



LIBERIA's



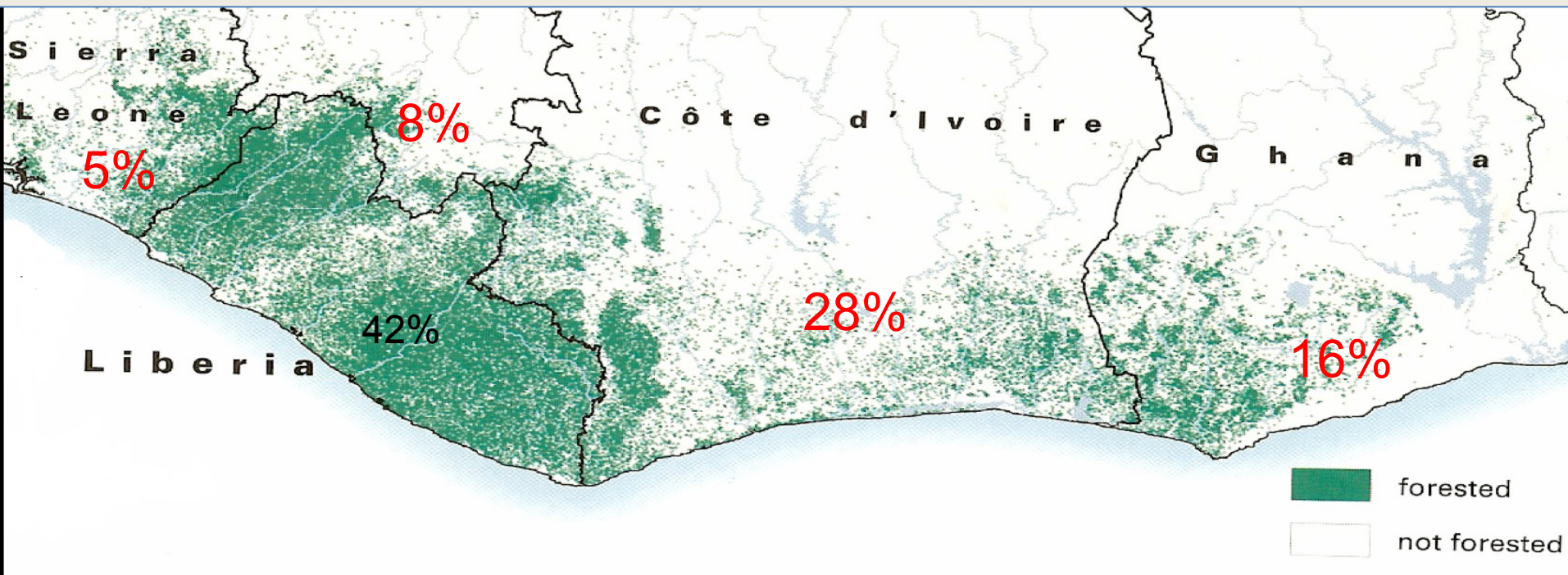
MID - TERM PROGRESS REPORT and REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
18th Meeting of the Participants Committee (PC18)

Presented by:
Harrison S. Karnwea, Sr.
&
Saah A. David, Jr.

