

Aggregated Biodiversity Offsets: A roadmap for Liberia

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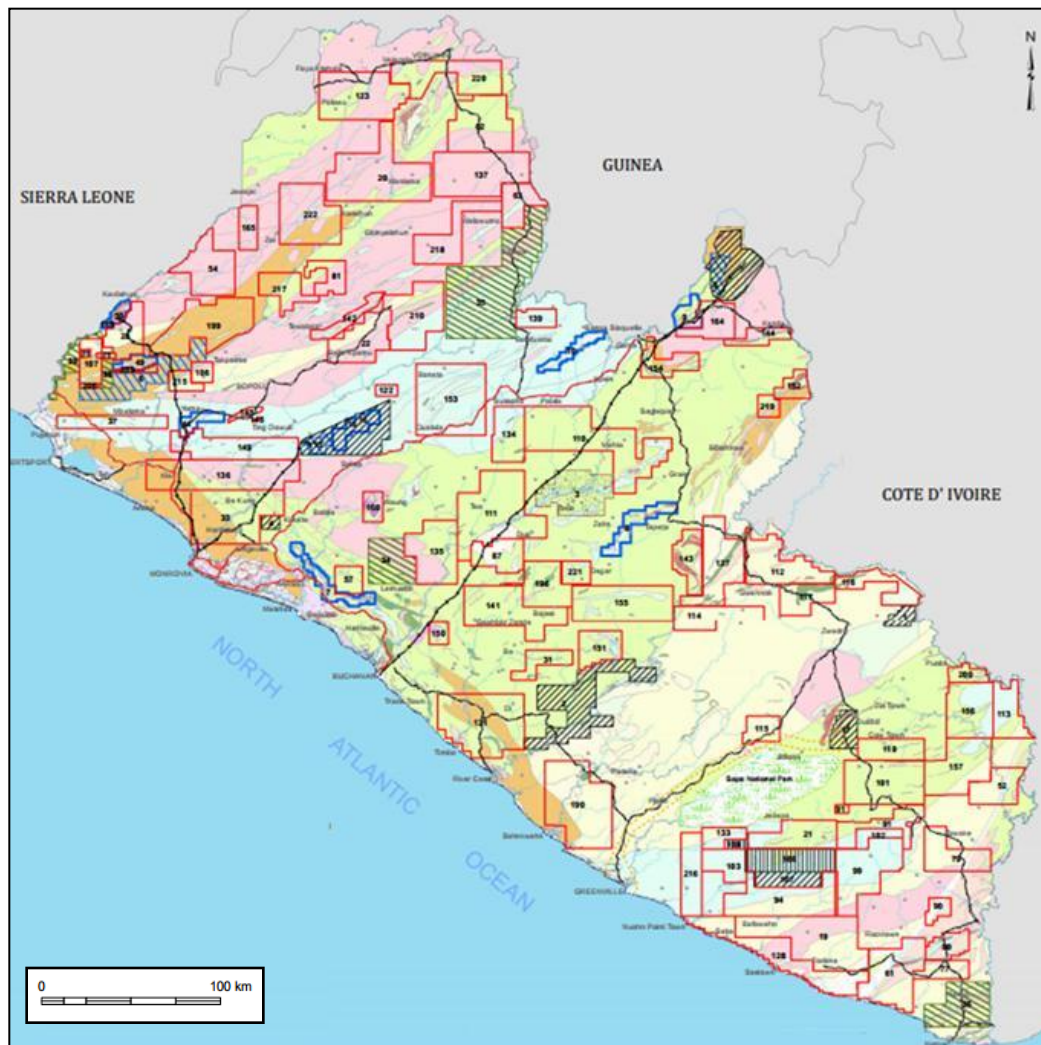


Rationale for World Bank involvement in aggregated offsets and mining

- **Mining sector** has potential to become significant engine for growth and development
- **Governance** and institutional weaknesses relating to management of natural resources
- **Companies:** Are implementing/exploring project specific biodiversity offsets
- **Drivers:** Equator Banks, IFC, company policies
- **Limits of project specific offsets:** Risk of patchwork of uncoordinated efforts
- **Implementation challenges:** Practical challenges in implementing project specific and aggregated alternatives
- **Government:** has the main responsibility of the stewardship of natural assets



