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Republic of Liberia
FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

LIBERIA FOREST SECTOR PROJECT

PROCESS FRAMEWORK (PF)

Draft Final Report

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CFMA	Community Forest Management Agreement
CI	NGO Conservation International
COPAN	Consolidation of the Protected Area Network
CRL	Community Rights Law
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EA	Environmental Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPML	Environmental Protection and Management Law
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
EXPAN	Expansion of the Protected Area Network
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FDA	Forest Development Authority
FIFES	USAID funded project - Forest Incomes for Environmental Sustainability Project
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade program
FTI	Forestry Training Institute
FUP	Forest Use Permit
GoL	Government of Liberia
GoN	Government of Norway
IFC	International Financing Cooperation
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LEITI	Liberia Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative
LISGIS	Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services
MLME	Ministry of Lands, Mines, and Energy
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MSME	Micro Small Medium Enterprise
NCCS	National Climate Change Secretariat
NCCSC	National Climate Change Steering Committee
NFRL	National Forest Reform Law
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
OP	Operational Policy
PF	Process Framework
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PUP	Private Use Permit
REDD+	Reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
RIU	REDD+ Implementation Unit

R-PP	REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal
RTWG	REDD+ Technical Working Group
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIS	Sector Information System
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WB	World Bank

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project is part of the Liberia Forest Program supported by the partnership established between the Government of Liberia (GoL) and the Government of Norway (GoN).

Specifically, the project will support the following components:

- Component 1. Strengthened Regulatory and Institutional Arrangements for Implementation of REDD+ (US\$10 million)
- Component 2. Strengthened Management of Targeted Forest Landscapes (US\$25 million)
- Component 3. Forest Monitoring Information System(US\$4 million)
- Component 4. Project Monitoring and Management (US\$5 million)

A process framework is prepared when projects may cause restrictions in access to natural resources in legally designated parks and protected areas. The purpose of the process framework is to establish a process by which members of potentially affected communities participate in design of project components, determination of measures necessary to achieve resettlement policy objectives, and implementation and monitoring of relevant project activities.

The main responsible institution is the Forest Development Authority. The Authority will collaborate with other state agencies including the EPA, Land Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Internal Affairs to implement the project.

The relevant national policies related to the proposed project include the following:

- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2004;
- National Forestry Policy and Implementation Strategy, 2006;
- National Forest Management Strategy, 2007;
- Land Rights Policy, 2013;
- Land Administration Policy, 2015;
- Guidelines for Forest Management Planning in Liberia (2007);
- National Energy Policy, 2009;
- National Environmental Policy, 2003; and
- National Environmental and Occupational Health Policy, 2010.

Some potential concerns/ issues derived from extensive consultations among stakeholders include the following:

Land tenure and ownership: (i) lack of adequate documentation; (ii) lack of clear understanding of land use and occupancy; (iii) Conflicts in land claims; (iv) Discrimination, lack of grievance mechanisms for all land users and tenants

Livelihoods : (i) Enhance food security through improved agriculture production on farmed lands to reduce forest pressures; (ii) Potential negative farming activities that result in biodiversity loss, ecosystem changes, depletion of natural resources; (iii) Increasing demand for forest lands for farming/ settlements by fringe communities because productive lands not available; (iv) Adequate,

documentation and transparent livelihood restoration for farmers affected by boundaries adjustment. However, no resettlement of communities is anticipated.

Forest Management: (i) Community inclusion in management decisions; (ii) Community participation in surveillance and enforcement; (iii) Protection of rights to use forest resources

A preliminary set of criteria is provided to assist in defining eligible activities and affected persons or communities who may receive livelihood restoration assistance. Through a participatory process, these criteria may be refined further using site specific considerations and meetings with the affected communities/persons to identify adverse impacts, establish mitigation measures, eligibility criteria and choose eligible mitigation measures, and procedures for specific activities and their phasing for establishment of particular protected areas.

The profile of affected persons in the forest fringe communities will include such groups as farmers, hunters, traditional healers, mining companies, chainsaw operators. Assets such as physical and non- physical ones including productive lands, farm lands, communal resources, income earning opportunities, and social and cultural networks and activities will be affected. Livelihood restoration will be targeted at the affected communities. Requirements may include agricultural inputs and extension to improve productivity of legally held lands /non encroachment areas, assistance with land preparation, alternative livelihood schemes and assistance to access alternative resources as well as restoration of livelihood/ alternative livelihood schemes.

The livelihood restoration measures will consider issues such as (1) income levels of affected communities/persons/households, (2) other non- monetary sources of livelihood, (3) constraints and opportunities for income generation, (4) number of persons not able to revert to previous occupation, and (5) existing skills and project preferences of affected persons. Attention will be paid to vulnerable households and persons. Attention will be given to communities affected by Ebola living around the protected areas. The Livelihood Restoration/Support plan will be prepared by the FDA and shared for approval by WB.

In the case of alternative resources, measures will include identification of these resources with the active involvement of the affected persons/ communities and assistance to access these resources which should be in line with community development plans.

The Forestry Development Authority has the overall responsibility for preparing and implementing the PF with World Bank approval. It will ensure that all livelihood restoration and rehabilitation activities are carried out satisfactorily.

The Regional and County FDA will organize the county and district orientation and training for the various government agencies at the county level likely to be involved in the process, to be ready to implement alternative livelihood schemes and other related activities in a timely manner. The regional/ county FDA will ensure that progress reports reach the head office regularly. The project administration and restoration planning will run concurrently.

Much of the work will be done at the county and district levels in the selected targeted forest landscapes, around the protected areas that will be supported.

A monitoring programme will provide a regular feedback on the implementation of the Process Framework. Monitoring teams at the County FDA level will be constituted and led by appointed Focal Points, who will report regularly at the national level through the national Focal Point at the FDA. The County team will comprise the County official, County FDA, District representative, community groups while the District team will be constituted by the County FDA, District representative, and County representative.

The monitoring indicators should cover areas such as (1) basic information on affected persons' households, (2) restoration of living standards and livelihoods, (3) levels of affected persons' satisfaction determined by number of grievances registered, (4) effectiveness of restoration planning and (5) frequency and effectiveness of stakeholder consultations and participation.

Some indicators are suggested as follows which are consistent with provisions within the ESMF for the project.

Land Tenure and Ownership issues: The key indicators may include (1) availability of documentation; (2) disputes registered; and (3) grievances resolved and recorded.

Livelihoods: Key indicators may include (1) community involvement in defining livelihood alternatives, (2) livelihood restoration plan developed (3) alternatives provided; (4) support and incentives available; and (5) results documented

Cultural heritage: Key indicators will include (1) cultural rites agreed, performed and documented

Community engagement: (1) records of both formal and informal meetings

These indicators may be verified from various sources such as field inspections, site reports, special project audits, annual monitoring and so on.

An indicative annual budget of US\$45,000 has been given for specific PF activities in addition to the US\$125,000 provided in the ESMF report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Forest Sector Program is a key step in the Government of Liberia's long standing commitment to reforming the forest sector following a "Three C's (3Cs)" approach that aims to balance and integrate community and commercial uses of forests as well as conservation methods and conduct efforts to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+).

The proposed project is expected to have environmental and social impacts that are highly positive overall. Consistent with the intent and approach of the REDD+ program, this project seeks to reduce deforestation and forest degradation within Liberia. It would do this by promoting improved planning of forests and adjacent landscapes, long-term conservation of protected forest areas, and sustainable management of community forests and other wooded landscapes. The project would finance a variety of planning, capacity building, and on-the-ground interventions to promote the conservation and sustainable use of Liberian forests.

The project would support sustainable forest management and environmentally compatible agricultural activities that are intended to reduce the ongoing pressures for deforestation and forest degradation. It would not finance any large-scale civil works (such as roads) that could be environmentally and socially problematic. From a social standpoint, the project is intended to benefit forest-based communities by strengthening their capacity to manage designated Community Forests, promoting improved benefits-sharing from different types of forest-based activities, and supporting the development of more sustainable forest-based livelihoods.

1.1 Development Objective

The development objective is to attain an improved management of and increased benefit-sharing in targeted forest landscapes.

It is expected that the project will lead to:

- More areas in targeted forest landscapes managed according to REDD+ strategy;
- Increased number of rural households in targeted forest landscapes earning more cash from forest utilization and management fees and royalties;
- More people in targeted forest and adjacent communities with increased monetary or non-monetary benefits from forest;
- Higher targeted beneficiaries satisfied with project interventions;
- Improved sustainable livelihoods in forest fringe communities; and
- More direct project beneficiaries.

This Process Framework has been prepared to contribute to the smooth execution of the Project by providing guidelines to address potential adverse social (particularly, livelihood) impacts. An

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) report has also been prepared as a separate document.

1.2 Purpose of the Process Framework

A process framework is prepared when projects may cause restrictions in access to natural resources in legally designated parks and protected areas. The purpose of the process framework is to establish a process by which members of potentially affected communities participate in design of project components, determination of measures necessary to achieve resettlement policy objectives, and implementation and monitoring of relevant project activities.

Specifically, the process framework describes participatory processes by which the following activities will be accomplished

Table 1: Description of Process Framework approach

No	Activities	Description
1.	Project components	Project and components or activities that may involve new or more stringent restrictions on natural resource use. It also describes the process by which potentially displaced persons participate in project design.
2.	Criteria for eligibility	Establishes that potentially affected communities will be involved in identifying any adverse impacts, assessing of the significance of impacts, and establishing of the criteria for eligibility for any mitigating or compensating measures necessary.
3.	Assistance to affected persons	Measures to assist affected persons in their efforts to improve their livelihoods or restore them, in real terms, to pre-displacement levels, while maintaining the sustainability of the park or protected area. It describes methods and procedures by which communities will identify and choose potential mitigating or compensating measures to be provided to those adversely affected, and procedures by which adversely affected community members will decide among the options available to them.
4.	Conflicts and grievance redress	It describes the process for resolving disputes relating to resource use restrictions that may arise between or among affected communities, and grievances that may arise from members of communities who are dissatisfied with the eligibility criteria, community planning measures, or actual implementation.

Additionally, the process framework describes arrangements relating to Administrative and legal procedures as well as monitoring arrangements.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

2.1 Background

The project is part of the Liberia Forest Program supported by the partnership established between the Government of Liberia (GoL) and the Government of Norway (GoN). Three distinct yet interrelated projects included in the Forest Program are: (i) the proposed forest sector investment and technical assistance project (ii) a rubber plantations emergency operation jointly with IFC to support the renewal of rubber plantations and, (iii) a results-based carbon payment operation for verified emission reductions that will pay for the emissions reductions and carbon sequestered by the activities done in Phase III.

Liberia contains approximately 4.3 million hectares (Mha) of lowland tropical forest that comprise 43 percent of the remaining Upper Guinea forests of West Africa, which extend from Guinea to Togo. While the overall extent of these forests has declined to an estimated 14.3 percent of its original size, Liberia still hosts two massifs of forest including evergreen lowland forests in the southeast and the semi-deciduous mountain forests in the northwest. Upper Guinea Rainforest, whose part is in Liberia, is listed as one of 35 global biodiversity hotspots.

Most of Liberia's rural population is dependent on forests and their various products and ecosystem services. Forests play an important role as safety net for vulnerable and marginalized people, especially those living around forest areas. The country's forests are under threat due to the continued clearance and degradation of its remaining blocks for the expansion of agriculture and mining activities both at industrial and subsistence levels.

The proposed operation in the forest sector will be aligned with, and build on, the forest reform process and particularly the REDD+ efforts.

2.2 Project Description

As a project led by the Forest Development Authority (FDA) with cross-sectoral support from other line ministries, bilateral partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), the Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP) is designed to contribute to a transformational change in the way in which Liberia's forest landscapes are managed and to increase the sharing of benefits. Supporting this shift will be an emphasis on ensuring that these changes deliver multiple benefits to host communities in terms of livelihood development, income generation through forests and agriculture-based enterprises, and climate change mitigation (emissions reductions) for sustainable forest management.

In addition, the LFSP represents a paradigm shift in forest resource management insofar as it includes using climate finance as a catalyst for forest conservation and continued carbon sequestration. Achieving the project objectives will allow for the improvement on forest management and increase the sharing of benefits accrued through forest use. This in turn will contribute to enable future investments linked to carbon sequestration and results-based payments. The project will incorporate the landscape approach moving beyond single-sector interventions in order to take into account multiple interrelated interventions

at the landscape level and considering improvements in both ecosystems and livelihoods. This innovative approach will strategically combine physical, institutional, and community responses for sustainable management of targeted landscapes.

The project will finance technical assistance, works, goods, workshops, training, services, and operational costs to support the implementation of the REDD+ strategy; focusing on investments for early implementation of strategic land use options in targeted landscapes. The project will also support the development of institutional capacities, which will strengthen the enabling environment to sustain decentralized implementation of sustainable forest sector management, with the engagement of local communities. As part of the enabling environment, the proposed project will also include the implementation of a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system to track the country's forest cover and progress made in the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over time.

The main beneficiaries of the proposed Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP) are the Liberian communities most directly dependent on forest resources. The direct beneficiaries will be the communities located in the targeted landscapes in: (i) Northwest region (Bomi, Lofa, Gbarpulo, and Grand Cape counties), and (ii) Southeast region (South section of Grand Gedeh county, and Sinoe county). Communities located in the North Nimba region will benefit from support provided by the project for regulatory and institutional strengthening.

