



**INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION**



RCC West and Central Africa
Collaboration for Climate Action



**CONTRIBUTING TO THE UPDATE OF LIBERIA'S NDC 3.0 TO ENSURE THAT LAND
GOVERNANCE AND NATURE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IS INCORPORATED**

**Republic of Liberia
2025**

Acronyms

Acronyms	Meaning	Role/Sector
NDP	National Development Plan	Document
BUR	Biennial Update Report	Document
AAID	Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development	Agenda document
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	Government
EPML	Environment Protection Management Law	Government/instrument
FDA	Forestry Development Agency	Government/forestry
PA	Paris Agreement	Climate change document
IPLC	Indigenous People and Local Communities	Platform
GoL	Government of Liberia	Government/public sector
MAP	Multi-Actor Platform on Land governance	Land Rights Coalition CSOs &NGO
LLA	Liberia Land Authority	Government
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent	Mechanism
ILC	International Land Coalition	International
GHG	Greenhouse Gas	Framework
ASWG	Artisanal & small scale mining working group	Government, CSOs, International, National Donors and NGOs
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy	Government
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions	Target to achieved the Paris Climate change agreement for every 5 years
RRF	Rice & Rights Foundation	Civil society organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Program	Development partner
UNFCCC RCC	United Nations Frame Work Convention on Climate Change Regional Coordination Center	Climate Change platform
NLC	National Land Coalition	Organization
CLDMC	Community Land Management Development Committee	Land governing body
NLC	National Land Coalition of Liberia	Coalition of Land Right Organization (Same as MAP)
RRF	Rights & Rice Foundation	Liberian Organization
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy	Government
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture	Government
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation	Mechanism

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1.0 BACKGROUND

Liberia submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2.0 in 2021 and committed to revising and submitting an updated version as required by the Paris Agreement in 2025. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are at the core of the Paris Agreement (PA), under which 191 countries, including Liberia, committed to limit global warming to “well below 2 degrees above pre- industrial levels,” and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. NDCs are the delivery mechanism to reach the Paris Agreement goals and achieving the overall global greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation target, embodying efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement requests countries to develop and submit updated NDCs every five years to the United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat. These NDCs are expected to reflect increased ambition, whether in terms of strengthened targets, accelerated timelines, or a broader scope covering additional sectors or greenhouse gases. Finding an intersection between climate change based-solution and community land rights has become a biodiversity conservation and climate change response in developing countries. It is important for both human rights and land rights to be incorporated into biodiversity conservation, mining and agriculture concessions and climate action, because, human rights and land rights are fundamental to human existence in the contexts of livelihoods, cultural heritage, and identity. The Paris Agreement, for example, acknowledges that “climate change is a common concern of humankind and Parties should when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and inter-generational equity”¹. Therefore, the need to make sure people's land rights are preserved when taking measures to address climate change should be considered.

Against this background, this Report is intended to strengthen Liberia ‘s NDC 3.0 by providing recommendations on how land governance/ rights can be integrated into the NDC 3.0. This recommendation of actions and policy measures to the NDC 3.0 is based on the rights of community and people land rights as enshrined in various policies, legal frameworks which were not previously captured in NDC 2.0. For example, the various Actions and measures under the land use sectors does not factor the rights of community and people to their land, natural resource and benefit sharing from concessions. It does not address the rights of community in Co-management of sharing in Protected and Proposed Protected areas under biodiversity conservation a major contributing factor within the conditions of the NDC 2.0 under Forestry towards achieving the 2030 goal. There are no indications as to what steps and measure the various land use sector must take or put in place to safeguard community rights to their land including sustainable livelihood and their own contributions while ensuring the achievement of various targets for 2030. This situation led to Land rights CSOs working together with other international partners and government institutions specifically the Liberia Land Authority, EPA and FDA to ensure that the issues of community and people rights to secure land tenure rights whether in concessions or biodiversity conservation are reflected within the NDC 3.0 in line with the laws of the republic and other

¹ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/903.pdf>

international instruments, thereby protecting the rights of community and people to their land and natural resources while ensuring greater contribution to achieving the 2030 Targets..

