



LIBERIA'S PROGRESS ON FCPF READINESS GRANT ACTIVITIES

FCPF PARTICIPANTS COMMITTEE 18TH MEETING
ARUSHA, OCTOBER 31-NOV 2, 2014

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LIBERIA'S FOREST

- Liberia is of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots.
- Forests cover up to 4.3million ha, over 40% of Liberia's landmass, with two main forested areas lying in relatively flat territory in the south east of the country, and in the mountainous northern areas bordering Guinea and Sierra Leone



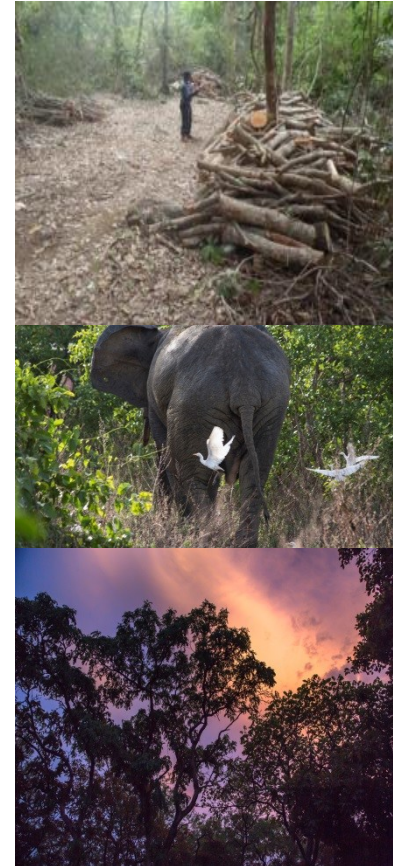
Source: Fauna & Flora International/ Conservation International

FCPF GRANT OBJECTIVE

The Project Development Objective is to support Liberia to carry out a consultative and quantitative analysis of the different land use options for development of the national REDD+ Strategy

Specific Components supported by FCPF include:

- **Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Consultation**
- **Develop a reference level**
- **Contribute to the design of the national REDD+ Strategy**
- **Project Management**



MID-TERM REVIEW OF READINESS PROGRESS

- The Mid-Term Review (MTR) assessed Liberia's ability to use grant funding to meet the grant objectives and need for additional support
- Overall, relative to 2013, Liberia has shown significant progress in advancing readiness preparation and the FCPF grant supported components
- Disbursements:
 - *Grant amount: \$3.6M*
 - *Cumulative disbursements: \$594,642.89 (as of 6/30/2014)*
 - *Disbursed 7/1/2013 – 6/30/2014: \$289,349.89*
 - *Total commitment+ disbursements: \$ 2,876,642 (as of 6/30/2014)*

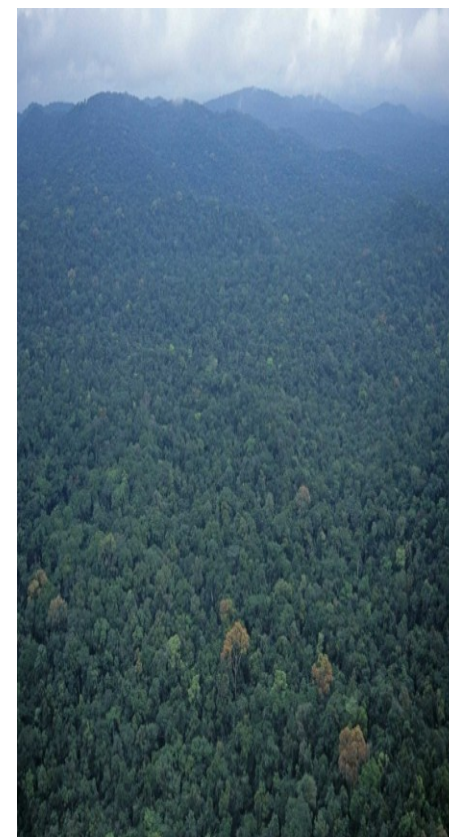
COMPONENT 1: READINESS ORGANIZATION AND CONSULTATION

- Status/Outputs:
 - REDD Implementation Unit (RIU) is established, key positions have been filled. RIU and REDD Technical Working Group are effectively managing the national co-ordination of REDD+ and implementation of activities planned under the readiness grant including procurement and financial aspects, and building national ownership of REDD+
 - A draft Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to monitor implementation progress of the REDD+ readiness process has been prepared
 - Communication strategy has been initiated; A consultant has been recruited to work on the implementation of the REDD+ communication strategy to increase information accessibility

COMPONENT 2: REDD+ STRATEGY PREPARATION

- Status/Outputs:

- Terms of Reference for REDD Strategy finalized in consultation with stakeholders
- Government has completed procurement of experts to assist in analysis and design of REDD+ strategy
- SESA Coordinator recruited, based in EPA
- SESA Terms of Reference, and Work plan finalized
- SESA Working Group is functional and providing oversight on SESA; Consultancy firm hired for advancing SESA work



COMPONENT 2: REDD+ STRATEGY PREPARATION

GOL also leveraging on opportunities to address issues relevant for REDD Strategy development :

- Analysis of governance in forest sector completed followed by Governance diagnostics using PROFOR governance tool
- Pilot project to inform REDD strategy with support from FFI are well advanced
- GOL committed to Tropical Forest Alliance and working towards agricultural sustainable supply chains
- USAID supported GEM program –Improved Service Delivery including transparent and efficient management of natural resource concessions
- EU-FLEGT support on forest sector governance
- Support from Government of Norway

COMPONENT 3: REFERENCE EMISSION LEVEL / REFERENCE LEVEL



- Status/Outputs:
 - Preliminary assessment through ESA
 - A consultancy firm has been engaged to carry out forest cover mapping , and the procurement of a consultant to develop the reference scenario has been launched
 - First in country meeting conducted with stakeholders, and inception report was submitted
 - Approach to preparation of first national forest cover map agreed

KEY CHALLENGES GOING FORWARD

- Liberia's progress in REDD Readiness has been setback in the last few months due to Ebola outbreak. Delays may required extension depending on how situation develops
- The consultants (REDD Strategy, SESA and Forest mapping) have sought suspension of contracts which has affected the timeline for delivery of key outputs that was envisaged to have been completed
- Capacity within REDD Secretariat, and NCCSC needs to be enhanced, to manage coordination and transition from readiness phase to implementation phase. GOL has used FCPF grant activities to conceptualize next steps for REDD implementation phase/performance based payments and mobilize additional financing; and management capacity will have to enhanced to keep momentum

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING

- The Bank is prepared to support Liberia in implementation of activities to be supported with additional grant funding
 - Additional resources need to be largely focused on strengthening the REDD+ implementation arrangements including national fund flow mechanism, REDD registry, further strengthening of REDD Secretariat, and community forestry as REDD Strategy option
 - Phased approach to readiness and performance based payments is envisaged
 - Phase I Readiness: Completion of FCPF grant readiness grant (including Additional Funding) and submission of R-Package(2015-2017)
 - Phase II Implementation: Support through ongoing initiatives, and Government of Norway support (completion by 2020)
 - Phase III : Performance based payments (2018 onwards)



Thank You!