Specifically, the LFSP will support the following components:

Component 1. Strengthened Regulatory and Institutional Arrangements for Implementation of REDD+ (US\$8 million): This component will finance technical assistance, consultants and non-consultant services, works, goods, training and workshops, and operational costs needed to reform and harmonize the existing legal regime and to strengthen institutional and professional capacities for improved management of forest landscapes including benefit sharing. The component will be divided in two subcomponents as follows:

1.1. *Strengthened capacity in institutions (public, private, CSOs) for improved management of forest landscapes* will support FDA and other key agencies ((specifically EPA, Land Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, and LISGIS), at national and subnational levels, with an emphasis on building skills and knowledge, systems and procedures, and regulatory and enforcement capabilities needed for more sustainable and effective forest management and benefits sharing. It is also envisaged that this component will include the establishment of partnerships between the FDA and local service delivery providers (whether NGOs, CBOs, CSOs, vocational training institutes or small-medium enterprises) in order to augment government capabilities to engage and support local communities in their forest management activities. The projects will also support the strengthening the ongoing civil society initiatives to monitor forest law enforcement and governance. Support will also be provided to existing coordination mechanisms established as part of the REDD+ readiness process¹.

1.2 *Legal reform* to support the Government of Liberia in the process of legal reform and effective

¹ This includes the REDD+ Climate Change Steering Committee, REDD+ Climate Change Secretariat and REDD+ Technical Working Group as well as the Community Forestry Working Group (CFWG) and the Community Forestry Development Committee (CFDC).

implementation of REDD+ related laws and policies (such as harmonization of the Community Rights Law (CRL)²; the National Forest Reform Law (2006); the Land Rights Policy (2013), and their attendant regulations) in coordination with ongoing projects that are addressing similar issues.

Component 2. Strengthened Management of Targeted Forest Landscapes (US\$24 million):

The component will finance technical assistance, works, goods, workshops, sub-projects and operational costs for land use planning, protected areas, community forestry, sustainable agriculture, and forest management to support local communities and collaborating organizations within the targeted landscapes to improve the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources and improve the economic and social benefits derived from them.

The component will be divided into four subcomponents:

2.1. *Improved Land Use Planning.* (i) Sub-component 2.1 will support the preparation of current land use map at the sub national (for the targeted landscapes) and at the national level. Together with results achieved and lessons learnt from the inclusive strategic planning processes and land use planning at the community level (Component 2.3), a roadmap report to scale up land use planning beyond the community level will be developed. The activities are aimed at advancing an integrated landscape management approach for sustainable management of natural resources and for carbon emissions scheme at landscape scale. Over time the products from these activities will be useful for national GHG accounting from the land use (forestry and agriculture) sector.

2.2. *Strengthened Management of Protected Areas of Targeted Forest Landscapes* will support the enlargement, improved performance and financing of Liberia's protected area network, detailing adequate resources necessary to safeguard selected existing and future protected areas within the targeted landscapes. The existing PA identified for potential support from the LFSP are Sapo National Park, Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve, East Nimba Nature Reserve and the Gola Forest National Park (gazettement of the latter expected before Project implementation). Eligible proposed protected areas (PPAs) to consider for support according to defined criteria include the proposed Wonegizi Nature Reserve and Foya PPA in the Northwest Forest Landscape and the Grebo Forest National Park, Grand Kru-River Gee PPA and Cestos-Senkwehn PPA in the Southeast Forest Landscape – at a minimum pre-gazettement technical studies, stakeholder participation and legal document preparation for four PPAs will be supported under the project. The project will also support Liberia's overall PA system through technical assistance and studies to establish a Conservation Trust Fund, facilitate biodiversity offsets, and identify eco-tourism options.

2.3. *Strengthened Management of and Benefit-sharing Arrangements for Community Forests in Targeted Forest Landscapes.* The project will support activities on a demand-driven basis to strengthen community governance and institutions to manage customary lands in accordance with the Community Rights Law and the Land Rights Policy; conduct Community Zoning Planning; promote and support the subsistence and commercial management of common pool natural resources and agricultural investments; and improve livelihoods by creating job opportunities and improving household income through CFEs.

² The CRL was passed in 2009 (regulations in 2011) and it has been piloted. Up to October, 2015, 102 applications for CFMA have been received and, with support from USAID/PROSPER project, eight of them have been approved.

2.4. *Public-Private Partnerships to Strengthen Sustainable Agriculture Development.* The project will seek to establish alliances between farmer organizations and private sector agents at the local level for promoting value chain based partnerships and small and medium enterprises around smallholder tree crops, conservation agriculture, small-scale timber and non-timber processing plants, and post-harvest, value-adding technologies in the targeted landscapes within Grand Gedeh and Bomi counties.

Component 3. Forest Monitoring Information System (US\$2 million)

This component will finance technical assistance, works, goods, workshops, and operational costs to support an operational and successfully tested national system for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems, the establishment of an information system for safeguards, as well as capacity building of FDA and other implementing agencies on compliance with World Bank safeguards. The capacity building will include activities targeted both at the national-level staff as well as decentralized institutions working in the targeted landscapes.

3.1. *Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Reference Level Development.* This subcomponent will finance technical assistance, goods, workshops, and operational costs for a functional and successfully tested national MRV system building on an existing roadmap (See Annex 8) and the results achieved by the national REDD+ Readiness Program supported by the FCPF readiness grant. The MRV system will need to comply with international best practice guidelines for operational data collection, synthesis, analysis, and reporting, allowing for the monitoring, estimation, and accounting of carbon emissions and removals of carbon in comparison to the projected reference scenario currently developed as part of REDD+ Readiness under FCPF support. FDA together with LISGIS will have the primary responsibility for monitoring information and reporting.

3.2. Development of an information system for safeguards. This subcomponent will finance the operationalization and update of an information system on safeguards³ being designed with the support of the FCPF. The LFSP will support the implementation in targeted landscapes of such system covering the measures proposed in the REDD+ Strategy, monitoring compliance with the World Bank Safeguard Policies (among other criteria and international best practice).

Component 4. Project Monitoring and Management (US\$3.5 million).

The component will support the operationalization of a Monitoring and Evaluation system that will report on the expected project's results, systematizing the project's lessons learned. The project level M&E will be integrated into Liberia's M&E Framework for the national REDD+ readiness process that has been designed to track readiness progress and be able to report comprehensively at national and international level including to the different donors and implementing partners supporting Liberia's REDD+ process. The component will also support the implementation of a communication strategy to inform different and diverse stakeholders about the project and its results, building on results achieved with FCPF support as well as through other projects. Support will also be provided for FDA's day-to-day project implementation and management including, procurement, financial management, M&E, preparation of annual work plans and organization of audit reports. The component will provide support for office operating costs for the existent FDA REDD+ Implementing Unit. The component also will provide resources for management and supervision of the World Bank environmental and social safeguards. Finally, the component will provide support for the preparation of the Mid-term and Project Completion reports.

³ The safeguards information under this sub-component refers to a REDD+ inspired Liberian information system, which encompasses a range of project-related information that goes beyond the scope of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Safeguard policies.

4. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

LFSP will be a national-level project, particularly with respect to Components 1, 3, and 4. However, the project's site-specific interventions (especially under Components 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4) will be within three broad Target Forest Landscapes (TFLs), which were selected based on a spatial analysis of priority areas for REDD+ interventions conducted for the FDA during project preparation. Based on this assessment, the project's Target Forest Landscapes will be: (i) the Northwest TFL, encompassing Bomi, Lofa, Gbarpulo, and Grand Cape Mount counties; (ii) the Southeast TFL, encompassing Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, River Gee, Rivercess and Grand Kru counties; and, (iii) the North Nimba TFL in Nimba county. On-the-ground protected area investments under Component 2.2 are likely to involve the Sapo National Park, Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve, Gola Forest National Park, Esat Nimba Nature Reserve and other (currently proposed) protected areas that might be gazetted within the TFLs during project implementation. Specific sites for project investments in Community Forests (Component 2.3) and smallholder agriculture (Component 2.4) will be selected within the TFLs during project implementation. The main beneficiaries of the proposed Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP) are the Liberian forest communities most directly dependent on forest resources.

3.0 POLICY, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Relevant National Policies

The relevant national policies related to the proposed project include the following:

- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2004;
- National Forestry Policy and Implementation Strategy, 2006;
- National Forest Management Strategy, 2007;
- Land Rights Policy, 2013;
- Land Administration Policy, 2015;
- Guidelines for Forest Management Planning in Liberia (2007);
- National Energy Policy, 2009;
- National Environmental Policy, 2003; and
- National Environmental and Occupational Health Policy, 2010.
- Draft Revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, (2015)
- Liberia Protected Areas Network Strategic Plan (2008)

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2004

The overall goal of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2004) is to sustainably use biodiversity on a long-term basis to meet the needs of both the present and future generations. The plan comprises two components: the vision statement, the guiding principles, the goals and objectives on one hand; and the Actions for Biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing on the other. The goals and objectives were developed in consonance with the guiding

principles. Six goals are developed upon which all the actions are based. Priority areas for immediate actions are Land Rehabilitation, Forestry Sector Reform, Timber Management, Poverty Alleviation, Food Security, Addressing Bushmeat Crisis, Restoration of Electricity, Environmental Impact Assessment, Addressing Coastal Erosion and Mangrove Destruction and Providing Alternative Sources of Protein.

National Forestry Policy and Implementation Strategy, 2006

The policy sets sustainable forest management as an overriding goal and explicitly recognizes the need to move from a “one-sector” approach of sustained timber yields to a multi-sectoral approach where inter-sectoral coordination, policy integration, and effective participation and interaction of forest-sector stakeholders and their institutions are essential. The aim of the policy is to move away from the country’s historic focus on commercial aspects of forestry, and optimize benefits for all Liberians by conserving and sustainably managing all forest areas to ensure and maintain environmental stability, in keeping with Liberia’s commitments under international agreements and conventions. The policy seeks to integrate the “three Cs”—commercial, community, and conservation interests—in forest management

National Forest Management Strategy, 2007

National Forest Management Strategy (2007) summarizes the FDA philosophy for managing the national forest endowment and outlines the FDA approach to forest management, its long-term end-states, or goals, and the authority’s major management objectives. Its primary objective is to allocate and manage Liberia’s remaining 4.59 million hectares of forest as either forest management contract areas, timber sales contract areas, community management areas, or protected areas. The strategy allocates these forest lands into the four land-use categories of Multiple Sustainable Use Management, Timber Sales Contracts, Community Management, and Protected Area Network.

Land Rights Policy, 2013

This Land Rights Policy concerns four land rights categories (Public Land, Government Land, Customary Land, and Private Land), and a cross-cutting sub-category called Protected Areas, which must be conserved for the benefit of all Liberians. For Public Land and Government Land, the Policy sets forth critical policy recommendations regarding: how the Government transfers such land, and how the Government acquires land, especially through the exercise of eminent domain (i.e. forced acquisition). With respect to the new category of Customary Land, there are several significant recommendations: Customary Land and Private Land are equally protected; and communities will self-define, be issued a deed, establish a legal entity, and strengthen their governance arrangements to make them fully representative and accountable. The Government also undertakes to support communities in implementing these recommendations. Finally, several Private Land issues are detailed, which include loss of ownership, leases, easements, and adverse possession.

Land Administration Policy, 2015 (Draft)

The Land Administration policy presents a framework for land administration in Liberia. It focuses on the main features of good land administration and those pertaining to the identification,

ownership, use, and valuation of land, including information on all lands, as well as the identification of land and the determination of rights to the land, recording of those rights, valuation of land and the management of government and public land, coordination of land use planning, the establishment of the institutional framework at central and local government levels to carry out this mandate, and the broader issues of governance, policy development, and legislative and regulatory reform necessary to attain government's objectives, including the formation of dedicated land agency (Lands Authority), which will replace the Lands Commission and consolidate the land functions of several ministries and agencies with a dedicated focus on land, as well as implement the policy recommendations contained in the Land Administration Policy.

National Energy Policy, 2009

The objective of the National Energy Policy (2009) is "to ensure availability of modern energy services for all Liberians, in both the urban and rural areas." The policy recognizes access to modern energy services as an essential requirement for sustaining livelihoods and propelling communities living at subsistence levels to higher levels of prosperity. Estimates suggest that over 95% of the population relies on firewood, charcoal, and palm oil for their energy needs, which as noted above is one of the key drivers of deforestation.

National Environmental Policy, 2003

The overall policy goal is to ensure long-term economic prosperity of Liberia through sustainable social and economic development which enhances environmental quality and resource productivity on a long-term basis that meets the requirements of the present generation without endangering the potential of future generations to meet their own needs. The policy recognizes the need for maintaining ecosystems and ecological processes essential for the functioning of the biosphere; ensuring sound management of the natural resources and the environment; adequately protecting human, flora, fauna, their biological communities and habitats against harmful impacts, and to preserve biological diversity; integrate environmental considerations in sector and socio-economic planning at all levels; throughout the nation; and seeking common solutions to environmental problems at regional and international levels.

3.2 Relevant National Legislation

The relevant Liberian environmental and other statutory laws and regulations to guide the implementation and monitoring of the LFSP include the following:

- The Constitution of the Republic Of Liberia, 1986;
- The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) Act, 1976;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Act, 2002;
- Land Commission Act, 2010;
- National Forestry Reform Law, 2006;
- Environment Protection and Management Law, 2003;
- Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) Act, 2009;
- Public Procurement and Concessions Act, 2010;
- Community Rights Law (with respect to Forest Lands), 2009; and

- Minerals and Mining Law, 2000.
- Draft Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas Management Act (2012)
- Protected Areas Management Act (2013)

The Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, 1986

The Constitution of Liberia supports sustainable management of the natural resources. Article 7 of Chapter 11 states “The Republic shall, consistent with the principles of individual freedom and social justice enshrined in the constitution, manage the natural economy and natural resources of Liberia in such manner as shall ensure maximum possible participation of Liberian citizens under conditions of equality as to advance the general welfare of the Liberian people and the economic development of Liberia”. The constitution therefore provides for the protection of the natural resources including biological diversity. It also gives the right to every Liberian to fully participate in management of these resources.

