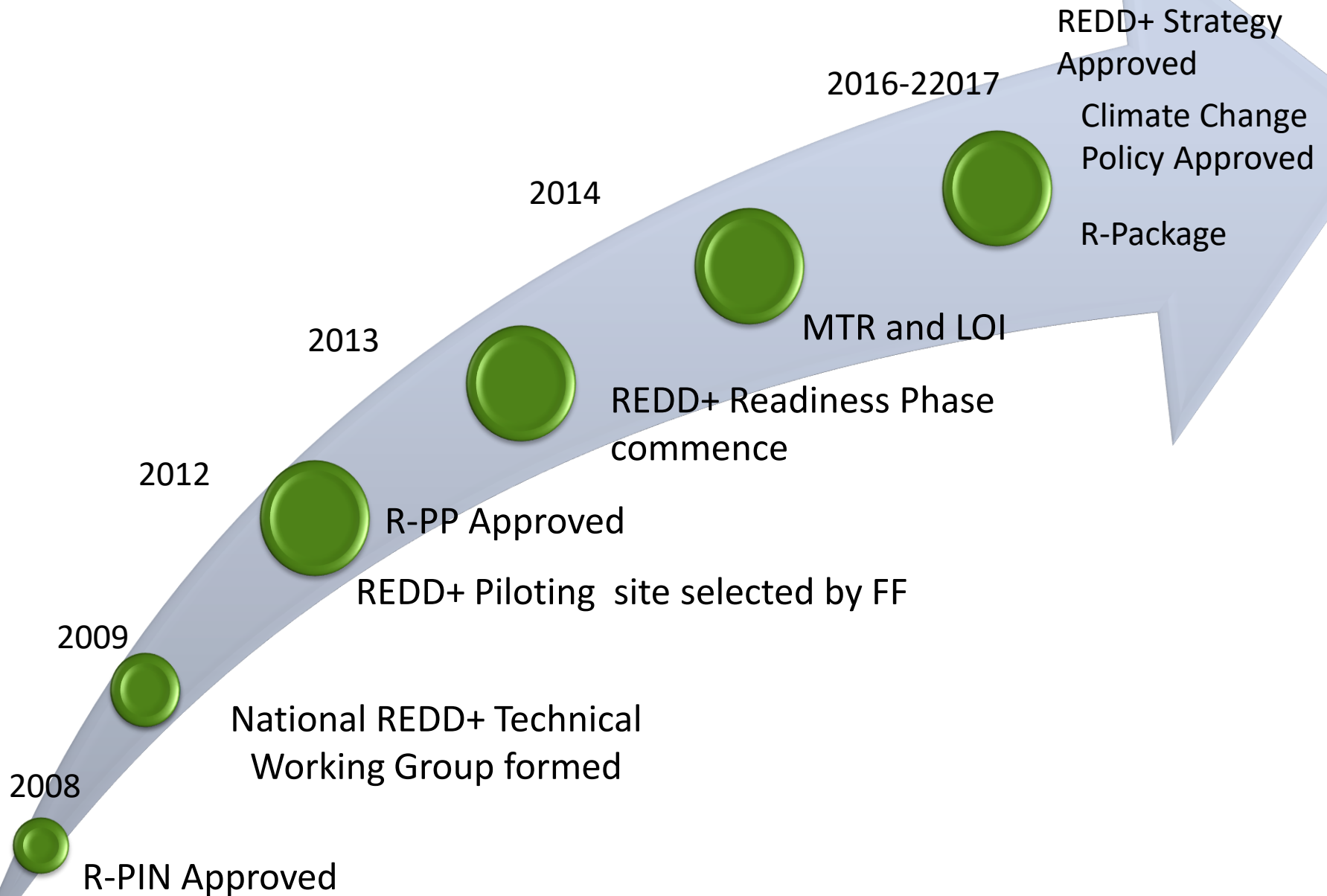
**FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**



- **REDD+ Integration and Alignment with National Development Agenda**
- **Liberia's R-Package Assessment and Progress**
- **PC Comments at MTR vs. Progress**
- **Next steps and Conclusion**



Chronology of Liberia's REDD+ Readiness Phase - FCPF



REDD+ Integration and Alignment with National Development Agenda:

As Readiness Phase progresses, REDD+ Strategy is consistently being integrated and aligned with major laws and policies in Liberia including but not limited to:

- National Agenda for Transformation; Vision 2030
- National Climate Change Policy (2017)
- National Forestry Reform Law (2006)
- Nationally Determined Contribution
- Climate Change Gender Action Plan
- Protected Area and Wildlife Law
- Liberia Agriculture Transformation Agenda (2017)
- National Forestry Strategy and Implementation Plan (2006)
- Community Rights Law (2009)

- **Land Rights Act** [Upper House for Concurrence] – seeks to give ownership of the land to communities and is a signature bill the President of Liberia is seeking to achieve. [Land Rights policy completed [2013]

- *Economic Analysis for Low Carbon Economy (2009)*

The **vision for REDD+** in Liberia consistent with Liberia's **AfT, and Vision 2030**, to integrate community, conservation and commercial aspects of forestry to sustainably contribute to reducing poverty, improving livelihoods and the quality of rural life, and increasing the ecological services provided by forests and reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

Methodology for Liberia's R-Package Assessment

- The assessment was guided by the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework (RAF);
- The **35 RAF questions** were utilized for the self-assessment with adjustment to incorporate synergy between REDD+ and VPA/ FLEGT; mainstreaming gender
- An independent, external consultant** with a background in forestry, REDD+ and evaluation facilitated the assessment.
- A transparent multi-stakeholder process was adopted for self-assessment only Liberia's REDD+ readiness;
- Six consultative meetings** and a national validation workshop held;

	Significant progress achieved
	Progressing well, but further progress required
	Further development required
	Not yet demonstrating progress

Stakeholder	Date of Consultation	Objective of Meeting
REDD+ Implementation Unit (RIU)	8 th May, 2017	Participatory self assessment (all questions)
REDD+ Technical Working Group	9 th May, 2017	Participatory self assessment (questions relating to SESA, ESMF and safeguards)
SESA Working Group	10 th May, 2017	Participatory self assessment (questions relating to SESA, ESMF and safeguards)
NGOs, CSOs from the national NGO Forum engaged in REDD+ activities	11 th May, 2017	Participatory self assessment (questions relating to consultation, communication, linkages, and structures)
Development partner representatives, additional resource persons from key national and international NGOs working in Liberia; VPA Secretariat	Between 10 th – 21 st May 2017	Overall assessment of progress of REDD+ process – specific questions focusing on relevant issues. Provided opportunity for more detailed discussions
Cross-section of stakeholder groups	Friday 19 th May, 2017	Validation and triangulation of initial findings from consultations

Overall Scorecard of Liberia's REDD+ Readiness Processes

	Significant progress achieved
	Progressing well, but further progress required
	Further development required
	Not yet demonstrating progress

Component	Sub Component	Summary of scores
Readiness organization and consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	
	1b. Consultation, participation and outreach	
REDD+ Strategy preparation	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	
	2c. Implementation Framework	
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	
Reference Emission Level/Reference Level	3a. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	
Monitoring system for forests and safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring	
	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	

Stakeholders Engagement

In 2012, Liberia obtained funding from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) through the World Bank, implement its **Readiness Preparation Activities for REDD+**.

FDA is the designated national authority to implement REDD+ activities in collaboration with key partners:

- **Government institutions**
- **Civil society**
- **Academia**
- **Private sector**
- **Local communities**

All stakeholders participated actively and **provided inputs, guidance, feedback** to all components of Readiness Preparation activities and are still engaged.

To address outstanding activities and ensure Liberia is ready for REDD+ implementation, an additional funding was received in 2015.



Progress under each Component:

1.a National REDD+ Management Arrangements

	Progressing well, but further progress required
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Successes:

1. REDD+ Implementation Unit set up and functional,
2. National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) reconstituted;
3. National Climate Change Secretariat operationalized;
4. NCCSC approves National REDD+ Strategy and National Climate Change Policy;
5. REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) established and provides technical inputs to REDD+ development;
6. Institutional collaboration with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the development of SESA;
7. Funding secured to start REDD+ strategy Implementation;
8. Reconstituted and operationalize the Forestry Management Advisory Committee.

Challenges:

1. National institutional capacity is still a challenge for REDD+ implementation;
2. Institutional coordination efforts started but lot more efforts required to sustain progress;
3. Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanism still under development;

Progress under each Component:

1.b. Consultation, Participation and Outreach

Significant progress achieved

Successes:

1. REDD+ communications strategy developed, pilot tested (awareness materials) across Liberia and approved by RTWG;
2. Trained staff and enhancement of FDA and EPA websites for REDD+ information sharing and disclosure;
3. Utilization of subnational structures County Forest Forums; Community Forest Management Bodies, REDD+ Stakeholders Forum, Natural Rural Women Platforms, for consultation and local inputs into REDD+ Processes
4. Facilitated subnational information disclosures with local authorities and civil society and community based organizations



Challenges:

1. Managing expectations of REDD+ investments and utilization so far;
2. Demystification of the tangible benefits of REDD+.