2.0 Liberia's land Use Sectors

Land resources provide a variety of functions and services that can be used in support of ecosystem processes, livelihoods and food security. Some of the activities supported by land resources include agriculture, forestry, tourism, human settlement, wildlife, mining and industrial development. It is thus a principal asset for survival and development. However, a combination of interlinked factors is presenting a threat to the sustainability of land resources and the climate. Some of these include unregulated mining, high impact logging, inappropriate agricultural practices, unplanned human settlements and industrial expansion.

In Liberia's Biennial Update Report (BUR), the Initial National Communication (INC), Second National Communication, the Biennial Transparency Report, and the Third National Communication, Liberia has reported to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) its land use sectors as "Agriculture, Forestry, and Human Settlement" that emit Greenhouse gases (EPA, 2020). At the National Land conference held in Ganta in 2024, Nimba County, stakeholders also identified in addition to the three land use sectors a fourth sector, the mining sector. It is one of the significant land use sector that support Liberia's NDC aimed at combating climate change through mitigation and adaptation and resilience building of local communities that are vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Hence, it is important to consider recommendations that improve community's rights to land especially for the mining sector. Once policy actions and recommendations are derived to incorporate land rights issues in the NDC 3.0, this might pave the way to consider greenhouse gas accounting for the mining sector in the long run.

The mining sector contribute to deforestation and land degradation in Liberia, large portion of High integrity forest are completely remove to make way for concession mining, while small scale miners are also involving in land degradation. Most Class "C" (artisanal) miners remove High Integrity forest for mining, polluting water bodies with chemicals and dredging machines that are destroying biodiversity and farming land. In various reports the Ministry of Mines & Energy and partners indicated that most miners are not adhering to regulations within the national mining policy adversely impacting land degradation and forest canopy loss, this the ministry alluded on weak implementation of policies due to low capacity in the sector a major contributing factor to climate change.

In the Forestry sector commercial logging account for great portion of the forest canopy loss through legal and illegal logging and pit sawing that is having an impact also on biodiversity and climate change. In the Southeast and Western region, large portion of land have to be cleared for the planting of oil palm. 75% of the land space in the south east was associated with Forest and the loss of massive forest canopy to oil palm plantation which excluded community participation also contributes to climate change.

In 2022 and 2023 under the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) ²land restoration programs for mining communities , the Ministry of Mine& Energy began the restoration of degraded land in the mining township of Fornor and Mano River Kongo in Grand Capemount, restoring these degraded land with Cocoa, banana and Plantain crops. These once degraded land were restored and turned over to the communities to manage as a pilot project of what would be done across the Country.

² Report on the land restoration for Fornor in Grand Capemount

The program contributed to the sustainable livelihood of the communities and yet also serve as adaptation strategy for climate change while turning over these land to the communities for management.

The Government of Liberia Mining Policy required small scale artisanal miners through its class “C” licenses system to “dig hole and cover up these hole”, once work on these mines are completed miners or claim holders must ensure their claim pits are restoring and turn over to the community. The community had the option to plant cash crops on these once mining sites. This policy also provide for the negotiation and recognition of the role community play in climate change activities within the Mining sector in Liberia.³

3.0 Existing Policies and Frameworks Under Liberia's Natural Resources Regime

The following legal framework, policies and instruments were put in place to serve as the catalyst for Liberia’s pathway to sustainable natural resources management. These instruments are also important to the development of the Land sector contribution toward the revised NDC 3.0, with provision for ensuring the overall implementation in line with authorized government agencies.

3.1 National FPIC Guideline and Communication Strategy

The government of Liberia through the EPA and in collaboration with major stakeholders in the forest and land sector have developed the FPIC guidelines to facilitate engagements in the event of large scale land based investment both for development and conservation projects. The guideline in recognition of rural community’s rights to land and forest resources to accept or reject concessions targeted for their lands. The guidelines spell out how communities can exercise their rights to give or withhold their consent to any concession on their land especially those that put the lives of community and the environment at risk and do not provide any benefit to the community. Liberia’s communities’ right to consent is a constitutional right as well as a right guaranteed by laws governing forestry, land, and the environment. The idea was to establish consistency in how people interpreted FPIC and to inform on the ground of implementation. This guideline is an accountability mechanism that avoid harmful projects by allowing community members to participate and except and rejects even climate change intervention projects that do not consider their rights.