The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) Act, 1976 (As Amended)

The Act (as amended) creates the Forestry Development Authority as a corporate body pursuant to the Public Authorities Law. The primary objectives of the Authority are as follows:

- Establish a permanent forest estate made up of reserved areas upon which scientific forestry will be practiced;
- Devote all publicly owned forest lands to their most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people considering both direct and indirect values;
- Stop needless waste and destruction of the forest and associated natural resources and bring about the profitable harvesting of all forest products while assuring that supplies of these products are perpetuated;
- Correlate forestry to all other land use and adjust the forest economy to the overall national economy;
- Conduct essential research in conservation of forest and pattern action programs upon the results of such research;
- Give training in the practice of forestry; offer technical assistance to all those engaged in forestry activities; and spread knowledge of forestry and the acceptance of conservation of natural resources throughout;
- Conserve recreational and wildlife resources of the country concurrently with the development of forestry program.

They give the FDA the power to establish Government Forest Reserves, Native Authority Forest Reserves, Communal Forests and National Parks.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Act, 2003

The Act creates the Agency as the principal authority in Liberia for the management of the environment and shall co-ordinate, monitor, supervise and consult with relevant stakeholders on all activities in the protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources. The functions of the agency include to:

- Review project documents for donor-sponsored environment-related projects to ensure and/or recommend to the negotiating ministry or agency, the inclusion of strategies and activities for capacity building of nationals;

- Identify projects, activities, policies, and programs for which environmental impact assessment must be conducted under this Act;
- Build the capacity of line Ministries, authorities and organizations through the exchange of data and information, and to render advice, technical support and training in environment and national resource management so as to enable them to carry out their responsibilities effectively;
- Ensure the preservation and promotion of important historic, cultural and spiritual values of natural resources heritage and, in consultation with indigenous authority, enhance indigenous methods for effective natural resource management;
- Promote public awareness through public participation in decision making and formal and non-formal education about the protection and sustainable management of the environment, and to allow at minimal or no costs, access to environmental information and records made in connection with this Act;
- Establish environmental criteria, guidelines, specifications and standards for production processes and the sustainable use of natural resources for the health and welfare of the present generation, and in order to prevent environmental degradation for the welfare of the future generations;
- Review and approve environmental impact statements and environmental impact assessment submitted in accordance with this Act;

The act further recognizes that all sectors of the population has the duty to protect the environment, and the Agency may in the performance of its functions under subsection (1) and by published notice delegate any of its functions to a Ministry, Agency, Organization, a Technical Committee or any public officer.

Land Commission Act, 2010

Land Commission Act, 2010 establishes the Land Commission with a five year mandate to propose, advocate and coordinate reforms of land policy, laws and programs in Liberia. The LC has no adjudicatory or implementation powers. The mandate of the LC extends to all land and land based natural resources, including both urban and rural land, private and public land and land devoted to residential, agricultural, industrial, commercial, forestry, conservation and any other purposes.

The following are objectives to be accomplished within the five-year life span of the Commission.

- (1) Equitable and productive access to the nation's land, both public and private;
- (2) Security of tenure in land and the rule of law with respect to landholdings and dealings in land;
- (3) Effective land administration and management; and
- (4) Investment in and development of the nation's land resources.

National Forestry Reform Law, 2006

National Forest Reform Law (NFRL 2006) is consistent with the Forest Policy and provides the legal framework needed to achieve the policy goal of sustainable forest management through balanced and integrated development. It proposes and supports the granting of user and management rights to local communities, as well as recognition that local communities must equitably participate in

and benefit from sustainable management of forests. Section 3.1 of NFRL “Objectives” includes social and environmental aspects that charge FDA with: a) “sustainable management of the Republic’s forest land, conservation of the Republic’s forest resources, protection of the Republic’s environment, and sustainable development of the Republic’s economy, with the participation of and for the benefit of all Liberians, and to contribute to poverty alleviation in the nation,” and b) “To protect the environment ... take a precautionary approach to ... threats of serious or irreversible damage to the environment, ...[and] not rely on a lack of full scientific certainty as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.”

Environmental Protection and Management Law, 2003

The law forms the legal framework for the sustainable development, management and protection of the environment and natural resources by the Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with relevant ministries, autonomous agencies and organizations as well as in a close and responsive relationship with the people of Liberia. It also provides high quality information and advice on the state of the environment and matters connected therewith.

The Law is intended as a comprehensive coordinating legal framework, to be implemented through collaboration between the Environment Protection Agency and line ministries and agencies (in the case of forest resources, the FDA), local authorities and the public. It provides the framework for formulation, reviewing, updating and harmonizing all environment-related sectoral laws. Further, the Law anticipates stand-alone, sector-specific statutes, rules and regulations to facilitate implementation. It also addresses a wide range of environmental issues including environmental impact assessment, audit and monitoring; environmental quality standards; pollution control and licensing; guidelines and standards for the management of the environment and natural resources; protection of biodiversity, national heritage and the ozone layer; inspection, analysis and records; international obligations; information, access, education and public awareness; and offences.

Part III of the 2003 Law establishes a fairly comprehensive framework for EIA, including procedures and substantive standards for the approval and rejection of projects. It also provides for public participation and procedures for appeals against EPA decisions.

Community Rights Law (with Respect to Forest Lands), 2009

The Community Rights Law (CRL) with respect to forest lands gives statutory recognition to customary ownership of both forests and forest resources within community lands, provides for the management of community forests by community forest management bodies, and requires prior informed consent of the community for concessions to be made on community lands. The Community Forestry Management Body is appointed by the Community Assembly which is composed of county legislators and represents the highest authority over a community’s forest resources. The Law amends contradictory provisions of the National Forestry Reform Law (which implies that those resources are owned by the state) and establishes precedence over it.

Executive Order 66 of January 2015 extends the tenure of the Land Commission by one additional year, ending January 9, 2016. The order further requires that during the period of the extension, the

Commission will work along other Government agencies to complete draft legislation and activities to facilitate the transition into a new land agency.

3.3 Relevant Forestry Regulations and Guidelines

Guidelines for Forest Management Planning in Liberia (2007)

Guidelines for Forest Management Planning in Liberia (2007) provide instructions to help foresters and logging companies prepare the forest management plans required under the Forest Management Contracts (FMC), Timber Sales Contracts (TSC), or other FDA commercial contracts, including commercial logging in community forests.

FDA Ten Core Regulations (2007)

FDA Ten Core Regulations_(2007) were essential to resuming commercial logging in Liberia. The 10 regulations are as follows: Public Participation; Forest Land Use Planning; Pre-qualification; Tender, Award and Administration; Pre-Felling Operations; Benefits Sharing; Forest Fees; Chain of Custody; Penalties; and, Rights of Private Land Holder.

Code of Forest Harvesting Practices (2007)

Code of Forest Harvesting Practices_(2007) provides guidelines to help foresters and logging companies select practices to be followed when carrying out harvesting operations under FMCs and TSCs.

Regulation on the Commercial and Sustainable Extraction of Non-Timber Forest Products, FDA Regulation No. 111-08 (2009)

The regulation provides guidelines for the extraction of non-timber forest products in Liberia. In the provision of these guidelines the FDA aims to:

- a. Act as trustee of the Republic's Forest Resource, in a professional, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner, without personal interest or aim of self-enrichment.
- b. Provide social and economic livelihoods, cultural and religious benefits for forest-based-communities and Liberia's populace in general.
- c. Assure sustainable development and conservation of the forest and its genetic resources for the present and the future generation.

Chain Saw Milling Regulation # 115-11, 2012

The purpose of this Regulation is to recognize and regulate chain saw milling in order to optimize its positive benefits and also mitigate its negative effects. The Regulation therefore establishes a structured process by which authorization for chain saw milling is requested, reviewed, and granted or denied. The object is to ensure that chain saw milling is carried out in an environmentally appropriate manner and through procedures and practices that promote the mutual interests of chain sawyers, communities and sustainable forest management in the Republic of Liberia.

3.4 Relevant International Conventions

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

Liberia ratified the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity on 8 November 2000 with the realization that it is the best international instrument to address conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.

The Convention on Biological Diversity provides a comprehensive framework for stopping biodiversity loss. It is a carefully balanced, legally binding international treaty that commits Parties to the triple objective outlined below:

- a) The conservation of biological diversity;
- b) The sustainable use of its components; and
- c) The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international environmental treaty negotiated at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), informally known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992. The objective of the treaty is to "stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system". With respect to national resource conservation, Article 4(1.d) of the convention requires all Parties to the conventions, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, to "Promote sustainable management, and promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems".

Liberia ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in November 2002 and implemented an 18-month National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) project in 2004. The national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory report of Liberia has been prepared as part of Liberia's Initial National Communication (INC), fulfilling its mandatory obligation as a non-Annex I party to the UNFCCC in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1(a), and Article 12, paragraph 1(a) of the Convention.

3.5 Institutional Framework

Biodiversity protection and management does not only depend on strong environmental laws and regulations, supported by scientific information. More importantly, it also depends on their effective implementation and enforcement on the ground.

Liberia has a number of government agencies, ministries and bureaus, along with municipal and state industry entities, whose mandate include natural resources management. Their efforts are complemented by a number of local and international NGOs, educational institutions and

international financial organizations. The key government institutions and their responsibilities are indicated in the **Table 2**.

Table 2 Government Institutions and their Mandates

Institution	Functions/Responsibility
Government Institutions	
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	Responsible for sustainably management of the forest and its related resources. Provides long and middle-range planning in the forestry sector as well as preparing forestry policy, law and administration; supervises of adherence to forest legislation and concession agreements; calculates and determines forestry fees; evaluates investment proposals, executes reforestation and forest research and training; monitors activities of timber companies and executes protected area programmes and administers wildlife and national parks.
Environment Protection Agency (EPA)	Principal authority for the management of the environment, and mandated to coordinate, monitor, supervise and consult with relevant stakeholders on all activities in the protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources; promotes environmental awareness and implementation of the national environmental policy and the environmental protection and management law; oversees the implementation of international environment related conventions.
Ministry of Agriculture	Plans, executes, administers, manages and supervises agriculture programs and provides extension services; trains local farmers in improved cultural practices, and supplies farm inputs to enhance food security.
Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy	Has the statutory responsibility for the development of mineral, water and energy resources of the country and the administration of its lands; in charge of land surveys in all parts of the country; coordinates the activities of miners of gold and diamonds, including granting of operation licenses; regulates beach sand mining and works along with the Ministry of Agriculture and the University of Liberia to conduct training and research on land rehabilitation.
Bureau of Rural Development	Integrates developmental activities with rural activities; is in charge of the development of farm to market and feeder roads; provides safe drinking water to rural communities; involved in rural planning, low-cost housing projects for the acceleration of rural development, including rural energy generating activities.
Ministry of Internal Affairs	Responsible to administer the affairs of all Government functionaries 'within local and urban areas of Liberia. The Ministry oversees the activities of local Government bodies such as the chiefdoms and clans; supervises all County Superintendents; guarded by the revised interior regulations of Liberia, which give the Ministry custodianship over all private and public properties within the territorial confines of the country.

Local Government Authorities

The local government bodies are responsible for the overall development of the areas under their jurisdiction and their functions include: to prepare and submit development plans and budgets to superior institutions for approval and implementation.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has responsibility to administer the affairs of all Government functionaries 'within local and urban areas of Liberia. The Ministry oversees the activities of local Government bodies such as the chiefdoms and clans; supervises all County Superintendents; guarded by the revised interior regulations of Liberia, which give the Ministry custodianship over all private and public properties within the territorial confines of the country.

Traditional Authorities

Traditional authorities encompass chiefs or traditional rulers. The traditional authorities are now largely the custodians of the traditions and customs of their subjects. Chiefs (or other traditional rulers) have important role as custodians of communal land and exercise traditional authority over people living within their areas.

NGOs/ Civil Society

There are numerous NGOs/Civil society groups both national and international in Liberia, and can be found operating in all parts of the country in one way or the other. Within the forestry sector group alone, there are such groups as given below:

Table 3 Some NGOs and CSOs identified in Liberia and their operational areas

Institution	Functions/Responsibility
Action for Greater Harvest (AGRHA)	The Mission of AGRHA is to “Ensure Sustainable Food Security for Rural Liberian Households”. The vision is “A Liberia where rural Liberian households create sustainable food security for themselves”.
Association of Environmental Lawyers (Green Advocates) ¹⁷	Founded in 2001, Green Advocates is Liberia’s first and only public interest environmental law organization. It is dedicated to protecting the environment, advancing human rights protection and advocacy through sound environmental policies, and giving voice to rural, indigenous, and tribal peoples who have been denied the benefits of natural resource extraction from their tribal and ancestral lands.
Environmental Relief and Development Research Organization (ERADRO)	ERADRO promotes rural extension services to address health problems linked to environmental factors. Its activities include environmental research, community organization, public education on health and hygiene, and waste disposal programs in schools and communities.
Farmers Associated to Conserve the Environment (FACE)	Mission is to help empower local farmers to engage in modern, stable farming practices that are sustainable, environmental friendly, and have the propensity to yield significant positive net income. FACE is involved in seed rice multiplication and mangrove conservation. The focus is to promote stable, modern farming systems in order to improve food production and enhance the natural environment.
Liberia Chainsaw and Timber Dealers Union (also known as the Pit sawyers’ Union)	The Liberia Chainsaw and Timber Dealers Union manages the supply of timber to domestic markets, and is fully recognized by the GOL and the international community. The Union also conducts trainings across Liberia. The Union receives funding from a small proportion of all timber sales.
Liberia Community Development Foundation (LCDF)	LCDF has the objective of seeking funds and material donations to support education and local development in Liberia. LCDF’s aims are to: (1) Organize basic business management training programs; (2) Effect micro credit programs; (3) Develop intensive agriculture programs; (4) Upgrade health and sanitation in local communities; and, (5) Provide education to the disadvantaged/underprivileged.
National Charcoal Union of Liberia (NACUL)	NACUL is an umbrella organization of charcoal stakeholders in Liberia. NACUL advocates on behalf of charcoal producers, sellers and buyers, and works closely with FDA to monitor charcoal production.
Save My Future Foundation (SAMFU)	SAMFU was founded in 1987 with the mission of facilitating and promoting sustainable community-based natural and human resources management and development. Currently, SAMFU runs two core programs: Extractive Resource, Human Rights and Conflict Management; and, the Endangered Marine Species Conservation Programs.

