



## Norway's \$150 Million Pledge Gives New Life to Forest Conservation in Liberia

**April 21 2016 | WASHINGTON, D.C. |** Forest Trends, a non-profit organization that tracks global forest developments, has released the most comprehensive analysis to date of forest conservation finance flowing to Liberia.

The report shows finance for forest conservation under the U.N.'s Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) initiative began to rise exponentially in 2014 as Norway pledged to greatly increase its funding to support Liberia's forest conservation efforts, following modest growth in forest finance from 2009 through 2013.

"Norway's pledge of up to \$150 million to support REDD+ in Liberia through 2020 sends a strong signal to the Liberian government to take the bold actions required to protect the country's forests," said Brian Schaap, REDDX senior program associate.

Liberia has used the funding it has received thus far to build the foundation of a national REDD+ program, including capacity building for government agencies as well as developing local pilot projects with communities. The \$150 million pledge from Norway aims to enable Liberia to move beyond capacity building, toward large-scale implementation of these programs.

The research by Forest Trends' REDDX (REDD eXpenditures) initiative, in partnership with Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS)—a Liberian NGO—and the Liberian Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), tracked the flow of REDD+ finance to Liberia for the years 2009 to 2014, identifying \$47.2 million in total finance that had been committed to support REDD+ programs in the country.

Key findings of the new report show:

- Of the \$47.2 million committed, 55 percent (\$25.8 million) came directly from individual donor countries, while 27 percent (\$12.7 million) was channeled through multilateral institutions.
- Norway, the largest donor by far, committed \$17.6 million, while Germany committed \$7.8 million. The multilateral Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), managed by the World Bank, channeled \$9 million, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) contributed \$3 million.
- Other large REDD+ funding commitments to Liberia have come from the European Commission (\$2.5 million), and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation (\$1.6 million).
- Payments of promised funds (disbursements) have grown steadily, reaching \$14.5 million by the end of 2014, or 31% of total committed funding.
- The Liberian government will receive 68 percent (\$32.2 million) of the total funding—represented by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—while international NGOs will receive 22 percent (\$10.4 million).
- The vast majority of committed funding has supported preparatory activities, including capacity building for government agencies, intended to lay the foundation to enable better forest conservation policies and actions moving forward.
- The Liberian government provided an estimated \$12.1 million of its own resources to supplement the \$47.2 million committed by international donors, showcasing the government's commitment to conserve its forests.
- Norway pledged up to \$150 million to support REDD+ in Liberia from 2015-2020, including \$15

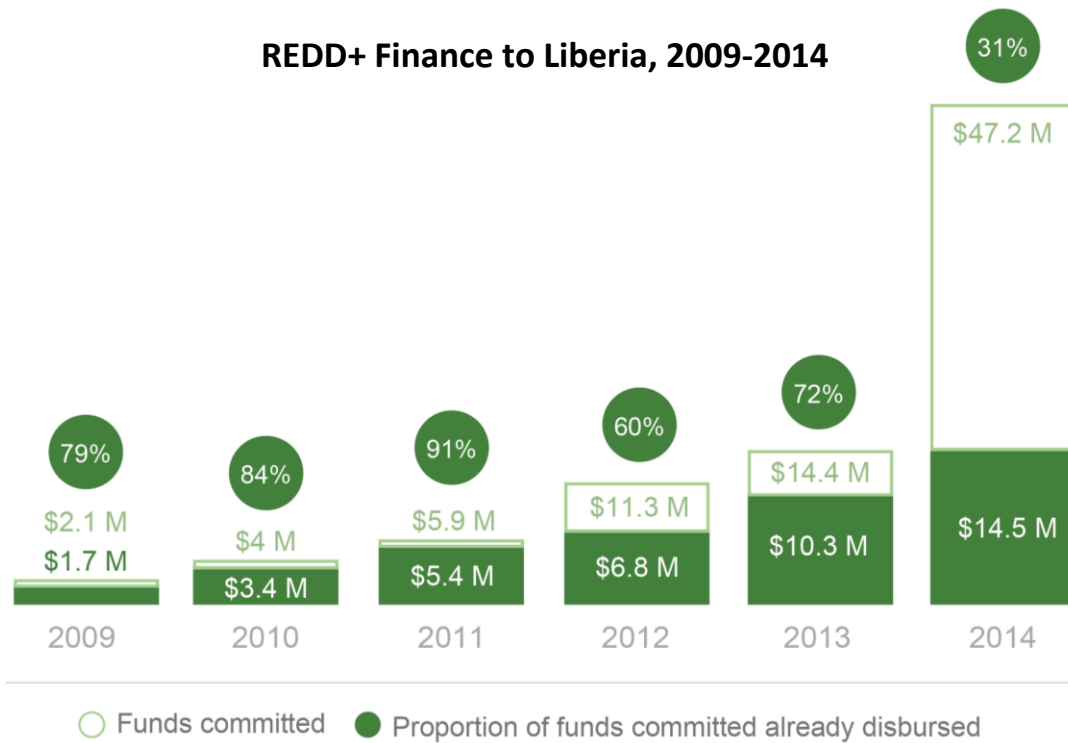
million in forest sector budget support, \$55 million in forest investment and technical assistance, and up to \$80 million as results-based payments for verified emission reductions.<sup>1</sup>

The research conducted by Forest Trends and SADS is unique in that it is based on annual surveys and in-person interviews on financial flows, and also validated by in-country stakeholders.

For more information, visit our website at <http://reddx.forest-trends.org/country/liberia/overview>.

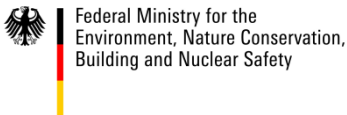
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Source: Forest Trends' REDDX Initiative. *Liberia: Mapping: REDD+ Finance Flows 2009-2014*.

#### Donors



<sup>1</sup> As of the writing of the report, only the initial US\$15 million was firmly committed, and therefore included in this round of REDDX finance tracking and graphics, while the remaining US\$135 million was still in the form of provisional pledges. As these pledges turn into commitments, this funding will be included in REDDX data for Liberia in the coming years.