3.2 ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) (2025-2029)

The ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) is Liberia’s fourth post-conflict medium-term National Development Plan (NDP) (2025- 2029), aimed at contributing to Liberia’s transition to a lower middle-income country. The AAID formulation, initiated in May 2024, involved extensive consultations across the 136 administrative districts, 15 counties, The AAID is built upon a foundation of six development pillars: Economic Transformation, Infrastructure Development, Rule of Law, Governance and Anti-corruption, Environmental Sustainability, and Human Capital Development. Each pillar has its development goal, policy objectives, operational focus, identified targets, and interventions.

Under Pillar 5 Environment and Sustainability: Objective: Promote responsible management of natural resources, protect biodiversity, and enhance resilience to environmental changes, while supporting economic growth and improving the quality of life for citizens. strategy policy 16, program 28 and 34, the AAID discussed the issues of Land rights as it relates to the Environment and Forestry, General Administration and the local government. Its provides the opportunity for growth and development and better revenue sharing agreement on community land. Pillar 3: Rule of Law promote and establish a just, equitable, and accountable legal framework that ensures the protection of rights, promotes good governance, and fosters a stable environment conducive to development. The AAID is a tool for

progressive growth with community participation into nature resource management at its core. It also talked about strengthening of the institutional capacity in land management and governance, the establishment of a Land Management Information System that would support land right and governance information sharing and to enhance community social cohesion through effective and efficient land governance and management services.

3.3 Community Rights Law of Liberia 2009

This law seeks to empower communities to fully engage in sustainable management and conservation of forests of Liberia by creating a legal framework that defines and supports community rights in the management and use of forest resources. It provides the legal framework that empowers local communities located in or near forest lands to access, manage, use and benefit from forest resources on those lands for sustenance and livelihood improvements as well as for community development. The Act provides for forestry land to be classified as Community forestry land. Community forestry land shall be identified, and validated by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) for approval by the Community Forest Management Body, i.e. a body appointed by the Community assembly to manage community forest resources. The Forestry Development Authority observes the principles of fair and sustainable management of forest resources as set out by this Act. The Act sets out rules for management of forest resources by communities including (large-scale) commercial operations on community forest lands.

3.4 Regulation to the Community Rights Law of 2009 published 2017

This Regulation of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) implements provisions of the Community Rights Law of 2009 with Respect to Forest Lands ("Community Rights Law"), and determines the rules, guidelines and procedures for the establishment of authorized forest communities and to access, manage, use and the benefits of forest resources within the Republic of Liberia, and participation by communities in the reforestation, rehabilitation and conservation of forest and wildlife resources in Liberia. A community that has the right to access, manage, use and benefit from a specified area of forest resources, after it has met all regulatory requirements, including management and technical specifications, as established and verified by the Authority, and which has signed a Community Forest Management Agreement with the Authority. The Regulation also clarifies forest Communities' rights and obligations under Community Forest Agreements. Community Forests are forested or partially-forested land traditionally owned or used by communities for socio-cultural, economic and development purposes, of a size smaller than 50.000 hectares.

Forestry management programs shall comply with specified legislation and international treaties on sustainable forest management to which Liberia is either a signatory or has acceded. The Authority shall have the exclusive powers to grant a community the right to access, manage, use and benefit from forest resources on a specified area of land. The establishment of an Authorized Forest Community shall be initiated either by a community or the Authority. Authorized Forest Community shall be governed by a Community Assembly. Daily management shall be carried out by a Community Forest Management Body established by the Assembly.

The Regulation sets out rights and duties of members of a Forest Community and the FDA. In order to be approved for participation in the Community Forestry Program under the Community Rights Law of 2009 and this Regulation, an Authorized Forest Community shall prepare and negotiate a Community Forest Agreement with the FDA. After the approval of the Community Forest Agreement, the community Forestry Management Body shall prepare a Community Forest Management Plan. The Regulations also concerns small- medium- and large-scale commercial operations on community forest land.