Institution	Functions/Responsibility
Society for Environmental Conservation (SEC)	The SEC's objective is to increase community awareness of Liberia's rich biological sites from both a conservation and sustainable planning perspective. SEC works in the areas of alternative energy, biodiversity, climate change, development, ecotourism, environmental education, environmental justice, forests, global warming, sustainable agriculture/farming, watersheds, wetlands and wildlife protection, using a variety of methods from lobbying and advocacy to formal education methods and organizing grassroots actions.
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, biomonitoring, and the use of socioeconomic surveys.
Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)	Established in 2002, the SDI works to transform decision-making processes of natural resource management so the benefits are shared equally. SDI's work aims to create space for the participation of local communities in decision making processes on natural resources.
International NGOs	
BirdLife International (BI)	BI in Liberia is represented by their local affiliate, SCNL. BI/SCNL has conducted bird inventories in several forest areas, and produced a list of Important Birds Areas in Liberia (IBAs).
CARE Liberia	CARE fights poverty and injustice in 86 countries around the world to help the world's poorest people find routes out of poverty. In Liberia, CARE focuses on food security, water and sanitation, women's economic empowerment and environmentally sustainable farming.
Conservation International (CI)	CI was established in Liberia in 2002 with an initial mission to help establish a protected area network with funding from The Critical Ecosystem Partnership fund. CI - Liberia's focus is now primarily on the East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) Protected Area which is located in northern Nimba county.
Flora and Fauna International (FFI)	FFI has operated in Liberia since 1997, and currently has a five-year mission (2013-2018) to make a measurable improvement to the status of biodiversity and ensuring resilient ecosystems through supporting good environmental governance, building capacity and supporting conservation-friendly livelihood strategies.
Global Witness	Global Witness investigates and campaigns to prevent natural resource related conflict and corruption, and associated environmental and human rights abuses. Program areas include corruption, conflict, environmental governance, and accountability and transparency.
Greenpeace	Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organization that acts to change attitudes and behavior, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace. Greenpeace has worked to develop a methodology for defining high carbon stock forests, which helps to prevent deforestation from palm oil production.
Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF)	WCF aims to enhance the survival of the remaining wild chimpanzee populations and their habitat, the tropical rain forest, throughout tropical Africa. WCF focuses on education, conservation and research projects. In Liberia, WCF is working in Sapo National Park and Grebo Forest.

Development Partners

The bilateral and multilateral donors –e.g. USAID, World Bank, AfDB, NORAD etc not only provide funding but also ensure that the implementation of the interventions satisfy their prescribed environmental and social safeguards or requirements or standards.

3.6 World Bank Safeguard Policies

The World Bank's environmental and social safeguards policies covering ten (10) key categories in a form of Operational Policies (OPs) are operationalised when triggered by the proposed project's scope. The policies/procedures are to ensure the safe development of projects it is funding. That is to prevent and mitigate unintended adverse effects on third parties and the environment in the development process. These Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies are discussed briefly in **Table 4** and an indication as to whether the WB policy is triggered by the proposed forestry sector projects is included.

Table 4: World Bank Safeguard Policies

No	World Bank Safeguard Policy	Summary of core requirements	Potential for Trigger under project	Remarks or recommendation for proposed project
1	OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment	Requires environmental assessment (EA) of projects proposed for Bank financing to help ensure that they are environmentally sound and sustainable, and thus to improve decision making. The EA takes into account the natural environment (air, water, and land); human health and safety; social aspects (involuntary resettlement, indigenous peoples, and physical cultural resources); and transboundary and global environmental aspects. It categorises proposed projects into categories A, B, C or FI based on the extent of adverse impacts anticipated from the project.	Triggered	This ESMF is the Government of Liberia’s (GoL) response to the Bank’s EA policies and guidelines identify and address the adverse environmental and social impacts. OP 4.01 further requires that the ESMF report must be disclosed as a separate and stand-alone document by the GoL and the World Bank as a condition for Bank appraisal of the LFSP.
2	OP 4.04: Natural Habitats	Do not finance projects that which would lead to the significant loss or degradation of any Critical Natural Habitat. Supports projects that affect non- critical habitats only if no alternatives are available and if acceptable mitigation measures are in place. The policy strictly limits the circumstances under which any Bank-supported project can damage natural habitats (land and water areas where most of the native plant and animal species are still present).	Triggered	The project would affect natural habitats— native forests and associated ecosystems—albeit in a positive manner. It is designed to reduce ongoing patterns of loss and degradation of natural habitats, notably forests. The project’s site- specific support for community forestry and smallholder agriculture includes measures to avoid promoting any further deforestation or forest degradation.
3	OP 4.36: Forest	Aim is to reduce deforestation, enhance the environmental contribution of forested areas, promote afforestation, reduce poverty, and encourage economic development. Support sustainable and conservation oriented forestry. Do not finance projects that involve significant conversion or degradation of critical forest areas.	Triggered	The project is intended to bring about positive changes in the protection, management, and sustainable utilization of Liberian forests. Community forestry activities will adhere to the principles of sustainable forest management specified in OP 4.36 (Para. 10).

4	OP 4.11: Physical Cultural Resources	Investigate and inventorise cultural resources potentially affected. Include mitigation measures when there are adverse impacts on physical cultural resources or avoid if possible	Triggered	Potential impact on culturally sensitive areas for communities within the geographical area of influence of the proposed Liberians living around forested areas recognize various physical cultural resources, including sacred forest areas as well as individual sacred trees and bushes. A Chance Find procedure has been prepared.
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5	<p>OP 4.12: Involuntary Resettlement</p>	<p>Assist displaced persons in their effort to improve or at least restore their standards of living. Avoid resettlement where feasible or minimise. Displaced persons should share in project profits.</p> <p>The policy aims to avoid involuntary resettlement to the extent feasible, or to minimize and mitigate its adverse social and economic impacts.</p> <p>The policy prescribes livelihood restoration and other livelihood enhancement measures to achieve its objectives and requires that borrowers prepare adequate resettlement planning instruments prior to Bank appraisal of proposed projects.</p>	Triggered	<p>Owing to the low human population densities around Liberia's proposed protected areas, it is expected that the LFSP will not need to relocate any villages or households in order to establish or strengthen these parks and reserves.</p> <p>OP 4.12 applies mainly to certain activities under Component 2. Expansion of Liberia's protected areas network under Component 2.2 is likely to involve some new restrictions of access to natural resources (such as wood or bush-meat harvest) in specific areas. In accordance with OP 4.12, a Process Framework (PF) has been prepared to avoid or minimize any adverse impacts upon local livelihoods and to support the development of alternative livelihoods as needed, on the lands already available to the affected households or communities. The project will support the preparation and implementation of Livelihood Restoration Plans to provide livelihoods support where needed, following the criteria and procedures specified in the PF.</p> <p>Component 2.1 will support participatory land use planning and zoning processes at the national and local levels, aimed at improving natural resource management and reducing carbon emissions attributable to deforestation and forest degradation. This land use planning is expected to influence decision-making with respect to public investments and decisions concerning future land use concessions and regulations. However, this land use planning process is not intended to relocate any existing villages,</p> <p>All project-supported civil works (such as construction of office space, staff accommodations, and ranger posts) will be on government, public, or voluntarily provided community lands. This will be verified through the environmental and social screening mechanism specified in the ESMF, before any civil works commence.</p>
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6	OP 4.10: Indigenous Peoples	Screen to determine presence of indigenous peoples in project area. Policy triggered whether potential impacts are positive or negative. Design mitigation measures and benefits that reflect indigenous peoples' cultural preferences.	Not triggered	No indigenous groups have been identified within the project's area of influence.
7	OP 4.37: Safety of Dams	Requires that experienced and competent professionals design and supervise construction, and that the borrower adopts and implements dam safety measures through the project cycle. The policy distinguishes between small and large dams by defining small dams as those normally less than 15 meters in height. Large dams are 15 meters or more in height.	Not triggered	Proposed does not involve the construction of a dam
8	OP 4.09: Pest Management	Rural development and health sector projects have to avoid using harmful pesticides. A preferred solution is to use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques. If pesticides have to be used, the Bank-funded project should include a Pest Management Plan (PMP)	Triggered	The project will use the Pest Management Plan (PMP) for the ongoing Liberia Smallholder Tree Crop Revitalization Support Project, since Component 2.4 of LFSP will support a subset of the same activities in the same counties of Liberia. The ESMF for LFSP will also address the potential for limited pest management activities in order to protect forest tree nurseries under the community forestry Component 2.3. The PMP strongly emphasizes integrated pest management but recognizes that some pesticides are likely to be used in the project, particularly to control fungal and insect infestations of cocoa and coffee.
9	OP 7.50: Projects on International Waterways	Ascertain whether riparian agreements are in place, and ensure that riparian states are informed of and do not object to project interventions.	Not triggered	Proposed site is neither a bay, gulf, strait, or channel bounded by two or more states nor a necessary channel of communication between the open sea and other states
10	OP 7.60: Projects in Disputed Areas	Ensure that claimants to disputed areas have no objection to proposed project.	Not triggered	-

Environmental and Social Management Framework

The ESMF has been prepared under separate cover and it provides guidance to the project in accordance with the OP4.01 to ensure that the Project is carried out in an environmentally responsible and socially acceptable manner.

The ESMF serves to (i) establish clear procedures and methodologies for the environmental and social assessment, review, approval and implementation of interventions; (ii) specify appropriate roles and responsibilities, and outline the necessary reporting procedures, for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns related to project interventions; (iii) determine the training, capacity building and technical assistance needed to successfully implement the provisions of the ESMF; and (iv) provide practical information on resources for implementing the ESMF.

4.0 POTENTIAL PROJECT RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS AND LIVELIHOODS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The project does not expect any physical displacements, however the World Bank Involuntary Resettlement Policy (OP4.12) is triggered in anticipation of the LFSP activities impacting on assets and livelihoods and resulting in economic restrictions. The approach is consistent with the overall project requirement of involving communities in the identification and management of activities towards the creation of the protected areas.

4.1 Potential cases of Restrictions of Access to Protected Areas

4.1.1 Rationale and Scope of Application of Process Framework

The development of the Process Framework is a requirement for projects that may entail restricted access to legally designated parks and protected areas that result in adverse impacts on the livelihoods of affected persons. Under the LFSP, the PF is prepared because the creation or expansion of protected areas as some activities may restrict community access to some forest based resources which could result in adverse impacts on their livelihoods.

The potential environmental and social issues and concerns, both positive and negative, are also identified in the ESMF document based on the proposed project activities and should be read in conjunction with this PF

The specific project activities with potential adverse social and environmental impact and interventions are listed below under **Table 5**. The key activities which may have livelihood implications will largely be in respect of the creation of the protected areas. Communities may also be restricted in accessing communal resources.

Potential affected community resources and assets

The predominant smallholder agricultural land use is shifting cultivation, which is sustainable at suitable population densities, but leads to forest degradation as population density increases, or restriction of land area available for these farmers. This has been reiterated by the SESA for the REDD+ and many other related studies. Also many other large-scale land uses are competing with this traditional system, which in combination increase the loss of natural indigenous forest. Other forest products are vital to these communities for income, food, fuel, and fiber, including non-timber indigenous palm oil, bushmeat, medicinal products, fuelwood, and materials such as timber and other fibers for sale, construction, or other household uses.

The reduction in indigenous animal populations, through habitat destruction and bushmeat consumption may lead to loss of forest regeneration and health through lack of the ecological services they provide through pollination, seed dispersal, and affecting competitive relationships between species of forest flora.