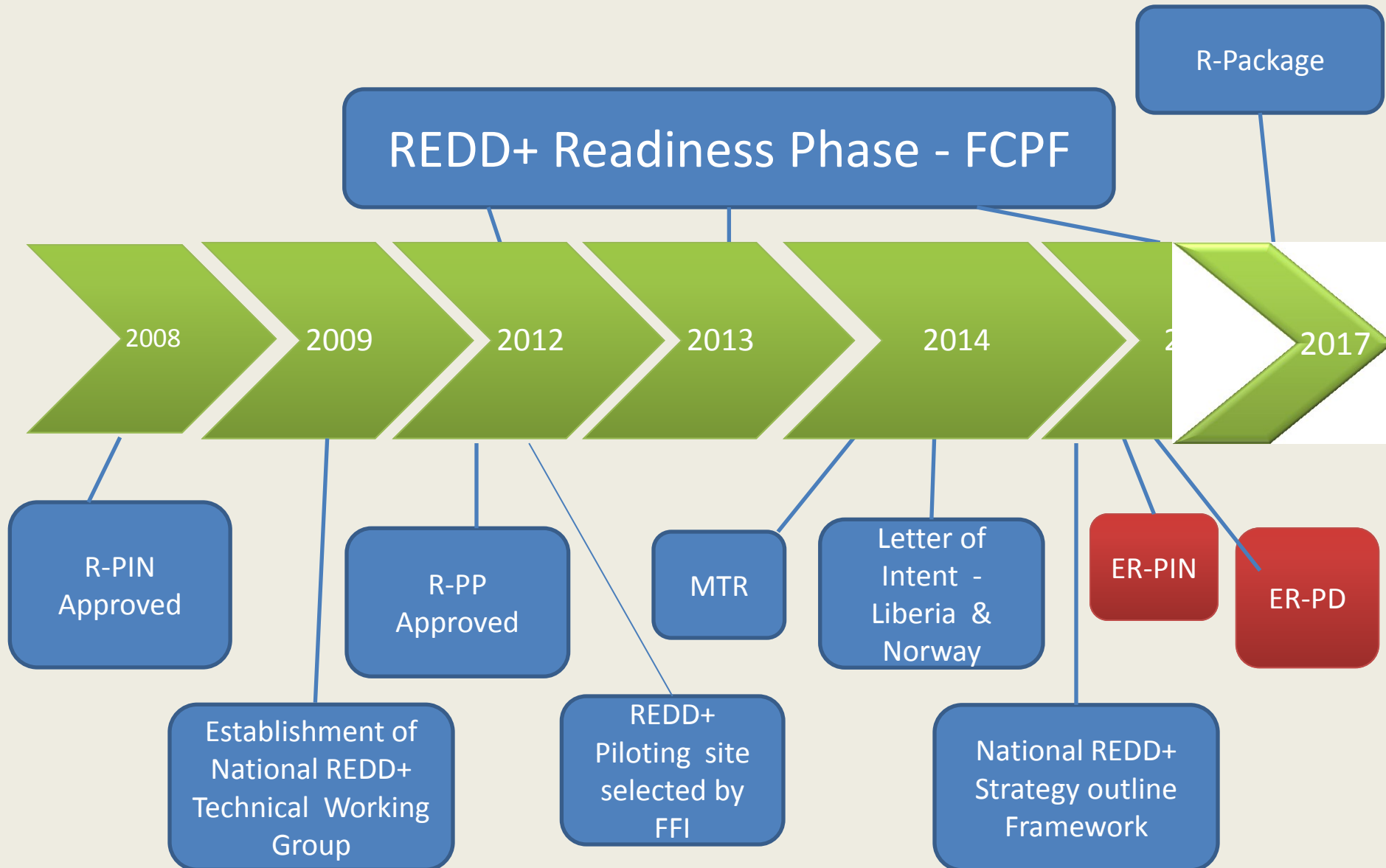
Arusha, Tanzania
Oct 31 – Nov 4, 2014

Country Information

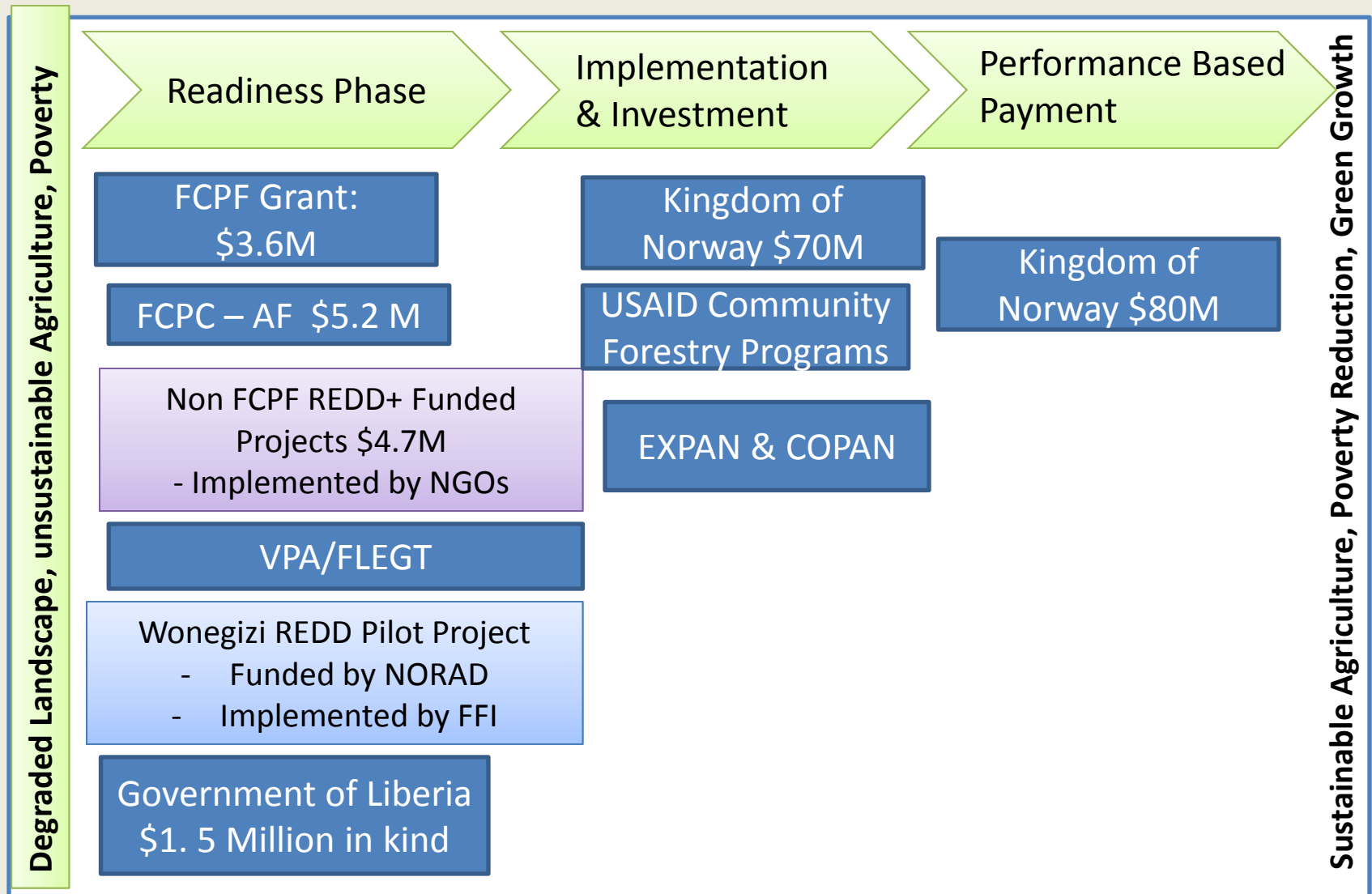
- Population is 3.5 million (2008/9 LISGIS)
- Total land area is 9.58 million ha
- Forest cover is approximately 4.5 million ha
- This constitutes about 42% of the Upper Guinean Tropical Rainforest
- These forests are a biodiversity hotspot and a priority for global conservation



Chronology: LIBERIA'S REDD+ Readiness Activities



Overview of Liberia's REDD+ Financing



Key Elements of Norway – Liberia Partnership

Phase I: Preparation

starts in 2014-15 ;
improvement of forest
governance,
frameworks and
institutions mobilized
and tasked with
supporting REDD+
development

Phase II: Transformation

To be initiated in
January 2015 with a
shared aspiration to
complete it by the
end of 2020 and will
focus on the below:

Phase III: Contribution for verified Emission Reductions

–2018 and beyond:
Liberia receives annual
contributions for
independently verified
national emission
reductions

- I. Strategy Development and Multi-stakeholder participation
- II. Capacity building in key institutions, Civil Society & Communities
- III. Legal reform and law enforcement
- IV. Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) and reference level development
- V. Social and Environmental safeguards
- VI. Protected Areas Expansion and Strengthening
- VII. Land use planning and analysis
- VIII. Sustainable Agricultural Development
- IX. Testing Incentives for participating Landowners