3.5 National Forestry Reform Law of 2006

This Law makes provision, in 23 Chapters, for the management and conservation of forest resources of Liberia, defines ownership rights and other rights in forests, regulates commercial and other use of forest resources. The Law provides, among other things, for: ancillary rights to forestry exploitation rights; sustainable forestry and environmental rehabilitation; reforestation and afforestation; protected forest areas networks and wildlife conservation; the establishment and management of National Forests, National Parks, Nature Reserves, Strict Nature Reserves, Game Reserves, Controlled Hunting Areas and other protected areas; community forestry; rights of land owners; and trade in forest products. The law set the basic for supporting climate smart logging in compliance with the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the European Union (EU) and Liberia.

3.6 Liberia Land Right Act of 2018

This Act defines and delineates the different categories of land ownership and rights recognized in Liberia and prescribes the means by which each of the categories of land may be acquired, used, transferred and otherwise managed. It shall ensure that all communities, families, individuals and legal entities shall enjoy secure land rights free of fear that their land will be taken from them, except in accordance with due process of law.

The Act also seeks to ensure equal access and equal protection with respect to land ownership, use and management, including ensuring that customary land and private land are given equal legal protection and that land ownership is provided for all Liberians regardless of identity, custom, ethnicity, tribe, language, gender or otherwise. The Act provides for the registration of rights in land.

Ownership of Land does not extend to mineral resources on or below the surface of the land. Land ownership may be held singly or jointly by individuals, or collectively by a community as communal property or by the Government. The right of ownership and use of land shall not be not absolute, but shall be subject to "reasonable regulations". Every Land shall be classified as, and held under, one of these four categories - public land, government land, customary Land, or private land.

Each Community shall have the right to define the area of its Customary Land in keeping with customs, oral or written history and locally-recognized norms. Each Community shall have the right and responsibility to identify its members, but no community member may be excluded from the community. The community members shall draft by-laws using processes agreed by the Community and create and establish a Community Land Development and Management Committee (CLDMC). They shall also, among other things, develop a land use management plan.

The Act also concerns protected areas within state property or community land. Protected Areas within Customary Lands may include forest, wetlands, major water sources and land set aside by a Community for ecotourism. The law mandated that all proposed protected areas should follow FPIC procedure.

3.7 Environment Protection and Management Law (2003)

This Law forms the legal framework for sustainable development, management and protection of the environment and natural resources by the Environment 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 addresses a wide range of environmental issues, including environmental impact assessment, guidelines and standards, international obligations, education, and awareness. This law calls on large scale land based investors/ actors to conduct an Impact assessment and land restoration program to replenish degraded land upon the completion of the project in Mining, Agriculture and Forestry

concessions. This process allows community members through the FPIC procedure to participate in the ESIA and make informed decision if they should accept the project on ground of the potential social and environmental impacts.

3.8 National Environmental Policy (2003)

Liberia formulated a national environmental policy to recognize the severe impact of human activities on all components of the natural environment, especially the influences of population dynamics, high density urbanization, and resource exploitation, as well as recognize the critical importance of restoring and maintaining environmental quality for the welfare and development of the people. The aim of the National Environmental Policy is to ensure the improvement of the physical environment, the quality of life of the people, and the economic and social living conditions of the people. Its links with the Environmental Policy and Management Law and other Laws that support local community land rights with emphasis on quality control of ban substances from water pollution to hazard chemical regulation. It also setup cap on program for carbon upsetting and Mechanism for benefit sharing with local communities.⁴ Under this policy, the state of the environment (SOE) is assess to understand the impact of climate change and human activities on the land and environment.

3.9 National Mineral Policy of Liberia

The main strategies of the current Government are to revive the mineral sector to enhance its contribution to government revenues, foreign exchange earnings, employment creation, ancillary economic activities, human resources and technology development and the improvement of social and physical infrastructure (GOL, 2010). This policy under the class “C.” license for artisanal & small scale miners calls for the restoration of land once mining operations is completed and that the communities must ensure such is the case or filed a complaint against such individual to ensure they uphold the law. The restored land is given back to the community to plant cash crop to upset the damage done to the land thereby contributing to climate change mitigation.