Table 5: Proposed project activities of potential environmental and social concerns

Subcomponent	Some relevant Proposed Activities	Specific activities of Potential Environmental and Social Concern
Component 1: Strengthened Regulatory and Institutional Arrangements for Implementation of REDD+		
Sub-Component 1.1. Strengthened Capacity in Institutions (public, private, CSOs) for Improved Management of Forest Landscapes	Institutional support at four levels (1) REDD+ management (NCCS, NCCSC etc); (2) National level (FDA, EPA, LC, MoA, LISGIS etc) (3) Regional support to county and district FDAs and regional inter- agency task forces; (4) Service delivery partnerships (CSOs)	-
Sub-Component 1.2. Legal Reform and Law Enforcement	Contribute to the establishment of an independent multi-stakeholder committee to review and provide approval to logging concessions in the future Hence establish procedures in which new industrial logging concessions will only be awarded after independent review of all forest-related concessions for legal compliance and satisfactory procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation and development of selected forest areas into protected area status • Establishment of biological corridors • Territorial demarcation • Training of forest rangers
Component 2: Strengthened Management of Targeted Forest Landscapes		
Sub-Component 2.1. Improved Land Use Management and Planning	Technical assistance, training, and resources for operational costs, and small goods and services	-
Sub-Component 2.2 Strengthened Management of and Benefit-sharing in Protected Areas of Targeted Forest Landscapes	<p>Prioritize those PAs located in the targeted forest landscapes where key investments in improved protection and management still need to be made and will not be funded from other sources.</p> <p>Support priority investments to strengthen the on-the-ground management of the Sapo, Lake Piso, and Gola Forest protected areas.</p> <p>Physical demarcation of Gola Forest National Park and its external land boundaries, primarily with a cleared path (about 2 m wide), supplemented by vertical markers and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation and development of selected forest areas into protected area status • Establishment of biological corridors • Territorial demarcation • Training of forest rangers • Building of offices, staff accommodation and ranger outposts

Subcomponent	Some relevant Proposed Activities	Specific activities of Potential Environmental and Social Concern
	<p>signs at strategic points.</p> <p>Small civil works needed for effective on-the-ground protected area management, including headquarters</p>	
<p>Sub-Component 2.3. Strengthened Management of and Benefit-sharing Arrangements for Community Forests of Targeted Forest Landscapes</p>	<p>Community grants for small community enterprises to produce, transform and commercialize a variety of timber and non-timber forest products, and other agro and agro-forestry activities (e.g. cocoa, rice, coffee, cassava, tree plantations for firewood and charcoal, etc).</p> <p>Promote/support establishment/strengthening of small CFE (existing or new ones) for the commercial management and add value to forest products (e.g. charcoal, lumber, furniture, construction wood)</p> <p>Support communities establish small-scale tourism activities in a phased manner.</p> <p>The targeted communities will be encouraged to adopt sustainable land use and agricultural practices that enhance the structural and functional integrity of the forest ecosystem and improve rural livelihoods. This will involve a mix of conservation agricultural practices; sustainable land use, community forest management, alternative livelihood and effective use of degraded land.</p> <p>Eco-tourism activities will be promoted in Lake Piso</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot projects on alternative livelihoods • Commercial management and add value to forest products (e.g. charcoal, lumber, furniture, construction wood) • Ecotourism activities • Development of domestic market for charcoal and lumber business • Rehabilitation of cocoa plantations and also replanting and new planting of the tree crops • Conservation agriculture- production of annual food crops on degraded lands • Horticultural and low land rice cultivation • Small scale processing mills and other activities
<p>Sub-Component 2.4. Public-Private Partnerships to Strengthen Sustainable Agriculture Development, and forest based enterprises</p> <p>Public-Private Partnerships to Strengthen Sustainable</p>	<p>Strengthen sustainable agriculture in targeted landscapes.</p> <p>Establishing partnerships with private sector agents to encourage building of alliances at the local level for promoting value chain based partnerships and small and medium enterprises around common property resources for livelihoods benefits such as smallholder tree crops in targeted landscapes, small scale processing mills and post-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of cocoa plantations and also replanting and new planting of the tree crops • Conservation agriculture- production of annual food crops on degraded lands • Horticultural and low land rice cultivation • Small scale processing mills and other activities

Subcomponent	Some relevant Proposed Activities	Specific activities of Potential Environmental and Social Concern
<p>Agriculture Development</p>	<p>harvest technologies.</p> <p>This support will provide additional funding for the STCRSP to expand its coverage within the targeted landscapes to rehabilitate cocoa plantations and also support replanting and new planting of the tree crops.</p> <p>The project is implemented in communities with old farms and degraded lands through rehabilitation of existing farms, adapted models of re-planting and new planting in association with financing mechanisms for revitalizing the tree crop sub-sector.</p> <p>Ensure that the community is involved in the allocation of land for farming purposes and there are no social issues within the community on the utilization of the land for intended purpose.</p> <p>Development of small scale processing; rehabilitation of critical markets access roads in project areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of market access roads
	<p><i>Conservation agriculture:</i> These activities will enhance the productivity of annual food crops on degraded lands through sustainable agricultural practices. Based on selection of agricultural enterprises by communities through demand driven approach, grants will be provided to support production of annual crops; grains, legumes and pulses through minimum tillage activities. The project will encourage the use of cover crops and promote conservation agriculture with greater emphasis on soil and water conservation techniques. Contour farming will be encouraged to conserve water and protect soil on sloping fields. Erosion control on farms and river bank protection will be supported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of cocoa plantations and also replanting and new planting of the tree crops • Conservation agriculture- production of annual food crops on degraded lands • Horticultural and low land rice cultivation • Small scale processing mills and other activities • Rehabilitation of market access roads

Subcomponent	Some relevant Proposed Activities	Specific activities of Potential Environmental and Social Concern
	<p><i>Horticulture and lowland rice cultivation:</i> Planting of rice on lowland with good water management technology will be encouraged to reduce pressure on upland forest areas. By encouraging farmers to use the lowlands to grow rice, horticultural crops and vegetables, as well building their capacity to manage simple water management infrastructure, the current pressure on the forests would be significantly reduced. The sub component will also fund lowland infrastructure for water management and clearing of rural access roads. Given that certain lowland areas, in particular wetlands, might have high ecological value, this sub-component will conduct an assessment study of wetlands within the targeted areas to determine which ones have high ecological value and as a result need to be legally protected for biodiversity conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of cocoa plantations and also replanting and new planting of the tree crops • Conservation agriculture- production of annual food crops on degraded lands • Horticultural and low land rice cultivation • Small scale processing mills and other activities • Rehabilitation of market access roads

4.2 Description of some potential social impact issues associated with project

4.2.1 Consultation with communities in the project Counties

The ongoing SESA study has recently completed the Scoping Phase of the assignment which is complementary to the ESMF and PF preparation. During this period, the study team held numerous workshops/ meetings all over the country and for specific counties in accordance with some identified particular drivers of deforestation. The Counties and associated drivers are given in the table below:

Table 6: SESA engagement focus at Counties

No.	County	Impact issues
1.	Rivercess	Logging, community participation in forest governance and benefit
2.	Sinoe/ Grand Kru	Plantation expansion and concessions. Clash between community conservation initiative and oil palm plantations in Numopoh
3.	Nimba	Mining and related infrastructure on community conservation, community and private sector conservation initiatives and trade- offs
4.	Lofa	Protected areas, level of community involvement and factors influencing same, and community benefits distribution
5.	Bong	Shifting cultivation, smallholder plantations, tree crops and shifting cultivation as drivers of deforestation. Traditional agriculture and livelihoods
6.	Margibi	Fuel wood/ charcoal. Biomass base energy sources. Economic benefits, potential impacts of REDD+ interventions

The preliminary outcome of the SESA consultations is described below from the various County meetings and provides some concerns/ issues:

Rivercess County

The identified issues include:

- Possible conflicts over management and sharing of benefits from harvesting of forest resources;
- Possibility of private sector and community partnership in logging concessions;
- Need for regulation and support for small-scale logging enterprises e.g chainsaw milling

Lofa County

Issues include:

- Need to build local capacity for leadership skills and natural resource management and governance;
- Need to enlist local support for forest management and conservation through support for initiatives that enable communities share conservation benefits;
- Competing priorities between community livelihood needs and national conservation plans
Equitable and fair benefit sharing mechanism (community capacity to manage benefits, administrative and management framework for direct cash payment to communities)

- Past interventions focused on subsistence/ livelihood; new options/ new approaches needed

Nimba County

The issues include:

- Equitable and fair benefit sharing mechanism (community capacity to manage benefits, administrative and management framework for direct cash payment to communities) Past interventions have focused on subsistence/ livelihood; new options/ new approaches need to be explored
- Overlapping mining concession with community forests;
- Capacity of communities to deal with the growing pressure on farmlands from other land use interests (artisanal and industrial mining community and state forest reserves?)

Bong County

Issues are:

- Uncertain prospects for future tree crop plantations in the wake of the low global prices with respect to tree crop as a REDD+ strategy options;
- 'Migrant' farmers from nearby 'urbanized' communities, i.e. Suakoko contribute to increasing the pressure on available land

Grand Kru- Newaken

The issues identified include:

- Food security issues as a result of land being lost to industrial oil palm plantations and logging concessions;
- Industrial tree plantations and provisions for long term economic and food security needs of the communities;
- Community participation in existing concessions to ensure maximum benefits.

Margibi County

Identified issues include:

- Competition between charcoal production and timber for rubber wood;
- Other sources of income when the current demand for charcoal declines;
- Alternatives for local energy needs for cooking apart from charcoal and firewood;
- Availability of land for fuel wood plantations and the most suitable species (trees with wood of high calorific values, etc)

Some other potential concerns/ issues will include the following:

Land tenure and ownership: (i) lack of adequate documentation; (ii) lack of clear understanding of land use and occupancy; (iii) risks associated with voluntary land donation (iv) Conflicts in land claims; (v) Discrimination, lack of grievance mechanisms for all land users and tenants

Livelihoods : (i) Enhance food security through improved agriculture production on farmed lands to reduce forest pressures; (ii) Potential negative farming activities that result in biodiversity loss, ecosystem changes, depletion of natural resources; (iii) Increasing demand for forest lands for farming/ settlements by fringe communities because productive lands not available; (iv) Adequate, documented and transparent livelihood restoration plans for farmers around the protected areas

Forest Management: (i) Community inclusion in management decisions; (ii) Community participation in surveillance and enforcement; (iii) Protection of rights to use forest resources

Cultural Heritage: (i) Limited access to community shrines; (ii) Preservation of local cultural identity and heritage; (iii) livelihood restoration plans; (iv) Community pride and support; (iv) Community relinquishing/ sharing heritage for greater good

Resource Access and Possible Restriction: (i) Rights to question and have individual considerations addressed; (ii) Possible alternative options; (iii) Established grievance redress options

A list of the six (6) out of 15 counties and their land areas as well as population figures is given below. It must be indicated that these are 2008 population data and are essentially only indicative, and may therefore not accurately describe current conditions.

Table 7: Description of some project affected counties

No	County	Land area	Districts	Population (2008)
1.	River cess	5,594km ²	8 districts comprising: Bearwor District; Central RiverCess District; Doedain District; Fen River District; Jo River District; Norwein District; Sam Gbalor District; Zartlahn District	71,509
2.	Sinoe		17 districts comprising: Bodae District; Bokon District; Butaw District; Dugbe River District; Greenville District; Jaedae District; Jaedepo District; Juarzon District; Kpayan District; Kulu Shaw Boe District; Plahn Nyarn District; Pynes Town District; Sanquin District 1; Sanquin District 2; Sanquin District 3; Seekon District; Wedjah District	104,932
	Nimba	11,551km ²	17 districts comprising: Boe & Quilla District; Buu-Yao District; Doe District; Garr Bain District; Gbehlageh (Gbehlay-Geh) District; Gbi & Doru District; Gbor District; Kparblee District; Leewehpea-Mahn District; Meinpea-Mahn District; Sanniquellie-Mahn District; Twan River District; Wee-Gbehy-Mahn District; Yarmein District; Yarpea Mahn District; Yarwein Mehnsnonoh District; Zoe-Gbao District	462,026
	Lofa	9,982km ²	6 districts comprising: Foya District; Kolahun District; Salayea District; Vahun District; Voinjama District; Zorzor District	270,114
	Bong	8772km ²	12 districts comprising: Boinsen District; Fuamah District; Jorquelleh District; Kokoyah District; Kpaai District; Panta District; Salala District; Sanayea District; Suakoko District; Tukpahblee; Yeallequellah; Zota District	328,919
	Margibi	2616km ²	4 districts comprising: Firestone District; Gibi District; Kakata District; Mambah-Kaba District	199,689

4.3 Mitigation measures

These mitigation guidelines are given to address the significant impacts. The responsibilities for implementing these measures are described later in the report.

Table 8: Mitigation measures

Specific activity	Potential Environmental and Social Issues	Proposed Mitigation Measures
Allocation and development of selected forest areas into protected areas	Loss of livelihood (hunters, fishermen, farmers, traditional medicine men, small scale miners etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient consultations to be held with stakeholder communities and groups/ persons to provide amicable agreements over boundary demarcations; • Project Engagement Plan will be prepared and followed; • Grievance redress mechanism to be prepared and implemented to be followed by all parties • Ensure sufficient livelihood restoration measures including small scale miners; • Employment and other opportunities given to local communities as much as possible. • Alternative livelihood schemes to be discussed, agreed and provided for affected persons/ groups
	Restricted access to communal resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory process to be followed to manage issues of restricted access
	Cultural issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary cultural rites agreed with community and performed prior to access to sacred groves and other such community areas
	Conflicts between traditional authorities and FDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure appropriate compensatory arrangements are made with project affected communities; • Employment and other opportunities given to local communities as much as possible. • Consultation plan to be prepared and implemented to ensure regular interaction between FDA and traditional leaders • Grievance redress mechanism to be prepared and deployed • Forest management plans to be prepared for all sites to also reflect community aspirations
Territorial demarcation	Conflict over boundaries by communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation plan to be prepared and implemented to ensure regular interaction between FDA, LC and traditional leaders • Grievance redress mechanism to be prepared and deployed
Training and deployment of forest rangers	Safety and security issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA to devise policies and procedures to protect field staff • Work closely with LC and law courts to efficiently and swiftly determine court cases.
Building of offices, staff	Land acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent procedures followed with sufficient documentation to confirm

Specific activity	Potential Environmental and Social Issues	Proposed Mitigation Measures
accommodation and ranger outposts		proper acquisition including cases of voluntary donation (Land Rights Policy, 2013)
Pilot projects on alternative livelihoods	Acceptance of projects by communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate consultations to be held with stakeholder communities to agree on alternative livelihoods • Training to be given to interested community members on identified livelihood • Basic resources to be made available for community to embark on selected projects • Monitoring and evaluation mechanism put in place for follow up and to ensure success • Grievance redress systems introduced and implemented
	Land acquisition for alternative livelihood activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent procedures followed with adequate documentation to confirm acquisition including involuntary donations (Land Rights Policy, 2013)

5.0 PARTICIPATORY PROCESS FOR DETERMINING PRELIMINARY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND PROPOSED MEASURES TO ASSIST AFFECTED PERSONS AND COMMUNITIES

5.1 Participatory process

The obvious first step is identifying people/ groups who should participate in the process. Previous projects including the SESA for the REDD+ has carried out stakeholder mapping exercises and therefore defined and identified stakeholders at all levels from national to the community level, to be involved actively in the process. LFSP will validate and update this stakeholder map and also develop an engagement plan with these stakeholders.