Liberia: Piloting Aggregated offsets and mining



Legend

-  Sapo National Park (Protected Area)
-  Proposed Production Area
-  Mineral Reconnaissance License (MRL)
-  Mineral Exploration License (MEL)
-  Mineral Development Agreement (MDA)
-  Development Exploration License (DEL)
-  Approved Application
-  Mining License (Class A)
-  Mineral Exploration Agreement (MEA)

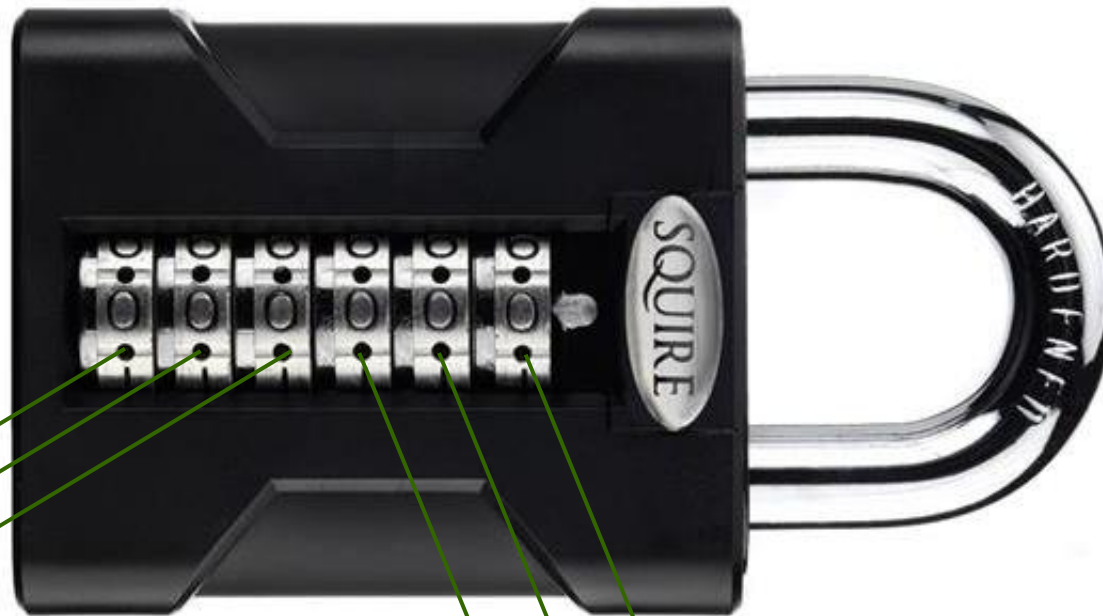
Source: Liberia Ministry of Lands, Mines, and Energy (MLME), 2014

Limitations of project-specific biodiversity offsets

- Companies (particularly Juniors) may lack resources, yet transaction costs are high
- Finding offset sites that meet criteria difficult: capacity of smaller companies/government limited
- Long-term protection at project-specific offset sites can be difficult
- Numerous small individual offsets don't address issues related to habitat fragmentation - perverse outcome would be "islands of conservation"
- Large mammals typically have large ranges
- Recurring cost implications for government at handover – may be weak link to NBSAPs
- Suboptimal results for land owners/ users



Unlocking the potential of aggregate offsets



How could sources of funding be secured and managed?

What are the opportunities for or obstacles to gazetting offset areas?