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS TO DATE

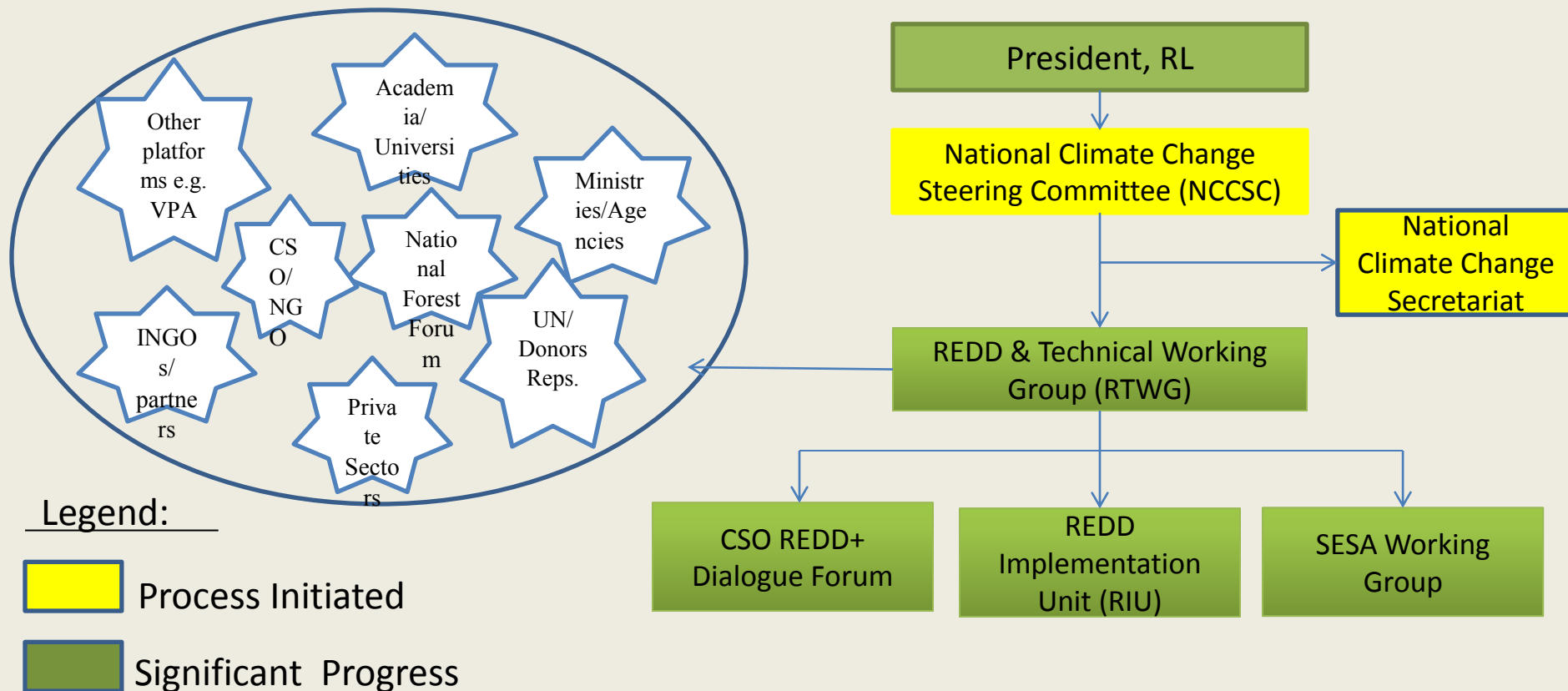
Components/Sub component	Funding Status	Progress Status
1. Organize and Consult		
1a. National Readiness Management Arrangement	Funded	Significant Progress
1b. Stakeholder Consultation, Participation & Information sharing	Funded	Significant Progress
1c. Consultation & participation REDD+ Strategy, SESA & FGRM	Funded	Progressing
2. Preparation of the REDD+ Strategy		
2a. Assessment of Land Use, Forest Policy and Governance	Not Funded	Significant Progress
2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Funded	Significant Progress
2c. REDD+ Implementation Framework	Not Funded	Process Initiated
2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Funded	Progressing
3 Develop Reference Emission /Level/Reference Level	Funded	Progressing
4. Monitoring Systems For Forests And Safeguards Design Measurement, Reporting and Verification		
4a. Emissions and Removals (<i>funded by Kingdom of Norway</i>)	Not Funded	To be initiated
4b. Other Benefits and Impacts (<i>funded by Kingdom of Norway</i>)	Not Funded	Process Initiated