The community is the ultimate recipient of project impacts and benefits, and therefore a key stakeholder. Therefore the interventions need community support or participation in order to succeed. Since the community may be asked to change in some way (its attitudes, behavior) in relation to its interaction with the forest, it is fair to have them at the forefront in the planning process. Community participation in planning will help to assure that support.

For the process to be as inclusive as possible, it is important to use as many avenues as possible to inform all stakeholders through advertisements, national radio and television etc. For the community, this may be through community presentations in durbars, during religious gatherings (churches, mosques), local FM radio announcements and personal contacts. To inform only specific groups in the community, the project will start with key persons such as opinion leaders in those groups who may already be known. It is easier then to solicit their help to spread the message to other members. They can also help in deciding where to place other information so that target groups will be likely to encounter it.

Women groups should be specially targeted. Their role in forest management, livelihood interventions, incentive and benefit sharing makes them vital to the process

The message must be simple and clear, and in the languages that the community speaks. That means both using plain, understandable English, and using other languages spoken by people in the community.

It is expected that the FDA will convene most of the meetings. These meetings should be held in collaboration with the local administrative authority and also with community members. The collaboration may be important to lend credibility to the intervention as it may be identified as a community effort rather than an imposition by the government or any particular organisation.

Once the process has started, it has to be maintained. Stakeholders including the community have to be kept interested, and support has to be provided when needed, conflicts have to be resolved, methods have to be devised to keep the process reasonably efficient, goals and deadlines have to be set. These will be clearly established in an Engagement Plan to be prepared by the project

The County FDA will lead and monitor the situation regularly and make sure the process is not derailed.

5.2 Preliminary eligibility criteria

A preliminary set of criteria is provided to assist in defining eligible activities and affected persons or communities who may receive livelihood restoration assistance.

Through a participatory process as earlier described, these criteria may be refined further using site specific considerations and meetings with the affected communities/persons to identify adverse impacts, establish mitigation measures, eligibility criteria and choose eligible mitigation measures, and procedures for specific activities and their phasing for establishment of particular protected areas.

The discussions on livelihoods impacts and possible mitigation activities will encompass (1) identification and ranking of site-specific impacts (2) Criteria and eligibility for livelihood assistance; (3) the rights of persons who have been legally using forest resources or the associated land to be respected (4) brief description and identification of available mitigation measures alternatives, taking into account the provisions of applicable local legislation, and the available measures for mitigation actively promoted via project activities and considering any additional sound alternatives, if proposed by the affected persons.

The profile of affected persons in the forest fringe communities will include such groups as farmers, hunters, traditional healers, small scale miners. Assets such as physical and non-physical ones including productive lands, farm lands, communal resources, income earning opportunities, and social and cultural networks and activities will be affected. Livelihood restoration measures may include agricultural inputs and extension to improve productivity of legally held lands /non encroachment areas, assistance with land preparation, alternative livelihood schemes and assistance to access alternative resources as well as restoration of livelihood/ alternative livelihood schemes.

Persons/ communities encroaching on forest resources after the notification of boundaries will not be eligible for support or any form of assistance.

5.3 Restoration measures and access to alternative resources

The livelihood restoration measures will consider issues such as (1) income levels of affected communities/persons, (2) other non- monetary sources of livelihood, (3) constraints and opportunities for income generation, (4) number of persons not able to revert to previous occupation, and (5) existing skills and project preferences of affected persons.

In the case of alternative resources, measures will include identification of these resources with the active involvement of the affected persons/ communities and assistance to access these resources.

The LFSP has components with associated activities which will support livelihood restoration programs. The sub component 2.3 for example, aims to strengthen management of and benefit sharing in community forests. It will ensure that the use of any resource in community forest areas is managed by and for local communities. The project anticipates coordination with organized, informal sector actors, including chainsaw millers and charcoal producers, to develop and implement a comprehensive training program on compliance with GoL regulations, safety, and improved production and processing techniques, best practices for sustainable forest use, cost accounting, financial management, and establishment of contracts, among others. The subcomponent aims at supporting forest communities and their organizations to manage forests using sound sustainability principles.

Communities can choose the types of alternative livelihoods so as to encourage the development of sustainable forestry.

The training and information components of the project will support the development of alternative means of livelihoods consistent with the goals of the overall program. It will also support the field demonstration activities including raising of alternative animal protein to bush meat such as poultry which is also a proposed activity under component 2.3.

Demand-driven approaches may be considered which will complement the participatory and piloting approaches to such activities as marketing support and the development of alternative fuel sources.

6.0 PARTICIPATORY ARRANGEMENT TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED MEASURES

An implementable plan to assist affected persons and communities which involves suitable administrative and institutional arrangements is provided below.

Table 9: Institutional framework

No.	Institution	Responsibility –Implementation	Responsibility -Grievance Redress
1.0	FDA	Overall supervision of the PF and Engagement/Restoration/Livelihood Restoration Plans. To provide funds for Livelihood restoration activities	To assist in resolving issues referred to it by the Regional/ County FDA or County administrative authorities
2.0	Regional/ County FDA	Regional/ County supervision of Plan and reporting to head office	To assist in resolving issues referred to it by the District administrative authorities
3.0	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Review and monitor Social Impact Assessment	-
4.0	Ministry of Agriculture	Provide relevant extension services to farmers	-
5.0	Land Commission (after passage of Bill). Currently Revenue Agency is responsible	To assist in the valuation and Livelihood restoration process and reporting	To assist in re-valuing disputed values of communal properties
6.0	County and District Administrative authorities	To oversee implementation of plans	To assist in resolving issues received directly or referred to it by the communities
7.0	County FDA	Trigger the process through inventory of affected persons and assets and implement plan in close consultation with District authorities/ Community/ Consultant	To receive complaints from community or affected individuals and liaise with District and regional/ county FDA to resolve issues
8.0	Clan/ Community leaders	To represent community and assist in inventory of affected persons	To receive complaints at community level and liaise with County FDA and District/ County authorities to resolve issues
9.0	Consultant, if required	Prepare plans and assist with implementation and capacity building	-

The Forestry Development Authority has the overall responsibility for preparing and implementing the PF with World Bank approval. It will ensure that all engagement, Livelihood restoration activities are fully discussed with affected persons in a participatory manner and carried out satisfactorily.

The Regional and County FDA will organize the county and district orientation and training for the various government agencies at the county level likely to be involved in the process, to be ready to implement alternative livelihood schemes and other related activities in a timely

manner. The regional/ county FDA will ensure that progress reports reach the head office regularly. The project administration and restoration planning will run concurrently.

Much of the work will be done at the county and district levels. The County FDA through the County and District offices which are the local administrative authority, and also following the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, will ensure that

- Communities are properly and adequately informed (timely, and also their rights and options relating to their properties that may be affected by the project)
- Coordinate activities between different communities implementing the community support or Livelihood restoration plans
- Ensure timely implementation of Livelihood restoration plans
- Attend to any grievances submitted by the affected persons/ communities

The County FDA through the clan/community leaders will engage and involve all sections of the community in discussions on the Livelihood restoration plans. They will

- Schedule open meetings to ensure that all community members are informed and they are fully aware of their rights and options regarding the restoration activity
- Identify impacts on lands and assets and the members of the community to be affected and to what extent they will be affected

7.0 PARTICIPATORY MONITORING

7.1 Sequence of implementation and responsibilities

The sequence of implementation activities and responsibilities is summarized in the table below. The FDA may employ consultants to undertake some of the activities as deemed necessary.

Table 10: Sequence of implementation tasks and institutions

No	Task	Institutions
1.0	Identification of sub project and preparation of plans for project activities	FDA
2.0	Preliminary assessment of restoration issues	Regional/ county FDA
	Sub-project environmental and social risk screening	
3.0	Assessment of the need to re- design sub project	Regional and county FDA/ community/
4.0	Re- design of sub- project	FDA
5.0	Confirm need for Livelihood restoration plans	Regional and county FDA/ community
6.0	Assess the restoration options	Regional and county FDA/ community/ /Lands Commission/ Revenue Authority
7.0	Assess the number of affected persons	County FDA/ Community
8.0c	Prepare Action Plan for World Bank approval.	Consultant/Regional and County FDA
9.0	Use PF to trigger the process required to undertake any land acquisition (for civil works like park headquarters) and Livelihood restoration, if any (Annex 1)	Regional and county FDA/Lands Commission/ County/ District
10.0	Review Plans	Regional and county FDA/County and District offices
11.0	Budgeting of costs	FDA
12.0	Confirm arrangements for managing funds	FDA
13.0	Implement Plans	Regional and county FDA/ community

7.2 Procedures for Implementation of Alternative Livelihood Schemes

Participatory planning for mitigation of restriction of community access to resources by provision of alternative livelihoods will consist of the following mechanisms:

Alternative livelihood planning and implementation committee: The committee will comprise the FDA, representatives of the affected persons/ community (2 persons.), County and District Officials, Land Commission, EPA and Clan heads. The committee will be chaired by the representative from the County.

Consultations: The affected persons/ community should be engaged in active consultations at the beginning of the project and any planned or proposed access restriction should be well

explained in advance. Their input to the process is essential and their cooperation will be forthcoming when the project objective is adequately explained to them. They should have access to the Livelihood Restoration Plan and be encouraged to provide input. It is proposed to have this as part of an Engagement Plan which will indicate who will be engaged, when to engage, what to engage on and methodology for effective engagement

Notification: Affected community/persons will be notified through both formal (in writing) and informal (verbal) manner, for example at community meetings called by the Country or District offices.

Documentation: The names and addresses of affected persons in the community will be compiled and kept in a database including claims and assets. The District and County offices will maintain records of these persons. The records are also important especially for future monitoring activities.

Time Provisions: The affected community or persons may negotiate with the Planning Committee on time frames but no field activities can begin until the alternative schemes have been fully provided.

Redress of grievances: Within the context of the participatory approach adopted under the Process Framework, communities can choose to follow a specific grievance redress form, but such an adoption would not preclude affected individuals from pursuing other avenues. If affected communities/persons are not satisfied with proposed alternative schemes or its implementation, they can seek redress through their Districts and counties or the FDA. The County will liaise with the FDA to address any challenges. If the affected persons are still not satisfied they could take it up further with the EPA or law courts. A grievance complaint registration process is the first step. Within the context of the LFSP, this can be done with simple standard complaint form that should capture who is lodging the complaint, date and place, what the main issues are and what specific actions/remedies are being sought for and signature/thumbprint. The second step is for the responsible FDA officer to acknowledge receipt and include an assessment of how the dispute will be processed for settlement should be conducted within a specific period, such as 3 working days. Such forms can be available in the project areas with either clan leaders, district officials and the responsible FDA officer will take stock on a monthly basis of what complaints have been registered, how the grievance will be settled, and identify what steps are necessary for follow-up, depending on the nature of the grievance. Community outreach under the project will include information on contact points and define the parameters of issues relevant under the project activities.

The Act establishing the Land Commission does not give it the mandate to adjudicate land dispute cases. However, one of the Commission's functions is to promote the "prompt and fair resolution of conflicts over land". It therefore has the mandate to initiate activities that facilitate the settlement of land conflicts in such a manner that will promote equitable and productive access to the nation's land, both public and private, amongst others.

In view of the above, the Land Commission established the Land Dispute Resolution Taskforce (LDRT), whose membership includes the National Traditional Council of Liberia, civil society

organizations, ministries and agencies of government, national and international NGOs, peace committees and UN organizations. In an attempt to fast-track the ADR initiative, a county-wide consultation was conducted that brought together stakeholders such as local officials, women and youth groups as well as traditional authorities to recommend methods that can be used to resolve land disputes. The outcome from these consultations was to enhance and strengthen the traditional-based dispute resolution methods that have been used over the years

The task ahead for the Land Commission based on the recommendations advanced is to work towards a harmonized ADR system for land dispute resolution considering other international best practices that would allow for the formulation of a policy for the ADR and a legal framework for its promotion.

It is the responsibility of the FDA to finance (through the project) the implementation of the maintenance of a grievance redress log, collection of information on grievances raised, methods used to resolve and resolution and to facilitate access of individuals in the project areas to appropriate grievance mechanisms.

7.3 Monitoring Plans and Indicators

The monitoring programme will provide a regular feedback on the implementation of the Process Framework. Monitoring teams at the County FDA level will be constituted and led by appointed Focal Points, who will report regularly at the national level through the national Focal Point at the FDA. The County team will comprise the County official, County FDA, District representative, community groups while the District team will be constituted by the County FDA, District representative, and County representative. CSOs will be also be involved in the monitoring and will require training on sector activities including information systems.

The monitoring indicators should cover areas such as (1) basic information on affected persons' households, (2) restoration of living standards and livelihoods, (3) levels of affected persons' satisfaction determined by number of grievances registered, and (4) effectiveness of restoration planning.