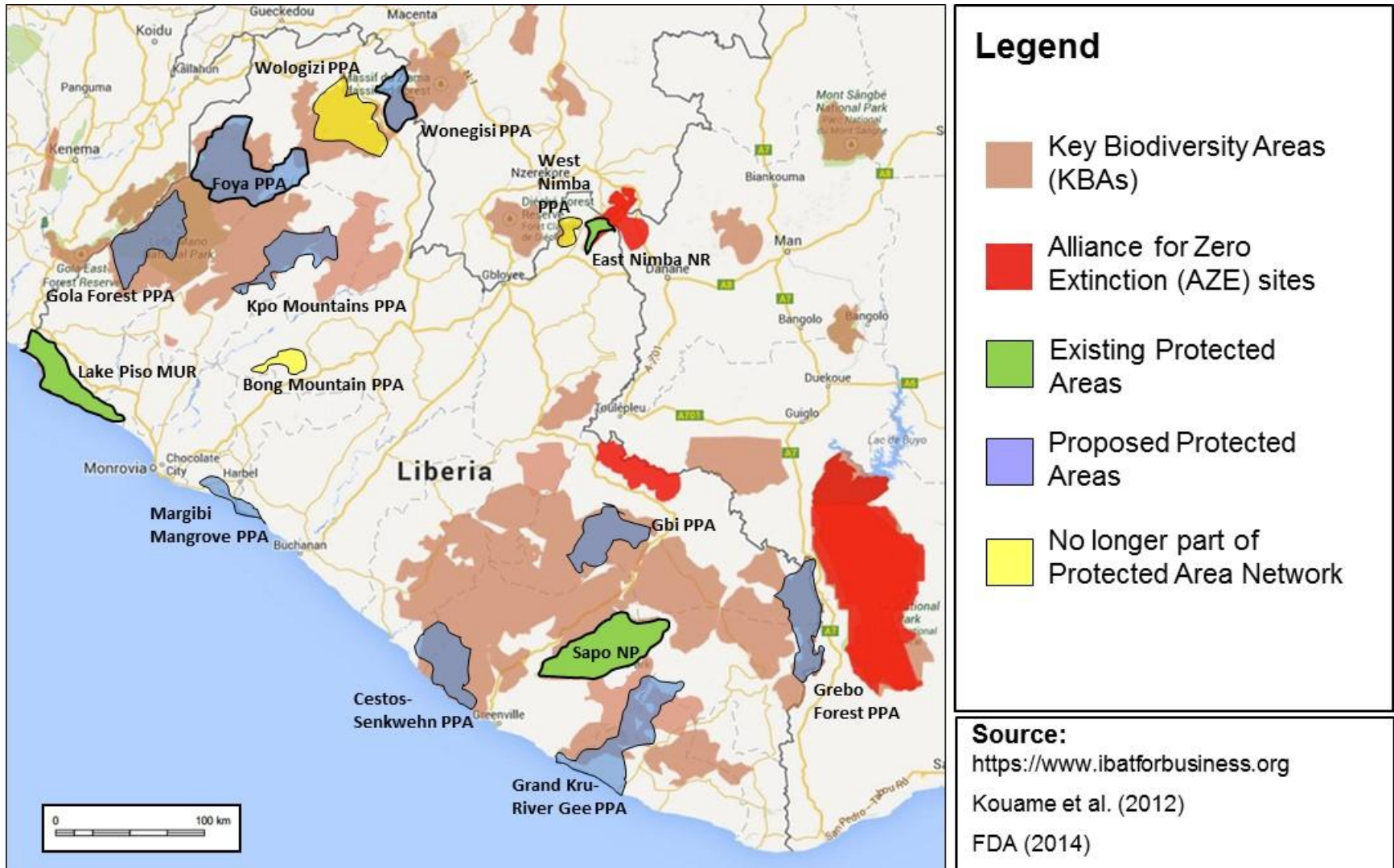
Are there existing Liberian legal or policy provisions that support offsets?

What technical challenges can we anticipate that need addressing?

Can aggregate offset areas realistically compensate for ecosystem services?

How do we balance the rights and interests of land owners and users in establishing offsets?