3.10 National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change of 2018

The National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change is a vehicle developed to support climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and mitigation capacity in Liberia (EPA, 2018). It focuses on the implementation of Liberia’s commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goals 13; that Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities., and 15 "Life on Land," aims to protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

4.0 NATIONAL CONDITIONS

In Liberia, community land rights are recognized and protected by the 2018 Land Rights Act, which allows rural communities to formally register their customary land as their own, meaning a significant step towards securing land ownership for communities across the country, particularly for women and youth, and ensuring equal access to land management within communities regardless of gender, age, or ethnicity; this is considered one of the most progressive land rights reforms in Liberia. However, Liberia creation of the Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris framework agreement in 2015 and 2021 did not captured the rights of communities to participate in and contribute to the NDCs. The sectors did not recognize the impact of various land activities on communities in these landscape. The very

⁴ <https://www.fda.gov.lr/general/liberia-forest-sector-project>

importance of ensuing equal and just transition and solution with communities at the center where never considered by the sector. Research findings from the Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP REDD+ Project supported by the World Bank and FDA through the Norwegian funds) Northwest and South East Cluster Project revealed that the communities in these landscape did not have greater access to support and sustainable livelihood at the beginning of the Project, after realizing these facts, the project provided new directive in 2022 to increase community participation and Co-management of Protected and Proposed Protected Areas for communities that bordered these Parks.

Under the REDD+ Liberia Forest Sector Project in the Northwest, in 2021-2023 the REDD+ Liberia Forest Sector Project funded the rehabilitation of schools, clinics, Road, bridges and sustainable bee keeping in local communities which bordered the Gola Forest National Park in Gbarpolu and Capemount. The project approved the planting of 66,000 hybrid cocoa seedling in 7 community to support the idea of community ownership of protected Landscape in Liberia.⁵ The project also provided for the consultation of communities in the Foya and Wonegize Proposed Protected Area/Forest before its gazette (formalization for the formation of Protected Forest Land or a Conservancy). It provided for the commencement of formalization of Local community land as a priority for the formation of protected areas⁶.

5.0 CONTRIBUTION TO NDC 3.0 ON LAND GOVERNANCE PROCESS

5.1 CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Through a well-thought-out strategy, a list of key stakeholders was developed, and stakeholder engagement plans rolled out to ensure meaningful engagement and participation of all stakeholders in the NDC 3.0 process. Stakeholders were categorized according to several relevant indicators and considerations, including technicians, women, youth, non-governmental organizations, and civil society, as well as communities and Unions to ensure the full participation of cross-section of the people affected by land rights issues. Stakeholders were also placed into two broad categories: the first being the widely recognized stakeholders, which are segments of beneficiary communities that themselves are targets and users and are frequently recognized and consulted; and the second being the advocates groups who are working towards achieving the process of inclusion. These stakeholders were engaged through one-on-one meetings and online engagement.

6.0 REVIEW OF LITERATURE RELATED TO THE SUBJECT

The Consultant reviewed relevant literature, including but not limited to the following documents: Liberia's NDC (2021-2025), all reports from the Land Rights Conference held by MAP in 2023 and 2024 in Bassa and Nimba, technical reports on the Land, Forestry and Agriculture sectors identified for the review, other cross-cutting NDC workshop reports by the CSO Council of Liberia and the EPA from Buchanan 2024 and Monrovia 2025. The consultant also reviewed the National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change (2018), Liberia's Second National Communication, State of Environment Reports, Liberia's Second Biennial Update Report (BUR-2), ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development. The National FPIC Guidelines and Communication strategy, the Community Rights Law of Liberia 2009 and its regulation published in 2017, the Land Rights Acts of 2018 and the National Forestry reform law of 2006 were all reviewed.