Some indicators are suggested as follows which are consistent with provisions within the ESMF for the project.

Land Tenure and Ownership issues: The key indicators may include (1) availability of documentation; (2) disputes registered; and (3) grievances resolved and recorded.

Livelihoods: Key indicators may include (1) alternatives provided; (2) support and incentives available; and (3) results documented

Cultural heritage: Key indicators will include (1) cultural rites agreed, performed and documented

These indicators may be verified from various sources such as field inspections, site reports, special project audits, annual monitoring and so on.

An evaluation programme will be implemented periodically to also check on compliance with policy and provide lessons to amend strategies, especially in the longer term. The evaluation will be based on current WB procedures and also national provisions on access restriction

/Livelihood restoration. It will identify actions which will improve policy and offer higher guarantees of implementation success. The process will be incorporated in the general assessment and review usually undertaken for the project.

7.4 Indicative budget for implementation of the PF

The ESMF report included an estimated budget of US\$125,000 each year to support awareness creation, capacity improvement and training activities as well as some logistic support expenses for key stakeholders involved in the implementation of proposed interventions. Most of the planned activities include support for the implementation of the PF also.

Under the protected area component of the LFSP, an amount of USD2 million has been allocated for livelihood restoration of affected communities around protected areas.

Additionally, some resources will be required for specific PF activities as described below for each of the 6 years of project life:

Alternative Livelihood planning and implementation committee activities	US\$20,000
Capacity building training for CSOs as key actors in the SIS monitoring	US\$10,000
Conflict resolution training for the Grievance team	US\$5,000
Preparation and review of Engagement Plans	US\$10,000
Total:	US\$45,000/ year

8.0 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

The main objective of the consultations with stakeholders is to discuss the proposed project's environmental and social implications and to identify alternatives for consideration. Specifically, the consultations seek to achieve the following objectives:

- To provide some information about the proposed project;
- To provide opportunities for stakeholders to discuss their opinions and concerns;
- To provide and discuss with stakeholders, alternatives considered to reduce anticipated impacts;
- To identify and verify significance of environmental, social and health impacts; and
- To inform the process of developing appropriate mitigation and management options.

Consultations were held with selected relevant stakeholders at the national level and in selected counties where LFSP investments are planned from 31st August 2015 to 5 September 2015.

The stakeholder engagement strategy is to ensure widespread participation by all within the sector. The stakeholder consultations were held through interviews and stakeholder workshops. Overall seven stakeholder groups were consulted as follows:

Workshop/ meetings

- 1) Representatives of communities-including Traditional Chiefs, NGOs, and other stakeholders in key project areas were invited to participate in the public consultation event on the ESMF and PF;
- 2) REDD+ Technical Working Group

Interviews

- 1) Land Commission of Liberia;
- 2) Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia;
- 3) Project officers for the Liberia Forest Sector Development Project;
- 4) Consultants for the preparation of Strategic environmental and Social Assessment for the LFSPA; and
- 5) Natural Resources Development Corporation, a private, EPA certified, local consultancy firm.

The list of stakeholders contacted and issues discussed are summarized in **Annex 2**.

8.1 Disclosure Requirements

The PF will be disclosed in compliance with relevant Liberian regulations and World Bank policy. The public/ community will be allowed up to 21 days to comment on any proposals prior to implementation.

9.0 REFERENCES/ BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ANNEX 1: Screening Checklist

Preliminary Environmental Information:	Yes/No	Refer to Process Framework	Comments
Will there be restrictions or loss of access to using natural resources in any traditional areas including medicinal plants or those of economic value for livelihoods?		✓	
Are there any new or changing forest management planning or activities?		✓	
Any cultural heritage/sacred sites in project area?		✓	

Preliminary Social and Land Information:	Yes/No	Refer to Process Framework	Comments
Has there been litigation or complaints of any environmental nature directed against the subproject?		✓	
Will the subproject require the acquisition of land?			
What is the status of the land holding (customary, private, government, public lands)?		✓	
Is there evidence of land tenure status of farmers and/or occupants (affidavit, other documentation)?		✓	
Are there outstanding land disputes?		✓	
Has there been proper consultation with stakeholders?		✓	
Is there a grievance process identified for PAPs and is this easily accessible to these groups/individuals?		✓	
Will there be any changes to livelihoods?		✓	
What are the main issues associated community benefits?		✓	
Will any restoration be required with any identifiable group?		✓	

ANNEX 2

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The update of EXPAN's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Process Framework (PF) study involved the consultation of key stakeholder. Stakeholder consultation is a process and should continue through the project feasibility and ESMF/PF stages through to implementation.

Objectives

The main objective of the consultations with stakeholders is to discuss the proposed project's environmental and social implications and to identify alternatives for consideration. Specifically, the consultations seek to achieve the following objectives:

- To provide some information about the proposed project;
- To provide opportunities for stakeholders to discuss their opinions and concerns;
- To provide and discuss with stakeholders, alternatives considered to reduce anticipated impacts;
- To identify and verify significance of environmental, social and health impacts; and
- To inform the process of developing appropriate mitigation and management options.

Stakeholders Engaged

Consultations were held with selected relevant stakeholders at the national level and in selected counties where LFSP investments are planned from 31st August 2015 to 5 September 2015.

The stakeholder engagement strategy is to ensure widespread participation by all within the sector. The stakeholder consultations were held through interviews and stakeholder workshops. Overall seven stakeholder groups were consulted as follows:

Workshops

- 1) Representatives of communities-including Traditional Chiefs, NGOs, and other stakeholders in key project areas should be invited to participate in the public consultation event on the ESMF and PF;
- 2) REDD+ Technical Working Group

Interviews

- 1) Land Commission of Liberia;
- 2) Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia;
- 3) Project officers for the Liberia Forest Sector Development Project;
- 4) Consultants for the preparation of Strategic environmental and Social Assessment for the LFSPA; and
- 5) Natural Resources Development Corporation, a private, EPA certified, local consultancy firm.

The consultations on the ESMF and PF were held, keeping in mind the ongoing consultation process for SESA preparation. The outcome of SESA consultations have also been incorporated in this consultation report.

REPORT OF WORKSHOP WITH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

A public consultation meeting for the proposed Liberia Forest Sector Project was held, on 1st September 2015 in Kakata, Margibi County. The meeting consisted of three presentations and a group work session. The workshop programme is as shown in. **Annex 2.1.**

Organisers of Workshop

The workshop was organized by the Forest Development Authority (FDA) of Liberia and moderated by Mr Peter Gayflor Mulbah, Coordinator of the REDD+ Technical Working Group. The workshop sessions were facilitated by the Consultant with the able support of the FDA staff. The World Bank Representative, Mr Nicholas Meitiaki Soikan was present.

Participation

A total of forty six (46no) participants attended the workshop. These comprised the following stakeholder groups:

- Traditional Council;
- Forest Development Authority (FDA) – Head office, Regional and District Offices;
- Forestry Training Institute (FTI);
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society; and
- Representatives of the media.

The attendance list is provided in **Annex 2.2.**

Opening Statement

Mr David Saah of the FDA welcomed the participants to the meeting, He provided a brief overview of the importance of programme and its purpose. He also introduced the Consultants for the ESM and PF to the participants.

Presentations

There were three presentations as follows:

- Presentation on of an Overview Liberia Forest Sector Project by Mr Zinnah S. Mulbah, SESA Coordinator, REDD+ Implementation Unit of the EPA;
- Presentation on the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the LFSP by the Seth Larmie, the Consultant; and
- Presentation on the Process Framework (PF) for the LFSP by the Consultant.

The highlights of the presentations are shown below.

Presentation on Overview of the LFSP

Mr Zinnah S. Mulbah, SESA Coordinator, REDD+ Implementation Unit of the EPA, presented a brief overview of the major reforms the Liberia Forest Sector has undergone from 2003 to 2014 culminating in the signing of Letter of Intent (LoI) between the Governments of Liberia and Norway September 23, 2014, in which the Norwegian Government would provide Government of Liberia up to US\$150 million by 2020 towards improved management of and increase benefit-sharing in targeted forest landscapes. He explained that the LoI will be implemented through the proposed Liberia Forest Sector Project, which is being administered by the World Bank.

He introduced Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Process Framework (PF) as requirements for approving the Liberia Forest Sector Project by the World Bank's Board, and would require inputs from all stakeholders to make it complete.

Photographs from the workshop are provided in **Annex 2.3**

Presentation on ESMF

Mr Seth Larmie, consultant for the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the LFSP, commenced his presentation with a brief description of the LFSP. He explained that the purpose of the ESMF is to

- Establish clear procedures and methodologies for the environmental and social assessment, review, approval and implementation of interventions;
- Specify appropriate roles and responsibilities, and outline the necessary reporting procedures, for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns related to project interventions;
- Determine the training, capacity building and technical assistance needed to successfully implement the provisions of the ESMF; and
- Provide practical information on resources for implementing the ESMF.

The presentation provided an overview of the World Bank's Safeguards Policies and how they relate to the proposed project, as well as national policies, laws and regulations related that may influence the implementation of the proposed project.

The consultant then presented an overview of the potential environmental and social impacts that may arise from the implementation of the main activities (from the project's concept notes) of the LFSP. These included:

- Loss of livelihood and restricted access to communal resources
- Conflict between traditional authorities and FDA
- cultural impact from change from bush meat (preferred meat source),
- Loss of vegetation
- Exposure of forest rangers to threats from poachers and illegal loggers

The roles and responsibilities of various stakeholder intuitions for implementation of mitigation measures for the identified impacts were also presented. The institutions identified include:

- Forestry Development Authority;

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Land Commission;
- Traditional Authorities; and
- NGOs and CSOs.

The presentation concluded with a framework for monitoring and evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposed LFSP including parameters to assess:

- Compliance with regulations;
- Grievance Redress;
- Natural Environment;
- Documentation;
- Awareness creation; and
- Community Governance and Institutional Framework.

Photographs from the meeting are provided in **Annex 2.4**.

Presentation on Process Framework

Mr Larmie, the consultant for the preparation of the Process Framework for the LFSP, explained that a Process Framework is prepared when projects may cause restrictions in access to natural resources in legally designated parks and protected areas, establishes a process by which members of potentially affected communities participate in design of project components, and serves as means for the determination of measures necessary to achieve resettlement policy objectives, and implementation and monitoring of relevant project activities.

He further provided insight on the benefits and potential outcomes from the implementation of a process framework.

General Discussions

The participants in the workshop were given the opportunity to provide comments, pose questions to the presenters and express their concerns with regards to the proposed project and its environmental and social implications as presented. Some of the main issues raised are as follows:

General

- Clarification of the role of park rangers.
- Clarification of the purpose of the LFSP.
- Concern that the lenders (Norwegian government) may have a hidden agenda behind the grant.

Alternative livelihood

- Alternative livelihood should be provided for communities whose access to forest resources will be restricted by the creation of protected areas.
- Need for improvement of the skills of farmers to make them more efficient.

- The list of animals that are to be protected should be communicated to the communities through visual information posters to enable the cooperation of the communities.

Benefit Sharing

- Concern over whether the funds for the project will reach communities as has been promised. Usually, bureaucratic measures such as submission and approval of budgets tend to frustrate communities when they are to receive funds.
- Livelihood restoration for communities affected by the creation of protected areas. Realised that in most communities where industrial logging takes place, the communities do not benefit from the provision of social infrastructure.
- Scholarship awards from the forest sector projects are biased towards the natural science/ natural resources students. This should be extended to Social science students since they are equally important in the sector.
- Traditional authorities should be involved in the identification of students to benefit to scholarships.

Community Relations

- Strained relationships between park rangers and the Chiefs in their bid to enforce laws. There is a perception that some park rangers do not accord the necessary respect to the chiefs.

Institutional Issues

- Procedures for addressing disputes over land need to be clearly stated, especially which institution is to spearhead the process.
- Need for harmonization of the permitting by the various institutions in the forestry sector i.e. Land Commission, FDA, Ministry of Agriculture and the EPA etc.
- Need to ensure equal participation of women and men in the project implementation phase
- Linkage between the proposed projects and the existing cultural or traditional mechanism for the protection of forests must be analysed to determine how the project could utilise traditional best practices.

Group Work and Presentation

Group Work

The consultation session served as a precursor for the group work. The group sessions gave the opportunity for the participants to actively participate in the assessment of the environmental and social risks and opportunities associated with the proposed component and corresponding main activities of the LFSP. The session was facilitated by Mr Seth Larmie, with the able support of the FDA and the World Bank Representative, Mr Nicholas Meitiaki Soikan.

Four (4no) groups were formed with the following specific assignments:

Group 1: Identify the major stakeholders in forest management at the community level and make suggestions for role in efficient Management. Who would you say are the most vulnerable from the establishment of protected areas?

Group 2: What alternative livelihood would you recommend for affected communities?

Group 3: What are the traditional ways of protecting forests?

Group 4: What are the major threats to forests?

Each group, represented by their rapporteur, made a presentation on their findings in plenary. The group presentation session was facilitated by Mr Peter Gayflor Mulbah, Coordinator of the REDD+ Technical Working Group. Pictures from the group work are provided in **Annex 2.5**.

Group work presentations

The groups took turns to present the outcome from their consultations. The presentations from the groups are summarised in Table below.