Overlay of PAs and PPAs on KBA and AZE sites in Liberia



Opportunities

- Legislative framework is largely present
- PPAs are representative of a fairly narrow range of habitats in different geographic locations
- Data available for many PPAs to support the application of 'like-for-like-or-better'
- Some PPAs link into other sites across borders allowing movement of large mammals
- Knowing potential offset areas in advance offers the prospect of combining aggregated offsets with some form of conservation credits

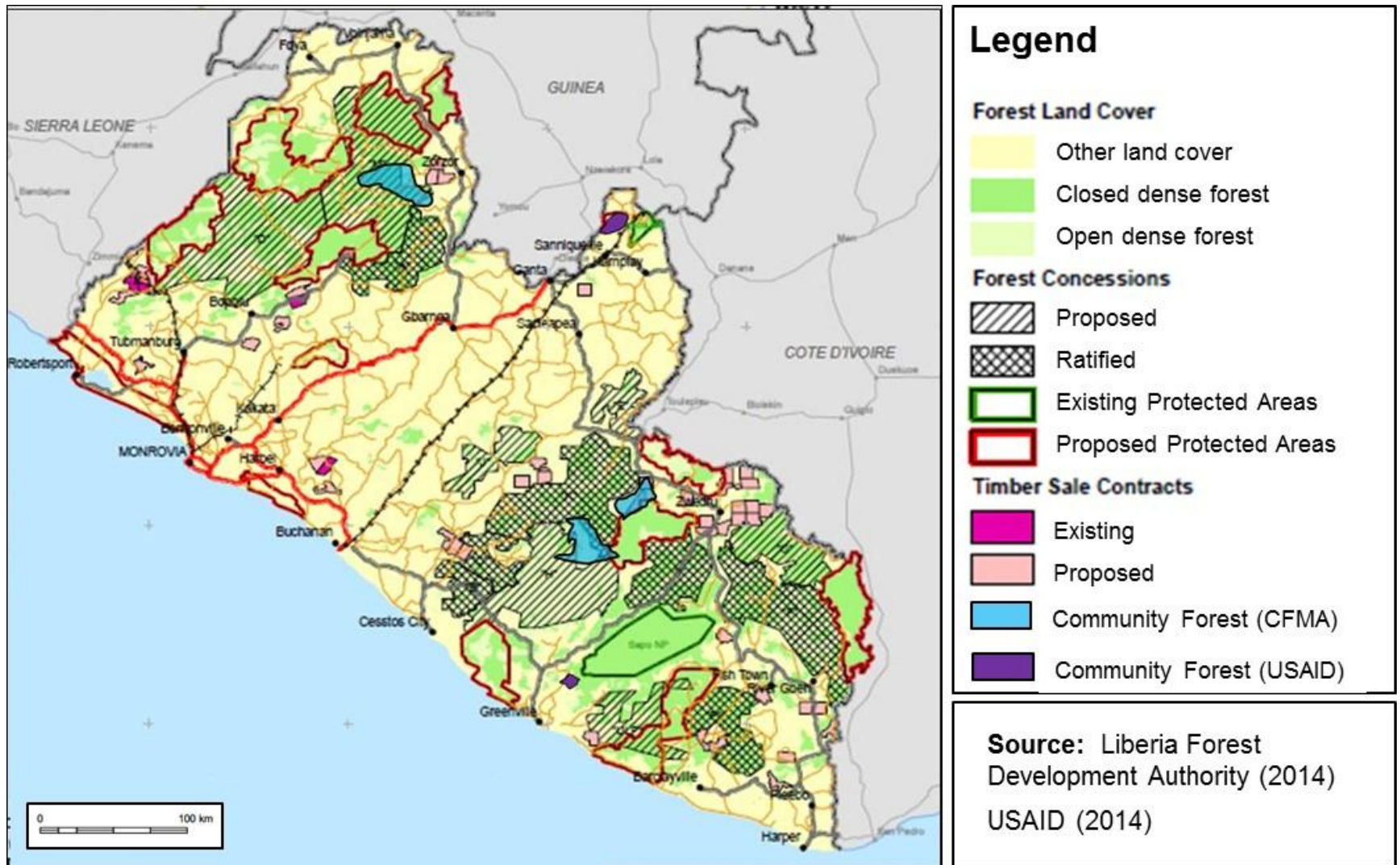


Challenges

- Some mineral, forestry and palm oil concessions overlap PPAs and more may follow
- Emerging lesson of experience in establishing protected areas in Africa highlights the importance of the human dimension
- Land tenure and alternative livelihoods still challenging
- Capacity constraints in key line ministries and tension between elements of 3 Cs mandate



Forestry Management and Timber Sales Contracts



Questions?