⁵ <https://scnliberia.org/liberia-forest-sector-project/>, <https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/piloting-implementation-redd-programme-wonegizi-proposed-protected-area/>, https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/uploaded/2023/07/IDH_Annual_Report_2022_WEB.pdf

⁶ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P154114>

A second review was conducted through the sourcing of information and data from national databases of the EPA, FDA and other agencies (UNFCCC CMA 3& 4, Namibia Conference on IPLC, Kigali Call to Action 2022) and the MAP actors, the International Land Coalition (ILC) including technical publications, NDC 2.0, and other research papers. key significance visits to three communities to discuss the concept and create an understanding of Liberia's NDC revision process requesting their specific inputs based on previous experience. A Joint Meeting with RRF, EPA, ILC and other MAP actors, the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), Ministry of Mines & Energy Artisanal and Small Scale Mining Working Group (ASWG) also provided useful information that helped spice the recommendation development process. An Analysis was done on the national context for Rights of Community in securing Land Tenure rights, it underscores the existing progress and challenges since 2021, it also identifies mitigation and adaptation opportunities, provided initial recommendations for consideration during the NDC 3.0 update process, it was designed taking into consideration, whole-of-government approach towards Forestry, Agriculture and Cross cutting targets. The review and all recommendations from this process are intended to serve as a starting point for technical expert input and consultation under the direction of the MAP actors and the Government of Liberia through the EPA.

7.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Three (3) community consultative meetings were held. The first was held in Jikonda town around the Bea Mountain Mining concession, Grand Cape Mount County on February 12, 2025, which brought together local leaders, youth and women groups. The second meeting was held in Gold Camp, Grand Cape Mount on February 13, 2025, and brought together participants from Timah town in Gbarpolu around the Gola Forest National Park. Our third meeting was held in Monrovia around the Sakpawan Community in Margibi county around the East International Rock mining site in Monrovia on February 15, 2025. The meetings were delivered through round table presentations of the NDC process and the various targets captured in NDC 2.0. Communities were allowed to provided their understanding of the Land tenure process and how community rights law can/should be used to support them. The consultant provided Feedback presentations of outcomes proposed based on the community inputs into the recommendations. In closing the consultant presented an overview of the Paris Agreement that provided for the NDC as a tool to check on a country's performance. An overview of Liberia's Nationally Determined Contribution current actions and policy measure within the land use sector. During these meetings, the communities agreed to remain engaged and contribute to the overall NDC process as well as contribute significantly to the full implementation of their rights.

3.0 CONTRIBUTIONS RECOMMENDED to the EPA from MAP actors into the NDC 3.0

3.1 Table 1: Mitigation Targets, Actions, and Policy

Mitigation Targets
These are NDC 2.0 Target for 2030, no new target for now until the validation process
<p>In the Forestry, Agriculture and Cross Cutting sectors EPA should consider the following mitigation targets to reduce GHG emissions and enhance carbon sinks in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduce the national deforestation rate by 50% by 2030 ● Reduce GHG emissions from forest conversion by 40% below BAU levels by 2030 (Reduction of 5,147 GgCO₂e in 2030). ● Reforest an average of 12,285 ha per year to enhance forest carbon stocks by 1,013 GgCO₂e in 2030, including through natural regeneration and tree planting through community and school programs. ● Restore 25% of priority degraded forests by 2030. ● Enhance carbon stocks by 600 Gg CO₂e through annual carbon sequestration in the urban canopy and the planting of additional trees in urban green corridors.
Mitigation Actions and Policy Measures
These are new actions and measure recommended by stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enforce community formal land rights recognition processes facilitated through regulatory framework and access to national advocacy structure by 2030. ● Ensure communities land rights and sustainable livelihood are address while in the processes of creating 5 protected areas giving their right to land/resource and are legally recognized through clear negotiation that spell-out their proponents which are upheld by 2030. ● Improve concession negotiation processes that ensure communities land rights around existing protected areas, mining and agricultural concessions are meaningfully capture in decision making and that their concerns, priorities and preferences are accommodated in management structures, project designs, co-management and land rental agreement by 2030. ● Conduct feasibility study to gather information on community perception of climate smart Agriculture , mining and Forestry techniques that contribute to greenhouse gas reduction.

- Bridge the gap in the proportion of community to urban employment of Rangers, Eco-guards and other workforce managing Ecosystem services in rural communities by 60% in 2030.
- Strengthen the adaptive capacity of forest and mining concessions dependent communities through social safety nets and insurance schemes by 2030.
- Establish robust and long-term community tenure rights to Forest, Agriculture and Mining surveillance, monitoring and analysis to develop insight into their current state and map future risks and vulnerabilities by 2028.