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRESS MADE/ KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Component 1: Organization and Consultation

Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements

Institutional arrangement for Liberia's REDD+ Implementation has been set-up.



Component 1: Organization and Consultation

Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach

- ✚ Consultations held on technical specifications and classification to produce land cover and forest maps
- ✚ C&P master Plan and SESA work plan validated
- ✚ REDD+ brochures and T-shirt produce and distributed in Liberia
- ✚ Consultation with stakeholders on REDD+ Biodiversity offsets
- ✚ Multi-stakeholder workshop on governance issues for REDD+ implementation
- ✚ Consultations with multi-stakeholders resulted into Liberia & Norway Partnership



Component 2: National REDD+ Strategy Preparation

Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

- ✚ Preliminary assessment of land use, forest policy and governance completed; law enforcement training , Governance and policy reviews completed (EU/VPA)
- ✚ Land Tenure, Capacity building and Multi stakeholders policy dialogue (The Forest and Farm Facility)
- ✚ **Land Rights Policy drafted; a new Land Law is being developed** to address land tenure and users rights
- ✚ Sound National Legal, policy and regulatory frameworks but lack of strong enforcement (Liberia Forest Sector Diagnostic 2012 validated by PROFOR Diagnostic Tool 2013)
- ✚ Multi stakeholder engagement in April 2014



Logging



Charcoal Production

Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options

Preliminary REDD+ Strategy Options Identified

FORESTRY SECTOR	AGRICULTURE SECTOR	ENERGY SECTOR
Raising commercial logging standards	Transforming shifting cultivation into permanent or semi-permanent to reduce land use and forest degradation	Regulating and managing wood fuel energy
Reducing commercial logging footprint	Ensuring that plantations and permanent agriculture development are located on degraded forest lands	Introducing more efficient kilns and cooking stoves (developing woodlots on degraded land & ensuring that communities use wastage from logging concessions)
Regulating and managing chainsaw logging	<u>Recent developments crosscutting the above sectors</u> ✓ Liberia became a member of the Tropical Forest Alliance in 2014 (Zero deforestation by 2020) ✓ Ongoing activities to tree crops ✓ Land Commission new policies will lead to concession revision ✓ Mining sector interested in biodiversity offset	
Integrating Conservation and Protected areas into REDD+ and acceleration of the timeline		
Enhancing carbon loading on degraded land		

Sub-component 2c: Implementation framework

-  Primary efforts regarding Legislative and policy reviews in Liberia have set the basis for conducting REDD+ activities
 - ✓ The National Forestry Reform Law of 2006 (NFRL),
 - ✓ Community Rights Law (2009),
 - ✓ National Forest Policy and Strategy
 - ✓ FDA Ten Core Regulations

-  National feedback and grievance redress mechanism has been structured into two levels:
 - Community or local level
 - National level