Progress under each Component:

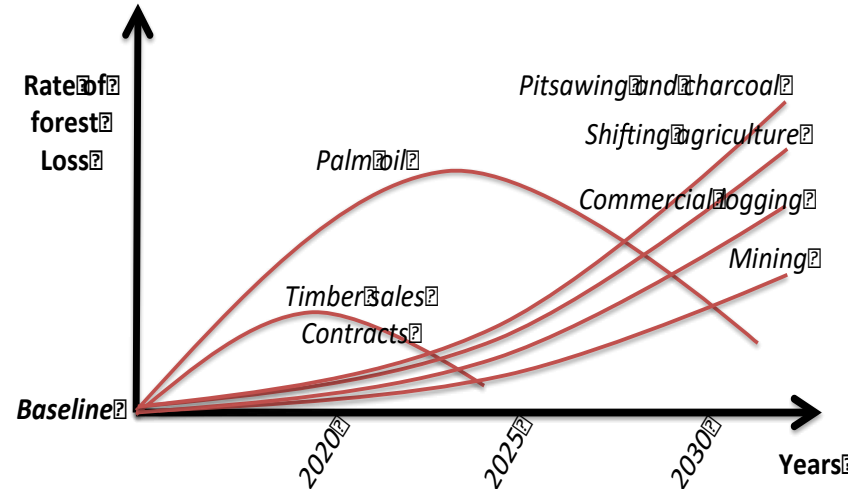
2.a. Assessment of land use, land use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance

Successes:

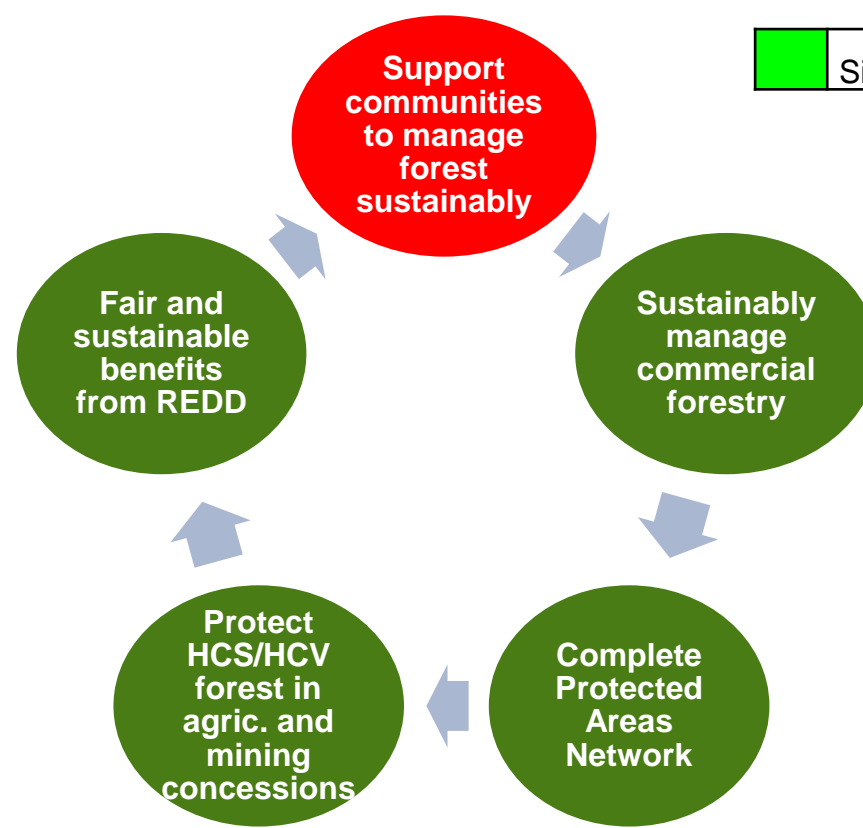
1. Key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation incorporated in National REDD+ Strategy;
1. REDD+ is mainstreamed into Liberia's TFA 9 guiding principles for sustainable oil palm development and reduce deforestation of natural forest;
1. Support the enactment of the National Protected Areas and Wildlife;
2. Support the reforestation and afforestation initiatives in degraded areas for the enhancement of forest cover and carbon stock