Outcome of group consultations

Group 1: Identify the major stakeholders in forest management at the community level and make suggestions for role in efficient Management. Who would you say are the most vulnerable from the establishment of protected areas?		
<i>Group Members</i>	<i>Results of Consultations</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> John Sahn Peter S Kamara Orris M Gibson Betty Bloe Boma Q Sandes Lucia Sonii James Z Duogbayce Ngala Dorley Alexander Gilian Sam C Dobuye Esther J S Clarke 	<p><u>Key Stakeholders</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Forest Forums Traditional Leaders Chiefs/Elders Women/Youth groups Community Forest Development Committees (CFDC) Community Forest Management Body Community-based Organisations <p><u>Vulnerable groups</u> Farmers, hunters, fishermen, coal businesses</p>	<p><u>Roles for effective Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional leaders used traditional culture to protect forests Forest forums- serve as a watchdog on forest (security) Chiefs and elders- in control of the community forest and people Women/youth groups – make decision in best interest of community CFDC/CFMB –Responsible for the management of a forest given to a company
Group 2: What alternative livelihood would you recommend for affected communities?		
<i>Group Members</i>	<i>Results of Consultations</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Franklin G Toweh Matorma Siryon Haji A Sombi Joh Kelvin Zoe Koiglie Lawrence Doe Margaret Bonason Daniel W Lawubah 	<p><u>Affected Groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physically challenged Women and children The elderly Community dwellers <p><u>Proposed Alternative Livelihood</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lofa, Nimba and Gbarpolu counties (Rice production, animal rearing, business, tree crops) Bomi and Grand Cape Mount counties (fishery, cassava production, business, animal rearing) Sinoe County (Rice production, animal rearing, cassava production, fishery) 	
Group 3: What are the traditional ways of protecting forests?		
<i>Group Members</i>	<i>Results of Consultations</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Abraham Geway Emanuel Wesseh Peter S Garwa Kalilu Pusah 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of certain portions of the forests as sacred and thus fully preserved Law restricting the use/ destruction of certain species of animals or plants Timelines established for the use of forest resources e.g. farming or hunting is not permitted on specific days of periods 	

5. Makpan Pusah 6. Melvin G Duo 7. Siaffa K Johnson 8. J Wegie Zeatmah 9. B Harris Zeah	4. Established laws on fire management measures to avoid unnecessary destruction of forests 5. Arrest of intruders/law breakers and subsequent imposition of a fine on the lawbreaker and/or his family as a way of discouraging others 6. Establishment of community forest management team
Group 4: What are the major threats to forests?	
<i>Group Members</i>	<i>Results of Consultations</i>
1. Jeremiah F Karmo 2. Kebbeh Beyan 3. Bendu N Jah 4. Chief Gbelleh Gray 5. Joseph Torlin 6. Ernest Davis 7. Augustine Kamara	1. Shifting cultivation 2. Chain saw operations 3. Charcoal production 4. Mining activities 5. Round pole harvesting 6. Uncontrolled hunting activities 7. Weak enforcement of existing forest protection laws 8. Bush fires 9. Farming close to rivers 10. Road construction activities within forest areas

Closing Statements

In his closing remarks, Mr Ernest Gray Davis, Assistant Superintendent for Development for Bomi County, extended his gratitude to all the participants and expressed his deep appreciation for the involvement of stakeholders in the process. He rearked that the involvement of stakeholders will ensure the success of the project. He further congratulated the EPA and the FDA for their role in the successful consultation. He hoped that the project will help sustain forests and provide funds for alternative livelihood.

The Spokesperson for the Chiefs and elders thanked the organisers for involving the traditional people in the workshop. He promised to share the information he has obtained at the meeting with his people to ensure the success of the project.

In her closing remarks, Mrs Bendu N Jah, president of Real Women NGO, Gbarpolu County, Thanked the organisers for inviting the women and urged the continuous recognition of women in all development projects. She stressed that women's contribution will aid the success of the project.

REPORT OF MEETING WITH THE RTWG

A workshop was held with the REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) for the proposed LIBERIA Forest Sector Project was held, on 3rd September 2015 at the Annex of the EPA Head office, Sinkor.

Organisers of workshop

The workshop was organized by the Forest Development Authority (FDA) of Liberia and moderated by Mr Peter Gayflor Mulbah, Coordinator of the REDD+ Technical Working Group. The workshop sessions were facilitated by the Consultant. The workshop was held at the EPA Annex.

Participation

A total of thirty three (33no) participants, comprising the REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) attended the workshop. The attendance list of the participants are provided in **Annex 2.4**. Pictures from the workshop are provided in **Annex 2.3**

Opening Statement

Mr Peter Gayflor Mulbah of the FDA welcomed the RTWG to the meeting, He provided a brief overview of the purpose of the meeting. a. He introduced the Consultants for the ESM and PF to the RTWG and urged the Technical team to provide as much input as possible to facilitate the work of the consultant, given the urgency for the completion of the assignment.

Presentations

There were two presentations as follows:

- Presentation on the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the LFSP by the Seth Larmie, the Consultant; and
- Presentation on the Process Framework (PF) for the LFSP by the Consultant.

The highlights of the presentations are provided in Sections 2.4.2 and 2.4.3.

Discussions

The RTWG provided comments and questions to the consultant for incorporation into the ESMF and Process Framework. Some of the main issues raised are as follows:

General

The RTWG requested for a copy of the concept notes for the LFSP to enable them thoroughly study and provide a more comprehensive analysis of the presentation on the ESMF and Process Framework for the LFSP.

Legal Framework

- The community Rights Law should be included in the relevant national legislation
- The protected areas management act of 2003 should be included in the relevant national legislation
- Need to verify if the Land Administration Policy has been approved or in draft.

Identified Impacts

- The impact from restriction of access to bush meat is far reaching since it is a source of income as well as meat to the communities.
- A key issue expected from the implementation of the LFSP is with benefit sharing with communities.

REPORT ON MEETING WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Consultations were held with the following stakeholder Institutions and Consultants:

- 1) Project officers for the Liberia Forest Sector Development Project;
- 2) Land Commission of Liberia;
- 3) Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia;
- 4) Consultants for the preparation of Strategic environmental and Social Assessment for the LFSPA; and
- 5) Natural Resources Development Corporation, a private, EPA certified, local consultancy firm.

A summary of the consultations is provided in the table below.

Table: Summary of outcome of Stakeholder consultation and involvement process

Stakeholder	Date	Comments
<p>Project officers for the Liberia Forest Sector Development Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Saah (National REDD+ Project Coordinator, REDD Implementation Unit, Forestry Development Authority) • Ephraim S. Swen (Procurement Specialist, Readiness Preparation Activities, Forestry Development Authority) • Zinnah Elijah Whapoe (SESA Coordinator, REDD+ Implementation Unit of the EPA) • Nicholas Metiaki Soikan (Social Development Specialist, GCCGT, World Bank Group) 	<p>30 August 2015</p>	<p>The team provided an overview of the assignment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main objective of this consultancy is to update EXPAN's (i) draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and (ii) draft Process Framework (PF) for the Liberia Forest Sector Project, on behalf of the Government of Liberia. The EXPAN Project ended on 30 June 2015. • The team provided insights to the extent of the scope of the EXPAN project and the additional requirements for the update e.g. the EXPAN was for three protected areas, while the current assignment is dealing with almost 14 protected areas. • The SESA study is going on alongside the ESMF and PF. The inception phase is completed and an inception report has been submitted. At present the scoping phase is ongoing and the consultants are yet to submit the draft report for review • The focus of the study should be protected areas within the three forest landscapes • The team also provided a brief overview of the local administration of Liberia • The team provided a brief overview of the planned activities for the week including community stakeholder workshop on 1st September 2015 at Kakata. 48 participants have been invited for the workshop and drawn from all three forest landscapes. • The consultant was reminded of the deadline for submission of the draft report (i.e. 11 September 2015) • Consultations were also held on the concept notes of the LFSP
<p>Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia (See Appendix 2 for List of Officers consulted)</p>	<p>4th September 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some members of the EPA were involved in the preparation of the ESMF and PF for the EXPAN project. They are therefore quite familiar with the current project • The EPA will need to play a key role in the LFSP as per their mandate to ensure compliance with environmental provisions of Liberia • The EPA has highly qualified and capable staff to implement its role in the protection of the environment, as confirmed by a due diligence by the AFDB on the LEC hdroproject. • The agency however requires logistical support and resources to be fully established and operational especially with respect monitoring and enforcement. This is also confirmed by a management assessment of the EPA by the UNDP. • The EPA has appointed inspectors in 10 of the 15 counties. The inspectors however do not have functional offices to operate from (no computers, generators etc.). Reports are therefore hand-written by some inspectors. Each county has 3 to 4 inspectors with a minimum qualification of BSc in the natural sciences. • Although there is a gradual improvement over years, the budgetary allocation to the EPA at present is not sufficient to meet its needs. The Agency currently has 189 employees. There is the need for more education on the importance of the Agency to government in order to receive the needed attention. • The compliance and monitoring team are seriously constrained as they have only two vehicles for field operations. • There is the need to collaborate with the FDA to establish offices in the counties. • Need for consultation with other institutions to be apprised of the mandate of one another and identify gaps within the institutions to be able to determine the capacity building requirements

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agency has prepared a list of the requirements to enable its full operation and continuous development and will make it available to the consultant. The Agency's Annual report will also be made available
Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia (Jerry T Toe, Manager, Department of Compliance and Enforcement)	4 th September 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Toe provided a brief description of the environmental assessment process for Liberia (i.e. registration of project, preparation of a project brief, environmental impact assessment if required and issuance of permit) The EPA has trained independent evaluators (consultants who prepare project briefs and ESIA's) in the country and keeps a database of all consultants practicing in the country. This list is made available to project proponents after registration of the project. Review committee is set up to review reports submitted to the Agency The EPA has key challenges with monitoring and enforcement due to limited logistics With respect to the LFSP, the social impacts are the most significant, especially in the Grebo area due to the proximity and dependence of the communities on forest resources.
Land Commission Stanley Nimley Toe (Senior Programme Officer/Manager)	2 nd September, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land issues became more prominent after the civil war in Liberia Land regulations have undergone reforms over the years leading to the formation of the Land Commission in 2009. Land Commission has undertaken projects reviewing and analyzing: Liberia's land laws; Liberian legal history; comparative best practices; customary tenure; women's land rights; public land sale deeds, aboriginal land grant deeds, public land grant deeds, and tribal certificates; and land use rights, including commercial use rights. The land rights policy has been set up to facilitate access to land (which has been a critical issue after repatriation from the United States when all land acquired by the American Colonization Society from indigenous peoples became public land and was allotted to citizens as private deeded land. The land policy has four categories of land rights (Public Land, Government Land, Customary Land, and Private Land), and a cross-cutting sub-category called Protected Areas, which must be conserved for the benefit of all Liberians A draft land law has been developed based on the policy. The first public hearing on the law was held in July 2015 A land administration Policy has been developed which deals with land use, management of information, land surveying, land registration, land mapping and land valuation. The Lands Commissions tenure ends in January 2016 and will be taken over by a new land agency (Land Authority), as recommended by the Land Administration Policy. Agencies performing land administration will be transitioned to the Authority Policies being developed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban land policy Land dispute resolution policy (methodologies are being tested, including for standardisation of traditional methods) Land use policy is yet to be developed. The customary rights law vests ownership of land to communities (agricultural land, cultural lands, protected areas, forest areas) Areas gazetted as protected areas will remain so. Livelihood restoration plans will be made to affected

		<p>communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community ownership self defines the community at the clan/village level, establishes legal entitlement to government structures, demarcates lands and issues deeds. • The Land Administration Policy will provide opportunity for field testing of the provisions for community ownership • The land reform process is being supported by projects such as the World Bank's Land Administration Project, USAID's Land Governance Support Project which focus on customary land • Article 22 vests all right to minerals to the government in trust for the people of Liberia. Customary land vests natural resources to the community
<p>Consultants for the preparation of Strategic environmental and Social Assessment for the LFSPA (Silas Siakor, E Abraham T Tumbey Jnr,</p>	<p>5th September 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national inception workshop was held with over 100 participants, including the RTWG, EPA, FDA etc. in March 2014 • Over 240 people were engaged during site studies for the SESA in June 2015 through focus group discussions. The sites were selected based on Geography and the drivers of deforestation such as smallholder farming, shifting cultivation, industrial logging, charcoal production, plantation development) • There has also been 6 county level consultations and 4 regional level consultations (the 6 counties were selected such that all 15 will be consulted by the end of the exercise) • Participatory mapping exercise to help communities to determine the requirements of community management of forests • Grievance redress mechanism is being addressed by another consultant • A forest cover mapping study was carried out in 2015 by GeoVille. The updated maps were shared by Dropbox® with the institutions and the FDA may be able to provide copies, if available. <p><u>Challenges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiplicity of stakeholders with overlapping roles results in 'consultation fatigue'. • The strategies of REDD+ are not very clear • Alternative livelihood may vary from one location to another • Some livelihood issues may not be replaceable e.g. replacement of fuel wood with charcoal may not be sufficient since the fuel wood has complementary benefits • There are gaps between the WB safeguards and the local regulations • Representatives of stakeholder institutions consulted may not necessarily carry the official opinion of the institution. They may also not report back to their institutions. • The scope of the SESA includes benefits sharing. • Challenges with land use planning in Liberia complicates the approach to studying land use
<p>Natural Resources Development Corporation, a private, EPA certified, local consultancy firm (John C Nylander)</p>	<p>5th September 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed process for environmental assessment in Liberia • Local consultants such as the Natural Resources Development Corporation, have the capacity to carry out environmental assessment of projects that may arise out of the LFSP • Consultants undergo training in the country and receive certification from the EPA to practice. The scope of the training needs to be expanded to ensure the skills of the consultants significantly advanced after the training

Annex 2.3 Photographs from Stakeholder Consultations

Pictures from Presentations





Pictures from Group workshops



Pictures from Group Presentations



Pictures from Workshop with RTWG