3.2 Table 2: Adaptation Targets, Actions, and Policy

Adaptation Targets
<p>In the Forestry, Agriculture and Cross Cutting sectors EPA should considered the following mitigation targets to reduce GHG emissions from and enhance carbon sinks in forested areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduce the national deforestation rate by 50% by 2030 ● Reduce GHG emissions from forest conversion by 40% below BAU levels by 2030 (Reduction of 5,147 GgCO₂e in 2030). ● Reforest an average of 12,285 ha per year to enhance forest carbon stocks by 1,013 GgCO₂e in 2030, including through natural regeneration and tree planting through community and school programs. ● Restore 25% of priority degraded forests by 2030 ● Enhance carbon stocks by 600 Gg CO₂e through annual carbon sequestration in the urban canopy and the planting of additional trees in urban green corridors.
Adaptation Actions and Policy Measures'

- Enforce the Land Rights Act to avoid mining activities on customary land meant for communities that could be used for agriculture, fisheries, Non Timber Forest Products, and other sustainable land use practices that contribute to climate change adaptation by 2028.
- Develop policy that will ensure communities get fair and just compensations for their land and other crops that a concessionaire intends to develop and said concession should be made to pay a land rental fees per annual in accordance with the revenue sharing law by 2028.
- Develop policy to ensure concessions on an annual basis carry out Greenhouse gas inventory or GHG accounting and should report such data to the Environmental Protection agency and affected communities by 2028.
- Enforce policy and regulation on reclamation of land used by artisanal miners and impose fines and/or revoke mining licenses issued to non-compliance individuals or groups by 2027.
- Ensure that all mitigation and adaptation actions and policy measures within the NDC 3.0 should be cognizant to land governance (legal and regulatory) so as to protect local communities, and riparian communities) land and human rights including a fair benefit sharing mechanism by 2028

9.0 MONITORING AND REPORTING

Already, Liberia has a NDC coordination mechanism in place. All the NDC sectors have at least four Focal Points (2 mitigation and 2 adaptation) that report to the NDC national coordinator who sits at the EPA. The team does monthly and quarterly reporting of NDC implementation at the sectoral level. Even though there is a need for the team to do quarterly monitoring of ongoing NDC related interventions, the National Land Coalition (NLC) can also work with the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) as the lead institutions to track and report on the actions and policy measures recommended under the various sector, especially those supporting land rights and community land tenure security.

The National Land Coalition in collaboration with the Liberia Land Authority should develop a tracking tool to monitor the performance of the recommended targets, measures and policies agreed under the NDC 3.0 so as to hold accountable lead agencies and supporting teams responsible to ensure the targets are achieved. This will also provide for a regular engagement and reminded meetings between the EPA, FDA, LLA, MOA and the NLC in regular coordination meetings. That funding and resources be provided to strengthen the Monitoring, Verification and Reporting (MRV) system that should integrate land use violation at all level.

In acknowledging that biodiversity conservation, large scale Agriculture and class “A” Mining models that exclude local communities have failed worldwide, based on the Kigali call to action and the Windhoek declaration to which Liberia is a party, this report request that the LLA ,FDA,MME,MOA and EPA in Collaboration with the NLC design a mechanism which will ensure ordinary IPLCs are place at the center of biodiversity conservation, large scale Agriculture and Class “A”Mining concessions and advocate for the discontinuation of failed models, those that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, and the use of harmful chemical that destroy community land and water bodies.

That the FDA and LLA considered the lessons from the REDD+ Liberia Forest Sector Project model of collaborating with established communities to design and create new natural governance models that consider Local community active involvement in conservation, Agriculture and Mining sector that fully integrates the IPLCs into these land use activities⁷.

As outlined, Liberia’s MRV system should be strengthen to support robust monitoring of the various sector including community land rights.

⁷ <https://liberiaprojects.org/activities/828>

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Annexes

Annex 1: Validation of the Contribution to NDC 3.0

Annex 2: Research Methods and outline

Annex 4: Key Response and recommendation from Actors