Challenges:

1. Private sector engagement, and land tenure efforts need to be scaled up;



REDD+ Strategy five Strategic priorities



Significant progress achieved

2.b. REDD+ Strategy Options:

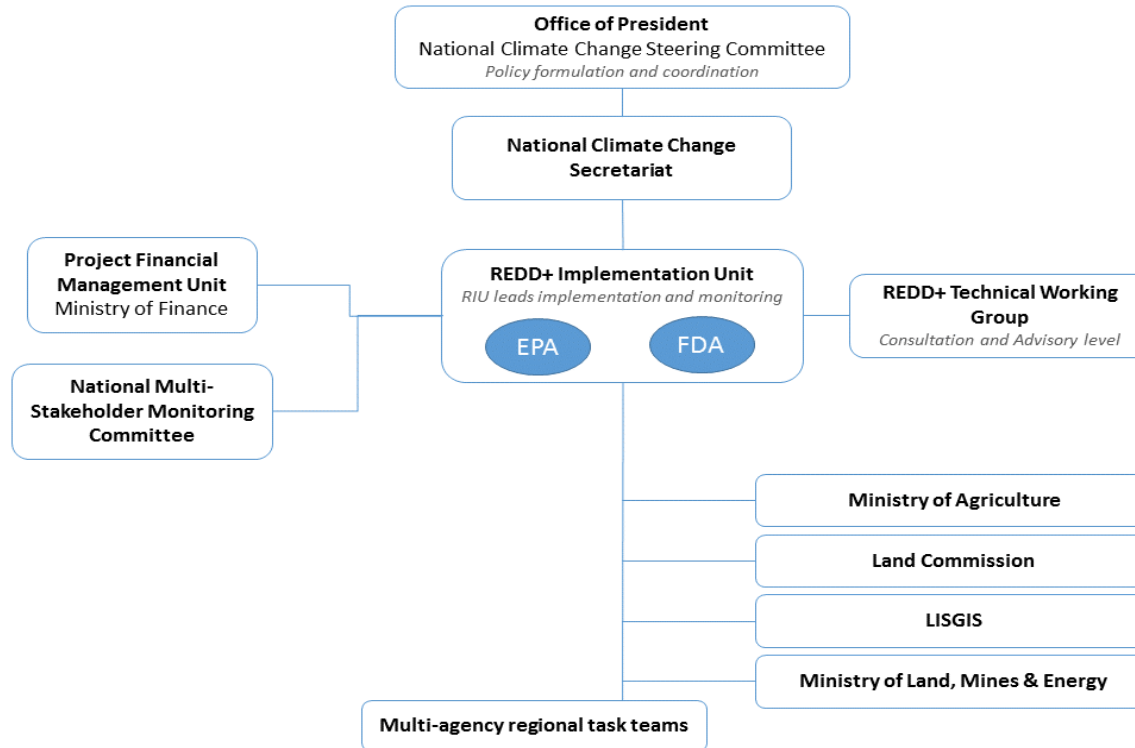
Successes:

1. Detailed Forest Cover and Land Use Analysis has been carried out for REDD+ for the implementation of five strategic priorities;
2. Cost Benefit Analysis detailing opportunities for REDD+ versus other initiatives in the forest sector for revenue generation;
3. Policy Analysis on legal and institution Framework;
4. Comprehensive Roadmap for REDD+ Strategy implementation endorsed nationally;
5. FGRM currently under development.

Progress under each Component:

2.c. Implementation framework for REDD:

Further development required



Current and proposed implementation framework include:

1. National Benefit Sharing Trust [logging]; LRA (Revenue Code); AfT (2030); Climate Change Policy; Liberia's NDC; LATA (2017); NFRL (2006); CRL (2009); Local Communities and Civil Society stakeholders
2. REDD+ Registry and FGRM still in progress to be finalized

Progress under each Component:

2.d. Environmental and Social Management Impacts:

Significant progress achieved

Successes:

1. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)

- Establishment of a functional SESA WG to guide the development of SESA
- All risk and opportunities addressed in the REDD+ Strategic options and mitigation actions

2. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF);

- Identified procedures for capacity building, environmental and social assessment and specifies roles and responsibilities and institutional arrangements

3. Resettlement Policy Framework developed (RPF);

4. Comprehensive consultation on the SESA and ESMF [Over 750 persons from across Liberia consulted in the development and validation of SESA and ESMF]