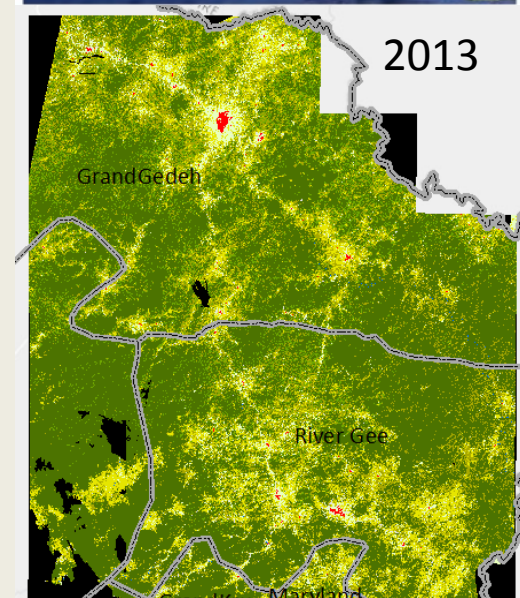
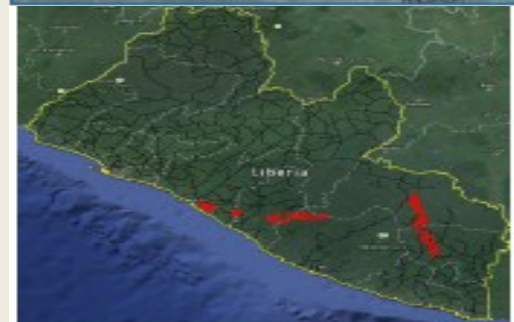
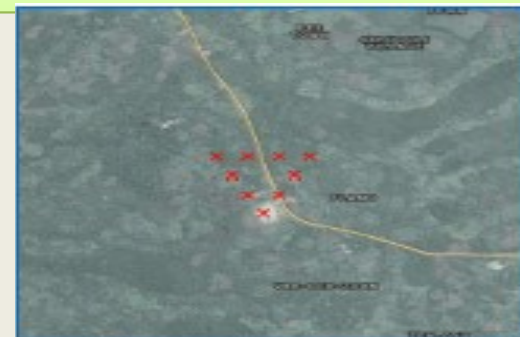
Sub-Component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts

- ✚ The EPA overseas the SESA component implementation, with a focal person hired to coordinate activities;
- ✚ SESA Roadmap revised
- ✚ A SESA Working Group was reconstituted
- ✚ Tetra Tech ARD hired in May 2014 to conduct the SESA consultancy
- ✚ A two-day SESA National Workshop held for seventy-one (71) participants that validated the C&P Plan and SESA workshop



Component 3: Reference Emission Level / Reference Level

- February 24, 2014 JV Metria/GeoVille - hired to conduct Liberia's land cover and forest mapping;
- A two-day national technical scoping and stock taking workshop was held;
- Ground truthing conducted by GIS specialists expected to begin;
- Selection process to hire a consultant for the development a national reference scenario is ongoing;



REDD+ Pilot Site in Wonegizi



Component 4: Development of Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards

Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System

- Funding from the Kingdom of Norway will support the MRV system that conforms to IPCC guidelines on GHG-Inventory

Sub-component 4b: Information systems for non-carbon, multiple benefits, other impacts governance and safeguards

- This component is not funded by the FCPF, however, there Funding from Kingdom of Norway and negotiations for other sources of external technical and financial supports are ongoing. It is envisaged that this system, shall focus on monitoring safeguards, governance and multiple benefits.

Challenges

- Delay in the commencement of the Readiness Preparation Activities
- Delay in the operationalization of the National Climate Change Steering Committee and Secretariat;
- The Ebola epidemic in Liberia
- Inter-ministerial coordination
- Inadequate funding to conduct a comprehensive nationwide consultation and participation (community, town and district level forums)

Key Gaps

- Insufficient funding to conduct a comprehensive nationwide C&P (community, town and district level forums) (1b)
- Need to design a National mechanism/framework for fund flow (1a and 2c)
- Lack of comprehensive communication strategy (1c)
- Need to strengthen Community Forestry (2b)
- Need support for the design and implementation of REDD+ registry/ Information (2c)
- Need additional funding for 2a & 4b

Request For Additional Funding

- The US\$ 3.6M Readiness Preparation grant lay the platform for the implementation of REDD+ and it's enabling activities, and substantial progress have been achieved;
- The Mid- term review shows additional funding gap of up to US\$ 5 Million, which is critical to achieving the national REDD+ Readiness objectives in Liberia;
- A request for additional funding has been submitted by Liberia in order to fill this gap taking into consideration the Norwegian support that will be available next year. **Adjustments have been made in budget estimates and activities for additional funding keeping in view the support from the Kingdom of Norway to avoid duplication**
- **The additional funding will be used to fill the gaps and enable submission of the R-Package, in line with Readiness Assessment Framework guidance**