5. SESA and ESMF nationally endorsed and adjusted to REDD+ Strategy

6. Particular issues of interests uncovered by SESA and ESMF included: Gender Integration, Land Rights and Tenure, Consultation and Participation, Benefit sharing and Social and environment accountability, Carbon Rights, These issues are aligned with the Environmental law of Liberia and Financial support to the EPA under the AF and LFSP

Challenges:

1. ESMF yet to be fully operationalized; ESMF and Social Safeguards coordinators hired to lead the process;

Progress under each Component:

3.a. Forest Reference Level/Reference Levels:

Further development required

Successes:

- National Reference level (RL) has been developed using secondary data due to resource constraints**
 - **RL covered** covered the period from 2000 to 2014.
- Capacity building for RTWG, MOA, LISGIS, FDA, EPA and Academic Institutions**
 - Identified procedures for capacity building, environmental and social assessment and specifies roles and responsibilities and institutional arrangements
- Finalized and signed TA agreement with FAO National Forest Resource Assessment, improve the RL and develop a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).**
- Developed a Land Cover Map for Liberia (2014)**
- National Forest Definition [30% Minimum Canopy; 5 m in Height; Area of 1ha]**

Challenges:

- Non-linear trajectory of deforestation, caused by civil war and then resumption of economic activities
- Knowledge around reference level methodology is low within Liberia



Progress under each Component:

4.a. National Forest Monitoring:

 Not yet demonstrating progress

Basic Success:

1. MRV Roadmap prepared and validated;
2. GIS+ MRV Working group has been established
3. National Forest Inventory activities commenced
4. Collaboration with VPA and FLEGT on training support for GIS capacity

Challenges:

- Inadequate MRV capacity in relevant agencies
- Lack of data management infrastructure

Progress under each Component:

4.a. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Governance, and Safeguards

 Further development required

Basic Success:

1. **Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) has been finalised and has helped identify potential impacts and safeguard issues ;**
2. **The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has also been finalised and provides a comprehensive framework to monitor downstream impacts and risks**

Challenges:

- **Significant capacity gaps exist within government, if the ESMF is to be operationalized**

Next steps:

- **Development of a Safeguards Information System (SIS) (required under UNFCCC and agreed in a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Norway) to provide regular updates around impacts, safeguards**

PC Comments at MTR vs. Progress

PC Comments	Progress
<p>Ensure that there would not be a duplication of funding allocation to various readiness components, while also ensuring there would be sufficient funding for various activities so as to maintain progress under readiness.</p>	<p>Budgets were revised and ensured that adequate resources were allocated for each component in keeping with the PDO.</p>
<p>Recognizing that external expertise may be required to support the development of a national REDD+ strategy, encourage that national ownership be strengthened in steering this process.</p>	<p>Consultancies targeted capacity building for staff of relevant Government institutions; civil society, communities and academia. This has set the basis understand and national ownership as evidenced by the endorsement of the National REDD+ Strategy by stakeholders including women groups and the National Climate Change Steering Committee</p>
<p>Ensure that consultancies related to developing the reference level and MRV system enhance capacities in- country and foster sustainability of REDD+ instruments and strategy implementation.</p>	<p>LISGIS, EPA, MoA and FDA have benefitted from capacity building initiatives, participated in the development of the MRV roadmap and RELs; and in collaboration with consultants, established a GIS working group</p>
<p>Further strengthen stakeholder engagement platforms at decentralized levels (i.e., national, district and community levels).</p>	<p>REDD+ funding has enhance engagements with platforms such as County Forest Forums; Community Forest Management Bodies, REDD+ Stakeholders Forum, Natural Rural Women Platforms, REDD+ and SESA Technical Working Group staff have benefitted from a number of capacity building, awareness and sensitization initiatives at the decentralized level.</p>