Budget for Additional Activities

R-PP Sub- Component	Activities	Estimate (USD)
1a REDD Readiness Management Arrangements	- Development of discussion paper for REDD+ governance arrangements and policy framework. Including national financial fund flow framework for REDD - REDD Technical Coordinator, REDD Advisor (2 yrs) - Operational support for RIU and functions of NCCSC and inter ministerial discussions	800,000
1(b) Information sharing and early dialogue with key stakeholder group	- Building Communications capacity within relevant institutions/ CSO organizations - Implementation of communication strategy (materials and briefs) 3 national sector specific meetings (Forest Agriculture and Energy) for REDD Strategy Development	250,000
Included in 1(c) Consultation & participation process: Feedback & grievance redress	- For existing activities: compile and analyze lessons and best practices for uptake into the national REDD+ strategy; - Pilot FGRM within existing REDD+ demonstration projects;	50,000

Budget for Additional Activities (Cont. 2)

R-PP Sub-Component	Activities	Estimate (USD)
2(a) Assessment of land use, forest law, policy and governance	• Specific review and revision of the (new) Land Law, with a view to integrating carbon rights, REDD+ and protected areas; • Production of guidelines and policy for integrated, sustainable land use planning; • Development of draft carbon rights • Application of Benefit sharing options assessment framework (PROFOR)	500,000
2(b) REDD+ Strategy options - incl. Forestry, Agriculture & Energy (sectors)	• Strategy options for community forestry, gap analysis of policy environment for fostering community forestry (including Community rights Law); • Potential for public private partnerships for REDD Programs • Options for community engagement in management of protected areas • Update of REDD Strategy and consultations thereof including at county levels, and a national workshop • Potential for biodiversity offsets such as for areas depleted by mining	1,000,000
2(c) Implementation Framework	• Design and implementation of REDD+ registry/ Information • Production of an overarching cross –sectoral framework for REDD+ implementation in Liberia • Installation of operating system for the registry	200,000

Budget for Additional Activities (Cont. 3)

R-PP Sub- Component	Activities	Estimated request (USD)
3(a) Development of the Reference Level & Scenario	Reference Scenario at National Level will be completed with FCPF and Norwegian support. Additional funding will support: • Harmonization of national and sub national reference levels, linkages with site-level initiatives on reference area, leakage assessment • Capacity for data collation and reporting at sub national level to the agency responsible for national and international reporting	300,000
4b Information Systems for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	• Collect and assess social and environmental (biodiversity and ecosystem services) baseline data • Design data collection system, including down-scaling (i.e. use at county, district, local levels) • Design of the monitoring and governance system • Technical Specialist data collection • Develop capacity for participatory monitoring process involving all key stakeholder groups, preparation and review of draft reports	200,000