Next Steps and Conclusion

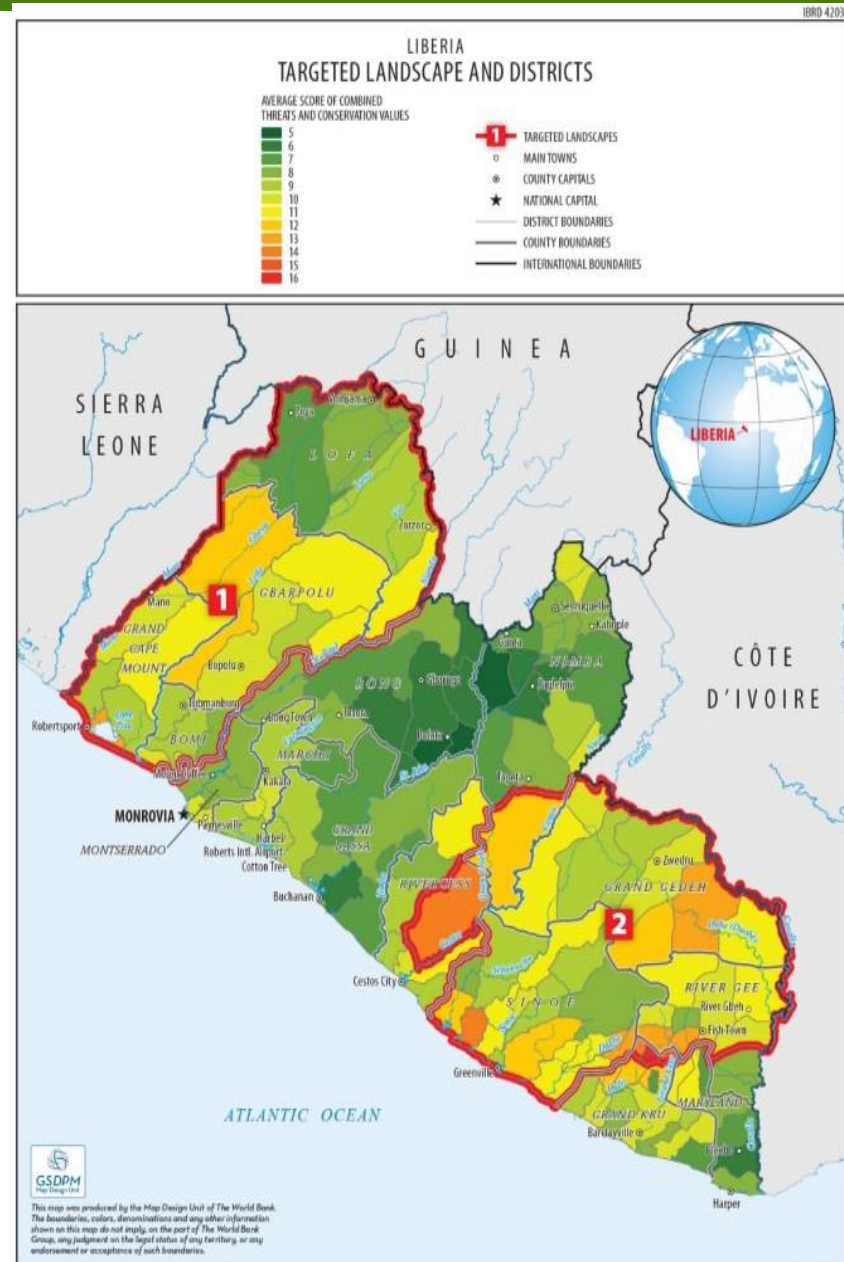
The REDD+ Strategy is formally approved. FDA will work with existing projects to link activity and output reporting to the main actions in the REDD+ Strategy. **[Ongoing]**

- Finalization and operationalizing the FGRM at national, county and local levels; **[May 2018]**
- Design and establish National REDD+ registry; **[Feb 2018]**
- Agreement with FAO is finalized and will be coordinated to upgrade activity data, and operationalize NFMS and REL; **[Dec 2018]**
- Negotiations for SIS development [to meet Cancun and Warsaw agreements under UNFCCC] to operationalize the ESMF is ongoing. **[July 2018]**
- RIU to facilitate process leading to clarification and legal basis for carbon rights and benefit sharing within the context of REDD+, financing arrangements for REDD+ funds **[Sept 2018]**

Next Steps and Conclusion

We are leveraging support from complementary ongoing initiatives to address remaining gaps with a view to realizing the attainment of results based payments:

- a. MRV; SIS development; Support for management of Protected Areas [Bilateral agreement with Norway];
- b. Implementation of Chain of Custody [VPA; EU FLEGT];
- c. Improvement of Benefit Sharing mechanisms for Financial Flow under REDD+ for the Landscapes; [Additional Financing-FCPF]
- d. Conservation Trust Fund development [International NGO partners in Liberia]
- e. Sustainable Commodity supply chain [IDH]
- f. Community Forestry Management Agreements [USAID supported Initiatives]





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REDD+ is Everyone's Business...together we can improve management of and increase benefit-sharing in targeted forest landscapes..... Thank You