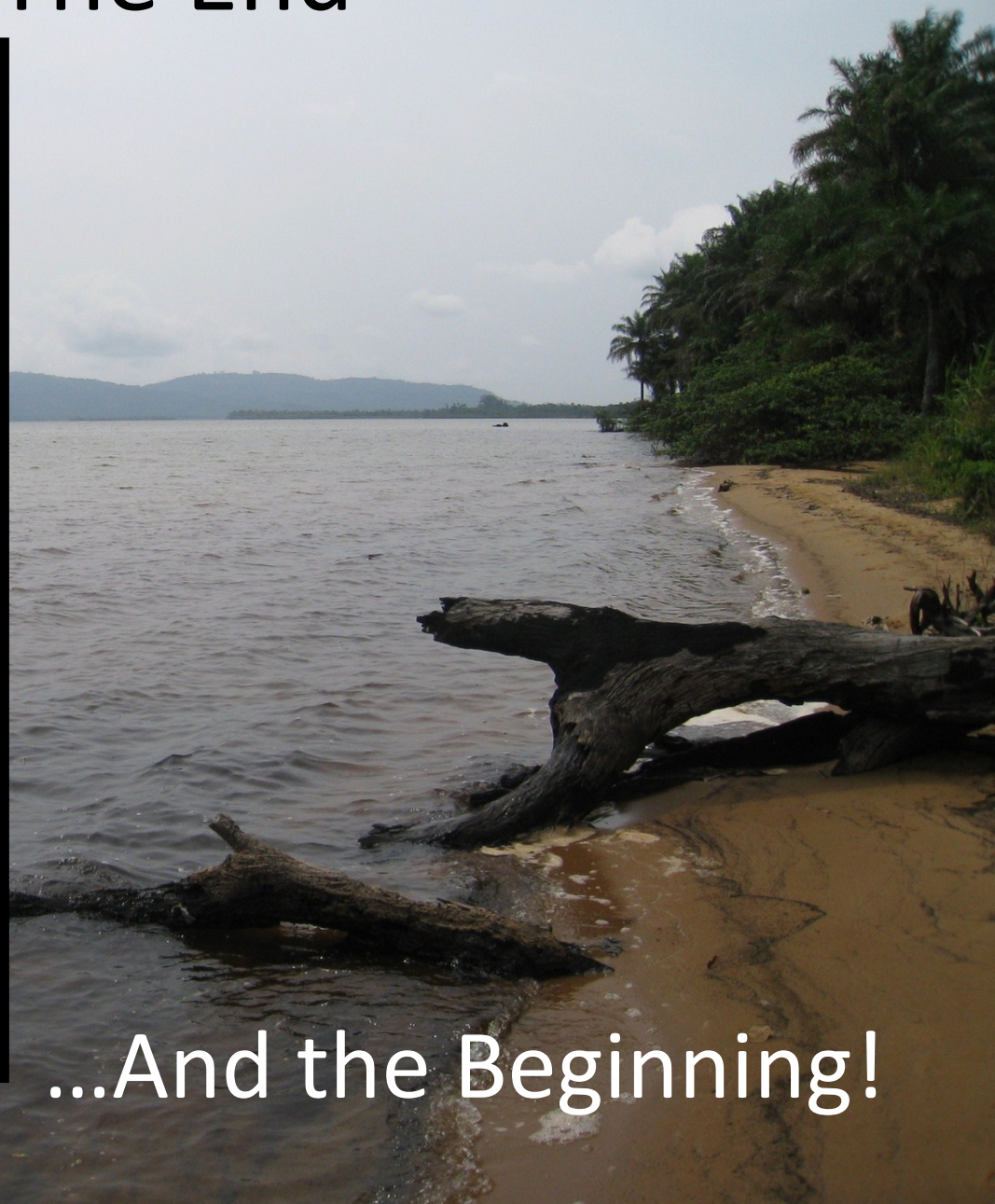
Budget for Additional Activities (Cont. 4)

R-PP Sub-Component	Activities	Estimate (USD)
6a Monitoring and evaluation	• Making M&E Framework operational, developing capacity for data reporting on key indicators at county levels • Hiring of M&E Specialist in REDD secretariat • Review of the National Forest Monitoring System / MRV and SIS (see above), for inclusion of indicators into project M&E; • Review existing work undertaken on the design of the ESMF for Liberia, which is primarily an M&E framework for the R-PP and implementation;	200,000
Project Management	Oversight responsibility of supervision and management of activities, Financial Audits, Assessment of R-Package	250,000
2a	Application of readiness to the design of a Emission Reduction Program to pilot REDD Strategy, and support to existing pilot projects	750,000
Contingency (10%)		450,000
Total		US\$ 5 000 000

Next Steps

-  Continue REDD efforts (to the extent possible) whilst Ebola Situation improves
-  Contingency planning to ensure that REDD+ secretariat can speed up national readiness process and R-Package preparation as soon as some of the key outputs on REDD+ strategy, REL and MRV become available (post Ebola)
-  Having approval on additional funding will help Liberia allocate resources for timely outputs for submission of R-Package

The End



...And the Beginning!